



EUROPAN  
NORWAY

# PRODUCTIVE CITIES



**THE NORWEGIAN EUROPAN 14 JURY REPORT**

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# 1 European 14 – competition

EUROPAN is an idea competition bringing together European cities and young urban and architectural design professionals. The competition spans over a two-year period in which over 40 European cities and over 1000 teams are involved. The entries are judged by national juries composed of specialists in the field of architecture and urbanism.

The competition serves a dual purpose: it offers cities and developers new and innovative solutions to local urban planning and development, and provides an opportunity for young architects to get commissions by presenting new ideas. These two functions combined create a platform for ongoing debate and research on the spatial framework of the European society.

In European 14 there were 44 sites from 13 different European countries. The Norwegian sites were Lillestrøm, Narvik og Alta.

The theme of European 14 was Productive Cities. European 14 was organized in 2016 – 2017.

# 1.1 Organizers

European Norway organized the competition in collaboration with: the national railway company BaneNOR Eiendom, property developers Aspelin Ramm Lillestrøm AS, and the municipality of Skedsmo in **Lillestrøm**, the municipal property company Narvikgården AS and the municipality of Narvik in **Narvik**, and the municipality of Alta and Alta Skiferbrudd SA in **Alta**, together with European Norway.

# 1.2 Jury

**Hilde Bøkestad**, (Leader of the jury) Architect, Head of City Planning, Trondheim Municipality (NO)

**Gerrit Mosebach**, Architect and urban planner, Chief Architect in Dept. of Planning and Building Services, City of Oslo (NO)

**Kaye Geipel**, Architect and urban planner, Editor-in-chief of the magazines 'Bauwelt' and 'Stadtbauwelt' (DE)

**Catherine Mosbach**, Landscape designer, Mosbach Paysagistes (FR)

**Anthony Engi Meacock**, Architect, Assemble Studio (BR)

**Maria Ramild Crammond**, Architect, Tegnestuen Vandkunsten. Winner European 13 (Ørsta, Norway) (DK)

**Gøril Forbord**, Business developer, Trønder Energi (NO)

## SUBSTITUTES

**Eli Grønn**, Architect, Dyrvik Architects, Oslo. Winner E9 (Sion, Switzerland), Runner-up E13 (Irun, Spain), Runner-Up E11 (Oslo, Norway)

## SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Site representatives that participated in the first jury meeting with one vote each:

Anne-Siiri Øyasæter, property developer, BaneNOR Eiendom

Eirik Djupvik, project developer, Narvikgården AS

Nadine Ekløf, Architect, City Planning Department of Alta Municipality

# 1.2 Registrations and submission of the entries

European Norway received in total 94 registrations on the three sites, there was a total of 1353 registrations for the entire European 14 competition.

The entries were submitted digitally through the european-europe.eu web site.

Lillestrøm received 18 entries, Narvik 27 and Alta 28 entries. European Norway received a total of 73 entries. The entire European 14 competition received a total of 1003 entries.

## 2 Results of the Competition

### 2.1 The decision of the jury

The jury met twice. The first meeting was held in the cities of Lillestrøm, Narvik and Alta in September 13–15th, 2017. At this meeting, in accordance with the competition rules, the jury made a preselection of the best entries (Lillestrøm 5 entries, Narvik 6 entries and Alta 6 entries). In the selection of these projects, the jury emphasized proposals that presented a relevant and innovative reflection on the theme 'Productive Cities', that showed a clear understanding of the assignment and the site. The jury members had access to all submitted entries, the meeting took place at the exhibitions of the entries in each city and the selection procedure were conducted with rounds of eliminating projects.

The second jury meeting was held in Helsinki on November 22nd, 2017. The jury members had access to the preselected projects in each city and the selection procedure were conducted with rounds of ranking the projects.

