

Reflections

Between the lines

David Reynolds\_ Diploma\_ Bergen School of Architecture\_ 2021



# Project description



**Reflections** \_ Between the lines

## WHERE

The municipal plans for developing Horten are ambitious. They cover many aspects of community and aim to offer opportunities to the people who live there and to give incentives for more people to relocate there.

The community part is the basis for the sectors’ plans and activities in the municipality. The plan adopts four focus areas for the long-term development of the Horten community with the following main goals:

### Attractiveness

- Horten should be a good place to visit, establish yourself, live and live.
- Horten municipality will be the most exciting and innovative place to work and run a business in the Oslofjord region.
- Both residents, businesses and visitors choose to use Horten municipality as a natural place for trade and experiences.
- The municipality has a varied and rich cultural, sports and association life with good cultural experiences and meeting places.
- The inhabitants are proud of their municipality
- Interaction and growth culture is an integral part of the municipality’s way of working

### Good upbringing

- Children and young people in Horten are prepared for a good social life, further education and professional career
- A health-promoting upbringing environment
- Safe and engaging local communities
- Child poverty is significantly reduced

### Security for the inhabitants

- The local community is able to meet tomorrow’s needs
- Services are offered to the necessary extent and quality in all phases of life and population groups
- Good and active local environments
- Nature and environment
- Care and further develop nature and outdoor areas
- Cultural environments strengthen the identity of Horten
- Local community takes a climate responsibility

These are all important values to consider and can perhaps seem slightly utopian. But there are ways we can stage the foundations for these values to manifest when planning an urban layout. Planning for an inclusive society and programs that focus on the right values and interests is important. And to question; what is the leading motivation for this transformation?

## WHY

The decisions that are made in relation to this development are decisions that will impact the people in Horten for decades to come. That is why it is crucial to establish the underlying needs that should be driving this development forward and at what cost. There are clear challenges in some of the existing plans that should be discussed relating to human scale and situational qualities. And many of them do not add up with the municipal plans if they are to be taken seriously. What are the actual needs? What resources are already there? The development area is currently separated from the old town by a busy road and an area for ferry-parking. The municipal ambitions are to connect the town to the sea and to give access to the shoreline through a way of structuring the roads and program. The challenges are some of the large volumes of structures that already exist and new planned structures that will potentially create a barrier between the old town and the sea.

## WHAT

Through a dialog with the local municipality, I have managed to get some useful insight in the ongoing discussions and the decisions driving this development forward. And have in that way become aware of many of the conditions and challenges that have been stated. In my diploma I aim to suggest an alternative for parts of the development area that offers a non-commercial program in form of a library and a common space for the town trying to emphasize qualities that the town can identify with. Can a building work as a mediator between people and as an attractor to learn and reflect? I am using the object book as a connecting element in both physical and metaphorical means in an attempt to discover familiar relations and associations perhaps to be found on the books cover or in between the lines.

Social sustainability / Sustainable / Meeting place / Non – commercial / Generation bridging

# Horten\_havn

\_County of Vestfold and Telemark

Horten population: 27 500

Total area 70 km2

Located along the Oslo fjord region



# Background

Horten has a long maritime history with both shipyards, industrial and traffic ports. The traffic connection between Moss and Horten dates back to the end of the 16th century and is today an important connection between Østfold and Vestfold today and is the busiest ferry connection in Norway. The Armed Forces has had a naval base in Horten since the 19th century. It was the Armed Forces' need for modern technology that laid the foundation for a number of technology companies, which in turn has made Horten a competence hub for maritime technology and electronics in Norway. Industrial operations Horten aluminum conductors were closed down in 2013, and that was the end of the industrial operations south of the ferry berth. The industrial hall for Norwegian steel within the planned development was demolished in 2017. The steel business is still active north of the planning area.

The railway line previously crossed the area, but was closed to passenger traffic in 1967 and closed down for industrial transport in 2007. Parts of this area border on a cultural environment worthy of preservation in the city center. The beach promenade creates a clear distinction between the city's traditional building structure, combined with the city center buildings and the harbor area.

