

# Reimagine a Factory

## *Strategies for Future Forms of Urban Production*

### 2 Program



*Some of the workers at Kitterriet.*

*How can an uninviting factory become public, and in what way can the site be lively all day?*

#### **Background**

The background for the project is my interest for how production can play a role in the city. My proposed strategy, *the Artery*, offers flexibility in terms of what kind of program that is added. The strategy is local and sensitive towards discovered values along the way. In that way, I want the project to be open in terms of program.

The main concept for the diploma project, is to welcome people to be a part of a creative and productive environment. Both in terms of designing and producing their own objects, and to be a visitor at site and enjoy a living symbol of the industrialization of Fredrikstad.

As the buildings are cleaned, restored and opened up to the public, I will discuss and propose possible programs. One possible direction is to focus on the programs currently at the site today. For example, the flea market storage could be more accessible. Today the facade is closed, and new openings towards the river could potentially make the site more attractive. There is an existing flea market every Sunday in the fortified town (Gamlebyen), which is popular and there is long line of people wanting to get a stand there.

Another possible direction, is to connect to the neighbouring schools University College Østfold (Høgskolen i Østfold), and the Frederik II high school.

A third possibility lies in exploring upcycling of porcelain and ceramics. There is no solution for recycling porcelain today, and it is used as landfill. In addition, there is a question of how the factory can expand in the future. There is a limit of much you can develop and produce technical porcelain, and there is an unused potential to collaborate between the artists and the factory in design of new products lines, which are based on unusable porcelain objects. This concept can potentially create synergies between creativity and technology.

### **Connection to educational facilities**

University College Østfold (HiØ) is located at Kråkerøy, a five minute walk from the NTP site. The school has a focus on vocational studies, with a focus on the technical aspects and innovation. I imagine a collaboration between NTP and HiØ, where the students can visit and work at the site, to gain knowledge of technical porcelain and green energy or to work with innovation and design with the artists and designers at NTP.

Fredrikstad has two high schools; Glemmen and Frederik II videregående skole. Both within walking distance of NTP. Glemmen offers classes in design and crafts, and Frederik II has classes in technology and electricity. I imagine the schools could partially use facilities at NTP to educate their students, in collaboration with the factory, the artists and other relevant businesses. Especially since the arts and crafts building at Glemmen was torn down <sup>1</sup>.

### **Creating a low threshold social space for the locals**

The demography of the neighboring Trosvikstranda area is characterized by low income and low levels of education <sup>2</sup>. Today, the industrial buildings creates a border between their home and the potentially attractive riverfront. I imagine activities for youth at the site. Possible working with crafts or in the factory. The adults and elderly can visit and experience the activity, or take a part in the production. No matter how the program is developed, the goal is to create an attractive meeting place, both between the inhabitants of Trosvikstranda, but also the population of Fredrikstad.

### **New use of existing shed**

As the storage shed where the flea market storage is located, is decided removed, I want to temporarily use the space for public programs. For example, it could host program that the city already need. Potentially, the space could be a sculpture park, skate park, concert arena, food hall or a temporarily industrial museum, which is something Fredrikstad Museum is eager to develop.

### **Program strategy**

Based on program discussion, I propose a workshop for architectural porcelain, where porcelain is upcycled. Facade elements, tiles and other interior elements are designed and produced, to be bought by the visitors or used in the new housing development at Trosvikstranda. Imagine the joy of having a piece of industrial history in your own home.

The proposed added program will aim to strengthen the urban qualities and explore how this can positively influence the site as a production facility, in a short-term as well as a long-term perspective. In addition, the site also hosts several artists, and some of them work with the leftover-porcelain. There is an unused potential to showcase these artworks to the public.

Tours, open days and presentations will allow citizens and neighbours to get an insight into businesses that are otherwise hidden behind closed doors and thick walls. By adding open production facilities for the inhabitants as well, the city will gain cultural and social values. An exposed production line can in itself be an attractor.

I gained an interest in how I could use excess porcelain from the factory as a material in the added architecture. Instead of being landfill, I see a potential of using these objects as new elements. New technologies can as well influence the future of the factory, where 3D-printing of certain elements can reduce waste.

The existing factory, the work in the art studios, workshop and maker space and the promenade along will all together create a productive cluster along the river Glomma.

1 <https://www.f-b.no/glemmen-videregaende-skole/skoler/e-blokken-ved-glemmen-jevnet-med-jorda/s/5-59-512086> (16.05.21)

2 Fredrikstad kommune, 2018, side 64

## Riverfront

This is the first space the public will meet when arriving at the site. Today it is abandoned. By cleaning, removing waste and lay a new flooring material, the site will immediatly become more attractive. In addition, I propose a new stop for the free city ferry.

## Gallery

A space where the local artists can showcase their art. After Hydrogenfabrikken art cluster closed down in 2015, Fredrikstad had lacked a contemporary art gallery. There are several cultural insitutions in the city, but none of these offers large and rough spaces, which is what the artists need and want. The gallery can potentially also be combined with a café or bar, which connects directly to the river promenade.

## Architectural porcelain workshop

A space for the public to experience, design and produce objects and elements based on upcycled and leftover porcelain from the factory. In addition to a space with different work stations for schools, children, students and adults, the space will host a shop

where people can buy the objects made here. Strongly connected to the Gallery and the *Composite* building with auditorium and learning spaces.

## Velferdshuset

By taking advantage of the unused offices in the *Composite* building, the whole building will be used for educational purposes, a Skill School. The ground floor will host an auditorium and potentially an upcycling plant for porcelain and ceramics. The first floor will be used by relevant establishments for office spaces. In addition, the existing bridge can be used to connect to both the *Treatment* building and the *Administration*, where the first floor can be extended with more offices or educational areas.

## Maker space

The original factory building is partly abandoned, and there is a potential to occupy the second floor to create a maker space. Here, artists, craft schools, high schools or other creative people can book a space between four columns for their respective project. There is a huge demand to become a part of the existing art collective, and this program can answer to that need.

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