The jury decided to distribute the first prize, runner-up and special mention in each city as follows:

#### LILLESTRØM

Winner	12 000 €	VT667	The Living City
Runner-up	6000 €	PA352	Techno Monks
Special mention		EA960	Fictions

#### NARVIK

Winner	12 000 €	XS685	On Reflection
Runner-up	6000 €	J1141	The Ecology of Making
Special mention		BQ880	From Backyards to Courtyards

#### ALTA

Winner	12 000 €	XG932	Tanca
Runner-up	6000 €	GF895	Re-Meaning
Special mention		QI931	Busy Bosse!
Special mention		VG014	Hydro Therapy

## 2.2 Authors of the awarded entries

### LILLESTRØM

#### **Winner 12 000 €**

Authors

Collaborators

#### **VT667 The Living City**

Joakim Skajaa (NO), architect  
Cathrine Finnema (NO), architect  
Lisa Angelica Barohana (NO), architect  
Oda Solberg (NO), architect  
Kristoffer Røgeberg (NO), student in architecture

#### **Runner-up 6000 €**

Authors

Collaborators

#### **PA352 Techno Monks**

Charlotte Hansson (SE), architect  
Christiana Pitsillidou (NO), architect  
Luis Callejas (CO), architect

#### **Special mention**

Author

#### **EA960 Fictions**

Albert Palazon (ES), architect

### NARVIK

#### **Winner 12 000 €**

Authors

#### **XS685 On Reflection**

Martin Berg (SE), architect  
Matilda Schuman (SE), architect

#### **Runner-up 6000 €**

Authors

#### **Jl141 The Ecology of Making**

Dominique Hauderowicz (DK), architect  
Kristian Lyserena (DK), architect

#### **Special mention**

Authors

#### **BQ880 From Backyards to Courtyards**

Márton Tövissi (RO), architect  
Mihai Buse (FR), architect  
Boris Girin (FR), architect  
Etienne Haller (FR), landscape architect  
Elinor Scarth (GB), landscape architect  
Emöke Forró (RO), interior architect

# ALTA

## **Winner 12 000 €**

Authors

Collaborators

## **XG932 Tanca**

Pietro Colonna (IT), architect

Maureen Soupe (RE), student in architecture

Enrico Zetti (IT), student in architecture

## **Runner-up 6000 €**

Authors

## **GF895 Re-Meaning**

Pablo menendez (ES), architect

Héctor termenón (ES), architect

Ignacio Pérez (ES), architect

## **Special mention**

Author

Collaborators

## **QI931 Busy Bosse!**

Tin Phan (NO), architectural and urban theorist

Eakapob Huangthanapan (TH), architect urbanist

Wai Fung Chu (HK), architect

## **Special mention**

Authors

## **VG014 Hydro Therapy**

Victor Maréchal (FR), architecte

Maria Fernanda Serna (CO), landscape architect



# 3 LILLESTRØM

## 3.1 General remarks by the jury

The site, Nesa, is situated close to the city center of Lillestrøm that has a strategic position in the Oslo-region. Nesa is currently used as an industrial area where several productive and growing companies are situated. The area is a natural extension of the urban fabric, and is connected to the beautiful landscape Sørumsneset Nature Reserve, where the river Nitelva meets Glomma, the largest river of Norway.

The assignment of the site in Lillestrøm was to develop a masterplan for a productive, multifunctional urban area in the project site and to suggest connections to the city center through the study area.

The 18 proposals presented a wide range of strategies and solutions. Since the program implied for the existing chemical industry to be relocated in the future, most of the entries had looked for a new starting point for activities either based on local resources, knowledge industry or just to find a good layout for a masterplan. Because of the size of the area, and the long-term perspective of the urban development, the jury found the entries that focused on a step-by-step strategy more interesting than demolishing all or most of the existing structures to be able to realize the urban concept. The jury was also interested in the good ideas for the western side of the area, because of its potential as a trigger point for development.

The jury discussed if the premises of the task could be questioned - if the chemical industry can become so clean and silent that it is possible to see this type of activity as a fully integrated part of the urban fabric of Lillestrøm. If so, it could be possible to bring the different stakeholders and authorities together to look for solutions where the future relocation of the industry is delayed and instead is challenged to adapt and innovate to keep jobs and knowledge in Lillestrøm as a local value.





