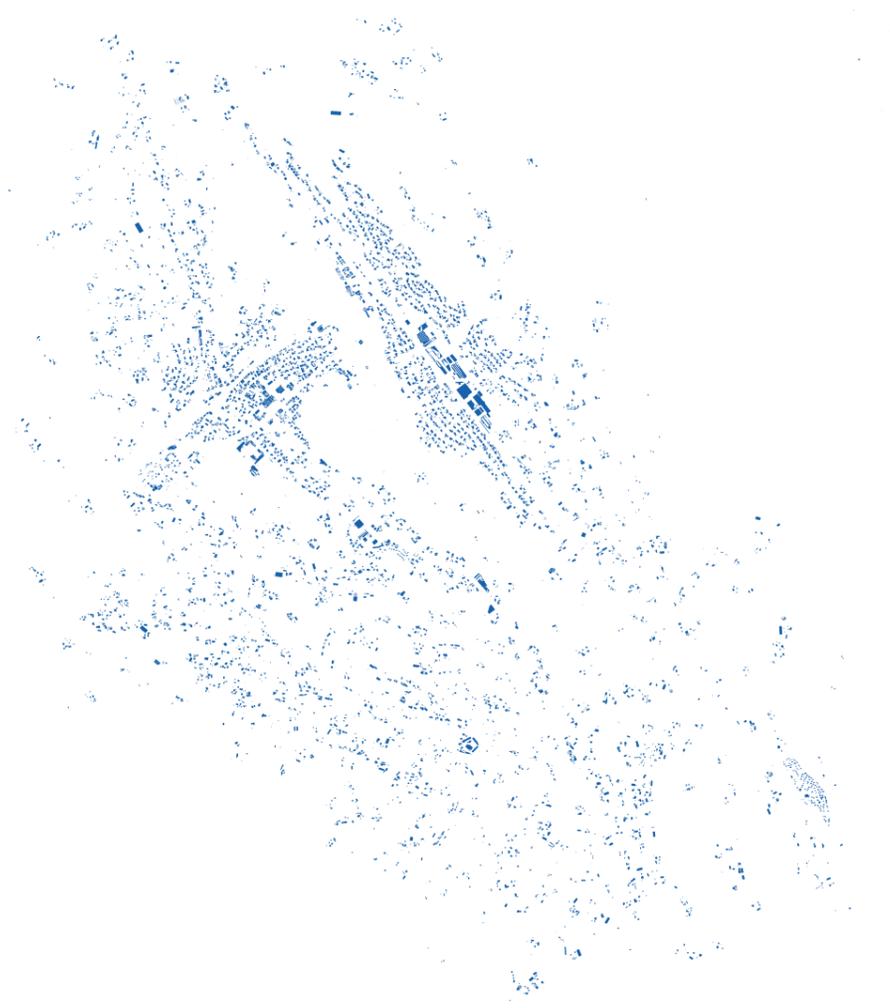


Spaces for conversation: Collectively finding a way forward

Diploma project
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Intro: How does the need for landscape determine life in rural Norway?

Rural Norway has always been shaped by the resources available in their surrounding landscape. The ways to utilize the resources have historically been fishing, forestry and agriculture. The last hundred years a need for an other resource in nature has increased. The nature it self. In Norway, this is called friluftsliv and origins from the 1800s. The friluftsliv is a counter reaction to how modern society is distancing it self more and more from its original habitat. This need from society to experience nature has gone trough a modernization and monetization. In todays society infrastructure is needed to experience the outdoors. Among these is the Norwegian cabin-culture. The cabin-culture started off as rentals of summerfarms in the mountains, belonging to local farmers. In the last 30 years, the cabin-culture has gone trough an industrialization process where almost everyone can buy their own cabin.. Many mountain regions in Norway has thereby invested hard into this, as it provides much more income than the traditional businesses.

