

DIPLOMA

VERONICA OLSEN

PROJECT: *GROWING TOGETHER*

DALE AGRICULTURAL FOLKEHØGSKOLE

BAS 2023

TUTORS/HELPERS

I will use this opportunity to give a special thanks to my incredible tutor Cristian Stefanescu and to Trudi Jaeger. I could always count on you, being with me late and early. Thanks to all the other tutors and supporters along the road. And last but not least, a huge thanks to my helpers. My great boyfriend, my dear brother and my amazing friends which has put in the gear to help me through the final stage. Thank you all!

TUTORS

APP:

Cristian Stefanescu

DAV:

Trudi Jaeger

TTA:

Structural engineer Kim Christensen
Structural engineer and architect Andre Fontes

1:1:

Vibeke Jensen

Sustainability:

Inger måren

Landscape:

Arne Smedvik

HELPERS

Lars Hjalmar Holm Rosvoll

Profession: Music therapist

Task: Runner, cutting, plastering, painting and gluing.

Thomas Henningsen

Profession: Warhammer painter

Task: Cutting, plastering

Matilde Cutler

Bas student

Task: Cutting, gluing, collecting

Ole Nåvik

Bas student

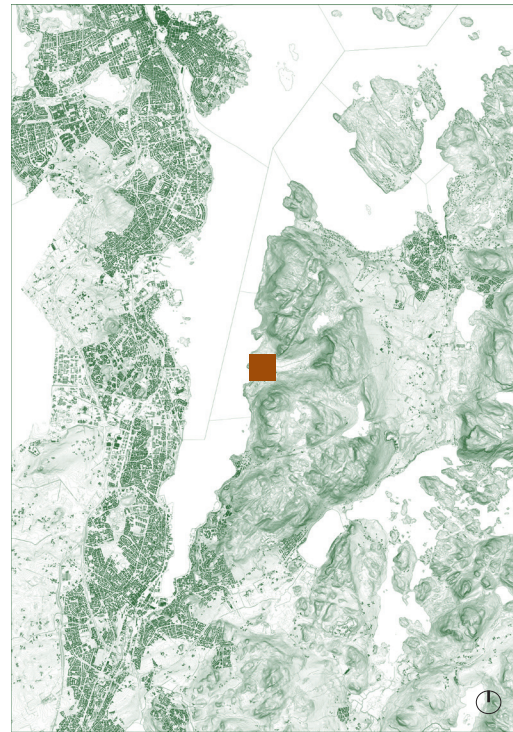
Task: Tracing files for laser cutting

Amanda Vassenden

Bas student

Task: Wood workshop, scanning

INTRODUCTION



Early in this process it has been clear for me what I want my diploma to be about. It has wandered in my mind for a while and when choices had to be made it felt like something I had to do.

North for Sandnes centrum in Rogaland exist an abandoned mental institution. It has been abandoned for a decade but the decay started in the 90's. In our time it has been center for several discussions, transform or demolish.

I am born and raised in the city of Stavanger, the neighbour city of Sandnes, this means my childhood have been filled with stories about this place, there is even a song. "There is a hole in the fence at Dale. that's why you are here"

Both my grandparent's generation and the generation after me are familiar with this song.

My interest in old buildings and existing structures have been with me for a long time, and naturally this interest has increased after entering the school of architecture. I find it very interesting, highly valuable and also challenging to investigate how we can preserve, re program and give new meanings to what's already there. At least to give it a chance.

Unfortunately the building I choose to work with is not an exception of being left to decay, it is yet another victim of what I call a symptom of today's society, use and discard. As a future architect I find it important to be skilled in taking care of the existing both in a sustainable manner and also in respectfulness of the heritage we are surrounded by.

For the last twenty years the newspapers have been filled with articles and discussions about what to do with the old mental hospital. Today, when transformation is highly relevant, maybe more than ever, it was a natural choice for me to work with this building in my diploma. By choosing this site and this particular building I wanted to make an attempt on giving an example of how a building like this can be meaningful for a future aspect. I also wanted to challenge myself, when working with existing lines can be...

