

INTENTION.

Architecture is instrumental. The tools used by architects differs from each and every project and situation dependent on the challenge, and I have gradually come to regard the role of the built professional as one that must take on a holistic perspective in creating the built environment.

Thus I have taken particular interest in the architects role in **building communities**.

Development does not happen through material upgrade alone, but also need social or individual empowerment to create sustainable (healthy) communities and cities. As we live in a time of great change I believe it is pertinent to evaluate and adjust our field of practice in order to keep architecture relevant to the world we live in and generations to come. Having experienced the positive effect of **participatory planning** on a small scale in poor parts of the world, I now want to investigate how to implement the concept on a urban scale, in Norway.

The diploma will culminate a period of questioning the meaning of sustainability and its relevance to architecture. I regard the local debate on developing the city centre of Kongsberg as a good framework to work with these set of questions, and **create an urban development plan** in light of recent learnings. The city represents a typical norwegian small-town in the eastern part of Norway.

AIM.

1. I want to clarify the meaning of **sustainability in architecture in context to the recently published National Policy of Architecture «Arkitektur.nå»**. The document stresses that the Norwegian state must produce ideal examples for others to follow and identifies 3 keynote challenges for future development in the built environment:

- *challenges of climate change & sustainability*
- *challenges of change in society & urban transformation*
- *challenges of knowledge & innovation*

2. The diploma project will materialize in **developing an urban plan/strategy/scenario for the city of Kongsberg**. It will work as a visual response to the new National architecture policy & the current local debate on developing an urban plan for the small town of Kongsberg. The project must include a range of scales and communicate effectively both on a professional and a public level.

KEY QUESTIONS:

- *is there a need for a Norwegian national policy of architecture? why? how can a new policy be put into practice? what is the responsibility & role of the architect?*
- *what sustainability challenges are professionals confronted with in the built environment? by the norwegian society? by global development?*
- *how to develop a sustainable (healthy) community? is participatory planning / empowerment of citizen an appropriate tool for urban development?*

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SKETCH

- I. Investigate meaning of sustainability in relation to cities & social communities
- II. Analyze regional characteristics + urban development trends in the city of Kongsberg, Norway
- III. Contact client (local youth?)
- IV. Map spatial distribution of state/municipal properties, identify use & possible resources
- V. Define & present a strategy for sustainable urban development in Kongsberg