

**Faith** in future

A open Mosque

Much more than a sacred space..

Oslo, Norway, 2021

DIPLOMA

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# I N T R O

A Mosque, a spiritual space with a multipurpose function used by Muslims while an unknown world for many in our society who walk past it every day, without knowing what's behind the facade.

Never before have there been more religious communities in Norway according to STL (Samarbeidsrådet for Tros og Livssynssamfunn)

The **cityscape** in Norway is often characterized by distinctive churches, while mosques and temples are **much less visible**. The fact that **our diversity** of beliefs and views on life is often hidden behind anonymous commercial buildings does something **to our collective consciousness**. Both religious communities and the public sector have a responsibility to make religious diversity visible in cities.

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Co-operation Council for Religious and  
Philosophical Societies in Bergen, 2020

Throughout history, sacred buildings were central to the city's development. Temples, churches, and mosques were the heart of the cities.

However, today we live in contemporary society, and many argue if faith-building is still relevant?

Urban areas face enormous growth and changes. There is little discussion on sacred buildings in urban development. Which, I find it concerning for future.

With ongoing mass movement and immigration everywhere, it is changing the society we live in. History shows that cultures is not an static condition but rather an organic process. It is always a result of evolving and mixing traditions and people.

Norway's diverse society represents people from different backgrounds, with different goals, and needs.



## Quotes / Social Science Essay

"How independent churches in Singapore create alternatively sacred spaces for religious purposes. While their appeal and sufficient value do not accord with more traditional understandings of how sacred spaces should look, feel, or otherwise be engaged with."

Orlando Woods

"Man's sense of space is closely related to his sense of self, which is in an intimate transaction with his environment. Man can be viewed as having visual, kinesthetic, tactile, and thermal aspects of himself, which may be either inhibited or encouraged to develop by his environment"

S. 63 The Hidden Dimension, Edward T. Hall

"Our contemporary society has intensified the feelings of existential emptiness and meaninglessness, The need for spiritual space could not be more relevant today"

Transcending Architecture - Julio Bermudez

PROJECT

DESCRIPTION

W

H

Y

• • • • •

Mosques traditionally host a variety of functions, religious and cultural. Throughout the history mosques have been in the heart of cities. Functions and worked as a community center. Mosques around the world have adapted to their vernacular, cultural and climatic conditions, and local building materials for centuries.

Mosques in today's Norwegian society are growing out of their untraditional spiritual spaces while including more cultural activities but are facing a number of challenges such as lack of spaces, funds and symbolic presence in the city argues against the traditional sacred space.

W H A T  
• • • • •

With this project, I want to explore how mosques can deal with different challenges.

By working with this context, which have similar conditions as many other mosques in Norway, I'm looking into the relationship between Islamic and Norwegian architecture. I want to understand better how mosques can be designed and developed to answer the challenge of segregation in the future.

My vision is to explore the potential of architecture in rethinking the role and presence of the Mosque in the Norwegian context. Not only as a spiritual space but also a hub for cultural activity that brings communities together under one umbrella. A Mosque that meets both the needs of the user (Muslim communities) recognizes the identity and history of the context (Oslo, Norway), and creates a bridge between Islamic culture and heritage with other communities in the Norwegian society.



I have chosen to work with one of Norway's largest Mosques (Rabita) in the city center of Oslo, near one of busiest streets in area, Torggata and only a few minute's walk from Oslo central station. The current mosque is in an old industrial building from 1860. The building is in terrible shape according to professionals, like many other mosques in Norway. This is planned to be demolished and a new building is currently being planned for this site...



W H E R E . . .