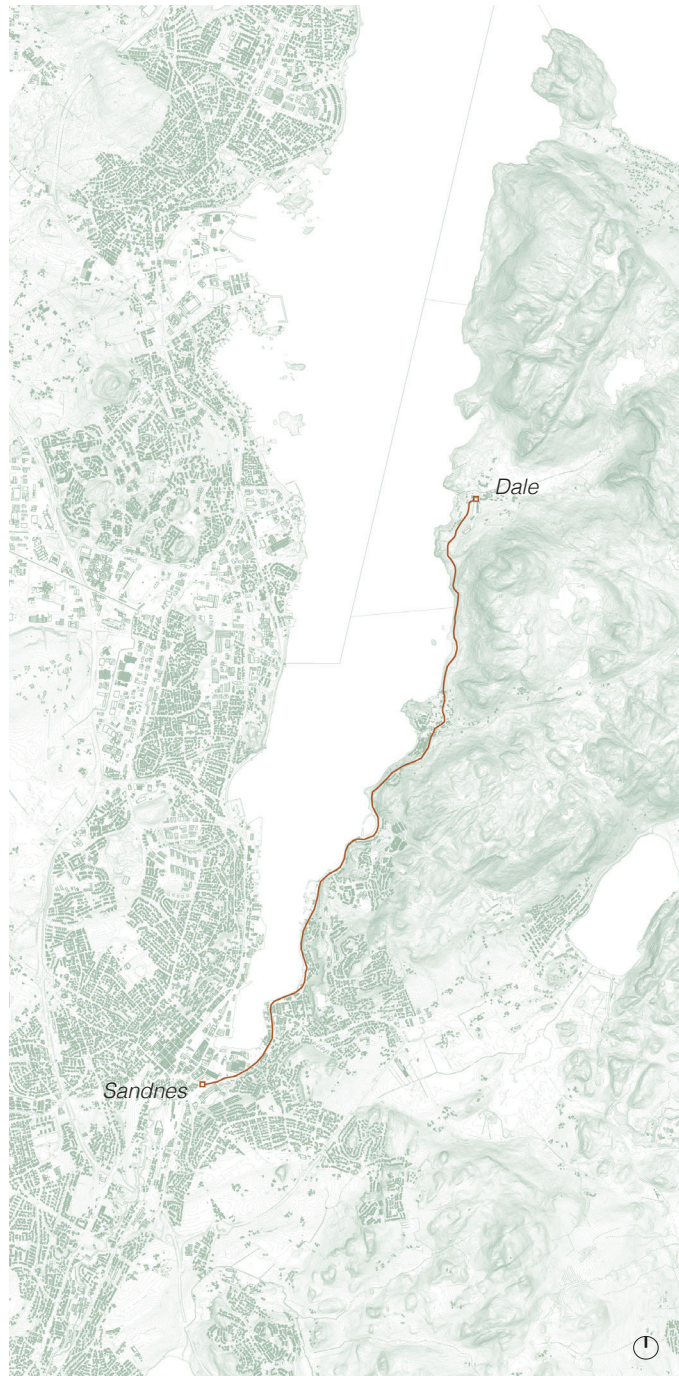
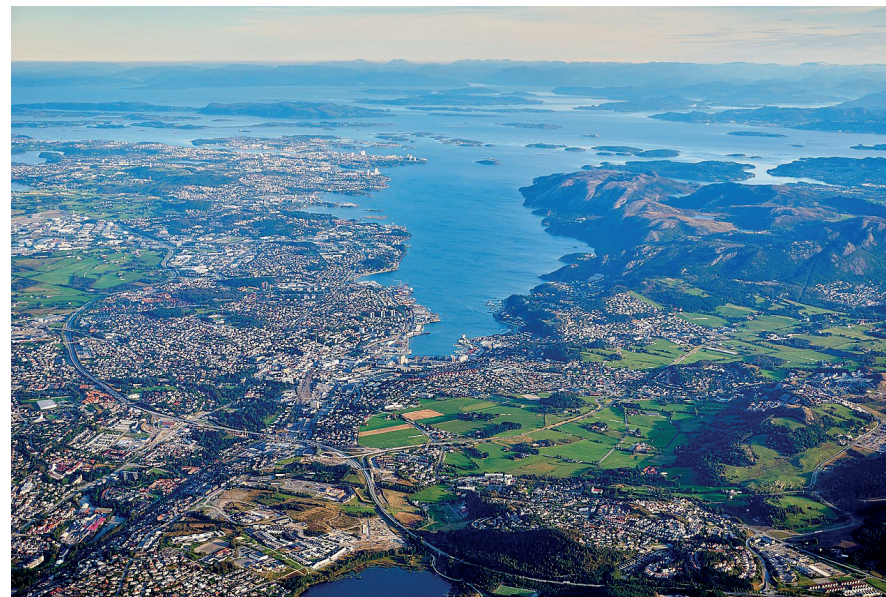
LOCATION



