



**RECLAIM //** Assembling Old and  
New Wood for Everyday Spaces  
in Sandviken

Alicia Lu Lin

## **RECLAIM: Assembling Old and New Wood for Everyday Spaces in Sandviken**

What is the value of old wood today?

The transformation of a neglected log house is the starting point for raising a discussion on how we can give new life to old wood in our neighbourhood, Sandviken.

The project began by tracing the journey of a estimated 18th century log house from Sandviken to Åsane. Following a process of dismantling, marking and moving the logs back to Sandviken, the house was rebuilt for an exhibition outside The Norwegian Fisheries Museum. After taking down the exhibition, the logs were left unused again.

Old wooden houses in Sandviken today are in different conditions, depending on whether they are protected by authorities, altered by private owners or commercial developers, or left to decay. These current situations can foster a distant and romantic attitude towards old wood.

How can we rethink our relationship to this disappearing resource? Should we put back the logs exactly how and where they were? Or perhaps the parts could be reclaimed to form something more valuable? How can we continue to reuse the old, both the physical material and the structural logic? How can we reconnect the lost dynamics between the mountainside and the fjord, between our everyday life, craft and tradition in Sandviken?

RECLAIM uses an experimental approach by breaking the log house into different components. In combinations with new wood, they form a series of public spaces that enhance existing situations in Sandviken. The new compositions also act as small acupuncture points to regrow the lost qualities of the area: the tactility of wood, the human interaction and dimensions, and the intimate in-between spaces.

## **OMBRUK: Sammenstilling av Gammelt og Nytt Treverk i Hverdagslige Møteplasser i Sandviken**

Hvilke verdi har gammelt treverk i dag?

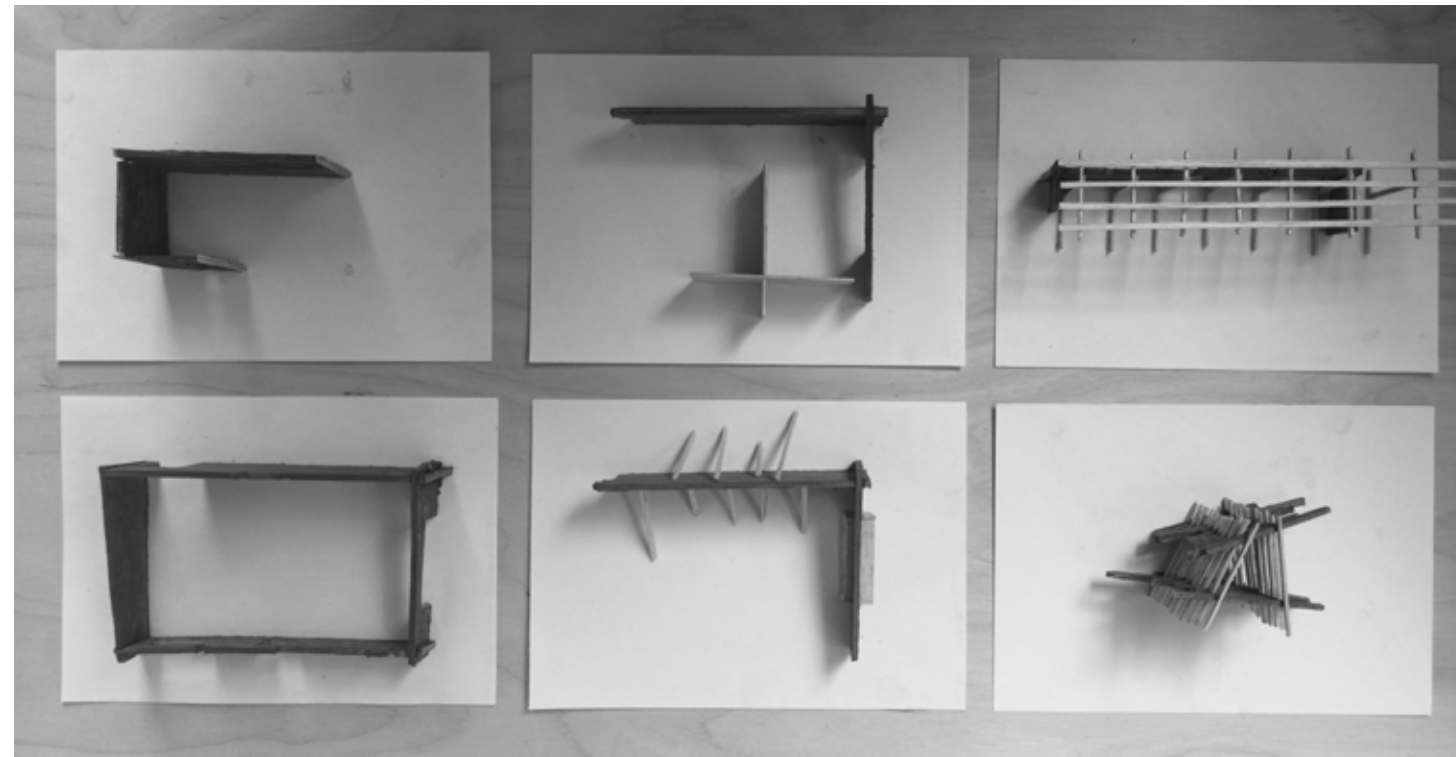
Transformasjonen av et forlatt gammelt laftehus er utgangspunktet for å skape debatt om hvordan vi kan gi nytt liv til gammelt tømmer i Sandviken.