In the municipal sub-plan for Horten center, the city center plan (Horten municipality, 05.08.2015), it is a main goal that Horten city should be closer to the sea. This will be done, among other things, through step-by-step development of areas close to the sea, transformation of "gray" areas and by stimulating more homes in the city center. Today, Horten has many "gray" areas with an absence of an urban character that lie as barriers between the city and the water.

For the sub-area where I will focus the diploma (red circle), a separate competition was held in the autumn of 2018. It was an open competition aimed at property developers, where the intention was to get proposals on how this pocket can be transformed from a closed industrial area to a open and accessible urban area in the transition between the sea and the traditional city center. Four proposals were submitted.

The competition proposal that won the competition is called Horten Havnepark. In the project, it is proposed to connect town and fjord with a large activity park. The plan is to create a city park - for the city and in the city.





### The existing proposal

The winning contribution for this area has formed the basis for the plan proposal guidelines in this development. Although the plans include an activity park leading down to the sea, I am sceptical to the high-rising office building placed right in the centre of the marina. Especially since there are little or no interests in the office space it offers. I do believe that the activity park is a positive step in the right direction, but there is not really a lack of green parks in Horten. An activity park can be a great program for some people and in the right weather, but it does not offer something to everyone all year around.



Pedestrian street leading to the site where the proposed new public library will be



New college building on the other side of the park from the development area will be one of the important users to the proposed new program

The municipal headquarters is based in a central location to the city centre



Neighbouring to the shopping centre offering a variety of shops



Site



Today the site is only for parking cars and neighbouring to existing businesses.



Parts of the developmet area today is used for mobile homes parking.



# Public is for everyone

## Proposing a new public library

In my diploma I am focusing on a program that can offer something to the people of Horten of all generations and backgrounds. Taking into consideration the existing conditions and ambitions of the municipality, proposing a public space that can help bridge the gaps between different generations and people from different backgrounds. There is an urgency today for people to understand each other and the different needs. There are great challenges on the global scale today, and the importance of adapting to far more sustainable ways will be difficult if there is a divide amongst people and a split perception of the critical conditions in the world today. A large public space that can help to start a dialog that does not encourage materialistic values but can work as an extension of home.

An indoor public space that can be used for many different purposes and that can be an attractor not only for the people in Horten, but also for people visiting Horten. A place where one can sit and read, work, think, meet, play, eat or simply just be.



# Imagining space

## The book

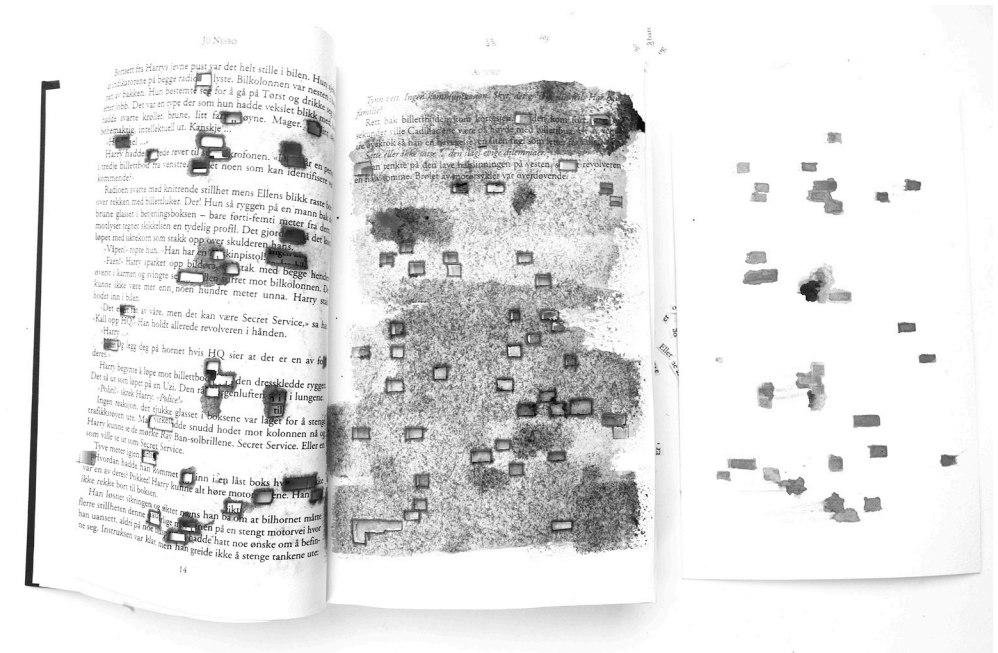
The development of this project will come together through a series of explorational exercises using the book and its qualities to discover new ways of connecting spacial and material qualities. The book is used in a litteral way for it's physical qualities and it's structure of organising chapters and paper. Structural qualities of hard and soft materials.

