Bydraget Os
Osøyro Town Centre

A new civic identity with historical roots

Location	**Osøyro, Norway**
Client	**Os Town Hall**
Status	**Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 ongoing**
Size	**6 000 m²**
Programme	**Design of public square, central streets, canopies and pavillion**

Our ambition for this project was to energise the town centre of Osøyro, a typical peripheral Norwegian town that has, over the last 30 years, had its character eroded through fragmented developments that have gradually transformed the centre into an uninviting and seldom used public space — essentially a bumpy parking lot.

We set out to create a place that once again attracts the locals, trade and culture into the heart of Os, through the creation of a modern streetscape that people want to inhabit.

In connection with a transversal landscaping with a shared-pavement surface for both people, cyclists and cars, the new public space emphasizes the town's access to the river, and gives new civic meaning to this part of town.

The intervention includes a new pavement with integrated plants and with pieces of of art scattered throughout. The construction of a canopy that runs along the periphery of the space protects and connects the fronting buildings. At its centre, a new cultural pavilion was inserted to emphasize the importance of the new centre.

The design of the canopies was developed together with local steel craftsmen, and is reminiscent to the former railway that used to cross this area.

Our proposal is shaped by strategic choices that will transform Os into a major hub and a transformer for activity in the region. A long-term strategy that can be completed in stages and will strengthen the city centre: a clearer identity with historical roots.

Currently, we are working on the second phase of the project with the redevelopment of the riverbanks and a waterfront promenade that connects the water to the public.

Phase 1 (2017): new town centre.

Phase 2 (ongoing): A new promenade along the river and further integration of the green alley into the scheme.

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