

## LARVIK (NO)

# BRIDGING THE GAP

## LIBRARY AS AN URBAN CONNECTOR

### Problem Statement

The city of Larvik has experienced significant growth, leading to a noticeable detachment between its urban center and harborfront. The relationship between the city and the waterfront, cliff and sea, has shifted from industrial to residential urban development. The objective of this project is to restore the physical and mental connection between Larvik's center and its harbor.

### Proposed Interventions & Methods of Implementation Process



*Program: Upon reaching the summit of Bøkkerfjellet, the visitor is greeted by a sculpture park that complements the existing wooden art installations that provide panoramic views of the city.*

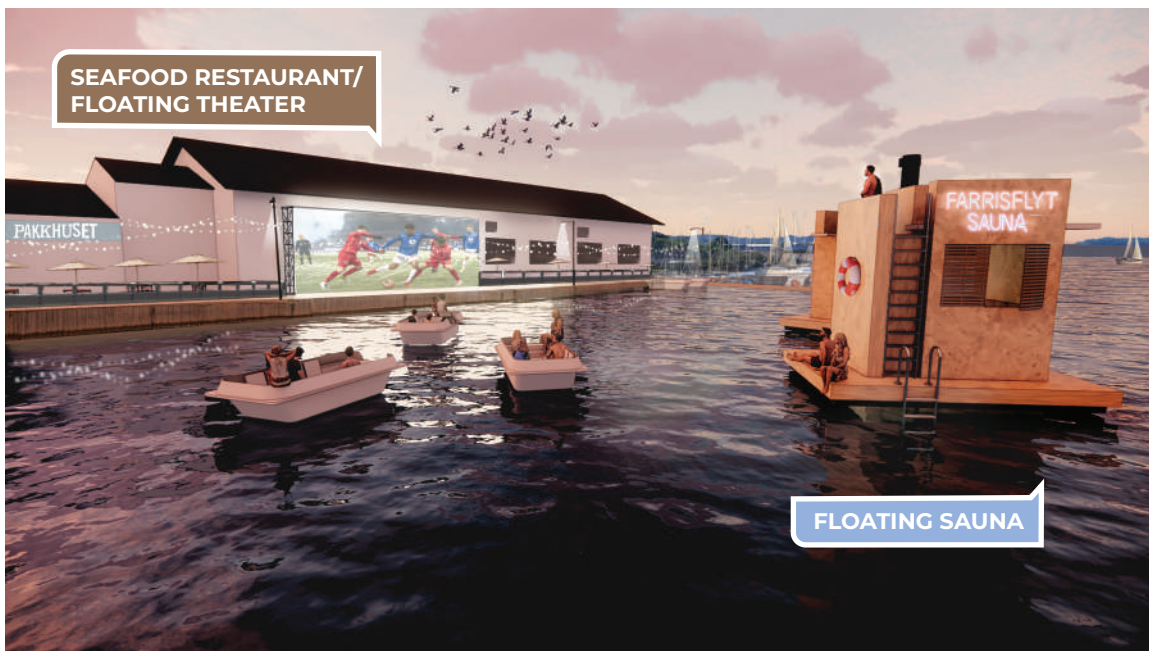
### Sculpture Park on Bokkerfjellet

The proposed implementation approach is designed to be gradual and inclusive, with active participation from the community being a central element. It aims to build upon existing community-driven initiatives, such as the wooden art installations or platforms situated on Bøkkerfjellet, which already provide stunning viewpoints overlooking the fjord. By leveraging and expanding upon these local efforts, the goal is to create a synergy between the new project and the community, fostering a sense of ownership and pride. One of the key components of the proposal is the development of a sculpture park in collaboration with the community. This park will serve as a platform to showcase and celebrate local craftsmanship, infusing the area with artistic inspiration. The incorporation of community input into the design and selection of artworks will ensure that the park truly reflects the spirit and identity of the people who live there. To further tie everything together, careful attention will be given to landscaping. Thoughtful and harmonious integration of green spaces, paths, and seating areas will create an inviting environment that encourages people to explore and spend time in the area.

