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Social presentation of the Workers Museum (Arbejdermuseet)

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I would like to visit the Workers Museum (Arbejdermuseet in Danish). This social presentation can help me prepare and plan my visit.

With the social presentation, I can have an idea of what a visit at the Workers Museum includes. In the presentation, I can read about what I can experience at the museum, and the presentation will also provide some practical instructions for the visit.

On the picture above, I can see the entrance to the Workers Museum.

The address is Rømersgade 22, DK-1362 Copenhagen K.

I can read more about the museum here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/

About the Workers Museum

The Workers Museum is located in the Workers Assembly Building, which dates from 1879.

The Workers Assembly Building was one of the labour movement's focal points.

General meetings, other meetings, political debates, congresses, and parties were held here.

The building was an inspiration for numerous community centres (Folkets Huse) that were later established throughout the provinces of Denmark.

The building has housed the Workers Museum since 1983.

The Workers Museum focuses on accessibility and is part of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Programme as well. I can read more about accessibility here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/visit/practical-information/__trashed-2/

Entrance through the gate

From Rømersgade, I walk through the gate, and then I reach a courtyard.

At the back of the picture, I can see the entrance to the museum.

Door to a lift

When I have passed the gate, I can see this green door to the right. Behind the door, there is a lift that can take me to all floors at the museum if needed, except for the temporary exhibition in the basement.

The lift is operated by the museum staff. I can go to the ticket sale and ask for help.

Lift

Here I can see how the lift looks on the inside.

Entrance

From the courtyard, I can enter the museum through this entrance.

Ticket sale and gift shop to the right

When I have entered the entrance area, I go to the right through the first door where I find the ticket sale and the gift shop.

Ticket sale, information, and gift shop

Here I enter the room where I find ticket sale, information, and gift shop.

From this room, I can also go to the toilets, locker room, and museum exhibitions.

I can buy tickets at the red counter when I arrive. Or I can buy my ticket online before I visit the museum. I can read more about opening hours, prices, and online purchases here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/visit/openinghours-and-admissions/

If I have any questions or need help during my visit, I can ask the staff at the ticket sale that also serves as an information centre.

All museum hosts wear clothes with the Workers Museum's name and logo on them.

Gift shop

Here I can see some of the items that I can buy in the gift shop.

For example, I can buy books, postcards, artistic and political posters, arts and crafts, and textiles, such as tea towels, various soaps, and retro-style toiletries.

The shop also stocks mugs with the museum logo, magnets, bottle openers, and classic toys.

It is possible to visit the gift shop without a ticket to the museum. All items are paid at the ticket sale, at the red counter.

I can read more about the gift shop here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/visit/gift-shop/

Toilets to the left

Here I can see the door opening to the toilets.

Doors to the toilets

To the left, along the hallway, I find the doors to the toilets.

Window towards the monumental statue of Lenin

At the end of the hallway, I can see a monumental statue of Lenin through a large window.

To learn more about Lenin, I can pick up the earphones on the wall or read the text next to the earphones.

I can also enter the small courtyard where the monumental statue is situated.

The door to the courtyard next to the locker room

From the ticket sale room, I can enter the small courtyard. I can see the door at the back of the room, to the left on the picture. If the door is locked, I can ask one of the museum hosts at the ticket sale to open it.

The door is right next to the locker room, which is situated behind the shelves at the back of the picture.

To the courtyard

Here I can enter the small courtyard where the monumental statue of Lenin is situated.

Bench

In the courtyard, I also find a bench where I can sit down and relax.

