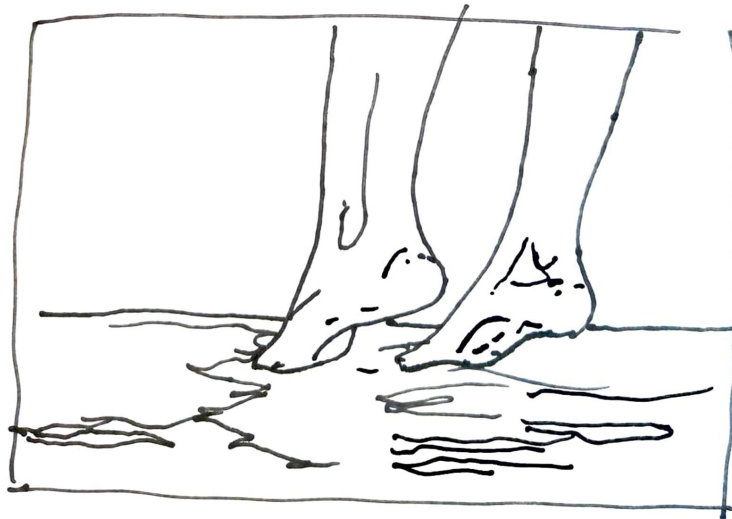


Touching Water

The redevelopment of Møllendalselven
as an urban, fluid spine of water experiences.



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Elevator pitch

My project aims to form an urban vision for Møllendal, a neighbourhood within Bergen, where the river becomes a public space and the old factories along the river are being repurposed.

I am exploring the flooding levels of high tide, the hundred year floods and the water levels in the river. Along the river Möllendal, I am proposing 7 different adaptations that would help people of all ages get reacquainted with water.

The main proposal is the repurposing of a building into a bathhouse, where the main idea is to let the water from the river run through the building and allow the tides of the ocean to intervene unhindered with the building, resulting in a constant play of different water levels on the ground floor.



Why

Bergen has a strong connection to the ocean. It was founded as a port for the coastal communities along the west side of Norway.

Fishing and boat transportation have always been important to the city.

Water plays a big part in the city as it rains the most in this part of the country.

The connection with water in our everyday life is not so strong nowadays.

We only expose ourselves in our private bathrooms.

The water has a great potential of bringing us together and can give enjoyment in many ways.

Flowing water in the city and the coastal baths are obvious attractors that encourage us to interact with the water also in a social way, celebrating the qualities of water to bring people together.

Where

Situated in Møllendal, south of Bergens center. As the name of Møllendal indicates, the valley historically was full of mills along the river Møllendalselven, from Svartediket through Møllendal and into Store Lungegårdsvann.

Møllendal has in recent years been seeing big developments, as the site has for long remained an industrial “island” between the railway and graveyard and now most of the industry has moved out to newer industrial zones.

I have chosen to work with a building along Møllendalselven. A place where water and mountain meet, where freshwater and saltwater meet, between a bay that connects to the fjords of vestlandet and a river that stretches up to a regulated reservoir in a valley between Ulriken and Rundemanen.

The building was built in 1922, with outer walls of hollow concrete blocks and the walls plastered, with wooden roofing structure. The building goes by the name of Cementstøperiet and was built for industrial purposes such as work with concrete and crafting rock.

It sits right next to where the river Møllendalselva meets the saltwater in the lake of Store Lungegårdsvann.

The rising of the ocean and storm floods make the use of the building difficult for developers as the building sits low in the terrain and transformation into storage or housing would not meet regulations of flood security.

What

My project aims to form an urban vision for Møllendal, where the river becomes a public space and the old factories along the river are repurposed. The river can work as a public spine, to go along the development of the area.

I propose a variety of urban and local programs that relate to the specific qualities of the site, places that unite communities and give reference to the place.

I am proposing a bathhouse inside the Cementstøperiet. In this building one would be able to enjoy the benefits of water. A place where focus is purely on sharing spaces and thoughts, a place that fulfils the needs of Bergen's bathers. Everybody can relate to interaction with water and the process of cleansing. Besides its curative and hygienic function, bathing is a social practice that is often associated with pleasure.

