

On the threshold

Bergen School of Architecture

Diploma program 2021

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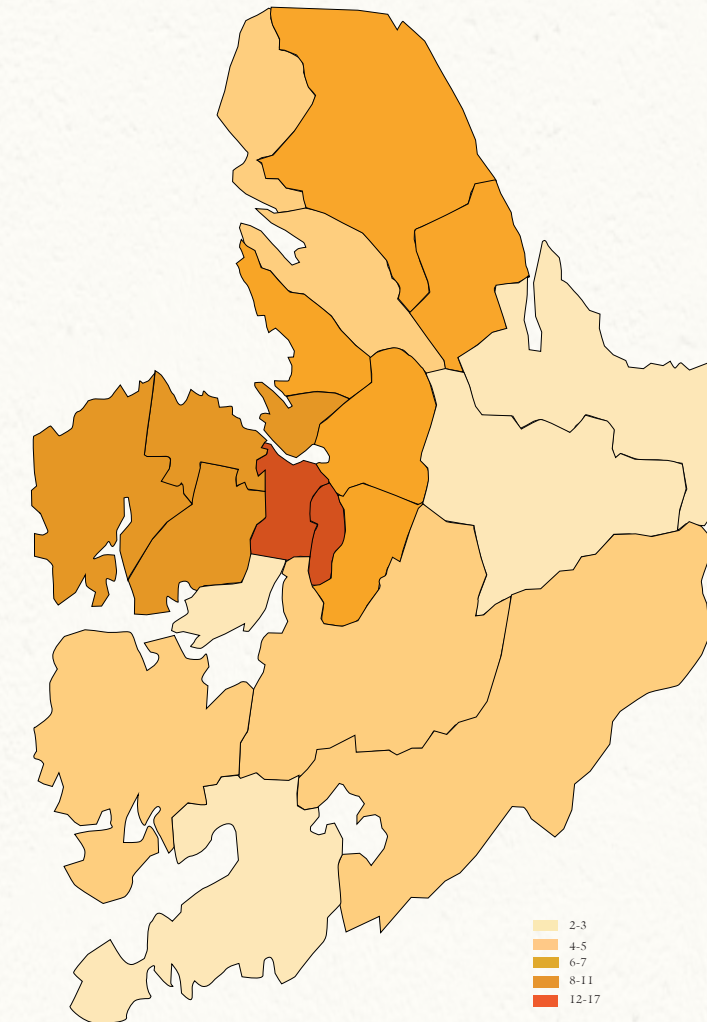
Hector Pina Barrios

Eva Kun

Background

Approximately 800 000 immigrants live in Norway, which makes around 15% of the population. Immigrants come from around 200 countries, they are distributed over the whole country, with a majority that lives in the capital, Oslo, SSB.

Many immigrants gather in specific neighbourhoods where the representation of Norwegians is at its least levels. There are multiple reasons for establishing these gatherings. There are economic, cultural, religious, political and ethnic reasons. The Norwegian integration strategy focuses on economic integration and has so little focus on social, psychological-cultural, and political integration, and it lacks a clear policy regarding housing. This is one reason behind gathering in closed areas, thus being isolated from the rest of the society. Although the gathering of immigrants in certain areas is beneficial to alleviate the impact of immigration and strengthen their identity, it leads, in the long run, to a huge gap between them and the local society.



Innvandrere og norskfødte med innvandreforeldre med bakgrunn fra Afrika, Asia, etc i prosent av folkemengden.
Immigrants gathering , Bergen, 2013, SSB

What & Why

How to avoid the formation of closed and segregated societies?

How to create a sense of belonging to a new place? And where to start?

In this project, my focus is on neighbourhoods, as integration starts from the place we live in. Togetherness starts in our houses and their immediate surroundings, they are the birthplace of our sense of belonging to the place and community.

The plan is to establish an attractive neighbourhood for both locals and immigrants. The idea is based on the principle of co-living which is used to increase the possibilities of interaction. This is achieved by having different levels of shared-spaces, facilities and common activities.

The project focuses on immigrants coming from Syria. Syrians are the fourth-largest immigrant community in Norway, and they are the most recent group to arrive in the country. The number of Syrians residing in Norway before 2010 did not exceed a thousand immigrants, while the number is about 32 thousand today, SSB. The vast majority of Syrians have not been living in the country for more than 5 years, which means trying to prevent segregation and exclusion from the rest of the society is still achievable, in my opinion. Studying the example of Syrians does not exclude other groups, as the findings can be applied to different groups of immigrants.

Facts about Syrians in Norway.

