# In Between Diploma programme

Ane Marie Jakobsen Diploma fall 2019. AHO

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Title: In Between

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Semester: Fall 2019

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"All material including photographs and maps, unless otherwise stated, is by the author."

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# Introduction

"No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

John Donne

# Motivation & Background

#### Motivation

Oslo is often referred to as a divided city. In my previous semester, In-Transit at AHO, I was made aware of the social segregation of Oslo and how it is affecting neighbourhoods in the eastern and southern parts of the city. Our our master course project was at Holmlia in Søndre Nordstrand, looking at creating new strategies for social sustainability and lasting communities. Our response was a community courtyard replacing the old centre. The project sparked my interest in finding possible strategies to decrease segregation.

#### Kommuneplan 2018 - Oslo Towards 2040

In 2018 Oslo municipality released a plan for the urban and social development for the coming 20 years. Oslo consists of a vibrant city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods with unique character. The plan for 2040 seeks to strengthen the local identities of the neighbourhoods while the city grows. Needs of improvement will be guided by feasibility studies and local participation. The neighbourhoods will be accessible and diverse, no matter your social or financial situation.

# Collective Housing

The city council is planning to fund initiatives exploring alternative housing types like collective housing and urban strategies that help the local communities and creates social meeting places. This spring Oslo Kommune and Husbanken is working on a strategy for new housing types and strategies for a few selected sites in the city.

# Current Housing market in Oslo

In spite of its social-democratic society and its history of building housing for the people, the situation today is based on liberal and marked-oriented politics. Today these are the options of procuring homes:



Buy/ rent on the private market



Renting social housing through the municipality:

Oslo Kommune offers housing for people who are struggling with finding a place to live. Certain criteria have to be met:

- Norwegian resident
- Lived in Oslo for at least 2 years
- Over 18
- A wealth less than 96 800,- and an income less than 387 000,- (2018)



Husbanken was formerly the government body that financed 70 % the affordable housing construction in the 70s, but now mainly offers subsidies for the elderly and disabled.



Boliabyagelag NBBL Association of housing cooperatives with the ambition of building, selling and managing housing for its members. Includes OBOS and USBL (Unadommens Selvbyggerlag).



**OBOS Bostart** The buyer buys the apartment with a 10-15% discount with the agreement that Obos has the right to buy the apartment back for the same price when owner wants to sell.

# Kommuneplan Ambitions for 2040



# A Greener City

- Gradually car free city centre with green public transport.
- A pedestrian and bicycle friendly city.
- A sustainable city with urban landscapes and sustainable buildings.



# A Warmer City

- A city free of discrimination and bullying.
- All children have a safe childhood and equal opportunity.
- The municipality includes children when planning for them.
- All citicens have access to meaningful and healthy activities.
- Oslo is an age-friendly city.



# A more creative/generative city

- Oslo as a leading and attractive city for knowledge and industry developing new technologies.
- An innovative and useroriented city.
- Oslo is a creative and cultural centre accessible by all and especially children and youth.
- Children will be taught to be creative and knowledgeable people prepared for the future.



# A city with room for everyone

- Offering good quality, varied housing across the whole city.
- Offering diverse and accessible spaces and local initiatives for sports, culture and recreation.
- Adequate spaces for kindergartens, schools and cultural and social infrastructure in all neighbourhoods.
- Collaborating with volunteers to create involvement, good communities, services and activities to the people.



# Living together

# A move towards community

At school and in the architecture environment I am seeing an increased interest in collective housing, shared functions and participation. The term "Co-housing" was first introduced in Denmark in the 1960s, as a term for intentional housing communities consisting of private homes and shared facilities. Earlier co-housing projects were usually completed by private initiatives, but recently Oslo municipality has been making moves towards collective and alternative housing. Encouraging architects and planners to think sustainable about the use of resources and build for communities.

#### Characteristics

According to McCamant and Durrett's book Cohousing (1988) there are four common characteristics that define a co-housing project.

- Participatory process
   Residents organise and participate in the planning and design process, and are responsible as a group for all financial decisions.
- 2. Intentional neighbourhood design development:
  The physical design encourages a sense of community.
- Extensive common facilities:
   An integral part of the community, common areas are designed for daily use, to supplement private living areas.
- Complete resident management:
   Residents making decisions of common concern at meetings.



