

# Flørli

A machine to extract something  
from the landscape

Diploma Program  
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# Where

Take a seat on the express boat in the center of Stavanger, Norway's energy capital. As you leave Stavanger, you'll pass by all the old canning factories, the oil museum, and Stavanger's city islands. Onboard the hydrogen-powered express boat, you rush down Høgsfjorden at 35 knots, passing idyllic cabin areas for vacationing locals from Rogaland.

After 20 minutes, you'll pass Forsand, a small town located at the start of Lysefjorden. With great fascination, you'll notice how the landscape drastically changes; the forested islands and cultivated fields give way to bare, vertical cliffs several hundred meters high.



Soon, you'll pass by Fantahåla, where you'll be captivated by the narrow gorge with vertical cliffs surrounding you on all sides. Here, you're not alone; several other tourist boats and RIBs have also found their way in. Your boat continues for a few more minutes and arrives at Preikestolen, the fjord's biggest attraction visited by over 300,000 people annually. The trail up from the back is classified as a national tourist route. From here, you'll also see the Whiskey Falls, a spectacular sight and one of the few waterfalls in the fjord that hasn't been diverted into pipes.



Collage with photos from internet

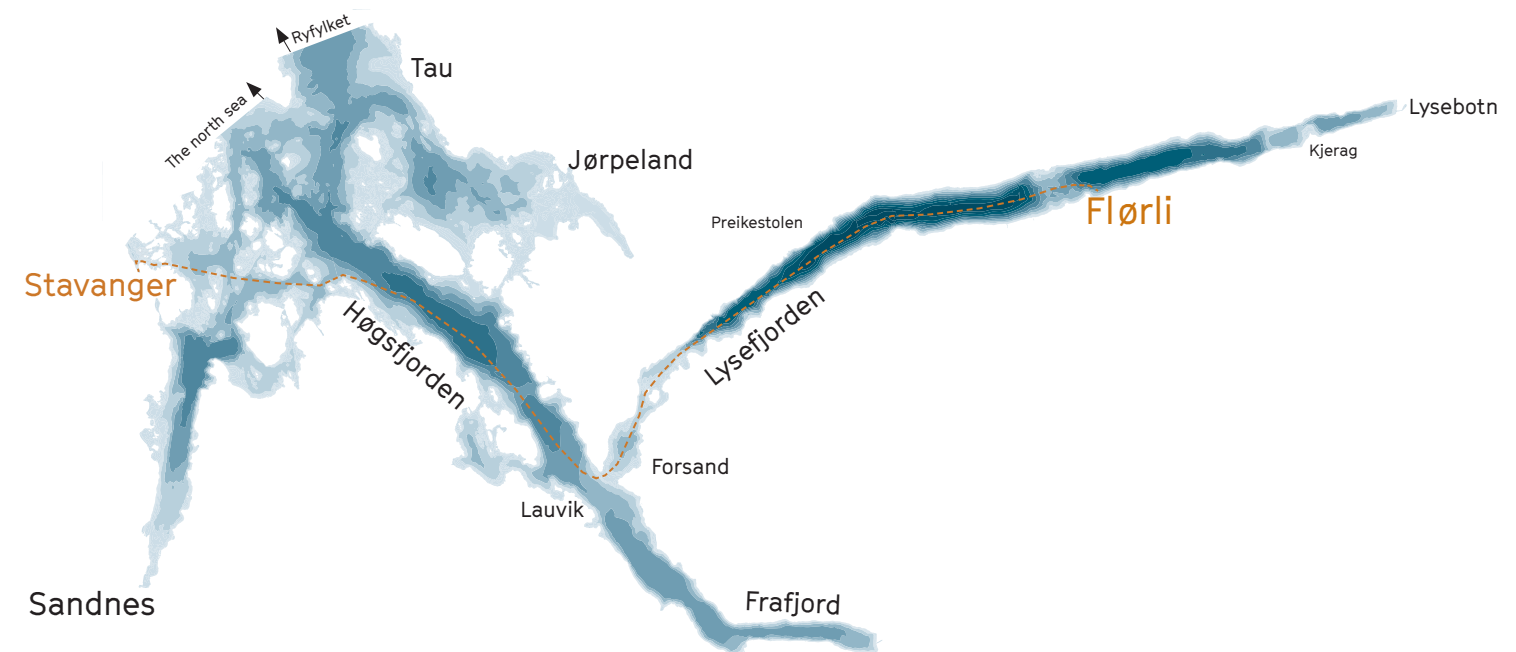