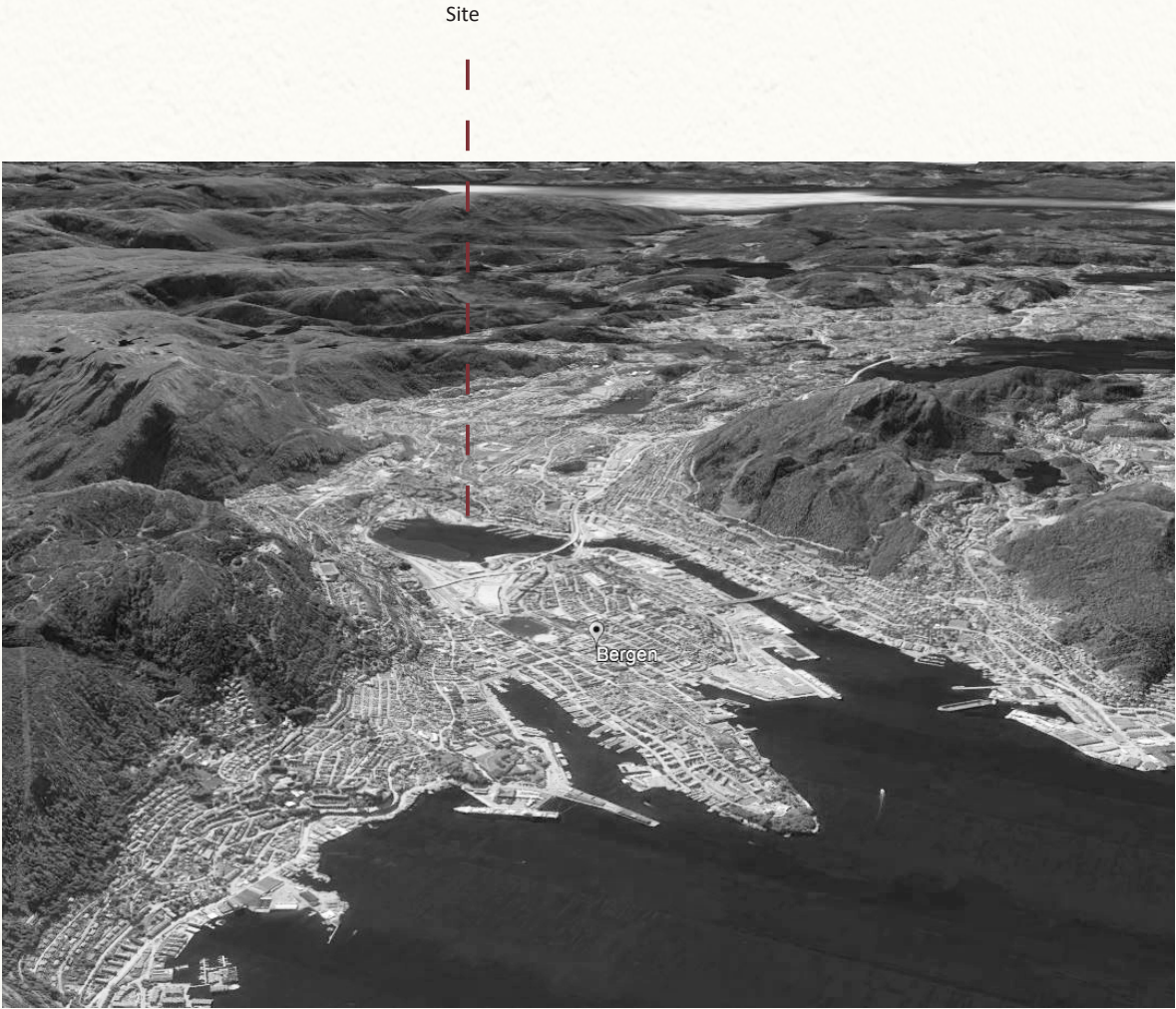


Kilde: Innvandrere og norskfødte med innvandrerforeldre, Statistisk sentralbyrå

Where?

Møllendal, Bergen, as this area is under development. According to the municipality’s plan, this site is open for development in order to explore new ways of living in the city.

The plan from the municipality aims for sharing services, creating new types of co-housing and new common areas and relations between people across age and background. The project targets children’s families.