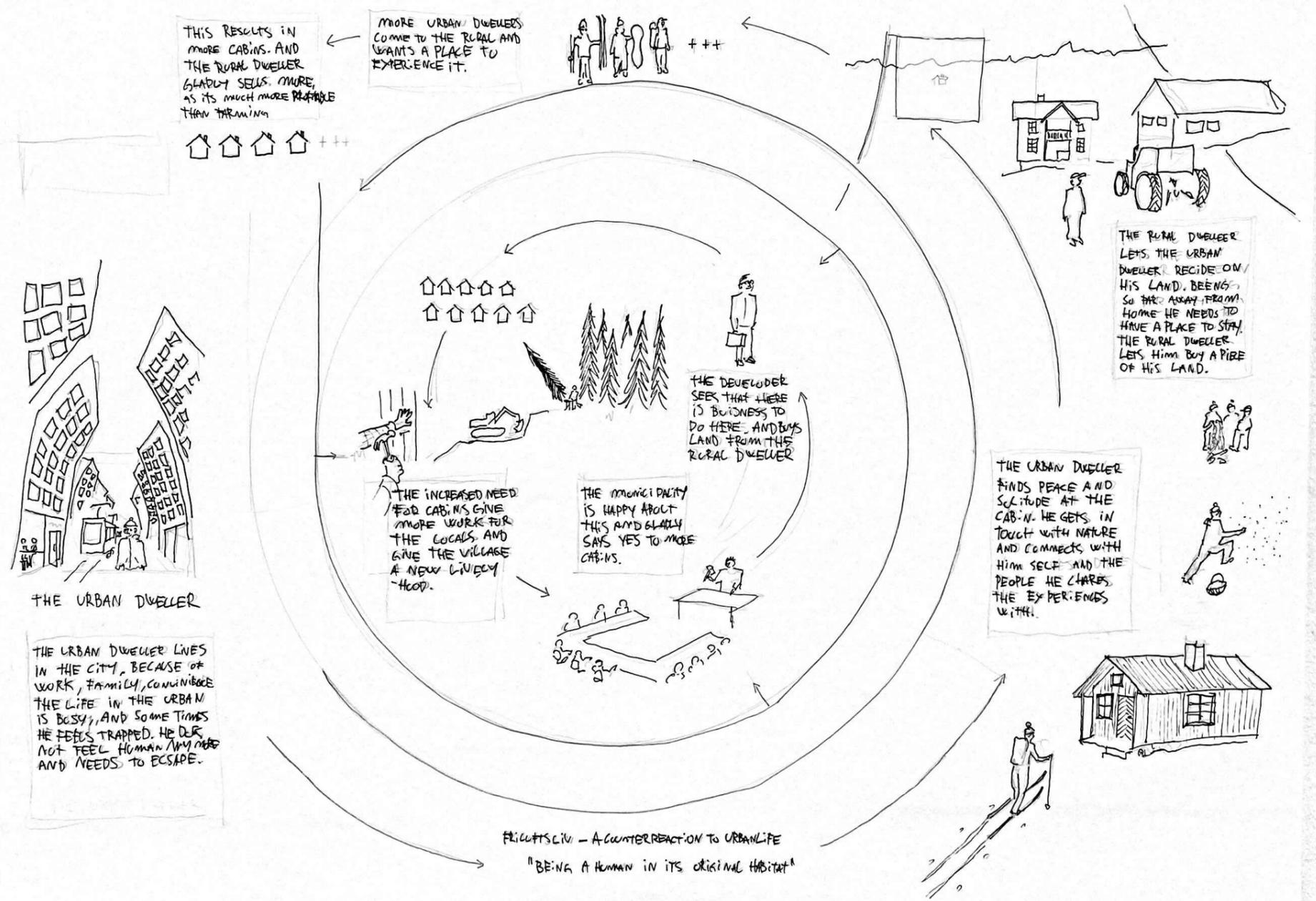




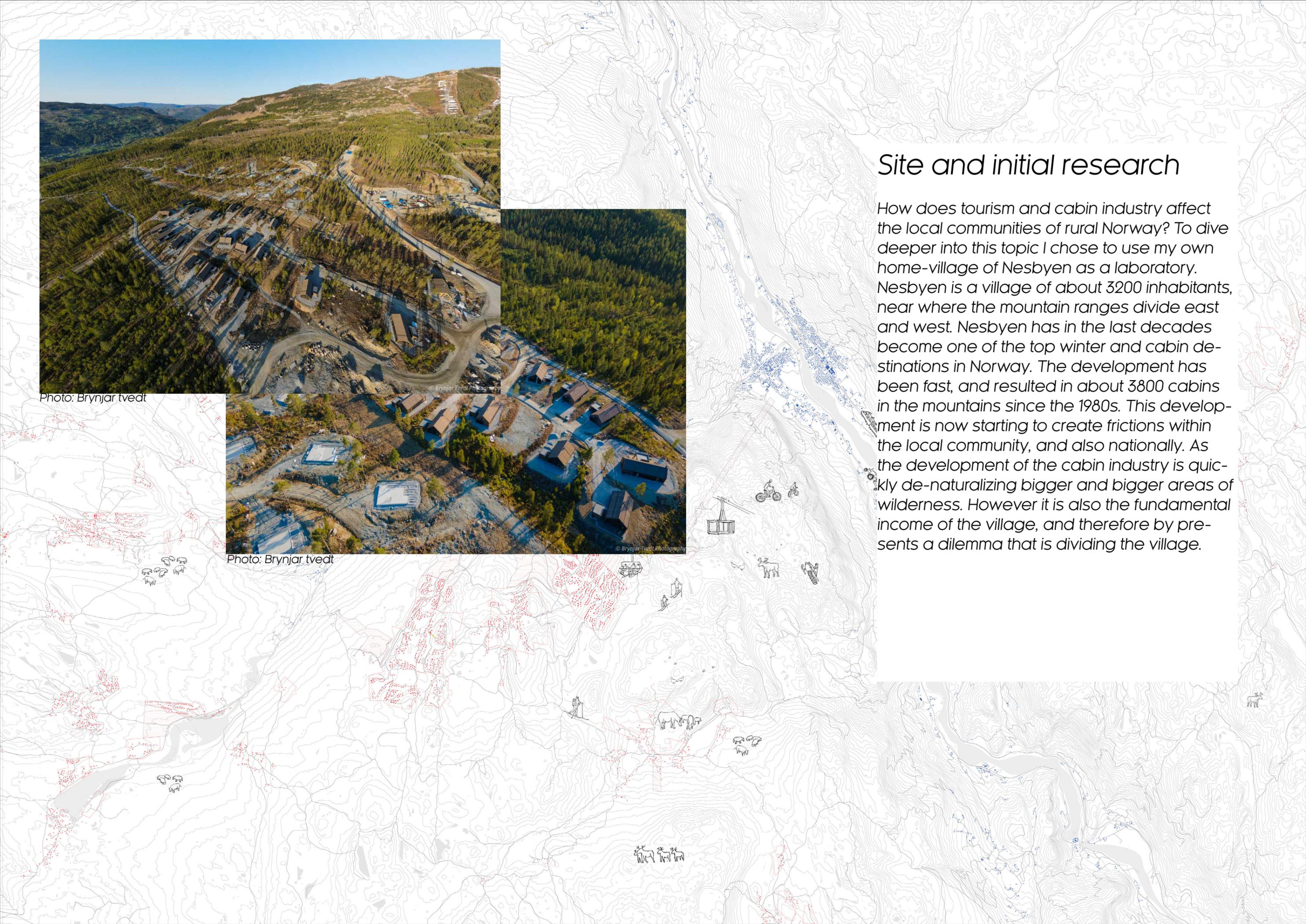
Photo: Brynjar tveit



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Site and initial research

How does tourism and cabin industry affect the local communities of rural Norway? To dive deeper into this topic I chose to use my own home-village of Nesbyen as a laboratory. Nesbyen is a village of about 3200 inhabitants, near where the mountain ranges divide east and west. Nesbyen has in the last decades become one of the top winter and cabin destinations in Norway. The development has been fast, and resulted in about 3800 cabins in the mountains since the 1980s. This development is now starting to create frictions within the local community, and also nationally. As the development of the cabin industry is quickly de-naturalizing bigger and bigger areas of wilderness. However it is also the fundamental income of the village, and therefore by presents a dilemma that is dividing the village.



