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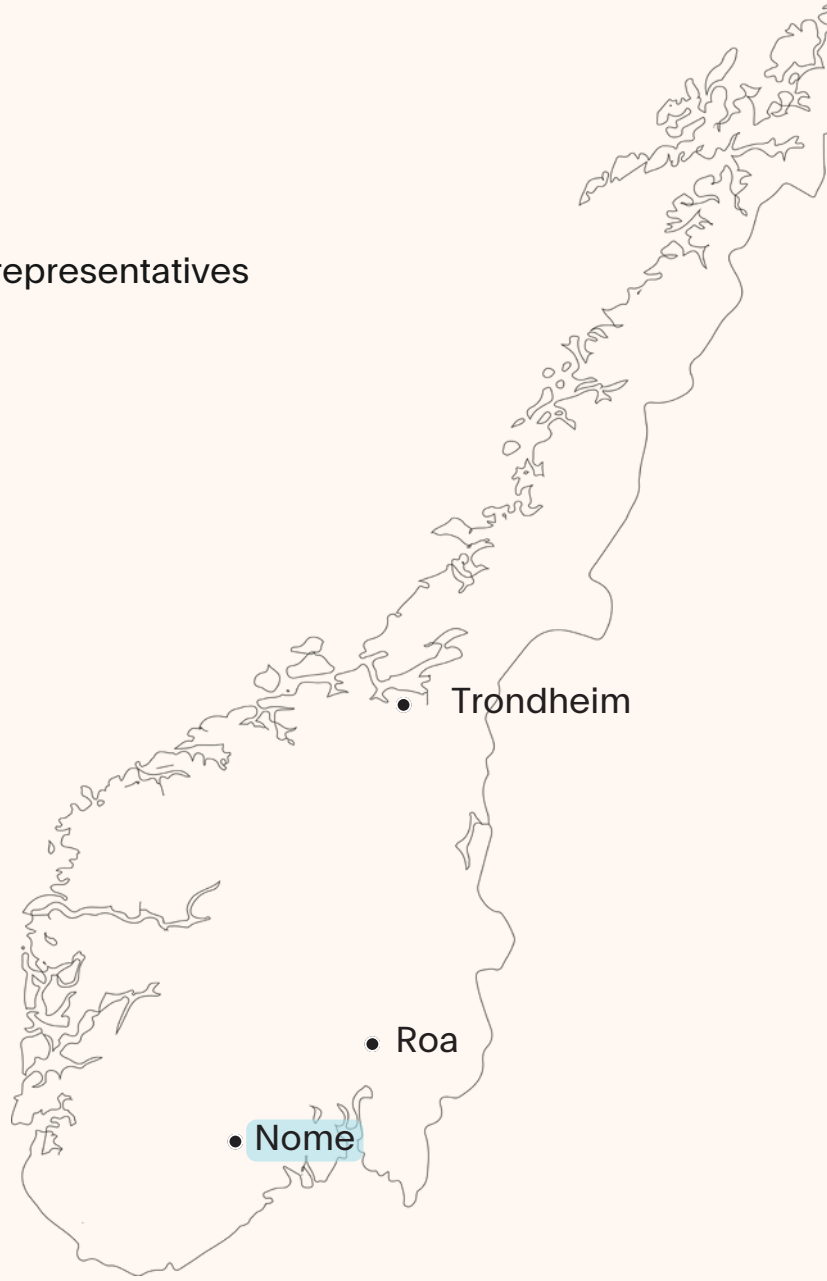
E18 Norway Jury Report **Nome**

Content



Europan 18 in Norway

Europan is an innovation process for architecture and urban development, centered around an open competition of ideas for architects, landscape architects, and urban planners under the age of 40. The Europan competition takes place every 2 years with Europan 18 being the 18th edition.

In Europan 18, 47 competition sites from 12 different European countries were launched at the same time connected by the theme Re-sourcing.

For Europan 18 there were 3 sites in Norway:

- The Fen Complex, represented by Nome municipality.
- Trondheim, represented by MiST (Museene i Sør-Trøndelag)
- Roa, represented by Roa municipality.

Europan-Norway is a foundation that organizes the Europan process in Norway. The secretariat of Europan Norway is run by Utopic.

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The composition of the jury

Magnus Wåge
President of the jury. Architect and partner at Mestres Wåge.

Jens Richer
Architect and partner at Estudio Herreros.

Siri Lundestad
Architect at DRMA.

Mansoor Hussain
Politician and urbanist.

Kotchakorn Voraakhom
Landscape architect, CEO and Founder of Landprocess and Porous City Network.

Rainer Stange
Landscape architect, partner at Bokemo and professor in landscape at AHO, Oslo.

Therese Øijord
Architect. City architect in Askim.