Sea map from 1708, Byantikvaren Sandnes

Dale is a destination, a one way direction. One does not pass by there, one actively have to make a choice of getting there.

The site has been inhabited for many years, and since the black plague a small community of fish farmers had their settlement here.



Destination

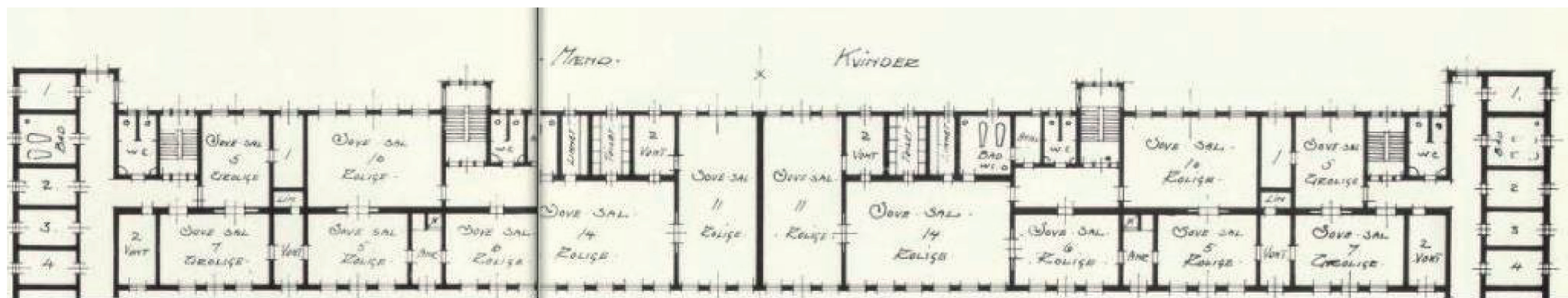
HISTORY

In Norway 1894 there came a new law about treatment of mental illness. Instead of stacking people away at asylums they now had the understanding that mental illness was something which should be and could be treated. From there on it was a hospital boom. To establish a mental hospital there where now certain requirements. The location should be isolated from other people, in healthy environment. There should be fresh air and place for the patient to move.

In 1911 Dale farm was sold to Rogaland county. With its scenic environment, close to the fjord and supported by mountains the property met all the requirements to build a new mental hospital. Here was fertile soil, fresh water and woods. This was the start of the Dale we know today.

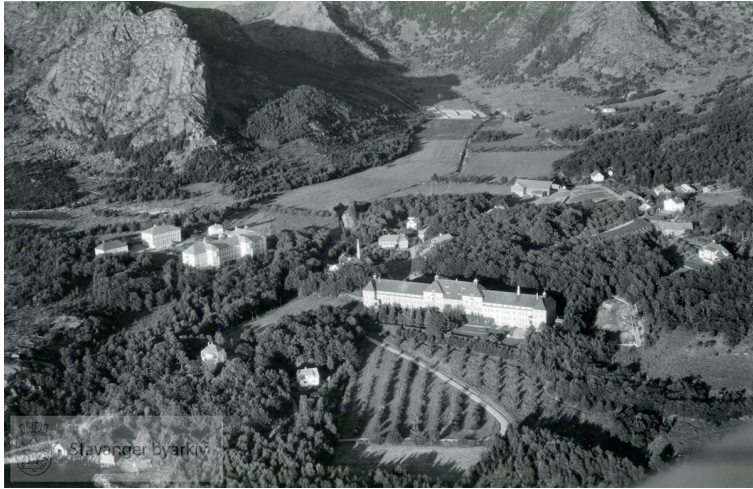
The hospital was drawn by Bergen based architect Sigurd Lunde (1874- 1936). Inspired by the style at the time, art nouveau, the building in its pride was ready to open for patients in 1913.