I imagine an outside area where one can play, enjoy and maybe step into the water. This would be a part of the planned water park and very much in contact with the building, as one can follow the whole river and get an experience from the different moments connecting with the water.

Outside, next to the building, the river and ocean take turns in "flooding the river base", with the water rising up to the sides of the foundation of the building.

I will use the water from the river and the ocean in redesigning the building, exploring and using the flooding levels of high tide, the hundred year floods and water levels in the river, bringing the water into the building.

How

The project will consist of three parts: historical analyses, investigation and involvement in today's situation and proposal.

Starting out with historical investigation into bathing culture in Bergen and links to cultures in Scandinavia, and then a historical investigation of the site of proposal.

Following up with investigation and involvement in how the bathing facilities are and culture around it, exploring the situations of the bathhouses and bathrooms. Participating in the renovation of a sauna, for adapting it to the needs of today's bathers. Real life interaction with places and people, to understand the environment, scale and social relationships.

The proposal: Speculating with a possible future, alternative experience, that gives inspiration to the culture. Embracing waterflooding and treasuring the river and the ocean as a part of our daily life, making us more aware of our actions with handling flooding of rivers and the rising of the ocean because of gravitational pulling of the moon and the effect of global warming. A flooded street gives us the opportunity to think differently and to strengthen relationships as we commonly have to work together to get around in these situations.

There will be 6 small proposals along the river and the main proposal lies at the end of the river by the ocean. All of them engage in the explorational moments and contacts with water and at the main proposal, the bathhouse, these moments are reflected in the design.



Reflections

The starting point

With this project I wanted to investigate the relationship between man and water, and how architecture can positively influence how we position ourselves towards others, other humans but also nature. I had not decided on any specific site but rather multiple small sites along the waterfront of Bergen centre. I would start with investigations on how we enjoy water or interfere with it in Bergen.

Reflections after the essay presentation

I presented a social science essay, where I explored anthropological understanding of bathing rituals and the cleansing of the body.

Key learning outcomes of the essay included better awareness of the situations in bathhouses and how rituals are a part of the people's visits and experiences and the challenges of norms in the different conditions of our society.

In addition to presenting the essay, I presented a concept model.

My concept model was a white object looking a bit like a foot from a distance. The object was made from paper clay, formed and sculpted by my hands and then moulded by my footprint in a part of it. I chose the white material to represent the showers and the appearance of the perfect body and the marks of my feet, after standing on the model, to express how our privacy is being stepped on, when exposed.

Reflections after the second presentation

I presented the research, taking on the modern bathing culture, bathing through history in Bergen and an anthropological study into bathing cultures around the world, with my experience of the bathing culture in Iceland in the back of my head.

A part of the study has been around the intimate side of the body and cultural practices, especially after the anthropological essay. It has given a deeper understanding of the rituals of Bergen's bathers and I would not be changing Bergen's cultural traditions with my architecture, the architecture can however intervene, productively inspire and give directions to what may become.

There is a demand for new bathing facilities in Bergen. Floating saunas are popping up all over in Oslo and now already one in Bergen, clearly there is a need and a longing. Something that today's public baths are not providing, the needs of all the habitants are not fulfilled as many facilities are becoming sports arenas where the wellbeing of the body is not at the core of the design.

It would be important to consider this recent urban phenomena of the floating sauna. This has tended to be targeted at a very specific cultural group of the wealthy and the beautiful. The question of the visibility of the body is not a generalised one culturally: to one group this is something strictly intimate but to another it may be an opportunity for a spectacle of fitness.

Discovering the river and waterfront

As I began to visit the different places along the waterfront, I noticed the rising of the ocean with the high tide and low tide, the time it takes the rain to transform into the river.
How plants and living organisms adapt to it and how little attention they get from our built environment.

Researching Møllendalselven I noticed the many problematic ways in which the city or neighbourhood relates to the river, and this is the only river running down to Store Longårsvann in daylight.
It has been neglected by the city, detached from the behaviour of the place.
I found one organisation working on the well being of the river for the sake of the flora and fauna, demanding the bringing into force of a minimum flow in the river and of an adaptation of the riverbed.
I think it would be an interesting direction to see how the water could be better accessed and how the river could be used as a public space.