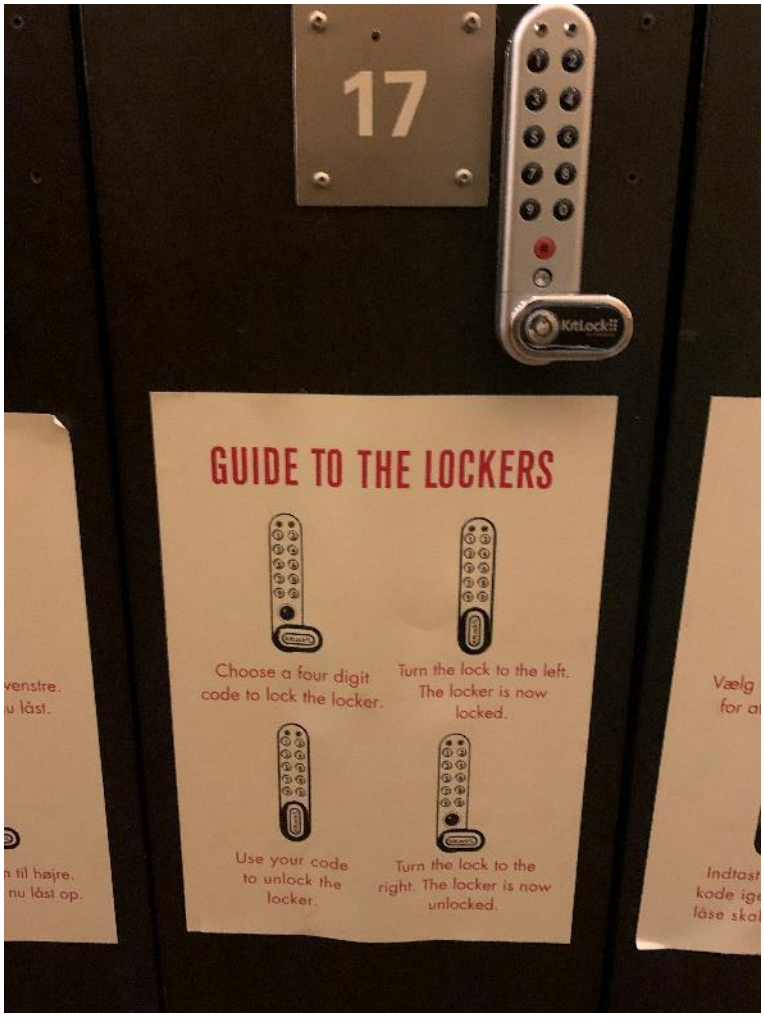
Usually, the courtyard is a quiet place as only few visitors go out there.

Locker room

Here I can see the locker room which is situated behind the shelves in the ticket sale room.

Here I can hang my jacket at my own risk. I am also free to use the lockers that can be locked and opened with a code.

How to use the lockers



Here I can read about how to use the lockers.

Towards a temporary exhibition

In the basement, the Workers Museum has varying exhibitions.

I reach the basement through this door in the entrance area.

To the left behind the glass door, I can see a lift. I can take the lift to the basement and floor 1 where the Banquet Hall is situated. I can also take the lift to floor 2 where I find the Banquet Hall balcony.

Staircase down to the temporary exhibition

Here I can see the staircase leading down to the temporary exhibition room.

When this picture was taken, there was no temporary exhibition, but there may be one when I visit the museum.

I can read more about the current exhibitions here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/whats-on/exhibitions/

Staircase to the Banquet Hall on floor 1

From the entrance area, I can take these stairs up to the Banquet Hall and the balcony.

However, I can also go back to the ticket sale and start my tour around the museum from here.

Door to exhibitions

At the red ticket sale counter, I can walk through the door to the left. Then I will reach the exhibition area and the staircase leading to all floors.

