

## **Statsbygg Student Prize 2021 Bergen School of Architecture (BAS)**

**The primary goal of Statsbygg's Student Prize** is to promote experimental and innovative studies in architecture by the future generation of architects. The prize is awarded to one or more student projects at the Master's degree level.

The jury's evaluation gives the most weight to the primary goal of the prize. In addition, we assess these qualities:

- Actuality and relevance
- Sustainability, (universal design, society-, environment and climate perspective)
- Analytical approach and dissemination
- Design and esthetic value

**The Bergen School of Architecture** has nominated three very strong projects.

### [Project 1:](#)

#### **Building fragments and the timber box. Exploring reuse at Smøla- towards a local architecture**

By Bent Ståle Brørs

The starting point of the project is the island of Smøla, a small community located on the northwestern coast of Norway, reachable from the mainland by a ferry boat connection. The scarcity of building materials in this community is the basis for the project's challenging problem statement and highly relevant topic: how can communities reuse existing materials and constructions, in order to preserve local buildings and knowledge of traditional buildings skills.

After thorough research of the location of Smøla, Bent-Ståle Dyrnes Brørs presents an extensive body of work, experimenting on different production techniques for building materials, using only locally available resources.

He rediscovers and redevelops potential methods employed by the people of Smøla for deconstructing, moving and reassembling buildings. Dyrnes Brørs then continues to successfully incorporate these methods in his own designs.

The vernacular methods and techniques covered by his investigations are a thought-provoking contribution to the topic of "reuse" and the project's goal to give old buildings value by using traditional, yet relevant, skills for the preservation and creation of re-usable constructions.

*"Building fragments and the timber box"* is an experimental project. Bent-Ståle Dyrnes Brørs demonstrates his knowledge and skills as both a traditional and contemporary architect by exploring and illustrating the concepts of "reuse" within the sustainable development of natural and built environments.

His in-depth analysis and structured and well-planned design strategy produce a commendable project, which is a strong contribution to current discourse on reuse and circular economy.

### Project 2:

#### **Interweaving Two Worlds - Imagining Taipei as a Zoo City**

By Chen Li-Cheng

The project investigates the relation between city and nature from different perspectives and focuses on the potential for their interconnection. The main objective is to reconnect natural spaces to the city, in order to restore local wildlife within urban space. In this way animals could safely cross the city, or even remain within urban areas.

Through extensive research, Chen Li-Cheng demonstrates how animals “take over the city” in different parts of the world, and how urban sprawl leads to humans encroaching on the habitat of other species. Through a closer look at how other countries have previously solved the problem of wild animals in the city, he analyses and systematises different degrees of interaction between humans and animals. This analysis forms the basis for the solution proposed for Taipei.

The city of Taipei is a growing metropolis surrounded by nature. Chen Li-Cheng develops a master plan by relating the city’s current challenges with rapid urban development, floods and droughts to the requirements and adaptability of local animal species. The plan emphasises corridors and throughways for wildlife. It establishes a close connection between natural and urban zones and creates a looping system of territories for roaming animals. This is facilitated by three different interventions, that are described in-depth through illustrations and drawings.

The project constitutes a remarkable body of work, not only in scale, but also through its comprehensive analysis of urban situations and the needs of animals. Chen Li-Cheng presents a convincing and well-executed proposal, supported by a diversity of illustrations, models and technical drawings. Expanding its scope beyond the discipline of architecture, the project successfully includes the subjects of ecology, biology and urban and landscape design.

“Interweaving Two Worlds” is an experimental project, which examines a topic that is highly relevant, the loss of biodiversity. Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world. This project can be an inspiration for other cities to connect to prioritize biological diversity, ecosystems and green spaces.

### Project 3:

#### **Multiplicity of Moments. Spatial Engagement of a Contested Place Caught in Time**

By Anne-Lea Pfistner and Annika Sakashita

The project explores how sensory experiences of space and time are intrinsically linked and deepen our understanding of identity and the built environment.

The starting point for the project is the wide range of qualities, different forms of building documentation and evaluation methodologies that may add to transformation and conservation

projects, and how these can contribute to the sustainable development of the constantly changing built environment.

Pfistner and Sakashita start with mapping the diversity of local identities in the industrial settlement of Dale, before zooming in on a specific building, Dalehallen, which was the former centre of the local community, but now is in disrepair. Using this contested heritage building as a laboratory to uncover a multiplicity of individual and communal experiences and interpretations, they employ a range of explorative practices, including technical and economic evaluation methods, to analyze buildings as material assemblies. The methods further include emotional mapping, experience of space and time through light and movement, but also different media such as photography, drawing and sculpture.

Pfistner and Sakashita succeed in the difficult task of translating transient experiences of architectural space into physical form, producing layers of time as artistic objects.

“Multiplicity of Moments” shows an extraordinary, experimental and intuitive approach to the question how immaterial values and ephemeral experiences are attached to material strata in the existing built environment and how these may translate to the experience of time depth and architectural quality.

In this way, Pfistner and Sakashita have created a commendable contribution to the current discourse on how architectural quality and cultural heritage values can be sustainably evaluated, preserved and reconstituted in the growing field of transformative and adaptive re-use projects.