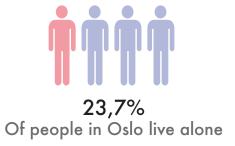
Communal dinner at Jernstøberiet, Denmark

# The unaffordable city

Oslo is often referred to as a divided city. The poor and disadvantaged are being pushed to the outskirts, creating areas with a lot of difficulties. Oslo is becoming an expensive city. The increased housing prices is forcing people into crammed apartments and bad living conditions. This social segregation has a long history, but lately the development towards the private market combined with a higher demand, has made issues worse. How does this divide manifest itself in the built environment?

# Combating loneliness

Oslo is getting denser, but in spite of the increased density, we are lonelier. In Oslo 1 out of 4 people live alone. Loneliness is considered to have a large impact on peoples health and can cause depression. Studies have shown that people who live together are less lonely than people who live alone. We need to rethink the way we live together and create functional communities. Creating places where people can meet in everyday life. Can our built environment reduce loneliness?





Communal dinner in Friis gate 6, Oslo https://magasin.oslo.kommune.no/byplan/ikke-som-alle-andre-borettslag/#gref

# Who lives together?

Co-housing has been seen as an extreme living situation where all inhabitants take large part in the community and new members have to meet certain criteria to be accepted. Many of the original co-housing projects exclude certain parts of the population by mostly appealing to middle and upper class families, but recent successful projects offer good quality housing for a varied mix of people, rich and poor, ethnic majorities and minorities, young and old. Not all groups of people function together in the same shared collective, but planning for a diverse population on a larger scale makes an inclusive city.

# Social sustainability

The segregation of Oslo is a large social and political issue that can't be solved with one housing project, but designing inclusive, collective and place-making architecture can build a local identity that in the long run can make a difference. Creating sustainable, successful places for people and places to evolve.

# Bridging the divided

Many cities in Europe is facing the same issues, and some have developed housing models that can inspire a change. I see opportunities in the division for a change in how we build for the future and for how we love together.

Can collective housing be a possible strategy to decrease social segregation in Oslo?



Haus A, Duplex Arkitekten Hunziker Areal, Zürich Margrit Hugentoblndreas Hofer. More than Housing

# References

# "Visning"

Exhibition
Nasjonalmuseet Arkitektur 27.04.18-30.12.18

"Visning" was based on the book "Hva er en god bolig?" by Johan-Ditlef Martens and Ketil Moe and raised questions about the current trends in the Oslo housing market. What is good housing? The curators looked at housing standards that were long forgotten and qualities that were second nature in large parts of Europe, but missing in Oslo. Examples from Vienna were highlighted, where they have a well developed social housing sector.



Photo: Nasjonalmuseet



Photo: Annar Bjørgli

Madshus, red. Visning. Oslo: Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design. Exhibition catalogue.

# "Together! The new architecture of the collective"

Book and Exhibition Vitra Design Museum

"Housing is scarce – that much has become evident in the last few years. As real estate prices in big cities continue to skyrocket, conventional ideas of housing development prove unable to meet demands. The reaction to these challenges has been a silent revolution in contemporary architecture – towards collective building and living."

The book collects a sample of contemporary collective housing projects sorted by the building year. The more diagrammatical perspective is complimented with a photo series of everyday life from collective housing projects in Japan, where shared housing has had an uprising. The book is colourful and approachable and discusses relevant themes in collectivity.



http://ruby-press.com/projects/together-the-new-architecture-of-the-collective/



https://www.design-museum.de/en/exhibitions/detailpages/together-the-new-architecture-of-the-collective.html

#### Hunziker Areal, Mehr als Wohnen, Zurich

Urban masterplan

Pool Architekten, Müller Sigrist, Miroslav Šik, Duplex Architekten and Futurafrosch

An urban development and housing co-operative in Zurich. A mix of social housing typologies and public spaces create larger and smaller meeting places in one block. The project was a collaboration of several architects as well as future residents. The ground floor contain work-spaces, retail and community rooms that serve smaller squares and generate social life. It transforms a once neglected neighbourhood into a welcoming and diverse civic quarter.

10% of the apartments are offered to charities and NGO's and subsidies are offered to low-income earners. By planning for a diverse target group (families, singles, elderly, students, shared housing and rentals) the project achieves a good mix.