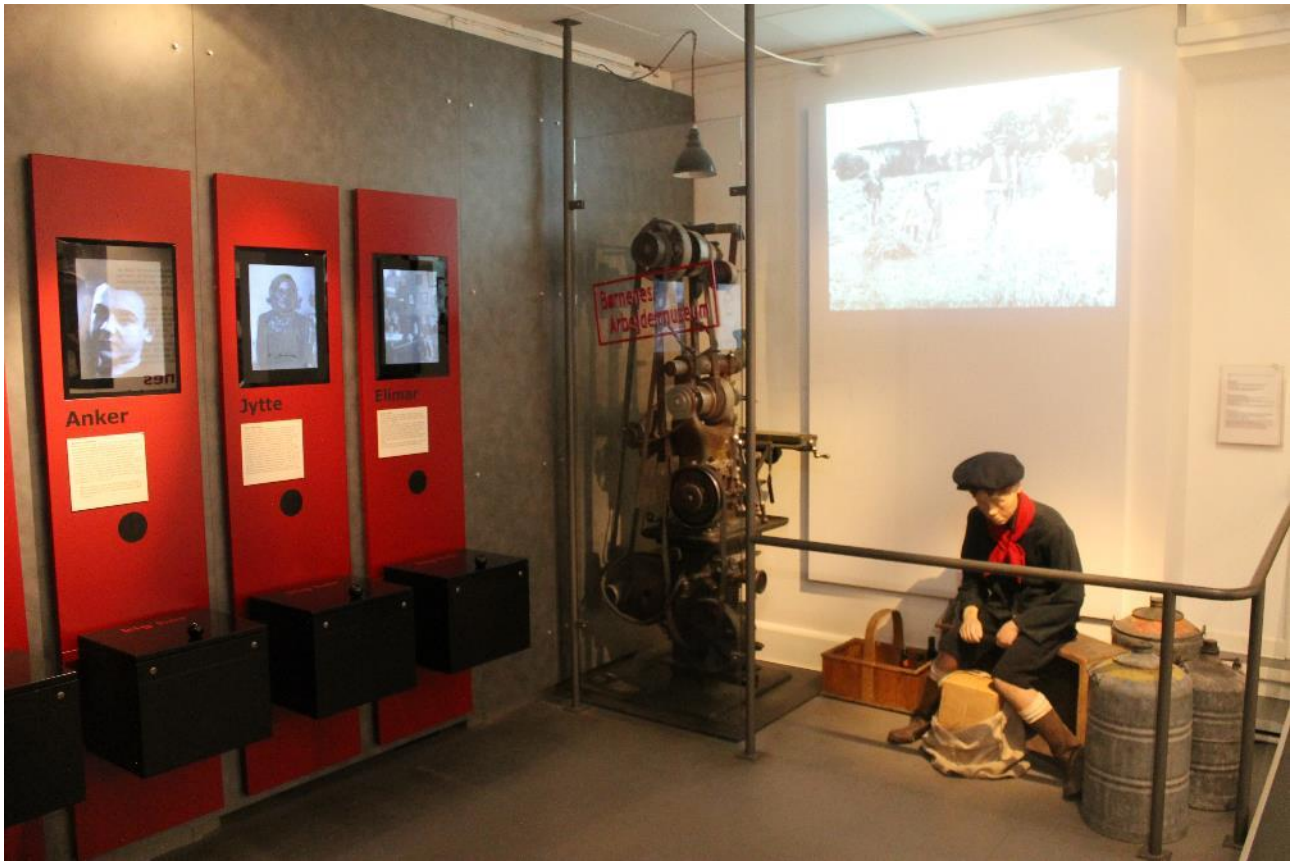
Overview of the museum floors

Here I can see an overview of the floors at the Workers Museum, and where I can experience the various exhibitions.

Signs with this overview are positioned at the staircases around the museum, among other places.

I can start my tour with the Children’s Workers Museum on floor 0.

The Children's Workers Museum



Here I can experience how working-class children used to live in the old days.

I can touch, try, and play with most things at this exhibition.

For example, the exhibition has a grocery store, a brewery where bottles can be sorted, and a union office.

I can also take the backstairs from a worker's flat down to an old-fashioned backyard.

The lives of working-class children

On the wall, I can read about the lives of working-class children in the old days.

I can walk through the door to the right and learn more about the housing conditions.

Housing conditions

With pictures, descriptions, and housing models, I can have an impression of how working-class children used to live in the old days.

On the old TV, I can watch “Sonja from Saxogade”, a very popular Danish television series about children’s lives in Vesterbro in the 1960s.

If I press the red button on the floor in front of the TV, I can also hear the sounds of “Sonja from Saxogade”.

Move on to the next rooms

Now I move on to the next rooms at the Children's Workers Museum.

Go to the left down the hallway

I come from the door, which can be seen to the left on the picture.

In this room, I find several stores and activities.

Before exploring them, I go down the hallway first, in the middle of the picture. From this hallway, I can see a kitchen and a living room, and I can take the backstairs down to the backyard. When I come back from the backyard, I can see a union office, the former Prime Minister Thorvald Stauning's original office, and a child’s room.

Old-fashioned kitchen and living room

Here I can see an old-fashioned kitchen. Behind the kitchen, I can see a small living room.

Backstairs to backyard

From the kitchen, I can take the backstairs down to the backyard.

Backstairs

Here I go down the backstairs.

The backyard

Here I can experience an old-fashioned backyard. With clothes lines, dustbins, and outhouses.

Here the children could hang out and play.

Back from the backyard

Here I take the backstairs back up.

From the kitchen, I enter the hallway again and move on to the next room, the union office.

Union office

Here I enter the union office where I can try the stamps, etc. on the desk.

The opening in the middle of the picture leads me to the former Prime Minister Thorvald Stauning's office.

Thorvald Stauning's office

Here I can see furniture, decor, and other original items from the office that Thorvald Stauning used to have in this building when he was active in union work.

