
JOIN [UP] THE DOTS

JOIN [UP] THE DOTS creates a forested promenade from Bøkkerfjellet park that culminates at a stepped public bathing estuary as it engages the coastline. The green walkway—WALKIE—offers a sensory experience that allows its wanderers to immerse themselves in Larvik’s landscape and culture, developing a sense of affiliation with the city. From the elevated perspective of WALKIE, unnoticed aspects of the city become apparent, while new wonders emerge. Unexpected detours and accidental encounters replace predefined routes. Dense vegetation and soft pathways contained within quarry-like bounds, hide a dilapidated landscape of roads, barriers, parking lots, and train tracks that once defined this coastal site.

The abrupt height difference between Bøkkerfjellet park and the Seafront is mediated by unearthing the former quarry to create a crater that leads to a crevice where the journey through WALKIE begins. This excavation preserves and enhances the existing uninterrupted views from the park to the sea horizon. At the edge of Bøkkerfjellet’s hill, WALKIE transitions into an aerial moderately sloped and stepped green promenade with occasional ramps that allow continuous passage for everyone. Once the roads and train tracks are cleared, a new bath house building on the triangular site supports WALKIE until it steps down creating a permeable and changing coastline.

The project’s unique location and edgy character ignites a revisiting of Larvik’s historical relation to water and bathing. Fostering an appreciation and enjoyment of water, the promenade weaves framed views, significant destinations, and varied bathing programs into an immersive constellation that culminates with a public bathing area that steps into the sea.

This revisiting of Larvik’s bathing tradition poses new questions: What does it mean to preserve the soul of this bathing heritage for a contemporary audience? How can rituals from bygone eras be meaningfully re-appropriated to catalyze an authentic, plural, and spontaneous sense of community?

URBAN STRATEGY

Connecting destinations

The new intervention will reconnect Larvik’s two distinctive ecosystems—the Beech Forest and the Seafront—through a sequenced procession from the forest, through the city center, into the new Bøkkerfjellet crater, and down the aerial promenade into the water. The new proposed in-between ecosystem aims to become not just a connector, but a unique destination in itself within the city of Larvik and the region of Vestfold og Telemark.

The access points to WALKIE are strategically distributed along the promenade, providing entry and exit options at the most notable waypoints of the journey: the Library, Farris’ Factory, the Bath House, and the bathing estuary.

Preserving and enhancing Views

Excavated into the slopes of Bøkkerfjellet’s hill, the crater, crevice and sloped promenade preserve and enhance the existing majestic views from the park to the sea horizon. The awe-inspiring vistas of Larvik Fjord endure, whether one finds solace in the promenade or ascends the venerable Fire Lookout Tower, where cannons herald the morning salute every 17th of May.

Restoring the Pier

The contours of the former pier are redrawn into a stepped public bathing estuary that turns the hard urban edge by the sea into a permeable and changing coastline.

Reconverting significant Buildings

The existing historic customs building (Tollboden) and harbor building will undergo a process of citizen engagement, allowing the community to participate in shaping its redevelopment.

Reducing vehicular Traffic

Rather than occupying Larvik’s precious coastline with roads and immense parkings, we propose to strategically densify existing parking areas at Linaaes Gate road (on the hill), Storgata road (north-east of the railway), Strand promenade (east), and Sanden P-hus (west), by transforming some of them into multi storey car parks. They will provide nearby access to WALKIE, reducing vehicle circulation through the coastline.

MATERIALITY

The promenade is contained within quarry-like bounds materialized in a playful composition of concrete formations, larvikite layers and carved openings. Evoking Larvik's characteristic quarries, WALKIE emerges from the ground as a rhythmic repetition of "extracted" blocks that shifts the city towards the sea.

The staggered edge contains a dense green ecosystem and provides protection against the noise and wind along the route, framing selected views along the promenade.

PROGRAM: TAKING BATHING TO NEW DIMENSIONS

"The role bathing plays within a culture reveals the culture's attitude toward human relaxation. It is a measure of how far individual well-being is regarded as an indispensable part of community life."

