



Marielund Care Centre

Innovative  
inclusive care centre  
planning via  
know-how sharing and  
user involvement

Guldmann™



**At the Marienlund Care Center all the living quarters are equipped with ceiling lifts in the form of a continuous room-covering rail system between the sleeping area and the bathroom for optimal lifting and relocation of the residents on a daily basis.**

## The “Marienlund model” in Denmark

In March 2017, a new assisted living care centre for 120 residents opened its doors in Silkeborg, a small town on the Danish mainland. The Marienlund Care Centre represents significant new thinking about ways to ensure maximum flexibility and cost-effectiveness in implementing new care centre design.

The apartments in the new centre have been specially configured to meet the changing needs of its future residents, as well as to comply with their individual preferences about layout and décor. The apartments are easy to adapt to new requirements, regardless of whether residents suffer from dementia, obesity or other problems and therefore require specialist care, or are relatively healthy and self-sufficient. These are all conditions that can (and will) change over time ... so the Marienlund Care Centre was designed to change with them.

## Involvement, consultation and prototyping

Another breakthrough feature of what has now come to be known as “the Marienlund model” for flexible care centre

design is that all the features and capabilities were tried, tested and tweaked in an off-site prototype apartment, before any design finalisation or actual building work took place.

This made it possible to integrate and coordinate ideas, inputs and requirements from care centre residents, staff and administrators as well as from specialist equipment suppliers, designers, architects and building contractors. This then resulted in substantial project savings by preventing overlaps, incompatibilities and duplication, as well as making sure that new ideas, fixtures and fittings would work as intended.

## Capabilities quickly available when needed

The exceptional flexibility of the installations at the Marienlund Care Centre in Silkeborg make it possible to alter apartment configurations and help equipment from one day to the next, with no expensive building work or alterations. This ensures maximum flexibility, low service life cost, and minimal “downtime” and expenditure when transitioning from one occupant to another.



A decision was also made to equip other common rooms, such as a common TV room, a man cave, a sensory room and a SPA room with room-covering ceiling lifts, so that the facilities can be used by all the residents — whether they can help themselves or are wheelchair users.

A lot of this desired flexibility stems from having key infrastructure fixtures pre-installed. This means they can be brought into use immediately, with no costly room alterations or adjustment delays. Walls that can be moved and removed to comply with changing resident preferences and needs are a key example of this.

### Lifting and moving equipment from Guldmann pre-installed

Guldmann was closely involved in planning the overall layout and structure of the Marienlund facility, because the effective integration of effective-as-well-as-flexible lifting and moving capabilities was central to the overall success of the project.

As a result, all the apartments and many other rooms, group areas and specialist facilities at the Marienlund Care Centre are fitted with Guldmann ceiling hoists as part of the basic structure –built in from the beginning, and always available as and when needed. The rail system is unobtrusively integrated with the apartment structure, so it doesn't take up space or get in the way. This also helps prevent any undesirable "hospital feel" in people's private residential spaces.

The rail system infrastructure is always there, but the Guldmann hoist unit itself is only actually installed in an apartment if or when the individual resident actually needs it.

### Standard systems made exceptional

During the many planning sessions with the commissioning municipal authorities, architects, civil engineers, and other experts – and as part of constructing the off-site prototype apartment – Guldmann specialists found that they were able to configure and install completely standard Guldmann equipment in innovative new ways.

When experts work together to share key know-how, it results in new capabilities for a care centre, with lower operating costs and greater all-round satisfaction.

### Supporting "time to care"

Technology and equipment are, of course, only a help to the fundamentals of "warm hands" and empathic, friendly, well-trained human help – what Guldmann calls "time to care". The hardware should never be too intrusive or make the apartments feel hospital-like for

those who have to live in them. Welfare technologies are intended to liberate the human element, and to help use the limited manpower resources as effectively as possible.

The innovative way Guldmann ceiling hoists have been integrated into the Marienlund Care Centre opens up new vistas for care centre planning as well as project implementation.

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*"Having the Guldmann ceiling lift system installed just about everywhere has given us a much more efficient way of working and a good working environment with big benefits for ergonomics, and health and safety."*

*Another observation is that it's vital for the residents to be aided with their personal tasks and requirements as quickly and as gently as possible – all the lifting and moving is done for very good reasons".*

*Jette Laumann, head of section for all the care centres in Silkeborg Municipality*

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Involvement and knowledge sharing as keywords. All features and capabilities were tried, tested and tweaked in an off-site prototype apartment and ideas and requirements from staff, administrators, suppliers etc were integrated in the project.

## Implementation and inclusivity

Planning a new assisted living care centre is a major endeavour that usually requires careful consideration, effective planning and the coordinated application of multiple skillsets from many different suppliers.

As one of the world's leading suppliers of high-quality ceiling hoists and lifting equipment, Guldmann is often closely involved in such planning and configuration decisions.

But in modern tendering structures and business models, such decisions are

rarely a go-it-alone effort. It isn't just about selecting the most appropriate equipment and applying Guldmann know-how and technical expertise to make sure it works appropriately. It's also about how everyone involved in such equipment decisions – and those affected by them – can contribute as much as possible and benefit as much as possible.

## Sharing know-how maximises "time to care"

Guldmann encourages decision-makers, customers and influencers to consult and involve other specialist

design experts and technology suppliers, and to evaluate and plan together around "time to care", users' needs and staff requirements. The aim is to ensure innovative, budget-compliant solutions that meet a broad spectrum of needs. Both right now and as these – inevitably – change over time.

Adaptability and flexible capabilities are the key to cost-effective care centre planning, design and operations for the future.