Prosjektet startet med å spore reisen til et laftehus (sannsynligvis fra 1700-tallet) fra Sandviken til Åsane. Deretter fulgte demontering, merking og flytting av tømmeret tilbake til Sandviken, hvor huset ble gjenreist for en utstilling utenfor Norges Fiskerimuseum. Etter utstillingen var tømmerstokkene igjen forlatt og ubrukt.

Eldre trehus i Sandviken i dag er i ulik forfatning, avhengig av om de er tatt vare på av det offentlige, endret på av private utbyggere eller forlatt til å forfalle. Befolkningen viser for det meste en fjern og romantisk holdning til det gamle tømmeret.

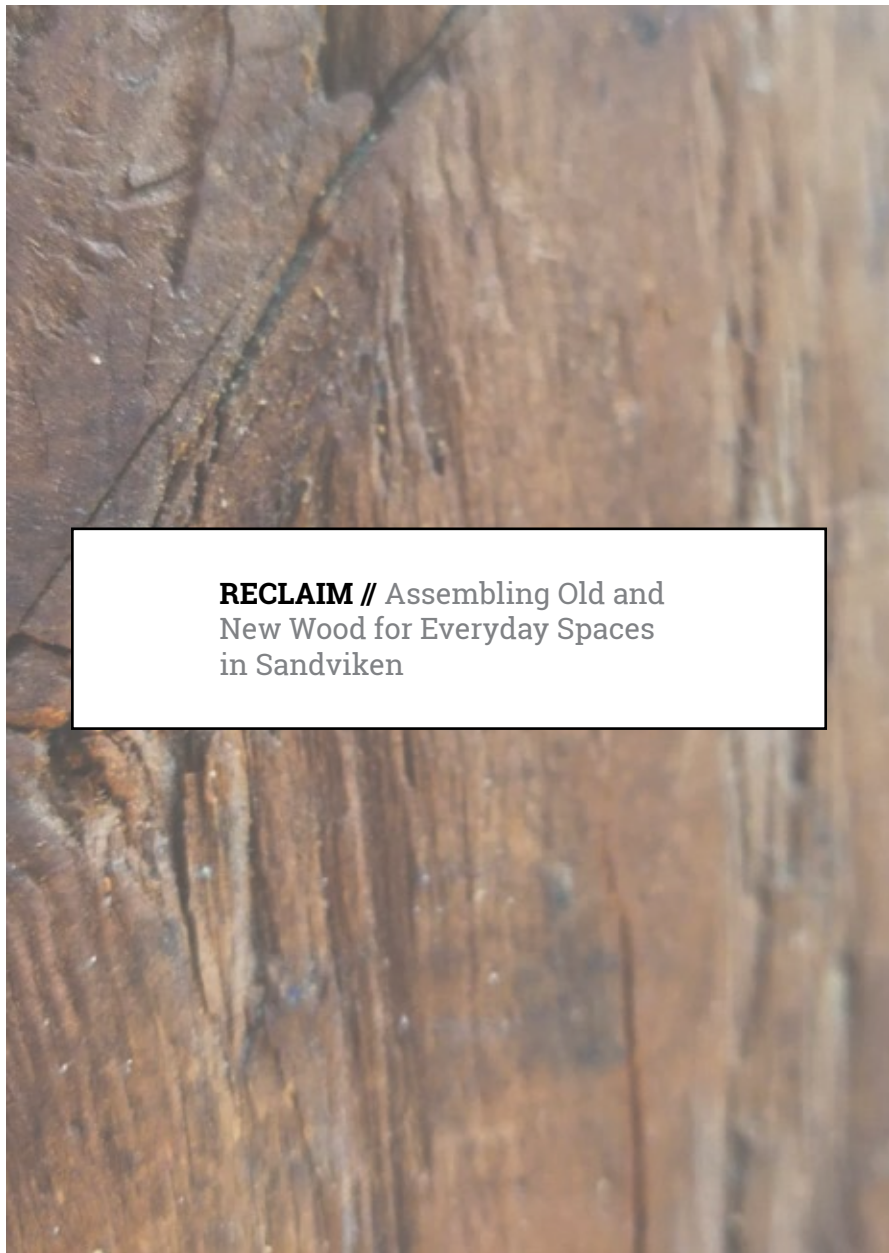
Hvordan kan vi tenke nytt i forhold til denne forsvinnende ressursen? Bør vi rehabilitere tømmerhusene akkurat slik og der de var, eller kan enkeltdeler ombrukes til å danne nye helheter? Kan tømmeret få ny verdi? Hvordan kan vi fortsette å gjenbruke det gamle, både det fysiske materialet og strukturens logikk? Hvordan kan vi gjenskape den tapte dynamikken mellom fjellsiden og fjorden, mellom dagligliv, håndverk og tradisjon i Sandviken?