Dale as landscape has always served as a landmark amongst seamen. The prominent building emphasized the place being a landmark, with its dominance in the landscape.



Original drawing, Stavanger byarkiv

The building was built to house 196 patients, both women and men. The rigid brick structure was symmetrical and was divided with a thick wall at the middle. So from the original drawings one could mirror the building. Visiting the building it is easy to read the program which has taken place. One meets an enormous structure with a big amount of windows, telling the story of several rooms. When entering the building each floor has an almost endless corridor. So long that one can barely hear a person yell at the other end. One can really experience the structure as a place for control. The control can also be seen in ruins outside of the building.



Dale 1950 Stavanger byarkiv

As part of the stay at the hospital, patients had working therapy. So patients together with staff worked in the fields, built new structures and they also controlled the stream of fresh water and gained power from it. Over decades they had vegetables, fruit and berries and they could also benefit from what's coming from the fjord. At a time, the hospital was more or less a self-sufficient community. Today, most of this is gone. The field still exists together with a small part of the apple garden. Most of what has been replaced with lawn.



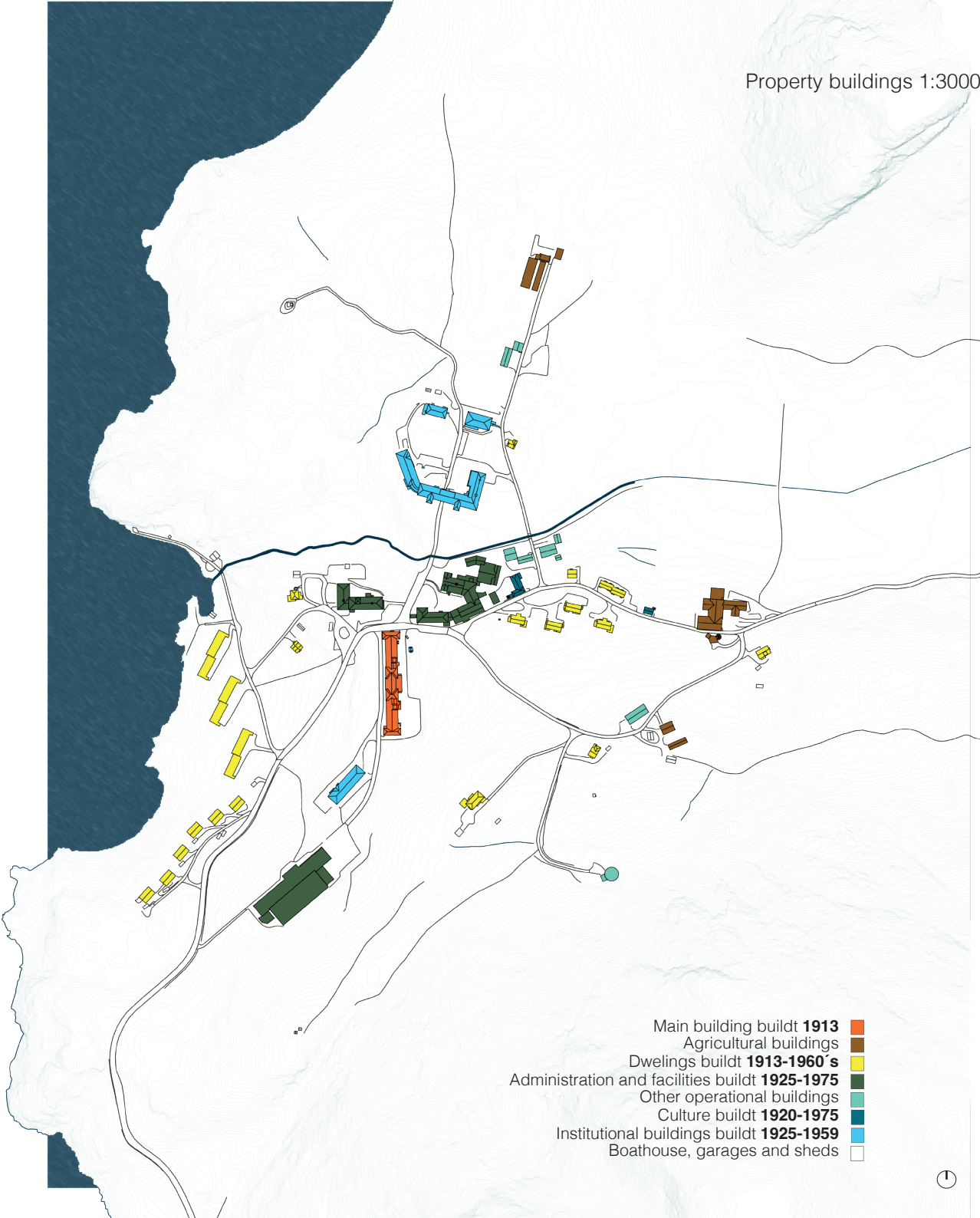
Working therapy, Stavanger byarkiv



Control, Stavanger byarkiv

Property buildings 1:3000

SOURROUNDINGS

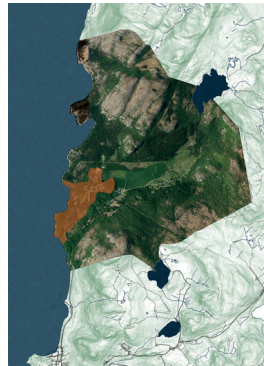
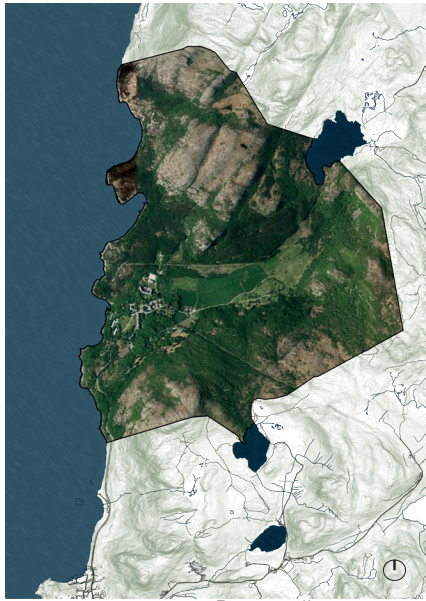


Because of it's location it was normal for staff to live at dale. So for a span of almost fifty years, dwellings have been buildt at site. Among other buildings and structures which has been needed over time, such as agricultural buildings, greenhouse and sheds.