## Hausmannskvartalene

59° 54' 58.14' N, 10° 45' 18.52' E

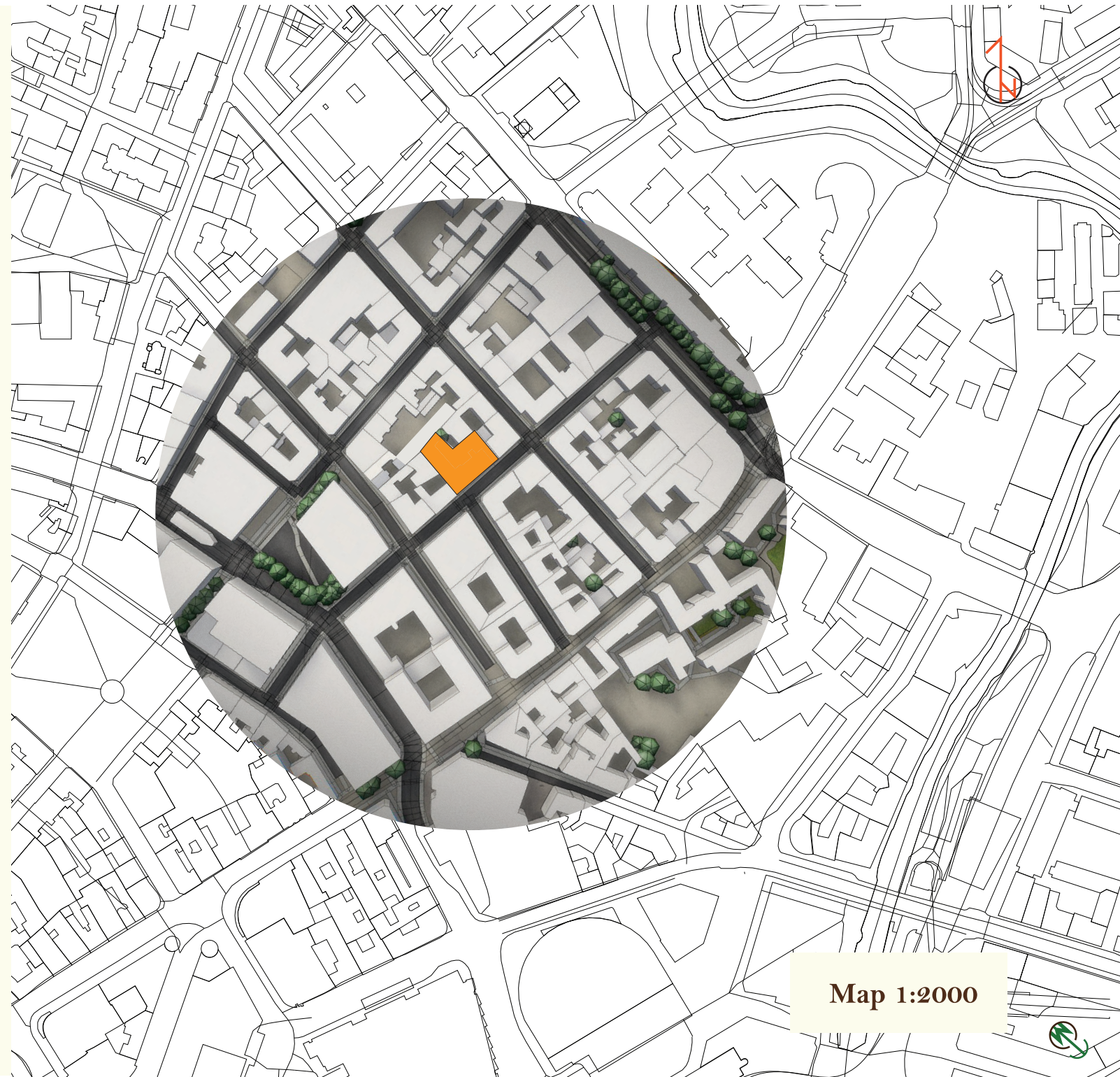
District St. Hanshaugen

The Hausmann area is a district northeast of central Oslo that consists of the Hausmann quarters, the fifteen quarters south of Hausmanns gate were built from the 1860s. From this time, the district has had a mixture of dwellings, offices, houses of worship, schools, and other institutions, dining and entertainment venues and premises for voluntary organizations, a typical mix of the city center, where rental prices have been fairly low. The main street is Torggata, which runs from Stortorvet past Youngstorget to Anker-torget.

The Hausmann area is flat, rectangular and about five hundred meters across in both directions and contains:

- Niche shops, cafes, restaurants, nightclubs and hairdressers
- Premises for organizations
- Apartments and offices

The Hausmann quarters are still an area for congregations: such as various churches, a Jewish museum and the Rabita mosque.





