

Abstract

Dwelling in the Golden Years - Housing for senior citizens in Drammen

Topic

Assisted housing for seniors with a focus on space materiality and the topic of independence and loneliness. A home for the 21st century senior.

The intentions of this project has been to create a housing project for seniors who wants to sell their house and move to the city for an easier everyday life. A place where one can become of age without a semi hospitalized environment. I have been especially interested in how challenges with becoming of age like constrained moving abilities and the increasing loneliness seen among seniors in current times can be factors to generate architecture. The following points has been important driving factors in the projects.

- Stimulate movement
- Visual connections
- Visually stimulating spaces
- Qualities of living in a house
- Natural materials to interact with

Concept / Idea:

The Main Idea of the project is to encourage the inhabitants to move vertically as well as horizontally. This is especially important when becoming of age to maintain balance and strength. The projects takes ideas from a natural landscape in the mountains where you cross slopes, steps and canyons and experiences a wide variety of spaces along the way and to bringing a piece of nature in to the city. Steps accompanied by small ramps gives the user a choice in the way to move. If one has restricted movement, the spaces them self provides a sense of movement and three-dimensionality.



Project description

The project is located on the boarder of the suburban and the denser part of the city of Drammen. The hundred and ten meter long structure frames a new public garden between it and the existing school. The garden invites people in to a café and market space in the first floor where a landscaped floor creates zones for socializing, work and entertainment. Like a public living room, this floor becomes a space where generations cross and the inhabitants can interact with other members of the public.

A stair looking over the public floor takes the inhabitants up to the private parts of the building. Like a crack in a mountain, a large gap separates the apartments and the circulation and the city side from the suburban side. The gap runs vertically all the way through the building and secures visual connections between the floors, all the way from the sky down to the public floor.

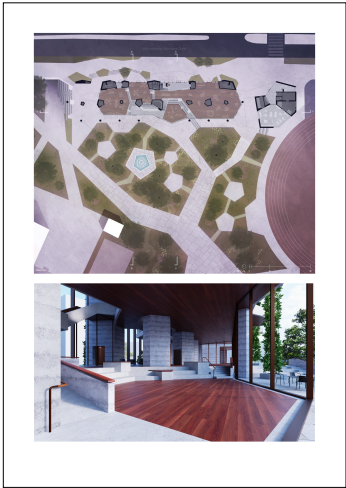
The irregular circulation makes everyday movement a joyful experience like going hiking in the mountains. Larger pockets in the circulation creates casual spaces for socializing and different activities for the people who live there. Each floor offers different spaces and activities and is shared between all the inhabitants across the floors. The irregular circulation makes it easy to navigate and recognize where you apartment is, if memory becomes a challenge. Entering your apartment have you crossing a short bridge marking the threshold between the shared and private worlds.

The apartments are laid out like individual caves between massive looking stones that repeats along the length of the building. Entering in to this cave you find the living room and dinning area. A free standing fireplace and a level difference separates the two spaces which opens up in different directions. The dinning area towards the dense city, and the living room towards the garden. A ramp is hidden behind the fireplace as a complimentary way of moving and secures the apartment being accessible to all users. A cliff like balcony reaches out towards the garden giving a view of the life in the city. Entering the stone you find the private spaces like the bedroom and bathroom.

In the very end of the building there is a bigger stone, simple and different in appearance, indicating the different use than the rest of the building. This is where you maintain hobbies, learn new skills or exercise. Here you find a public wood workshop, a physiotherapy office, Green house etc. Here one can join in on workshops, learn new crafts, meet people with similar interests and keep the cognitive abilities healthy as well as the physical.

Outcome

The project ended up as a some what experimental building. This was part of my intensions from the beginning, but interestingly it ended up more experimental than I initially though it would. There are things I would had liked to continue working on but I think the project overall has unique ideas derived from the program that ties together with the main idea/concept and translates it in to an architectural solution unlike other projects with similar programs.



(How the posters would have hang in the exhibition)