New and modern ways of using the landscape



Photo: Digitalt museum

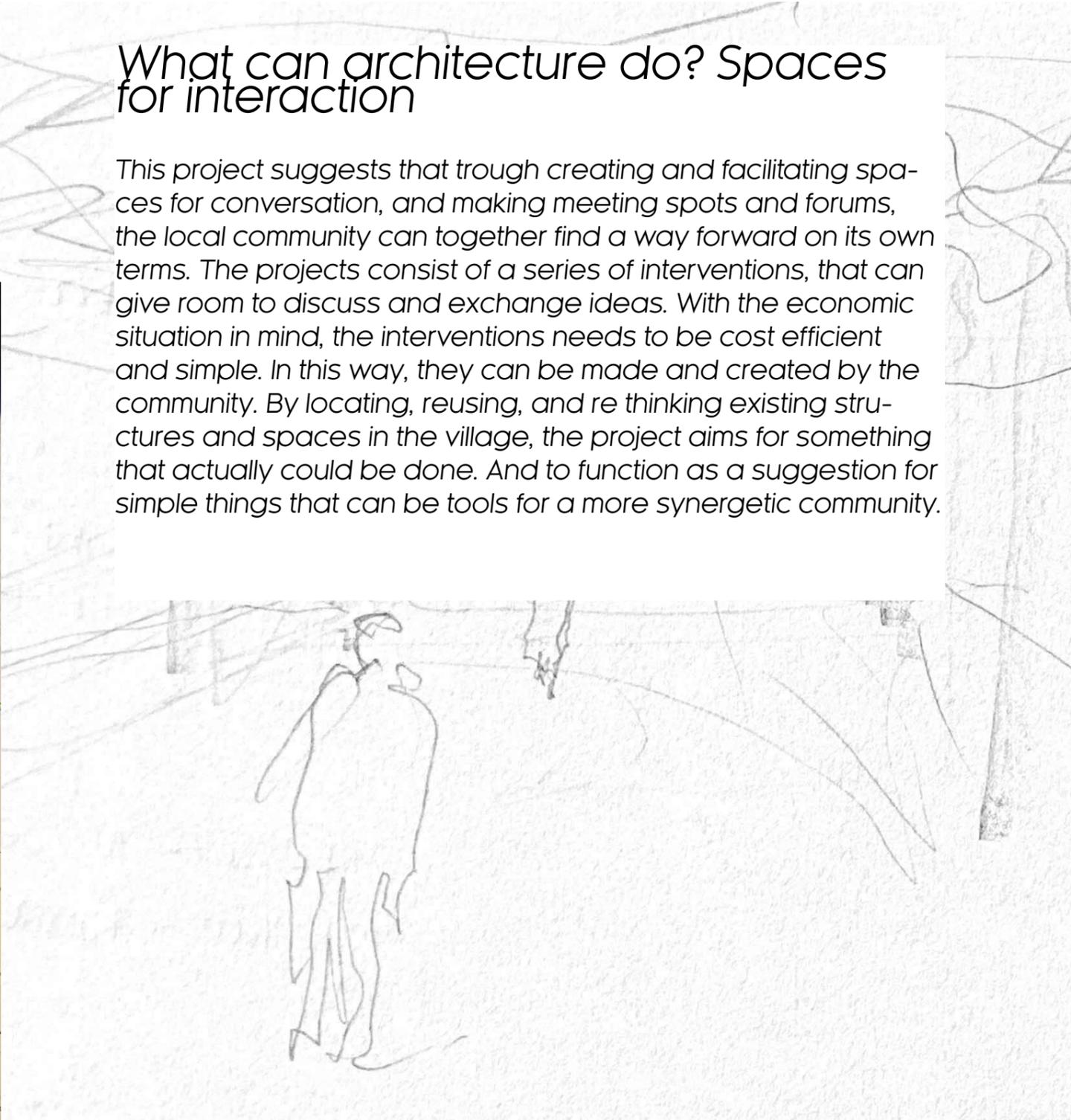


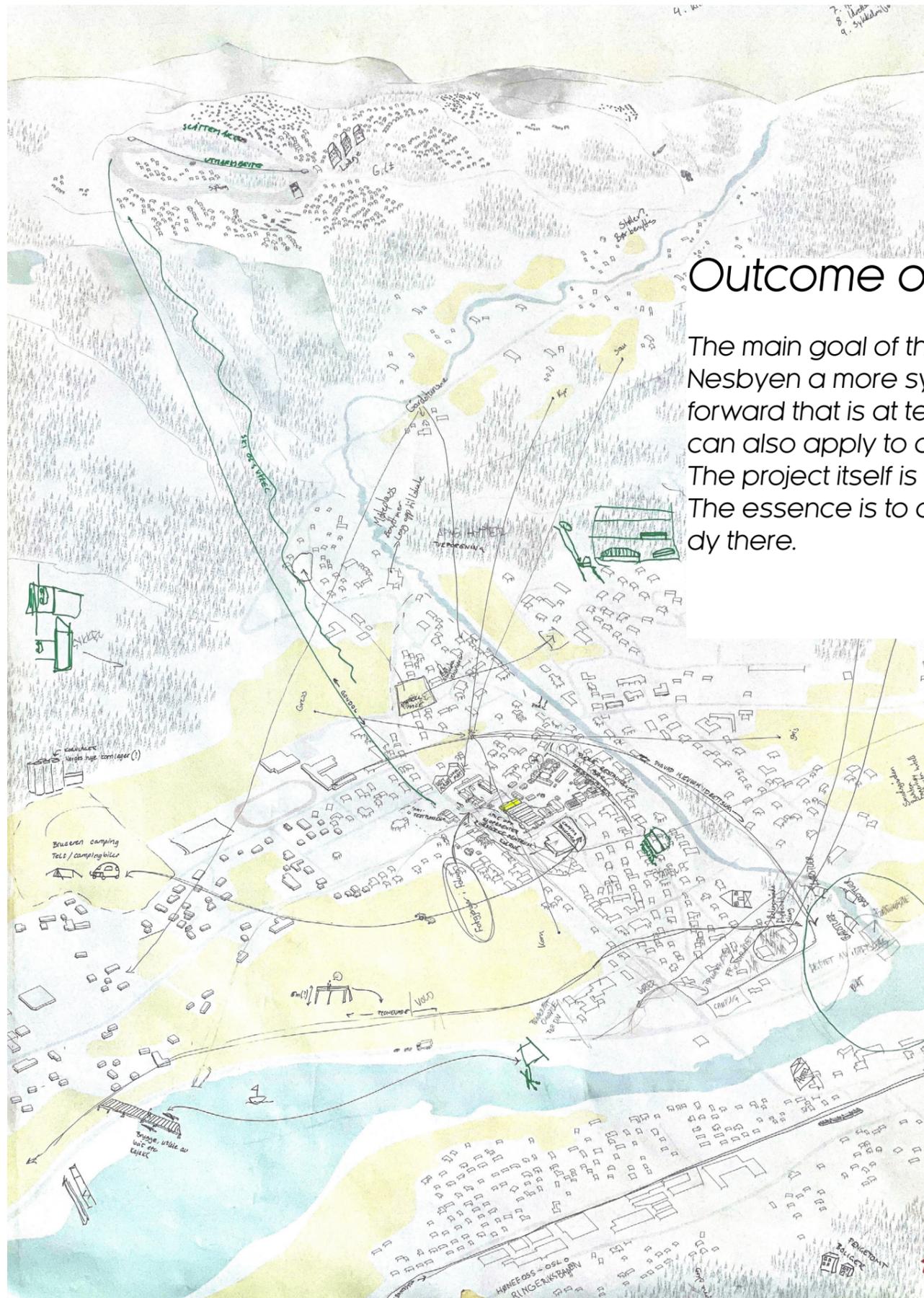
Photo: Hydro/lyse



What can architecture do? Spaces for interaction

This project suggests that through creating and facilitating spaces for conversation, and making meeting spots and forums, the local community can together find a way forward on its own terms. The projects consist of a series of interventions, that can give room to discuss and exchange ideas. With the economic situation in mind, the interventions need to be cost efficient and simple. In this way, they can be made and created by the community. By locating, reusing, and rethinking existing structures and spaces in the village, the project aims for something that actually could be done. And to function as a suggestion for simple things that can be tools for a more synergetic community.





Outcome of project:

The main goal of the project is to suggest simple steps that can contribute to make Nesbyen a more synergetic community. By inviting to think in new ways and find a way forward that is at terms with the communities core values. On an other level, the project can also apply to communities in similar situations, both nationally and internationally. The project itself is not directly transferable, but the methods and tools can be applied. The essence is to create togetherness, while enhancing and rethinking what is already there.