Playroom

In the next room, I can see pictures, texts, furniture, and items illustrating children's playing activities in the old days.

Back down the hallway

Now I walk back down the hallway towards the area where I find the grocery store, among other things.

Grocery store and brewery

Here I can see the grocery store where I am free to touch all the goods. I can also see the brewery where I can sort bottles.

Pawn shop

The museum also has a pawn shop. In the old days, some people had to go to the pawn shop if they needed money or had items to pawn.

Back towards the entrance to the Children's Workers Museum

When I have seen and explored the activities I want at the Children's Workers Museum, I can go back to the entrance and the staircase leading to the other floors.

Up to floor 1

I take the stairs up to floor 1. Here I can visit the Coffee Bar, experience 1950s exhibitions, and a temporary exhibition. Finally, I can explore the Banquet Hall. From there, I can go up to the Banquet Hall balcony where I will find another exhibition.

The Coffee Bar

The 1950s exhibition starts in the Coffee Bar. I enter the Coffee Bar directly from the staircase.

In the Coffee Bar, I can buy coffee, with or without the coffee substitute Rich's, soft drinks, and chocolate biscuit cake.

I can always have a free glass of water in the Coffee Bar.

I can read more about the Coffee Bar here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/visit/coffee-shop/

Tables and chairs in the Coffee Bar

To the right of the Coffee Bar counter, I will find a spot with tables and chairs where I can enjoy the refreshments I bought.

Towards the 1950s exhibition

Now I can move on to the 1950s exhibition.

I walk through the door at the back to the left, and then I reach the shopping street.

The shopping street

In the shopping street, I can see shop windows of a body wear & hosiery shop (clothing shop), a dairy, and a radio shop. I can also see a cupboard with a poster and pictures from a 1950s film.

Lift

At the shopping street, I will also find a lift. I can take this lift to and from the courtyard and the other floors which have exhibitions as well. I only need assistance from a museum host when I take the lift from the courtyard. Otherwise, I can operate the lift by myself.

Street environment

At the end of the shopping street, I can see this street environment with road work, a Velo Solex moped, and a streetcar painted on the wall.

The Hansen family's flat

I walk down this hallway where I can see the Hansen family's two-room flat. This flat is an example of how working-class families used to live in the 1950s.

The Hansen family consists of father, mother, and three children.

Kitchen

Here I can see the kitchen.

Child's room

In this room, the three children have their beds.

Living room

This is the family's dining and living room.

I can see a sofa arrangement, a table, a chair, and a sofa bed on which the parents used to sleep at night.

To the left, I can see the edge of the dining table.

Laundry room

In the room next to the living room, I will find the building's shared laundry room.

Back to street environment and temporary exhibition

Now I go back to the 1950s street environment. I can see a hot dog stand at the entrance to the temporary exhibition.

I can read more about the current exhibitions here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/whats-on/exhibitions/

Towards the classroom

When I walk through the temporary exhibition, I can walk through the door to the right where I enter an old-fashioned classroom.

Classroom

In the classroom, I can see old-fashioned school desks and more modern tables and chairs as well.

If the classroom is not occupied, I can sit down here and relax.

Once I have seen the exhibitions on floor 1, I can go back to the Coffee Bar.

Back to the Coffee Bar

Here I walk out the door from the shopping street and reach the Coffee Bar.

From Coffee Bar to Banquet Hall

From the Coffee Bar, I walk through the tables and chairs area, and then I reach the Banquet Hall.

Banquet Hall – the stage

Here I can see the Banquet Hall in the heart of the Workers' Assembly Building, which has created a framework for countless of festive occasions and events since 1879.

In 2021, the Banquet Hall was refurbished.

Several times a day, an audio-and-light installation is played in the Banquet Hall to tell stories from and about the building and the Labour Movement. The audio installation is played every full and half hour, meaning at 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, etc.

The balcony

Above the Banquet Hall, there is a balcony where I can experience the exhibition "The Movement 1871-2021".

Through the door below the balcony, I can enter the Stauning Room. Here an exhibition tells the story of how the workers collected money to build the Workers' Assembly Building, and how the building was built.

The Stauning Room

Here I can experience the exhibition in the Stauning Room.

This room also has tables and chairs where I can sit down and relax.

The Banquet Hall and the Stauning Room are both used for arrangements and events. Therefore, they may be closed for visitors on certain days.

Exit to the balcony staircase

The door to the right on the picture leads from the Banquet Hall and out to the balcony staircase.

