Levanger (NO)

Reveal / Relink / Rebuild

1

Revealing what was already there is the core concept for the urban revitalisation of the historicalwww town of Levanger. Revealing the existing nature, heritage, entrepreneurialism and social values; and make them work together for the sustainable future of the town in 3 complementary scales:

1 / Regional-scale, *connecting Levanger with its natural surroundings*

2 / Urban-scale, *improving mobility and public, walkable and bikeable spaces*

3 / Architectural-scale, *creating a new building for the promotion of culture, society and innovation.*

Revealed landscape

Relinked heritage

Rebuilt future Levanger 2030

Bring nature to the city or bring the city towards nature? Levanger is located in an outstanding natural scene where the waters of Levangerelva river meet Trondheimsfjorden, with unique biodiversity also seen in Ekkbotn and the farmlands along the fjords. However, the current urban development has isolated the urban space from its natural surroundings. Thus, a new walkable and cyclable promenade connects Levanger's historical centre and its nearest neighbourhoods directly to its natural context. ***Showing the hidden natural value can embrace and leverage consciousness for the rich biodiversity and landscape.***

An open-air museum or a livable and dynamic town? The protected status of the town should not be a burden for its development but an opportunity to create a quality urban environment that attracts new inhabitants, businesses and innovation. The new urban strategy seeks to maximise an egalitarian and collaborative use of the public space, preserving and leveraging the historical value of the park area and the town's timber houses. Beyond the physical transformation of the urban space, a *"digital urban twin model"* called ***E-Levanger will show up-to-date information about new events in the town, allowing citizens to book or share indoor and outdoor spaces in historical buildings or courtyards for cultural and educational events or check public transport among others.***

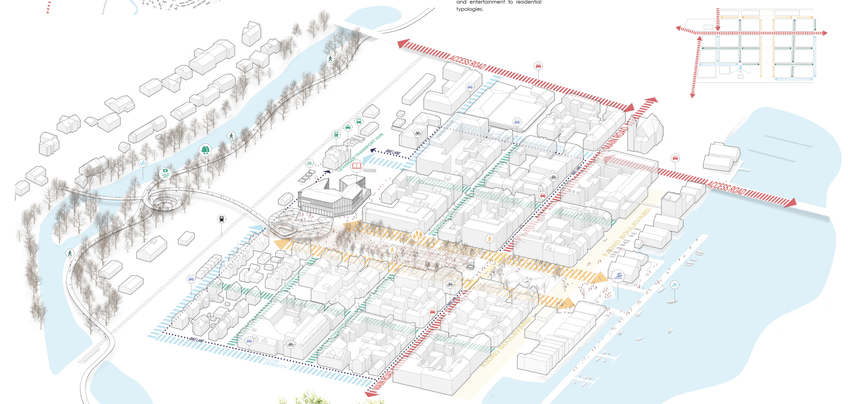
Levanger has the potential to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Unesco, and its urban revitalization is an essential part of leading the town to achieve it. The new urban strategy for Levanger is strongly linked with 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals concerning an equalitarian, collaborative and economically prosperous city; and the protection and promotion of land and water biodiversity. Therefore, ***Levanger 2030 will be a focus of attraction of new businesses and employment, an inclusive and healthy town for all generations and, definitely, a town in harmony with its natural surroundings.***

Tollbugata and Tinggata. Along the Historical Park Axis, two new boulevards will provide a slow-motion but dynamic urban environment.

Holberg Gate and Sverres Gate are the new walkable and cyclable axis of the town. The increased activity at the street level will lead to a diversity of ground floor programs, from new businesses and entertainment to residential typologies.

Torvbrohjolds Gate and Sundgata, keep a reduced and slower car mobility for neighbours and business owners; soft materials and trees improve noise absorption.

Kirkegata, remains as the central town axis, increasing walkable areas and promoting commercial activity.



Levanger (NO)

A New Urban Living Room

2

Open air cinema

Cultural exhibition

Marsimatnan concerts and barraques

Market

14:05 pm - February 2024

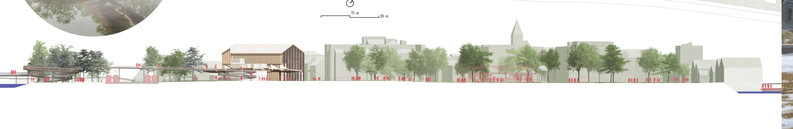
"It's been a long day today, a lot of work, but it seems that the new documentary film project has convinced the developers. How much I enjoy the view from my balcony, watching the people on the Trondheimsfjord promenade before going home with my family. It seems that some others are also ending their day, the orange light reflects on the facades of the houses and some families have started to prepare dinner."

11:00 am - March 2023 - 2 days for Marsimatnan

"The town is thriving! Soon we will celebrate Marsimatnan, our most beloved festival and the best time in the year to show our visitors the cultural and gastronomic richness of the town. Levanger's harbour is hosting an exhibition of the latest media and film projects; all our startups, students, and independent citizens are invited to participate and be there. The installation, designed collaboratively between the youngest and oldest people of the town, is almost finished!"

10:00 am - October 2023

"All my friends, my family and I were waiting for this moment in front of our new Library. It's been a long and hard work, but it was worth it. The Library is not only it's going to be a major event, with exhibitions and a guided visit of the renovated old timber house that will host a permanent collection of art made by young Norwegian artists. What's more, every neighbour is bringing a homemade meal or cake, so there will be plenty of food to share!"

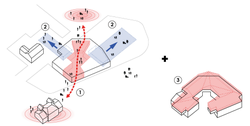


Levanger (NO)

Media Evolution Hub

3

" A new space for culture, events, social relations, learning, entrepreneurialism and innovation. Beyond a new public facility, the project aims to make Levanger the new hub for media production in Norway, joining together tradition and heritage, with economic and knowledge prosperity."



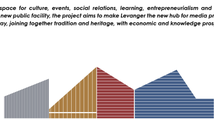
Conection, expansion, activation

Three main concepts define the new library and cultural hub for the town:

1 / Connection of the railway infrastructure with the historical park axis. The volumetry of the building reveals a natural urban connection between the train station and Levanger's historical park.

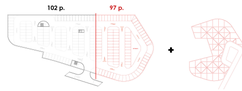
2 / Program typology and expansion towards the public space. The ground floor of the building is conceived as an open and flexible multipurpose program with the capacity to be extended outdoors. Thus, activating its immediate surroundings and leveraging the urban quality.

3 / Culture and knowledge: Levanger's identity. The library is located on the upper level at the same height as the town hall. A new urban reference for the promotion of culture and knowledge.



Tradition & Innovation

How do we merge tradition and innovation? The new building construction system is based on the interpretation of the traditional construction timber systems of Levanger, seeking to create a building that relates and integrates into the currently listed heritage site. While **promoting local employment and crafts, technology and industrialised manufacturing processes**, very well developed in Norway, will reduce the project's carbon footprint, optimise the construction process, and adjust the budget to the needs of Levanger's citizens.



Step by step transformation

The area of the new library and cultural centre of Levanger is conceived in two different phases.:

Phase 1 / The first phase conceives the new town library and cultural centre, an underground parking for 122 cars, and the renovation of the town hall back courtyard as the a "square for arts".

Phase 2 / The second phase includes constructing the covered agora on the Prinsensgate/ cyclable bridge promenade that connects the park city axis with the residential area of Arkeaim above the river and the rail tracks. Finally, an optional extension of the underground parking for 97 cars can be developed.