

Oslo: Between Edvard Munch and Sverre Fehn
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Syllabus

As part of the Scandinavian block, Norway has continually interfaced with Sweden during its political history. However, its artistic and architectural traditions remain separate from the other Nordic Countries. Noted architectural historian and critic Christian Norberg-Schulz has been largely credited for the reviving the notion of *Genius Loci*, that is the spirit of the place. Oslo comes with its *Genius Loci* expressed in painting through the works of Munch as well as the architectural achievements of Pritzker prize Sverre Fehn, among others. This class will explore its fascinating design history.

Lesson 1. OSLO IN RELATION TO SISTER NORDIC CAPITALS

Oslo is a vast city with low-density. Its relationship to the water structures the capital's urban and architectural character. The Norwegian fjord is a dominant landscape element that is specific to this nation. This talk tackles the organic growth of the city through its urban plan and progressive architectural transformations. Partly due to its subordinate political standing to Denmark and Sweden, Oslo was slow compared to other capitals at developing its own architecture.

Lesson 2. NATIONAL ROMANTICISM IN OSLO AND A LOOK AT ICELAND

The National Romantic movement emphasized the distinctive nature of Norway. In mining the rural heritage of the country, this trend sought to consolidate the newfound identity independent from Denmark and Sweden. Spanning the same period as the other Nordic countries, its unique idiom is epitomized in the works of Arnstein Arneberg and Magnus Poulsson. A portion of this talk will also offer a cursory look at Iceland, a geographic and cultural outpost with worthy contributions to examine.

Lesson 3. OSLO AND MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Arne Korsmo, Knut Knutsen, Sverre Fehn, and Lund & Slaatto are some of the most prominent architects forming the modernist heritage of the Norwegian capital. Some of them operated under a group called PAGON, considered a latecomer extension of CIAM in Norway, through which many of the tenets of the Modern Movement found vocal representatives. Although Oslo was in the periphery of the early stages of the debate on Modern architecture, his practitioners and theoreticians acquired distinctions especially in the post-war period, among them, Christian Norberg-Schulz. This third class will focus on this phase on the development of a modern idiom in Norway.

Lesson 4. OSLO TODAY: RECENT TRENDS IN ARCHITECTURE

In the last 20 years, Oslo has enjoyed worldwide attention of its contemporary design. Leading practice Snøhetta, known in the San Francisco Bay Area for being the architects of the addition to the SFMoMa, are the creatives behind the iconic Oslo Opera House. In the same area, Atelier Oslo and Lundhagen have just completed the Deichman Library, and the Spanish practice Estudio Herreros authored the newly built Much Museum. This conclusive talk will give an overview of the wide array of achievements this small nation with a large design footprint has produced at a staggering rate in just two decades.