To the left, I can see the door to the lift. I can take the lift to and from the entrance area next to the ticket sale on floor 0. I can also take the lift to the balcony.

Staircase to balcony and meeting room

Here I can take the stairs to the balcony.

View from the balcony

Here I can have a view of the Banquet Hall from the balcony.

About the exhibition on the balcony

On the balcony backwall, I can read about the exhibition that I can experience on the balcony: “The Movement 1871-2021”.

Chronological exhibition along the balcony walls

The exhibition consists of posters, photos, documents, etc. in large glass frames arranged in chronological sequence on both sides of the balcony.

Here I can see the first presentation of 1871.

Down to the Banquet Hall and out to the Coffee Bar

When I have finished viewing the exhibition on the balcony, I can walk back down to the Banquet Hall. From the Banquet Hall, I can walk through the Coffee Bar and out to the staircase.

Continue up the stairs

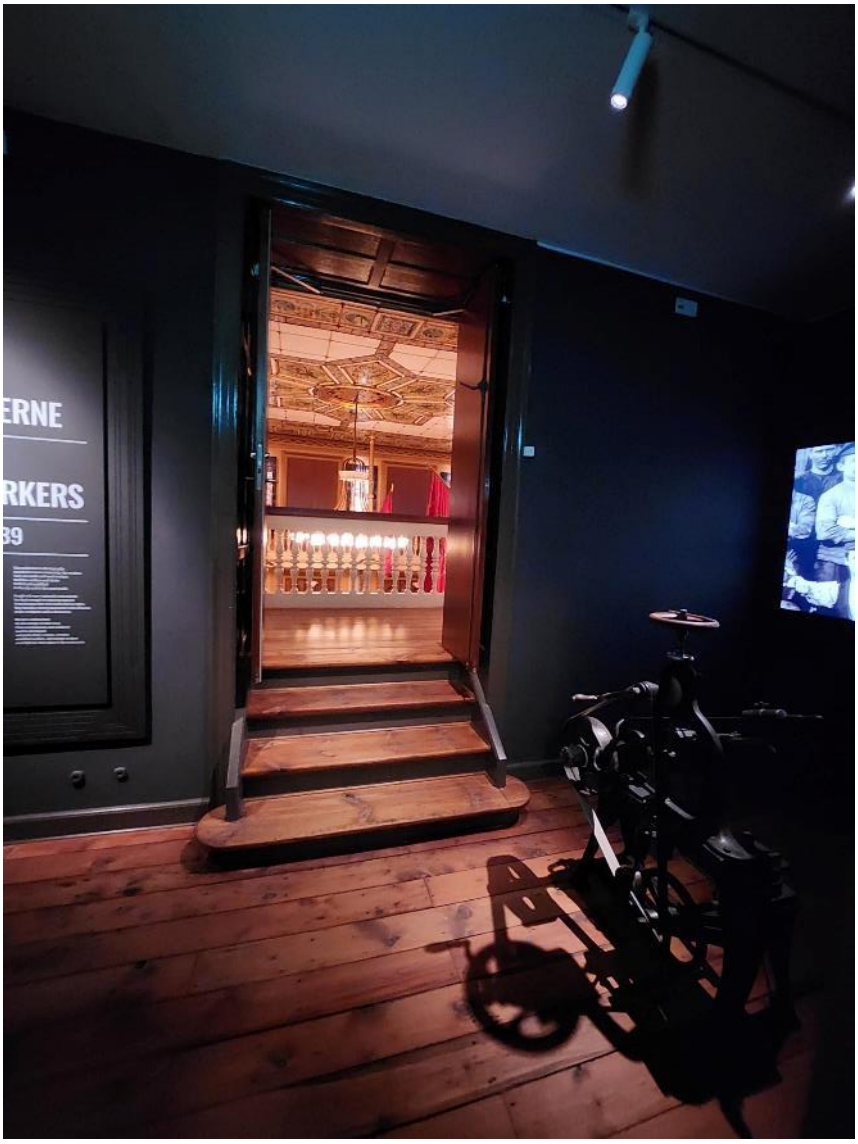
Now I continue to floor 2 where I can experience the “We are the Workers” exhibition.

Floor 2

Here I walk through the open door to the “We are the Workers” exhibition.

This exhibition focuses on the communities among different types of workers.

To the balcony



From the first exhibition room, I can see this door leading to the balcony and another exhibition.

However, I can also stay and continue my tour around the “We are the Workers” exhibition.