#### R50, Berlin

Collective housing

Ifau und Jesko Fezer Heide & Von Beckerath

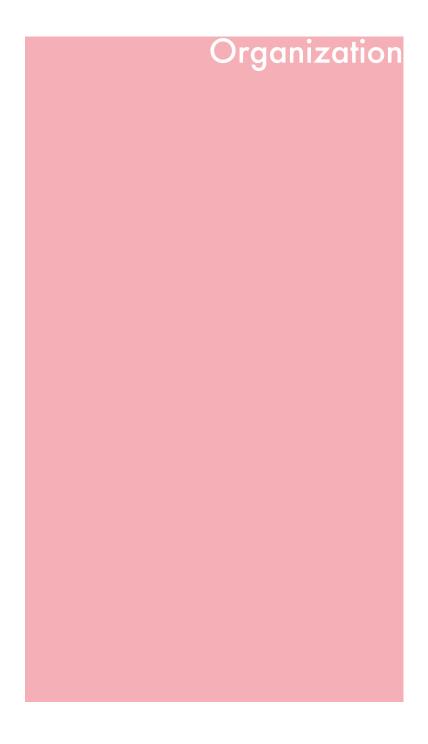
A collective housing project with a double height communal ground floor that opens up to the public. Above are 19 apartments connected with shared balconies that stretch around the building. The project is successful in its internal flexibility and how the building integrate in an urban environment.

The situation in Berlin is similar to Oslo where the housing market is driven by the developers and increased prices. The architects collaborated with the department of urban development to create a building that exceeded the norm and that offered an affordable alternative to the people.









# Approach

My approach is to plan for community and diversity in a place where the social segregation is taking place. Developing a testing site for collective and alternative housing models at the meeting of the divided. Through the use of different housing typologies and with a mix of spatial design, common amenities and formal social structures I aim for inclusive architecture. The project will be between a normal design project and a real-world engaged as my ambition is to establish communication with the people who are in the process of making this change happen.

# Diploma deliveries

# **Drawings**

Site plan 1: 1000 Site section 1:1000

Plans 1:150 Section 1:150

Apartment plans 1: 100/50

#### Illustrations

Exterior and interior

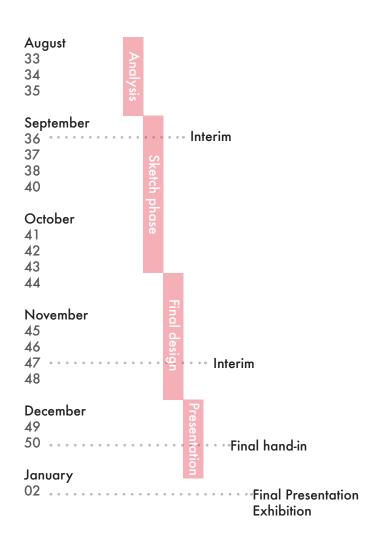
#### Models

Site model 1:1000 Project model 1:200

#### **Process**

Diploma program Abstract Process booklet

# Diploma Schedule



# **Collective Typologies**

"The human being cannot do without community; it is only in exchange with others that we are truly ourselves. Engaging in debate, being perceived, playing a role, finding sympathy - these are all basic needs and having them withdrawn is asking to be imprisoned.

Everyone can cook and do their laundry by themselves, but that which goes beyond everyday life and lends it its lustre: sharing happiness and sadness, celebrating, dancing, eating fondue, learning, debating - all these and much more can only take place in community with other people. Community is added value; our lives would be poor without it"

Daniel Kurz

Hugentobler, Margrit, Andreas Hoter and Pia Simmendinger. 2015. Cooperative Planning : Exemplary Housing Development 'Mehr ALS Wohnen' in Zurich. Basel/Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter GmbH

# Levels of Collective Living

In this chapter I will analyse and categorize collective housing projects, mapping the shared and private zones into forms that shape the community and the city. The aim is to understand how the layout and proportion of the shared determines social mix and urban integration.

Collective housing is defined as having three levels of collective living, according to Muller, Niggli and Ruby in the book *Together*, The New Architecture of the Collective (2017)

# The Apartment

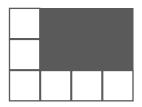
The emergence of cluster apartments. 250-400 m2 apartments with a number of small studio apartments with a large shared living room and kitchen. Enables singles to share daily activities with others.

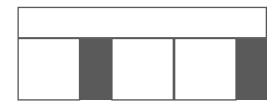
# The Apartment Building

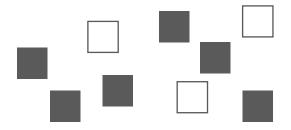
Individual apartments are supplemented with a mix of shared facilities that can be used collectively. Laundry, library, seminar space, workshop, play area and collective kitchen.

