Introduction

Ever since humans started to domesticate horses around 3500BC, there has been a strong relationship between these two species. Today the use of the horse is mainly driven by hobbies rather than agricultural or transportational means. Even though there has been a shift in the use of the horses through time, it’s still an intriguing thing to create architecture for both the horse and rider.

The horse activity in Norway is growing rapidly. The Norwegian Eques-terian Federation has experienced a steep increase in the number of members the last 10-15 years. The demand for stables is growing and the need for new equestrian facilities gets bigger and bigger.
Research question

The objective of the project is to explore an architecture of a horse farm on a rural site in Vollane/Norway where horses and riders can live together in a close relationship to each other. It is searching for a place and an inspiring building type that would incorporate a broad range of human and equine activities in a new kind of togetherness.

While animals are usually relegated a secondary role in the farm, the project is trying to challenge and reverse this usual dynamic, by approaching architecture from an animal perspective. The horse becomes the main framework for the design, by taking his needs and demands as serious as possible in their most natural habitat. The set geometries, the architectonic elements and outside spaces used in the project that go with horse activities are thoroughly investigated, trying to keep the built space on the minimum.

On the one side, the intention was to create an architecture of big scale, related to the large environment, and on the other, to create spaces that blur division between domestic and external zones, allowing for a reciprocal intimacy between human and animal behaviors.

By equally emphasizing the outside spaces as much as the built, I have proposed a place like a big garden where the relation between horse and rider, with the local life and landscape as a backdrop, can be fully physically experienced.
Area of site. Vollane in Volda, Norway
Research from The Norwegian Equestrian Organisation shows that the lack of registered stables and equestrian facilities in Norway are biggest in the following counties: Hordaland, Sogn og Fjordane, Møre og Romsdal, Sør-Trøndelag, Nord-Trøndelag and Finnmark. (ref. Pre-diploma)
Volda is the administrative centre of Volda Municipality in Møre og Romsdal county, Norway. The village is located on the west coast of Norway. Area: 3.6 km². Population: 6,114 (2013)
1 Site
2 Golf
3 Åreneset public beach and volleyball
4 Fotball
5 Skating
6 Camping
7 Botnasanden public beach
Norwegian Horse Breeds

Fjord horse
Use: Heavy work, such as plowing fields or pulling timber, yet light and agile enough to be a good riding and driving horse. They are also sure-footed in the mountains. They are considered very good driving horses, and are commonly used in everything from competitions to tourist transport. They are also used as a sport horse, particularly in combined driving.
Withers: 1.3-1.4 m

Dole horse
Use: Work, draft and harness horse. Known for its pulling power and agility. Also used as a riding horse. The Dole Gudbrandsdal has also been crossed with Swedish Warmbloods to produce riding-type horses.
Withers: 1.4-1.6 m

Northland horse
Use: Highly versatile in use, great strength, and its suitability for both riding and driving. Thanks to its strength and endurance, the breed is suitable for trail riding and serving as packhorse. Its smooth gait make it well-suited for therapeutic riding. It is also used for junior harness racing, dressage, and jumping.
Withers: 0.9-1.4 m

Norwegian coldblood trotter
Use: The Norwegian trotter is a strong and hardy horse, mostly used as a racehorse (trotter) due to its speed and agility. Also used as a riding horse with its good temperament.
Withers: 1.5 - 1.7 m
A section of the Horse and rider relation - investigating how and where they meet.
Diagram - A day of a domesticated/tamed horse

Horse
Autum Winter Fall

breakfast

free time outside

dinner

getting groomed

trained

supper

sleep
Horse
Summer
may - september

pasture

grooming training
Vollane - Horse Garden will serve room for ten horses and one permanent house for the owner of the stable. The owner has three trot horses that he train, and the rest is rental boxes for riders that does general riding such as dressage, jumping, field riding etc. These riders are members of Volda Riding Club.

Vollane - Horse Garden should offer a broad range of riding activities for all age groups and interests. The main focus in the planning has been to give the horse the best premises for wind, sun, view and grassland. The outside areas boarders to the stable making the architecture function as a fence and results in a natural circulation for the horse both winter and summer.
Thematical Investigations

Terms on the horses premises:
Boarders, scale and big movements
Investigated typologies: T.I: Rettir, Hacienda, Ranch, Corral and Rodeo
Natural boarders on site: River, water and wilderness
Wall - Fence - Window - Door
The relation between functions on site, both inward and to the surroundings
International Horse Breeds

Norwegian Horse Breeds

Fjord horse
Dole horse
Northland horse
Norwegian coldblood trotter

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Dole Gudbrandsdal

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Norwegian trotter

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Withers: 0.9-1.4 m

Shagya - Arabian

Use: This breed is recognized as a riding horse, and is also driven in harness. It was a hardy cavalry horse and is now popular in sport horse disciplines such as dressage, eventing and endurance riding. Perfect for theraputic riding due to its soft movements.

Withers: 1.5m

English Fullblood

Use: Thoroughbreds are used mainly for racing, but are also bred for other riding disciplines such as show jumping, combined training, dressage, polo, and fox hunting. They are also used in dressage and jumping.

Withers: 1.6-1.7m

Morgan Horse

Use: All round horse. The Morgan breed is known for its versatility. Popular used in western activities. Dressage, jump, field, draft and as general riding horse.

Withers: 1.4-1.6m

Hanoverian

Use: Originally a carriage horse, infusions of Thoroughbred blood lightened it to make it more agile and useful for competitions in dressage and jumping.

Withers: 1.6-1.7m