Today the institutional buildings are left more or less empty, exept som reantal. It has been rented for storage, atelie, music studio and photogapher. One of the buildings has also functioned as a terror practice for police. There live people in most of the dwellings, which is for rent. The building which I am working with, the Main building, "Manns avdeligen" has been empty for the last ten years and the interior is totally vandalised by ghost hunters seeking exitment.

- Main building buildt **1913** ■
- Agricultural buildings ■
- Dwelings buildt **1913-1960's** ■
- Administration and facilities buildt **1925-1975** ■
- Other operational buildings ■
- Culture buildt **1920-1975** ■
- Institutional buildings buildt **1925-1959** ■
- Boathouse, garages and sheds □





After the hospital ended their practice at Dale the main building has served as refugee asylum for a while. But there have been little attempts in taking care of the building.

Dale have had several owners, Dale utvikling, Dale Vitale and current owner since 2016 “Dale utvikling”. This time the newspaper anonsed that Dale was for sale for 1kr. This underline peoples attitude toward the place.

The property and especially the main building have been a stone in the shoe both for Sandnes municipality and also owners. Articles about Dale is often to read about in the newspapers. And the recurring question is “What to do with Dale?” For a second time there is now an ongoing proses of regulat- ing parts of the property for dwelling. But there have also been planes for the property to be transformed into a new district.No- And the question of the old institutional building is still standing. Transform or demolish.

Dale kjemper om å komme inn i varmen

SANDNES: Dale Utvikling har det travelt og må bli en del av den nye kommuneplanen for å få fortgang i visjonen om å bygge et fornybarsamfunn med plass til 6000 boliger. Problemet er at Sandnes ikke har bruk for nye utbyggingsområder med det første.