# The Urban Space

Apartment buildings constructed offering public programmes catering to people in the neighbourhood. Cinema, supermarket, restaurant/cafe, doctor, offices and parks. The modernist planning of functional separation suffocated urban life. Live side by side rather than specially segregated.







# Typologies of Shared Space

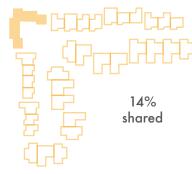


# The Village

A common house surrounded by low rise detached houses or row houses. Characterized by large outdoor areas and car free access. It is the type that closest imitate the rural areas of Oslo. This type of collective housing was highly represented at the height of co-housing popularity in Denmark in the 80s as it is easy do develop if there is plenty of land. The village pushes for social contact between residents, but the shared space is usually a separate building. The share-ratio is relatively low, and the dwellings are decently sized. The type rarely gives back to the urban or rural fabric as it in its layout very internal.

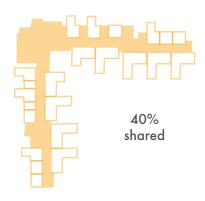


Trudeslund Co-housing, Denmark https://newspitalfields.wordpress.com/2015/11/13/trudeslund-cohousing/



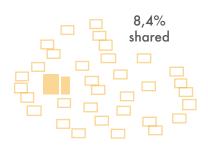


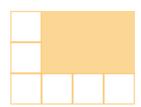
Jystrup Saværk, Denmark https://bofaellesskab.dk/bofaellesskaber/sebofaellesskaber/jystrup-savvaerk





Skråplanet, Denmark McCamant, Kathryn. Cohousing : A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves



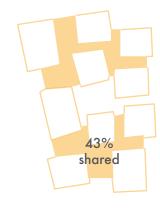


#### The Central

One floor with a cluster of smaller apartments or rooms connected to a central common space. This type demands the most sharing as the common facilities has been enlarged and the private space reduced. The Central often characterizes urban collective housing projects as it successfully combines the most people in the least amount of space. The type is best suited for singles or couples, but Copper Lane is an example of the same type on a larger scale. It is in the grouping of this typology I see potential. Where combining different scales of clusters that appeal to a range of people lead to a mixed population.

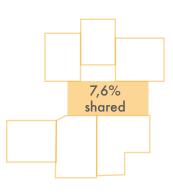


Mehr als Wohnen, Switzerland Margrit HugentobIndreas Hofer. More than Housing



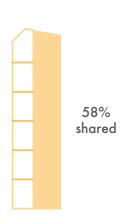


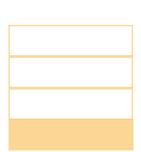
Copper lane, UK
http://henleyhalebrown.com/works/copper-lane/





Svartlamon, Norway https://arkitektur-n.no/prosjekter/strandveien-37



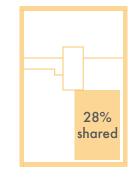


# The Ground Floor

A shared ground floor with dwellings above. The Ground floor is often open to the public as well as the residents, inviting the urban life into the building. This type is very successful in larger cities and urban environments as it gives something back to the larger community. By moving shared facilities to the ground the apartments are lifted and gain some privacy. The Ground Floor usually means lacking shared gardens and green spaces that some of the other types had.



R50 co-housing, Germany https://www.archdaily.com/593154/r50-nilcohousing-ifau-und-jesko-fezer-heide-and-vonbeckerath





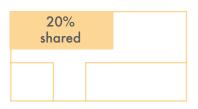
Nanterre co-housing, France https://www.archdaily.com/779035/nanterre-co-housing-mao-architectes-plus-tectone

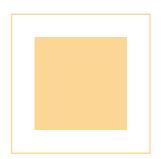






Wohnprojekt Wien, Austria



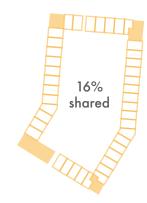


# The Courtyard

Dwellings and common rooms surrounding a large shared garden where the boundary between inside and outside is blurred. This type is similar to the bygård in Oslo with a free space within a strict frame. As well as the village the courtyard is excluding external contexts, but the shape seem to encourage collectivity and safety amongst residents where everybody can keep an eye on activities in the centre.

