

# A DANCE FOR VESTERLID

CENSORS BOOKLET

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## A DANCE FOR VESTERLID

Rooms for dance and performances.

An addition to Are Vesterlid and Hans Østhaugs summer restaurant and dance pavillion in Elverum. The diploma will study the relationship between the existing and the new, as well as the design of functional and beautiful spaces for practise and performance.

# AMBITIONS

I have had many wants and ambitions for this project, among them are the drive to suggest a real alternative to the buildings continued life as a museum of its own history. The declaration of protection that was bestowed on the building by the office of cultural heritage in September of 2017 highlight the high value of both the architecture and the life of the building. However, I believe that the building should still be used for dance, music and festivities, in part because i feel that the use is intrinsic in the architecture of the building. The building itself seems to dance as its ceilings and floors jump from the lowered concrete pools and onto a soaring deck overlooking the river Glomma.

I have attempted to really study the building, to understand the peculiarities of its construction and forms, and to use this understanding to design an addition to the building that would partake in the dance, and facilitate a use that could reintroduce the sense of activity that seems to have permeated this place every wednesday and sunday in its heighdays, and that was very much missing when I visited in August.

The building is not very well insulated, it was made for summer use, and this has undoubdtably been an important premice for the light and airy architecture that Are Vesterlid and Hans Østhaug achieved in their design. Nonetheless this is also one of the main hindrances to its continued use. The dance culture that was so vital in the Hedmark region in the beginning of the 60s and 70s was also a culture of festival and drink, and complaints from the neighbours were many. Attempts to sound proof the dance hall were not very sucessfull, and a declining local interest led to the end of activities in 1980.

I began my process by researching possible uses for the building. I discovered that the nearby Elverum highschool does not have courses in dance. My attention turned from the architecture of the building itself to the technical possibilities and limitations it presents for a school of dance. I thought about incorporating the school of dance wholly within the walls of the kitchen and restaurant building itself, but the demands of the programme asked for big open spaces. I considered attempting to climatize the dance hall itself, but this proved difficult due to its complex geometry and slender construction. Throughout the diploma process, I have gone back and forth on different strategies, the end goal has always been to suggest a realistic and active use of the building. And I also considered different programmes. My final proposal combines different technical, architectural and programmatic tactics in order to again fill the building with activity and life.





