

Fold

Røstad + Khoury

A Living Memorial of Collective Memory and Inclusion

Fold is an inclusive memorial commemorating the tragic events of 22 July. Located in Norway's government quarter, **Fold** redefines traditional monuments by inviting continuous participation and reflection. It features three distinct areas: Above the **Fold** for community interaction, Within the **Fold** for peaceful contemplation and Below the **Fold** housing an education centre. This innovative space integrates serene water elements and annual artistic interventions, fostering a living testament to resilience and hope. The essence of **Fold** lies in its ability to evolve and adapt - reflecting the changing needs and aspirations of the community it serves.

The power of commemoration

Fold is a living testament to the terrible events of 22 July. This innovative monument, set in the heart of the government quarter, brings a powerful new perspective to the traditional notion of a 'memorial'.

It redefines how a monument can exist in time and space, what it can do for individual visitors and the local and wider community - and what it can be for the future.

Fold is a unique framework for remembrance that invites collective participation and reflection. It honours the past while looking towards the future. It is inclusive and accessible while complex and multilayered in significance. It offers serenity while providing a dynamic memorial to this tragedy.

This is a dynamic space where memory and community converge. Annual interventions, community events and visitors themselves will breathe fresh life into this memorial, constantly reinvigorating it for a new day, a new year and even a new generation.

In this proposal, we examine the transformative power of **Fold** and consider its inventive design, how it can help foster resilience and hope, its rituals and traditions and its commitment to accessibility, access, and inclusion.

Un-FOLD-ing collective memory

Fold stands as a poignant reminder of the tragic events of 22 July. But this is more than just a static memorial to the day that shook Norway to its core. It is a space for collective remembrance and healing. Inspired by the concept of a fold, the memorial design is innovative and inclusive. A contemplative space lies beneath its graceful curves. It is adorned with the names of the victims and serves as the entrance to an educational centre. This space provides a tranquil environment for reflection on the tragedy with the gentle sound of water shielding visitors from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding streets. Reflection and education meet within **Fold** and this is a fundamental aspect of this memorial which combines a contemplative space with an underground education centre. The **Fold** itself symbolises participation - welcoming people from all walks of life to engage with its meaning and significance. It is a thoughtfully designed space divided into three distinct, recognisable areas: Above the **Fold**, Within the **Fold** and Below the **Fold**. Each section has a unique purpose, contributing to the overall experience of both visitors and workers in the government quarter.

Above the Fold: a vibrant and meaningful community space

This is where people can interact. It is an inviting space for gatherings, rituals, artistic interventions and performances. It is a versatile environment with embedded seating where visitors can go about their daily business, take part in ceremonies or simply spend time reflecting. Its open design encourages communal interaction and personal reflection, making it a vibrant and meaningful part of the **Fold**.

Within the Fold: a peaceful space for contemplation

Beneath the surface you'll find a more serene and contemplative space. This area is the heart of the memorial and also serves as the entrance to the education centre. Here, visitors can learn about the tragic events of July 22, with information carefully curated to educate and honour the memory of those lost. The names of the victims are displayed here, providing a solemn reminder of the lives taken on that dreadful day. A sound shower also allows visitors to hear the names of the victims, making the memorial accessible to those who do not read. Heated benches allow visitors to sit in comfort and contemplate all year round. Within the **Fold** is designed to foster a sense of peace and calm reflection, allowing visitors to process their emotions and thoughts in a tranquil setting. Within the **Fold** is accessible and open at all times of the day and night.

Below the Fold: education and deeper understanding

This space leads into the educational centre – designed to offer a deeper understanding of the events of July 22 and explore the path forward. The education centre is a vital and inclusive part of the **Fold**. It is the focus point of a comprehensive learning experience that encapsulates the entire **Fold**. This is designed to ensure that the memory of this terrible tragedy is preserved - and that the lessons learned can continue to guide the future.

Fold as a Collective and Participatory Monument

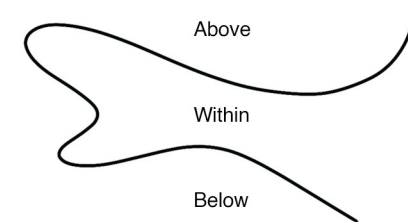


Illustration of the three distinct recognisable areas of the Fold. ©Røstad + Khoury

A monument inviting participation

The central concept of **Fold** is 'participation'. Rather than an unchanging monument, it is designed to be a fluid space – a blank canvas for community participation and a starting point for building new ways to commemorate and understand the events of 22 July.