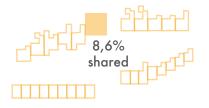


Lange eng, Denmark https://amallective.com/portfolio/collectiveliving-lange-eng-dorte-mandrup-arkitekter/



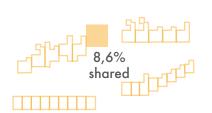


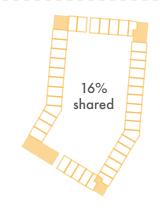
Sættedammen, Denmark https://newspitalfields.wordpress.com/2016/02/ 10/introduction-to-co-housing-in-denmark/

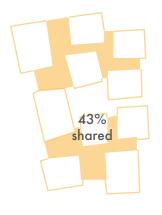


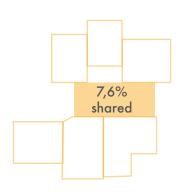
# Observations:

The ratio of shared to private does not determine good architecture, but the layout and placement of shared functions can have a positive impact on the surrounding context. The ground floor gives back to the community and is more transparent, while the central encourages the most amount of sharing.

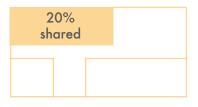


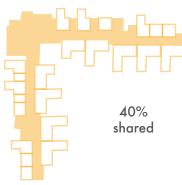


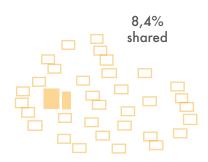


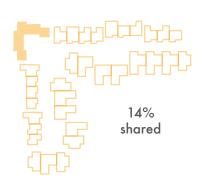


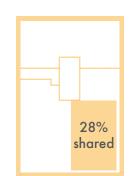


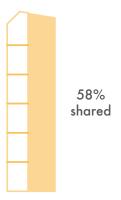












# **Affordability**

Most collective housing is privately funded but for a financially disabled population that might not be a good option. In some countries the municipality offers subsidies and alternative housing models that opens up for new forms of living. In this chapter I look at some of these models as inspiration for the housing market in Oslo

# Alternative housing models

#### AlmenBolig+ Denmark

Rental program where the rent is 30 percent cheaper than normal. The home is a prefab module that you customize internally and where residents are responsible for daily maintenance. If you are moving out parts of your investment will be paid back.

# Shared Ownership UK

Offers people the opportunity to pay for 25-75% of the home's value and pay rent on the rest. Later you can buy a bigger share. Offered to households earning less than £90,000 a year.

# Baugruppen Germany

German for "building group" is a self-initiated group of people who form a cooperation and together combine resources to buy land and fund construction. The people the clients and control the outcome.

#### Rent to buy UK

A funding program where you rent a home for up to five years at 20% below market price. At the end of the lease you have the option of buying the home at a lower cost or move out. Rent to buy also means people have a feeling of ownership of their rental property, and are less prone to damaging it.

# Gemeindebau Vienna

In Vienna social housing consists mainly of municipal housing, subsidised rental flats built by limited-profit housing associations and of flats in buildings which have been renovated as "gentle urban renewal". You only have to pay rent 30% of your income.

#### Self-Build

Offer to buy a plot within a structure or on the ground with all the materials and instructions needed to build your own home.



AlmenBolig+, Copenhagen
https://www.kab-bolig.dk/boligsoegende/boligformer/
almenbolia



https://www.archdaily.com/793287/bigyard-zanderrotharchitekten



Self-Build, Grundbau und Siedler, Hamburg https://www.competitionline.com/de/projekte/50241 @Veit





shared



# Hunziker Areal Haus A

Zurich, Switzerland Location

Year 2015

**Authors Duplex Architekten** 

Size 422m2 private (one level)

321m2 shared

Building assosiation, Mehr als Wohnen Model

Part of the Mehr als Wohnen masterplan Haus A is a collective housing project with a cluster plan. Each apartment contain 6 to 7 private rooms with varying size and amenities, some just a bed and a desk. The masterplan is known for its good planning and for offering varying forms living typologies and affordable housing. The ambition of the project has been to develop the city with innovative solutions for social sustainability.



Typical floor plan



Balcony life Margrit Hugentoblndreas Hofer. More than



View from circulation core Margrit Hugentoblndreas Hofer. More than Housing





58% shared



# Svartlamon Housing cooperation

Location Trondheim, Norway

Year 2005

Authors Brendeland og Kristoffersen Arkitekter

Model Self-initiation and self-build

Svartlamon housing cooperation was founded in 2001 in an area of decay with run down buildings and squatters. It has now become an alternative part of the city based on local initiative and experimental housing strategies in an effort to facilitate for affordable housing prices.