— Sigfried Giedion, *Mechanization Takes Command*

In ancient cultures around the world, from Greek and Roman baths, to Arabic hammans and Japanese sentō, communal bathing was a transformative ritual that merged body and mind. JOIN [UP] THE DOTS revisits this ancient ritual through a program that expands the notion of bathing in all its dimensions, from immersion to transformation, from healing to caring, and from individual pleasure to collective engagement.

(F) Book Bathing [LIBRARY]

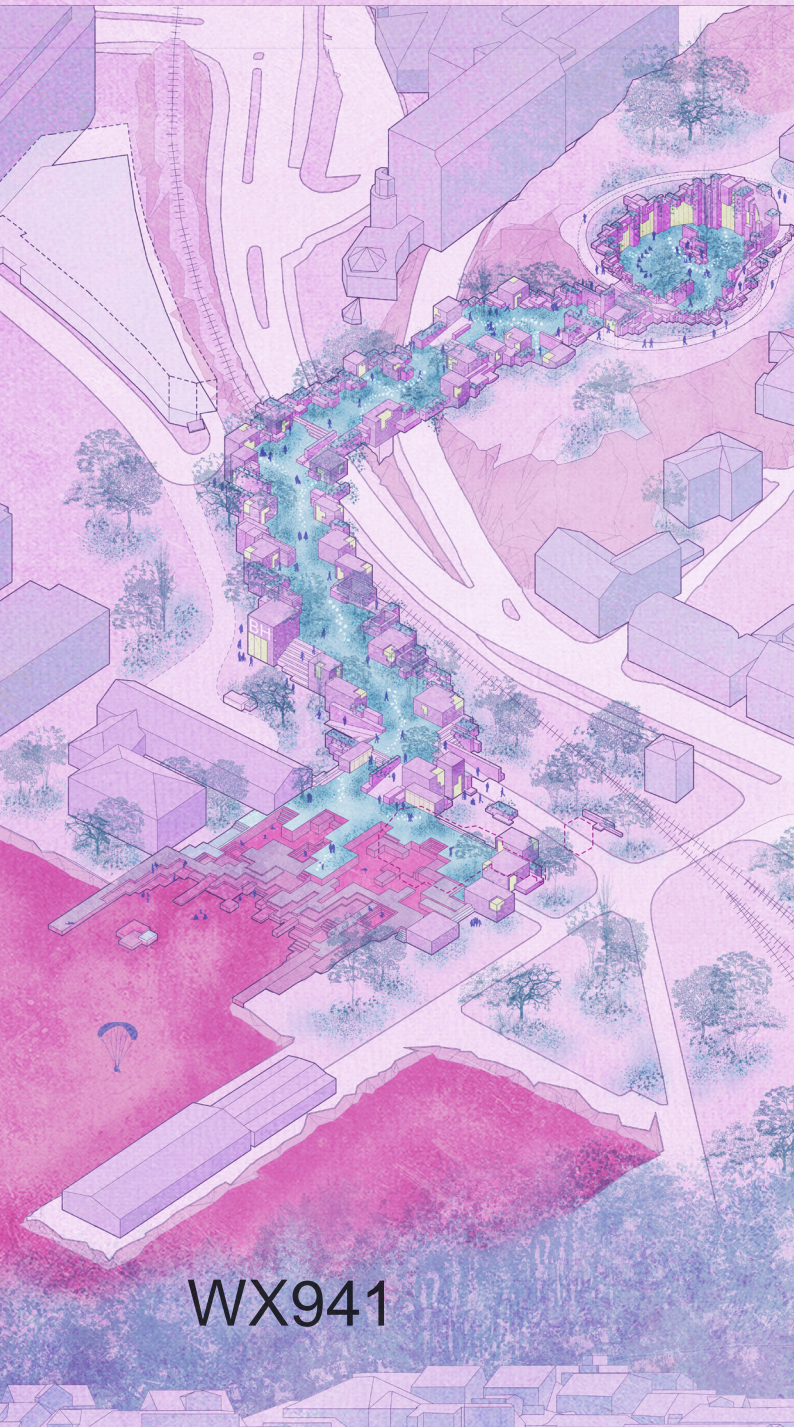
The library of the future is materialized as a crater that excavates the sediments of the former landfill, revealing Larvik's old quarry. The new library becomes a space for social interaction and as a cultural institution to host events, and public debates. It is also a place of learning, where knowledge is shared and disseminated. As such, the library serves as both the starting point and the culmination of WALKIE.

