

House for All

Diploma Autumn 2019

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Institute of Architecture

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Introduction

The diploma project is an exploration of a new kind of a ceremonial place. Traditionally, the many Christian churches around the country have been important meeting spots for the neighborhoods and for celebrating big life events. They still are today, but a new demand has started to emerge from the rapidly changing demographic of religious and secular belonging. A need for a shared space, for unification and a new monument in the landscape where big life events can be celebrated. My approach is to propose a spatial idea for the building and explore how it can stretch beyond ceremonies and become a new meeting spot for the people in the neighborhood and the larger city.

Method

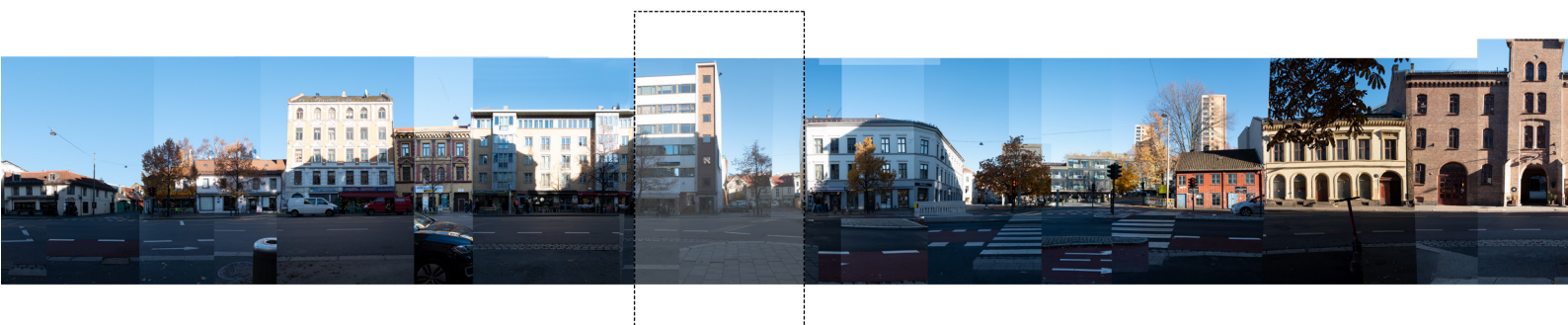
The diploma project starts with the site. The site should be visible in the city, in a dense environment with a varied religious and secular demographic. Next, it is important to define a clear spatial idea for the project. The idea will give structure to the process, a direction to move in and fall back on throughout. Different volume studies in relation to site as well as for the idea will be explored. The building will need to fulfill certain needs and appropriate sources will be contacted for information. At the core of this project is the spatial idea for a new type of building. A ceremony space appropriate for a variety of religions and life views. A study trip to Denmark will be conducted.

Site

Grønlandsleiret 14-16, Oslo, Norway

Where the city of Oslo splits into east and west, lies the site of the building. The neighborhood has a strong multicultural character with approximately 40% of the inhabitants being immigrants. On top of the hill to the north-east lies the Catholic Church and monastery of St Hallvard, down the road towards the south-east towers the Evangelican Lutheran Grønland Church and the more anonymous Rinzai Zen-center of Oslo and to the west lies the first mosque in Norway, the Islamic Cultural Centre.

The current situation is a car park and a mixed used office building in poor condition. This will be removed for the project. The site is important as it provides the building with visibility to the public, a meeting place for the neighborhood and a place for unification of the diverse.







Spatial program

Primary rooms

- Large central ceremony room
- Secondary ceremony room
- Public library with religious and philosophical texts
- Garden

Secondary rooms

- Offices for administration, library and ceremony
- Auditorium/Classroom for learning
- Social lounge
- Officiant's room
- Private room for guests
- Mourning area
- Meeting rooms
- Visitors' computer space
- Visitors' working space
- Visitors' reading space
- Café
- Entrances

Tertiary rooms

- Storage ceremony rooms
- Storage library
- Storage office
- Storage cleaning
- Audio/Visual technical rooms
- Bathrooms
- Kitchen
- Coffee bar
- Reception
- Photocopy room

Case studies

Several buildings and rooms were studied and visited during this diploma project. Some contributed to a new path of organizing principles, of direction of movement and idea of light, while others became obsolete as the project moved on. The three most influential ideas and buildings have been mentioned below, possibly recognizable in the proposed project.

British castles

British castles have been studied for the intertwining of grand rooms and the connection between them. Each room is often entered through a passage in the wall, allowing for a dramatic experience when moving through spaces. The rooms attain a monumental character.

Louis I. Kahn

Several of Louis I. Kahn's buildings have been studied for their organising principles. For taking the experience of moving inside a wall to allowing the wall to become a room in itself. This became a structural and secondary organizing element in House for All after the main space.

Bethlehem church

The Bethlehem church in Copenhagen was visited on the study trip. The church blends in with the surrounding facades of brick and the main room is entered through two very small doors. The experience is that one of surprise. A stark contrast between the life outside and the tranquil space inside.

Submission material

1:50 Main model

1:100 Plan drawings all levels
Section direction aa
Section direction bb
Facade all sides

1:500 Situation model

1:2000 Situation plan

Illustrations