

Capillary Action Torshov

Torshov is situated in a north-central valley of Oslo with a fragmented cityscape and flood problems due to a historic stream that was buried into pipes. This project suggests making the stream readable again, strengthening the connection from fjord to forest by means of low cost interventions.

Capillarity plays a crucial role. The valley's topography guides the spread and accumulation of water to the ground and plants for percolation and storage. Plants bring water up the roots and stems, returning moisture to the environment. Rain percolates down through soil and rock to the water table.

The focused interventions, the theater, the schoolyard and the orchard will help to improve social life between the quarters on both sides of the stream by utilizing found conditions, local knowledge, and over-looked public spaces.