Fold will start its life set up as a blank canvas inviting participation. However, it is designed to be more than a mere backdrop. Instead, it is a stage that welcomes collaboration and creation.

An initial landscape intervention in the Above the **Fold** area will see grass installed underfoot and the ground covering its embedded seating. This is designed to sensitively evoke thoughts and memories and connects to the island landscape of Bakken at Utøya. Visitors can simply enjoy this calm and attractive public space or explore its multi-layered symbolism and meaning.

Fold will host remembrance interventions annually - from art installations to immersive performances. Guided by us here at Røstad + Khoury, new artists will be chosen every year for their ability and sensibility to foster collaboration and connection. Their interventions will weave together stories, emotions, and experiences into the fabric of the **Fold**.

In addition, there will also be a working group comprised of representatives from the survivors, support groups, and the educational centre. This collaborative team will be an integral part of the process, selecting the artists who will create and interpret the interventions.

Our combined insights and experiences will ensure a thoughtful and meaningful selection process, fostering a project that truly resonates with, and honours, the community it represents.

This will also create opportunities to reach out to local schools and the community, as well as international communities – facilitating collaboration and an exchange of ideas and learning. Active participation with projects at **Fold** will help communities forge bonds that transcend time and space, finding solace in shared stories and strength in collective action.





Illustration demonstrating the space above the Fold designated for ceremonies and events. Visualisation: Jad Nassour. ©Røstad + Khoury

Fold is not just a space for reflection - it is also a stage for rituals and meaningful traditions. Each year, on the solemn anniversary of July 22, the memorial will become a sanctuary of remembrance, honouring the lives lost and the resilience of those who survived.

Through memorial services and moments of reflection, the **Fold** will serve as both a physical space for ritual and a sacred symbol of hope, healing, and solidarity. Here, echoes of the past mingle with aspirations of the future, creating a timeless tapestry of memory and meaning.

The grassy landscaped slope itself is designed to be a location where people can gather with a semi-circular amphitheatre providing seating for visitors who come to pay their respects. The design of the **Fold** is inspired throughout by Bakken at Utøya - the name given to the slope on the island where people gather to debate. Indeed, this signals the powerful message of democracy and freedom of speech. It mirrors the ritual taking place on the day of remembrance of the attack and the importance of building relations and remembrance.

The adaptable nature of **Fold** allows it to be a living, dynamic space where not only remembrance but also other significant events can unfold, creating a broader impact on the community and beyond.

Rituals and Meaningful Traditions

In addition, **Fold** serves as an ideal location for events that celebrate and uphold the principles of freedom of speech. Its inclusive and accessible design makes it a welcoming venue for diverse voices and perspectives. Through these resources, **Fold** aims to educate and inspire, ensuring that the lessons learned from the events of 22 July continue to resonate with future generations. This is achieved through...

- **Public lectures and debates.** The amphitheatre within **Fold** is a powerful place for hosting public lectures and debates on pressing issues related to freedom of speech, democracy, and human rights. These events can bring together speakers, panels, and an engaged public audience, fostering a rich environment for dialogue and understanding.

- **Workshops and educational programs.** Organising workshops and educational programs can help convey the importance of freedom of speech and effective advocacy. The educational centre below **Fold** can be used for focused sessions, while the outdoor spaces can accommodate larger groups and activities, making education accessible and impactful.



Illustration of the Fold in the new government quarter. Visualisation: Jad Nassour. ©Røstad + Khoury

Accessibility and inclusivity

Universal design is at the core of **Fold**, ensuring accessibility, access, and inclusivity for all. As both an outdoor and indoor space, the memorial is created in accordance with the principles of universal design. It is open to the public, welcoming individuals of all abilities to engage with its meaning and significance. From wheelchair ramps to braille signage, every aspect of the memorial is tailored to meet the needs of everyone, regardless of their physical or sensory abilities. By prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity, **Fold** serves as a model for how participatory monuments can create an environment that benefits the entire community.