Strandveien 37 consists of a tall building commercial space and four share apartments for collectives of five to six residents and a smaller building with six one-room apartments. At its opening the building was a pioneer for its use of timber.



Typical floor plan



Strandveien 37 https://arkitektur-n.no/prosjekter/strandveien-37



Opening of experimental housing at Svartlamon
http://www.eksperimentboliger.no/





20% shared



The Apartment Building

Wohnproject Wien

Location Vienna, Austria

Year 2013

Authors Einszueins Architektur

Model Baugruppen

Collective housing project that started as a small group of people wanting to live together, but eventually turned into a self-organized community. A tedious participatory process that involved most of the residents working together on communal spaces, individual apartments and communal ownership.

The apartments are simple, differently sized and including most necessities. The community offers shared kitchen and dining, community room, tool-rental and workshop, library and office space, sauna and spa, and two spare apartments for guests. Many of the shared facilities are also available for rent by the public.



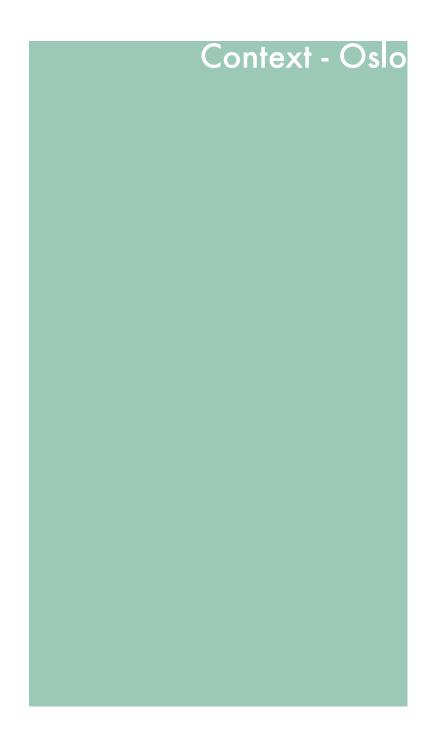
Sources: https://wohnprojekt.wien/



The communal ground floor



Shared kitchen and dining



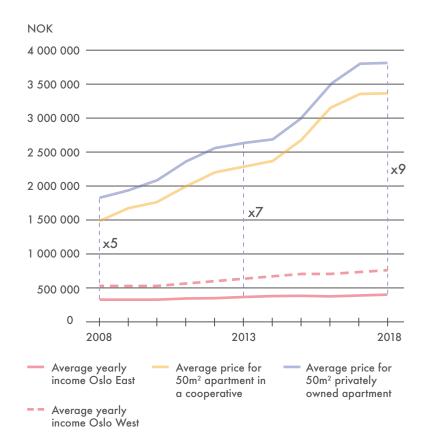
# Oslo, a divided city?

# Housing prices that segregate the city

As illustrated in the diagram on the next page the housing prices in Oslo has increased with an extreme rate, while the average income has stayed low. This is most visible when it comes to the people living in the eastern districts, where you today have to pay 9 times your yearly income for the smallest apartments. For families with dual income this price gap is manageable, but everyone else are struggling with getting a foot in the housing market. This is especially the case with immigrants from non-western countries, who come to this country with minimal resources.

# Rising prises = better homes?

While the price of housing is rising the quality of what is being built is getting worse. During the city expansion between 1960-80 there were a close collaboration between the state, municipality, housing cooperatives and private developers, which meant they were able to produce large numbers of affordable, good quality housing that most people could afford. Housing that still today are being praised. After the financial crack in 1987 social democratic housing policies were discontinued in favour of market-driven housing allocation. On an urban scale Oslo Kommune has been in the process of building out new neighbourhoods, like Sørenga, Kværnerbyen and Ulven, but with rising prices it means generating new neighbourhoods that are not accessible for most people.



# Mapping the divided city

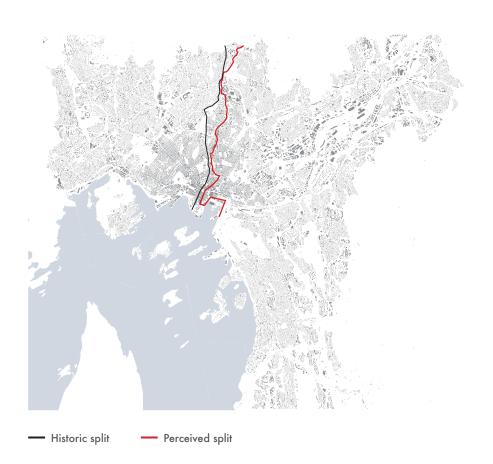
To better understand where the division takes place I have looked at different factors that divide Oslo. Living conditions, housing prices and peoples presumptions. The limitations of this mapping exercise is that it is only showing division on a large scale and not within each sub-district, where the differences can be large. The reality is that the lines are blurred but looking at statistics you begin to draw some larger indications of east and west.