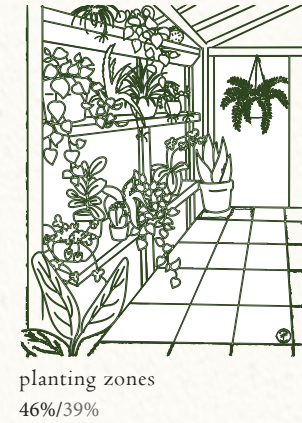
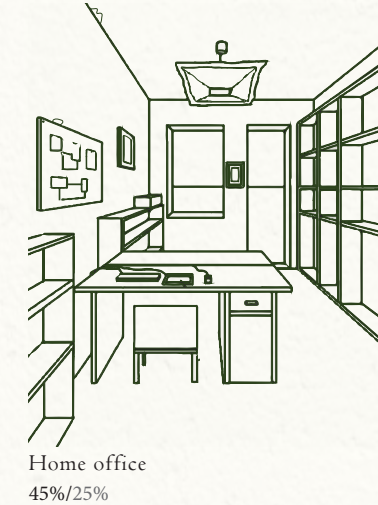
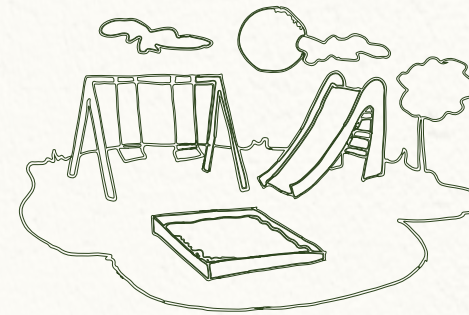


How?

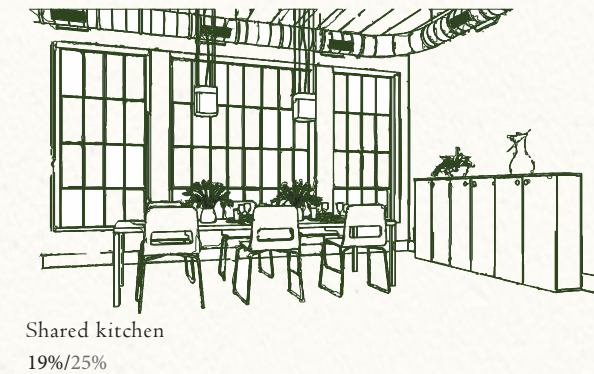
I believe that in order to have viable solutions for better integration, participation of the targeted audience is required. This was achieved through questionnaires and individual interviews.

I targeted different groups of Syrians and locals through online surveys. The surveys focused on their residential needs, relations to neighbours and their acceptance of sharing specific spaces and facilities with neighbours. My role in this was to assess their needs and try to turn them into a design.

In order to achieve the desired sense of belonging, I followed two strategies. First, I worked on including different recognizable elements from both cultures in the design. Second, I worked on establishing different levels of shared facilities or common areas in order to ease the making of new relationships with the surrounding community.