Substitutes:
Oda Solberg
Architect at Natural state and leader of the national association of architects in Oslo.

The jury procedure

The competition is organized as a tender under the Norwegian rules public procurements as a “Plan-og Designkonkurranse'' according to the Rules for Europan 18.
As stated by the rules for Europan 18, the jury met 2 times per site. The first jury meeting selected a shortlist of a maximum of 25% of submitted entries. The second jury meeting selects the winner(s), runner-ups, and special mentions.

Technical Committee
The secretariat for Europan Norway made up the technical committee. The technical committee prepares the jury process, controls the eligibility of the proposals, and takes notes of the jury discussions.
The Technical committee consisted of Bjørnar Haveland and Ingeborg Katie Åtland

The 1st jury round
The purpose of the 1st jury round is to select a shortlist for the second and final round of the jury. The site representative participates as a jury member with one vote. The jury met for a full day per site. The meeting was conducted using the A1 printed boards of the proposals and Miro as a digital exhibition.

The 1st jury round took place the 11.09.2025 in Nome.
Attending:
From the jury: Magnus Wåge, Jens Richer, Siri Lundestad, Mansoor Hussain, Kotchakorn Voraakhom and Therese Øijord
From the technical committee: Bjørnar Haveland and Ingeborg Katie Åtland
From the site: Kirsti Arvesen Nesheim and Frid Elisabeth Berge

Midpoint dialogue meeting between jury and site representatives
A dialogue meeting was held between site representatives: Kirsti Arvesen Nesheim and Frid Elisabeth Berge and jury members: Magnus Wåge, Jens Richer, Siri Lundestad, Mansoor Hussain, Kotchakorn Voraakhom, Rainer Stange and Therese Øijord at the Europan Forum for cities and juries in Lisbon on the 19th of October 2025.

The 2nd jury round
Selection of winner, runner up, special mentions.
Conducted as a physical meeting on the 19th of October 2025, also in Lisbon.
In this meeting the site representatives participate as an observer, with the right to make a statement at the start, but without any vote.
The decision of the jury is final and independent.

Attending:
From the jury: Magnus Wåge, Jens Richer, Siri Lundestad, Mansoor Hussain, Kotchakorn Voraakhom, Rainer Stange and Therese Øijord.
From the secretariat: Bjørnar Haveland.
From the site: Kirsti Arvesen Nesheim and Frid Elisabeth Berge

Matrix of submitted entries

	Jurymeeting 1	Code	Project Name	Project Feedback
01	Shortlisted	RC585	The Mineral Network	Winner: 12 000 EUR prize
02	Shortlisted	ST588	A 100 years playbook	Special Mention
03	Shortlisted	WN314	“green mineral park”	Special Mention
04	Shortlisted	PD570	Deep recharge	This project made it to the shortlist. The jury recognized the strong regional plan proposed, which features a compelling emphasis on landscape and a well-defined phased implementation. This effectively illustrates the transformation of the cultural landscape over time. However, the project's storytelling lacks continuity and process. There is an overly strong focus on the final product, imagining the site after 100 years of mining activities. Furthermore, the jury found the architecture underdeveloped and problematic, as it appears closed off rather than fostering a sense of community.
05		NV953	Reversible	The project didn’t qualify for the shortlist. The jury commends the realistic plan that effectively addresses both the company's needs and the demand for flexibility and adaptation. The innovation square at the site's center is a positive addition. The redesign of the mountainscape demonstrates how one could save the lake when positioning their project at Bærevann. However, the jury was not convinced by the proposed man-made landscapes. This huge intervention was considered alienated from the existing landscape. Ultimately, the project suffers from a lack of passion and insufficient communication of ideas.
06		DH094	RU:RE Ru=rupture Re=return	The project did not qualify for the shortlist. The jury acknowledges the sensible, sympathetic interventions, which are beautifully mapped and illustrated. The project effectively demonstrates a strong long-term perspective and how mining consequences will affect both Ulefoss and Lunde. However, the overall strategy and ideas are unclear and lack the systematic approach needed. The jury is missing the scenario of full mining activity, with what has too much focus on the aftermath. Furthermore, the jury is doubtful about the linear distribution of the park, as it will demand more space.
07		FE762	A Framework of Care and Responsibility	The project did not qualify for the shortlist. The jury commends the submission as a strong and poetic project that preserves landscapes and forests while retaining traces of the past within the area. Its ideas are beautifully illustrated through three overlapping phases. However, the project suffered from a lack of clarity in its strategic execution. The jury found the diagram linking all project aspects unsuccessful and required a much clearer connection between the urban strategy and the interventions. A more explicit visualization of the timeframe would have significantly improved the proposal's structure and overall readability.

