

Re:Frame

A new museum model for Leüthenhaven, Trondheim



Re:Connect!

The proposal reimagines the museum not as an isolated monument, but as a vital urban catalyst deeply woven into the everyday life of Trondheim. It reconnects the museum typology to the city, transforming Leüthenhaven from a fragmented pocket into a porous cultural landscape.

- Re:Connect! Urban Strategy:**
- Urban Porosity:** Inviting pedestrians, facilitating urban flow, and creating visible and tangible connections.
 - Active Ground Floor:** Urban activation and inclusive everyday life through transparent and inviting ground-level functions.
 - Soft Borders:** Blurring thresholds between inside and outside, fostering continuous activation and public accessibility.
 - Local Anchoring:** Strengthening local identity, placemaking, and historical continuity through thoughtful spatial interventions.

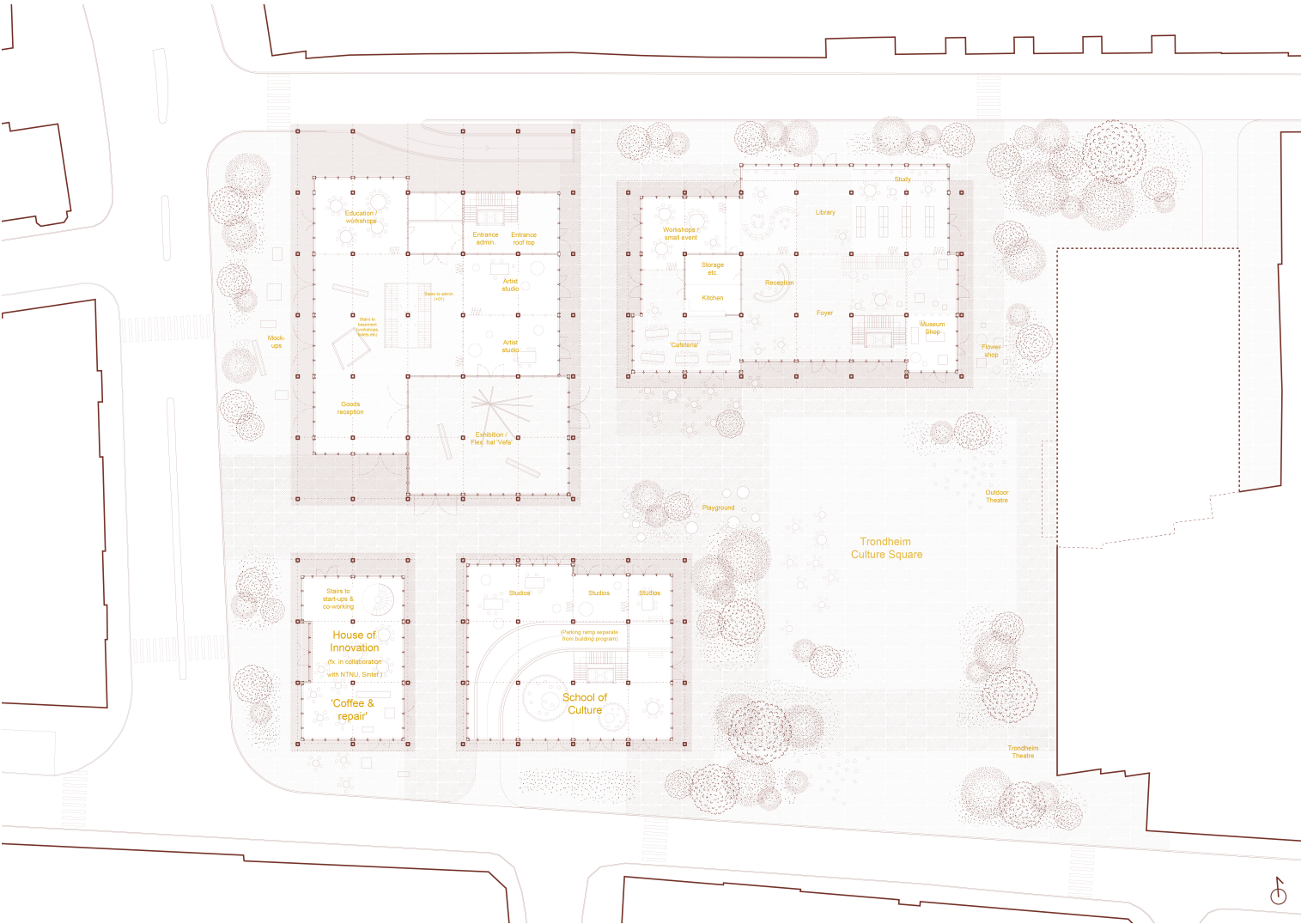
ReFrame proposes a fundamental shift in how a museum can exist within the city. Instead of a static monument set apart from urban life, the project envisions the museum as civic infrastructure: open, flexible, and deeply intertwined with Trondheim's social, cultural, and urban systems.

The name itself carries significance: etymologically, 'Re-' means again - a gesture of return, renewal, and resilience. In ReFrame, it signals a museum continuously redefining itself, embracing the possibility of constant negotiation of its role as both cultural institution, democratic platform and urban actor.

At its core lies the conviction that the museum should be an inclusive and dynamic environment. It is a place not only for preserving art but for making, dialogue, and encounter - a public space where difference can coexist, where new cultural forms can emerge, and where architecture itself invites participation and change.

