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# E17 Norway Jury Report Larvik



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# European 17 in Norway

European 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 European competition takes place every 2 years with European 17 being the 17th edition.

In European 17, 51 competition sites from 12 different European countries were launched at the same time connected by the theme Living Cities 2: Care.

For European 17 there were 5 sites in Norway:

- Larvik, represented by Larvik municipality.
- Krøgenes, represented by Arendal municipality
- Åkrehamn, represented by Karmøy municipality
- Østmarka, represented by Trondheim municipality
- Grensen, represented by NTNU (Norwegian University of science and technology)

European-Norway is a foundation that organizes the European process in Norway. The secretariat of European Norway is run by Kaleidoscope Nordic.

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# The composition of the jury

**Ida Winge Andersen**

President of the jury. M. Architect, company director, and partner at Rebuilding.

**Jacob Kamp**

Partner and creative director at 1:1 Landskab .

**Eli Grønn**

M. of Architecture and Urbanism MNAL, partner and leader for Urbanism and Planning with Dyrvik Architects.

**Luis Basabe Montalvo**

Founding partner of ARENAS BASABE PALACIOS ARQUITECTOS.

**Katariina Haigh**

M. Architect, Project Development Director at Asuntosäätiö.

**Ilkka Törmä**

M. Architect, urban designer and researcher, editor-in-chief at Outlines

**Eili Vigestad Berge**

Director of sustainability and public relations at Mustad Eiendom.

**Substitutes:****Cristian Ștefănescu**

Owner of a-works Assistant Professor, Bergen School of Architecture

**Merete Gunnes**

M.Sc Landscape Architect MNLA and founder of TAG landscape.



# The jury procedure

The competition is organized as a tender under the Norwegian rules public procurements as a "Plan-og Designkonkurransen" Listed on the TED database and according to the Rules for European 17.

As stated by the rules for European 17, 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 European 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 Tone Berge, Bjørnar Haveland, and Andrea Pérez Montesdeoca.

## 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 13.09.2023 in Larvik.

Attending:

From the jury: Ida Winge Andersen, Jacob Kamp, Eli Grønn, Luis Basabe Montalvo, Katariina Haigh, Ilkka Törmä and Eili Vigestad Berge.

From the technical committee: Tone Berge, Bjørnar Haveland

From the site: Ingerid Heggelund, Hanne Øyen Herland, Kari Madsen Moldvær, Ole Sannes Riiser



### **Midpoint dialogue meeting between jury and site representatives**

A dialogue meeting was held between jury leader Ida Winge and jury members Eli Grønn, Eili Vigestad Berge, and the site representatives at the European Forum for cities and juries in Vienna on the 11th of November 2023.

### **The 2nd jury round**

Selection of winner, runner up, special mentions.

Conducted as a physical meeting on the 12th of November 2023, also in Vienna.

In this meeting the site representatives participate as an observer, with the right to make a statement at the start, but without any vote.

Members of the board of European Norway can also be present, but just as observers.

The decision of the jury is final and independent.