Integrated into the urban environment

Fold is not just a standalone monument. Instead, it is consciously and seamlessly woven into the fabric of the surrounding urban environment, creating a harmonious space for both reflection and daily life. Situated within the government quarter, among bustling streets and office buildings, the memorial is a sanctuary from the chaos of daily life.

It is designed to meet the needs of office workers and the general public and provides a safe space for respite and reflection during daily commutes and breaks. Its gentle hill and cascading water offer a serene oasis where visitors can escape the pressures of work and find solace in the beauty of their surroundings.

Fold has two significant water elements that enhance its aesthetic and functional appeal...

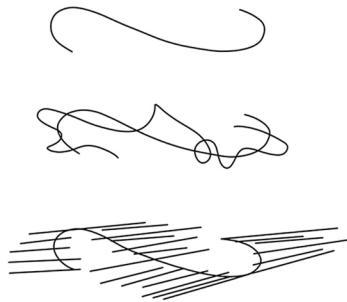
- An integrated water mirror located at the entry, which creates the illusion of a deep pool despite being only a thin layer of water flowing over a dark, tiled surface. This design not only adds a visually striking reflective effect but also sets a tranquil and inviting tone for visitors as they approach **Fold**.

- A veil of water that screens the contemplative space and the educational entrance from the street. This water element acts as a dynamic partition, creating privacy and serenity while subtly separating the bustling street from the interior spaces. Additionally, the gentle sound of flowing water is calming and meditative, making **Fold** a more immersive and contemplative environment.

Whether it's a quiet moment of contemplation or a leisurely stroll through the landscaped grounds, **Fold** provides a space for individuals to recharge and rejuvenate without feeling the weight of a traditional memorial setting.

Moreover, **Fold** enhances the urban landscape, adding a touch of tranquillity to the bustling government quarter. Its innovative design and participatory nature invite interaction and engagement, encouraging passers-by to pause, reflect, and connect with the memorial's deeper meaning. By integrating with the urban environment, **Fold** becomes an essential part of the daily rhythm of the city, enriching the lives of those who encounter it.

Background and inspiration



Deleuze, Gilles. *The Fold: Leibniz and the Baroque*.
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1993.

It is imperative that a memorial is installed to honour the victims and survivors of 22 July and to help people remember and process the tragic events of that terrible day.

However, rather than creating a traditional memorial that is frozen in time, we want to rethink the very notion of what a 'memorial' means. Instead, we invite participation and fluidity through time. We want to commemorate the events in a more powerful way than a mere static memorial ever could – in an innovative way that fosters resilience, healing and community engagement.

Thus, the concept of **Fold** as a collective and participatory monument has taken shape. Drawing inspiration from the resilience of the Norwegian people in the face of adversity, as well as the concept of a **Fold** representing unity and inclusivity, the vision for **Fold** is emerging.

It is conceived not merely as a static memorial, but as a living testament to the power of collective memory and action. The design and ongoing development of **Fold** is an inclusive process, involving artists, survivors, support groups, and the wider community.

Workshops, consultations, and collaborative projects ensure that the memorial truly reflects the diversity of voices and experiences that it aims to honour. This participatory approach not only enriches the memorial itself but also strengthens the bonds within the community, fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility.

Fold itself can be seen as a metaphor for resilience and unity. Like a fold in fabric, it represents the idea of coming together and creating a stronger whole through unity. It symbolizes the resilience of the Norwegian people who, in the face of tragedy, come together to support one another and rebuild their community.

It also highlights the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every experience is acknowledged. **Fold** is a powerful symbol of hope, healing, and collective memory.

In the following stages, we will delve deeper into the design elements of **Fold**, explore its role in fostering resilience and hope, and examine the rituals and traditions that have become an integral part of its meaning. We will also highlight the importance of accessibility, access, and inclusivity in creating a memorial that truly serves the entire community.

We also discuss how **Fold** integrates with the surrounding urban environment to provide a sanctuary for reflection and daily life.

Through this comprehensive exploration, we aim to demonstrate the transformative power of **Fold** as a living, participatory monument that honours the past while looking toward the future.

A living, participatory memorial

The essence of **Fold** lies in its ability to evolve and adapt - reflecting the changing needs and aspirations of the community it serves. Unlike traditional monuments that remain static, **Fold** is a living, participatory memorial that invites continuous engagement and interaction.

Its dynamic design and ongoing interventions transform this memorial into a canvas for collective expression, allowing individuals to contribute to its meaning and significance.