## 3.2 Proposals

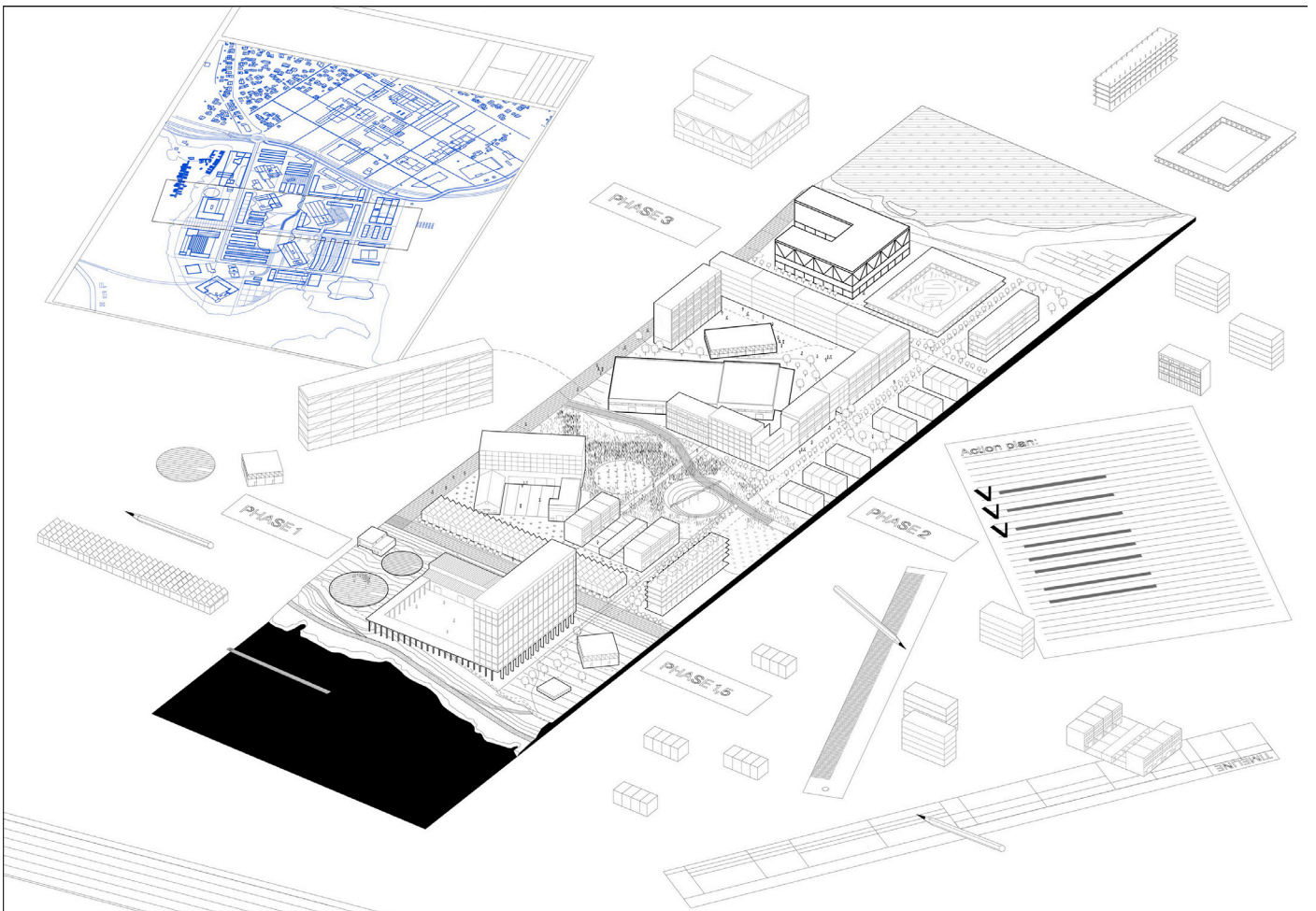
### 3.2.1 AWARDED ENTRIES

#### VT667 – The Living City, Winner

The Living City presents an overall idea for both a masterplan and a process-oriented strategy that works as a toolbox for the trans-formation of Nesa. The authors show a good understanding for the situation of the industry, the long-term perspective, and the needs of the clients.