Matrix of submitted entries

	Jurymeeting 1	Code	Project Name	Project Feedback
08		NM467	Minescape	The project did not make the shortlist. The jury commends the focus on water protection, using tailings from the mines to protect the watersheds. However, the project failed to meet all the deliverables. A significant weakness is the lack of exploration into the industrial park, resulting in a simplistic outcome. Furthermore, the proposed landscape transformation appears highly artificial in the context, suggesting a lack of understanding of Nordic landscapes. The submission seems incoherent, as the planned expansion is illustrated differently in the plan and illustrations.
09		WC266	A field guide to the adaptive mine	The project did not make the shortlist, despite several strong points. The jury gives credit for the strong methodology, noting its potential for adaptability across all four proposed sites. The plan successfully establishes a clear set of rules for landscape use, such as maintaining buffers around water bodies and preserving mountain peaks. However, the submission falls short in communicating the project's different phases of development. The masterplan, while detailed and quite fixed, does not effectively illustrate how the project evolves over time, which the jury would have liked to see.
10		MP162	Far, far away they saw something bright and sparkling	The project did not qualify for the shortlist. The jury acknowledges the submission as a strong comment on a critical issue, proposing an alternative industry for Nome rather than a mine. However, the project failed to meet the deliverables. Its most significant weakness is that the reasoning and argumentation for not planning the mine are not substantial enough. Similarly, the justification for adding more trees is weak. If the aim was to enhance existing qualities, the team should have conducted more thorough mapping to discover that their proposed interventions are already well-established in Nome.
11		PW691	A Hybrid Commons	The project did not make the shortlist. The jury commends the scale of the work, noting it as a huge project that successfully emphasizes small interventions. The graphic representation and illustrations are beautiful, though the overall communication needs improvement to enhance readability and easier understanding. The proposal to actively utilize the railway, including a new track, was viewed as a positive but underdeveloped concept. The jury found the main issue to be the decision to establish a new center between the two existing villages, which would stifle growth and development in both established communities.
12		TW720	The circular mine Defying extractivism	The project did not qualify for the shortlist. The jury commends the focus on a material approach and no-waste strategy, detailing how every fragment can be repurposed into something else. The accompanying resource map is a strong aspect, clearly visualizing the available assets. However, the jury doubts the proposal to arrange the mine into a single line, as this would consume too much landscape area given the scale of the proposed buildings and programs. Furthermore, while the idea of a knowledge-gathering educational center on the site is very strong, but its placement in the landscape is unsuccessful.

This is a speculative task asking you to be a futurologist. Create a vision for the "Green Mineral park." Use your skills as architects, landscapers, and planners to explore how one might imagine the planning of a circular industrial park with a large footprint.

(1) How can concepts for the Green Mineral Park ensure that industrial development is spatially, ecologically, and socially responsive?

(2) How can material reuse, reduced environmental impact, and industrial synergies transform mining byproducts into new opportunities for local development?

(3) How can you visualize spaces and strategies to help the public, decision-makers, and stakeholders imagine the park's potential and spark discussions?

Summary of the task

This competition invites proposals for the future of the Fen Complex, Europe's largest rare earth element (REE) discovery —a resource vital for technologies like supermagnets, computers, and rockets. This discovery pressures Nome municipality to allow mining, but no decision has been made yet. If approved, the mine will permanently alter the landscape, requiring extensive infrastructure, including landfills that could rival the size of nearby mountains.

Nome is exploring the consept of a Green Mineral Park—an industrial ecosystem where companies collaborate to minimize waste and maximize circularity. Typically only 1% of the rock extracted contains REEs, the remaining 99% holds untapped potential. Instead of focusing solely on technical and economic factors, this competition highlights the broader spatial and societal implications. How can such a transformation integrate with its surroundings and remain adaptable for future technologies? How can it benefit local communities?

Ulefoss and Lunde, the towns closest to the mine, stand at a crossroads. This industrial intervention could either deepen stagnation or become a catalyst for growth, infrastructure, and identity. How can development support—not isolate—these communities? What role can architecture, landscape design, and urban planning play in making the Green Mineral Park a driver of sustainable transformation? Beyond mitigating environmental damage, this competition seeks ways to turn industrial change into a generative force that brings new opportunities for living, working, and coexisting with extraction landscapes.

Europan 18 invites architects, landscape designers, and planners to rethink industrial extraction—where infrastructure, ecologies, and communities coexist. Instead of a fixed master plan, proposals should offer a framework for discussion, helping local stakeholders understand the potential of this transformation. How can large-scale industries revitalize rather than deplete the small towns of Lunde and Ulefoss? How can this development set a precedent for sustainable mineral extraction elsewhere?

General remarks

Across the competition entries, the jury observed a remarkable breadth of approaches to the question of how mining can coexist with ecological, social, and spatial systems. The submissions reveal an evolving understanding of extraction as more than an industrial process, and many teams approached it as a cultural, territorial, and environmental condition. This shift signals a new architectural consciousness, where mining is not only a question of infrastructure but also of stewardship, adaptation, and long-term landscape care.