Utstillingen OMBRUK benytter en eksperimentell tilnærming ved å dele laftestrukturen opp i ulike komponenter. I kombinasjon med nytt treverk danner disse så en rekke nye offentlige romlige situasjoner i Sandviken. De nye komposisjonene fungerer som små akupunkturpunkter som gjenskaper de tapte kvalitetene i området vårt: taktiliteten i treverk, den menneskelige interaksjon og dimensjon, og de intime mellomrommene.



Diploma Programme

Side A



**RECLAIM //** Assembling Old and New Wood for Everyday Spaces in Sandviken

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Diploma Spring 2018  
Bergen School of Architecture

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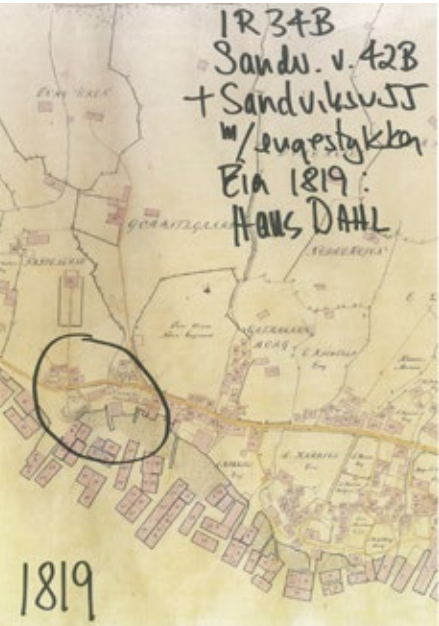
Tutors  
Marco Casagrande  
Espen Folgerø  
Vibeke Jensen

This diploma started with the story of a log house that have had a long journey. Me and 20 other students at Bergen Arkitektthøgskole have dismantled the house in Åsane, transported it to Sandviken and reconstructed it temporarily outside the fish museum on Sandviksdagene in August 2018. However the house itself could possibly date back to the 18th century. The logs were taken down after the exhibition and have been stored at Bergen Arkitektthøgskole until now. This diploma programme will outline and discuss the journey of this log house, the memory and quality of the whole Sandviken neighbourhood(especially along the road Sjøgaten), the attitudes towards old wooden houses still in the area today and requestion the values of old wood in our current society.

Out of the available logs, the design of five small acupunture points as everyday spaces in Sandviken exemplifies possible prototypes that could regrow the wooden materiality and intimate scales within the neighbourhood. These five concepts will be illustrated in details at the diploma exhibition on the second floor of The Norwegian Fisheries Museum.

Journey of Log House

Sandviksboder 42B

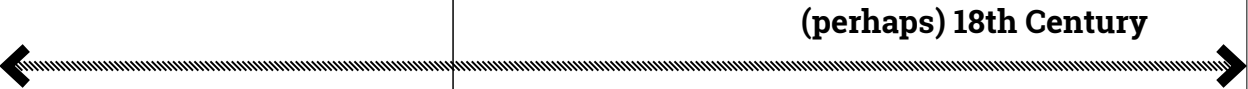


The log house might be one(part) of the buildings within the circled area.

