

ANCHORING

THE URBANISING OF KRISTIANSHOLM

// Sandviken, Bergen, Norway

THE FACTS

Bergen city was established in 1070 by King Olav Kyrre. The city's name of that time was Bjørgvin, which means «the green meadow between the mountains». Bergen is surrounded by seven mountains and has several natural harbours. Since the Middle Ages, Bergen has been a significant harbour city in the northern European context.

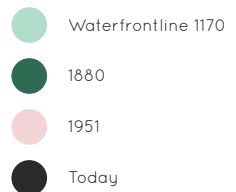
Most of the city's buildable zones are utilized. There is therefore a need for a critical look at areas and sites that can be transformed with new content in order for the further development of Bergen.

Bergen is also in a process of a major urban development in the coming years. All the large cities in Norway are growing due to immigration and births, according to figures from Statistics Norway. But there is also a youth "epidemic" that is heading towards the big cities, such as students and young families with children.

According to SSB, Bergen is expecting a population increase of nearly 100,000 over the next 25 years. And by 2024 they expected a number of 310 000 people in Bergen (today the population is 277.000). This will lead to an increased need for housing, development and other services for the population.

Due to Bergens challenging topography, most of the developments must take place in the valley bottom and in the waterfront.

Housing at the waterfront is very attractive as this creates exciting living environments with good recreational possibilities that can exploit the ocean's potential. The establishing of building structures at the waterfront, has clear historical roots in Bergen and has been the most prominent way of developing the city.





N ↑

THE SITE

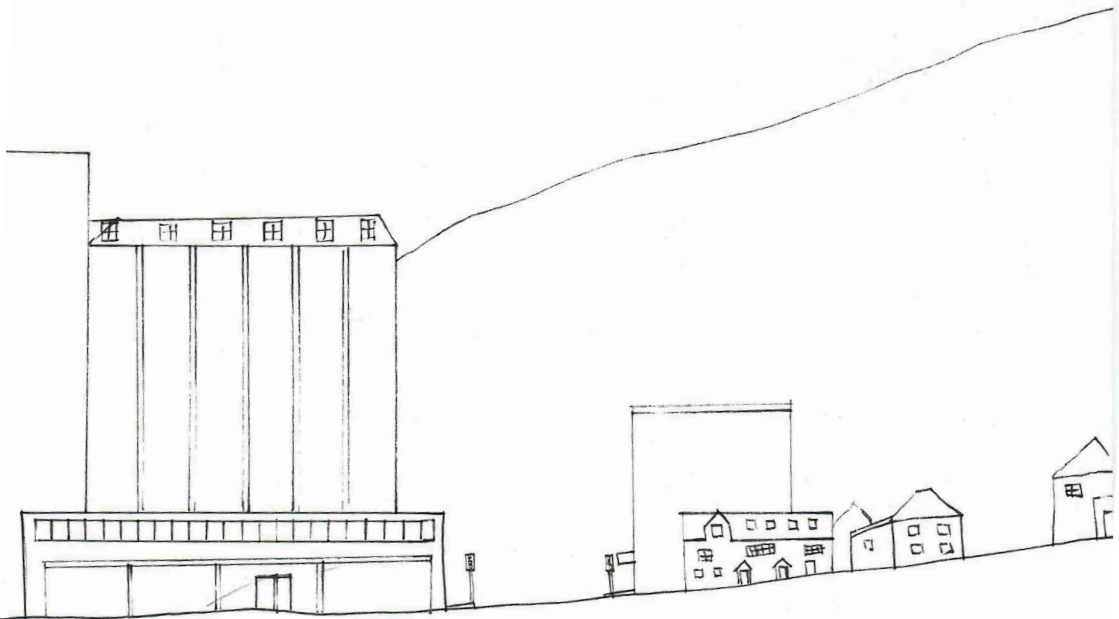
Sandviken is a urban area right next to the city centre of Bergen and has population of 3800.

In Sandviken there is a place called Kristiansholm, which is placed right at the waterfront of Sandviken, overlooking the fjord.

Kristiansholm has been a strategic point to strengthen Bergens fortress and a place for trading since the Middle Ages. The area has been filled today and consists of a homogeneous surface which is occupied by a construction company.

Kristiansholm is close to Sandvikstorget, a small plaza in the heart of Sandviken. Which historically was an important meeting point, but is just a parking space today. A heavy trafficated road is separating Kristiansholm, Sandvikstorget and Sandviken.