The crater is a pool of written language, inviting individuals to dive in and share perspectives. The library program will expand along the promenade into laboratory-like spaces, offering areas for experimentation, small publishing houses, film sets, and spaces for the development and sharing of knowledge across various creative fields.

(F) Forest Bathing [PROMENADE]

JOIN [UP] THE DOTS embraces forest bathing through a dense green river that runs along WALKIE, creating a democratic ecosystem that supports healthy climate, welcomes all beings, and ensures that all citizens can enjoy the outdoors with clear eyes and untroubled noses.

Thoughtful selection of local trees from nearby nurseries will contribute to mitigate climate change. Collaborating with local nurseries (such as Plantasjen) to include indigenous and regionally adapted plants,



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the new green river will seemingly integrate with the surrounding landscapes. Increasing tree variety within this green corridor will reduce allergies and enhance the ability of urban vegetation to purify air, and act as a sound barrier where the promenade spans over the roads and railway.

(F) Sunbathing

In summer, platforms along the promenade's staggered edge allow for individuals to enjoy basking in vitamin D. In winter, these spaces turn into perfect locations for showcasing snowmen or flying kites.

(F) Sight Bathing

Lookout points emerge throughout WALKIE, framing views to the mountain, the city, the sea, and the forest, while blocking views to the railway and roads. This way, the force of the sea and nature is always present, visible, audible, or tangible at the promenade.

(F) Bike Bathing

Encouraging low-emission modes of transportation is a priority for all European cities. The promenade ensures through ramps and a subtle slope a fluid ride towards the sea.

(F) Wind Bathing

Wind is another element that defines Larvik's identity. WALKIE creates spaces where one can "listen" (through wind instruments), "see" (through mechanisms transforming wind energy into light for the promenade's street lamps), and "touch" (through site-specific interventions). This immersive art will also serve as a destination in its own right, drawing visitors to the promenade and contributing to the city's cultural agenda.

(P) Taste Bathing

The sense of taste also finds its place in this aerial promenade. Small kiosks offer an olfactory bathing experience through the aroma of a good coffee while reading a book or enjoying a snack with a view of the sea.

(F) Steam Bathing

In Scandinavian countries, the sauna holds a sacred

significance, embracing a more comprehensive understanding of the body. It is a space that welcomes individuals of all genders and ages, promoting inclusivity and unity, and celebrating transformative rituals of life cycles.

JOIN [UP] THE DOTS proposes a year-round program related to this sauna heritage. Free domestic scale saunas appear near the open air pools by the water.

(P) Thermal Bathing [BATH HOUSE]

This free spa program will be complemented with a new for profit Bath House hosted on the triangle site. It will offer a range of activities and amenities centered around water-related experiences (covered pools, steam baths, bikram yoga, mud and water treatments).

(P) Ice Bathing

Extreme temperature contrasts hold significance in many regeneration traditions. Deep pools of cold water will surround the saunas where sea meets land, supplementing the sauna rituals throughout the year.

(F) Sea Bathing [BATHING ESTUARY]

Larvik has a long-standing history of luxurious bathhouses, attributed to its mineral-rich spring water and the presence of royal and upper-class family dynasties. Today, Farris Bad continues this tradition, offering a wide range of pools, saunas, and spas for paying customers.

JOIN [UP] THE DOTS aims to provide an alternative bathing experience that is public and accessible to everyone. Sea bathing becomes an elemental starting and ending point for this promenade, where the promenade disintegrates and merges with the sea.

** the promenade's program, is divided into:

F: free program

P: for profit program