Side B

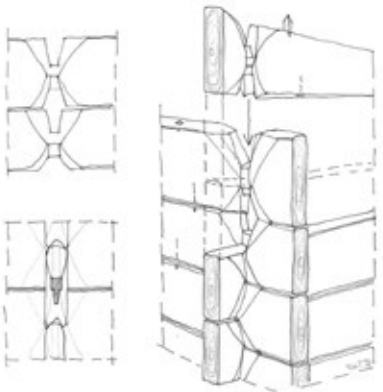


topics and vocabularies to start the discussion




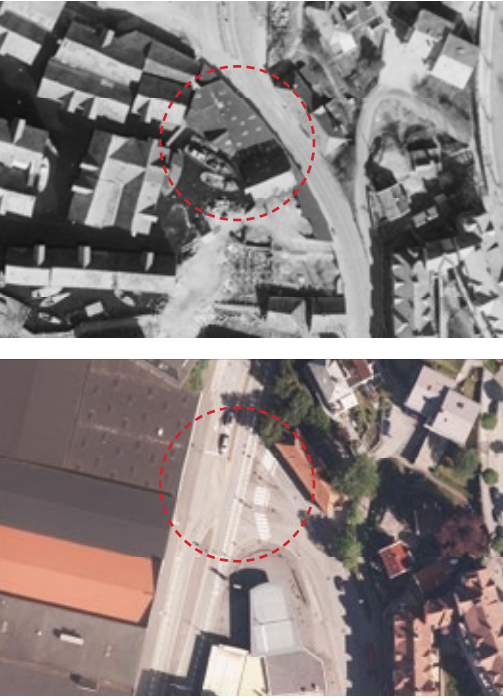
(perhaps) Sandviken

Looking at the way the timber is axed, the oldest parts of the house are most likely from the 18th century.









Lafte Construction from the 18th century  
Drawing done by Elin Thorsnes  
Norwegian Fishery Museum



<p>As far as we investigated, we found the log house was standing at Sandviksboder 42B in 1953. Looking at the way the timber is axed, the oldest parts of the house are most likely from the 18th century, built after the great fire in Bergen in 1702. When the "kinning" have different heights, it indicates that the building is old. The materials of the house are most likely reused several times.</p> <p>This log house was used as a workshop for J. Jacobsen copper and tin smith in Sandviken, before it was moved to Åsane in 1953. We know this because of a note found on the wall of the house. There were a lot of workshops in Sandviken before they were demolished to accommodate the stone from the Eidsvåg tunnel, and to make space for Sjøgaten.</p>	<p><b>The Wooden Sandviken</b></p> <div></div> <p>old Sandviken maps 1740 (above) and 1819 (below)</p> <p>three main elements of wooden houses: - rope houses - waterfront storehouses - hamlets of small houses (where this log house used to belong to)</p>	<div></div> <p>Possible location where the log house stood:</p> <p>Today's traffic junction near petrol station in Sandviken - 1951 vs 2016 Small volumns of waterfront houses are replaced by industrial blocks</p>	<p><b>Åsane Farm</b></p> <p>After World War II, there was a timber shortage due to the rebuilding of the city, resulting in the reuse of materials of older houses. Ivar Sårheim bought Sandviksboder 42B and moved it to Åsane to use as an outhouse at his farm, thus avoiding 42B's demolition. The log house was put up in Åsane by timber company Bernt Blindheim and Mons Hetlebakke, together with Ivar Sårheim, and the house was restored as it was today.</p> <p>All later additions to the house were made by Ivar Sårheim himself, and were based on the practical demands on the farm, such as accommodating tractors, cars and grains.</p>
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		<p><b>1953</b></p>	
		<p><b>Sandviksboder 42B</b></p> <p>This log house was used as a workshop for J. Jacobsen copper and tin smith in Sandviken.</p>	<p><b>Sandviksboder 42B &gt; Åsane</b></p> <p>the log house transported from Sandviken as a smith shop to Åsane as a barn</p>

Side A

<div><p>The surroundings of the log house in Åsane in 1970 vs 2016</p></div>	<p>Originally, the house had three windows. The largest window, which was 3 meters wide, was blocked. A brick wall was installed inside to divide the house into two rooms for hens and sheep. This wall also came from old materials which were reused. There was a floor on which the animals stood on, though this was no longer there. One can see from the walls that the log house has been used as a barn for the sheep; they have chewed the logs to get the salt that was in the walls. (The log house was naturally impregnated with salt when ocean tide came in and out in Sandviken.)</p> <p>When the house was moved to Åsane in 1953, there were six roof beams, but only the roof beam that was above the brick wall is intact today. The others have rotten away because of leaks and because of roof tiles that were not good enough.</p>	<p><b>Documentation of Log House</b></p> <p>The log house in Åsane</p> <p>During a period of three weeks, the building has been measured, documented and drawn, in order to obtain approval from the municipality to return building back to Sandviken.</p> <p>The timber logs were then dismantled and transported to Kristiansholm in Sandviken, where it has been rebuilt outside Norway's Fisheries Museum, close to the building's original location.</p>	<div><p>North-east</p><p>South-west</p><p>South-east</p><p>North-west</p></div>
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Side B