Metaphorically the book opens up for a number of transferable narratives. The imagening of space being one of the more I have focused on in this project. And the way that a building in many ways can be like a book that can take us on a journey into an imagined place. Surprising new ways of experiencing space and light. Hidden corners to be found. New perspectives to be seen.



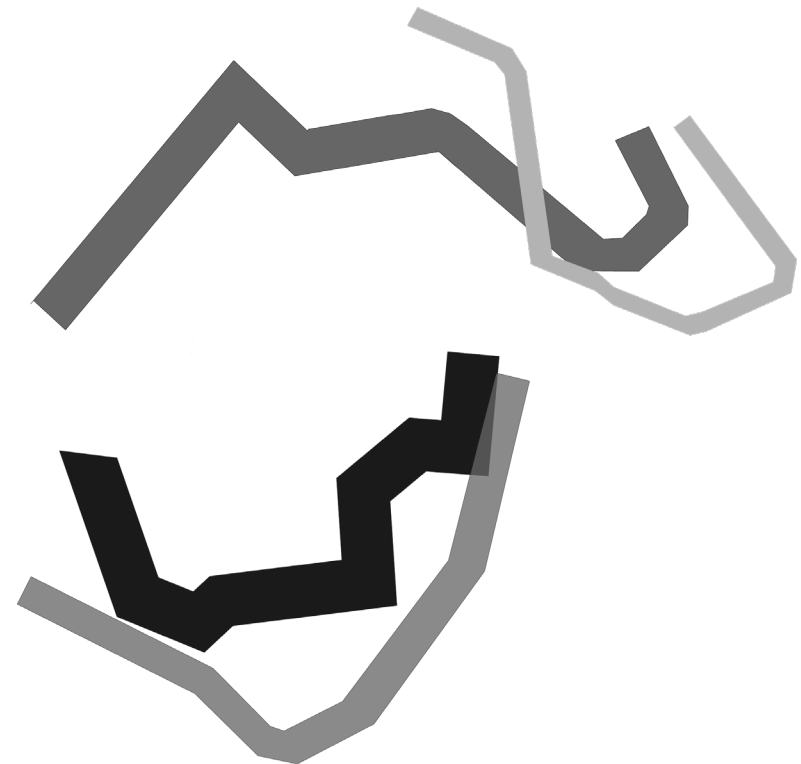


# Re-organising



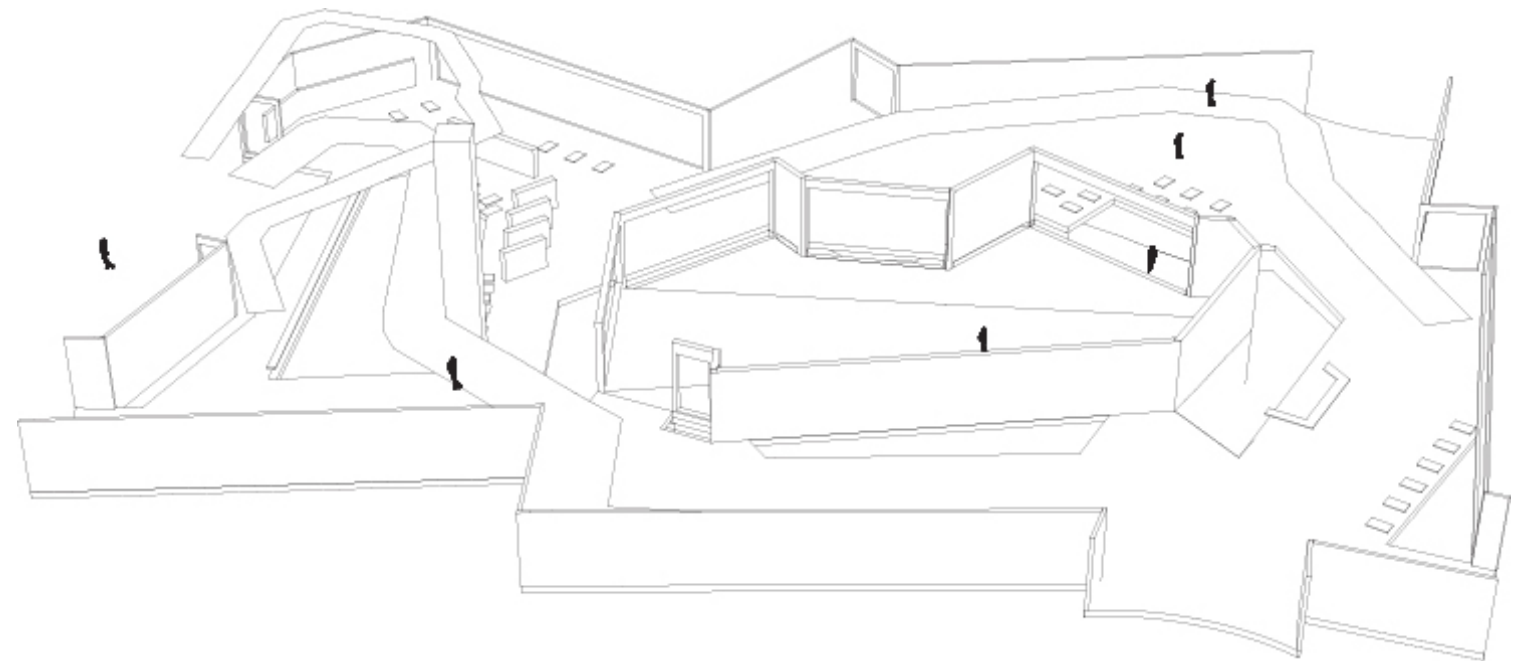
## Mixing metaphors with ink

The prepositions are the words that glue the sentences together. Removing them from the book opens up for new qualities to be explored. Filling their void creates a footprint of what was missing. Connecting these footprints in a new way opens up for new narratives and perspectives. Spacial imagining allows for the fortuitous to manifest and materialize.



### Defining spaces

The book explorations have together with the analysis of the underlying conditions from the site been translated into defined spaces and zones. Still letting the elements somehow live their own life and trying to set the stage for the individual narratives to do the same.