The project proposes a strategy consisting of 30 actions towards a productive neighbourhood, divided into 3 phases. In the first phase, parts of the site are made public accessible, and temporary inter-ventions and functions for prototyping products are introduced to attract the public into the area. The relocation of businesses starts together with creating conditions for start-ups and workshops. In the second phase the accessibility is improved and new transport- and social infrastructures are implemented. In addition, housing in transformed industrial buildings are proposed. Together this gives a new mix of social activities with production at the site. Finally, in the third phase the new settlement is completed with more types of housing and industry with its own identity, and there is a mix of work-ing, living, and socializing.

The project presents an overall concept for how the site can be con-nected to Lillestrøm with new infrastru-cture, strategies for pro-gramming and landscape features. The structure of the plan is based on a combi-nation of two grids, which are rooted in the directions of existing buildings and the existing infrastructure. By keeping and transforming a substantial amount of selected buildings the plan ac-centuates the context and the history of the place. The transforma-tion process is based on a flexible and adaptable scheme that is open for a long-term development of Nesa south that can go in many dif-ferent directions, and at the same time provide the client with con-crete tools. The jury believes that the project is the best proposal for a con-structive contribution, both in a short- and long-term perspec-tive of transformation.



## **PA352 – The Techno Monks, Runner-Up**

The project, Techno Monks, has both a formalistic structural and programmatic approach. The structural scheme is based on references to the typologies of the Santa Catalina Monastery in Peru (fine mesh-typology) and the Vitra Design Campus in Germany (big box-Campus-typology) and a belief in a dualistic win-win situation by combining a specific small-scale structure with a big one, both with different roles and programmes. "It is about empowering citizens so even small one-person companies can have access to high-tech equipment and facilities."

In addition to the two new structures the authors keep some of the existing buildings. Together, this becomes a hybrid and complex scheme combining different scales and structures in different zones. Although the project is consistent and beautifully presented, the plan itself is not obviously direct operational. It is unclear if the scheme is meant as a framework of zoning with different guidelines or as a specific designed proposal. The project introduces a new university (big box function) as an initial step. This seems unrealistic and makes the plan vulnerable and less flexible. Small-scale arts and craft as the additional programme to the university and housing appear casually. The jury questions how the new proposed programmes are related to the existing context.

## **EA960 – FICTIONS, Special Mention**

The project superimposes an elevated second layer on top of the existing industrial landscape, a structure consisting of cross-shaped block structures with housing and new working places. The existing industrial structure on the ground is almost kept like it is and instead of removing it, the authors add the block layer with new functions such as apartments and new working spaces. This layer has its own structural matrix that reminds of Le Corbusier's Ville Radieuse. A third layer of ramps and bridges are introduced to connect the elevated cross-blocks with the structure on the ground.

Although the authors describe a programmatic transformation of the industrial ground structure, the jury wants to accentuate that the scheme also can be read as a concept that shows how production and residential housing can co-exist. This, however, requires an understanding of how the different parts of the industrial processing are interconnected and which restrictions the different parts have. From this point of view the layering represents a way of thinking, or a design strategy, which contributes to the discussion on how industrial processing can be supplemented with new functions. The jury finds the reference to Ville Radieuse, together with the elevated superblocks, challenging the discussion of urbanity, quality of living and urban spaces. The consequent concept of layering result apparently in a formalistic and little flexible scheme (one size fit) without any advises for phasing.

### **3.2.2 LIST OF PRESELECTED ENTRIES AFTER THE FIRST JURY SESSION**

**EA960** Fictions

**VT667** The Living City

**PA352** The Techno Monks

**ZF448** Nesa R+D Institute of Industrial Technology

**IM617** Sløw Stream

# 4 NARVIK

## 4.1 General remarks by the jury

Narvik is situated in the northern parts of Norway, a place with majestic mountains and fjords. The history of the city is related to the freight route of the iron ore of Kiruna that goes by train to the harbor of Narvik where it is shipped to the rest of the world. It was due to the value of the iron ore that Narvik experienced one of the worst battles in Norway during World War II, and most of the city had to be rebuilt.