Syrians/Locals

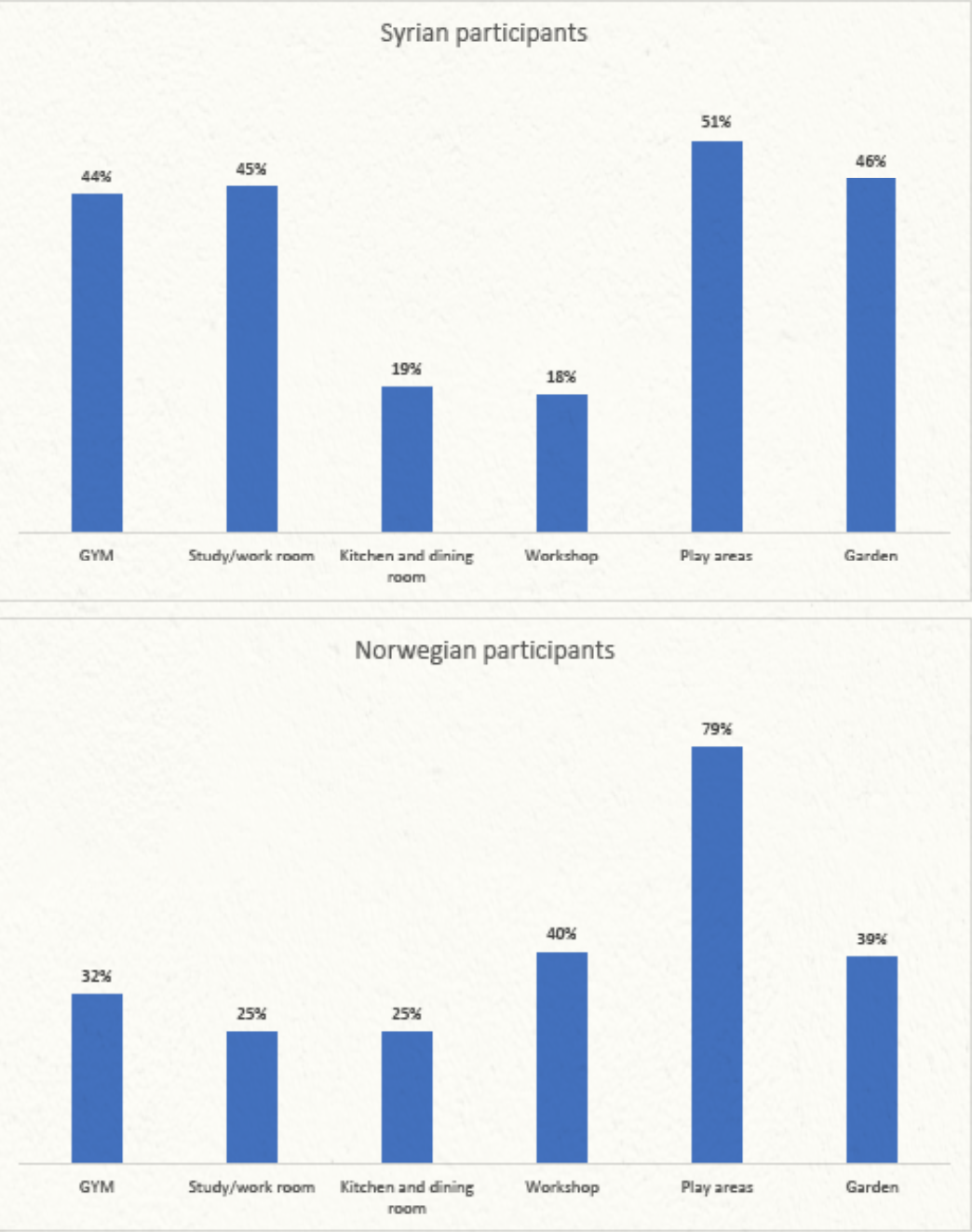


Questionnaire

Due to the limitations caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, a digital questionnaire was the most suitable method. The questionnaire targeted both communities, the local and the Syrian one in Norway. They were shared through different Facebook groups, and in total there were more than 500 responses.

The questionnaire consisted of 16 questions, about gender, age, living situation, activities with neighbours, being open for sharing spaces and having common activities with people in the neighbourhood.

Regarding what people are willing to share with neighbours, answers came as the following:



Many migrants modify and appropriate the homes they own and occupy to make them reflect the living environments of their former homes. This desire to be surrounded by familiar and known social and built environments is often the result of the very strong habits and habitus that individuals carry with them. Settlement patterns can also be considered to form a part of humans' habitus. Whether individuals live close to their extended family or far away.

“Tanja Glusac, Architecture and belonging, migration, re-territorialisation and self identity”

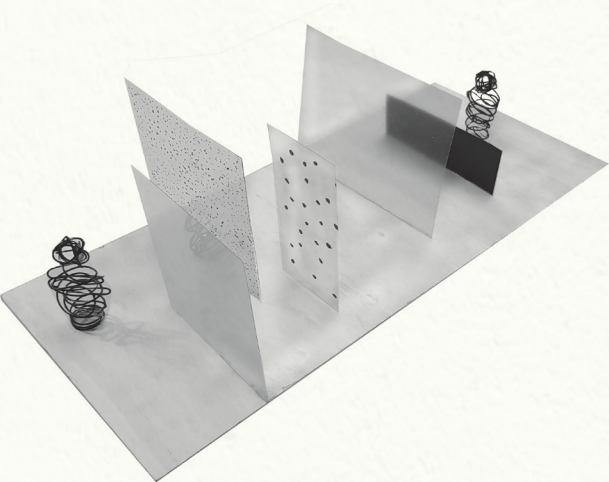
The word ‘familiar’, contends, has ‘the same root’ as the word ‘house’ in ancient Greek, thus suggesting they are almost interchangeable.

Kaika (2004, 272 footnote 6)

Social science essay
Residential privacy in the Syrian and Norwegian Cultrures

Abstract

This essay discusses residential privacy in two different cultures, the Syrian and the Norwegian. It focuses on the definition of privacy in the two targeted cultures, and tries to identify any possible differences. In this regard multiple books and articles related to the topic were reviewed, in addition to personal observation. Findings indicated that the need for privacy is not manifested in the same way in the two cultures, people in Syria are more concerned about visual privacy, while in Norway privacy is represented by the need for social boundaries.



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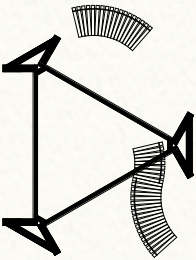
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09/2008 - 06/2010

portfolio



Sandviken now, Sandviken tomorrow

Bergen, Norway
New wood course, December, 2019
Type: academic



Isolation

In prisons and Covid-19 pandemic
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Type: academic



Nymark Allaktivitetshus

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