

# Kindergarten

## / Enhance learning and destress through play

Tilla Tine Bårdsdatter Bønes | Diplom 2020

My entryway for my diploma is through neuroscience in relation to architecture. Neuroscience can give architectural thinking a deeper understanding of how our nervous system connect us to our environment, and how the environment affects us.

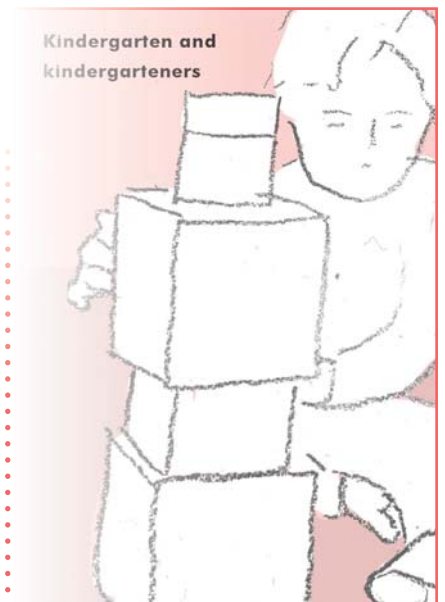
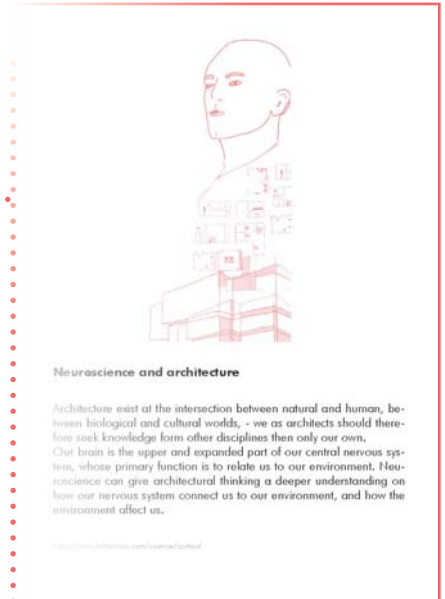
I have applied the knowledge I gained from neuroscience to designing a kindergarten. Surveys show that children in kindergarten are showing a higher level of cortisol in their saliva during a time of the where it is expected to be low. Cortisol is a stress hormone, and this indicates that the children are exposed to stress during time in kindergarten. Long-term stress can affect the brain anatomy and learning capabilities. Younger children are most vulnerable, since our brain is under critical development between 0-2 years. How can we make a kindergarten that is destressing and enhancing the child's trust and capability to learn?

In this context a kindergarten is defined as an educational facility with a curriculum taught through play for children between the age of 10 month and 6 years. These kids are spending 5 to 8 hours a day in kindergarten with caretakers that are not their parents – their primary caretaker. The teachers attention is also divided between several other children. First and foremost the organization and motivation of the caretakers is crucial for a good learning environment in kindergarten. However, the architecture should work with and not against the life in kindergarten. The architecture can be a driving force and facilitate learning – in this case learning through play.

My main concern is decreasing the stress levels in children. I have focused on some neuroscientific topics and use them to find a design solution. Some of the most important topics I have concentrated on is peripersonal space - the interaction between the human body and its surroundings. For example by doing an cooperative task, like some type of play - one gains trust and gets more comfortable in his environment.

Further reading

[https://miro.com/app/board/o9J\\_krErOE=/](https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_krErOE=/)



The effect of greenery and outdoor space.

An outdoor space that is more akin to the natural environment generates more activity and more creative and self-conducted play. Wayfinding, navigating in surroundings. In this kindergarten, each entrance to the home base is a bit different. The ceiling is visible from most parts of the kindergarten and can be used to navigate through the building. There are furnishings and spaces dedicated to the child that are mirroring its size and capabilities.

A noisy environment has a negative effect on learning, for example on language development. However, children need to be able to express their excitement in appropriate surroundings. Therefore, a kindergarten requires both quiet and noisy environments

The overall design solutions and ideas could be implemented in any kindergarten. Nonetheless, I chose to work with a plot. This kindergarten is situated in Arna at old Lone Skole. Bergen municipality is aiming for Arna district to become an attractive place with high density and urban life.

