

MORK-ULNES ARCHITECTS

MYLLA CABIN JEVNAKER COUNTY, NORWAY



Photo: Bruce Damonic

image
for Mork
-Ulnes

MORK-ULNES ARCHITECTS

MYLLA CABIN
JEVNAKER COUNTY, NORWAY

CONTENTS

1. Press release	3
2. The project	10
3. Data and credits of the project	12
4. Mork-Ulnes Architects	15
5. Images for the press	16

PRESS OFFICE

Image MEDIA AGENCY
tel +39 055 4684 187

PRESS OFFICER

Susanne Lambert
susanne.lambert@image-web.org

1

PRESS RELEASE

9 April 2018 (update)

A COMPACT YET EXPANSIVE CABIN, DESIGNED BY SAN FRANCISCO/OSLO-BASED MORK-ULNES ARCHITECTS, CREATIVELY REINTERPRETS NORWEGIAN CABIN TYPOLOGY.

Mork-Ulnes Architects have recently completed Mylla, a compact yet expansive cabin north of Oslo in the Norwegian forest. A retreat for a geologist and his family, the 84-square meter building sits firmly on a hilltop and is formed by the forces of the landscape around it. Mylla breaks apart the traditional rectangular cabin building plan into a pinwheel which radiates into the landscape to both frame four distinct views — Mylla Lake, the rolling hillside, the sky, and a towering forest — and to form wind- and snow-sheltered outdoor patios. The untreated pine siding is simple and honest, and registers the seasons as it greys and weathers with time.

3

— — —

The clients.

Scott Young and Christine Griffin Young are an American couple in their forties with two young children. Scott's work as a geologist pushed the family to relocate to Oslo seven years ago, where they've fully embraced the outdoors-lifestyle of Norway.

The place.

The site is located at the northern edge of Nordmarka, which is a vast wilderness just an hour north of where the family resides in Oslo. Though the landscape is still wild, it is easily reached by car, bike, or ski from the city. The location was chosen because of its proximity to Oslo and its easy access to cross country skiing and fishing, which can be done at Mylla Lake just below. It only takes a few hours to reach via back country trails on bike or skis, which Scott has occasionally indulged in, or just over an hour by car.

The project brief.

“Amenities” that the Youngs requested at the outset were: three bedrooms, including a bunkroom for kids; two bathrooms as efficient and small as possible; a small annex for ski waxing, bike and ski storage, and a two person sauna; connection from inside to out.

“Not being Norwegian, we had no preconceived notions or visions of what a “hytte” should look like or how it should function. This is why, even though we provided Casper and Lexie with our requests as far as amenities go, we fully trusted their innovative approach, pushing the envelope of what a Norwegian hytte can be,” says Christine.

A distinct interpretation of the local hytte typology.

Hytte is the Norwegian word for cabin. Hytter (cabins) are a huge part of Norwegian culture, with over a quarter of all Norwegians owning at least one. The traditional Norwegian hytte is small and primitive, serving a simple utilitarian purpose to shelter, often with an outdoor toilet and no running water. The typical interior is cramped, compartmentalized, and disconnected, with rooms loaded off a narrow corridor. The living quarters are usually dark with pine clad walls, small windows and low ceilings.

The design challenge was to rework the traditional hytte building type so that it still maintained its utilitarian character — compact, efficient, and driven by function — but to form the building in relation to its landscape and create an interior that felt more expansive and generous — and still included three bedrooms and two full (though tiny) bathrooms in 84 square meters.

Though planning regulations required a gable roof, the architects were able to split the gable in half to create four shed roofs. This produced a pinwheel plan with two sheltered outdoor spaces — the Morning porch and the Evening porch — which capture the sun and are protected from wind and snow shedding from the roof.

“The pin-wheel plan and sloping roof form is derived from the climate, the desire to separate the bedrooms for privacy and to offer contrasting views from each room. In that sense, the building is a very straightforward response to its context, while at the same time generating a unique experience,” says Casper Mork-Ulnes.

The site.

Instead of emphasizing the site’s sweeping panorama of pine and deciduous forests, mountains, and lake, Mylla Hytte takes a more deliberate approach to the landscape around it. The wings of the house engage four distinct characters of the site: the great room looks onto Mylla Lake, the guest room looks towards the rolling hillside, the kids’ room looks up at the sky, and the bedroom has a private view of the towering forest.