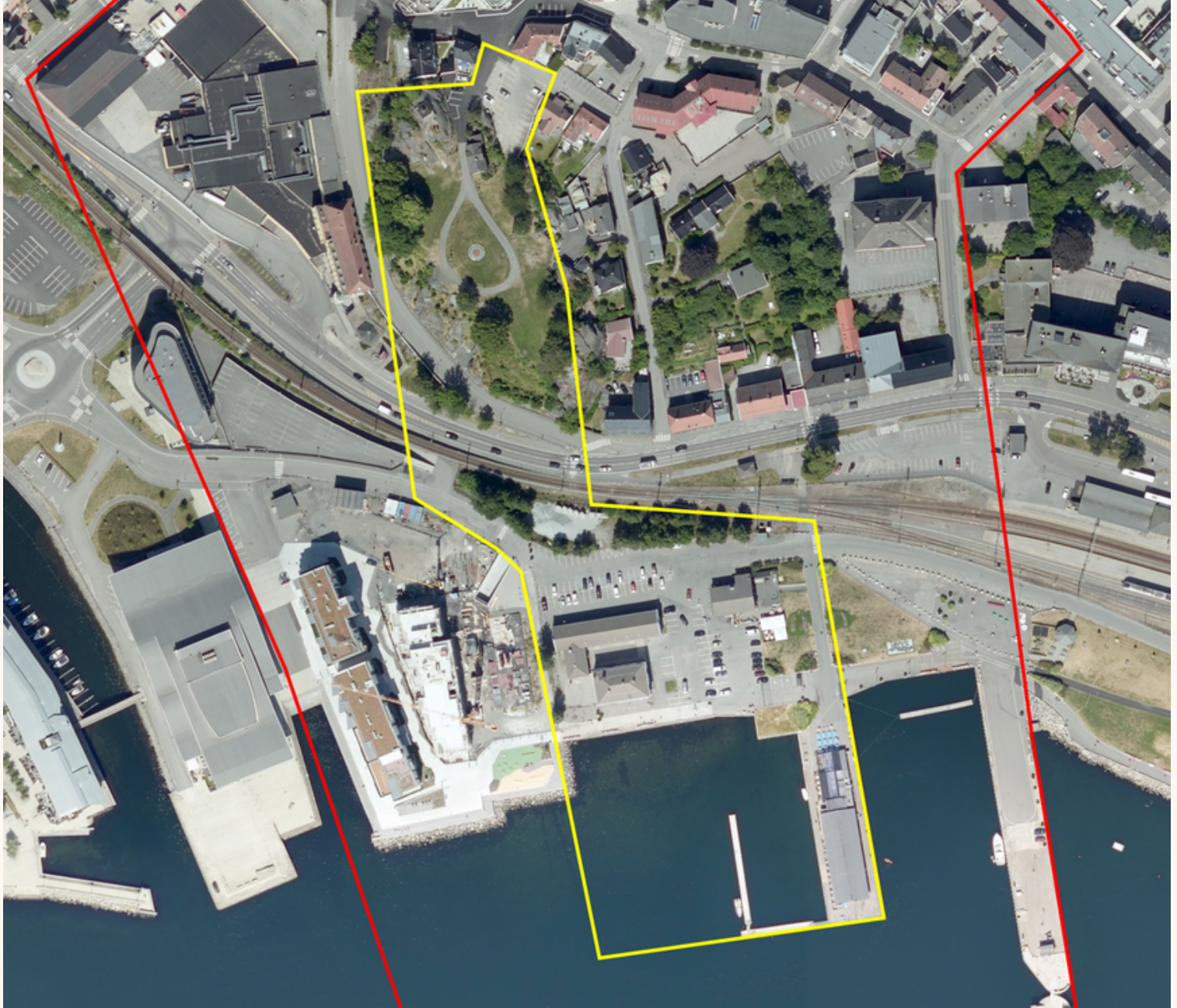
#### **Attending:**

From the jury: Ida Winge Andersen, Jacob Kamp, Eli Grønn, Luis Basabe Montalvo, Katariina Haigh, Ilkka Törmä and Eili Vigestad Berge.

From the secretariat: Tone Berge, Bjørnar Haveland, Andrea Perez Montesdeoca.

From the board: Marianne Skjulhaug, Agustin Sebastian-Rivera

From the site: Ingerid Heggelund, Kari Madsen Moldvær, Ole Sannes Riiser



**Design and program a connection that revitalizes and brings the centre and seafront together.**

The town centre is cut off from the seafront by a busy road, a railway line and steep topography. The main task is to propose a concept that overcomes these barriers, bridging the gap between Larvik's centre and the seafront.

Explore how this connection, as well as adjoining public spaces and historic buildings, can be programmed and elevated with new features to attract people and revitalise the centre.



# Summary of the task

Larvik is a small town characterised by a comfortable climate and natural beauty, but suffers numerous infrastructural and geological limitations, which have burdened town planning and development particularly in recent years.

Larvik is located on a narrow piece of land between the sea and Farris Lake, with rugged topography and a harbour distinctly exposed to the elements. The town's geography is further constricted by regional infrastructure. All rail and car traffic passing from Oslo toward the south of the country is channeled through Larvik.

To compound matters, the town centre has several areas that are essentially untouchable for future planning, owing to a new railway line project that has been put on hold indefinitely.

Already decades in the making, the line would have provided an underground stop in the centre, but also necessitated the demolition of several town blocks. It is currently not possible to plan any long-term uses for the areas potentially affected by the railway, in case the project starts up again.

The old railway tracks are currently blocking Larvik's connection to the harbour. Today the harbour is so disconnected that people prefer to drive the 500 meters up to the town square rather than navigate a maze of obstacles by foot.

Despite the many limitations affecting Larvik's capacity to develop its centre, there are still a few tools hidden at the bottom of the toolbox. Financing has been granted to bridge the many barriers between the harbour and the centre as well as for a new library. Both of these projects could contribute significantly to revitalizing the centre and connect the heart of the town to its beautiful harbour once again.