The proposal takes shape through three interconnected concepts and strategies - Re:Connect, Re:Form, and Re:Act - that together define both the project's values and its design logic. They serve simultaneously as both a strategic vision and a practical framework, translating ambitions of openness, adaptability, and participation into urban, spatial and social forms.

Across all scales, ReFrame aspires to dissolve barriers between institution and city, between inside and outside, and between observer and participant. It rejects the notion of the museum as a finished object, proposing instead a living framework - an architecture of possibilities. It imagines the museum as an evolving civic platform, capable of responding to unknown futures and rooted in the belief that culture is not static, but something we continuously create together.



Re:Form!

Architecturally, the proposal challenges the historical museum typology - typically static, monumental, and closed - by introducing a responsive, flexible, and open spatial logic. Rather than imposing fixed forms, the ReFrame museum creates conditions for flexibility, adaptation, and collective authorship. It imagines the museum not as a finished object, but as a living framework prepared to evolve, adapt, and respond to shifting cultural practices and emerging community needs.

- Re:Form Architectural Strategy:**
- Adaptive Re-use:** Building thoughtfully upon existing structures, taking the parking garage as the foundational layer for the new museum.
 - Flexible Modularity:** Employing a modular timber framework designed to accommodate evolving programs, curatorial practices, and changing use.
 - Local Heritage and Material Care:** Reinterpreting Trondheim's architectural traditions and embracing regenerative, biogenic, and reclaimed materials to reflect responsibility and care.

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Adaptive Re-use - Using What We Have: Instead of demolishing the existing parking structure, the museum carefully integrates itself into the inherited concrete grid. By introducing strategically placed timber structures, the existing grid becomes the guiding technical principle for the new museum. This intervention allows the parking garage to remain operational, with integrated access points to reduce the visible impact of vehicles on the site. Through this approach, the museum both preserves resources and derives architectural meaning from what already exists, demonstrating value and care through adaptive reuse.

Flexible Modularity - Structures of Possibility: Rejecting the fixed forms of monumentality, the museum clearly articulated modular timber framework offers an honest technic expression. Its structural and spatial logic easily adapts, expands, or contracts, allowing dynamic curatorial strategies and future programmatic transformations. Movable partitions, double-height spaces, multiple access points and reconfigurable spatial sequences, support diverse use - from traditional

exhibitions to collective making, public performances, or community workshops. Inspired by ideas of co-creating and participatory design, the architecture becomes agile civic infrastructure, enabling continuous user involvement and adaptation over time.

Local Heritage and Material Care: The proposal draws inspiration from Trondheim's architectural traditions, reinterpreting familiar forms and techniques to shape a museum deeply rooted in the given place. Elements such as visible timber structures, overhanging roofs, and expressive wooden pillars echo the region's historical wooden architecture, yet are reimagined and reinterpreted.

The design prioritizes biogenic materials, including locally sourced timber, and reclaimed elements from site demolitions. Beyond performance or aesthetic choice, these decisions communicate greater care, circularity, and regenerative principles. Exposed timber joints, visible construction methods, and honest detailing celebrate the act of building, inviting repair, modification, and renewal. Design for disassembly



Re:Act!

Moving away from the museum as a static archive for passive observation, ReFrame proposes an alternative model of cultural engagement - active, open, and co-created. As the project's strategy for participation, Re:Act embeds involvement into the very stages of the museum's making. It invites users to take part from day one - through building, testing, growing, and imagining together.

- Re:Act Activation Strategy**
- Early Activation and Urban Temporality:** Initiating civic anchoring from day one through temporary programs, visible construction, and transitional use of existing structures.
 - Participatory Making:** Embedding art as a shared, meaningful practice - grounded in use, material presence, and collective authorship.

Participatory Making - Collective Processes, Collective Form

For ReFrame, art is not only isolated behind a scenic glass - it spills into workshops, public spaces, and urban life. The museum becomes a space for making, testing, discussing, and performing. Artistic practice is understood as a shared, situated process, where experimentation is valued over restoration, and dialogue over display. The museum becomes a space for collective experimentation, where physical boundaries between artist, maker, and user dissolve through shared acts of creation.

The intention is that user involvement, art, and making are not only processes, but also materially present in the architecture itself. The proposal introduces a new form of facade-cidling - where shaping together becomes both method and expression. Through participatory workshops, Trondheim residents are invited to leave their personal marks on the museum-to-be facade: singlets are inscribed and marked by local hands, emphasizing the value of making, creating, and shared expression. It reflects not a singular author's vision, but a shared commitment - rooted in local presence and storytelling as a collective act.

Plurality - Many Users, Many Rhythms: Through a richness of program and different users and institutions, the plot supports activity across different times of the day, seasons, and user groups. Institutional boundaries are softened, allowing collaboration between art, education, research, and civic life. Spaces remain adaptable, welcoming spontaneous events and slow, evolving uses alike. This multiplicity strengthens local networks and fosters exchange and an active urban life.

The proposal reframes the museum not as a finished object, but as a dynamic civic framework. Its architecture is incomplete by design - inviting dialogue, participation, and transformation. The museum remains open - ready to evolve with new ideas, new voices, and the unknown future.

A facade made by the city

Inviting citizens to leave personal marks that transform the architecture into a shared story of Trondheim's identity and future - making user involvement visible, physical, and part of the building itself.

1. Make a drawing!
2. Leave a mark!
3. Mount it!



Shaping Together

A framework for collective development

