



## VISION

Larvik harbor, Bøkerfjellet park and the city center all suffer from the blockage presented by the railway line, limited and distant crossings, and the height difference. The restricted flow hampers movement and prevents their function as communal spaces. We propose to resolve all the current blockages by the construction of an elevator, a civic space and *umbau*. Our proposal will show how a single continuous integrated area can be obtained, where people can move freely and desire to visit for extended periods.

## ATTRACTOR & SYMMETRY

Attractor is the quality inherent in the library supported by the elevator, walkway and terrace, all drawing people in to explore and discover what they have to offer.

Symmetry of ease-of-movement and travel time between the city center and the harbor is established through an elevator, as the effort of travel becomes the same in both directions.

## CHRONOLOGY - PROJECT PHASES

### Phase 0 – Current Conditions

The railway remains in its present location for the foreseeable future. Large areas of the harbor area, and surrounding areas are subject to regular flooding and tidewater effects. Planning has delineated large areas of the city center as a no-build zone that cannot be developed further at the present time.

### Phase 1 – Preliminary Work and Foundations

The present harbor area is excavated to restore the fishing harbor. The posterior café building is demolished, along with the posterior pier building. The anterior cold structure building on the pier is dismantled and stored for reassembly. The current ramp outside Tollhuset is removed as well.

### Phase 2 – Construction

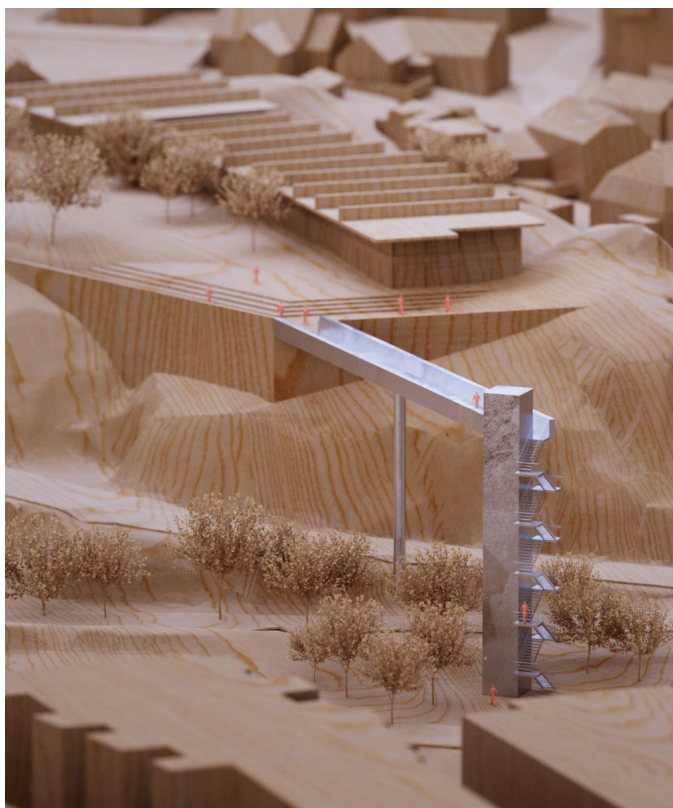
A retaining wall is constructed in Bøkerfjellet Park to serve as the terrace in front of the new library. The elevator and its walkway are constructed. The new fishing harbor pool is elevated with an Åsne-style staircase at the inner end, and a bridge across the outer bound. The pier is raised using a light construction, once the pile work has been restored. The existing pier cold structure is reassembled, and a new insulated structure is created in line with, but posterior to it. A third mixed use cold building is built in line with the two buildings mounting the pier with a common roof to both buildings, and act as an extension that one can pass through.

Tollhuset has a new ramp constructed in line with a new canopy. The harbor area is surfaced with vegetation and flagstones.

