

## BASIC CONCEPT OF THE FOUNDATION

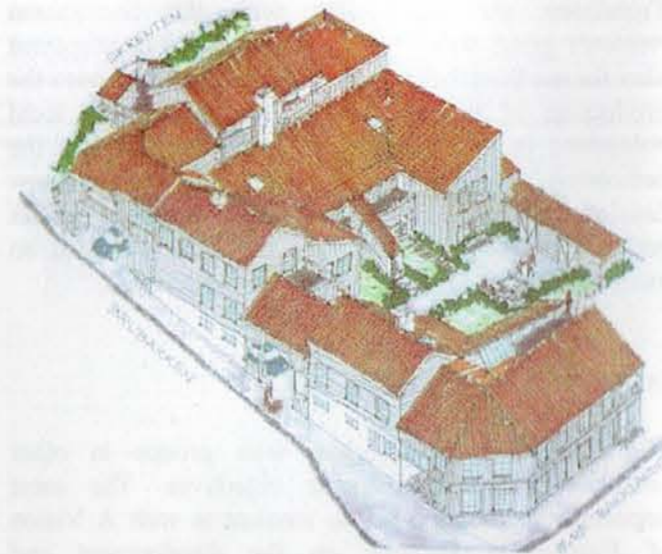
It is self-evident that towns, smaller communities and buildings should be designed to enrich the life of the individual and to encourage constructive social activities among those who live there. But twentieth century building development has to a large extent created chaotic towns, depressing architecture and communities destroyed by traffic systems. Solving these problems will require both creativity and renewed insight into the traditional methods of approach that have proved successful in the past.

Through its work, The Foundation for Urban Renewal wishes to contribute to restoring continuity in the development of building style and urban design. There is a need for a corrective to the desire of functionalism and modernism to break with experience and tradition. This is because modernism has created new problems rather than solving the challenges society faces with regard to architecture and town planning, and also because it is clear that traditional and local building styles appeal to a need that is deeply rooted in a great number of people.

Restoring contact with our architectural heritage can for example mean moving towards historical models through the use of established design systems when building new developments in older parts of towns. Traditional architecture can provide a wealth of ideas and elements which can be used in diversified contemporary architecture.

But the point is not to reject all modernistic architecture in the same way that many modernists reject all traditional architecture. The objective must be to foster awareness of architecture and urban design so that the best solution is chosen with regard to the case in question and the urban environment under consideration.

The goal of urban development must be to fulfil a wide range of the needs of the residents, including social and aesthetic qualities. To ensure that emphasis is given to these needs, and to create a counterbalance to the desire of the developers, politicians and architects for self-realization, residents should increase their commitment and influence on decisions which will affect local environments.



From Baklandet, Trondheim



From Portørbyen, Norway

*For more information please visit our web-page where there are also links to other related groups in Norway and abroad. Those who would like to be kept informed of our activities or who wish to participate actively in the work of the Foundation can contact:*

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## BYENS FORNYELSE

FOUNDATION FOR URBAN RENEWAL

NORWAY

## BYENS FORNYELSE

FOUNDATION FOR URBAN RENEWAL

The Foundation for Urban Renewal was established on 21 December 1998 and has the following objects clause in the Articles of Association:

“The object of The Foundation for Urban Renewal is to promote traditional architecture and the development of urban areas. This shall be done both in Norway and abroad through investigation, projects and the dissemination of information, through cooperation with other organizations with similar objects, through exerting influence on public authorities and developers, and through other activities which are in accordance with the object of the Foundation.”

### ORGANIZATION

The Foundation for Urban Renewal is organized as a non-profit association managed by a Board and with a manager who is responsible for getting the activities under way. The Board is assisted by a committee which has approximately 15 members. This committee gives feedback on the Foundation's projects and acts as an ideas bank for new activities.

The work of the Foundation depends on support from private sponsors and public funds, e.g. cultural grants in connection with exhibitions and arrangements.

# TASKS

## Activities started or planned by the Foundation include:

*Encouraging debates on architecture and town planning*

We have arranged several discussion meetings in Oslo and Trondheim, and have been active in public debates through newspaper articles and radio/TV programmes.