A common strength among the strongest entries lies in their ability to frame mining within a larger regional narrative. Rather than focusing solely on the site of extraction, several projects interpreted the task as an opportunity to redefine relationships between settlements, transport infrastructure, and the natural environment. This territorial approach was complemented by an increasing awareness of temporal depth: the best proposals considered both the operational lifespan of the mine and the uncertain futures beyond it. Time was treated as an architectural material, something to be shaped, structured, and narrated.

The jury also notes a clear tendency toward integration between ecological and industrial systems. The re-use of tailings, surplus masses, and byproducts was frequently explored as a means to restore or even enhance the environment. This reflects a growing understanding of design as a process of circular transformation rather than linear consumption. Such strategies exemplify a move away from remediation as an afterthought and toward regenerative design as an embedded principle.

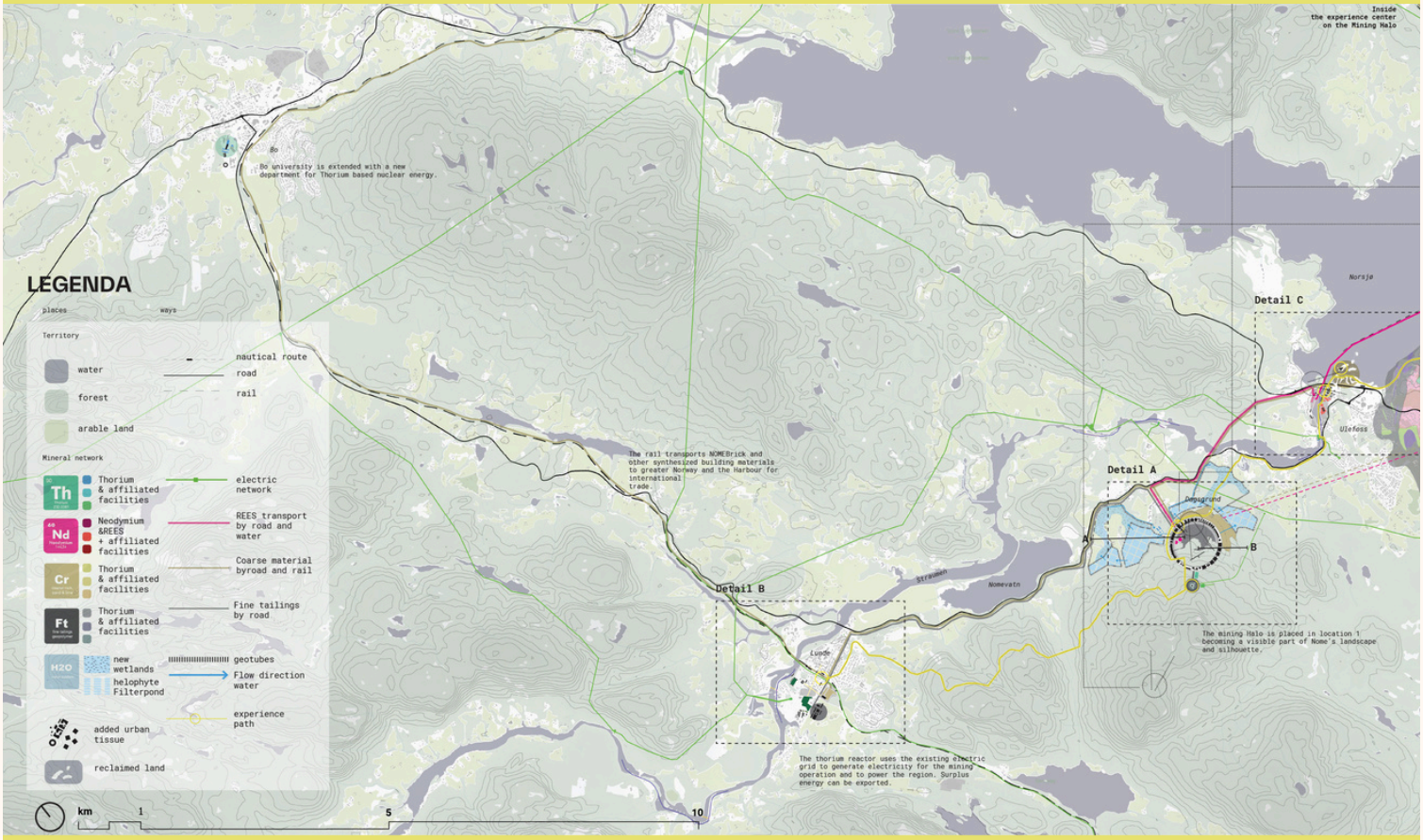
At the same time, the jury observed a divide between analytical and propositional work. Some teams demonstrated outstanding analytical skills, producing precise mappings and environmental readings, yet stopped short of translating these insights into spatial or architectural form. Others ventured bold architectural statements but struggled to ground their visions in feasible or context-sensitive strategies. The most successful projects managed to balance these two modes: combining conceptual clarity with operable, site-specific thinking.

