



View from Erling Skakkes gate

LEÜTHENHAVEN RECLAIMED

A shared ground for art and community

Urban structure as idea

Trondheim was planned as a city of blocks, with straight streets and a structured grid. Yet the city is experienced through its in-between spaces, passageways, and courtyards. Especially in the historic city center (Midtbyen), there exists a network of informal connections - narrow alleys and lanes that have housed workshops, marketplaces, and semi-private zones. This blend of public and private gives the city its distinctive character, where an active and diverse ground level plays a central role.

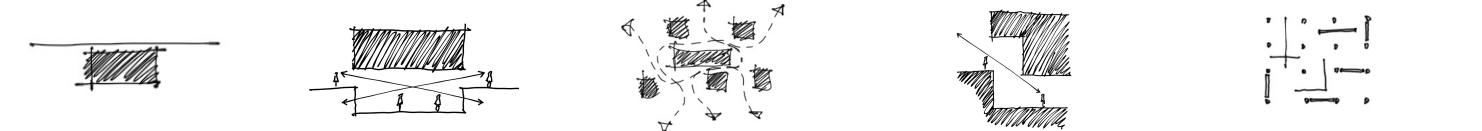
The project builds upon and reinforces this urban logic. Instead of erecting a new, closed museum building, we place the museum underground and gives the ground level to the city. Above ground, the spaces are activated with pavilions, shops, workshops, and meeting places with varying degrees of openness. The result is a porous and dynamic urban landscape, where the museum is not a monument, but a platform for movement, activity, and community.

The museum's role

The museum at Leutnenhaven is not just a venue for displaying art, but a place for sharing, production, and dialogue. It aims to engage a broader audience and open up to multiple perspectives and voices. For this reason, we have integrated workshops, educational actors, and creative communities that together form a cultural hub. Here, new connections emerge - between institutions, between professionals and informal users, and between art and everyday life. The museum becomes a meeting place that invites participation - across age, experience, and background.

A building for the next 100 years

The museum is designed to remain relevant over the long term, with change as a fundamental condition. A clear distinction is made between the fixed structure and movable content, allowing spaces to adapt to new needs, audiences, and future formats for art and civic engagement. The former parking basement is transformed into flexible exhibition spaces, while the ground level provides room for a shifting program in step with the city's evolution. This is not a finished answer, but an open framework for future use and collective development.



01. The museum below

The existing underground parking is transformed into the museum's main volume, housing galleries, exhibition spaces, and support functions. This creates flexible, high-quality spaces while freeing the ground level for the city. Below ground, the museum offers a varied spatial experience that unfolds as you move through it. Some rooms are dark and enclosed; others open with large skylights bringing in daylight and views of the city above. In some areas, exhibitions are visible from the ground level, inviting the city into the museum and the museum out into the city.
02. A multipurpose room as a Connecting link

At the core of the underground museum is a large, ticket-free multipurpose space serving as an orientation point, meeting place, and entrance. This shared public floor connects vertically to the ground level, strengthening the link between city and museum. From here, two routes begin: one flexible and temporary, the other for the permanent collection. The space supports production, debate, performances, and events, acting as a social and cultural hub that belongs to both museum and city - reflecting the project's goal of openness, accessibility, and urban dialogue.
03. A porous and active ground floor