### Phase 3 – Railway relocation

When the new railway is operational, the current space is redesignated as a green area for vegetation. Much like the renowned High Line project in NYC, the suggestion is for Larvik to have civic activities like guerilla gardening initiatives, as has successfully been done along the shoreline previously.

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## WORK AREAS & STRUCTURES - DESCRIPTION

### Elevator

Continuity between the harbor, Bøkerfjellet Park and the city center becomes seamless and effortless by using an elevator to bridge Bøkerfjellet Park with the harbor.

A floating walkway connecting the elevator with Bøkerfjellet Park helps create a striking visual silhouette, complementing the cranes along the inlet of the fjord.

Illumination improves safety while presenting an equally impactful, but alternate silhouette during darker conditions. The illuminated walkway is further highlighted by the silhouette of the illuminated Library in Bøkerfjellet Park.

Access to the harbor is significantly improved for children, the impaired, while also accommodating bicycles, prams and wheelchairs.

Balustrades, 1400mm high (as per Statens Vegvesen safety guidance) with solid cladding are used to shield visitors from rain and strong winds.

Open, wide continuous space and continuous illumination creates an inviting space and comfortable passageway between city center and harbor.

### Library

The library offers a silhouette that is both daring, while at the same time aligning with the height of Bøkerfjellet to accentuate the horizon-line. It serves as a natural attractor inviting people to visit and discover the terrace area outside.

Habits are changing rapidly, and our libraries are evolving into meeting places and civic offices as much as reading rooms. It is fitting and appropriate to place a civic space on top of Bøkerfjellet inviting all citizens to gather in front of the stunning view that is such an essential part of Larvik. The placement also lies along the historic and central axis between harbor and city center.

Large panoramic full-height windows offer an unimpeded view, while also illuminating the terrace and surrounding area at night and dusk in an inviting manner.

Seen equally easy from the harbor below as from across the inlet, the library acts as a lighthouse drawing visitors in to explore, while serving as a natural meeting and reference point for Larvik residents.

### Terrace

Offers a common social space that can be enjoyed both while briefly pausing to enjoy the view, or for social gatherings when the weather permits it. The extended roofline of the library building offers plenty of shelter from both wind and rain for visitors. The full-height windows also help illuminate the surrounding area in the evenings, creating a safe and inviting environment around the clock.

