

ART PLAN in connection with the refurbishment of the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences



Project information

Periode of time: 2014–2017

Name of the project: Refurbishment of the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences

Project management: Statsbygg

Architect: Nils Tveit AS

Art consultants: Power Ekroth og Torunn Skjelland

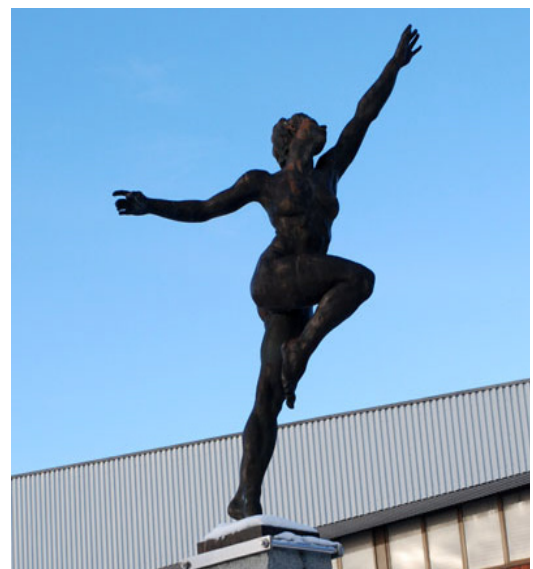
Project manager, KORO: Truls Ramberg

Other members of the art committee: Erik Johansen, (project manager Statsbygg,) Kari Bø, (headmaster NIH), Frode Sagedal, (user representative) Christian Eriksen, (Architect)

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1. Introduction

The project to refurbish the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH) involves the renovation of approx. 16,000 square metres of existing buildings, construction of a new extension of approx. 800 square metres, construction of an outdoor storage area, and the expansion of the canteen in the main building. The total budget for the art project is NOK 5,900,000 and the official re-opening is scheduled for spring 2017.

The overall art project for NIH encompasses a major indoor art project, a major outdoor art project, standalone artworks, and, following requests from the users of the complex, a plan for the artworks already present on the site.

During spring 2015 a preliminary plan was drawn up so that a competition could be held for an art project. The art committee selected a project by Børre Sæthre. This will be installed during autumn 2015 in a corridor that connects the main building with the gymnasiums.

Demolition work started at NIH in March 2015, and refurbishment work started in August 2015. The preliminary plan contains a presentation of the building project and a description of the overarching artistic guidelines that will be fundamental to the art project for NIH.

2. Site analysis

2.1. Norwegian School of Sport Sciences: history and strategy

The Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH) was founded in the period 1968–70. From the start the objective was to train teachers, trainers and sports officers. Today NIH is a specialized university college that aims to be an international leader in teaching and research in the fields of sport sciences and physical activity.

NIH offers five bachelor's and master's programmes in sports sciences, is very active in research, and offers extensive continuing education and lifelong learning programmes. Since 1985, 150 doctorates have been completed at NIH. As a specialized university college, NIH has three core objectives: teaching, research and dissemination. NIH's academic profile is exceptionally cross- and multidisciplinary, and "sport" is defined widely.

NIH's core values:

Independent – Integrated – Relevant – Proactive – Groundbreaking

2.2. Buildings and location

All NIH's buildings and sports facilities are located by Lake Sognsvann on the outskirts of Oslo. The school is adjacent to the Nordmarka forest that lies to the north of the city and its closest neighbour is the elite sports centre of Olympiatoppen. The existing premises were designed by the architects Pran and Torgersen in 1965. The motto for the project was "In green surroundings", and the complex of buildings has a particularly fine location at one of the access points to the Nordmarka forest.