Arna is the district of Bergen with the fastest collective connection to the center of the city. Moreover, the municipality is planning a kindergarten on the plot which would host the children belonging to today's kindergarten "Indre Arnavegen" and the growing numbers of inhabitants in the area Lone, Haukeland.

One condition from the Bergen Municipality is that Kindergartens built today should also function after kindergartens opening hours, as well as being flexible to different usages after closing. In this particular kindergarten, the main body of the building would be open for events of the community. In this case, the municipality wants to keep the existing school building. During my process I have both worked with keeping and with demolishing it. I ended up keeping it and found it to be a good to have an dialog with the existing building.



**Gamle Lone skole**

(Old Lone school)

Site: Løneleitet 155 294/41



**Process**

# DIPLOMA PROGRAM

by Tilla Tine Bårdsdatter Bønes

BAS spring 2020



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# 01

Where /What + why /How

# Kindergarten

**How to enhance life in kindergarten with design  
based on neuroscience**

## **/Where//Laksevåg barnehage**

Laksevåg barnehage is on the A list for renovation, and has had some media attention lately about the need for renewal of the building. The building is from 1940; built by the Germans under II world war as a workingman barracks. In 1947, the building was converted into a day care and boarding house. The last full renovation was done in 1992.

## **/What + why**

I would like to explore how we can use the knowledge from neuroscience to design a kindergarten that enhance learning, social skills and that protect the well-being of both children and adults.

My main concern is the smaller children in kindergarten, between 0 and 3 years of age. In 2018, 278 578 children attended kindergartens in Norway. 100 610 of these children was under the age of 3 years. 94 136 of those children spend more than 41 hours a week in kindergartens. Surveys shows that children has a high level of cortisol in their saliva during the day where the cortisol level should be low. Cortisol is a stress hormone, and this indicates that the children is experiencing stress. Stress over longer time can have an impact on the child's brain anatomy and learning capabilities. The smaller children is most vulnerable while the brain is under critical development between 0-2 years.

## **/How**

Our brain is the upper part and expanded part of our central nervous system, whose primary function is to relate us to our environment. I would like to explore the link between the users pre-cognitive expectations and multi-sensorial experience of space. This comprises the study of the topological and proxemics relationships of bodies with borders, geometry, light, rhythm, texture, color, materials and sound. Moreover, understanding how emotions will strengthen attention, memory, learning and quality of social relation. Through analysis of interactions between each element of the architectural process and the human sensory system, I am aiming to understand how our bodies are receiving signals from the outside world. Senses such as seeing, hearing, feeling and smelling. Architectural process such as, light, topology, organization, use of space, geometry, rhythm, texture and matters, sounds and odors.



02

INTRO



## **Laksevåg barnehage**

Sverre Hjelandsvei 17 is originally a German crew barracks from the camp at Melkeplassen during World War II. The interior of the building has changed a lot, but it has largely retained its appearance main shape, location, and outdoor area

1940: Built as a German crew barracks

1947: Converted in to day care and boarding houses

1992: Renovated

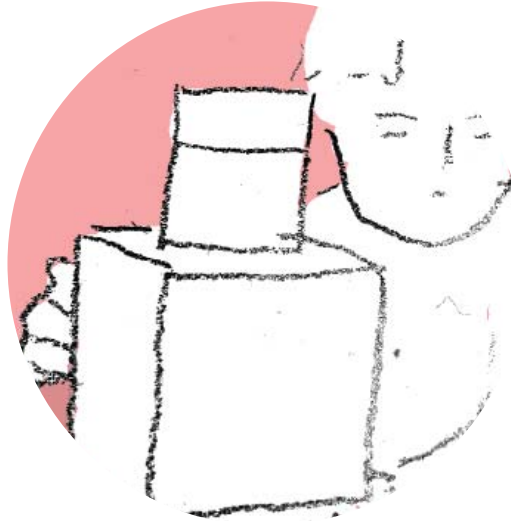
Plot: 2006 m<sup>2</sup>

BTA: 802 m<sup>2</sup>

Play area: 331,7 m<sup>2</sup>

Children under 3 years: 30

Children over 3 years: 43



## **Kindergarteners**

In 2018 there were 278 578 children attending kindergartens in Norway. 100 610 of these children was under the age of 3. 94 136 of those children is spending more than 41 hours a week in kindergartens.