		<p><b>20th August, 2018</b></p>	
		<p>Åsane</p> <p>As an introduction to the masters course "Open Form, New Wood", 21 BAS students have got the task to measure, document and understand the log house and then transport it to Sandviken to rebuild it there.</p> <p>Students firstly arrived at the log house on 20th August.</p>	



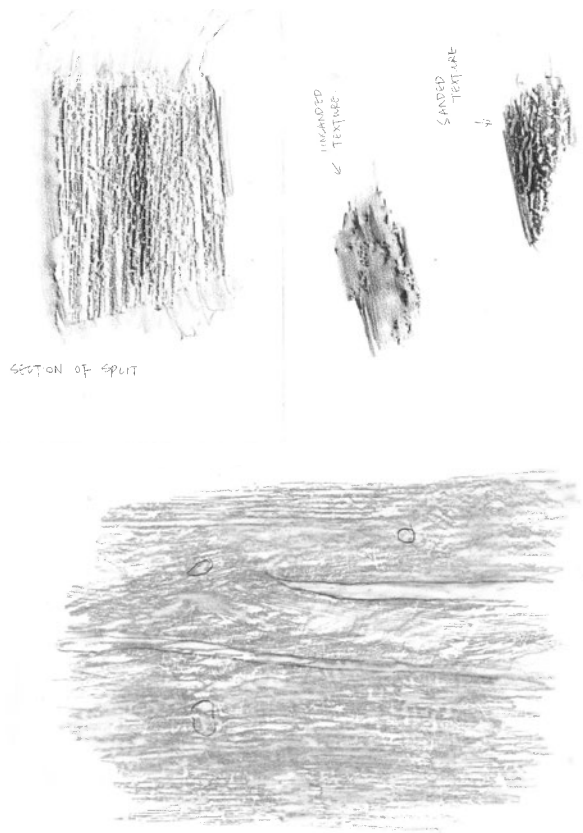
Side A



Interiors of log house standing in Asane

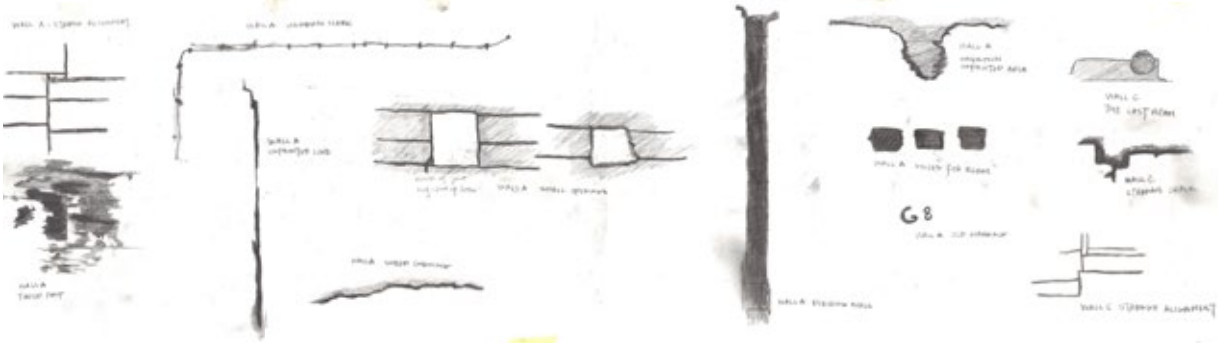


Orthoimage of log walls



texture and tactility

Side B



Discoveries of traces and stories of the house through drawing and observation

Åsane

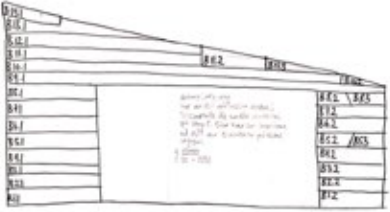
After three week, we submitted our drawings of the log house to municipality in order to move it to Sandviken. After that, 3D Scanning of the log house was done in order to record the precise dimensions of the logs.



