

Copenhagen Furniture of Colorado

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Kristoffer Bjorn Knudsen grew up in Denmark and moved often with his master-brewer father Finn Knudsen and mother Margrethe, a pre-school teacher. By the time he migrated to Wheat Ridge High School in 1984, he spoke six languages as a result of living in Seattle, French Canada, Tunisia, Crete, Spain, Luxembourg, England, Sweden, and more.

He was a scout in three countries, serving as patrol leader, and managed a scout store in Ordrup, Denmark, as a boy. This led to his involvement with the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Inactive Mines Project as a volunteer biologist. Kristoffer is a CEO, third-generation Rotarian. His grandparents were knighted by the Danish Queen as CEOs of Georg Jensen Silversmiths and Amagerbaken respectively. His father received the MBAA Award of Merit.

Kristoffer, or Bjorn as many know him, moved to Evergreen in 1996 after becoming a single father of two daughters, Kaleigh and Jasmine. "I was the Dad who brought cookies to school... was a Girl Scout leader... gave out merit badges, and especially enjoyed taking the girls and their friends on school field trips. I loved being a parent volunteer, helping PTA or facilitating the RESPECT program at Evergreen Middle."

He and his daughters savored seeing elk, bears, and wild turkeys near their Brook Forest cabin at 9,000 feet altitude. Evergreen was much like the experiences he had as a



boy in Scandinavia except "we had to wear bee keeper nets to protect ourselves against the trillions of mosquitoes in Sweden. I remember wandering the quiet untouched Scandinavia backcountry collecting delicious wild blueberries. It became part of my soul."

Although he enjoyed the challenge, it took 18 years of hard work to become general manager of the Danish furniture store in Lakewood in a building that has been a furniture store since 1945. He was part of the exclusive tradition that Copenhagen Furniture built nationwide.

When the furniture storeowner decided to retire and close, Kristoffer and his second wife Jody began the process of continuing the business and officially reopened in January, 2007. With a huge smile, he says Jody is a "big time catch! She has an MBA from Regis and was a finance manager for Carramerica, a real estate investment trust." Their daughter Amalie was born in 2005.

Kristoffer and Jody treat their employees like family in the remodeled 16,000 sq. ft. building of three levels. The store offers the largest Danish and Scandinavian teak wood collection in the region. Delivery in the Denver metro is by their employees or they ship anywhere in the world.

"We are Danish design fanatics! We offer the largest Stressless Comfort Zone in Colorado and surrounding states. Our customers are from Colorado, Alaska, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, California, and even England! Copenhagen furniture selections are designed for extraordinary comfort with beautiful (renewable) teak wood. People who have worked hard all day deserve to come home and relax in a Stressless chair! Or enjoy the simple and clean lines of Danish design. I always say, come see what Danish design can do for your home."

—Carole Lomond