Reflections after the third presentation

I presented my research, analyses of the site and then my vision for the Møllendal neighbourhood in Bergen, where the river becomes a public space and the old factories along the river are repurposed.
Where I want to explore the possibilities of the different flooding levels of high tide, the hundred year floods and the water levels in the river. The idea of the river as a public spine and the way I introduce the river with the seven different sites along it, where the quality of each is expressed and made accessible, this part of the project seems to be well communicated and have a clear intent.

For the site of the Cementstøperit, my ideas are to bring the water into the old factory and manipulate the mix of ocean and river waters that meet in front of this building so people can enjoy water, making spaces for bathing, sharing and thoughts and enabling this by subtle designs, tidal pools and differences in levels that allow gravity and natural ebb and flow.

My first models and design for the Cementstøperit are failing to communicate my intentions, the quality and potential in the meeting of the salt- and freshwater and the built environment.

How to develop the plan of the building keeping in mind that the river naturally has a more organic/flowing language in contrast to the human building ideas or the existing construction?

Experimentation is needed where I can study the flow of water and its variables. With playfulness at the core of design and modelling. Carving into the building, flooding the model, tilting it, adding levels and in-between conditions and spaces to immerse.

We talked about how greater focus could be on time, natural time, weather, seasons, tides, floods.
Taking clear decisions about how and what exactly should affect the design, setting rules, for instance the flow of water with its organic language cutting into the contrasting static rectangular language of the existing building and human built environment.



Calendar

| | Jan | | | | | Feb | | | | Mars | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 | Week 8 | Week 9 | Week 10 | Week 11 | Week 12 | Week 13 |
| Course essentials | | | | Presentation 1 | | | | | Presentation 2 | | Sick from Covid | | Workshop with Pavline |
| Writing | Social anthropology | | | | | | | | | | | | Project description |
| Research | Research | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Site visit | | | Finding a site | | | | Finding a site | | Site satteld | | | Site visit | |
| Model work | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Design | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drawing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Social anthropology | | | Research | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Site analyses | | | | Directions | | | |
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| | April | | | | May | | | | | Jun | | | |
| | Week 14 | Week 15 | Week 16 | Week 17 | Week 18 | Week 19 | Week 20 | Week 21 | Week 22 | Week 23 | Week 24 | Week 25 | Week 26 |
| Course essentials | | | Presentation 3 | | | | External review | | Exhibition work | | | | |
| Writing | | | | | | Project description | | | | Project description | | | |
| Research | Research | | | | Research | | | | | | | | |
| Site visit | Site visit | | Site visit | | Site visit | | | | | | | | |
| Model work | | Model work | | | Model work | | | | Model work | | | | |
| Design | | Masterplan | | | Design | | | | | | | | |
| Drawing | | | | | | | | Final drawings | | | | | |
| | | | Research | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Masterplan | | | | Design | | | | | Presentasion | | | |



CV

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Work experience

- 2020 **Reykjavíkurborg. The Planning and Building Authority, Iceland.**
Summer employment, 3 months.
- 2019 **Landmótun. Landscape architecture office, Iceland. // Temporary employment, 3 months.**
- 2015 - 2019 Icelandic Mountain Guides // Glacier guide
- 2014 - 2017 Skaftholt Sjálfseignarstofnun, Iceland. // Summer employment
Guiding disabled people in handicrafts and agricultural work
- 2012 - 2014 Grunnarbeid Servis (Norway)
Apprentice in road and construction // Unfinished workplace study

Education

- 2020 - 2022 **Bergen Arkitektthøgskolen, Norway.**
Master i arkitektur.
- 2015 - 2018 **Iceland Academy of the Arts**
Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
- 2014 - 2015 Reykjavik School of Visual Art (Secondary school in Iceland)
Preparing studies for further university studies within visual arts
- 2011 - 2012 Skjetlein vgs (Secondary school in Norway)
A matriculation examination within Natural Sciences
- 2011 Sogn Jord- og Hagebruksskule vgs (Secondary school in Norway) // Organic farming and gardening
- 2010 - 2011 Foldsæ vgs (Secondary school in Norway) // Nature and outdoor activities / Organic farming and gardening