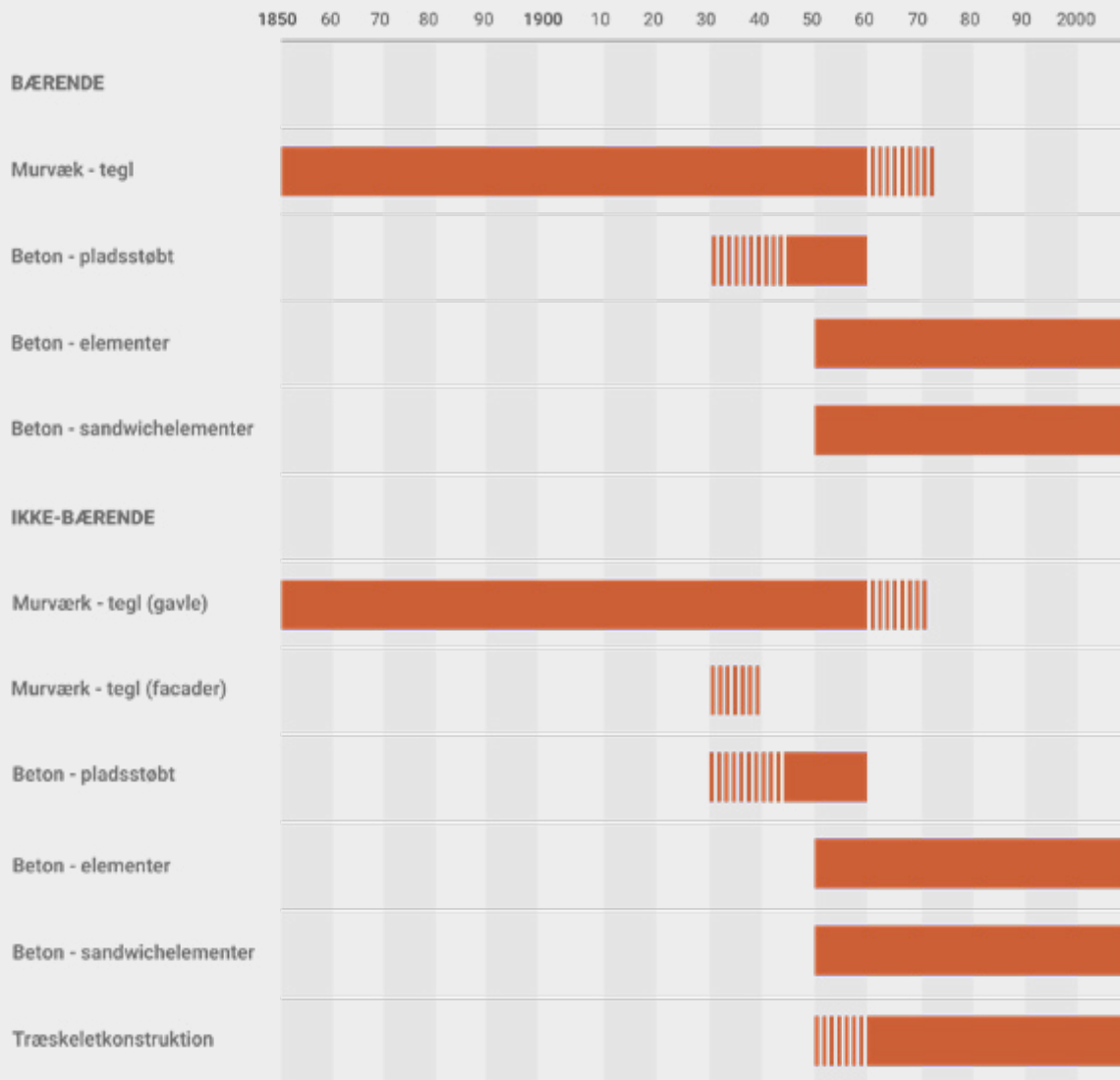


# Exterior walls

Exterior walls are either heavy or lightweight, load-bearing or non-load-bearing.



*The figure shows an overview of approximate temporal prevalence*

Heavy exterior walls are made of brick or concrete, constructed of prefabricated elements or are situ cast. Load-bearing brick exterior walls are always constructed from solid masonry, as are non-load-bearing as a rule, except if they are low gables when they can be built from hollow walls with fixed binding columns.

Exterior walls of situ-cast concrete probably appear as load-bearing only.

When exterior concrete walls are constructed in sections – either as sandwich constructions or subsequently clad (with a facing wall, for example) – they appear as both load-bearing and non-load-bearing.

In all circumstances, heavy exterior walls are included as stabilising elements in the building's construction, unlike their lightweight counterparts.

Lightweight exterior walls are non-load-bearing and their load is transferred to load-bearing elements via storey partitions. Such walls are predominantly constructed as skeleton framing, but can also be made of thinner masonry or lightweight concrete in solid sections. Towards the turn of the millennium, lightweight exterior walls consisting almost entirely of glass panels appeared.