Finally, the jury was impressed by the visual and narrative quality of the presentations. Many entries demonstrated a high level of graphic and conceptual literacy, using drawings as both analytical and speculative tools. The overall standard of representation was exceptionally high, revealing a generation of designers who think across scales and disciplines.

The competition as a whole reflects a significant moment in architectural thinking—one in which extraction is reimagined as an open, collaborative, and visible process, capable of shaping new forms of coexistence between human activity and the landscape.

Nome is a preparedness project that goes straight into world politics. Europe must make itself independent of the other continents and superpowers when it comes to rare earth minerals. It will be especially important not to be dependent on China, which supports Russia in its war against Ukraine, and indirectly us.

The competition and resulting entries are playing a crucial role in equipping the municipality with guidelines and rules, even knowledge of what a potential mining operation can be and become. Nome already has a long history of industry and mining, with Ulefoss Jernverk being one of Europe's oldest operating companies. The REE mine and industrial park can continue, and build on this proud history; however is also a project of a whole different scale and magnitude. The proposals offer Nome a valuable spectrum of possible futures, ranging from bold non-intervention to regenerative integration, thus serving as an essential, proactive tool for informed decision-making regardless of the ultimate outcome.



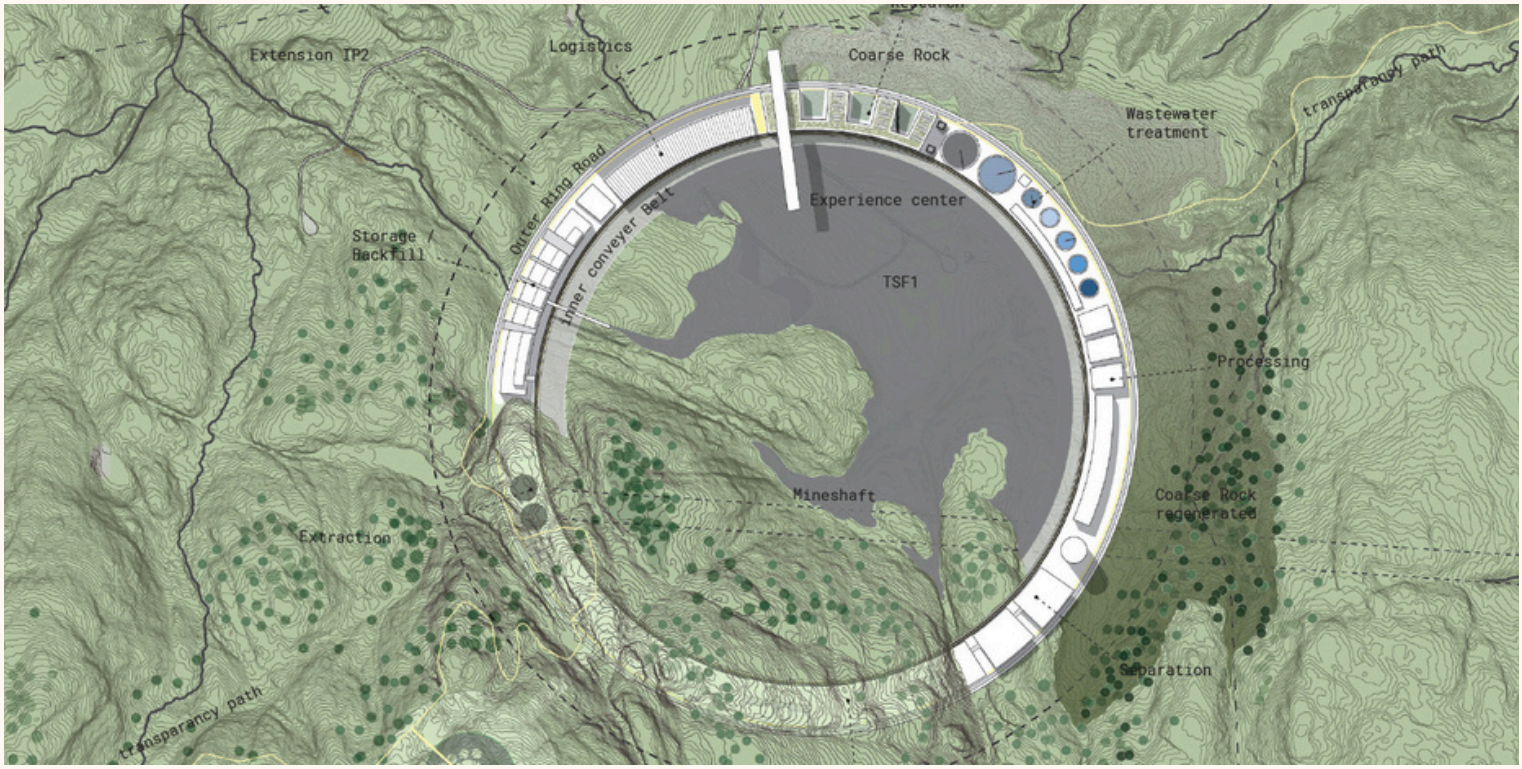
Winner Winner Winner Winner Winne

Winner
RC585 - The Mineral Network

The jury finds this to be a comprehensive and ambitious proposal that engages seriously with the future of mining in the Nome region. The project demonstrates a clear and confident territorial strategy, positioning the mining industry not as a hidden or environmentally stigmatized activity, but as an integral and even celebrated part of the regional identity. By proposing a monumental architectural structure that showcases the local resources above ground, the team redefines the cultural role of extraction and frames it as a civic and educational experience. This is a courageous and forward-looking gesture, signaling a new paradigm in how industrial landscapes may be understood and designed.

The plan is visually clear and didactic, presenting the Norsj-Frierfjorden axis across the entire width of the presentation. The mapping of extraction, transport, and logistics is both precise and visionary, envisioning a future network of new rail and port connections that integrate local resources into wider national and international systems. The jury particularly appreciates how the proposal strengthens existing towns such as Ulefoss and Lunde through urban and infrastructural measures, thereby linking industrial development to social and spatial renewal.

