Church for the deaf
Censors booklet

Diploma
Maja A. Osberg
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1. Introduction
The deaf church is an important part of the deaf community in Norway. A place for deaf and hearing impaired with their families to meet each other. The deaf church in Norway is growing. A lot has changed since the last deaf church was built in 1989. Deaf schools are closed, as deaf and hearing impaired are integrated in the “hearing” schools. It is therefore even more important that they have a place to gather that is designed for their needs.

Deafness is defined as total or near total inability to hear. According to Norges Døveforbund (Norway’s deaf association) there are 5 000 deaf people in Norway, and about 700 000 people with hearing loss.

Using the DeafSpace concepts as guidelines, I wanted to create a deaf church that can adapt to different spatial needs and still be a good space for deaf and hearing impaired. Looking at the qualities that comes from designing for the deaf instead of viewing their needs as extra work. And how these qualities can benefit others.
Mobility and proximity

Space and proximity

Light and color

Mobility and proximity

Sensory reach
The Deaf Church in Norway has existed since the 1890s. The ministry in Oslo got its own church in 1894, an existing church for hearing people. Today the Deaf church has eight congregations around the country. The churches in Trondheim, Oslo and Bergen are the only churches built specifically for the deaf church. Trondheim deaf church from 1927, Oslo deaf church from 1974 and Bergen deaf church from 1989. The other congregations either use existing churches or share with a “hearing” congregation. The services in The deaf churches are in Norwegian sign language. They use sign poetry, dance and sign choirs.
The deaf churches in Norway
2. Site
I chose the site because of its centrality and proximity to Diakonhjemmet. The deaf congregation in Oslo is the largest of the deaf congregations, and includes Oslo, Borg and Hamar diocese. Oslo is easily accessible to all and has the largest share of the members.

Diakonhjemmet is an independent foundation within The Church of Norway which works for the inclusion of different groups in society.
3. Process
The church room has the traditional east-west axis, with the choir towards east. Symbolizing that Christ is the light of the world. One moves from the dark into the light.
The church room and the congregation room face the park.
Combining the two to give the church its shape.
Sacristy, office and other service rooms face the hospital.
Giving the church room a greater ceiling height.
Following the directions of the plot.
The church room and the congregation room face the park.
4. Project
Inspired by the stave churches, the facades are covered in tar-stained wooden shingles. Creating an experience when you enter into a light wooden interior.
Section - hallway

Section - sacristy and service rooms
Plan – large congregation room
5. Details
The deaf get to experience sound through the vibration floor in the church room. The vibration floor is created by placing bass speakers at regular intervals under the wooden floor.
Plan - hatches for bass speakers
Detail - window, door and wall