About the exhibition

In the first exhibition room, I can read about the exhibition focusing on the period 1871-1939.

In the showcase in the middle of the floor, I can see a well-preserved lunch box, which was found behind a glass panel at Rosenborg Castle in 1986. The lunch box was left there by a craftsman who was working on the castle restoration back in 1886.

I continue to the next room as I walk through the doorway to the left.

The workers' housing conditions

In this room, I can see figures of a working-class family. Like many others, this family moved from the countryside to the city to settle and find a job.

When I walk through the doorway, I can see some examples of poor housing where many workers used to live.

I can also experience an exhibition on the great conflict in the metal industry (in Danish known as Smedekonflikten).

These exhibition rooms are very dark and may seem gloomy.

The great conflict in the metal industry (Smedekonflikten)

To the left, I can see a workshop in an exhibition area telling the story about the great conflict in the metal industry in 1885 (in Danish known as Smedekonflikten).

To the right, I walk up a small ramp leading to the next parts of the exhibition.

Agitators

To the right, I can see the lift leading to the other floors at the museum. Opposite the lift, there is a small staircase leading down to the exhibitions on floor 1.

However, I can also stay on floor 2.

In this room, I can read about the political agitators, etc. on the walls. The agitators travelled around giving lectures to persuade workers to organise.

At the back, I can see a doorway to an exhibition room on the first workers' newspapers and publications.

The newspaper The Social Democrat (Social-Demokraten)

Here I can see the decor and furniture of the editorial office and counter at the workers' newspaper The Social Democrat (Social-Demokraten in Danish).

Door to the right – exhibition on servants

I continue through the same room. The door to the right leads to a minor exhibition on the lives of servants. Here I can see an example of the rooms in which servants used to live.

At the back of the picture, I can see a square advertising pillar with several election posters for the Social Democratic Party, among other things.

This room also has an exit to another staircase at the museum. However, I decide to stay on floor 2.

Now I go to the right, towards an exhibition on unskilled women's lives.

Iron Women

This part of the exhibition focuses on unskilled women, for example in the iron industry.

From here, I can continue up the stairs.

At the staircase, there is a lift which wheelchair users and walking-impaired persons are free to use. The lift operating panel can be found on the wall, on the opposite site of the staircase.

Lift operating panel

Here I can see the operating panel for the lift.

May 1st speech

In the hallway, I can read an extract of a May 1st speech from 1915 and see a picture from another May 1st demonstration celebrating the International Workers Day.

At the end of the hallway, I go to the right, towards a new hallway area.

Office environment to the right

In this hallway, to the right, I can see an old-fashioned office environment through the windows.

All to the left, I can see a door leading to the last exhibition room on floor 2. This exhibition room focuses on leisure and enlightenment.

Office environment

When I look through the windows, I can experience an old-fashioned office environment where trade and office assistants could work.

The Workers' Educational Association (Arbejdernes Oplysningsforbund)

