

Patchwork

Exploring the spatial and social potential
of an abandoned farm in Gaupås

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I started the semester with the wish to understand the problems and opportunities there are within Norwegian farming. I wanted to explore the sharing of resources, time and space and how that could give the farmers more visibility, relevance, freedom, flexibility, and economic safety.



My memories from a farm

My mother grew up on a cow farm in Hardanger, together with her parents and siblings. It has always been the same place, yet always different. Buildings are being torn down, relocated and new ones have been built.

As a child, visiting my grandparents, Besto and Besten was an adventure. They would let me run around on the farm, trusting that I could take care of myself. But still, I was a city girl. Which my cousins constantly reminded me of. I said "ku", and they said "kyr".

When visiting the family farm we always drive past the barn, park next to the house and enter through the garage. I pass a small room on my way up the stairs. That room is where we get dressed before going inside the barn. No clothing that enters the barn can be brought inside the main house. Therefore there was always a Felleskjøpet suit for all the grandchildren hanging there, ready to be used. Continuing up the stairs you'll see Besto's collection of treasures she has found in the woods, like the mushrooms that grow on trees, stones, plants and most importantly, the art of her 13 grandchildren. At the end of the stairs you open the squeaky door into the washroom. It is a practical room dividing the work outside and the work inside. It works as a big hallway and it is where Besto

and Besten greet you when arriving, teen people in the hallway hugging and taking off their shoes at the same time. The farm always has room for everyone, and has been the most social place for me growing up.

Only one out of four of their children had the possibility and the wish to inherit and continue the family work on the farm. My uncle works as a carpenter all year while preparing the ski slope during the winter, next to being a full-time farmer. He built his own house next to his parents many years ago, and has lived and worked on the farm together with them. Our family was recently told that his daughter will continue the work after him. Besto, my grandmother is the heart of our family, and as long as she is alive the farm will be the most welcoming place. But my uncle and cousin don't have the social energy and welcoming arms of Besto. And I fear that the heart of the farm will disappear together with her. And I fear that the farm will transform into a lonely place, as so many farms before.



Klyngetunet - den norske landsbyen Eva Røyrane

Background

In the 18th century most Norwegians lived in rural areas. Nine out of ten were farmers, and most of them lived in Klyngetun.

Between 1850 and 1920, Klyngetunet* disappeared as a result of "hamskiftet". This changed the agricultural communities socially, economically, and culturally. Conversion from self-salvage to production for sale, agricultural technology and urbanization were drivers of more rational and efficient farm management. In this development, traditional villages and joint ownership of land was no longer profitable. The social relations changed, because the new individual yards became introverted creating a private family sphere losing the old "village community".

The past 20 years the household has changed along with society. There has been an increase in one-person households and freer family structures. This is also reflected in the agricultural areas where one can find more individual farmers that are bearing all the responsibility of a farm alo

* Klyngetun
a cluster of farmhouses sharing a patchwork of small fields, divided fairly between the households. Klyngetunet disappeared in favour of individual farms and efficiency.

Bondelederen er bekymret for ensomme bønder. Selv lette hun etter kjærligheten på tv.

– Jeg kan være kjempesjen, men samtidig smiler fordi jeg har det så fint rundt meg, sier Marianne Forcenus (88).

Bonde politianmeldt etter grisetragedie: – En alvorlig sak

Så langt er minst 100 griser avlivet etter at Mattilsynet avdekket dårlig dyrehold på et gårdsbruk i Gudbrandsdalen.

Av: Sindre Eide/NTB

Oppdatert 19. januar

Dyremishandling er noe svineri, og Mattilsynet må anmelde bøndene

Spøkelsesgårdene der ingen bor

Rundt omkring i Norge ligger 30.000 forlatte gårdsbruk. Historikeren Øystein Morten har besøkt flere av hovedhusene der døra er lukket for aller siste gang. Riksantikvar Jørn Holme mener noen kan få nytt liv.