5

“The untreated pine exterior is intended to turn silver over time - blending with the snow in winter and aging with grace in the forested landscape,” says the architect.

The program.

Rather than compartmentalizing the plan into a series of separate rooms, the interior of the 84 square meter cabin is designed as a free flowing landscape. The 2.4m to 4.3m high vaulted ceilings are continuous throughout to form a uniting

canopy. Underneath the canopy are three functional cores — one for the kitchen, coat closet and bathroom, another for bathroom and storage, and another for storage and mechanical equipment — which direct the interior flow and create private zones in the interior.

The details.

Close attention to detailing enhances the feeling of openness and privacy. For instance, each bedroom has two access doors as to not create any dead ends. When open, these doors — made of the same plywood as the walls and ceiling — sit completely flush within a wall cavity so that they disappear. Above each door is a transom glass to reduce sound transmission while allowing the ceiling to expand uninterrupted across the interior.

The architects built many models of the house to test their design ideas and approach. Special emphasis was placed on the design of the roof, not only from a spatial and aesthetic perspective but as a functional response to heavy snow shed in the area.

Lifestyle.

In the end, the small cabin can comfortably accommodate the Young's family of four along with 4-6 guests within its two bedrooms, bunkroom, combined living room and kitchen, two full bathrooms.

6

Scott says: "It's a great place to visit year round in both good weather and bad. The views to the outside make it feel like you are outside when you are in. It is a cozy cabin for our family of four and dog, but can comfortably accommodate 8-10 people."

During the cold winter months, when the cabin is half buried in snow and the surrounding landscape is white, the family goes on long ski tours and warms up in the sauna afterwards. In the warmer months, the family explores the area on mountain bikes, canoes, and kayaks. Scott is an avid fisherman and often takes the kids out on Mylla Lake to find local perch and trout.

A warm and efficient interior space.

To create a warm and light filled interior, the architects used pine plywood treated with lye and white oil to finish the interior of the cabin. Custom plywood furniture, including bed frames, bunk beds, couch, dining table, benches, and shelves are found throughout.

“We wanted to create a clean and simple interior so used only two materials for the interiors: lyed pine plywood and concrete,” says Lexie Mork-Ulnes.

7

The walls, ceiling, and all furniture are plywood with exposed edges, and the floors, countertops, and bathroom walls are concrete. The custom designed furniture for this cabin creates an inviting setting for the family and their guests, adding soft touches of forest with green Kvadrat wool felt for the upholstered built-ins.

“The cabin is so small, we wanted to make things as multi-purpose as possible. The kitchen island is also the bench for the dining table. The roof over the bathroom volume is a playroom for the kids, since their bedroom is so small. All of the beds have built-in drawers, and the sofa has large cubbies for books and storage bins for games and legos. The sofa

is made of two single mattresses, for easy conversion to extra beds when the house is full. We attempted to make the furniture as material efficient as possible, so for example the dining table is built from exactly two sheets of plywood,” adds Lexie Mork-Ulnes.

About Mork-Ulnes Architects.

Mork-Ulnes Architects is the recipient of Architectural Record’s 2015 Design Vanguard Award and named by the Norwegian National Museum as one of “the most noteworthy young architects in Norway” (Under 40. Exhibition, 2013). With offices in San Francisco and Oslo, Mork-Ulnes Architects approaches projects with a quirky minimalism that combines Scandinavian practicality and California’s ‘can-do’ spirit of innovation.

Rigorous and concept-driven, the practice is based on built work that is both playful and restrained, and informed by economies of means and materials. Since its founding by Casper Mork-Ulnes in 2005, Mork Ulnes Architects have worked on projects from master plans, to mixed-use buildings, to ground up residences, to 100 square foot cabins, and have built on 3 continents. Current projects include: an all concrete guest house in Northern California; a master plan for a new community in the California Sierras; a mixed-use, waterfront community in the Bay Area; a cross-laminated timber home in Oregon; a surf cabin in Brazil; and a 90,000sf mixed-use building in Norway.