Larvik has entered European 17 to get inspiration and direction for how to overcome these tricky barriers. We begin by asking:

how can programming, public space and historic buildings work together to make the distances in Larvik feel smaller and the town more attractive and accessible?

How can programming, public space and historic buildings work together to make the distances in Larvik feel smaller and the town more attractive and accessible?

Larvik needs a new library. Could the site work as a host for the new library or would another type of public or commercial programme be better suited and more strategic for the site?

# General remarks

In Larvik, the town center and the harbor are separated by a busy road, a railway line, and challenging topography. The task outlined in the brief was to create a connection that would unite the center and the seafront.

The jury would like to thank all participants for their entries. These entries clearly reflect a dedicated group seeking to solve Larvik's connectivity challenge. Larvik received a total of 19 proposals, exhibiting a wide array of ideas. Four of these entries were short-listed for consideration.

While many proposals concentrated solely on the crossing itself, the jury wished to see better understanding of how everything around the area connects. Different roads encircle the area, each serving distinct roles and functions, which should have been integrated into a comprehensive and analytical approach. Specifically, greater consideration should have been given to facilitating access to the harbor from the train station for people arriving in Larvik via train, as the station adjoins the study site. Ideally, the proposed crossing should be easily accessible from the train station.

Nonetheless, the jury found numerous intriguing ideas and proposals that were thoroughly evaluated. It is really important that the upcoming plans strongly prioritize linking Larvik's city center with the harbor, strengthening the city center, and it is the jury's opinion that the winning project offers a robust concept that can fulfill this task.



# Winner

## LW585 – (Re)generate

The proposal creates a strong link between the town, Bøkkerfjellet and the seafront. It suggests a variety of means of how to connect the strongly separated parts of town through a row of physical, programmatic and visual interventions, which should use circular economy as a material resource. The fragmentary approach to the task was considered by the jury to be an appropriate response to an equally fragmented environment, as well as a valuable tool for dealing with a development process full of uncertainties.

The proposal suggests a multimedia library and digital archives dug inside Bokkerfjellet and a multi-function cultural centre down by the seashore. These two focal points should be interconnected by the visually strongest feature of the proposal, the bridge. The multimedia library is suggested to be built inside Bøkkerfjellet in order to be a part of the connecting route. The vertical connection is a good addition, although a possibly fairly demanding one to make tempting to use on street level. The new bridge has a smooth design and it looks inviting to use in its human scale. Lowering the bridge level is a clever solution to make it more inviting and closer to street scale.





On the other hand, the shoreline is dominated by two characteristic features – the cultural centre including a library and the sculpted access to the Fjord. Taking water as a part of the program is a clever and natural solution to avoid creating a direct borderline where the sea meets the land. Breaking that borderline into a built marine landscape is an inviting gesture to the inhabitants too. The redesign of the shoreline is based on the idea of partly recycling the material from the old car park and redesigning it into the seapool structures. The project proves that the site is suitable for a new cultural activity. It could be a library, a cultural centre and accommodate commercial space too. The idea of keeping the old Tollboden building and adding new parts to it works well and gives the library a special character.

In an urban sense the proposal is flexible for further elaboration and programming. The specific functions may easily be specified or partly reprogrammed when needed. The bridge and the seapool are the main characteristics of the proposal. The rest can be developed further according to future programs. The vertical connection through Bokkerfjellet must be carefully designed to be a pleasant part of the routes. The study of the shore area proves that there are good opportunities to build something inviting by the shoreline for the people. If it's not a library, the proposal gives other ideas based on the marine location. Making the marine wildlife and research visible at the pool area is a beautiful idea worth researching and programming more.

The proposal was also the “Folkestemmen’s” (audience) favorite, which gives a solid basis for further development together with all stakeholders. The jury notes that programming and investments in phases need to be taken carefully into account in the process of further development, for what (re)Generate seems to be the adequate project.

