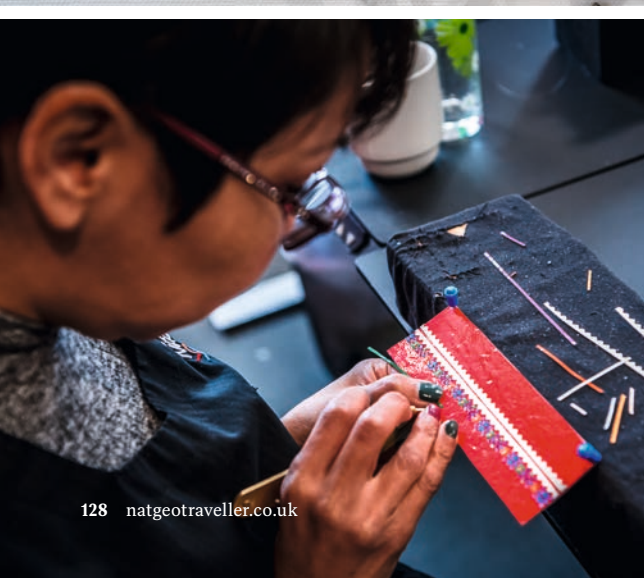




GREENLAND

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS **LOLA AKINMADE AKERSTROM**

**JOURNEY THROUGH A LAND OF ICEBERGS
AND INUIT CULTURE, FOLLOWING IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF TÉTÉ-MICHEL KPOMASSIE,
AUTHOR OF LEGENDARY TRAVELOGUE,
*AN AFRICAN IN GREENLAND***



GREENLAND'S RICH, INDIGENOUS CULTURE IS STEEPED IN CENTURIES-OLD INUIT TRADITIONS, SHAPED BY HUNTING AND FISHING THE DEPTHS OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN. IT REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING PLACES ON EARTH TO EXPLORE, AS AUTHOR TÉTÉ-MICHEL KPOMASSIE REVEALED IN HIS INSPIRATIONAL BOOK, AN AFRICAN IN GREENLAND



"Was it the author's praise of their hospitality that triggered my longing for adventure? I hardly remember. But when I had finished reading, one word began to resonate inside me until it filled my whole being. That sound, that word, was Greenland."





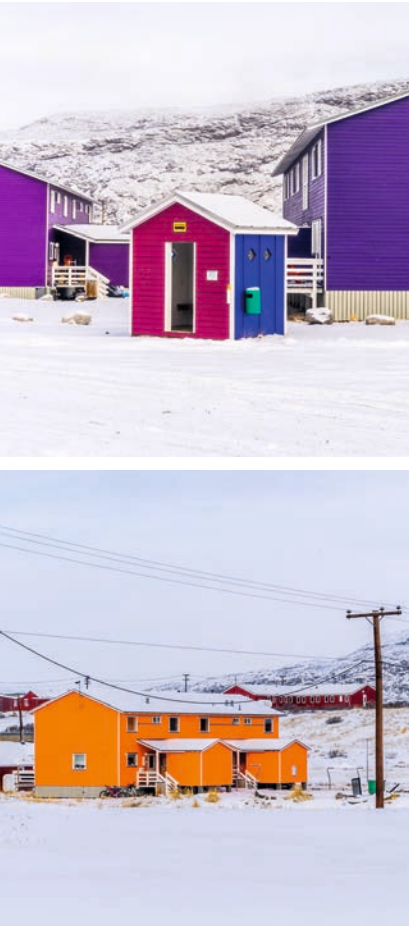
“The smallest looked like swimming swans, and some were like crouching camels, rocking gently from side to side. A brilliant sun, cold as steel, glittered on them and transformed the sea into a fairytale world.”

ILULISSAT MEANS ‘ICEBERG’ IN GREENLANDIC INUIT. IT’S ALSO THE NAME OF THE SMALL TOWN AT THE MOUTH OF DISKO BAY, 300 MILES INSIDE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. KNOWN AS THE ‘ICEBERG CAPITAL OF THE WORLD’, ITS SURROUNDING BAY AND THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE, ILULISSAT ICEFJORD, HAS THOUSANDS OF FLOATING ICEBERGS CALVED FROM THE SERMEQ KUJALLEQ GLACIER