Matsikkerheten i Norge er truet, og det handler ikke bare om korn

Forskere mener to ting truer norsk matsikkerhet aller mest. At vi bygger ned matjordå vår. Og at stadig færre ønsker å være bønder.

Mange bønder føler seg mer ensomme

1000 personer i jordbruket har svart på en undersøkelse. Blant kommentarene som går igjen er at parslemien økegrusen det sosiale nettverket, og mindre kontakt med folk, sies er mer alvorlig og at det er «mentalt utfordrende».

Av: Bernt-Erik Holmøyen
Publisert 23.02.21 10:12



NESTEN 300 DØDE: Dyremishandlingen i Trøndelag førte til nesten 300 døde og avlivede griser. Foto: Mattilsynet

30 000 gårdsbruk står forlatt: – Familier lar arven råtne på rot

Tusentvis av «farmen-gårdene» forfaller rundt om i Norge.

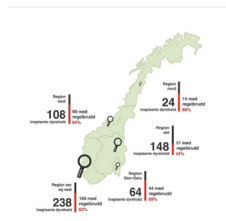
ANNUAL SALARY

NORMAL ANNUAL SALARY, I.E. MEDIAN SALARY, FOR ALL EMPLOYEES IN NORWAY IS NOK 586,000 PER YEAR INCLUDING OVERTIME.

PLANT AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS (COMBINATION USE)
389,520 NOK

EGG AND POULTRY PRODUCERS
431 040 NOK

PLANT AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS (COMBINED USE)
389,520 NOK



Why

There is a need for methodological improvement of rural development.

Today there are around 30,000 empty farms in Norway - as many uninhabited farms as after the bubonic plague. And 3 out of 4 farms stopped their production in the last 50 years. Leaving the rural areas of Norway abandoned and without social development. Researchers believe that there are two factors threatening Norwegian agricultural resources the most.

That Norway has neglected our agricultural soil in favor of industrial development.

Less and less people are choosing the life of a farmer.

Mental health

Farmers are one of the occupational groups most at risk of developing anxiety and committing suicide. Trude Hoff, municipal psychologist in

Steinkjer and Snåsa, refers to the research which states that farmers in countries such as Germany, France, the USA, Australia and the UK have twice the risk of taking their own lives as the general population. Economy, long working days and loneliness are strong factors.

Economy

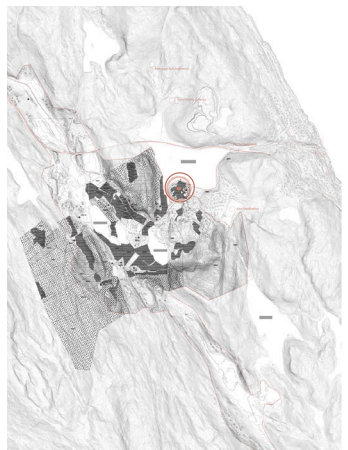
Farmers as an occupational group have a significantly lower income per working year than comparable groups in the Norwegian occupations. The scientists Brit Logstein and Henrik Almaas researched the working hours of farmers for Mental Helse Ungdom (youth mental health). 22 % of young farmers answered that they work one and a half years or more at the farm in one year. 27 % answer that they work one - one and a half years work and only 17% answer that they do not have work outside of the farm.



Norge



Bergen og Omegn



Gaupås and Ytre Arna

Where

Gaupåsvegen 127, 131

My project deals with the many farmers and farms that have lost their relevance today. Through the focus on one specific farm situated on the West Coast of Norway. In the small village Gaupås, a farm landscape between Åsane and Ytre Arna, only 20 minutes outside Bergen city. The reason this farm is relevant for this project, is the fact that it is not relevant anymore, socially, or functionally. The farm, consisting of one house and a collection of five farm buildings, was originally a sheep farm, before it later became a cattle farm. Lasting until the beginning of the 2000th. Today only one woman lives there, in "nye-huset" on the neighbor's plot. Her son who inherited the farm lives in Oslo. She was ashamed by the condition of the buildings, and could not understand my fascination with them.