# The historic split

Oslo has for a long time been characterized by its sociogeographical division of the west side and east side. Vestkanten and Østkanten. Increased industrialisation placed most production along Aker River along with working class neighbourhoods. Historically the split ran through Uelands gate on the west side of the river. Even though this division has shifted and become blurred the past years, the presumptions and stereotypes are still affecting the conversation amongst the older generations.

# The perceived split

The perceived split is based on my own assumptions before learning about this subject. The psycho-speculative exercise reveals a different divide than the historic and represents a starting point for further mapping. The split mostly follow the river. I assume that many people have their own idea of where the line between east and west goes and also which districts that have a bad reputation. I believe that when people have strong negative assumptions about a place it affects the people living there.



# The housing price split

Looking at the average price per m<sup>2</sup> for apartments you can clearly see that the division has moved further east towards the outskirts of the city. Generally the housing prices has increased exponentially the last 10-15 years, but especially along this east-west split. The more affordable housing prices you find in the eastern districts.

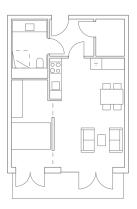
# The housing market today

The two apartments below are both being sold today in different areas of the city. High demand for affordable housing has pushed the limits of smaller apartments, reducing space and quality to meet consumers price points. This development is not for the best in my opinion.



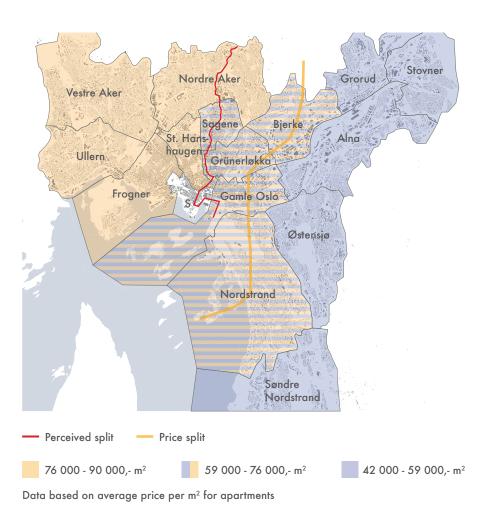
# Free Market Eufemias plass, Bjørvika 2 ROM, 44,8m²

Price: 4 600 000,-Per/m<sup>2</sup>: 102 000,-



# **OBOS**

Ulvenparken, Ulven 2 ROM, 47,5m<sup>2</sup> Price: 3 280 000,-Per/m<sup>2</sup>: 69 000,-



Sources:

https://boibjorvika.no/eufemias-plass-vest

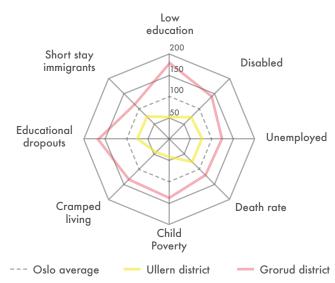
https://www.obos.no/privat/ny-bolig/boligprosjekter/oslo/ulven/ulvenparken/hele-ulvenparken http://eiendomnorge.no/boligprisstatistikken/#regionsrapporter

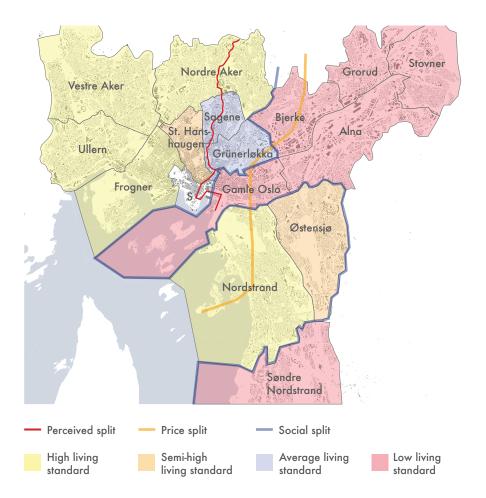
# The social split

The social split is based on the municipality's statistical publication of average living conditions of the people in each district of Oslo. The districts were then sorted and grouped into four levels. The division is visible by a band that stretches from the harbour to the end of Groruddalen.

