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Title of project: The theatre park
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Title & Supervisor

TITLE
The theatre park

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Our thesis is to design a group of theaters in the harbor and industrial area of Stensarmen in Tønsberg.

The project is based on existing industrial buildings and we want to find out how we can preserve the historical character of the place.

By adding new structures we will also create a new public space for the city.

The site contains several buildings and constructions that we find both an architectural and historical value in preserving. Our ambition is to provide a new spatial quality among the former industrial buildings. We wish to achieve a theater-architecture that we could not have achieved without the existing structures.

The project aims to create a complex, varied and different theater experience. We wish to expose the functions that are usually hidden in traditional theatres such as workshops and spaces for theater production.

Stensarmen is one of several areas in Tønsberg which is selected as a potential area for future urban development. We consider our project as an important part of this development.

We want to challenge typical transformation processes through the following:

1. To reuse industrial fragments on site.
2. Ensure a public connection along the waterfront.
3. Adding a cultural program that can function as an important generator for future urban development.

We consider our project to be the first construction phase in the development of the area. The future urban development will eventually meet and relate our project.

We have chosen to work with theater because we find the different parts of the theatreprogram intriguing.

Traditionally, the first connection point between the employees of theatre and the audience is on the stage.

One of the things that fascinates us in particular is the production areas, normally placed in workshops separate from the areas accessible for the spectators.

We see an interesting potential in a different organization of theatres. Our ambition is to expose the functions that are normally hidden to the public. Can this contribute to a new and different theater experience?
Background

**Tønsberg**
Tønsberg takes part in the Oslo Fjord region's great growth. 20,000 new residents are expected to move to Tønsberg during the next 25 years. There is a great political ambition for urban development and this makes it natural to look at the industrial areas that are located along the canal.

Tønsberg is Norway's oldest city and has a long history as a harbor city. Tønsberg has long traditions in shipping, industry and trade. The main industrial areas are located along the canal and the surrounding areas of the city fjord.

Tønsberg municipality has already decided that the future development and role of the harbor areas shall be investigated. How important is the harbor's meaning for the city and the region today? Are all these areas close to the city center still needed for harbor functions, or could parts of these areas be transformed for the benefit of urban development and expansion?

**Stensarmen**
Various feasibility studies have already been carried out for different urban functions such as housing, offices, culture and recreational areas. Stensarmen has the potential to be developed into an eastward expansion of the city.

The area has great development potential because of its size, near relationship to the sea and the city center.
Map over Oslofjord region

Map shows Tønsberg city center

Map show industrial areas along the channel, red marking shows Stensarmen.
**Surrounding context**

Stenasarmen is located on the southeast corner of the canal. The area is surrounded by a nature reserve to the east (1), the canal bridge to the west (2), the boardwalk (“Brygga”) connected to the city (3), the canal to south (4) and the ring road with residential areas to north (5).

Stenasarmen location is central in terms of walking and cycling from both the city centre and surrounding landscape, arriving from the sea by boat, and driving from the canal bridge and along the ringroad.

1. **EAST Presterødkilen (walk/bike)**
Presterødkilen is a unique natural reserve with a 2km path for hiking through reeds and observation points for birds. Presterødkilen wetland system is a ramsar-area* and important bird area with 250 different registered species.
Connection to site: The path ends in an asphalt parking space.

2. **WEST “Brygga” boardwalk and city (walk/bike)**
The boardwalk starts underneath the canal bridge and continues along the entire canal. Along the boardwalk you find the marina, public places, bars, restaurants and hotels. “Brygga” is an important part of the city and creates contact with the canal and sea.
Connection to site: The boardwalk ends and continues as a street through Stenasarmen. The seafront is closed and inaccessible.

3. **WEST “Brygga” boardwalk and city (walk/bike)**
The boardwalk starts underneath the canal bridge and continues along the entire canal. Along the boardwalk you find the marina, public places, bars, restaurants and hotels. "Brygga" is an important part of the city and creates contact with the canal and sea.
Connection to site: The boardwalk ends and continues as a street through Stenasarmen. The seafront is closed and inaccessible.

4. **SOUTH The canal (boat)**
The canal is 2.5 km long. Stenasarmen is located at the east end of canal. This result in a view to both the fjord and the canal. The dimension of the canal varies through the city and the narrowest point is at Stenasarmen (50 meters) before it widens out towards the fjord.

5. **NORTH Road and housing (car and living)**
To the north, the area meets the ring road and the surrounding suburban residential areas with gardens and housing.

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* Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO. It provides for national action and international cooperation regarding the conservation of wetlands, and wise sustainable use of their resources.
Overview foto of Tønsberg, red marking shows Stensarmen

1. Presterø kilen
2. Stensarmen
3. "Brygga" boardwalk
Stensarmen today is a defined industrial area that is not connected to the city and surrounding areas. It is experienced as an inaccessible island in the city.

Stensarmen is dominated by one and two-story industrial buildings, workshops, car stores, offices and warehouses. The area does’ t have an understandable structure. The harbor front is not accessible for the city’s inhabitants.