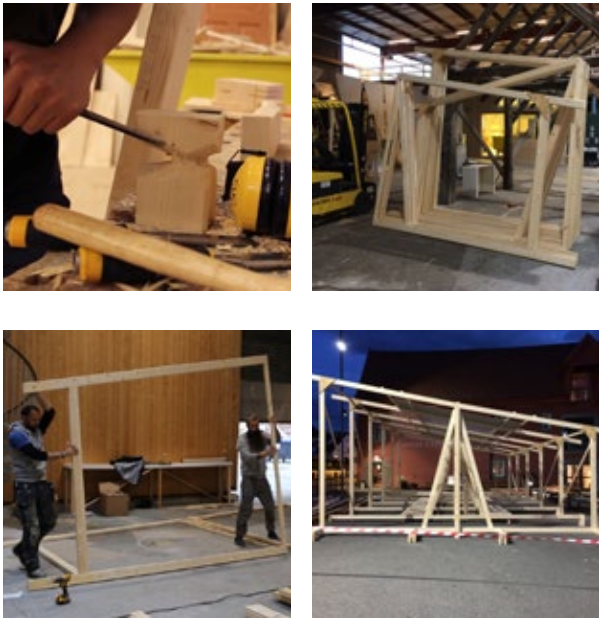



Side A

<div><div>Deconstruction of Log House</div><div>Åsane</div><div><p>After the approval to relocate the log house, the team started to prepare for dismantling. The logs were marked with letters and numbers for the ease to assemble again later. At the same time, we also created a manual with the marking system so that anybody could understand when one wants to put back the logs.</p><p>The next day, our class of 21 students were divided into 4 groups to take the logs off throughout the day. The log house was deconstructed one piece at a time.</p><p>The additions of the barn (roof, cladding etc) were taken away by the owner earlier also, making the log house easily disassembled within a day with great team effort.</p></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Marking the logs for deconstruction</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Taking down the logs in Åsane</div></div>	<div><div>A New Frame Structure for the Logs and exhibition</div><div></div></div>
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Side B

	<div>31st August, 2018</div>	<div>4th September, 2018</div>	<div>5th September, 2018</div>
	<div><div>Åsane</div><div>Marking the Log house</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>Åsane</div><div>Taking down the logs</div></div>	<div><div>Bergen Arkitektthøgskole</div><div><p>Immediately after the house was dismantled, we started to prepare for the exhibition. The construction group has designed a new frame structure for the logs to be put back up again on Sandviksdagene.</p><p>At the same time, the logs were transported to Sandviken by a truck.</p></div></div>

Side A

<div><p>Building the exhibition frame structure</p></div>	<div><p><b>Reconstructing the Log House</b></p><p>building around new frame on Sandviksdagene</p><p>Reconstructing the log house</p></div>	<div><p><b>Exhibition on Sandviksdagene</b></p><p>Norwegian Fishery Museum</p><p>On Sandviksdagene, we presented and questioned the history and the possible future of Sandviken to the public along with the story of our loghouse. The exhibition generated great public engagement and responses. It brought a lot of residents together to discuss about log houses in the area, the modern development plans as well as the future of Sandviken. The collective memory and emotion for the log house have influenced more than just our class, but a wider community.</p></div>	<div></div>
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Side B

	<div><p><b>8th September, 2018</b></p></div>		
	<div><p>Outside Norges Fiskerimuseum</p><p>On Sandviksdagene, we put the old logs back onto the new structure. At the same time, the exhibition we curated was open to public inside the new structure.</p></div>		



Side A

<div><p>Public Responses from Sandviksdagene Exhibition</p></div>	<div><h3>After Sandviksdagene</h3><p>Bergen Arkitektthøgskole</p></div>	<div><p>The log house is built with materials that may be as old as 300 years; materials which can still be used today. However it has always been something of less importance and been compromising the process of modernisation. It was moved from Sandviken to Åsane to accommodate modernization. It is now moved back to Sandviken to provide space for development of new apartments, shopping malls and industrial buildings on the site in Åsane. The "forced" journeys and migrations left the distant longing for remembering the old "home(s)" and searching for a new "home".</p><p>Currently the logs are stored at the semi-sheltered area near the fire egress of the silo at BAS. The old wood shall be brought back to life, cherished and evolved, along with new wood and refreshed mentality towards authenticity and history. This is the starting point for my diploma.</p></div>	<div><h3>Quality of Log House</h3><p>component system - adaptive of movement and temporality, reusable material, renewable building system, human-scale construction methodology</p></div>
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Side B

