

(Re)generate, Change Lifestyles

Global Strategy:

Our proposal places the significant problems posed by the city (Connecting the city center to the old port and offering a library to the inhabitants of Lavrik) at the heart of a reflection on the lifestyle of the inhabitants of Lavrik and on the future of this coastal city in the age of climate change:

How can the library become a place for awakening and educating young people to a more virtuous way of life?

How can we encourage the Lavrik inhabitants to care for themselves and their environment?

What can we do to protect the shoreline and the natural heritage of Lavrik?

Connecting the city to the shore: repairing a broken link:

In order to cross the railway and make the port accessible to the inhabitants, we propose a panoramic bridge with a soft shape that starts from the height of the park and descends to the shore. To encourage the use of this bridge and guarantee its usefulness, we have chosen to connect it to the library programs, thus encouraging library users to take it.

For a second phase, if the project of moving the railway materializes, we propose to transform the old rails into an abundantly vegetated health circuit: a running and sports area in a bucolic setting to further encourage the inhabitants of Lavrik to adopt a healthier lifestyle and enjoy the natural qualities of their cities.

Make the old car park a nest of biodiversity:

In order to regenerate the old port and its uses, we propose to reuse the large expanses of concrete that must now be demolished. The rubble can be used to make low-carbon concrete that can be molded into bricks used to redevelop the coast. The bricks molded in curved geometric shapes and rough surfaces will be used to create a new public space offering promenades, natural pools, and cultural spaces for people while working as an eco-friendly breakwater system that protects the shore from sea rising levels and houses biodiversity. The Lavrik port will become a pleasant recreational public space for the inhabitants but also a nest for the fauna and flora of Lavrik.

Moreover, we propose the reuse of the now-closed building at the end of the vestre brygge and its transformation into a center for marine biodiversity valorization and research. This center could host exhibitions, workshops for children, and experiments on the marine ecosystem of the region and the way in which it could be preserved in the face of future challenges.

Rehabilitate the existing in a virtuous way:

From an architectural point of view, all our choices have been dictated by a motto of bringing more by doing less. Whether it is for the buildings of the old port, the bunker buried in the hill, or the facilities on the shore, we propose to maintain and rehabilitate the existing as much as possible, while choosing a discrete architecture based on local materials for the newly added buildings.

The project aims to create a cultural space that serves the entire city and is forward-looking, rather than just being a simple library.

At the same time, we hope to create a unique connecting element that serves as a link between the city center and the coastline, reuniting these two previously somewhat isolated areas in a close bond.

We aim to revitalize the neighborhood and construct the library in an ecologically sustainable manner. Therefore, we have chosen a renovation and expansion approach for the library instead of completely new construction. The multimedia library will be situated on the hilltop, covered with vegetation to create a slightly elevated and historically harmonious new landscape. This design allows people at the summit to enjoy an improved panoramic sea view while shielding the visual impact of new coastal residential developments and other structures.

Finally, we aim to take advantage of this project to redesign the surrounding coastal landscape in an ecological manner, creating a flood-resistant and ecologically diverse scenic zone. It will offer a variety of activity possibilities, inviting people to come and enjoy, play in the water, relax on platforms formed along the coast, and read, among other activities...

Library design

The main body of the library is achieved through renovation and expansion, preserving the historical significance and site memory. The new structure respects the existing buildings and utilizes local Larvik stone, creating a new landmark.

As a forward-looking library, its purpose goes beyond being a traditional space for reading books. It serves as a cultural venue, a cultural territory. A place where people can come close to the sea and listen to its sound, a tech hub for young entrepreneurs, a shared workspace, a small auditorium, a multi-functional hall for indoor and outdoor events, an exhibition space, a small performance center for relaxation and music, and an ecological hub for interactive indoor and outdoor landscapes.

The library features a dense shelving system, housing approximately 150,000 books to meet the needs of a city with a population of 60,000 to 80,000. The plan respects the site's characteristics, incorporating two new buildings while preserving two existing ones, creating a four-span spatial layout that gradually extends towards the seaside.

The entrance triangular area will be enriched with tall trees and shrubs to form an acoustic and visual barrier from the nearby railway and noisy roads. Visitors at the entrance will have a clear view of the sea along the designed visual axis.

The first building, a new addition, will be clad in local stone and primarily accommodate a tech hub for young entrepreneurs and a shared workspace, along with a small auditorium for urban cultural salons. Its massive volume and facade design will act as a solid acoustic barrier, separating the library's reading area from the busy city roads.

The second building, a renovation of an existing structure, will preserve its facade while undergoing internal steel structural modifications to accommodate the new load requirements. It will feature a double-level dense shelving system, maximizing space efficiency for other cultural areas. The shelving area will also serve as an acoustic buffer zone on the second level.

The third building, a new construction, will connect the existing two buildings. Its ground floor will house a quiet reading area with approximately 150 study seats, offering views of the sea and two mature trees in the central courtyard. Natural light will penetrate deep into the interior, evoking fond memories of reading under the shade of trees.

The fourth building will transform the existing interior to create an open and flexible double-height multipurpose hall accommodating up to 150 people. It will host small performances, exhibitions, and indoor-outdoor connected cultural events. Its adaptable facade will allow indoor-outdoor performances and exhibitions. During events, independent operating installations will be used to facilitate management.

Lastly, the staff office area will utilize the existing west wing of the building, expanding and connecting it to the main body to directly link with various functional spaces within the library.

In order to connect the city center with the seaside, we integrated the functions of Bøkkerfjellet Park's Multimedia Library and Digital Archives at the top of the hill. The design primarily employed a semi-buried approach, involving the excavation of the mountain to a depth of 3 meters. Once the structures were built within the mountain, they were covered with the original vegetation. The newly added volume increased the height of the hill by three meters, significantly enhancing the visual openness to offset the potential impact of previous real estate development.

The bridge was strategically positioned in the middle of the mountain rather than on top of it to minimize obstruction of sightlines. It was directly connected to the outdoor platform of the library, ensuring seamless access between both sides of the development. We established vertical transportation within the mountain, linking the top of Bøkkerfjellet Park, the height of the middle bridge, and the bottom of Bombe Shekf, allowing the entire hill to connect with the seaside at various elevations.

In terms of aesthetics, we aimed to preserve the original appearance of Bøkkerfjellet Park while gently incorporating the buildings with light-colored exposed aggregate concrete, maintaining the natural ecology. The smooth concrete serves as a subtle entrance, creating a contrast with the existing stone materials and highlighting their texture.

This cultural territory will become Larvik's new landmark, poetic and nestled between the coast and the mountains. It will seamlessly integrate into the city and blend harmoniously with the coastline, becoming a cherished part of both the urban and coastal landscape. It will be a place for leisurely strolls, creating delightful memories for children as they grow. Above all, it will be a compelling reason for people to visit Larvik, to experience its beauty and unique cultural offerings...