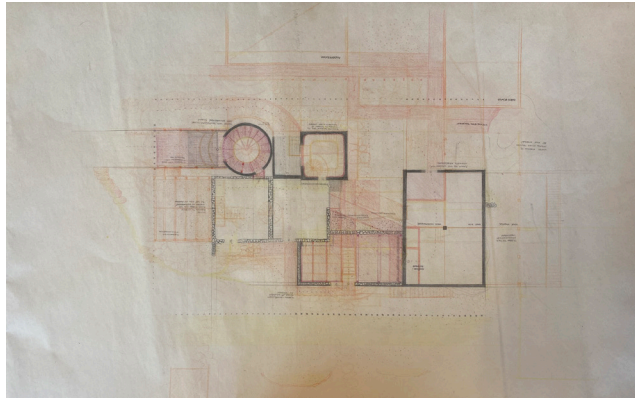


What

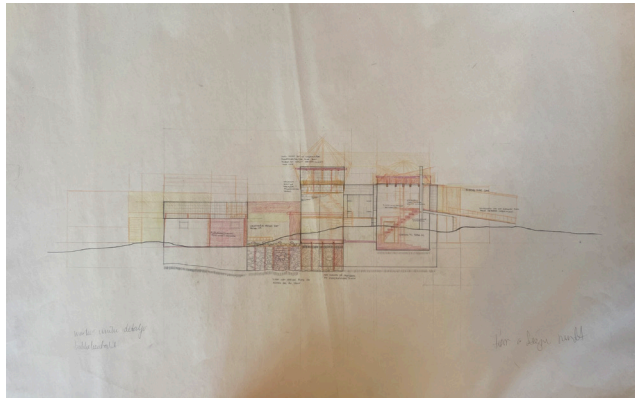
I am proposing to turn this fallen farm into a social place for farmers to meet and share resources, transformed with the materials found locally. Transforming the site into a cooperative ownership and meeting space with small scale agriculture for the village.

The aim is to create a bond between nearby farms and households through the visibility and distribution of local products and the use of the existing resources of the local farms in Gaupås.

Highlighting the value of farmer's work in the needed shift of attitude towards the use of our local resources. The project connects topics such as loneliness, sharing, local production and transformation with reused materials. Sharing of resources, time and space can give the farmers more visibility, relevance, freedom, flexibility, and economic safety.



Investigatin of the plan



Investigatin of the facade and section

How

Most of the transformation is done through the reuse of the existing building mass, the leftover materials lay around the site and reused material found within a radius of 10 km around the site.

Transforming the buildings with the local resources and construction waste. The added material is used to patch the buildings together in different ways according to the existing situation, available material and program. Changing their use and giving them more space and more light. Introducing new transitions and movements within and around the buildings. Originally, the farm buildings are connected through their exterior, but not through movements and openings. I want to challenge this. In a way transforming five buildings into one.

The project connects the buildings as well as the surrounding farms, using patchwork as both a social and tectonic method.



I know them by the way they enter. They always enter at the same time each day, throughout the day. The same pair of familiar hands.

More hands arrive, tiny hands. That grows quickly. From not being able to enter alone, to trying to enter alone. And when they finally can, but rarely do.

The farm door

Readings of the building

Each house has been investigated, documented and visited as a individual. Its size, history, materials, construction and use. Its perks and unique traits.

Next, they were investigated as one volume, showing each thought Ive had regarding my intervention within an existing building. Many drawing on top of each other. Showing the existing, the many different tests and thought pluss the final proposal.

This project does not focus on agriculture-redirectly, but uses a abandoned farm to strengthen the visibility of the existing agriculture, strengthening the bond between farmers and inhabitants. Farmers deserve to be valued much more for their effort and I believe a closer contact with our food source could participate in that change.

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