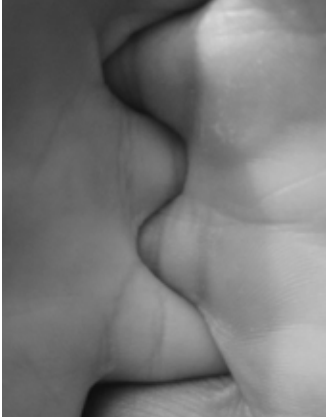
	<div><h3>NOW</h3></div>		<div><h3>2019</h3></div>
<div><h3>Outside Norges Fiskerimuseum</h3><p>We asked the visitors questions regarding their view of the log house and the future of Sandviken and received a lot of feedbacks over the weekend with great public interests.</p></div>	<div><h3>Bergen Arkitektthøgskole</h3><p>After Sandviksdagene, the logs were taken down and are stored at the semi-sheltered area near the fire egress of BAS's silo.</p></div>	<div><p>So..... what's next for the log house?</p></div>	<div><h3>Diploma Calender</h3><p>The following is my diploma timeline for the log house. I hope I could help it to carry its nostalgia, continue its voyage and find its next "home(s)".</p></div>


Side A

Structural Logic of a Log House

I believe that we shall continue the essence of tradition, not just the look of it - which is to pass down the logic old, not the romantic old. The most interesting and beautiful thing about a log house for me is its distinct structural language and logic - 1. the moment of interlocking at the corner - there is a hidden space behind the junction that we don't see, that we perceive very differently from the inside and outside 2. the fact that it is a massive, heavy structure with the dominating force of compression/gravity. 3. this structural logic is extremely expressive and honest - anyone experiencing the log house could read and understand its construction clearly.

Logs and the Fingers





Interior

A series of components (fingers) are joint one after another. Looking from the inside, the "fingers" create a hidden space "behind the corner", at the same time, it encloses a space inside.

Exterior

The interlocking is revealed partially on the outside with a clear language of structural logic.

In between

When the components are placed at a larger interval, the "hidden dimension" is slightly more revealed. Light travels from the outside to the inside or vise versa. It creates a space between inside and outside.

Side B

Clearance Meeting

Presentation: Social Anthropology

Social Anthropology Essay

Finalise Diploma Programme

Ryerson wood group in Bergen

Presentation Concept

Workshop Francesca Torzo

Presentation Project

External Review

Exhibition

Exhibition Preview

Final Exam

Weeks

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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Internship - Carpentry Austria

Think about mobility, method of assembling/dismantling, joints and components designed for ease to carry etc, document whole process

Review and categorise existing info and make into booklets

1:10 Model of all logs

Contact list of organisations/individuals who might be interested in the log house

Interviews with architects, carpenters, organisations

Concept Development: Analysis on qualities of log house, investigate possibilities

Series of study models + diagrams

Process Development: Spatial quality and movement, potential site(s), programme of log house

Start to think about "new wood" - how new structure/addition can continue the story for log house

Conclude things learned in Austria - make booklets

Finalise Project Final Models, 1:1 prototypes, Plans, Sections, Different options for log house, Old and New wood connections



Side A

MANIFESTO

Decaying old log (houses) become an issue in the urban environment of Sandviken due to the pressure from real estate developers as well as unpractical regulations from the top. These old logs(houses) could have extremely different destinies, some being listed as living UNESCO Heritage, some being admired as historical artefacts, but some being abandoned as construction wastes. The spectrum of value is extreme, depending on if they are recognised by authorities or not. Common people project a distant attitude towards these old materials that still could be reused in our everyday life.

If we don't think about how to extend the life of these unused structures they will soon loose their potential for reuse. This care of historical but decaying old material is necessary on a community and society level. A strategy and system of care shall be carried out to regrow the materiality and volumetric quality of old wooden houses which once shaped the neighbourhood of Sandviken. The focus of this diploma is the design of several prototypes of how to use these old logs in combination with new wood, in relation to daily practice. The strategic placement of these old and new wood on site could also allow us to rethink our relationship to the familiar enviornment in our area. As architects, we could inspire the community with a continuous reuse and an integration of tradition to the everyday.

A SYSTEM OF CARE + REVIVAL OF REUSING THE OLD

Abandoned

Admired

Listed

→

Mission: Bring it back to the everyday

being sheltered, sitting, observing, watching, eating, cooking, commuting, reading, writing, making etc etc...