## *Exhibitions*

The Foundation for Urban Renewal has organized three large exhibitions in Oslo and Trondheim. These have been in connection with the international touring exhibition "Urban Renaissance" under the auspices of the organization A Vision of Europe, and a presentation of Norwegian projects based on traditional architecture (e.g. Tullinløkka and Gamlebyen in Oslo, and Baklandet and Svartlamon in Trondheim). Participation is now planned in a new touring exhibition of traditional European town architecture from the twentieth century called "The Other Modern". This opens in Bologna in spring this year and will include Norway in its tour.

[www.byen.org](http://www.byen.org)

Our web site is at present being developed into a comprehensive presentation of our ideas, both the theoretical aspects and through examples from Norway and abroad.



*We visited Poundbury, Dorset.....*

## *Lectures, courses and study trips*

With architects and other interested parties as target group, the Foundation has arranged guest lectures (including a lecture by Leon Krier), a study trip to England, and participation in congresses arranged by related organizations. We aim to run courses on the practical aspects of traditional architecture in the future.

## *Alternative projects*

The Foundation took part in the public presentation of the alternative project for Tullinløkka - Edvard Munch Hall.



We have also presented a project for the placement of the collections in the Historical Museum at Sørenga in connection with Middelalderbyen, a proposed development in Oslo. During our exhibition in Trondheim in spring 1998 we showed our proposal for new dwellings in appropriate style for Baklandet in Trondheim.



*Oppriss mot Brubakken.*

The proposal roused great interest and contributed to the fact that Trondheim municipality has so far shelved its plans for a modernistic new development on the plots in question.

## *Cooperation with local residents groups*

Our general experience is that active resident groups almost without exception support suggestions based on preserving the distinctive features of the area and creating new developments in a style adapted to that of existing buildings. In connection with our proposal for the museum at Sørenga, we have been in contact with local organizations in Gamlebyen, part of Oslo town. In

Trondheim we collaborated with the Svartlamon residents group to present their alternative development plan for the threatened district. We helped to finance the production of a video which was sent to all local politicians to put forward the residents' view on the demolition plans. In the battle over the new development at Baklandet we have been in contact with the residents association, and have provided an exhibition and other input for their arrangements.

## *International collaboration*

The Foundation collaborates with groups in other countries who have similar objectives. The most important cooperation at the moment is with A Vision of Europe in Bologna on the development and presentation of international exhibitions. A charter was approved during a conference in Bologna in 1996 at the opening of the exhibition Urban Renaissance - "Charter of the City of the New Renaissance". This is included in the objective for the activities of the Foundation. In the near future, the Foundation will both proceed further with ongoing projects and will be concerned with new activities which will help us to reach our goals.



The Foundation for Urban Renewal proposed this alternative to this skyscraper in Majorstua, Oslo:



## A VISION OF EUROPE

A Vision of Europe is a European organization for the promotion of classical architecture and architecture anchored in the local environment. One of the original reasons for the establishment of the movement was the fight against the razing of old urban areas in Brussels in connection with the establishment of the headquarters for EU and NATO. The movement gained more influence when Prince Charles put forward his criticism of modernistic architecture and the soulless satellite towns of England. Currently the organization's exhibition "Urban Renaissance" is on tour in Europe. This exhibition opened in Bologna in 1994 where A Vision of Europe has its headquarters attached to the university. The exhibition was later shown in Istanbul, Oslo, Brussels and San Sebastian in Spain. It visited Lisbon in summer 1998 as part of EXPO 1998. Several Norwegian projects are included in the exhibition, e.g. Edvard Munch's Hall (Olsen/Choynowski) and Piotr Choynowski's rebuilding of modernistic office blocks in Oslo to include classical elements. The Foundation for Urban Renewal sells the comprehensive exhibition brochure (NOK 250). A Vision for Europe also publishes the journal "A&C" (Arches and Columns). One of the most recent issues was devoted to Scandinavian architecture, and included a presentation of Edvard Munch's Hall. A subscription to the journal or single issues are available through the Foundation.

[www.avoe.org](http://www.avoe.org)

The Foundation for Urban Renewal is also responsible for the technical production of the Internet pages for A Vision of Europe. Anyone who has material for these pages should contact: [erling@okkenhaug.com](mailto:erling@okkenhaug.com)