Site
In 2012, the municipality decided that the industry at Stensarmen should mainly be relocated to other areas.

The selected site is currently used by Nordbetong AS as a concrete factory.

The site has been strategically chosen for the following reasons:

1. To use the waterfront to connect the city and landscape
2. The site has a central location in Stensarmen for a cultural program
3. The concrete factory leaves interesting structures on the site
Overview foto of Stenarmen, red marking shows our project site

Foto of Stensarmen, seen from the other side of the channel
SITE
Existing structures

Today, Nordbetong A/S have a concrete factory on the site.

The factory will leave structures that we have assessed at different levels of conservation value.

In the structures we maintain, we see an architectural potential. The constructions can be reused for new functions and at the same time create a connection to the industrial history of the past.

The structures have different form, materiality, expression and size. They are perceived as individual characters on the site.

1. Concrete mixing tower:
The concrete is produced with different deposits and cement. Built in 1989. Tall silo building that works as a landmark in the urban situation.
Conservation value: High

2. Office:
Nordbetong AS use only a small part of the building, the rest is empty.
Conservation value: Low

3. Crane track:
Standing from older industry(storage for coal), today the cran track is only used as a stand for conveyor belts for sand.
Built in 1939, the oldest element, interesting construction that is directional in the situation.
Conservation value: High

4. The crane:
Used today to lift boats and loading from the port.
Built: unknown. Tallest element on the site. A landmark for the surrounding area.
Conservation value: High
5. **Silo tower:**
Used today is unknown.
Built in 1961, tall silo building that stands out in the urban situation.
Conservation value: High

6. **Storage hall:**
Currently used as warehouse for Tønsberg Spedisjon. One part of the building is used for offices, the other is used for storage.
Built in 1971. The main structure is interesting to preserve.
Conservation value: Medium

7. **Storage hall:**
Used today for storage of steel elements.
Built in 2006, red steel / metal warehouse.
Stands out because of its characteristic shape.
Conservation value: Medium

8. **Sand storage:**
Open concrete elements used as sand storage. Linear directional element.
Conservation value: Medium
Our ambition is to preserve the character of the place. The industrial history of the site must be emphasized.

We wish to achieve something new by taking care of existing structures and let them govern our new additions. We want to achieve a new architecture that we had not acquired without these existing structures.

We will work with our site in such a way that our project relates to the existing surrounding qualities and future urban development.

We will create a new urban meeting place by adding a cultural program.

The theatre will have influence on the future development of the surrounding area.

The theatre program itself will create a complex, varied and different theatre experience.

**Our ambition:**
1. Keep the character of the place.
2. Work spatially and constructively with the existing structures on site.
3. Create a new public space.
4. Create a complex, varied and different theater experience
Program

URBAN PROGRAM

1. Park/urban space
2. Connect the city and landscape/nature together
3. Transform existing structures
4. Link to future city structure

THEATRE PROGRAM

Stage
4 stages with different use.
1. Flexible stage: 10-400 people. Flat floor. Seating and stage can be formed flexibly within a dedicated room.
2. A fixed stage: 200 people. Endstage. The stage is located at the end and the audience is in amphitheatre.
3. Outdoor stage: for bigger events.
4. A smaller stage. Stage tower. Transverse stage.

Workshop
Workshop for steel, wood, painting, mask, costume, shoes etc. Expose the production for the visitors.

Actors
Wardrobe - makeup - changing

Public
Ticket reception
Bar
Cafe
Foto, Hilla and Bernd Becher
Submitted material

**DRAWINGS**
Cityplan 1:5000
Masterplan 1:1000
Situationplan 1:200
Section 1:200
Elevation 1:200

Plans of separate theatres 1:100
Section of separate theatres 1:100

Detail section 1:50 with the connection between old and new.

**ILLUSTRATIONS**

**MODELS**
1:5000 City
1:750 Situation
1:200 Building model
1:50 Space - Theatre

**BOOKLETS**
Processbook
Theatre research
City & Site Analyse
Foto, Rinocerii of Rober Wilson
References
City

Bernard Tschumi - Parc de la Villete

Landscape

Piet Oudolf, High Line Park

Vogt landschaft, Your Glacial Expectations

Bas Smets, Greand Hopital de cherleroi
Workshop

Ishigami architects - KAIT workshop (2010)

LIN Finn Geipel, Cité du desin St. Etienne

Herzog & de Meuron, Schauspielhaus Zurich
Theater

Teatro Erotides de Campos, Marcello Ferraz (2012)

The Anatomy Theatre, Andrea Moroni (1594)

Teatro Oficina, Lina Bo Bardi (1984)

Teatro del Mondo, Aldo Rossi (1979)
Polyvalent Theater, Lacaton & Vassal (2013)

Teatro Olimpico, Andrea Palladio (1580)

Academy of fine arts Berlin, Werner Düttmann (1960)

The Globe Theatre, James Burbage (1597)