Community/ people start to have a more intimate relationship to old wood and start to re-value it

People would consider to build their "new" houses/ home with reusable old and new wood along with old and new techniques. And they would be more curious about the dimensions according to dimensions of traditional modular systems

←

The lost quality that wood created in Sandviken can be brought back, both from a domestic scale (intimacy with material, dimension, tactility etc) and at an urban scale (volumn of built environment, spaces in between)

Unlisted old logs or houses could all be salvaged, collected and categorised in order to provide people with materials to integrate into their everyday home. A hub/ archive/ library for old logs and wood could start to grow from Sandviken. The culture of reusing old and new wood will be revived.

Function: the everyday

Idiom Of "Everyday"

In Chinese

行住食衣

COMMUTING DWELLING EATING WEARING

travel live food clothes

Side B

Abandoned - Admired - Protected

skuteviksbodene 12

The logs are left exposed as a ruin after being burnt down by a fire accident. It had been forgotten for ten years. During this time it was never protected due to the disagreement between the owner and heritage department.

Abandoned - Admired - Protected

Sandviksbode 3

This is an example of how Sandviksbode 69-72 will look like in the future. After the compromisation between developer and Byantikvaren, the logs were put back to its original place but inside a new concrete box just because of the regulation. Some windows did not even fit properly. The old materials become a decoration.

Abandoned - Admired - Protected


Bryggen

A UNESCO Heritage Listed Site operating almost exactly as it was 300 years ago

Over-protected in comparison to the other abandoned logs

However the standard of "heritage" is difined by authorities - there are even older wooden houses ended up with completely different destiny.

Side A

<div>Design Proposal</div> <div>How can we rethink our relationship to this disappearing resource? Should we put back the logs exactly how and where they were? Or perhaps the parts could be reclaimed to form something more valuable? How can we continue to reuse the old, both the physical material and the structural logic? How can we reconnect the lost dynamics between the mountainside and the fjord, between our everyday life, craft and tradition in Sandviken?</div> <div>RECLAIM uses an experimental approach by breaking the log house into different components. In combinations with new wood, they form a series of public spaces that enhance existing situations in Sandviken. The new compositions also act as small acupuncture points to regrow the lost qualities of the area: the tactility of wood, the human interaction and dimensions, and the intimate in-between spaces.</div> <div>The components and the logics of the logs could become more valuable than the whole house. The project reassembles not only the old and new wood, but also the heavy and light, the compression and the tension, the fixed and the flexible, the precise and the imprecise. Therefore we could embrace the co-existence of the memories of the old logs, the new wood, crafts and traditions all within our familiar everyday neighbourhood.</div>	<div>About Me</div> <div>Alicia Lu Lin</div> <div></div> <div>Education</div> <div><div><div>Bergen Arkitektthøgskole</div><div>Master of Architecture</div><div>August 2017 - current</div></div><div><div>University of Auckland</div><div>Bachelor of Architectural Studies</div><div>Frederick Ost Scholarship in Architecture</div><div>2012-2015 (gap year in between)</div></div><div><div>Technische Universität München</div><div>Bachelor Exchange</div><div>2014-2015</div></div></div>	<div>Work Experience</div> <div><div><div>OPA FORM Arkitekter</div><div>Part-time intern</div><div>November 2017 - July 2018</div></div><div><div>Beca Group Ltd</div><div>Full-time architectural designer</div><div>August 2016 - July 2017</div></div><div><div>Kengo Kuma and Associates</div><div>Full-time intern</div><div>May - July 2016</div></div><div><div>Trace Architecture Office</div><div>Full-time intern</div><div>February - April 2016</div></div><div><div>Bull O'Sullivan Architecture</div><div>Full-time intern</div><div>October 2015- January 2016</div></div></div> <div>Workshops/Volunteers</div> <div><div><div>Venice Architecture Biennale</div><div>Student Participant for Turkish Pavilion</div><div>One-week workshop on exhibition - Taking Scarpa for A Walk</div><div>August 2018</div></div><div><div>Society in Motion Summer Workshops</div><div>3-year summer workshop on topic of migration</div><div>Bergen and Vienna</div><div>Sept 2018 &amp; 2019</div></div><div><div>Arknat Design and Build Workshop</div><div>Wind Shelter in highcoast of Sweden</div><div>July 2018</div></div><div><div>Milan World Exposition</div><div>Volunteer</div><div>May 2015</div></div></div>
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Side B

<div>RESEARCH QUESTION</div> <div>What is the value of old wood today?</div>		<div></div>
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