The site is named the Technical Quarter after the activity of the Town's technical division and fire brigade that was based here right next to the Town Hall. The railroad to Kiruna is passing by on one side, and the northbound highway of Norway on the other. The park of Bromsgård, in which the official residence of the iron ore company is located, is situated north of the site.

The municipality is the main actor for developing the site. They are looking for new ways to establish an incubator for young people to develop their knowledge, ideas and businesses. The competitors were asked to make a vision for the Technical Quarter, with good connections to the surrounding city.

From the 27 projects in Narvik the jury mainly divided the projects into two categories; those who kept all or most of existing buildings for reprogramming and rearranging into something new, and those who demolished them to make room for something completely different. The jury had tough discussions about what would bring forward the best result for the city both strategically, architecturally and economically. In the end the arguments for an incremental approach of refining the existing as a resource for the new was chosen as the best approach for developing the Technical Quarter as a new hotspot for the productive city of Narvik.





## 4.2 Proposals

### 4.2.1 AWARDED ENTRIES

#### **XS685 – On Reflection, Winner**

The winning project On Reflection clearly chooses a step-by-step strategy. The main reason for this decision is that the winners understand the existing buildings as a kind of helpful structural framework which does not need much transformation in order to create two different and new public spaces for the city. In this way, the project succeeds in reconciling the hitherto unconvincing connection from the public library via the town hall to the Bromsgård Park into an in-terconnected chain of pedestrian spaces. The project subtly works with alternate layers of the scale. One of the very convincing ideas is the layout of the two-staggered form of public spaces: a more formal one to Kongensgate and an informal with new functions on the back which links the town hall to Bromsgård Park.

Regarding the new purposes, the architects have analysed in detail the potential of the existing buildings. They are making convincing propositions for each of them and are carefully adding two corresponding buildings that forms a new gate to the park. This successive approach – with its respect for the existing building structures – is challenging the balance of how much to design or let the design become the result of the activities at the place. The award winner succeeds here on two levels. On the one hand, even if the architecture is considered, it integrates outstanding new qualities such as the large lounge overlooking the city in the new building which is called Unité. On the other hand, the proposed new exhibition and learning center, which are using the existing garage architecture, is especially convincing as it incorporates a contemporary image of multi-purpose co-working spaces in the fabric of the city. In doing so, the architects apply references from existing conversions that correspond very well with the requirements of the city of Narvik for a constantly evolving mix of uses.



## **Jl141 – The Ecology of Making, Runner-Up**

The Ecology of Making proposes a holistic and gradual strategy for transforming Narvik's Technical Quarter into a productive area for all, arguing that production means more than just economic activity. It builds from a sensitive reading of Narvik's urban form, its past development, and its future trajectory to inform a highly contextual urban strategy that expands beyond the boundary of the site. The jury commends how the proposal tackles the Arctic's long winter nights through the light park that uses artificial lighting combined with landscape as a tool to link the site with the park and the wider city, and create a convincing new public provision that remain vibrant throughout the year. This new public space links together the other programmatic elements, and aims to counter what they describe as the Shopping Centre Urbanism of Narvik.

However, the jury finds the architectural proposals less convincing. The presentation lacks clarity and the architecture appears disordered with no identifiable unifying ideas. Larger scale spatial representations of the proposals would have been welcome to describe the atmosphere and human experience. The jury also questions the low-density approach, which is contradictory to clients aim to make the site the new melting point of Narvik. With the proposed reduction of density of the site, it is hard to see how this project could realize its potential.

Overall The Ecology of Making comprehensively answers the brief with a convincing and sensitive urban strategy that addresses the city beyond the site and makes a strong argument for a broader reading of what productivity in cities means.