Site



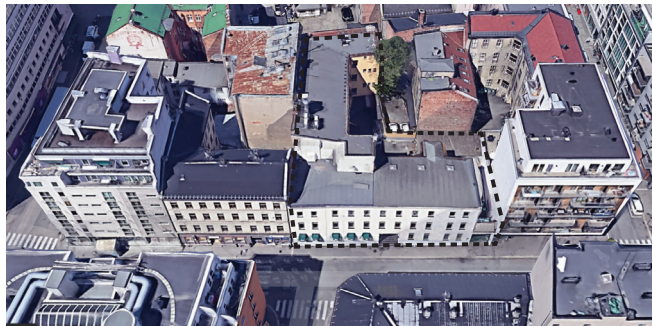
1870



1950



2021



existing



Backyard - Closed situation



Street view - East

## Can architecture engage these groups

WHO	Rabita Mosque	Youth (next generation)	Society
	<p>Eldelry generation (runs the organisation)</p> <p>Desire to be self-sufficient and professional organization</p>	<p>NUM (Norway's Youth Muslim)</p> <p>Wants to take over responsibility. Most of the events at the mosque are in Norwegian/ Arabic</p>	<p>How would the rest of society know about what's on the other side of the wall, when they think they never can know.</p>
HOW	How to <b>design</b> the <b>mosque</b>	How to <b>engage youth</b> in the <b>mosque</b> ?	How to <b>include</b> the <b>rest of society</b> ?
	<p><b>Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ Materiality</li> <li>/ Dynamic</li> <li>/ Geometry</li> <li>/ Hierarchy</li> <li>/ Sequence</li> <li>/ Inspiration</li> </ul>	<p><b>Space &amp; Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ Play with (light, space, materials)</li> <li>/ Programs</li> <li>/ Youth engagement</li> <li>/ Workshop</li> <li>/ Learning by doing</li> <li>/ Events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ Facade transition in relation to context</li> <li>/ Knowledge (Library)</li> <li>/ Museum (Whole building as a museum)</li> <li>/ Architecture (Geometry) - inspired by nature</li> <li>/ Art (calligraphy)</li> <li>/ International food (Cantine)</li> <li>/ Courses</li> </ul>



C o n s e p t



O p e n



D i v e r s e



V i s i b l e

## Three key factors in my Project:

\ Open up, make passers-by curious to stop up and by curiosity  
intrigue them into groundfloor as a square in the city

