

LIVING TOGETHER AND BEING TOGETHER

A PROJECT THAT DEALS WITH THE URBAN ISSUE OF INCREASE IN DENSITY LEADING TO A DECREASE IN COMMUNITY



INCREASING DENSITY CAUSING A DECREASE IN SENSE OF COMMUNITY

The population in cities all over the world are increasing at remarkable speeds. However, we are seeing a decrease in community with the increase of urbanization. It seems the closer we live the more distance we create between our neighbors and ourselves. It has become more visible in the building of walls and closed windows, more fence than open-door neighbors will enough to ask for help and many more distance than.

This is relevant in Oslo as it is Europe's fastest growing capital. With a huge amount of immigrants coming, there is a need to have strong, diverse and lasting communities when we live far from each other.

A statistic done by Statistic Norway show that in rural areas in Norway 19 percent don't visit their neighbors, while in urban areas the number is 46 percent. At the same time the number of people that feel they can ask their neighbors for help drops the same percentage (Statistic Norway).

As a result of the lack of community when we live, many find a form of distance which can be the source of loneliness and feelings of being unsafe.

BLURRING THE PERCEPTION OF PRIVATE VS PUBLIC

I looked at one example of these places called as them, but with surprisingly happy residents (The World City, District and Tower of Daxi), low crime rates and a strong sense of community. There I noticed an underlying theme of a shared sense of what's private and what's public. A kind of gradient concerning the block and what's outside the block where the apartment is private, while outside is public.

This was backed up by the social research of Robin Dunbar, who put a quantifiable number on when we belong to a social group (150). There is different types of social animals and in nature, we get the lion and on the other extreme we get the bee or swarm. Humans, according to Dunbar, belong somewhere in between.

However, society today put incredible pressure on the success of the individual at the same time as we are part of the masses. This has also shaped architecture as things depend on the individual more of the site being concentrated on the private or the public.

Creating a gradient relationship between the private and the public where we live would work as a transition while creating a social condition where humans are more comfortable.

THE SITE: ULVEN, OSLO

The site is located in Ulven, Oslo, Norway. It is on the East side of Oslo about 4 km from the Opera house and Oslo centrum. Both bus and subway can be accessed within a short walk from the site. The area today is mainly industrial and storage space, but with a quickly growing residential, commercial and office development planned for Ulven. I chose the site because it is centrally located, and from where it is, easy to reach both downtown and Oslo's surrounding area. Since the site is part of a larger proposal that also incorporates office and commercial opportunities, it gives me room to concentrate on the residential part. I also chose the site because it is located within a region of Oslo that is having a relatively high influx of immigrants.

There are plans developed for the site as a part of a proposal for a bigger development of Ulven put together by LPN's architect. For this project, the main residential part was used, while the private also used the use of LPN's proposal as a reference. Some orientations and numbers were also based on documents produced by LPN's.