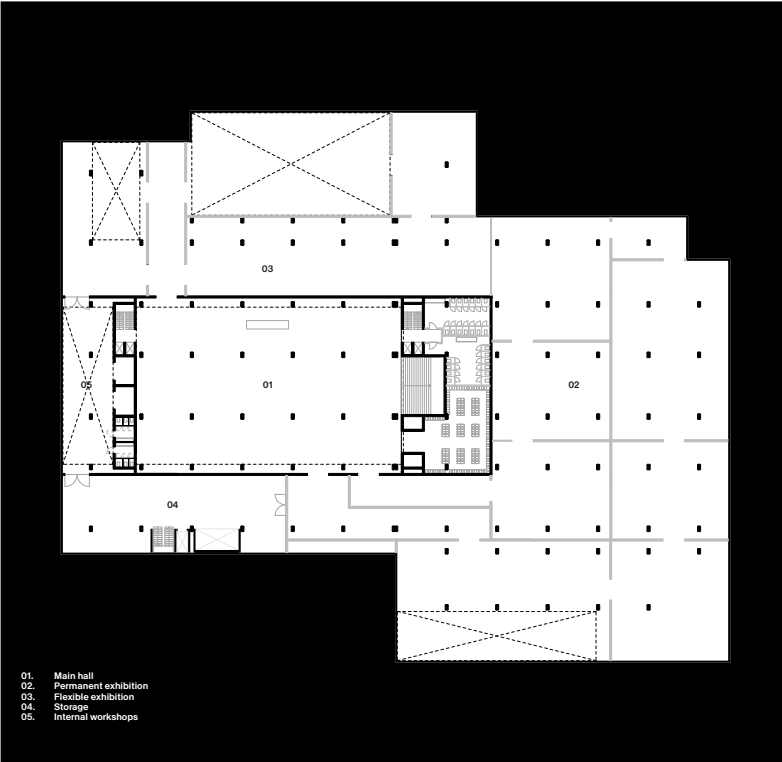
The ground level hosts workshops, educational spaces, meeting areas, and public functions that connect to the city. Its open, permeable structure draws inspiration from Trondheim's historic blocks and passageways. New connections link the site to nearby urban spaces, streets, and Trøndelag Teater, encouraging shared use and audience flow between stage and museum. Outdoor areas feature plazas with varied characters-some quiet and intimate, others active with screenings, pop-ups, and workshops. Informal activities coexist with curated events. Together, the ground level creates a new public layer in the city-a porous transition between art and daily life, institution and urban space.
04. Vertical contact

The museum opens up to the city through clearly defined stairways and light wells that connect the ground level with the underground floor. These features invite passersby to glimpse both public spaces and behind-the-scenes work usually hidden from view. By revealing the museum's inner activities, the design fosters transparency and engagement. The vertical connections provide orientation, spark curiosity, and make the museum's presence visible as an integral part of the urban fabric.
05. Adaptable and inclusive

The project is designed as a lasting structure intended to accommodate evolving content and uses over time. Its flexible spaces can be easily adapted to meet new needs, different users, and emerging ideas, ensuring the building remains relevant far into the future. The design encourages active participation and shared ownership, fostering a strong connection between the building and the community it serves. Rather than trying to predict the future, the project aims to create a resilient and open framework that can adapt to future changes.