A central strength of the project lies in its treatment of industrial byproducts. The proposal integrates the tailings and surplus masses directly into the architectural and ecological fabric of the site. Containing the tailings within a visible structure—allowing its volume to change with production—offers a powerful visual and spatial expression of industrial temporality. Furthermore, the reuse of excess materials to restore wetlands and improve local ecologies demonstrates a holistic and responsible approach to landscape transformation. The project thereby redefines extraction as an ongoing environmental process rather than a purely economic operation.



The jury commends the strong narrative and exceptional graphic presentation. The visual material communicates a complex and multifaceted issue with great clarity and conviction. The architecture adapts elegantly to the topography, while the visual language and storytelling bring coherence and depth to the proposal. The presentation effectively bridges technical precision and artistic imagination.

Nevertheless, the jury also identifies several points of concern. The infrastructural ambitions, such as the proposed new railway and port facilities, raise significant questions regarding feasibility and environmental impact. The jury doubts whether the existing, protected locks of the UNESCO-listed canal system can withstand modern industrial transport, and is skeptical about the proposal to sacrifice the bay and local community in Flakvarpbukta, especially when alternative industrial sites already exist nearby, such as Herøya, Skien Harbor Terminal, and Rafnes.

Despite these reservations, the jury considers the project to be the most complete and conceptually coherent submissions. It demonstrates a rare capacity to connect architecture, infrastructure, and ecology within a single, long-term vision. The proposal inspires confidence by taking the entire region seriously, spatially, environmentally, and politically, and offers a strong foundation for further work. It stands as an exemplary contribution to the ongoing dialogue on how architecture can redefine the relationship between resource extraction, landscape, and society.

Authors: Giacomo Gallo (IT), architect, Robert Thomas Younger (DE), urban planner, Tadej Gregorič (SI), student in urban planning, Bregje Lidewij Walkate (NL), architect, Maarten Johannes Filius (NL), architect, Remco Alexander van der Togt (NL), landscape architect, Karlijn Simone Besse (NL), architect.