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Program: Harbour and baths on Larvik's waterfront



Program: Floating theater and saunas on Larvik's waterfront

## Underutilized docks into vibrant waterfront: Harbour and baths

Turning our attention to the waterfront, the project envisions the revitalization of the harborfront by reestablishing and reopening it. This will involve the construction of wooden jetties and platforms, converting underused docks into vibrant spaces that cater to both locals and visitors. By introducing floating saunas, the waterfront area becomes a unique and enticing destination that attracts more foot traffic and promotes a sense of relaxation and well-being.

In line with Larvik's tradition of wellness and relaxation, we propose the introduction of floating saunas "Farrisflyt Sauna" that will be accessible to the public. These mobile saunas will offer a rejuvenating experience on the water, combining the serenity of the fjord with the therapeutic benefits of a spa. Adding to the allure of the waterfront, we envision a

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one-of-a-kind attraction: a floating theater. During weekends, a temporary screen will be set up at the Pakkhuset, creating an immersive cinematic experience for people to enjoy while floating on their boats. This creative venture not only pays homage to Larvik's regional history but also provides a novel way for locals and tourists to partake in cultural events. Additionally, we aim to enhance the recreational offerings of Farris Lake, providing opportunities for swimming, fishing, and various leisure activities. By revitalizing the waterfront with these engaging amenities, Larvik will not only cherish its past but also carve a promising path towards a vibrant and thriving future for its residents and visitors.

### Adaptive Reuse of Existing Historic Buildings

Moreover, adaptive reuse will play a pivotal role in the project. Existing buildings in the area such the Tollboden building will be gradually transformed into art galleries and studios for woodworking and carpentry. This innovative repurposing not only breathes new life into underutilized spaces but also fosters creativity and cultural exchange, drawing more people to engage with the artistic community. Throughout the implementation process, community engagement and participation will be actively sought. Local residents will have opportunities to provide feedback, share ideas, and actively contribute to shaping the final outcome. Town hall meetings, workshops, and online platforms will be used to facilitate open communication channels, ensuring that the project aligns with the desires and aspirations of the community.