The study combined data of the population:

- With low education
- Who are disabled and/or receiving welfare support
- Unemployed
- Who died between the age 55-79
- In poor households with children
- Living in cramped living conditions
- Who did not finish secondary school
- Who are short stay, non-western immigrants (asylum seekers)





Oslo Kommune, https://www.oslo.kommune.no/politikk-og-administrasjon/statistikk/statistiske-publikasjoner/faktaark-om-befolkning-levekar-og-boforhold/

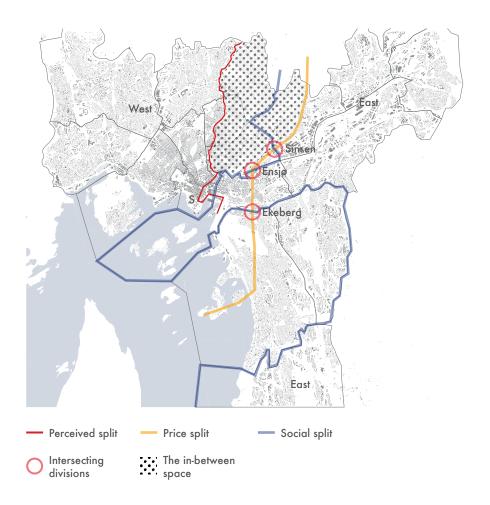
# The new map of the divided

Combining the perceived split, price split and social split from the previous mapping exercises creates patterns of divisions and a new map of the divided Oslo. There is no hard border but the lines separate the concentrated west from the concentrated east and highlights points of intersection. This also illustrates how far form reality my presumptions of this divide was.

Intersecting lines are highlighted as areas with potential where the divided could be bridged. Ekebreg, Ensjø and Sinsen are all in Oslo Kommuneplan 2040 as outer city development areas.

The in-between space finds a grey-zone between the splits where the east-west division is more blurred. The potential lies in the mix of high resourced population and a kinder housing market.

Oslo is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe and one of the main reasons for that is the increased number of immigrants. For people with fewer resources (students, young adults, starting families and immigrants) moving to the concentrated east is usually the only option. The area with the most social issues and also the lowest housing prices.



# Site strategy

#### Site Selection

The analysis of the divided city highlighted areas of potential and where a collective housing project could blur the lines between east and west. There are three possible strategies:



Site at the concentration of the divided



Site on the intersected splits

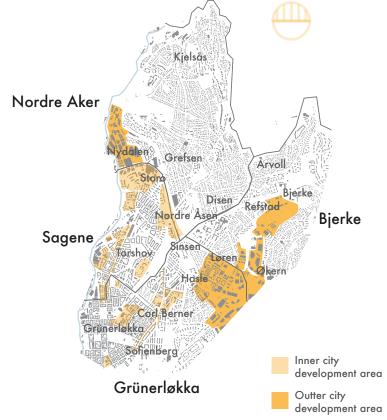


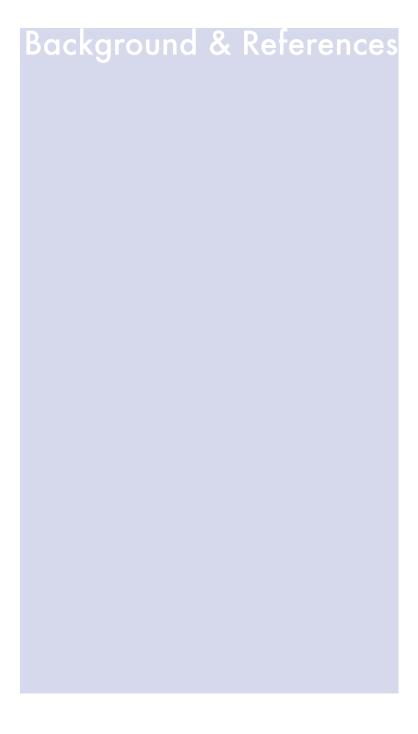
Site as a bridge at the in-between of divisions



# Site as a bridge at the in-between of divisions

My strategy is to position the project at the meeting point of the segregated. The blurred division combines parts of Nordre Aker, Bjerke, Sagene and Grünerløkka and contains areas future development from Kommuneplan 2018 - Oslo Towards 2040. There are potential sites to be explored in further analysis.





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