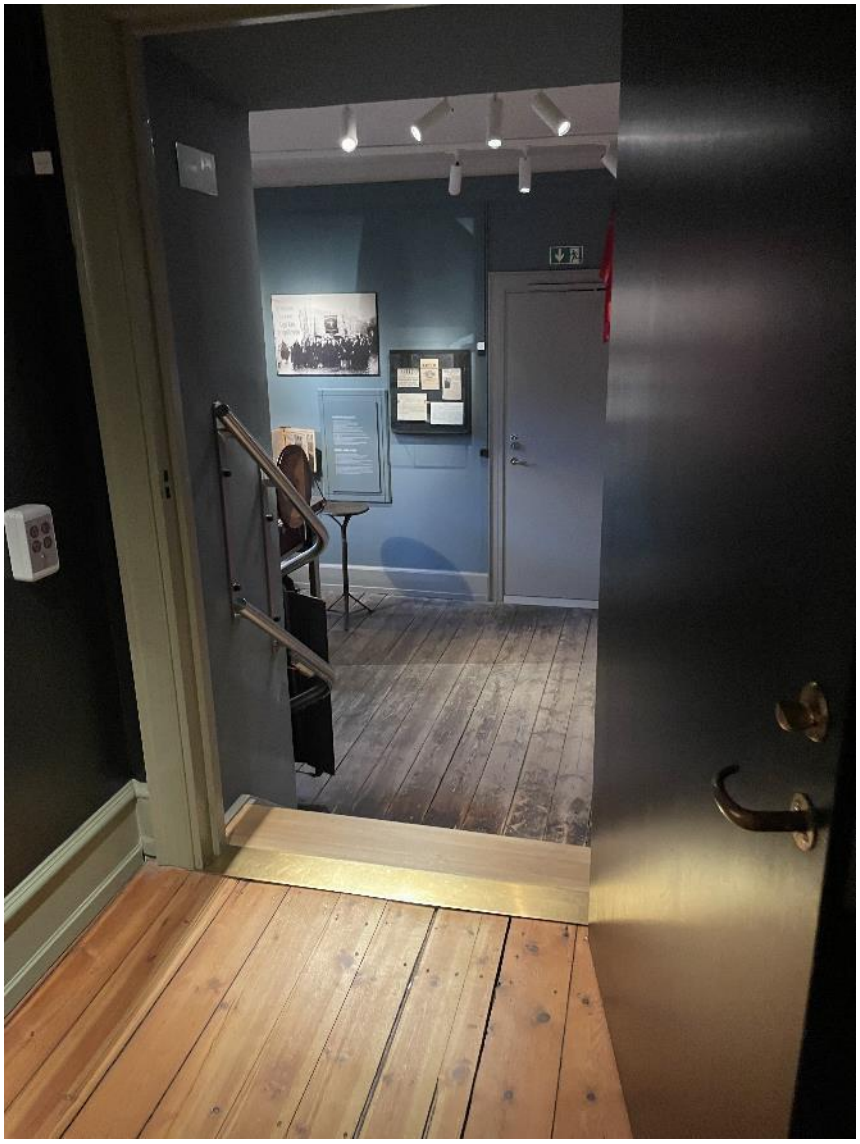
Now I have entered the last exhibition room illustrating that the workers had more time off thanks to the 8-hour workday.

Among other things, they spent their time off on upskilling at the Workers' Educational Association (Arbejdernes Oplysningsforbund).

I have now seen the entire “We are the Workers” exhibition. Now I can go back to the exhibition start.

First, I walk out the door to the left on the picture.

Back to the exhibition start



I reach the hallway where I can take the lift or the stairs down to the exhibition on Iron Women.

From here, I go back through the entire exhibition and reach the staircase I first came from.

From this staircase, I continue to floor 3.

Floor 3

Now I reach floor 3.

Here I can see “The Industrial Work” exhibition that takes me through 150 years of industrial history. I can see the entrance to the exhibition at the end of the staircase.

On floor 3, I can also experience the audio-and-light show “The Battle of the Commons” (Slaget på Fælleden).

The Battle of the Commons (Slaget på Fælleden)

Next to the door to “The Industrial Work” exhibition, I can enter an attic.

Here I can experience the audio-and-light show “The Battle of the Commons” (Slaget på Fælleden in Danish) describing the birth of the Labour Movement.

The show starts every full hour.

The Industrial Work

Now I enter the first room of “The Industrial Work” exhibition. Here I can watch an introduction video of the industrial work.

The video lasts 7:20 minutes.

From this room, I can walk around the exhibition. Among other things, I can experience backyard bottlers at the Carlsberg breweries in the 1800s, B&W shipyard riveters from the 1950s, female fitters at the electronics company B&O, and seamstresses working in Nicaragua today.

Backyard bottlers at the Carlsberg breweries

Here I can see how Carlsberg beer was bottled by backyard bottlers in the old days.

Ramp

The figure to the left is a woman bottling carbonic acid. She wears a protective face net as the bottles were at risk of bursting.

In the middle of the picture, I can see the ramp leading to the next exhibition room.

Lift and stories

Here I pass the lift leading to all floors at the museum, except for the basement.