8



Photo: Bruce Damonic

image
for Mork
Ulness

2

THE PROJECT

As described by Mork-Ulnes Architects

10

Mylla is a small 84 square meter (940 square foot) cabin located in a towering pine forest outside of Oslo. Designed as a retreat for a geologist and his family, the building sits firmly on a hilltop and is formed by the forces of the landscape around it. Though planning regulations required a gable roof, Mylla splits the gable in half to create four shed roofs that radiate in a pinwheel configuration. Two sheltered outdoor spaces are created which are protected from the wind and from snow shedding from the roof. The exterior is clad simply with untreated heart pine planks, which register the seasons as it greys and weathers with time. The compact interior, finished in plywood and unified with a continuous roof canopy, can house up to ten people across three dedicated bedrooms and two full bathrooms. Custom plywood furniture, including bed frames, bunk beds, couch, dining table, benches, and shelves are found throughout. The wings of the house engage four distinct characters of the landscape: the great room looks onto Mylla Lake, the guest room looks towards the rolling hillside, the kids' room looks up at the sky, and the bedroom has a private view of the towering forest beyond.



Photo: Bruce Damonte

image
for Mork
-Ulness

3

DATA AND CREDITS

of the project

Project name

Mylla Hytte

Project location

Jevnaker County, Norway

Architect

Mork-Ulnes Architects
www.morkulnes.com

12

Project design team

Auste Cijunelyte, Tom Erdman, Lexie Mork-Ulnes, Casper Mork-Ulnes, Anatoly Starr

Clients

Scott and Christine Young

General contractor

Kreativt Hus: Michal Manzak and Konrad Jasinski

Project data

Site size: 868 square meters

Building size: main cabin: 84 square meters
annex: 16 square meters

Budget: 2.5 million Norwegian kroner (270.000 euros, 320.000 US dollars)

Materials

Exterior cladding: Heart Pine / Malm Furu (Pinus sylvestris)

Exterior wall treatment: None

Interior walls: Pine plywood with lye and white oil finishing

Interior ceilings: Pine plywood with lye and white oil finishing

Floors: Concrete

Bathrooms: Concrete

Kitchen countertops: Concrete

Lighting: Recessed downlights (interior), Custom designed wall sconces (exterior)

Windows and exterior doors: Solid pine

Roofing: Heart Pine / Malm Furu (Pinus sylvestris)

Cabinetwork: Pine plywood with lye and white oil finishing

Structural system: Wood framing over concrete slab on grade.

Fabric on built-in furniture: Kvadrat Divina Melange

Suppliers

Wood siding and roofing: Alvdal Skurlag

Custom milled windows and exterior doors: Nyhuset Bruk

All interior doors and millwork: Kreativt Hus

Bathroom concrete: Self Levelling concrete by Weber (built by Kreativt Hus)

Exterior lights designed by Mork-Ulnes Architects (built by Kreativt Hus)

Schedule

Schematic design: Summer 2014

Construction start: Summer 2015

Complete: September 2017

13

Photographs

All photographs are by Bruce Damonte.

www.brucedamonte.com

Press office

Image MEDIA AGENCY

www.image-web.org



Photo: Bruce Damonte

image
for Mork
-Ulnes

4

MORK-ULNES ARCHITECTS

15

With offices in San Francisco and Oslo, Mork-Ulnes Architects approaches projects with both Scandinavian practicality and Northern California's 'can-do' spirit of innovation.

Rigorous and concept-driven, the practice is based on built work characterized by both playfulness and restraint, and informed by economies of means and materials. Mork-Ulnes Architects have worked on projects ranging in scale from masterplans to 100 square foot cabins, and have realized buildings on 3 continents.

Mork-Ulnes Architects has been the recipient of numerous national and international honors, including Architectural Record's 2015 worldwide Design Vanguard award.

The work of Mork-Ulnes Architects has also been widely featured in international publications such as The New York Times, Wallpaper, Mark, and Dwell.

www.morkulnes.com

Norwegian born, Casper Mork-Ulnes was raised in Italy, Scotland and the United States, which has brought a broad perspective to his eponymous firm's work. In 2015, Casper was named one of "California's finest emerging talent" by the American Institute of Architects California Council. He was selected by the Norwegian National Museum as one of "the most noteworthy young architects in Norway" with the exhibit "Under 40. Young Norwegian Architecture 2013." Casper holds a Master of Architecture from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Architecture from California College of the Arts.