Publisert: 30. januar 2018



Skandale

Fylkeskommunen greier ikke å selge praktelndommen på Dale. Men med rett pris, riktige feringer for byutvikling og gode transportløsninger kan området bli storbyregionens vakre, grønne landsby.

Publisert: 23. april 2016



Hvorfor ble Dale-drømmen et mareritt?

BREV TIL LESERNE: Det skulle bli regionens mest attraktive boområde. Det ble et millonsluk. Aftenbladet forteller historien om Dale - om politikernes prestisjeprosjekt som gikk galt og skattepengene som forsvant.



Dale - et samfunn i miniatyr

<p> Dale var mer enn Rogaland psykiatriske sjukehus. Barnevernsjef i Sandnes, Trygve Apeland, bodde på Dale de 15 første årene av sitt liv. </p>

Av Marit Havelid

Publisert: 27. januar 2018

Det er gått 25 år siden Trygve Apeland flyttet fra Dale til Aspervika, sammen med foreldre og fem søsken. Nå viser han Aftenbladet rundt, for å se Dale med andre øyne. Som et trygt sted å vokse opp for barna til dem som jobbet der.

— Det er utrolig rart å gå her og se. Samtidig er det veldig trist. For Dale var et fantastisk sted. Velholdte bygninger med et ryddelig velstelt uteområde, minnes Trygve Apeland.

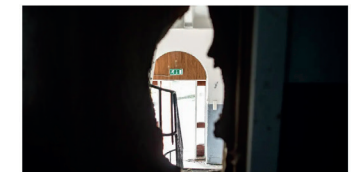
Luftslottet Dale: Drømmen. Fiaskoen. Pengesluket



Dale 2015. Tomt, knust og forlatt

Splintret, knust og uløst. Det monumentale hovedbygget på Dale med den svære, hvite fasaden mot jorden er fullstendig rasert innvendig.

Publisert: 17. april 2016



STUDYTRIP VINTER 2023

PHOTO COLLECTION

A LANDMARK



LUSH





EXTERIOR



West facade



South facade



East facade

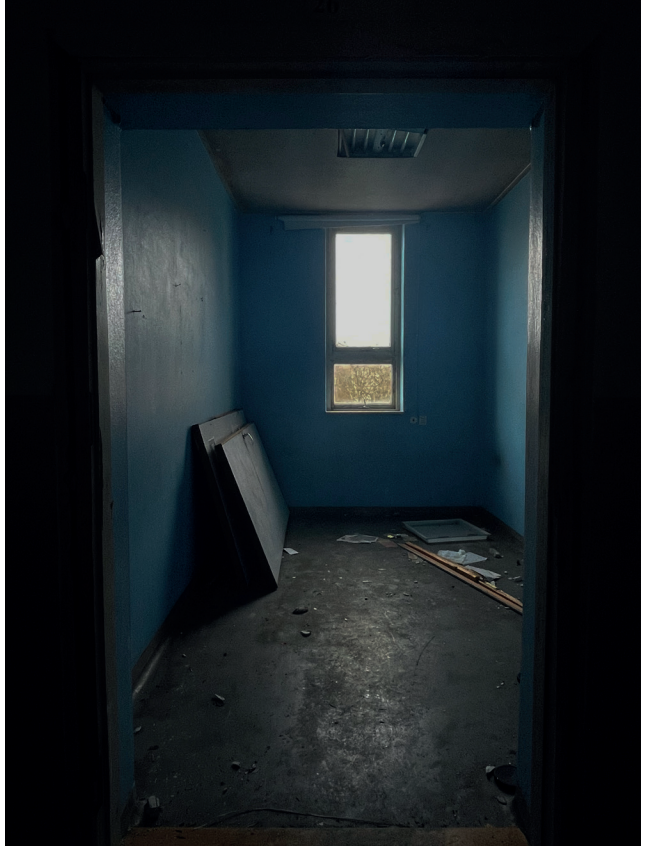


ENDLESS





ALONE



HONESTY



INSIDE OUT



FRAGMENTS/DETAILS



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GROWING TOGETHER DALE AGRICULTURAL FOLKEHØGSKOLE

I've started it all with knowing where I was going to project. Dale have for me, always been this mysterious place. The stories of the place was all I knew. For years the hospital has decayed and the need for care are crucial. Since the discussion of transforming or demolish is repetitive, I saw it as an opportunity to look for possibilities of how to preserve the building and transform it for future use.