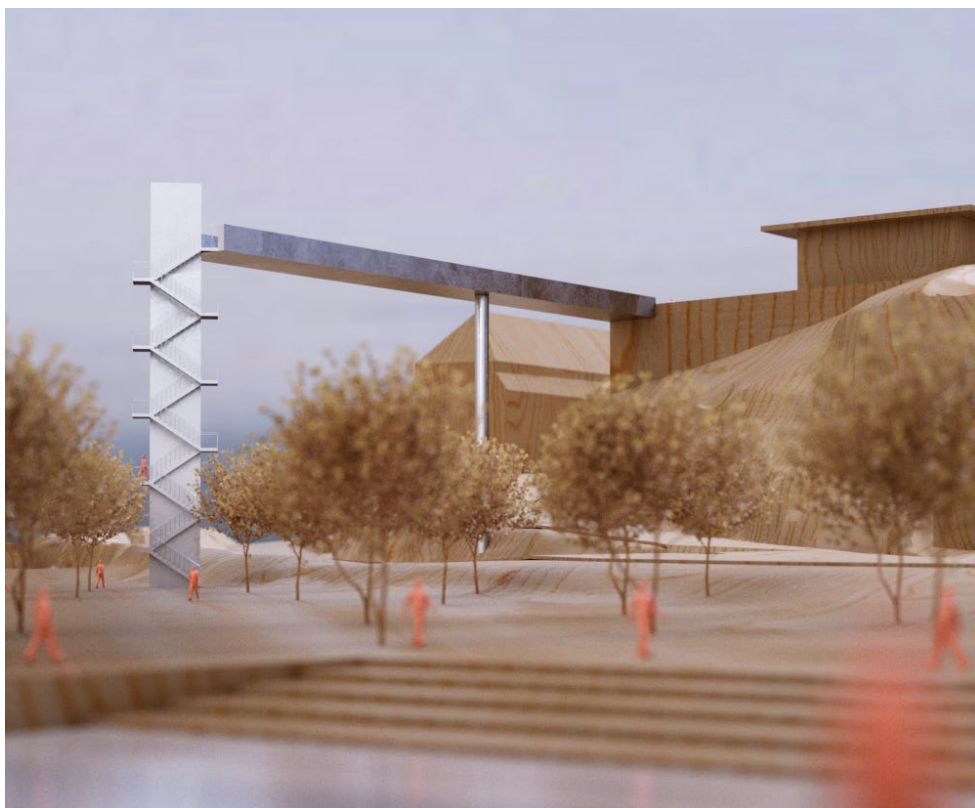
### Cafe and Restaurant

A sheltered area from which the view can be appreciated even in challenging weather conditions. Hot meal service makes this a destination in itself, in addition to the amazing view. Casual visitors can enjoy a hot beverage at the café section, rather than a full meal, while still enjoying the same view.

### Tollboden

Retains its civic, educational and historic character by hosting a sailing school for youth, along with workshops. The proximity to water and distance from other structures, makes the space ideal for a demanding activity as continuing the tradition of seamanship which helped invigorate Larvik historically. A new ramp and canopy is added towards the harbor plaza to help indicate the proper entrance and the civic nature of the building.

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#### Harbor Grounds

The open and continuous area offers complete flexibility according to needs. Flagstones of different sizes are laid in patterns to provide subtle cues without encroaching on the open nature of the space. Trees create continuity between the different parts of the space while offering shelter and shade. The flexibility obtained by relying on subtle cues in the environment, instead of physical barriers, can be leveraged by offering temporary on-site services e.g., food trucks, ice cream stands and glühwein cabins depending on the season.

#### Fishing Harbor

A communal space with good access is created by enlarging the interior edge length of the harbor pool to a Åsne-style staircase that also functions as a seating area. The open inner structure of the staircase mitigates water spray by guiding wave motion to the interior. A bridge across the outer edge of the pond separates it into a space to enjoy the sea in tranquility.

#### Pier Restoration

Restoring the pier by enhancing the pilework offers the ability to raise the height of the mounted structures and make them resistant to tide and water spray. Reuse of the building structures is environmentally sound, while preserving a popular form of access to the sea and extending the day-night cycle use of the area. Additionally, we propose creating a matching structure at an interior location lengthwise to the current structures. The new structure would be adaptable for flexible multi-use, but one potential and enhancing use would be for rental of small sailing skiffs and kayaks. The "Åsne-type" staircase at the interior of the restored harbor pool would offer easy launches without the need of cranes.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**Reuse and Reprogramming** help minimize the single largest source of environmental impact *neubau*. Restoring the pier, reusing the pier cold structure and reprogramming Tollboden show the value of *umbau* as a tool to mitigate our impact and elevate structures that are considered less valuable.

**Sedum type roofing** is proposed for the buildings in Bøkerfjellet park. The Sedum roof soaks up the rainwater falling onto the footprint of the building, preventing runoff and eliminating the need for additional drainage. Sedum roof also helps create continuity with the park location and creates pleasing silhouettes as seen from the inlet.

**Arboreal vegetation** is proposed for the Harbor Grounds area to create continuity with the surrounding areas, but which also will offer natural shelter and shade. The vegetation creates a larger integrated geometry that helps create proximity between the elevator and the water.

**Railway Track reprogramming** in the style of the Highline Track NYC is proposed once the new railway has been constructed. Erecting dense vegetation along the current tracks will minimize the impact and mitigate the sound from the roadway currently affecting the harbor area. Ideally the space can be used for civic initiatives as Larvik already has conducted successfully in other locations.

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