Flørli

As you venture further into the fjord, you'll notice the vertical cliffs gradually giving way to forested hillsides.

After a total of 26 nautical miles and 45 minutes on the fjord, you'll arrive at today's destination, Flørli.

If you had chosen to continue further into the fjord, you would have ended up in Lysebotn. In Lysebotn, you'll find the starting point for the production of large quantities of hydroelectric power. Tourism and hydroelectric power are the two main industries in the fjord, both having significant positive ripple effects but also putting pressure on nature. These two industries are also dominant at today's stop, Flørli.





# About

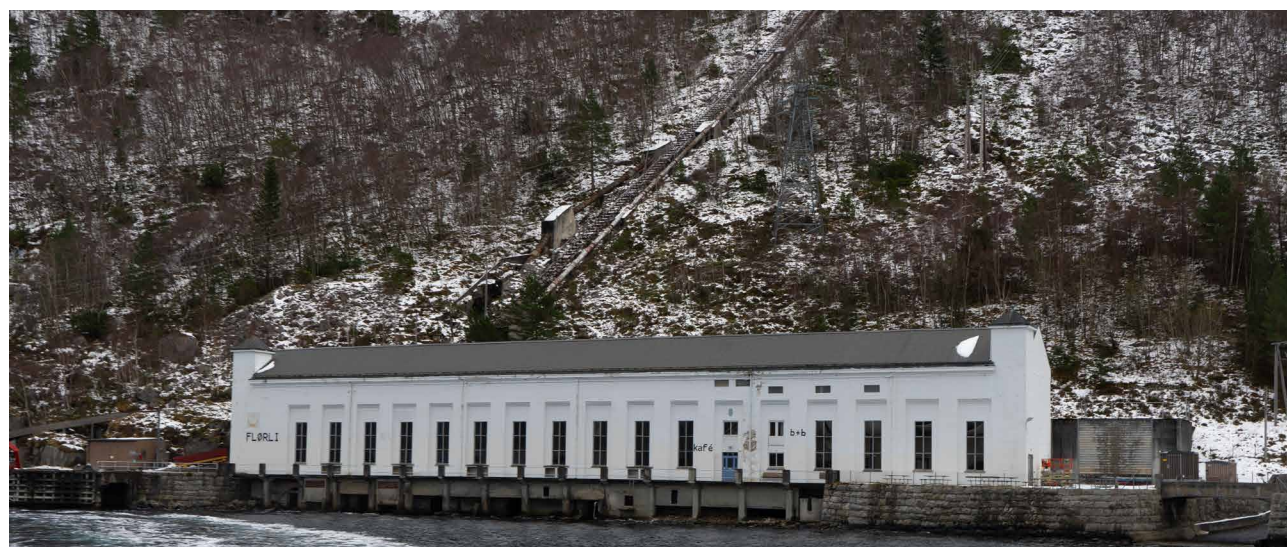
Flørli is a place with an interesting history. It had a modest beginning with a few cautious years between the 1600s and 1900s, with two farms mainly engaged in logging, granite extraction, and cherry cultivation.

At the beginning of the 1900s, everything changed. The river at Flørli was sold. Large pipes, along with Europe's longest wooden stair, were built from an altitude of 700 meters down to the fjord. A large power station was constructed on the shoreline. Over the next 50 years, approximately 15 buildings were erected for the workers, and the power station underwent several expansions, now measuring 80 meters in length. At times, around 50 workers lived at Flørli.