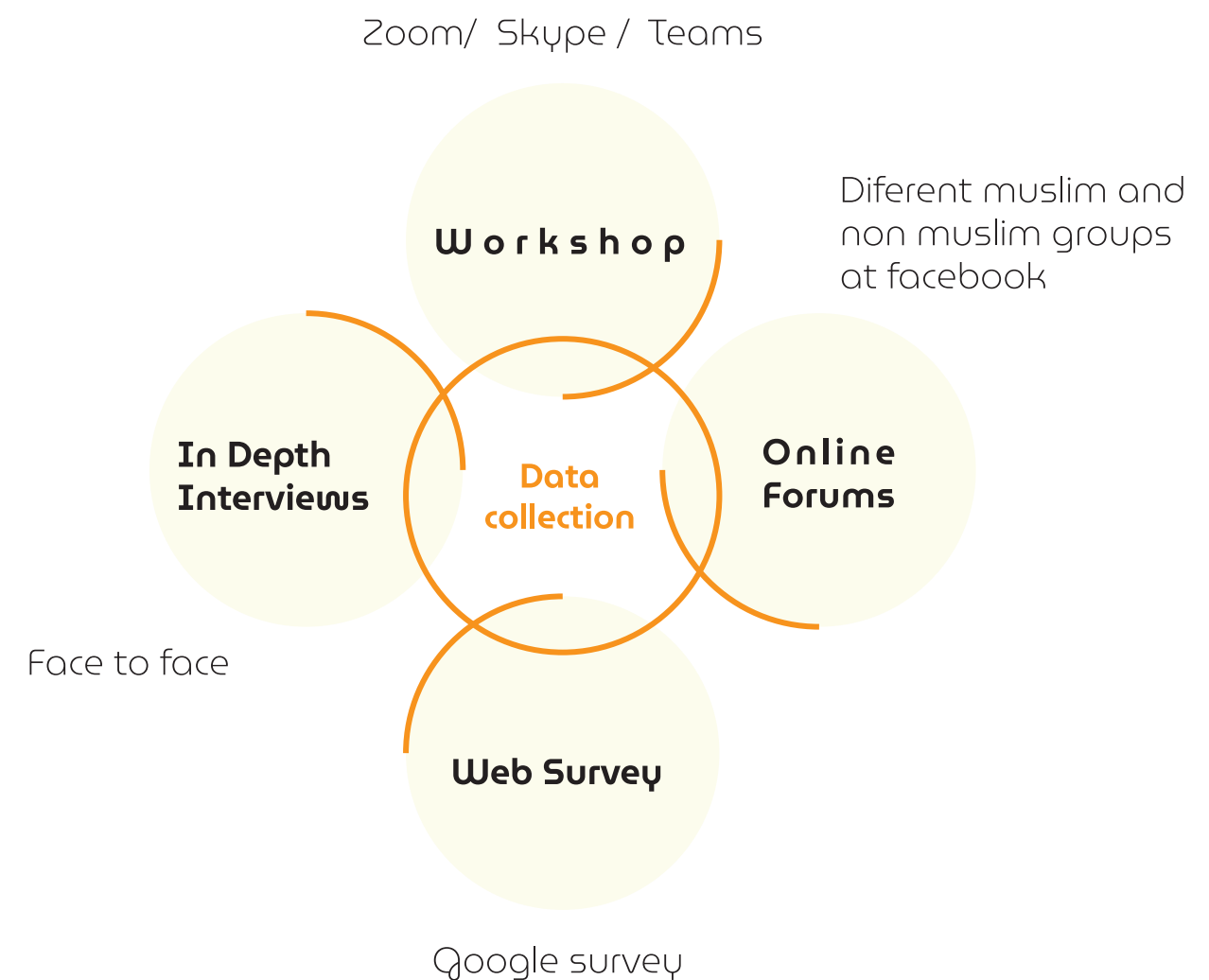
\ \ Sequence of experiance in each floor, from the public square to the public roofgarden

\ \ \ The question of visible and non visible and the identity of a Mosque in oslo context.

## Research

I question myself, how can I design a mosque that it will be used by a diverse group of people without including them in the proses, so I did research where I used different methods such as interviews, survey, online platforms and workshop to help me develop my proses to a project inspired by many different individuals, values and perspectives

Keywords from the research were safety, place of worship, community, open up for non-muslim, and creating dialogue.