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- TIAN LI (FR), architect
- Zihao WANG (CN), architect
- Shan JIANG (CN), landscape architect
- Ala Rassaa (FR), architect
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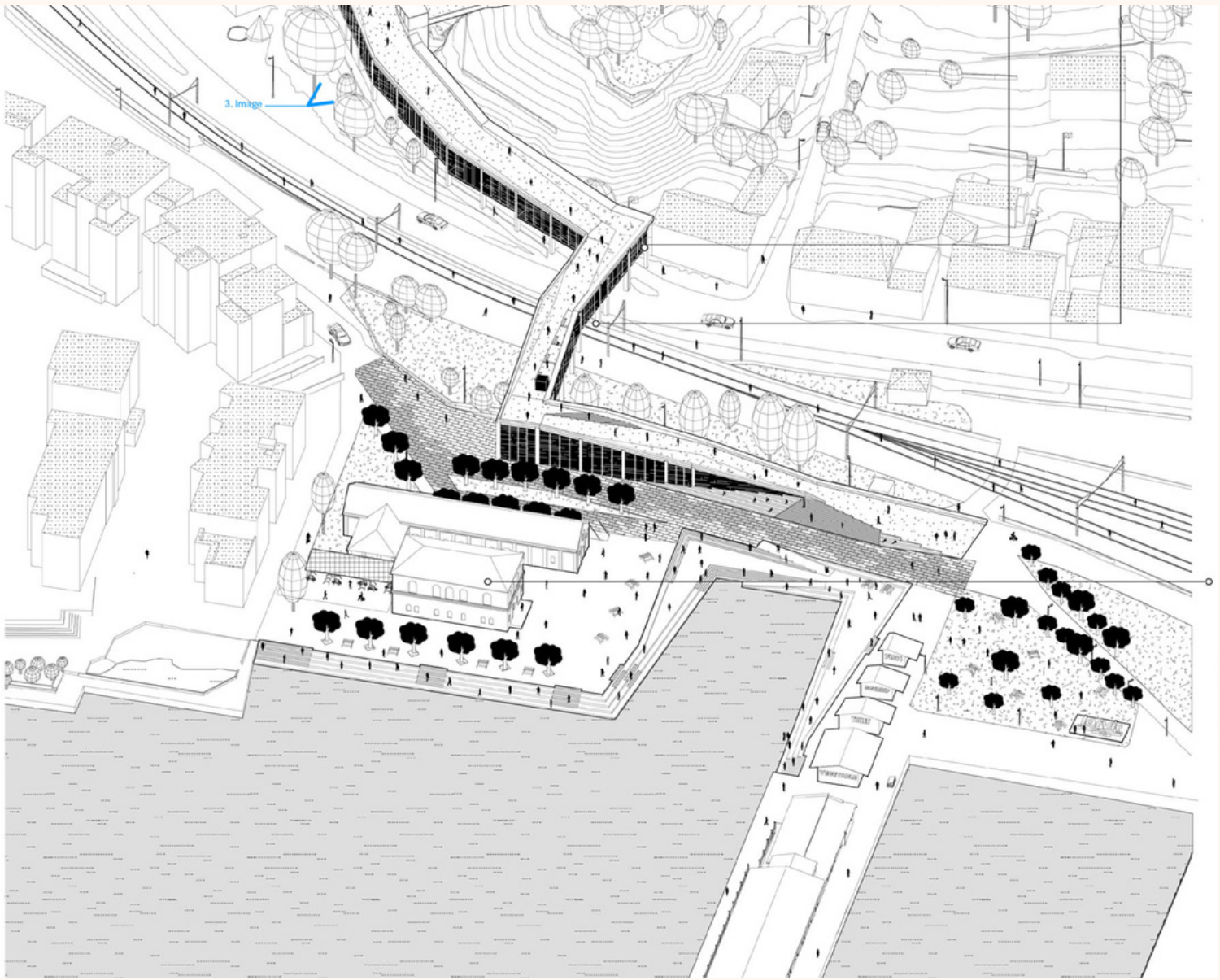
# Runner-Up

## QH311 - Standing stone to the Sea

The project aims to connect Bøkkerfjellet and the harbor via a promenade. It suggests building a library within this promenade, featuring a walkway on top. The structure can be constructed in phases, using local materials. A part of the library will be inside the hill's bunker. The promenade ends at the harbor, with stairs leading to the water.

'Standing Stone to the Sea' impressed the jury with its detailed plans and drawings, showing thorough consideration. It focuses on Larvik's features, such as the hill's view of the fjord, a welcoming library atmosphere, wildlife considerations like lizards using the crossing, and the use of local materials. The main concern revolves around the project's lack of flexibility, given its status as a megastructure with fixed connections at both ends. The project could have benefited from focusing less on the details and materiality of the structure and more effort on a sensitive adaptation to the landscape and better resolved meetings with surrounding urban spaces. Additionally, the proposed phases seem unrealistic and more rhetoric.