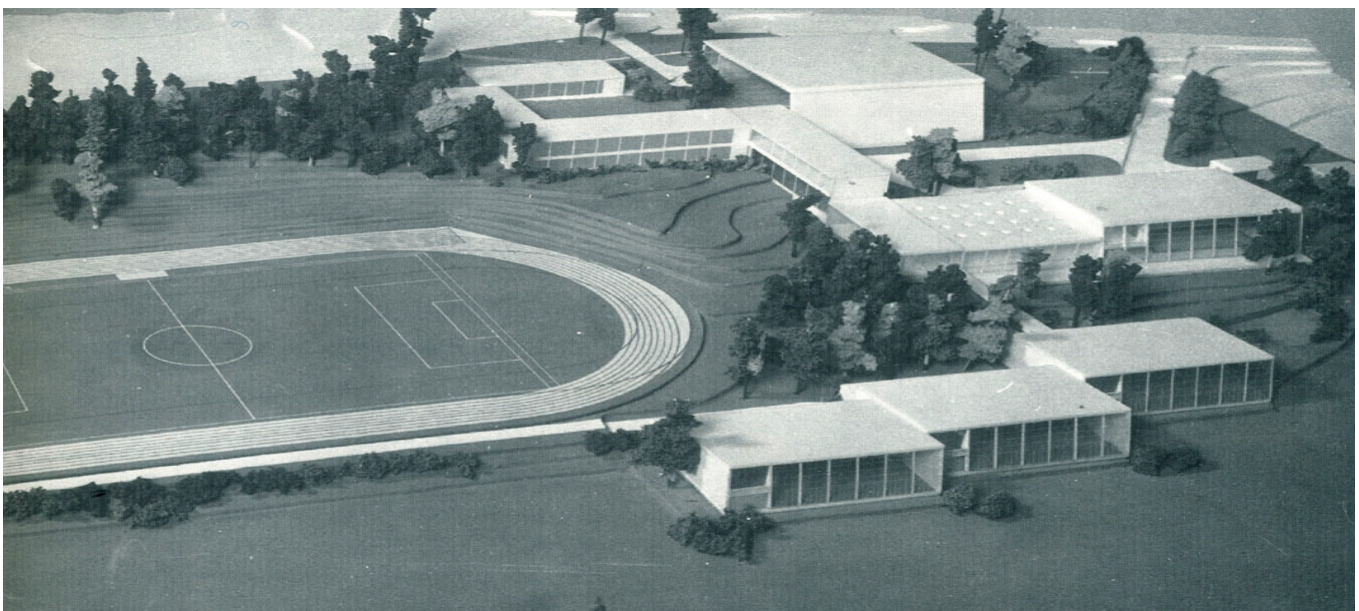
The complex was constructed in three phases, and the oldest buildings are subject to preservation orders of varying degrees of stringency. The building that houses the swimming pool is particularly strictly protected. This is the oldest part of the complex that is now to be renovated, and is fundamental to the art project. In addition to the swimming pool building, the complex comprise gymnasiums, a canteen and locker rooms. The complex is mainly single-storey with a pavilion-based design and large glass windows. The “pavilions” are linked by narrow corridors with low ceilings. These are to be upgraded with new flooring and improved lighting.

The building is typical of its time, with clean lines and functional architecture. The main building materials are concrete and wood. Many of the older buildings are worn, and now need extensive upgrades – addressing not only design but also energy-saving and ventilation – to meet modern standards.

NIH’s existing art collection includes standalone artworks (sculptures and paintings) and artworks integrated into the fabric of the building. Some of the artworks, including a work by Hanne Nielsen in the canteen, were produced under the auspices of KORO. The canteen is also home to a large wall installation by Terje Roalkvam. This is located in the new part of the building complex, and accordingly will not be affected by the refurbishment work. During 2015 and 2016, art consultants Torunn Skjelland and Power Ekroth, together with user representative Frode Sagedal and consultant Fredrik Quale (KORO), will review NIH’s art inventory to identify works that may need restoration and to decide where artworks should be placed in the future. The art consultants are keen to find solutions that will give new life to older works in the collection by siting them in conjunction with new purchases of standalone artworks.

2.3. Users

The primary users of NIH are its students and staff. In addition, many of NIH’s facilities are rented out to a broad range of users. As a result, NIH is one of Norway’s most-used sports facilities. Between the hours of 8 am to 10 pm daily, the facilities are used by NIH’s own students and staff, as well as external users. The gymnasium and swimming facilities have approximately 1,200 users each day. Over the course of a year, this represents more than 300,000 visits. The facilities are used by different groups: children and teenagers, people with disabilities, students, seniors, and amateur and professional athletes. The school also hosts delegations from various institutions based in Norway and abroad. Today NIH has approximately 1,500 students, of whom about 800 are full-time, together with 220 staff.



