

BUILDING UP ON VALUES

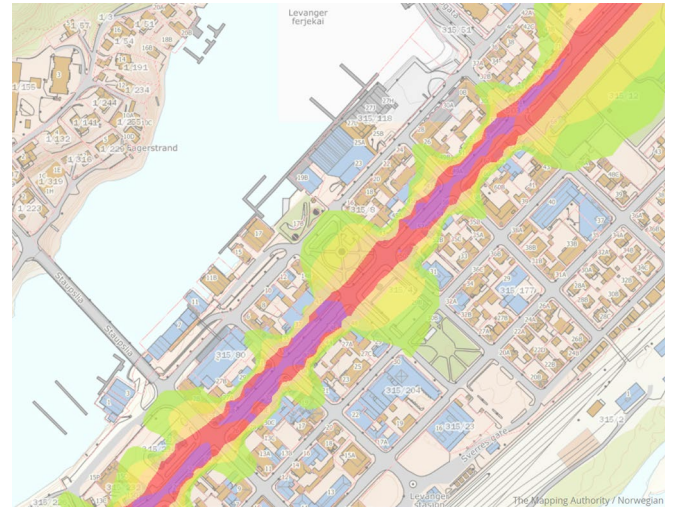
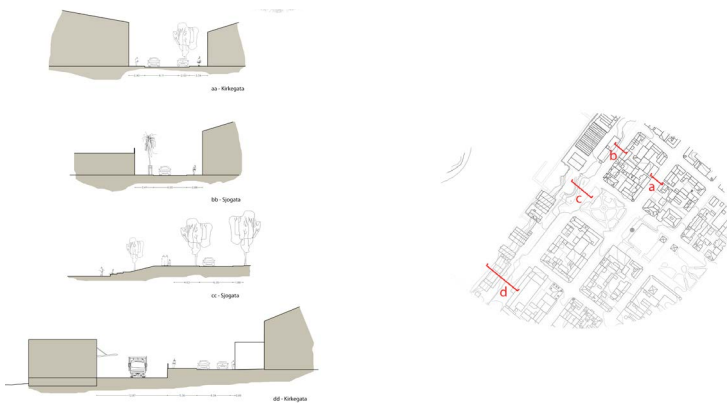
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LIVING CITIES - LIVING LEVANGER

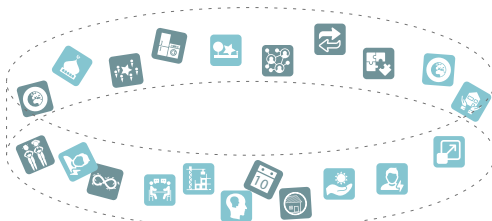
The theme of EUROPLAN 16 has brought us to rethink what are the priorities in the urban agendas. How to address the co-existence of the different ecosystems and how these new relations come to generate inhabited milieus. Prior to the existing health circumstances, facilitating the creation or the densification of communities related mainly to workspace and the shared economy. It was mainly co-creation, innovation and productivity that drove the attention of the architects and/or urban planners. Recently, the need for connectedness on a broader scale has however been highlighted as an essential facet of living cities. Placemaking has come to be used as a key facilitator of community building and has therefore become an increasingly essential facet of any design. Trying to define from distance, how an international theme touches a small town in north Europe we started to dig in a bit deeper.

The main issue to deal with in our first decision-making process was to eliminate this red wall. Norwegian polar institute created this map which says much more about what needs to have priority in the city of Levanger.



We consider that to connect socially or physically is as basic as to have shelter. This has consequences in the way that we start to think about the steps that we need to thoroughly take to start giving answers to the themes and the sub-themes of Europlan and more specifically to the study and project site. A first question that we need to ask is: In which ways have the specific emergencies been addressed related to the existing dynamics? Also, how can the metabolic and inclusive vitalities (Europlan 16 themes) consider the main priorities that start within of the city of Levanger? Starting from the level of the urban planning to infrastructure system to public space design and architecture, therefore from macro to micro, we aim to bring a level of elaboration (from "doughnut planning" to complex planning) which leads us from monofunctionality to a considerable social (broad or local) connectivity.

Existing situation



Future situation



We introduce an organizational scheme (9+1 principles) that overcomes traditional views of a city development and can potentially lead only to the enrichment of the existing situation while providing high standards of the twenty-first century urgencies. These principles answer in different levels of what a living city might be:

01. Small towns, big living
02. Mobility as public space
03. Know my city, make my city
04. Water is Levanger
05. Sleep with your windows open
06. Culture is our second language
07. Bring over an idea, bring you
08. Energy is mutual
09. Building with color and light
- +1. A city to grow within



Research & design as the ultimate way to understand the city.

Process strategies play a key role in the creation of city and community environments. They facilitate creative use patterns by reticulating the physical, cultural and social identities that define a place and support its continuous transformation. Starting from incremental small-scale developments, tactical urbanism methods, pop-up program or big gestures of interventions, the aim is always to create resilient, inclusive and dynamic places for long-term.

Rather than isolated components we see a whole center that requires a much more energetic vision.

- The courtyard(s)
- Kirkegata street
- The bicycle lanes
- The empty plots
- The central axes
- The student housing
- The housing for those who feel young
- The flexible program
- The new market
- The built parking hub
- Fancy urban furniture
- The new library - community center
- The volunteering bridge
- Sjogata street
- The winter pool
- The open theater
- The ground floor of the city hall
- The (unofficial) youngest mayor in the world
- The city volunteering work and groups
- The soft neighborhood business
- The local food network
- Diverse housing stock
- Intergenerational connections
- The local media hub
- Alternative green solutions
- ...

Places where the site is seen as an important node, have always to be in a larger environment and must be considered in their entirety. In the case of Levanger, the urban development is considered to draw its main strength from how every intervention enhances its surroundings and therefore it is not necessary to define a period of implementation. The best solution we find to be is ... start...now. Different groups can activate others while new housing typologies can intrigue different stakeholders. An engaged city hall should take the lead and with citizens invited in the planning and the actioning goals, every citizen should feel like an owner. Except maybe for the new library building, most of the projects can be implemented in a short period of time. To achieve greater levels of inclusivity and accessibility, the center should be thought as an ecosystem that any decision can lead to a greater and more balanced symbiosis between old and new, built and unbuilt, color and light, action or thinking and more.... a real living city.

Model making as a tool for urban experiment and programmatic balance.