The jury appreciates the project's unique concept and how it connects different parts of the city. It's a bold move that could revitalize Larvik by linking the city center to the sea. At best it could characterize the arrival view into Larvik. The project's idea of using the library as a connector is seen as innovative and forward-thinking in urban development.

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# Special Mention

## IA862 - Topography for life

Topography for life impresses with a strategy for the whole study site. The proposal outlines comprehensive pedestrian-friendly street refurbishment and couples it with light and easily executable interventions around the streets. The jury appreciates that the project places the library and programs on the mountain, showcasing public spaces, and strengthening Larviks city centre. However, the project falls short due to certain ambiguities. The proposed winding path lacks clarity in its ultimate destination, and the harbor building appears more as a landmark than a highly functional structure. The project introduces several small ideas, but the main aspects require more articulate development for a stronger impact. Topography for life is a reminder to look beyond the explicit competition guidelines when attempting to revitalize the centre of Larvik.

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# Special Mention

## SP816 - Community (AS) Center

The jury highly appreciated the transformation of the historic buildings, which successfully combined preservation and reinterpretation with innovative additions. The introduction of light structures were noted as sensitive and commendable design elements, considering energy and climate factors, creating semi-climatized spaces bridging the gap between indoor and outdoor areas. This approach effectively preserves and revitalizes the cultural heritage in an intriguing way.

The proposed escalator as a solution for improving connectivity received commendation for its intelligent and efficient urban approach. It skillfully tapped into the underground potential and made creative use of the bunkers. However, concerns were expressed regarding the costs of implementing this structure, limited population in Larvik and whether this approach would be regarded as safe at night.

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# Matrix of submitted entries

	Jurymeeting 1	Code	Project Name	Project Feedback
01	Shortlisted	LW585	(Re)Generate	Winner. 12 000 Euro prize
02	Shortlisted	QH311	Standing stone to the sea	Runner-Up: 6000 Euro prize
03	Shortlisted	IA862	Topography for life	Special Mention
04	Shortlisted	SP816	Community (AS) center	Special Mention
05		BP091	Naturally Public	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit to the distinctive library building. Pyramiden exhibits positive aspects such as strong connections to the city center and an acknowledgment of the city as a network, with efforts to program existing buildings. The project's understanding of scale raises concerns, and despite numerous ideas, prioritization is lacking. Overall, the positive elements of connectivity and adaptability are undermined by unrealistic aspects, such as the insufficiently addressed megastructure and the inadequately sized library spaces.
06		XP925	The Larvik Folkepark	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury acknowledges the commendable sense of humor and boldness, incorporating classic amusement park elements like a Ferris wheel and viewpoints. The integration of the ramp into the landscape, particularly the mountainside of Bøkkerfjellet, is laudable for its efficiency and attractiveness. However, the jury's skepticism about the viability of an amusement park on the site raises concerns. Despite its vibrant facade, the project lacks the depth of true architectural or landscape architectural innovation. The process is deemed premature, indicating room for much further refinement.
19		WX941	Join up the dots	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit to the energetic drawings and the robust conceptual approach that showcases the team's commitment as well as a well-designed harbor. The project is a challenging concept, featuring a bridge constructed from buildings that resembles a landscape. The library is nestled deep within Bøkkerfjellet, presenting a modern, Minecraft-like revitalization of the fishing harbor—an intriguing response to the challenges posed by the terrain. Aesthetically, it offers an interesting solution, although the buildings comprising the bridge seem disproportionately small in scale. Overall, the project is inspiring in its ambition, but faces challenges in achieving holistic functionality and realism.
18		TO922	Bryggefjellet, uniting Larviks heart and horizon	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The proposal is praised for its tight structure and the potential to create a strong sense of destination by incorporating multiple buildings. However, it falls short in addressing how to integrate with existing structures and lacks clarity on the landing point of the bridge. Overall, while the proposal has positive elements like a cohesive structure, it is marred by issues of integration, unclear design elements, and a perceived disconnect from the existing urban context.