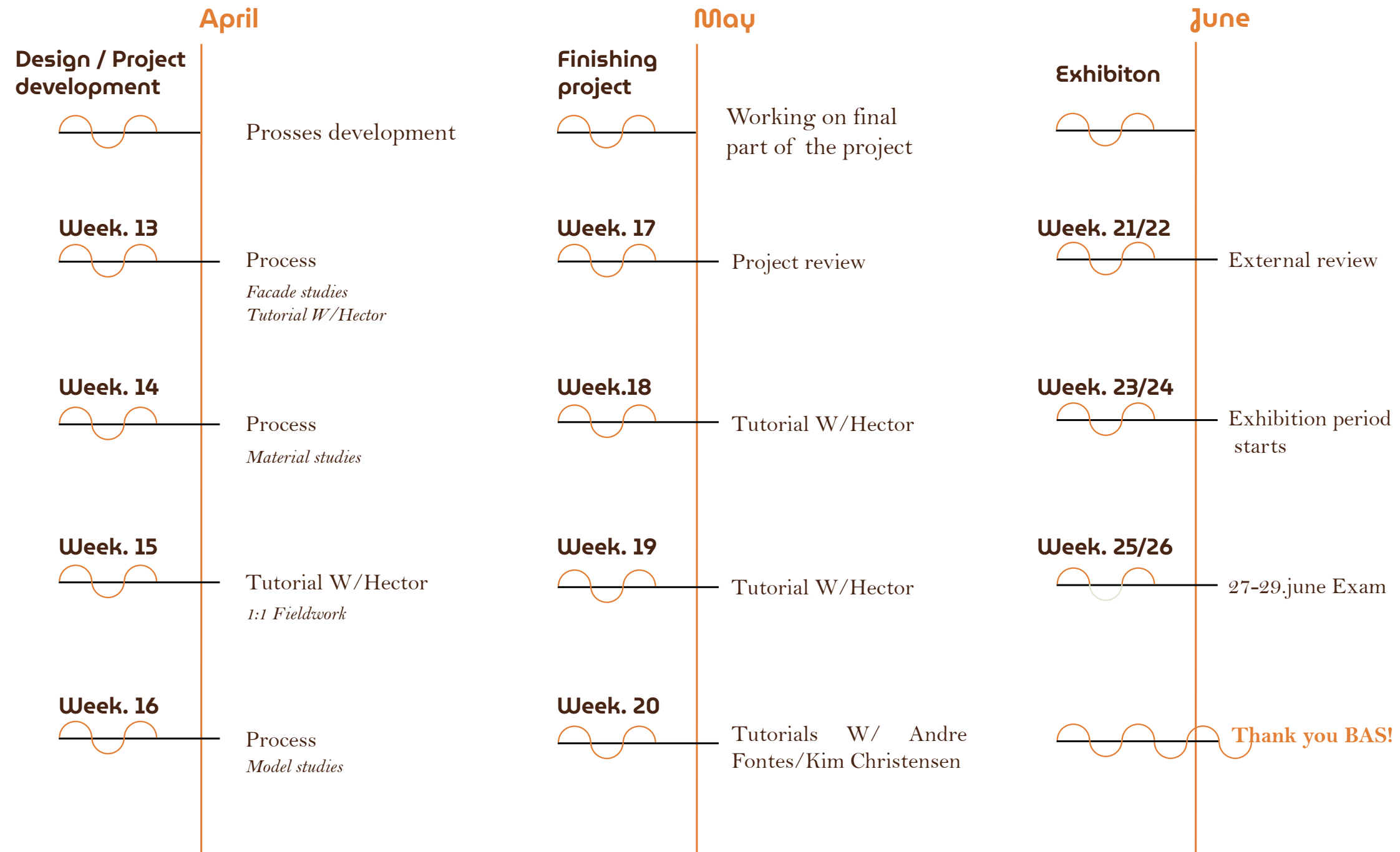
DIPLOMA

PROGRAM

Calender

January		February		Mars	
Social antropologi		Research / Participation	Study research on the subject	Design	
	Social Science Essay		- Study research on topics related to the subject - Dialog with Board / decision makers - Dialog with users/ Community - General dialog with non-user (society) - Dialog with Municipality - Dialog with experts in the field		General Design studies
	Week. 1		Week. 5		Week. 9
	Reading... Clearence meeting		Workshop with Pavlina Lucas Imformation gathring		Concept development Tutorial W/Hector
	Week. 2		Week. 6		Week. 10
	Semester Start Discuss program with toturs		Deadline Prpogram Discription - Delivery Tutorial W/Hector + Jan		Conceptually elaborated material with models, drawing etc.
	Week. 3		Week. 7		Week. 11
	Deadline Social Science Essay writing		Study trip - Maybe (Corona) Oslo, Norway London/ Oxford, UK		Design start Tutorial W/Hector + Jan
	Week. 4		Week. 8		Week. 12
	Eassy Presentastion		Site model Tutorial W/Hector		Design

# Calender



# S A C R E D

## Space

### definition

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”Sacred space is any space or area that has been dedicated to a sacred (**holy**) purpose. An emphasis on sacred space is found in all of the world’s major religions: all religions have places set aside as holy, which they use for **worship, prayer, meditation, and rituals**. They also utilize the space and architecture in unique ways designed to enhance the **spiritual experience**.”

