

The primary goal of Statsbygg's Student Prize is to promote experimental and innovative studies in architecture by the future generation of architects. The prize is awarded to one or more student projects at the Master's degree level.

The Statsbygg Prize amounts to 20.000 NOK.

The jury's evaluation gives the most weight to the prize's primary goal. In addition, we assess these qualities:

- Actuality
- Formal clarity and esthetic value
- Functionality
- Environment and community awareness
- Universal design
- Analytical approach
- Presentation quality and the project's legibility

The University of Bergen has nominated four strong projects, which cover a wide spectrum of issues within interior architecture. Reaching a conclusion has been an exciting and stimulating job for the jury.

The following is the jury's statements and assessments for the four nominated projects:

Project 1.

«Elde Melde» - Hanne Marthe A. Kommedal

Elde Melde is a project that addresses a well-known challenge in regional urban development - the deserted historic city centers, abandoned in favor of the car-based shopping centers in the suburbs. The thesis is based on an analytical and historical approach to Lervik city. This preparatory work concludes with reusing an existing concrete building as a tool to revitalize the city-center. The building is located between the main square and the quay, in the end of an urban pathway, "By-stien". The pathway is initiated by the student. Within the existing building the candidate designs a "city-staircase" that intends to reestablish a visual and physical connection between the square and the quay, the fjords and the mountains. She proposes an eventful building with many functions. The concept has an intention to offer the local inhabitants a low threshold meeting place. A place to cultivate local identity, inspire to learn and to join for voluntary work and include everybody in the society. The jury sense a community awareness and interest for universal design. The presentation has some inspiring illustrations of a revitalized community-house in Lervik.

Project 2:

«Lydlandskap» - Frida Yggeseeth

The candidate has worked on this project to explore the interface between sound from nature elements and architecture. The project is innovative by exploring the potential of acoustic elements in nature. In the municipality of Øygarden, facing the large open sea, there is a small island; Kalvøyna. Here are just ruins left by what once were two different functioning power plant.

The analytical approach is long and well documented. The good introduction, the analyse of the site, nature elements and the potential of acoustic elements in nature is maybe the strongest character of the project.

The small power station that remains after wave power plants is transformed into a space where you can feel calm and at the same time get a strong sensual experience. By transforming the existing power station, the actuality is taken care of and shows that the candidate understand the historical values of the existing building structures.

The candidate has designed a sea organ, where the sound can be heard inside the old concrete building. The organ is a very poetic and artistic approach, and gives an extra value to the site. The presentation is enriched with beautiful illustrations and is well documented. Good illustrations show that there is good control over the overall, but also on technical solutions and details.

Project 3.

«Pust» - Susanne Notøy

How can I, by design, contribute with an offer to people who experience stress in the workplace? With this starting point the candidate has caught the Statbyggs jury attention since the theme is very relevant today. The candidate shows a understanding on what stress is and what causes stress at the workplace. She has done a thorough preparation and interviewed different people, made observations and analyzed the result.

Her answer is the product; a built- in bench named Pust. The bench is intended to be located outside the workplace, in close and remote urban areas. It should be a place where you can sit alone, take phonecalls, work undisturbed or just take a break.

The bench has an interesting character. It is made out of wood and steel and the colors can vary so that the furniture integrates esthetically into different landscapes. You can book the built-in bench with an app, and the bench has integrated light and wifi. The jury thinks that the work is well presented and that the bench can be an interesting place to work.

Project 4.

«In between» - Benedicte Dahl

This project is based on the desire to increase the understanding of how the environment affects people, and how mechanisms and processes are initiated physically and mentally when we enter a room. The jury finds the subject very relevant and needed in today's society, and underground pedestrian crossing seemed to be an interesting research object for that purpose. The project is innovative and relevant, where experience, materials, colors, ornamentation and lighting are discussed and evaluated in a beautiful and well presented way. By the very conscious use of this architectural tools, the candidate has challenged the idea of what a underground pedestrian crossing can be. The candidate has turned a place we often avoid into a beautiful and intriguing place, that the jury think people will like to use. The presentation is very easily comprehensible, clear, systematic and convincing.

The jury's conclusion:

All four projects are strong.

However, the jury settled on one of the projects which fulfilled the Statsbygg prize's main goal to a greater degree. Therefore, the prize goes to the project which the jury found to be the most "experimental and innovative".

The prize goes to Benedicte Dahl!

Statsbygg sincerely congratulates the winner!