

## FISH SCALES AND GRANITE TALES – carving the coastal narrative of Bømlo

**What** - Bømlo is currently developing a large industrial fishing harbor. It impacts natural landscapes, altering the island's unique geological topography to create leveled surfaces and reclaimed land in the sea. This happens separately from local communities, so residents only notice it through improved municipal budgets. The project attaches to the new harbor to suggest an opportunity to integrate tourism, the local community and the fishing industry all together.

**Why** - Traditionally, fishing industry and geology has been of great value for Bømlo. As traditional smaller fishing boats are being replaced by larger ships. The fishing industry comes at the expense of natural landscapes, blasting away the island's unique geological topography into leveled surfaces and reclaimed land in the sea. The new suggested harbor is a machine for docking large vessels, fillet fish, and transport fish. Historically, geology has had an important impact on the community, where a wide range of bedrock has been utilized since the stone age until today. The new harbor brings a long tradition of fishing to the future but detaches from the local community and historical values and identity.

**How** - The project is based on this premise, focusing on facilitating various interactions. To my advantage, significant portions of the project are designed to utilize the surplus stone masses left after blasting as a basis for construction, as well as large stone pieces as surface materials. We're talking about substantial quantities, much of which would have otherwise been disposed of in the sea as waste. Proposed interventions include the creation of social spaces intertwined with cultural and historical elements, providing opportunities for engagement, reflection, and communal gatherings. Interactions between people and water - bathing areas, fishing spots. Interactions between the local population and the fishing industry. Creating a smooth transition to the water through bathing areas, fishing spots, boat docks, and good recreational areas.

The island of Bømlo, located off the western coast of Norway, bears deep-rooted traditions, particularly in fishing and quarrying of rocks. The sea has shaped Bømlo's identity, history, and resilience, leaving permanent imprints on both the island and its inhabitants. However, the once inseparable connection to the ocean has waned, impacting the island's sense of community cohesion. This shift is seen in the evolving landscape of the fishing industry, marked by larger, detached facilities that disrupt the local fabric while simultaneously anchoring the municipality's economy.

Moreover, Bømlo stands as a geological hotspot, boasting a rich diversity of rocks and minerals shaped over millions of years. Recognized as part of the Sunnhordaland UNESCO Geopark, Bømlo's geological heritage underscores its significance from antiquity to the present day. Despite its economic prosperity and geological richness, Bømlo grapples with challenges common to many rural communities, including depopulation and identity erosion, as it moves further away from its distinctive heritage.

In response, the municipality has embarked on initiatives to attract residents and tourism. While efforts such as museum restoration and accommodation expansion highlight Bømlo's cultural and historical allure, tensions arise between the fishing industry, local community, and tourism. My project seeks to address these tensions by leveraging Bømlo's geological history and maritime heritage as impulses for a revitalization of an industrial fishing harbor.

Central to this project is the ongoing development of Langevåg, a southern hub of Bømlo undergoing a transformative expansion, primarily focused on fishing infrastructure. However, this development presents an opportunity to integrate the aspirations of all—fishing industry, community, and tourism—into a recreation center for Langevåg's future. By reimagining parts of the new fishing harbor as more than just an industrial facility, but as a vibrant connection point of cultural exchange and environmental appreciation, Bømlo can reclaim its narrative and foster it into the future.

Proposed interventions envision the creation of culturally rich social spaces, offering opportunities for engagement, reflection, and communal gatherings. This project, while relatively small in scale compared to broader development initiatives, serves as a gateway to explore Bømlo's captivating history, geology, and landscape firsthand. Visitors can immerse themselves in the experience by physically interacting with the rocks, swimming in the sea, strolling along the imposing wall, and observing local production activities.

Inspired by the aesthetics of English romantic parks, the project's design features fishing boats, trailers, and factory buildings as modern counterparts to traditional

follies. The sightlines are meticulously curated, drawing attention to the majestic mountains and glaciers on the horizon. Together, they narrate the story of how geological forces—such as volcanoes, continental plates, and glaciers—shaped Bømlo's coastal terrain, creating ideal conditions for fishing.

By making these sightlines accessible, the project aims to deepen understanding of these natural forces and the region's rich history, fostering a stronger connection to the fishing industry. These inviting spaces will welcome both locals and visitors to explore Bømlo's geological marvels and maritime heritage, preserving traditions while embracing recreational activities like swimming and fishing. Ultimately, the goal is to transform Langevåg into a vibrant intersection of culture, identity, and natural splendor—a place where the past, present, and future harmoniously converge, fostering a sense of belonging and interconnectedness.