## **BQ880 – FROM BACKYARDS TO COURTYARDS, Special mention**

The European theme, Productive Cities, also has a metaphorical meaning in Narvik. The prominent location in the inner city is still characterized by a mix of functions from the last decades. However, these functions do no longer meet the new requirements for a communicative city centre in which the university with its productive minds should also play a role.

The project From Backyards to courtyards follows, in some sense, comparable urban and architectural strategies to the winning project. The architects are identifying the potential of the existing buildings, searching for the intensification of existing places and the conservation of the memory of place in order to find and restore an urban space identity. With a series of additions and transformations of the existing buildings, they are nicely completing the urban fabric.

There are three types of public spaces showing each their own urban form, in which the architectural reference to the material qualities of the city plays a major role. A very beautiful idea of this project is the open public space with view to the mountain Fagernesfjellet, giving the urban space a transversal axis. This space introduces a previously missing link that connects the core of the city better with the adjacent residential areas and the higher-lying university buildings.

On the other hand, the design proposition with its concentration of building mass to the side of the main road is a little less flexible than the first prize, and the differentiation between public and semi-public areas and connection to the park is not quite as good.

### **4.2.2 LIST OF PRESELECTED ENTRIES AFTER THE FIRST JURY SESSION**

**TH171** Need for Speed

**FD087** Frozen Boundaries

**AM128** Narvik Forum

**Jl141** The Ecology of Making

**BQ880** From Backyards to Courtyards

**XS685** On Reflection



# 5 ALTA

## 5.1 General remarks by the jury

Alta is a place in the northernmost area of Norway; Finnmark. Alta has during the last 50 years developed from 3 historical places (bygder) into a merged town with a new city center. Bossekop is the southernmost historical place, and is currently undergoing a renewal process in which the connection to Skiferkaia and the seafront is of special focus. Bossekop is also the place where the high-quality slate from the Alta valley is stored and shipped to the rest of the world. The slate company is currently rearranging its production and logistics, which means that the valuable seafront of Bossekop can be transformed into something new.

The assignment for the competitors was to come up with a vision for the site as a part of a productive development of Alta, and a physical plan and process plan for how to transform the area into an attractive and connected part of Bossekop.

The 28 entries at Alta showed the complexity of the place and the task. Most of the entries was either too optimistic about new markets to evolve from local resources from the sea or land (algae, fish, plants etc.), or too optimistic about programming and developing the area with urban activities in comparison to the rest of Alta. Many of the projects had an exotic or philosophic approach that could lead to discussions about how these kinds of areas should be managed, but rather ended up being too general to contribute to the actual development of Alta.

The jury decided to focus on the concrete urban design as a base-ment for further development of the site and to urge the municipality to take responsibility for continuing the process to find a suitable action plan of how to proceed. In this process all the affected site owners and other stakeholders could come together and play a role. The jury also urge Alta to see the slate industry as a unique local resource that in itself has a potential to be refined into new products. Can Skiferkaia still be an area related to the slate industry of Alta?