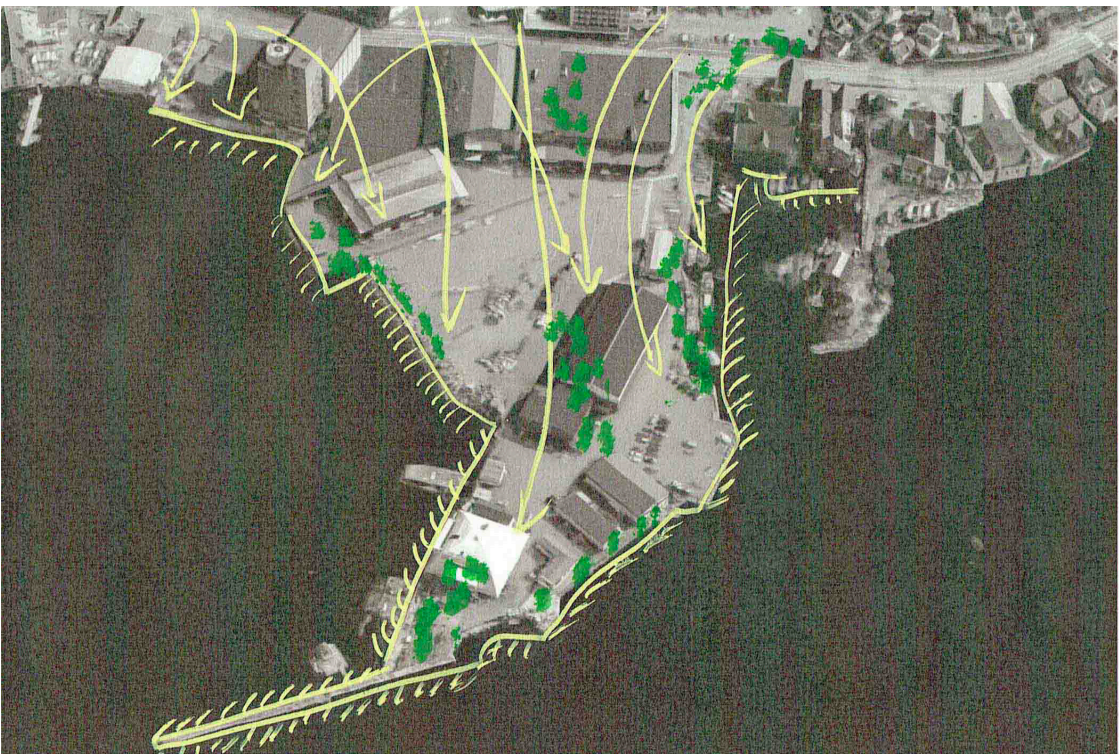
Already today Bergen is developing, several big projects are planned a long the waterfront, most of them are private. Bergen municipality has today a plan of the urban development of Kristiansholm. A typical housing construction which creates a private environment.



How can we keep the waterfront from privatising and implement a more inviting and public environment?

How can we amplify the connection between the forgotten spaces?

How can a plan driven by the municipality and developed in the frame of this thesis look beyond the planned limitation and offer an holistic vision for this area?



THE PROJECT

This project is about an analytical and propositional research to investigate the possibility for an new urban plan of Kristiansholm. As a student and critic to the neighbour site, we see the chance to explore the idea of history, densification and living typologies in Bergen and breaking the barriers, which are creating detached and divided areas.

The proposal shows an holistic approach to living typologies and a greater connection from the peninsula ,Kristiansholm, to Sandviken, which is to often that the planners stay within their boundaries. But with the research of this project, we will explore an idea of “thickness” of these boundaries that define the area, whether it is by revealing new and historical lines, creating open areas that visually connect the waterfront to the hillside, porous buildings that enable new movement or a new area of densification that is seen as support to the regeneration of Sandviken as one of the “centers” in Bergen.

Another aspect of this study is the understanding of the necessity of private and local actors and the question of the value related to the existing buildings for this site, so that it does not become on mono-functional and generic housing development. Although not historically ‘important’ they remain an interesting reservoir of possible activities that can bring value and define the future character of Kristiansholm. “What do we keep, and why? Who can really use those spaces?” - theses are important questions and a part of the themes that altogether create the layers through which we are investigating.