This participatory approach ensures that the memorial remains relevant and resonant, fostering a sense of ownership and connection among those who engage with it. Whether through annual interventions, educational programs, or community events, **Fold** offers endless opportunities for people to become active participants in the memorial's ongoing narrative. This sense of participation and inclusion is what makes **Fold** a truly unique and transformative space - one that honours the past while looking toward the future.

Fold is a living, fluid and dynamic memorial that stands as a testament to the resilience, hope, and unity of the Norwegian people. It is a beacon of light in the face of darkness. In conclusion, **Fold** is more than just a memorial. It is a powerful symbol of resilience, hope, and collective memory.

Through its innovative design, inclusive approach, and commitment to accessibility, **Fold** serves as a model for how participatory monuments can create spaces that benefit the entire community. **Fold** fosters reflection, education, and engagement and this means it becomes a living testament to the events of 22 July. In turn, this ensures that the memory of the past continues to provide space for reflection and learning which contributes to a deeper understanding of the past as well as a more informed approach to the future.

The future of Fold: time and memory

As time passes, the memory of 22 July inevitably evolves, shaped by changing perspectives, experiences, and generations. **Fold** recognises the dynamic nature of memory and is designed to adapt and transform alongside it, ensuring its continued relevance and resonance for future generations.

Acknowledging the importance of time in the memorial itself is central to the design and concept of **Fold**. Just as the folds of a fabric shift and change over time, so too does the landscape of memory. Annual interventions serve as markers of this evolution, offering opportunities for reflection, reinterpretation, and renewal.

As the memory of 22 July shifts and evolves, so too will the interventions at **Fold**. New voices, new stories, and new perspectives will emerge. These will enrich the collective understanding of the tragedy and its aftermath. Artists, community members, and survivors will continue to play a vital role in shaping these interventions, ensuring that they remain authentic, meaningful, and inclusive.

The physical space of **Fold** will evolve over time, reflecting the changing needs and desires of the community. Perhaps new features will be added, or existing elements modified to better serve the evolving purposes of the memorial.

Fold may change over time, but its core values of inclusivity, accessibility, and participation will remain at the forefront of its evolution. Indeed, the concept of 'time' itself, is an integral part of the memorial, imbuing it with a sense of continuity and connection across generations. Just as the folds of a fabric contain the traces of past actions and experiences, so too will **Fold** bear witness to the ongoing journey of remembrance and healing.

In this way **Fold** transcends the constraints of time, becoming a living testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of collective memory. As the memory of 22 July evolves, **Fold** will stand as a beacon of hope and solidarity - reminding us of the importance of reflection, renewal, and resilience in the face of adversity.



Røstad + Khoury

Røstad+Khoury's multidisciplinary approach bridges art, architecture, and artistic research. Together, their vision aligns with the mission of amplifying the societal significance of public art within the public sphere.

Røstad+Khoury emerge as the dynamic duo. This collaboration combines the expertise of Merete Røstad (1975), an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and artist-researcher, with that of Jad El Khoury, an artist and architect.

Røstad's artistic and academic merits include a doctorate in artistic research from the Oslo National Academy of Arts (KHiO), awarded for her research, *The Participatory Monument – Remembrance and Forgetting as Art Practice in Public Sphere* (2018) and her international interdisciplinary research project *MEMORYWORK* supported by the Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation and Norwegian Artistic Research Programme (PKU). As head of the MFA in Art and Public Spaces at KHiO and research leader for the Art and Craft department, she brings a wealth of knowledge and innovative perspectives to the collaboration. Her ongoing research on contemporary commemorative art practice in the public space makes her an invaluable asset.

Complementing Røstad's artistic prowess is Jad El Khoury (1988), a skilled artist and architect. His passion was ignited during his formative years in post-civil-war Lebanon when he felt compelled to transform the urban landscape. He turned war-torn buildings into graceful, choreographed installations, with *"Burj El Hawa"* (Tower of the Wind, 2018) one of his notable works. His talents have received international acclaim and prestigious awards, including the Arte Laguna Prize for Urban Art and Land Art. He was awarded an artist studio at Rådhuset in Oslo until 2025. Khoury's exceptional ability to transform the scars of war into poetic installations and Røstad's expertise in engaging the public through participatory processes build a solid foundation with their high artistic integrity.