## Time frame

[illegible]



EDUCATION

2016-2021  
Bergen,  
Bergen Scchool of Architecture  
Master i Arkitektur

2003-2004  
London,  
Toni & Guy  
Hairdressing  
City & Guilds NVQ Level 3

1995-1997  
Tønsberg,  
Slottsfjellskolen vgs.  
Arts and crafts

EXPERIENCE

2009- 2016  
London  
Cello Hair  
Proprietor

2004- 2009  
London,  
Cello Hair  
Self-employed hairdresser

SKILLS

*Crafts*  
  
Wood work  
Leather work  
Welding  
Pencil drawing  
Oil painting

*Software*  
  
Rhinocheros  
3ds max  
Archicad  
Autocad  
Illustrator  
Photoshop  
Premier pro

MASTERCOURSES

2020  
Bergen  
Bergen School of Architecture  
Masquerades

2020  
Beregn,  
Bergen School of Architecture  
Meeting Rooms

2019  
Bergen,  
Bergen School of Architecture  
Complex Context

TUTORS

APP: Hector Pinas Barrios

DAV: Eva Kun

TTA: Andre Fontes, Kim Christensen

Writing: Pavlina Lucas

Exhibition: Trudi Jaeger

HELPERS

Thomas O Nesheim (Arkitekt) / 3D modellig

Bastian Haukefær (student) exhibition making, site model