

c o m p l e x c o n t e x t

'My garden's boundaries are the horizon'

Derek Jarman

Our course addresses architecture within the expanded field, in which we are not sovereign, separate anthropocentric selves but interspersed and inseparable from a mobile continuum. We look at architectural interventions in relation; the extent and circumstances, social, spatial, and environmental, from which they unfold and on which they impact.

Responses to the pandemic have given rise to networks and spatial relations that challenge urban / rural binaries and allow new possibilities for how we can imagine, inhabit and cultivate the countryside. We will focus on selected sites within Hardanger Fjord in order to further explore and develop these possibilities. Hardanger significantly contributes to national identity and perceived relationships with 'nature', in which geological time is constantly present and within which we seek to address new urgencies around dwelling, agriculture and community in the context of de-growth. A range of locations allows for a diverse set of responses and approaches. The Complex Context studio aims to develop clear architectonic ideas and spatial strategies for situated projects that form a reciprocal, on-going relationship with and responsibility towards the distance; working between viewpoint (where we are) and vanishing point (where we are not).

We seek to help students establish a meaningful field of interest within which to identify relevant, consequential interventions, and to develop a process that keeps the entanglements of scales and approaches in dynamic dialogue. The course aims to develop the skills required to look back and forth and navigate a productive passage through analysis and design, the map and the territory, thinking and making.

Learning Outcomes

Elaborating the architectural skills of establishing a relevant strategy / program of **what to do** in parallel with working out the ways and means of exploring **how to do it**, through drawings, models, and mixed media. An ever deeper understanding and application of interdependent processes that are necessary not only to produce, but to precisely present projects with a high degree of complexity, reflection and resolution. The course will integrate learning from anthropology and landscape into its structure, developing specific

discourse and approaches to the rural, both materially and culturally. A reading list will be issued over the summer break, initiating an expanding set of common references to be elaborated and reflected on over the semester.

Study Trip

The course will begin with an extensive study trip to selected locations within the fjord, encompassing Agatunet, fruit farms, quarries, museums, towns and settlements, and hiking trails, to allow for a range of different approaches to the themes. Workshops will establish principles of making / designing as research and analysis, while also building a careful understanding of place through mapping and drawing and contributions from local actors. Hardanger is relatively close to Bergen, so ideas and proposals will be tested out in subsequent field trips later in the process.

Main Teachers

André Fontes, APP
Tom Chamberlain, DAV
Hedvig Skjerdingsstad, APP/DAV

And

Frode Fadnes, Anthropology
Hanna Allesøe Hansen, Landscape Architecture