

# Fagerstrand INTERTWINED

the meeting between Center, Nature and Harbour

## Introduction

Surrounded by nature, in the picturesque fjord of Oslo, Fagerstrand is a small city, with a bright potential to reunite the remnants of the oil industry with the raw nature as a driving line in its cityscape, combining history, with people and using nature as the thread.

Fagerstrand has an iconic industrial harbour and a small commercial center surrounded by great nature, with a rich history.

Our vision is to cross connect the commercial center, nature and the sea side, so that the city's qualities can synergize from each other. By creating new meeting points and connections between harbour, nature and center, the city will feel, flow and grow as one, to honor the history, and stage the future.

## Challenge and opportunities

On the overall level there is poor correlation between harbour, city and nature. The areas exist in their own parallel worlds. This project seizes the opportunity to connect the areas and connect the people to nature.

Fagerstrand is challenged by a road junction right in the middle of the city center.

Drøbakveien has divided the city in two parts; one by the sea front and one by the small commercial center. Considerations must be made, as to how the traffic at the city center can be an attribute rather than an obstruction for a future densely populated city.

With the oil Industry came new jobs, creating needs for settlement in Fagerstrand. But with lack of strategic planning the area is stalled with no real center and lack of meeting points. The stalling has claimed the land, and is underutilizing space where there could be nature that can connect people. We believe that

instead of sprawling more, one can densify in the already existing build mass. Seeking to affect nature in the least way possible.

By the sea the disused industrial site gives the city a new opportunity to reclaim the water, both in terms of settlement but also in terms of nature reclaiming the land. The remaining industrial cathedrals tell the story of Fagerstrand. They give a unique identity to the city and must be reused and kept as heritage and identity for the future city.

## Vision

We believe that Fagerstrand has the potential of transforming from a divided and scattered suburb to one connected city in symbiosis with nature. We believe that the right programming will make Fagerstrand a collective and vital city united with nature.

The time has changed and with the epidemic in 2020 we learned that it is possible to work from home, making it attractive to live outside the greater cities where one can have a stronger relation with nature. In the future more new families will move to Fagerstrand with its unique location by the water, its nature and a vibrant and urban city center. The perfect hub outside Oslo.

Fagerstrand has an iconic industrial harbour and a small commercial center surrounded by great nature.

Our vision is to cross connect the commercial center, nature and the sea side, so the city's qualities can benefit from each other.

By creating new meeting points and connections between harbour, nature and center, the city will feel as one.

## Proposal

We propose to intertwine Fagerstrand in a new way that will make a stronger connection to the city, to the harbour and to nature.

*Intertwining Fagerstrand - New connections bind the city together.*

By using the existing dna “an industrial harbour”, a commercial center and a bio diverse nature. We make new and stronger meetings between what is already there.

A harbour connection, a Nature connection, a commercial connection and a cultural connection will bind the city together. Nature will be present everywhere in Fagerstrand and binding it all together.

### *Mobility in Fagerstrand*

By changing the course of the roads, from dividing the city in two and creating a barrier between center and harbour. We propose to change Drøbakveiens road course, guiding it behind the upcoming city center. Then the center can heal and create an unhindered connection to the harbour. The city is sewn back together and natural flows can occur between city and harbour without a road as a barrier.

We propose that traffic via Lillerudveien is reduced by making Road 157 the primary connection to Nesoddtangen. This will make the city center more peaceful and liveable. The plan is robust and can handle if Lillerudveien should still function as it is.

### *Nature Connection*

By changing the roads path we can make space for a nature connection going right through the center. Making nature a part of the city and giving its residents easy access to entering nature. The proposal is a city with a present and approachable nature.

The nature corridor is furthermore the connection between the Industrial green landscape in the west and the vast forest areas in the east and north. By the city center the nature corridor rises in the air in the form of a landscape bridge that allows for nature to flow seamlessly from east to west.

We decided to maintain the forest in the center rather than exclude its presence. But rather than seeing it as a barrier, we see it as a strong identity for the city center. Nature will be easily accessible and you will sense its presence everywhere in Fagerstrand.

Paths will intertwine nature and the city. There will be interactions along the paths which will make it more accessible to the citizens and visitors.