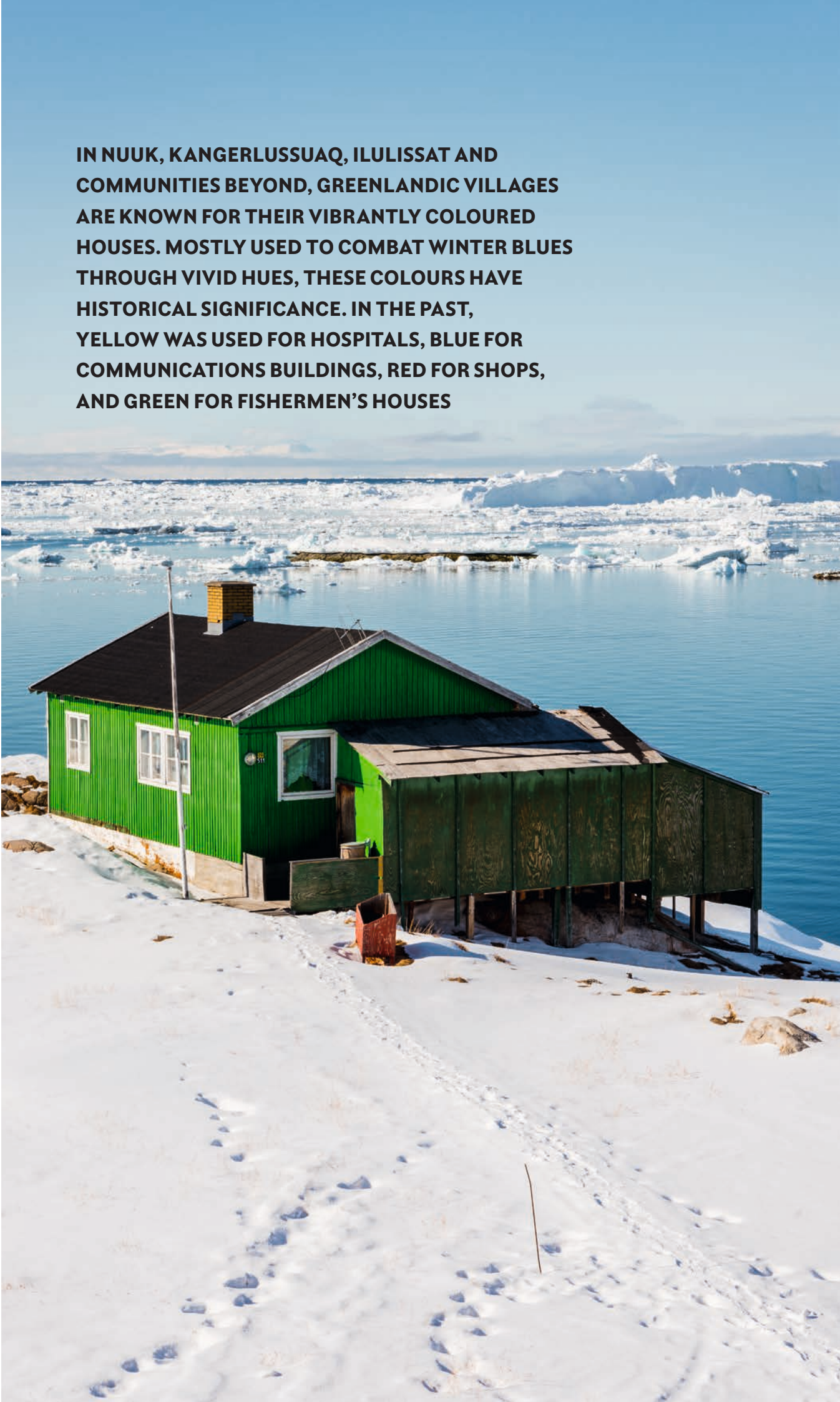


ILULISSAT IS THE THIRD-LARGEST TOWN IN GREENLAND AFTER NUUK AND SISIMIUT. FORMERLY KNOWN AS JAKOBSHAVN, IT HAS A POPULATION OF ROUGHLY 4,600. IN WINTER, THE SUN BARELY HOVERS OVER THE HORIZON, CASTING A WARM GOLDEN GLOW ACROSS THE TOWN AND ITS ICE-CARPETED LANDSCAPE



“Behind these enormous white mountains appeared the community of Jakobshavn. At half-past six, we entered the harbour, which was packed and busy in spite of the darkness.”

IN NUUK, KANGERLUSSUAQ, ILULISSAT AND COMMUNITIES BEYOND, GREENLANDIC VILLAGES ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR VIBRANTLY COLOURED HOUSES. MOSTLY USED TO COMBAT WINTER BLUES THROUGH VIVID HUES, THESE COLOURS HAVE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE. IN THE PAST, YELLOW WAS USED FOR HOSPITALS, BLUE FOR COMMUNICATIONS BUILDINGS, RED FOR SHOPS, AND GREEN FOR FISHERMEN’S HOUSES



IN ILULISSAT TODAY, THE CHORUS OF BARKING DOGS JOINS THE CRACKLING OF ICEBERGS. THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,500 SLED DOGS FOR A POPULATION OF JUST UNDER 5,000. HUSKIES ARE AN ESSENTIAL FORM OF TRANSPORTATION IN THIS ICY WILDERNESS



“Perched on this strange means of transport, you’re not quite sure whether to feel sorry for yourself or to save your pity for the dogs trotting in front of you and occasionally turning their heads to look back at you.” ▣



ALL QUOTED EXTRACTS ARE FROM THE 1981 BOOK
AN AFRICAN IN GREENLAND BY TÉTÉ-MICHEL KPOMASSIE