Main hall



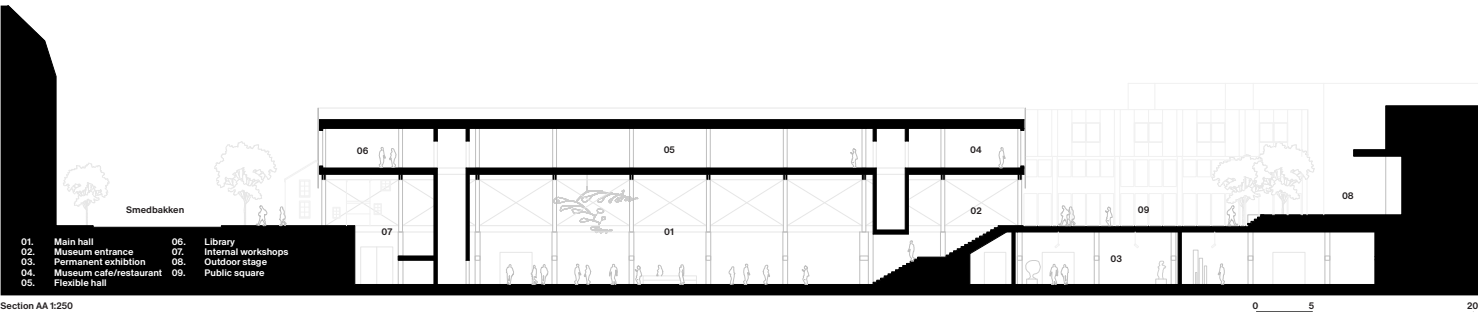
Plan U - 1400



Permanent exhibition space, Hanna Ryggén



Flexible exhibition space



Section AA 1250



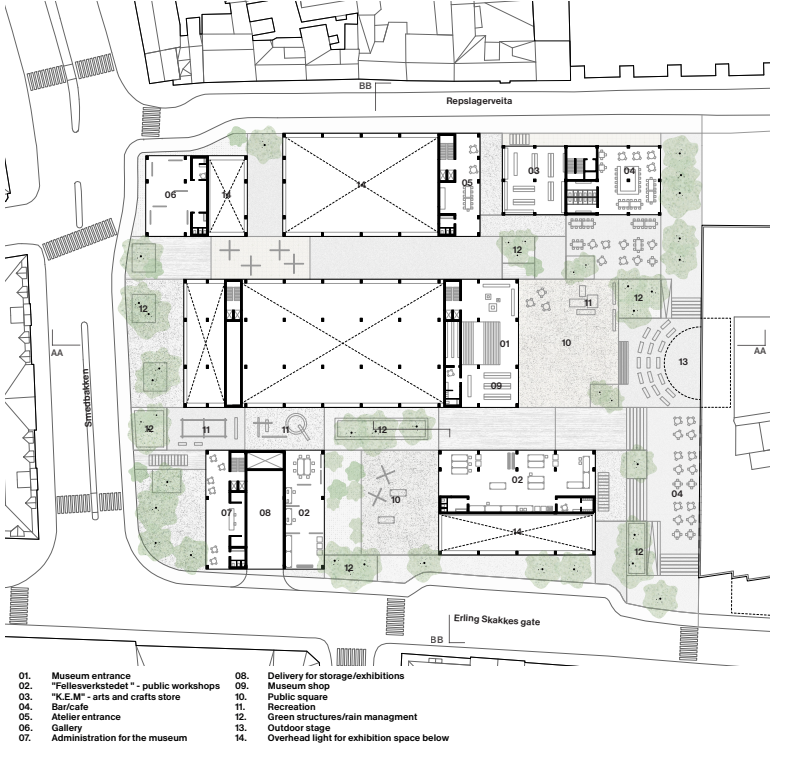
Flexible museum hall



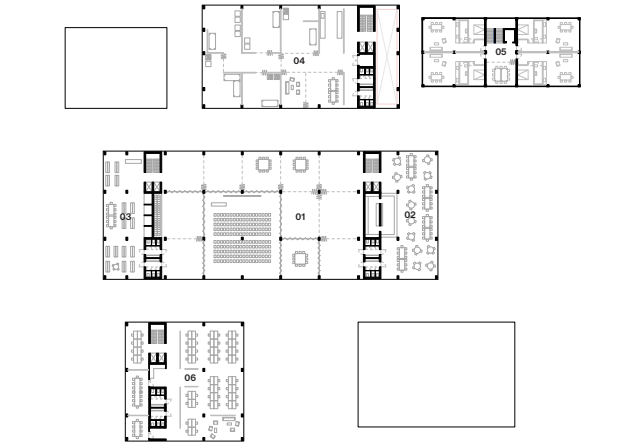
Public shared workshop open to the main square



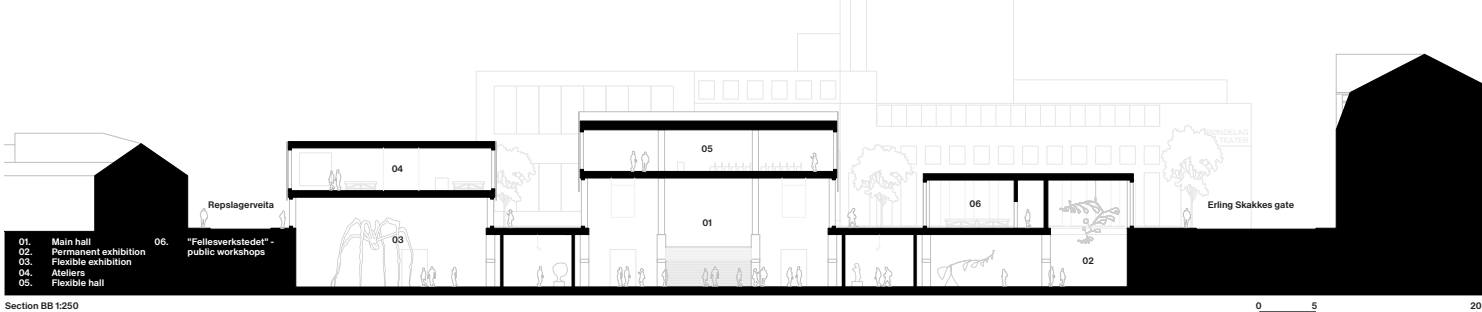
Internal workshop



Plan 1 - 1500



Plan 2 - 1500



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