

Building legislation

Requirements in the form of legislation governing a building's structure, material choice and construction prior to 1850 were closely linked to the common public interest in avoiding fires breaking out and spreading.

In addition, there was a common interest in provisions that defined a citizen's right to develop and use their plot of land in relation to neighbouring land and public areas, such as roads and market squares.

Finally, there were also requirements relating to sanitary/public health conditions (the handling of animal and human waste) determined by the growing population within narrow geographical boundaries in the large towns – above all in Copenhagen. Added to this, certain towns had local building requirements determined by the Crown's desire for a suitably dignified and representative appearance.

Beyond this, the design and development of an individual's building or property were deemed to be a matter of personal choice.