## 5.2 Proposals

### 5.2.1 AWARDED ENTRIES

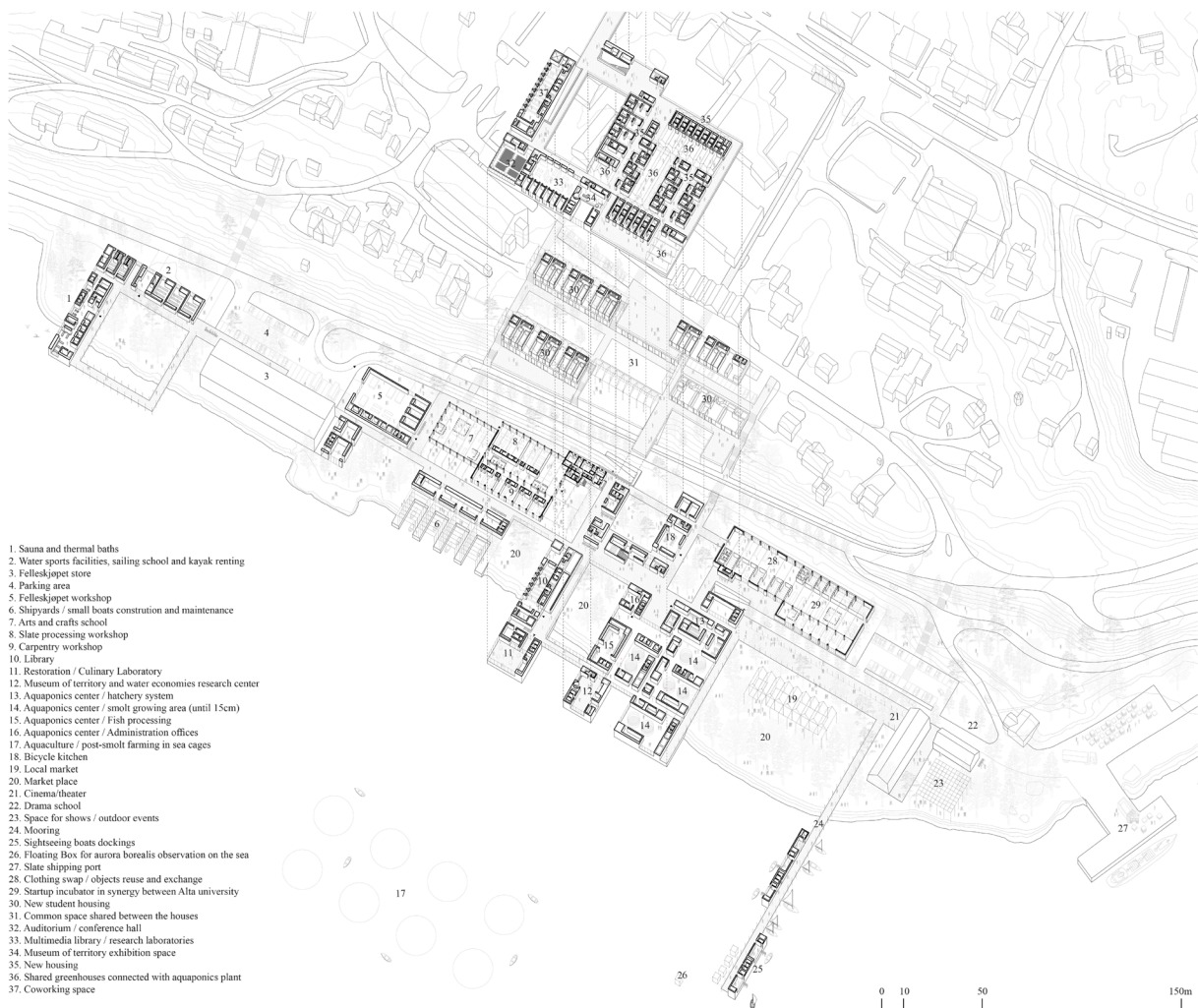
#### XG932 – TANCA, Winner

The project Tanca proposes a transformation strategy that densifies Skiferkaia in three phases. The proposal works with the connections to the water structurally and programmatically. The urban scheme works with connections to Bossekop, and it has a clear relation to the waterfront.

The big variety of programmes presented in the project can be seen as an opportunity for the municipality to engage in a dialogue that evaluates possible future activities at Skiferkaia with possible collaborators in Alta. The project suggests complementary programmes related to the seafront that aims for a productive profile. It focuses on a cultural, economical and environmental development that benefits entrepreneurship, knowledge-based industry and tourism.

The representation of the future development at Skiferkaia is convincing in how it translates the landscape and architecture. This is evident in the different scales of the project; from the interpretation of the large scale and territory, to its proposal in a smaller scale, like the interior of the Aquaponic Center. It presents in a minimalistic way both a sensibility and a capacity to explain technical processes for urban development and productive processes.

Even if the representation of the project is appealing, the jury questions the proposed masterplan. The masterplan reveals a limitation in the understanding of the context, as such density will contribute to the urban sprawl in Alta. The jury suggest that the team evaluates their proposal in dialogue with the site representatives, and validates primary and secondary programs. Which parts of the site has the biggest potential to be built, and which parts are to be let open for the future unknown?



