

SITE ANALYSIS

Looking at possible sites for a memorial



OSLO SITES

Extracting something from the void



SITES

1: "Regjeringskvartalet"

It is really an obvious site, but the fact that it might be drastically changed within the next 10-15 years it is difficult to make a decision about designs. After considering whether it should be contemporary or not, and thinking about possibilities for a design for the situation of the site today and one for the potentially "new" government buildings we feel drawn towards an answer today, and deal with the potential rebuild if that would appear. The site however has an incalculable value phenomenologically, the images of the site will sit in the memory of Norwegians and people watching the news abroad for a lifetime.

2: "Stortorvet"

The public space people seemed to have a natural attraction to after the attack, right outside the Oslo Minster. The space was quickly filled with flowers and candles, and the fact that it was such a natural gathering point was a good argument. However the space is influenced by Christianity due to the Church, and we believe the memorial should be neutral in terms of religion.

3: "Stortingsplassen"

The actions on July 22nd was against the Norwegian Socialists Political views, in that sense it would be meaningful to have a memorial right outside the parliament building. However after careful consideration we do not believe the identity of such a memorial should be within politics, for many of the people who lost their lives or survived politics was irrelevant, and for some it may interfere with the wishes of the families or the engagement of politics may just be a phase of their lives, not their identity. Also a memorial with charged with a certain political view should not dominate a space full of political change.

4: "Youngstorget"

A space very close to "Regjeringskvartalet", and a natural gathering point for the rose-walks and the demonstration by singing "Barn av Regnbuen" (trans: "Children of the Rainbow") after the critics of the message of the song by Breivik. However we do not want politics to be the main influence of the memorial nor the memorial to be an influence of the space as it is a space used by all political parties/directions.

SITES

5: "Slottsparken, Nisseberget"

In some way the site is appropriate because the "Royal Park" is neutral in terms of politics, and represents the "Kingdom of Norway", and now July 22nd is a big part of the Norwegian history. The site of "Nisseberget" is also appropriate in terms of being both hidden and available. But at the end of the day this is a site with no other arguments than being neutral and accessible, and in order to make a memorial meaningful we believe in the importance of place and this place has no importance in terms of July 22nd.

6: "Oslo S"

A natural gathering point for the residents of Oslo and the people passing through. We were attracted to the site because we believe it is a very present site in the city of Oslo, and July 22nd will always be present in the history of Oslo. However the site is extremely busy and we wish for a different, more quiet mood at the memorial, not just a lot of people rushing through.

7: "Frognerparken"

The most popular park in Oslo, a haven in the busy city life. It has a lot of space and a poetic mood. This poetic mood is though due to the sculptures of Gustav Vigeland, and we feel like the park is not big enough for two very different pieces of art.

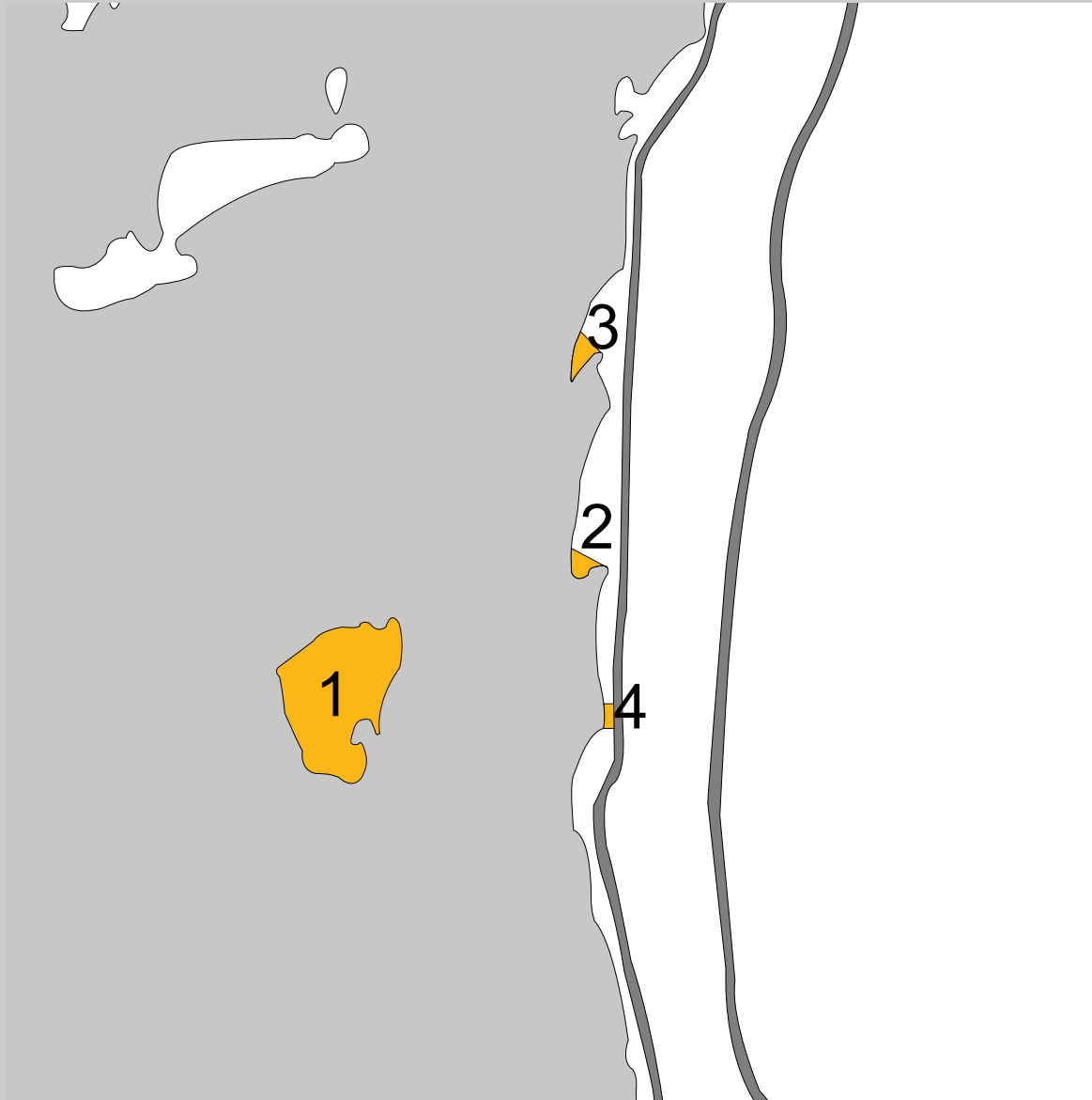
8: "Aker Brygge" or other water borders of the city

