

Study Trip Lofoten August 2019

Northern Terroir

-Architectural identity in a coastal community

Ørjan Johannesen og Magnus Karlsen

Motivation

Our initiative for this project started with an interest in how we could work with a landscape. How we could create a unique, more locally based architecture. Developing new systems, enabling you to build in very rough terrain while maintaining a small footprint. This architecture should try to hint back at vernacular coastal architecture from the north of Norway. Traditionally used by fishermen the Rorbu would in periods of the year be their home away from home, but also the place where they could work on their fishing equipment. It was a very basic building with only two rooms. Sleeping room and storage/work area. No water or electricity. Its size, proportions, placement in the landscape, simple construction, ease of maintenance, and most importantly the foundation method it uses would inform us in making our modern interpretation.

Upon seeing recent housing developments in Lofoten there is a growing sentiment locally that the developers are pushing the limits of what should be allowed to do. Their approach to developing new areas is to go in and mostly remove the topography. In this way they are able to build houses on flat plots with flat foundations. We think this approach is highly intrusive, very costly and unnecessary. The enormous cost of moving mass could instead be used to create a more adaptive architecture. This could all be possible while retaining the terrain and its qualities. New approaches would challenge developers to be more innovative and the municipality to follow their municipal goals when doing new developments.



We went to smaller villages in Lofoten, trying to map different construction methods in the foundation and study local architecture.



Reine, Lofoten

Reine, Lofoten



Nusfjord, Lofoten



After a week driving around to every known village between Svolvær and Å, we had gathered enough information and inspiration to start our housing project on the chosen site between Svolvør and Kabelvåg