# Matrix of submitted entries

	Jurymeeting 1	Code	Project Name	Project Feedback
07		ES922	Uno messuno e centomila a line	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit to the proposal for presenting some interesting ideas, such as construction on the front of the mountain with an elevator and a lower bridge over the road. The library's distributed layout and the potential phased development are also positive aspects. However, the project, while straightforward, lacks poetic elements. The integration of the bridge tower with the library is interesting, but the design is criticized for its fragility, especially concerning the simultaneous operation of two elevators. The practicality of the bridge design is acknowledged, yet the complex transportation system from Bøkkerfjellet to the sea is considered a downside.
08		QI248	The loop	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit to an intriguing interpretation of the landscape, maintaining a thoughtful connection between the mountains and the sea. The proposed architectural design focuses on a ramp that deviates from the natural terrain, creating a loop with a mix of elements like an elevator and buildings. The inclusion of an amphitheater within the loop is a positive aspect, providing a framing effect and noise reduction. Removing the pier to enhance beach accessibility is also commendable. The proposal falls short in responding adequately to the challenges presented.
09		EX713	The cultivated path	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury praises the proposal for daring to address challenges without resorting to a mega-project approach. It introduces different independent elements, steering away from a one-size-fits-all solution. The decision to place the library atop Bøkkerfjellet near the parking area is well-received, as is the thoughtful incorporation of a forest backdrop for the dock. However, the project faces criticism for its challenging plank crossing, incomplete appearance, and a potentially overly humble approach.
10		GK248	Larvik Lines	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury praises the approach to addressing the situation around Tollboden, incorporating a surrounding structure. The inclusion of an observation point on Bøkkerfjellet connected by a cable car adds an interesting and scenic element. The project emphasizes greenery, creating a lush environment that is aesthetically appealing. However, a major drawback lies in the challenge of integrating Tollboden into such a project, raising doubts about its feasibility. Additionally, the ambitious green and expansive design raises concerns about the considerable amount of land required.
11		JG145	Bridging the gap	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit to its integration with the terrain, featuring a ramp leading to Bøkkerfjellet and creating a new path between significant locations. The design demonstrates competence and sensitivity across various scales. The harbor integration is well-executed and humble. However, the concept seems incomplete, lacking substantial content or purpose.

# Matrix of submitted entries

	Jurymeeting 1	Code	Project Name	Project Feedback
12		ZW840	Larviksterrassen	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit for a comprehensible proposal through clear illustrations. The building, prominently positioned atop a mountain, spans two floors below ground level, expanding the park's surface like a terrace. While the design is straightforward, the structure appears to lack a clear purpose, leaving much space on the mountain's summit unutilized. The proposal heavily emphasizes the elevator, providing limited information on other design aspects and lacking cohesion.
13		OL504	Urban Soilution	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury praises the thorough analyses and visual appeal as well as the consideration of the existing road as a potential ramp.. However, it falls short in addressing the task at hand, as the suggested location for the library seems disconnected from the city, indicating a lack of understanding of Larvik's overall layout. The narrow, multi-story design of the library raises concerns about its functionality. While the proposal challenges the task and presents interesting ideas, it fails to effectively solve the underlying challenges.
14		LX936	Sansevandring	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit for integrating the library into the scenic Bøkkerfjellet, offering a unique and picturesque setting that could potentially attract visitors. The inclusion of an elevator and a bridge adds accessibility, enhancing the overall connectivity of the project. However, the graphical representation of the proposal is challenging to decipher, potentially hindering effective communication of the design intent and concerns arise about the feasibility of operating a library in such a location.
15		BX327	Kystbyen	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury praises the straightforwardness of the project, featuring a pier, an elevator, and a library, making it easy to comprehend. The proposed solutions are basic, with bridges and ramps, but they compromise the scenic view of the sea. Additionally, the inclusion of an elevator disrupts the natural aesthetic of the surroundings, detracting from the overall visual appeal. While the project's simplicity facilitates understanding, its negative impact on the view is a significant drawback.
16		RT507	Non Stop Larvik	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury wants to give credit to the proposed library, which envisions an expansive structure spanning the entire Bøkkerfjellet. The building's roof is seen as a potential compensation for obstructed sea views by new constructions. Positive aspects include the innovative use of the library roof and the desire for an urban park, while negatives center around the potential impact of the bridge on Tollboden and the challenge of its sea-based foundation.
17		ZA648	Larvlink Bokkerfjellet bridge	The project did not make it to the shortlist. The jury commends the project for a well-designed ramp with a fluid and functional connection featuring a favorable slope, along with the appreciated incorporation of a green belt. The drawing's unique orientation provides a fresh perspective, revealing a critical point in the western competition area near the Fritzøe site and Farris building. Criticism arises regarding the undersized library. The ramp, while efficient, accentuates an existing barrier and lacks universal design in its shortcut to Tollboden.