

Abstract: Revealing the Anthropocene – sensory laboratory for landscape processes

Geologists today are discussing whether we are in the epoch of the Anthropocene or still in the Holocene. However, as a buzz word for the last decade, the term Anthropocene has been used as a perspective in art, literature, and academia as a point of departure for exploring phenomena in relation to climate change, the use of materials, and geology where the human is perceived as the main agent. In field of landscape architecture, one could question if the term has drawn attention to create more sustainable proposals and projects, however not explored how the Anthropocene potential can become an aesthetic guide to reveal consequences of human actions.

The diploma project 'Revealing the Anthropocene – sensory laboratory for landscape architecture' is a suggestion for how to deal with the Anthropocene in landscape architecture in a geological important and industrial site. The purpose is to create a site, that can reveal landscape processes and becomes a laboratory for exhibiting and sensing the Anthropocene material.

In 2018 the former quarry *Huken* in Oslo, stopped being active and the municipality of Oslo decided to transform it into a recreational park (Asplan Viak, 2018). This diploma project proposes a transformation of *Huken* that deals with the potential of revealing geological and ecological processes over time as an aesthetic value. Focusing on the fact that a landscape will change over time, the project deals with principles from material, topography, succession and hydrology of the site. The project stimulates and emphasizes sedimentation, erosion, melting, water flows and succession entangled with actions from visitors on the site. Based on ecosystem services, the site will facilitate a process of cleaning asphalt waste and dirt snow through vegetation. The site will become a laboratory of those processes over time. Speculative drawings forecast how such things might turn out, however it could indeed look very differently in 50 years. The project is seen as a way of interpretate past geological traces together with present material.

The proposal is based on my analysis of historical maps and literature. *Huken* contains three important characteristics that are valuable in a transformation proposal. First, *Huken* is an industrial site, where extraction has led to a constant flow of material in and out – linking the site to a much greater urban context. Secondly, *Huken* is a site of geological heritage importance with unique geological varieties, that should be emphasized (Kvamsdal, 1999). The third characteristics is that hiding the consequences from human impact would be problematic. Today there is 100.000 m³ of contaminated asphalt waste at *Huken*. The material contains a potential to raise Anthropocene or "ecological awareness". As Davis & Turpin (2015) states:

“Our sensible and perceptive systems are being refashioned at rates that we can barely keep up with, as the world around us changes so rapidly. We daily experience what used to be a sublime moment; anthropogenic mountains are now so ordinary that we don’t even notice them (...) our current climate demands a different kind of aesthetic and sensorial attention.” Using anthropocentric material together with landscape processes this project is an exploration of how search different aesthetic may be come to form. It’s a proposal to reveal the unvalued Anthropocentric traces entangled the change of landscape processes.

Through iterative drawing explorations the project has been formed together with material test on site models in addition to digital models.

Literature:

Asplan Viak (2018).) *Ammerudveien 300, Huken, Bydel Grorud Planforslag til offentlig ettersyn*. Available at: <https://innsyn.pbe.oslo.kommune.no/saksinnsyn/showfile.asp?jno=2018148407&fileid=8227020> [Accessed 24 Apr. 2022].

Davis, H. and Etienne Turpin (2015). *Art in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Aesthetics, Politics, Environments and Epistemologies*. Open Humanities Press.

Kvamsdal, L.O. (1999). Mineralene fra Huken pukkerk i Oslo. *Stein - Magasinet for populærgeologi*, [online] 26(4), pp.14–24 +29-47. Available at: <http://www.nags.net/stein/> [Accessed 24 Jan. 2022].