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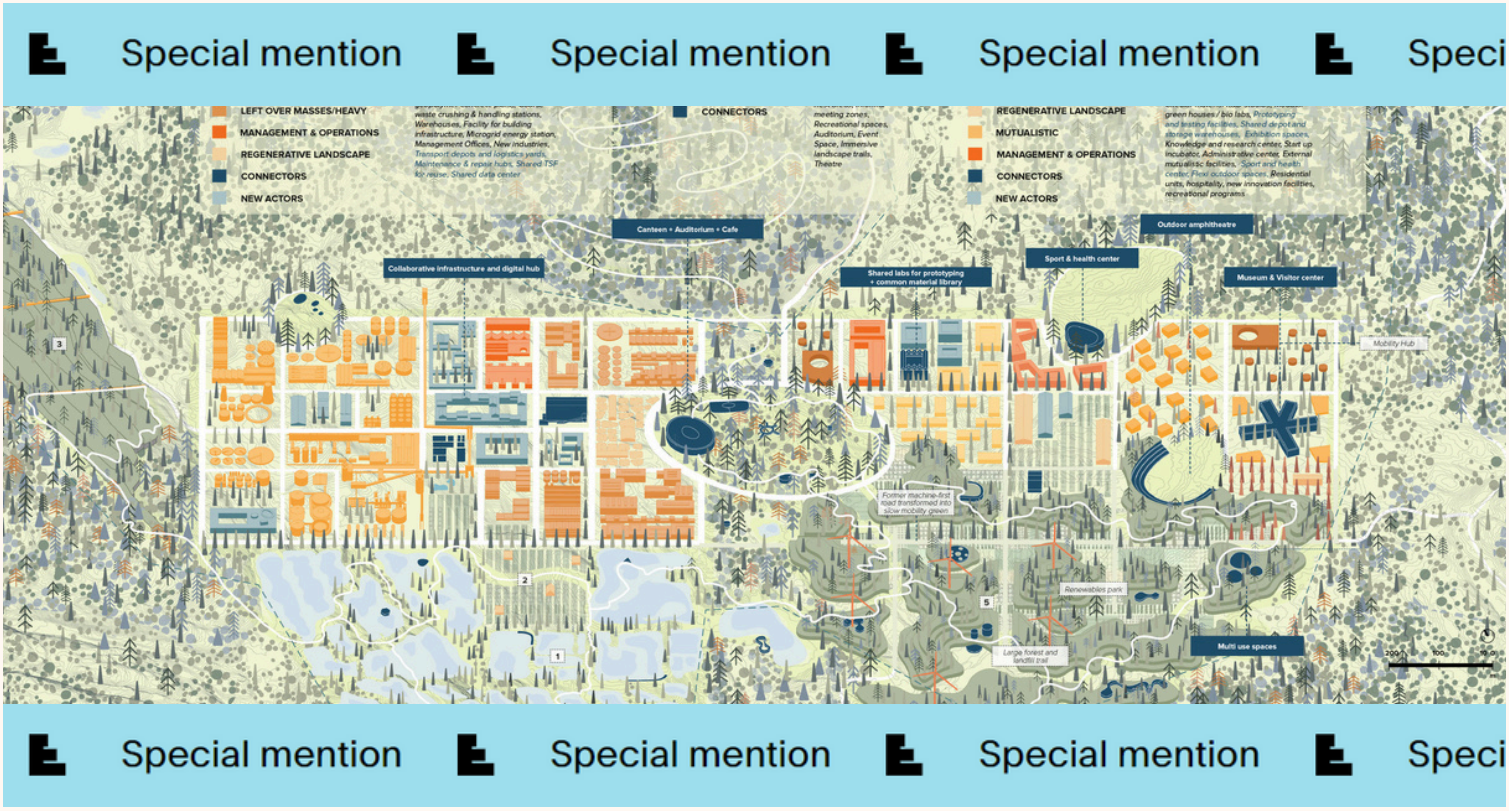

Special Mention
ST588 - A 100 years playbook

The proposal deals beautifully with the challenge that lies ahead: how to plan for uncertain situations in a way that secures a green mineral park over a 100 year time frame. The proposal A 100 years playbook is a handbook and a planning tool that responds to the complexity of planning for a completely unknown future. From laying the groundwork for an ecological foundation for the mineral park in the first 10 years, to principles for imagining post-extraction transformations in a completely unknown future in 100+ years. A 100 years playbook provides a framework and clear guidelines challenging the actors to collaborate, plan, and think about synergies with others, whilst promising a system of step-by-step landscape generation.

As the proposal is more of a strategy for a project, illustrations are diagrammatic, which is both a strength and a weakness. The strategy becomes clear and visual; at the same time, there are no landscape studies or site analysis, and no concrete site proposal. The illustrations do not completely fit the diagrams and text. The understanding of the components and complexity going into a mine has been addressed in an important way and is commendable.

A 100 year playbook is a thorough tactic and a strategy of operations. It moves the general approach from a purely extraction perspective to a process where thoughtfulness about ecological, social, and spatial aspects becomes ingrained in every process, every actor, and every step forward for a green mineral park.