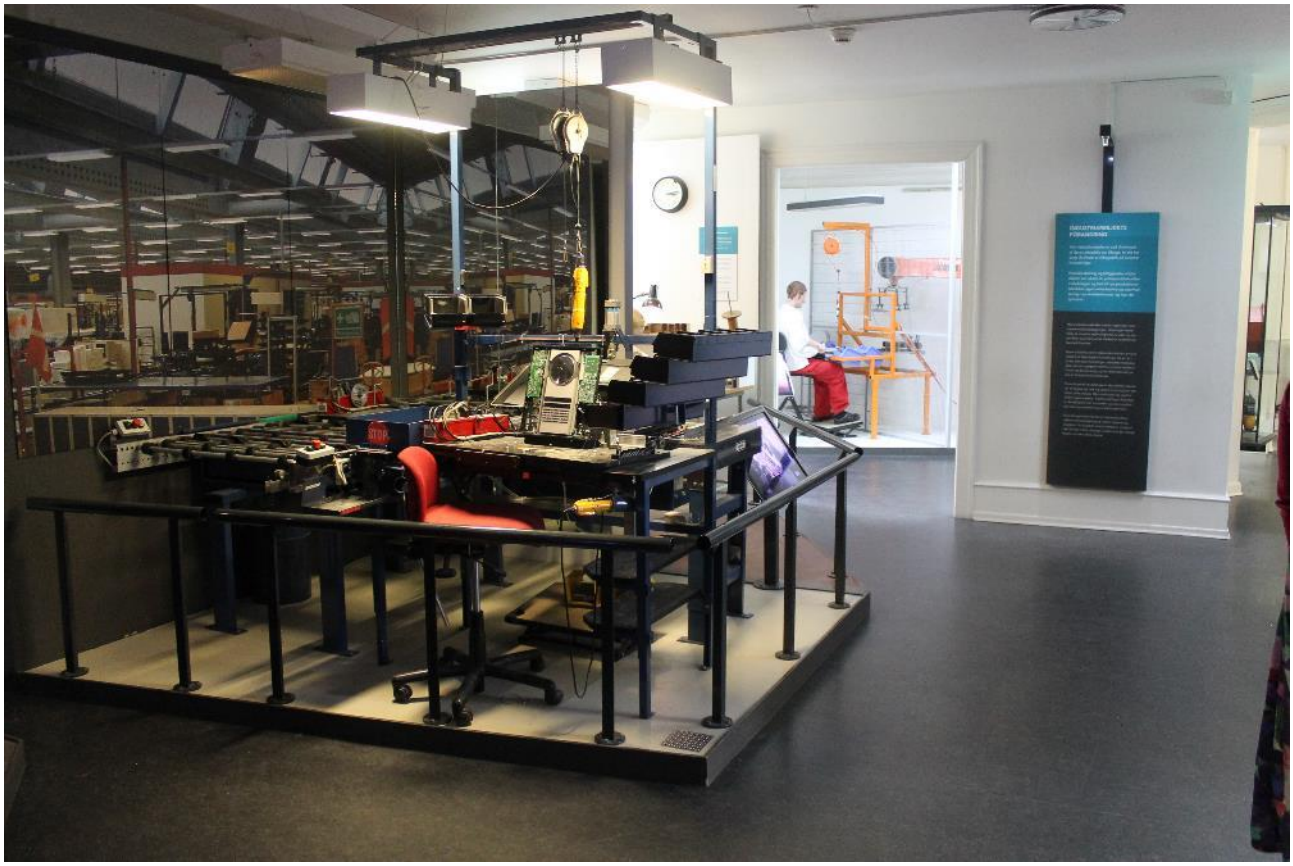
Next to the lift, I can sit down on the bench and listen to one or more stories about industrial work.

I can press the lighting green button next to the topic I want to hear about. Then the story begins.

Shipyard riveters at B&W

Here I can see an arrangement of shipyard riveters who used to work at the B&W shipyard.

The electronics industry



Here I can see a workplace in the electronics industry where female fitters, among other things, used to work with parts for TV sets, radios, etc.

Global change

Manual, unskilled work, such as in the fashion industry, is hardly done in Denmark these days as such work has been moved to countries with low wages.

Here I can see an example of a production site in Nicaragua.

Leave the exhibition

When I have seen what I want of “The Industrial Work” exhibition, I can go back to the first exhibition room, go to the stairs, and move on down to the ticket sale.

Back to ticket sale and gift shop

When I have reached floor 0, I can enter the ticket sale.

I can either go back and see the parts of the exhibitions I want to see once again. Or I can leave the museum.

Before I do that, I may buy something in the gift shop. If I keep my jacket or bag in the locker room, I can pick them up there.

Leave the museum

I can leave the ticket sale and the gift shop through the door in the middle of the picture. The same door I entered earlier.

Exit to the street through the courtyard and the gate

Now I walk out the entrance door, through the courtyard and the gate, to Rømersgade.

Café & Øl-Halle 1892

If I feel like it, I can visit the tavern Café & Øl-Halle 1892. The entrance is near the gate to the museum.

I can read more about Café & Øl-Halle 1892 here:

https://www.arbejdermuseet.dk/en/visit/cafe-oelhalle-1892/