## **GF895 – RE-MEANING, Runner-Up**

The transformation strategy in the project Re-Meaning leaves much of the space at Skiferkaia open, while the sloping terrain between Bossekop and Skiferkaia is densely built with student housing. The project propose a diagonal, overlapping connection between the lo-cal center and the harbor. The overall plan at Skiferkaia is convinc-ing, but the scale of the student housing and the schematic diagonal connection between Bossekop and Skiferkaia seems insensitive to the landscape situation.

The project proposes to transform the existing buildings at Skiferkaia, and it suggests to add new structures and buildings that together with the existing define the outdoor spaces. The proposed plan with its open, public spaces caters to the seafront. The strategy of transfor-mation leaves room to adapt, and shows a smartness in how it gives the existing buildings a new meaning.

The simplicity of the line drawings throughout the different scales creates on one side a fluent presenta-tion, but the axonometry is dif-ficult to read. The drawings highlight the connection between the cores of Bossekop, City and Elvebakken. Even though the proposal shows a good understanding of the local context in adressng the ac-cess to the sea and outdoor activitites, as well as the connection to the airport, the univer-sity and the city hall, the jury finds the urban design less convincing than the winning entry.

## **QI931 – Busy Bosse! Special Mention**

The project Busy Bosse! proposes a transformation of Skiferkaia with high emphasis on multifunctional use, enabled by buildings with hy-brid programs. The analytical approach explains the different sug-gestions for the site. The public spaces are carefully distributed and shared between the programs, and with a high emp-hasis on how they relate to the shorefront.

The jury is positive to the mix of the different programs in the project, as well as to the research on the so-cial and economic context. The understanding of the place and context leads to plausible arguments for the solutions chosen, but the necessary analyzes of the conse-quences of the proposal is absent. This is a bit surprising considered the analytical introduction to the project.

The jury is critical to the amount of program and the density that are suggested for the site, but wants to give credit to the part of the pro-ject that plays with the natural shoreline. Even though it is difficult to put constructions into the water at Skiferkaia, due to the hard wind and big waves, the jury finds the delicate de-sign of the wooden path-way and sauna to be a nice element in the project that could be a starting point of making Skiferkaia more inviting for the public.



## **VG014 – Hydro Therapy, Special Mention**

The project Hydro Therapy seizes the potential of the algae and pro-poses a complementary program that involves research and well-be-ing. It is a center that contains a sauna and bath facilities, as well as laboratories. The program opens for cultivating algae both on land and at sea, it is a holistic system in which the algae is used in different ways. The project links food production, cosmetics, health, education, re-search, which in terms stimulates tourism and commerce on one side, and on the other side opens for a local and international network of ex-pertise on algae-research. The future export from Skiferkaia is linked to the sea; high technology-knowledge and welcoming wellness.

The jury finds the interpretation of the existing situation, and the idea of transforming an industrial area to a recreatic platform, where ther-mal baths are dugged out from the quay, engaging. The process evolves step-by-step and preserves emptiness as a quality, for public to share and for future adaptions. The landscape resources are embedded in the strong link of programs: sauna and hotel, thalasso therapy, agri-cultural industry and production, and harbor and market.

The proposal has delicate drawings that represents the sea and the earth on the same level. The sea is not only a frame, or a living envi-ronment, but is here introduced as a field of production linked to a productive district.

The process is ambitious and demands a partnership between the uni-versity, laboratories and a developer for a therapy center. The master-plan seems to be dependent on one main developer, even if it author-izes to split in smaller subplots. The architectural proposal becomes a backdrop to the overall vision/concept, and appears less convincing.

### 5.2.2 LIST OF PRESELECTED ENTRIES AFTER THE FIRST JURY SESSION

**RB965** The Sky Is The Limit

**XG932** Tanca

**QI931** Busy Bosse!

**VG014** Hydro Therapy

**GF895** Re-Meaning

**GS626** Seafactor(y)