Mvorganizing.org





Mosque concept

me 1:1 - Bergen



**Asem M. Babawat**

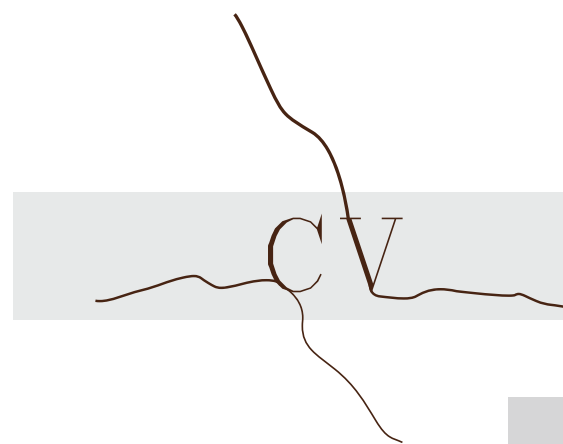
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Møllendalsveien 52

5 0 0 9 Bergen



**Courses:**

**Fall 2019**

**Exchange to  
Ryerson University  
2019 / 2020**

ARC 720 Architecture Studio

ASC 856 The Small Building

ASC 900 Selected Topics in Arch. Sci.

**Spring 2020**

ARC 820 Architecture Studio

ASC 521 Light/Sound in Architecture

ASC 901 Selected Topics in Arch. Sci.

**E D U C A T I O N**

**2016-2019**

**Bachelor -  
Bergen School  
of Architecture**

**Fall 2018**

**Society in Motion - Liechtenstein**

Everyday commuting about Liechtenstein  
(<https://sim2949.wixsite.com/sim2019>)

**Master in Architecture,  
Bergen School of Architecture  
2020 / 2021**

**Courses:**

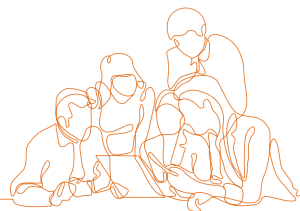
**Fall 2020**

Complex Context - Understand the  
chosen site in the urban context of Bergen.

**Spring 2021**

Diploma (Sacred spaces in Oslo Urban context)

WORK EXPERIENCE



Generall Work

RimiValler	Part-timeemployee	Jan.2014–Jan. 2015
Moods of Norway	Part-time employee	Aug.2015–Sep.2016
Match Galleriet	Part-time employee	Apr.2017–Mai. 2019
BAS	AdmissionsCommittee	Feb.2019–Juni.2019
Oscar Jacobson	Part-time employee	Mai.2019–Aug.2019
Sand Outlet	Part-time employee	Sommer 2020
VoltLagunen	Part-timeemployee	Sep.2020–Jun. 2021



ARK - PROJECTS

Annex	Sandnes	status:	Built	2018
Garage	Moss	status:	Built	2018
Semi-detached	Rygge	status:	Unclear	2018
Extension cabin	Geilo	status:	Unclear	2018
Extension cabin	Forsand	status:	Unclear	2018
Extension house	Moss	status:	Unclear	2020





## LANGUAGE

- ▣ Kurdish (morsmål)
- ▣ Arabic
- ▣ English
- ▣ Norwegian



## SOFTWARE

- ▣ Indesign
- ▣ illustrator
- ▣ AutoCAD
- ▣ Revit
- ▣ Rhino
- ▣ Microsoft Office



## Competition

- ▣ Pashion Pavilion Milan – archasm 2019
- ▣ Architecture that Reacts – Laka Copetition
- ▣ Design that Educates Awards 2020



## ENGAGEMENT

**Rosenvilde VQS** - Student Council / board member 2012 - 2014

**Jiyan voluntary organization** - Social Media responsible

Responsible for the facebook and instagram page for Organization + media / advertising

**Bergen School of Architecture** - Sobas (Student Council at the school) 2016 - 2018

Class representative

**NAL** (Norwegian Association of Architects) Deputy representative 2016 - 2017

Via Bergen School of Architecture

**NAL** ----- Bergen School of Architecture Main Representative 2017 - 2018

Via Bergen School of Architecture

**The Welfare Parliament in Bergen** - the school's (BAS) representative 2017 - 2018

Worked for the students in Hordaland on behalf of Bergen School of Architecture.  
Distribute money to various student organizations in Bergen. Promote various activities etc.

**School board** (Bergen School of Architecture) Deputy representative 2018 - 2020

Final words

**Tutor :**

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Jan Liesegang

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