### *The Commercial Connection*

The Commercial connection stretches from the center along Fagerstrandbakken to the seaside. Making it the link between center and sea. We densify along Fagerstrandbakken, creating cultural interactions and commercial facilities.

The Commercial center is densified, creating a more compact structure with buildings in 2-5 floors. The Center gets a new layout after

changing the road, making it a more coherent and intimate center where people can meet. The center is programmed with shops, housing, care homes, a culture house and even a satellite office where you can rent office space away from home.

The center is robust, making it possible to densify the center even more over time.

We propose a condensed city, building on existing structures and adding nature in-between rather than building more urban sprawl.

#### Cultural connection

The Cultural connection links Lilleruddammen with the industrial landscape, the marina and the beach. The cultural connection builds on the industrial heritage. The connection links the industrial landscape where the building remnants are reused in a way that they will become attractors for residents and visitors with many cultural interactions along the route. ex. an old silo used as a dive pool and another used as an exhibition. The connection links the landmarks and uses the trail of the old pipes as paths in nature.

#### *The harbour connection*

The harbour connection stretches from the beach and marina in the south to the entrepreneur dock and swimming pool in the north. The industrial harbour is transformed to a vibrant promenade with new cultural functions, cafes, offices and housing. We call it Fagerstrand Brygge.

We wish to use the existing plateau from the oil heritage, so that we don't abruptly the natural landscape. The promenade is only for pedestrians while the backside is serviced

with cars and parking. The courtyards are raised above the promenade which provides the inhabitants privacy from the busy promenade and can be used for parking underneath.

We transform the boathouse to a maritime house. The boat workshop is kept but the northern part of the house is reused as a sports arena that can facilitate meeting places for the whole city. In the north part of the harbour a public indoor swimming pool is placed, in near visual contact with the Oslo Fjord.

### **A conscious architecture built on the anthropogenic trails of another time**

We are living in a world of growth. The use of the world's resources is growing and over time this use has left its distinct marks on the environment and landscape.

Fagerstrand has many geographically visible scars from the time of the oil industry. The harbour side has played the dominant role of the city and the housing has been pushed back from the water, to the height of the city center. Here the city has enjoyed the views of the Oslo fjord, but at the same time it has been distant from the inhabitants, something to look at rather than engaging with.

The work centralizes around the big cities which demands efficient and easy transportation from the surrounding areas, leaving the smaller cities with big traffic corridors that acts as a barrier dividing areas or event cities into pieces.

With the decline of the oil industry the city of Fagerstrand now has the opportunity to reclaim their land.

The architecture of the new addition to Fagerstrand shall seek to build on the new possibilities that allowed for this change while utilising the artifacts in the landscape left from the previous periods.

On the harbour the dwellings are placed on the areas that are left from the industry, leaving space for nature to take back the areas on the steep hills leading up to the city. The areas will remain as the industry left it, only to be the source of housing, new meeting places and public functions. Making as little impact on nature as possible.

The housing is primarily built as wooden structures, both the constructive system and the facades. All buildings along the waterside are placed in order to make sure that every apartment has a view to the water. Besides providing privacy to the inhabitant the raised courtyards work as a protection for flooding as a result of climate change.

The landscape of the steep hills will remain as a reminder of the previous history of Fagerstrand, and will communicate this to the visitors. The existing silos will stand as the reminder of the scale of the industry, but instead of keeping people out, they will now make room for a variety of attractions that invite the public in, such as a silo for diving, art exhibitions, concerts and even a historical culture exhibition telling the tale of Fagerstrand. The previous history has helped shape Fagerstrand and shall not be forgotten.

The city center will along with the new harbour area lead way for a new and intertwined Fagerstrand. The composition of functions shall support a diverse city filled with possibilities of exchange and co-learning. Housing dwelling shall seek to connect people in all stages of life in the belief that they can benefit immensely from each other.

The city also gains a lot of public attractions that enriches the life of the inhabitants of the city. From the new swimming facility, promenade and public beach in the west, to the urban street of Fagerstrandbakken and the community house, multipurpose plaza, shops and cafes in the city center.

All of these new functions make a diverse city, utilizing the cultural trails of a previous time as foundation for a new ecosystem between nature and culture.