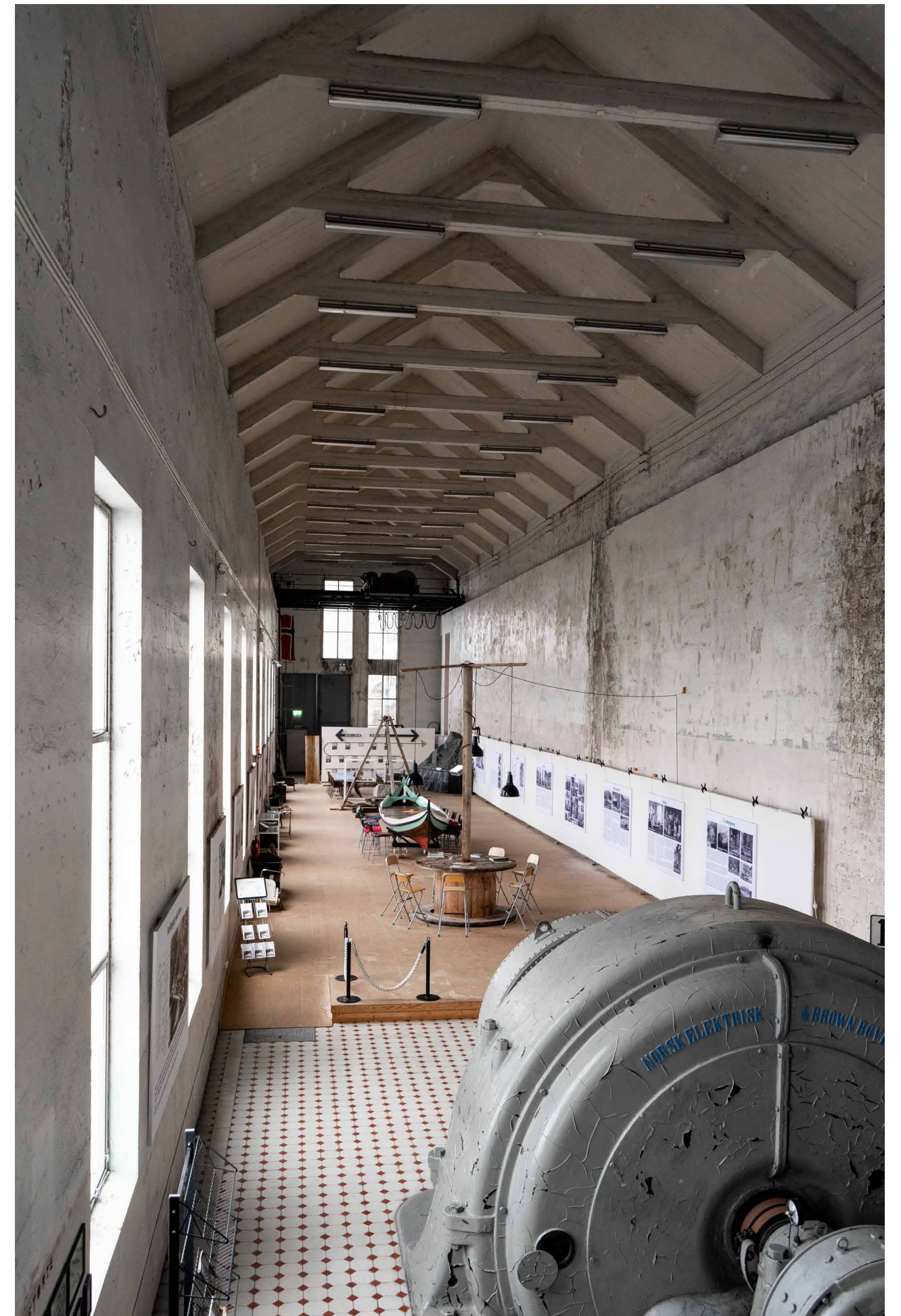
Early in the power plant's history, the municipality of Stavanger became the owner. The power station at Flørli was the second station to provide Stavanger with electricity, playing a significant role in the industrial development of the city, including the electrification of the canning industry.