The first challenge was the location. Dale is a destination, not a place from A-B one stop to linger. So how can I get people to come here? How can I activate this site? After visiting the property and building I learned that there still exist fertile fields and possibilities for growing food. Most of this is replaced with lawn, but the conditions still exist. Visiting the building itself made me overwhelmed by its size. How can I possibly be able to fill this structure at a destination like this?

In search for a program I asked myself "What challenges is society facing today?". Not that architects can fix every problem, but we can facilitate to ease the pressure at certain points. Mental health was my first thought. Mental health issues are more widespread than ever. Especially amongst young adults. But I was afraid off working with this topic in an old mental institution. One of my intentions is to change people's attitude towards this place. How will people react if it again became a mental institution? How will the stories become then?

What was certain in my intentions is that I want to activate the site again. To make use of the huge structure and to make it healthy again, one need people in the building. I want people to live in the building, spend nights, but not settle. I also want the building to be meaningful for a future aspect, give it a new era, something that has not been suggested before.

Then what is probably more relevant in a future perspective than to facilitate environment for learning? An agricultural Folkehøgskole.

One can call "Folkehøgskole" a support in the liminal stage of life, from youth to young adult. Folkehøgskole is a break from the everyday life between primary school and university. Dale Folkehøgskole will be a place where one can learn to sow, care, harvest and use. The students together with staff will be at the school for almost one year, from august to may. The students will live together at the school, they will work together and eat together. Students will gain knowledge of a sustainable way to grow and they will experience recreational days, which also could be preventive for mental health, without having a sign about it. Dale Folkehøgskole will also be a place where the public can visit to buy and taste what the student have created. During the summers, students can stay to work for money and the building will open up for public to spend the night and even work.

By reprogramming and transforming the building into a folkehøgskole my initial questions was answered. By that, one can benefit from the place being a destination and one can fill the massive structure with life. The primary focus of the school is for students to learn about slow, ecological agriculture rather than what we see today in the industrial agriculture. The overall society need to re-learn ways to grow food. With this program the legacy of what patients and staff established at Dale can be re connected and be useful for a sustainable future where students will get hands on experience of self-sufficiency.

FOLKEHØGSKOLE (COMMUNITY COLLEGE) :

The intention of activate the site again is also including a stronger connection with Dale and the outside. The heart of the school will be the kitchen, here there will be open for the public and people from outside can taste and buy the creations of students at Dale.

My main focus in this project has been at the ground floor, where the learning environment will occur, even though the whole property will be an environment for learning. I´ve worked with the long lines and the transitions between indoor outdoor and how inside can be stretched out in the landscape.

A building built for mental ill patients comes with an oppressive atmosphere, with its rigid structure, long dark corridors, symmetrical lines and few ways to move.

The buildings attitude had to be challenged if it will be accepted in the future. It needs deinstitutionalization and a new appearance. The atmosphere has been changed by removing and adding. This created softer experience of the building and a new rhythm in the symmetry. The characteristic corridors have been released from the structure which again created new ways to move. The building is now more open and the ground floor consist of zones. The goal is for the language of control to vanish.

Since the landscape and building has served as a landmark I will celebrate the resurgence by make the landmark even stronger.

Folkehøgskolen is an independent, unbound and exam-free boarding school. The schools have their basis in an educational philosophy developed by the Danish pedagogue and theologian Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, where the learning should not primarily consist of memorizing and thrashing about theories. At Folkehøgskolen you learn for the sake of learning and it is the inner motivation that counts. Folkehøgskolen is for everyone and does not require more than being motivated for a different school year. You learn by doing and you get to try out a subject in practice and not just study theory. The first Folkehøgskole in Norway, Sagatun Folkehøgskole, was established in 1864 and today there exist 84 schools in Norway.

*(<https://www.folkehogskole.no/nyheter/hva-er-folkehogskole>
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/utdanning/grunnopplaring/artikler/folkehogskoler/id587387/>)*

REFERENCES

noAarchitecten

City Campus Hasselt University



Enea Garden Design

Tree museum



Richard Serra

Shift



Sverre Fehn

Storhammarlåven