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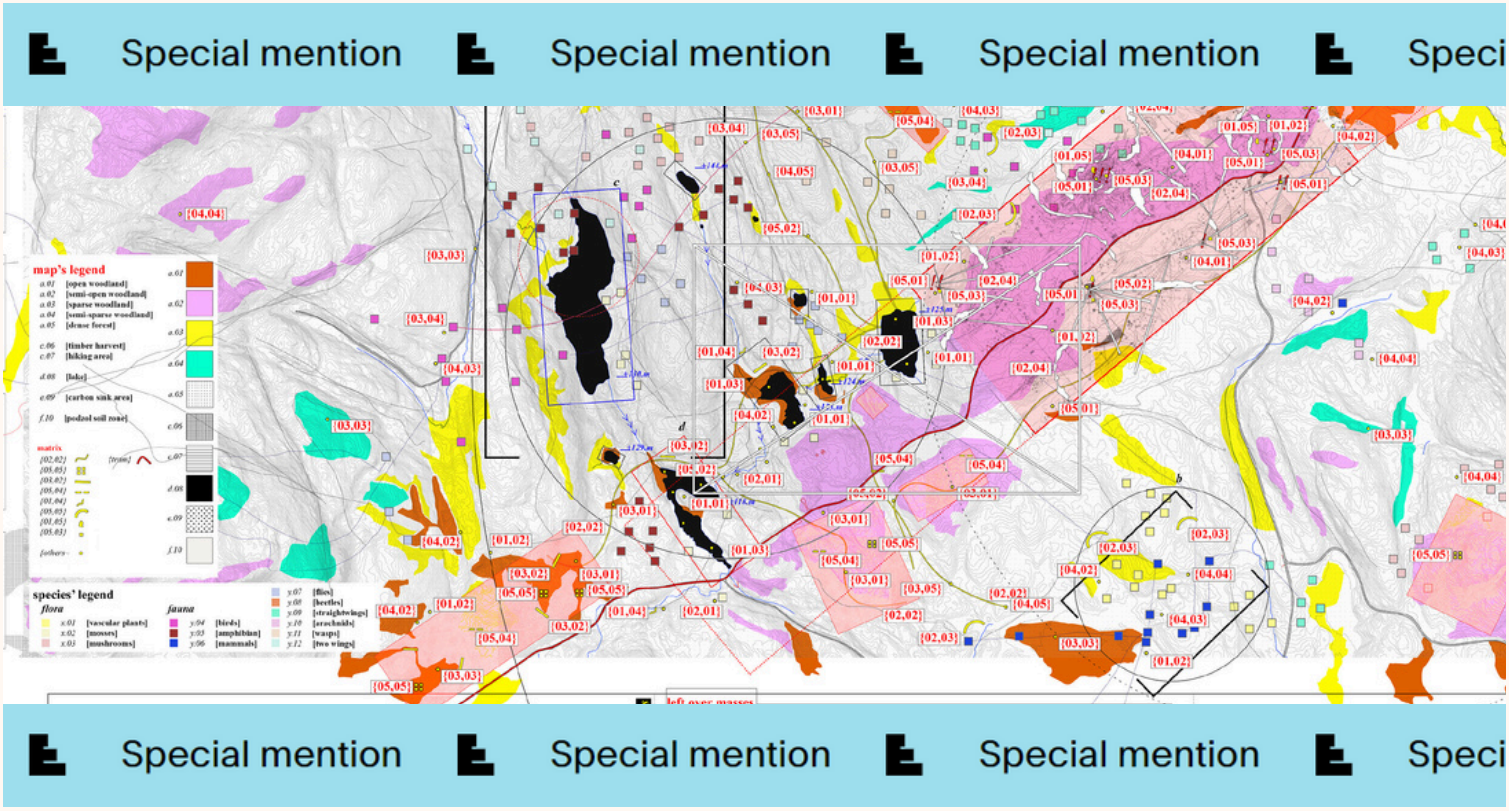

Special Mention
WN314 - “green mineral park”

The proposal demonstrates a meticulous and extensive mapping of existing conditions, revealing a strong capacity for spatial observation and analytical precision. The representation of the site’s ecological and material layers is both comprehensive and visually refined. However, despite the sophistication of this cartographic work, the project fails to move beyond analysis. The mapping remains an end in itself rather than a foundation for spatial or strategic development. As a result, the proposal does not respond to the client’s brief, nor does it engage with the central issue of mining that defines the task.

Instead, the proposal delivers a powerful statement—a compelling argument for not moving ahead with the mining plans. This stand is both brave and bold, grounded in a standpoint of ethical responsibility and environmental stewardship. In doing so, it effectively makes visible and gives a voice to the many diverse inhabitants who would be sequentially and differently affected by a mine in Nome.

On the other hand, the absence of an operative or design response exposes a fundamental gap between investigation and proposition. While the mapping uncovers valuable insights, these are never translated into an architectural or territorial strategy capable of addressing the realities and responsibilities of extraction. The project instead takes refuge in its analytical stance, positioning itself as a critical commentary rather than a design solution. This can be interpreted as an intentional act of resistance, but in doing so, the team neglects the essential demand of the assignment: to propose.

From an architectural perspective, the work therefore risks intellectual isolation. Its conceptual statement is undermined by a lack of engagement with spatial transformation or material consequence. What could have been a powerful synthesis of critique and design instead remains incomplete—strong in observation but ultimately unable to answer the question it set out to confront.

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