In 1999, new automated turbines were installed in a hall inside the mountain, rendering the need for permanent residents at Flørli or the large power station unnecessary. The inter-municipal power company, Lyse, was initially tasked with demolishing and removing all traces. However, strong opposition led to the buildings ultimately being transferred to the municipality of Stavanger.

Today, there is one permanent resident at Flørli, Hessel Haker. He has three years left on his ten-year lease of the buildings. During the summer months, Hessel operates a tourist service, renting out some of the old worker accommodations for overnight stays. In the power station, he runs a kiosk, kitchen, souvenir shop, and hosts an exhibition telling the story of Flørli. Life and amenities at Flørli are simple, but hospitality is abundant.



Flørli power station



The turbine hall in the power station



# What makes Flørli worth studying?

There are many qualities and exciting things at Flørli; however, there are also several issues that make Flørli a place worth studying.

For mountain enthusiasts, the Flørli stairs alone are worth the trip into the fjord. Flørli is also a suitable gateway to the beautiful Ryfylke and Fra-fjordheiene. However, what Flørli can offer those coming down from the mountain is limited. It is possible to buy ice cream or a snack, but the facilities feel closed off and disconnected from the outdoor areas and their qualities. Swimming in the river or fjord is also difficult since Flørli's entire shoreline consists of several-meter-high granite walls.

Flørli also has a meeting room. For the business community from the energy capital in Stavanger, this should be an attractive location for meetings or seminars. However, the meeting room is also closed, cramped, and lacks natural light. It also lacks high-quality accommodation. It is difficult to provide a complete experience package for businesses as things stand today.

There have been small art exhibitions and concerts in the power station. But it lacks infrastructure, making it difficult to host larger events and provide a continuous offering.

The hydrogen boat you took to Flørli does not exist. In reality, there is much unpredictability and constant changing of boats and contracts. The boat from Stavanger stopped running a few years ago, and now one must take the boat from Lauvik. The boat service depends on activity in the fjord, and activity depends on a good boat service.

The municipally owned development company Lysefjorden Utvikling aims to develop Flørli into the third major tourist attraction in the fjord, with a new hotel in the power station. This significant and extensive measure will likely impact Flørli's character and identity.

As tourism is a globally increasing trend, the pressure on nature increases. In Lysefjorden, new rental cabins are being built, and tourism is being facilitated. Flørli has much untapped potential that can be suitable for tourism without significant interventions in the landscape.

Since the power operation ceased in 1999, there has been a maintenance backlog.

According to a report from the architectural firm Schjelderup and Gram, this backlog cannot continue for another 20 years. Flørli, in other words, stands at a crossroads.

The power station and its associated buildings are a significant intervention in the landscape. For such a presence in the landscape to be accepted, all potential should be utilized.

## How

The diploma project explores various scenarios for how Flørli can be developed. How can the whole region and boat service be strengthened while still preserving nature? After examining different scenarios, cautious measures are proposed to ensure Flørli's character and identity are preserved.

The old power station is the catalyst for Flørli. Therefore, it has been most natural to delve into this. During the transformation of the power station, several old qualities have resurfaced that had disappeared in later renovations. Some of these qualities have been reintroduced. The somewhat closed-off personality of the power station has been opened up to its surroundings, while some new functions have been added to increase the building's usability.

The process have been a journey from wanting to make extensive interventions to ending up with a few simple measures. These simple measures aim to address the issues mentioned earlier in this document.

*When I visited the host at Flørli, Hessel Haker, in February, he expressed a desire for me to explore the possibility of making the simplest and most cost-effective interventions, contrasting with the plans for a new hotel. I informed him that, unfortunately, this would not happen, as this was to be my last school project, and I did not want to be constrained by budget and realism. After a long process, during which the interventions continually shrank in line with my growing engagement with Flørli, I ended up with a project where I made quite small changes and additions. Through this process, I have discovered that my role as an architect is not to change as much as possible or necessarily introduce new designs. Instead, it is to facilitate and enhance the qualities that already exist.*