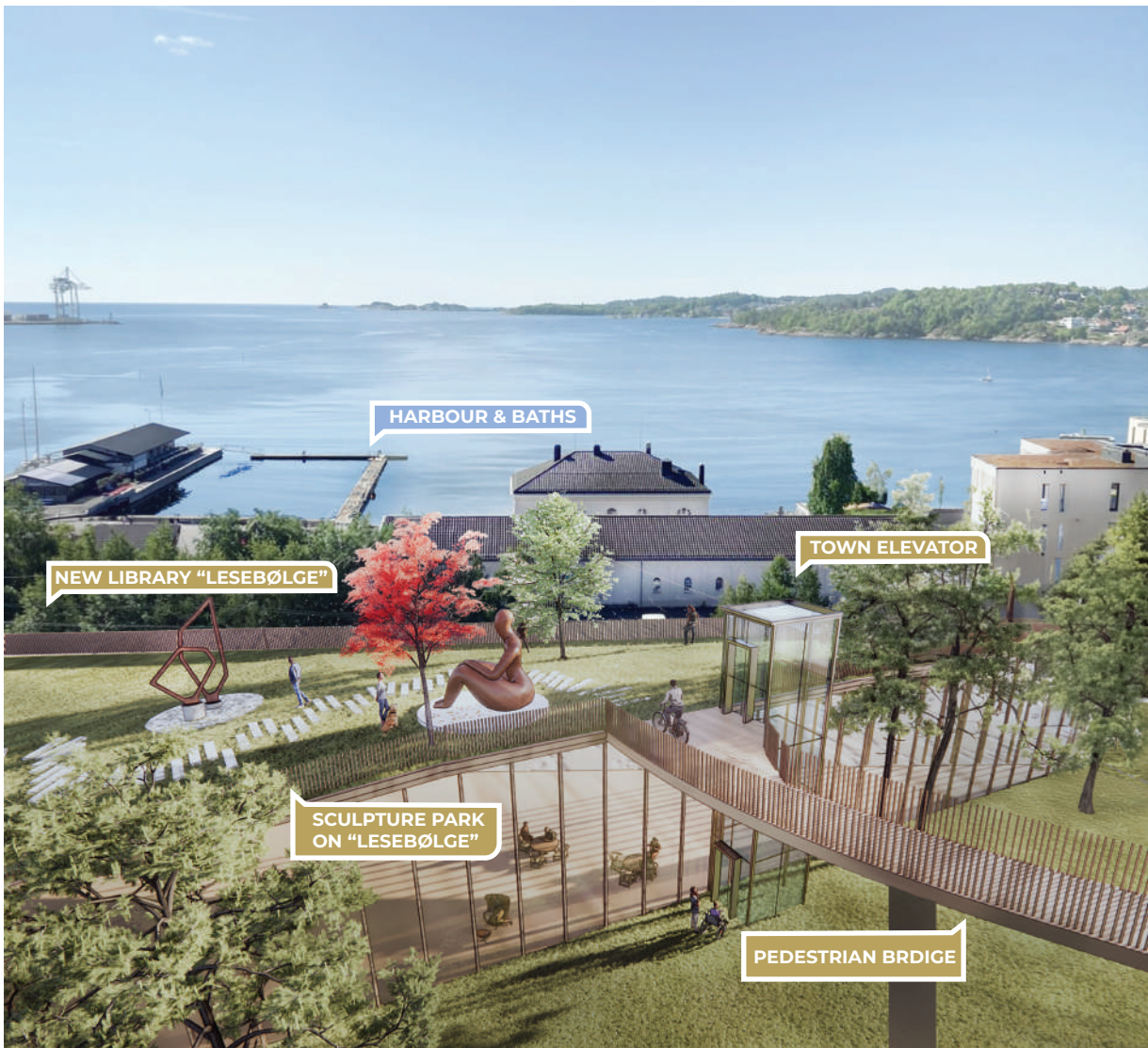


Program: New Library utility during winter

### Library as Urban Connector

In the contemporary context, the library is undergoing a transformation, evolving into a space that goes beyond its traditional role. Larvik's new library is envisioned as a meeting place, a connector, and a symbolic bridge, symbolizing the harmony between the cliff and the sea. There are two levels to the new library "LeseBølge". The ground level lifts up to expose the library clad in glass and wood- reminiscent of Larvik's wooded landscapes. The upper level is dedicated to sculpture park, which serves as an extension to the exhibition on Bøkkerfjellet. During winter, the slopes serve as recreational areas for skating and skiing. The longer slope edge of the building acts a visual and acoustic barrier to the railways and the busy main road.

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Program: pedestrian and bicycle bridge connecting the top of Bøkkerfjellet to the rooftop of the new library, spanning across hard barriers such as railway lines and busy main roads

### Soft infrastructure with High Recreational Value: Pedestrian Bridge

To establish a connection from the steep slopes of Bøkkerfjellet to the harbor, an elegant pedestrian and cycling bridge has been introduced as soft infrastructure with high recreational value. With its lightweight design, the bridge seamlessly integrates into the environment, ensuring minimal disruption to the existing green spaces and mature trees, preserving the urban nature and biodiversity undisturbed. The pedestrian and bicycle bridge serves as a practical solution for overcoming challenging barriers, such as railway lines and busy roads, harmoniously uniting different parts of the cityscape. As it descends, the bridge connects to the rooftop of the new library, known as "LeseBølge." From this vantage point, visitors can admire breathtaking views of the harbor and the baths, enhancing the overall experience and appreciation of the city's beauty. At this point, visitors have two options to reach the harbor and baths from the rooftop of "LeseBølge." They can either choose to walk down the gently sloped green roof, which offers a scenic route through the extended sculpture park, or they can opt for the glass town elevator- considering the needs of the elderly and differently abled.