

**Location**

Norway

Users

Farmers, oven builders, astronomers, artists, soil scientists, bakers, city officials and citizens

Maintained by

Situations, Bjørvika Utvikling

Duration

2012 - ongoing

Category

pedagogical, urban-development, environment

Nr. and Title

U 266

Flatbread Society

Initiator(s)

Futurefarmers

Description

Flatbread Society is a permanent project created in a common area amidst the waterfront development in Oslo, where farmers, oven builders, astronomers, artists, soil scientists, bakers and city officials work together with local people to establish an aligned vision for the use of this part of the land. Using grain as an excuse to analyse the interrelationship of food production to knowledge sharing, cultural production and socio-political formations, they built a bakehouse and a cultivated grain field resulting in the formation of an urban gardening community. The project functions as a shared resource for urban food production and the preservation of the commons. A full-time farmer was hired in collaboration with the Norwegian Farmers Union to maintain the project.

Goals

The project provides a multi-functional oven and glass house which facilitates various types of bread baking and public programs around agriculture and grain. The activators of the project collected and planted seeds that have been “rescued” from various locations in the Northern Hemisphere to display thousands of years of a complex hand-to-hand network of knowledge and genetic resources. The project inserts make-shift production into the highly planned and controlled public space of the new Bjørvika, in Oslo. The space offers an alternative approach in building methodology of urban design, creating a place in which people might actively contribute to the life of the public spaces.

Beneficial outcomes

Users can learn how to cultivate grain in a urban setting, how to bake and they can use the facilities for free.

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