The horizon is a powerful source of reflection, and a frequent companion for solemn thinking in Norwegian history. By using borders to the fjord such as "Aker Brygge" one is close to the city but can experience the peacefulness of the city. However the links to Utøya are misleading, as Utøya is on a lake in a different direction. We feel that the links to the water is so strong that they should not be artificial.

9: "Middelalderparken"

A park close to the central station and the motorway, but considered a haven especially for young people mostly because of the popular "Øya" festival. As this was something that mostly affected young people it could be a nice tribute, but the site is changing and the annual festival spirit would be in conflict with the desired humble mood of the memorial.

HOLE



There are many logistics involved when designing in the goveremnt district, this was probably a favourite but would need rearranging of the entrance to the main building.

SITES

10: "Bygdøy"

The home of the memorial of the Tsunami, a quiet place very close to the centre of Oslo. There are many sites on the half-island that could work for finding solitude and reflecting, however it seems more logical and less artificial if one is to put something outside Oslo, to put it by Utøya.

11: "Spikersuppa"

At the very middle of the centre of Oslo is a fountain that works as a ice rink in the winter. The attraction towards this site is the location, and would work well in terms of being a "reminder" in the city. However it is difficult to find peace and quiet in a place where people pass through constantly. Also the ice rink/fountain is an important longue in the busy Oslo life.

12: "Rådhusplassen"

After the attack there was a gathering where "half of Oslo" showed up at the plaza outside the City Hall, it was called the "rose parade". Seeing the site has a connection with Oslo residents we imagined it could be powerful. The cons of the site is that it is so closely connected to both politics and it is also difficult to find a part of the site that is quiet enough. Again one is also adding an identity to a space, and we find that inescapable.

SITES

1: "Utøya"

We started out thinking it was important to design something on Utøya due to the meaning of place. However we must not let the phenomenological principles on the expense of such a valuable place for the youth of AUF. Also what is built there we feel like is AUF's business, while we wish to focus on a national memorial.

2: "Sørbråten"

One of the few places that is not surrounded by homes close to Utøya, although one would need to make a new path to the site. The view to Utøya is beautiful and the island feels very present. The cons about the site is that it is exposed to weather and the steep edge towards the water.

3: "Lauvodden"

A very beautifully framed viewpoint, however when we visited the site Utøya seemed so distant and unrecognizable. Apparently the area has been regulated for hotel-property, but realistically we believe the purpose of a memorial would be first priority and it could be re-regulated. Also it is more difficult to build here due to the more dense surroundings.

4: "Fergekaia"

This is where Utøya's ferry boat Ms Torbjørn is located. This is where all most all transportation to and from Utøya happens and it has the most direct access to the island. There's not a lot of space for a memorial here but if the design involves the water somehow, it could be a nice place to put it. However when we decided on a design on land this site was no longer an option.

CONCLUSION

In late March we decided that the sites that were preferable were Regjeringskvartalet /The government district and Sørbråten by Utøya. In the end the phenomenological theories about the meaning of place overruled the other arguments, but we did not wish to change Utøya.

