# **Statsbygg Student Prize Bergen School of Architecture (BAS) 2020**

# The jury’s evaluation

## Project 1:

**A FUTURE IN RUINS**

By Sindre Kartvedt

The ruins of an abandoned wave-power plant, from 1985, are found at Tofteshallen in Øygarden Municipality. The ruins are the point of departure for Sindre Kartvedt’s master’s thesis.

He has worked on several topics for this assignment:

* Preserving and highlighting the 35-year-old ruins
* Three new wave power plants
* Visitors’ centre
* Scenic overlook

Kartvedt points out that two-thirds of the earth’s surface are covered with water and that wave power is currently a largely untapped source of renewable energy. Tofteshallen, near the abandoned wave power plant, provides a genuine reminder of the innate forces of the oceans. This is also clearly and effectively depicted in the beautiful photographs.

To find the right technology and ideal location for the new wave-power plants, he studied wave power research and various wave-power concepts. Studies of wind direction, wave data and seabed conditions are also included in his documentation. Beautiful pictures and drawings depict the structure of the 80-metre long and 10-metre-high power plants.

The original elements, the dam house, generator and narrowed water channel, will be used in the new concept. The power production at the plants will be able to meet the annual electricity needs of 2,000 Norwegian households.

The renewable energy solution and sustainability perspective inherent in the thesis concept are well documented. The energy generated by wave power plants will reduce the need for oil and gas as sources of energy, thereby reducing carbon emissions.

The new architecture and materials used in the wave power plants, the visitors’ centre and at the scenic overlook are inspired by the former power plants. Mostly bare concrete has been used.

The visitors’ centre is a narrow, 100-metre long concrete structure with various rooms and functions. There are several large glass apertures where the view of the sea will certainly be spectacular.

Even more spectacular will be the open round scenic overlook ramp that seems suspended above the waves 20 metres below.

The thesis project includes beautiful images and photographs, easily-read drawings and good explanatory texts.

The architecture in this splendid project is literally powerful.

## Project 2:

**UPSTREAM/MOTSTRØM**

**REIMAGINING THE COLLECTIVE DREAM OF A CITY**

By Claudiu Tamas

Claudiu Tamas provides a solid, methodical and lyrical analysis of Førde’s urban development. There are highly topical thesis statements and interesting considerations, such as what determines a city or urban area’s identity. Based on this analysis, he proposes urban architectural concepts that can help re-establish Førde’s identity on the residents’ own terms.

The thesis project is made up of three parts: a historical analysis, a programme and the project itself.

The history part highlights how economic growth and industrialisation wiped out Førde’s identity and turned Førde into the ‘ugliest town in Norway’, where pedestrians and cyclists have low priority. Claudiu suggests making concise comparisons with other European cities with a rich cultural heritage – and does so with a keen eye for raising awareness of what happened to Førde.

The programme part is based on the main observations of the historical analysis, and it examines specific elements that can help enrich the city’s identity. Sustainability, community involvement, interviews with residents and local cultural history are the backdrop for the programme.

The project part is the most important and best part with an impressive presentation of the bridge itself using a beautiful model with shadow and light effects. The project splendidly depicts the interconnectedness of urban planning and the project, how the structure itself is the result of the urban planning concept. Both this macro and micro perspective show a deep understanding of the core qualities of urban development and architecture. The macro approach reduces motor traffic in the city by moving it out of the town centre to a ring road. The micro approach – a roofed bridge – enables pedestrian traffic and creates a new place to meet in the form of a library, a nice attraction in the urban landscape. The bridge connects the urban districts on either side of the river, thus strengthening the urban centre.

Claudiu Tamas has delivered an impressive thesis project that is highly relevant for modern society. An excellent presentation of the thesis project helps strengthen its message.

## Project 3:

**LIMINAL LANDSCAPES**

By Karoline Haukjem and Emilie Van de Walle

The thesis project addresses three former ports in Hordaland that are no longer in use as harbour areas and describes how modern society’s transport trends have left these ports redundant. The master’s candidates study the phenomenon in which nature takes over human-made traces in the landscape and use this fundamental principle for further development. At the same time, they add an attraction by enhancing or highlighting something worth experiencing. They use good [ecological condition](https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/ecological-condition) as their basis for developing the landscape. Haukjem and Van der Walle study how these ports can be developed into something else, using the remains of earlier activity.

How sites with abandoned infrastructure end up in a transitional phase where nature begins to retake them is topical and interesting from a historical, resource and landscape perspective. We have many sites like this in Norway. Yet the task involved in examining the spatial, ecological and functional consequences of abandonment and the removal of small facilities from rural areas have received relatively little attention from architects or landscape architects.

The three ports studied have different given conditions for further development, and the candidates reach different conclusions about the three locations. In Tellevik, they propose a bathhouse and a walkway. In Skjelanger, the main approach is to transform an existing waterfront building into a workshop and gathering place for Holsnøy Kystlag. On Veløyna, the candidates propose removing some of the concrete and installations to allow nature to re-establish itself. They also propose transforming the former fish weir into an island where various saltwater-tolerant plants can take root. A platform is to be established around the edge of the former fish weir so visitors can walk around it.

The proposals for all three selected transitional landscapes seem logical based on the preconditions of the surroundings. The thesis project is beautifully illustrated, neatly presented and features magnificent photographs. The main features of the thesis project are presented in an accessible, orderly manner in the main presentation. The underlying material of the thesis, presented in web format, is enormous, but still neat and presented so we can understand and visualise all the well-thought-through concepts. Quite simply an impressive thesis project that takes its point of departure in socially relevant issues.