Kindergarten is here defined as a place where children from 10 months to six years attend every weekday, from five to eight hours. What we define as a small kindergarten in Norway is the size up to 50 children. A medium big kindergarten is from 50 to 80 children. Big kindergarten is from 80 and up. The biggest kindergarten in Norway has 481 children (numbers from 2016). Norwegian kindergartens is based on three models. Avdelingsbarnehage, Basebarnehage and Sonebarnehage.

<https://www.ssb.no/utdanning/statistikker/barnehager>

<https://forskning.no/partner-stress-norges-forskningsrad/stress-i-barnehagen-er-verst-for-de-minste/1230337>



## **Neuroscience and architecture**

Architecture exist at the intersection between natural and human, between biological and cultural worlds, - we as architects should therefore seek knowledge form other disciplines then only our own.

Our brain is the upper and expanded part of our central nervous system, whose primary function is to relate us to our environment. Neuroscience can give architectural thinking a deeper understanding on how our nervous system connect us to our environment, and how the environment affect us.

03

CALENDAR

# Diploma weekly program

## **WEEK 1 – 8**

Münster School of Architecture

+ Social science essay at BAS

## **WEEK9**

Reading up and gathering information about how to apply neuroscience to architecture.

Contact kindergartens for possible visits.

Research what the architectural frames for kindergartens is today and what kindergartens stands for.

During the research, I would like to make concept models and drawings to get started on something that could end up as my design.

## **WEEK 10**

### 2. Presentation

Getting started on drawing the existing building

*How we receive signals from the outside world.*

Light, topology, organisation.

Space, geometry, rhythm, texture and matters, sounds and smells

*Visiting kindergartens.*

(How do a typical day look? How do they organize them self? How do they deal with territories and proxemics?

What do they do to protect their peripersonal space?)

## **WEEK 11**

*How the brain elaborates and memorises data form the hearing, visual, tactile, smell proprioceptive and interceptive system.*

*How the environment affects mind and body.*

Rhythm, proxemics, materials, textures, colours and sound.

Design drafts based on the findings.

Finished 3D model of existing.

## **WEEK 12**

*How the environment affects mind and body.  
dimensions, proportions, shapes, wayfinding, the topology  
and the natural light and the greenery*

*Design draft based on the findings.*

## **WEEK 17 WEEK 18 WEEK 19**

*Fine-tuning the design based on the presentation*

*Prepering for external presentation*

## **WEEK 20**

*External presentation*

*Finetuing based on external presentation*

## **WEEK 21 WEEK 22**

*Final model work*

*Final drawings and illustrations*

*Finetuing based on external presentation*

## **WEEK 23 WEEK 24 WEEK 25**

*Exebition periode*

*Building 1:1*



# 04

## CURRICULUM VITAE



## **Tilla Tine Bårdsdatter Bønes**

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## **Diploma tutors**

Andrè Fontes, APP

Eva Kun, DAV

# Academic CV

## **Bergen School of Arcitecture spring 2014–2017**

Bachelor 3 years at BAS

## **University of Bergen (UIB) spring 2011–2014**

Bachelor in art history

## **Toneheim folkehøgskole spring 2010–2011**

One year music school. Classical guitar.

## **Tanks vgs. spring 2007–2010**

General studies

## **Steineskolen i Bergen (Waldorf school)**

1-10th grade

# Mastercourse

**Münster School of Architecture  
winther 2019/2020**

## **ma.m2.1 Stegreifentwurf**

Münster, Deutschland

*Die Reise um mein Zimmer*

**Teacher: Arch. ETH Daniel Blum,  
Dipl. Arch. AA Daniel Koo**

Group: Tilla Bønes, Mark Deutzmann and  
Mohaymen Moradi

An intensive four-week course. Two parts, on individual and group work.

1. Stay in your room for 24 hours, do nothing then to take in and draw what you see.
2. Find a place at the university campus and do a 1.1 intervention.

The task is about understanding the place and its qualities. The process is more important than the end result; the result should be a documentation on a brave and well-articulated process on understanding of a place.

We gathered stories and talked about the role a heap is playing at the campus.

## **ma.m2.1 Stegreifentwurf**

Münster, Deutschland

*Stilleben > Stilllegen*

**Teacher: Pascal Maas M.A.,  
Matthias Zühlke M.A.**

An intensive four weeks course. Two industry halls where to be given new use that would fit to the new masterplan of the area.

I made a shopping mall for the future, named Salvage. Salvage is to save something from destruction. The shopping mall is selling only upcycled items; - items that are given to the shopping malls recycling and from there upcycled in the different workshops.

### **ma.m2.3 Entwurf**

Gerichtssaal der Zukunft

**Teacher: Prof. Dipl.–Ing. Ulrich Blum**

Group: Tilla Bønes and Mohaymen Moradi

How could the courtroom look like in the future? In collaboration with law students, we discussed and made suggestions of how we could imagine the courtroom to be in the future. My group worked with family court in Germany.

### **ma.m5.3 Geschichte und Theorie**

Theorie - Gerichtsarchitektur der Zukunft

**Teacher: Dipl. phil. Thorsten Schneider**

We read texts and discussed the role of law and how court room is organized and how it could be organized in the future. We read texts of Kafka, Cornelia Vismann, Michel Foucault and Jeremy Bentham.

### **ma.m7.3 Ergänzungsseminar**

VR - Gerichtssaal der Zukunft

**Teacher: David Akopyan M.A**

We learned to use Unreal Engine for architectural visualization and as a tool to “visit” our designs.

**Münster School of Architecture  
summer 2019**

**ma.m7.2 Ergänzungsseminar**

"We, the people" -Understanding the impact of people in the built environment through Network Driven Architecture"

**Teacher: Victoria Davalos M.A.**

We learned to use an analysis and visualization software named Gephi.

**ba.m7.6 Ergänzungsseminar**

Rhino / Grasshopper

**Teacher: Adam Pajonk M.A**

We learned the basic use between Rhino and Grasshopper, and some simple scripting.

**ba.m1.2 Architekturdarstellung**

Graphikverarbeitung

**Teacher: Dipl.–Ing. Ralf Westarp**

A course for Photoshop

**ma.wm.2 Wahlmodul**

Tankstelle der Zukunft

**Teacher: Prof. Dipl.–Ing. Ulrich  
Blum, Mirek Claaßen M.A**

Group: Tilla Bønes, Mats Engdal, Peter Mathies

This was a collaboration with Westfhalen fuel station. What is the future of the fuel station, how would it function and look? We were encourage to use Megatrends cards, trends that is predicted to take place in near and far future.

### **ma.m3.2 Konstruktion**

material+ | konstruktion-fügung-innovation

**Teacher: Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Johannes Schilling**

Group: Tilla Bønes, Mats Engdal

We where to find materials of interest, either other innovative material or use it in an innovative way.

We made a project called The Spider, situated under Pudderfjordsbroen, Bergen. This is a public "furniture" working as a stage or just a peculiar thing under the bridge. Our materials was wood and textile, our innovative take on it was origami.

### **Competition**

European 15

**Teacher: Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Ulrich Blum**

Group: Tilla Bønes, Mats Engdal

Project scale XL/L/S - territory / urban + architecture / architecture + context  
Location Hilden, Ratingen, Solingen and Wülfrath-Düsseldorf

We worked on Hilden, Ratingen nad Wülfrath-Düsseldorf.

**Bergen School of Architecture  
autumn 2017**

**Orcid Island / LanYu**

**Teacher: Marco Casagrande**

Group: Tilla Bønes, Sveinung Gjessing,  
Bjørnar Skaar Haveland, Jim Rune Hod-  
devik, Tord Øyen

Local Knowledge based Research and Design Course for Master Students. All students are required a high level of participation for the Orchid Island Master Plan as a groupwork. The group will also edit a book or other publication of the master plan and individual designs and articles.

As an individual work, all students will produce a sustainable and feasible architectural design workbased on the Yami local knowledge and write an article of the work.



# Work experience

## CV

01.2018-02.2019

**Opaform:** Intern

06.2015 - 08.2015

**Hellandhus:** assisten for architect Rune Helland

02.2014 - 08.2016

**Pedagogisk vikarsentral:** substitutes for kindergartens

11.2012 - 06.2014

**Mathopen natur og friluftsbarnhage:** sibtstitute

### Other

2016/2017

Building funiture on order

2015-2019

Dragefjellet minifestival

09.2011-09.2013

Photo editor for student magazine Atrium, UIB

### Software

Revit

Rhino

Illustrator

Indesing

Photoshop

Grashopper

Unreal Engine

Gephi