3. Overarching guidelines for the art project

The art committee wants the art at NIH to have a clearly visible role, interacting sympathetically with the architecture, which is so characteristic of its period. The art committee also wants the new works to be visually striking and contemporary in appearance.

The first art project, designated “Major indoor art project” and described in the preliminary plan dating from spring 2015, is a site-specific work that will be integrated into, and act in dialogue with, the striking architecture of NIH. The project will add visual character to many parts of the interior, and will later be complemented by a major outdoor art project and standalone artworks. The outdoor art project be sited on the plaza in front of the main entrance in order to increase the visibility of this entrance to the building.

The idea behind using this plaza for an art project is to ensure that visitors have a clear and memorable visual encounter when arriving at NIH, an encounter that reflects the core values of NIH, and that is innovative, challenging and attractive. The art project will be a landmark for NIH and highlight the institution’s identity both internally and externally.

3.1 Core values

The art committee wishes the new artwork to reflect the core values listed in the NIH strategic plan:

Independent – Integrated – Relevant – Proactive – Groundbreaking

These core values are intended to permeate all activities at NIH, and accordingly are a natural starting point for art projects at the institution. As explained in the previous art plan, the art projects should function as independent artistic expressions. Nevertheless, the artworks should relate clearly to their surroundings – the architecture, interior design and landscape – and the activities that take place within those surroundings. The Modernist and functional architecture, with its strongly horizontal and “pavilion-like” character, will form a natural starting point for the art to be housed in the building complex. The art committee also wishes artworks to relate to NIH’s activities in a relevant manner, for example by referring to ideas surrounding play, movement or scientific research.

3.1.1. “The horizontal”/“the vertical” and navigation

Today the architectural expression of the complex of buildings at NIH is characterized by horizontal lines. The art committee wishes to disrupt this pervasive horizontal effect by means of vertical interventions. The school is divided into various “pavilions” that are linked by stairs and corridors, and the layout can be confusing for a first-time visitor. Accordingly it would also be desirable for some of the art projects to address the issue of navigation.

Many of the corridors are to be widened, and this may create additional space for artworks. Many of these passageways are also dark, a feature that an art project could either exploit or improve.

3.1.2. Movement/motion

Much of the activity that takes place in the building complex has to do with movement/motion. By evoking associations with movement/motion, the artwork will contribute to reinforcing the institution’s identity.

Metaphorically speaking, students move a long way from the time they first enter the school until they graduate or defend their doctoral theses. Movement may also be associated with change and anticipation, both of which are important words for describing the processes that occur at an educational institution. The architecture of the existing buildings at NIH has a very static character, and by focusing on movement an art project could depart from this quality of stillness. The art committee is also open to exploring the possibility of an art project taking the form of a further pavilion, which could function as a portal or a platform. The art committee will also consider the possibility of formulating the art project as a work in the form of a park.

4. Reasons for choices regarding artworks/art projects and their positioning

The refurbishment work will make few changes to the exterior of the building. The main changes will involve replacement of flooring, improved ventilation, energy-saving measures, changed use of some areas, and a very limited increase in floor area. The structure and appearance of the building will remain largely unchanged.

In order to reflect the extensive renovations, and to revitalize the buildings as a physical framework for education, the art committee wishes to facilitate a dynamic artistic expression for the outdoor project, which can also extend over large parts of NIH's internal surfaces.

The invited artists will be encouraged to present proposals that will be capable of modifying large parts of the surroundings in a striking way, and that will assist in reinforcing the identity of NIH.

One challenge for the artists will be the creation of an integrated artistic expression for the outdoor surroundings that will nonetheless allow visual breathing space for the buildings' characteristic architecture. Artists will need to perform a visual balancing act in maintaining the characteristic Modernist and functional style, while also adding something completely new (that will have its own character and a clear identity). Accordingly the winning proposal should take account of the existing surroundings while at the same time being contemporary in nature, i.e. forming part of an artistic discourse that is relevant today. Accordingly we will encourage the artists to develop daring proposals that will also have a long "lifetime" and stand the test of time.



Corridor/foyer close to main entrance

Photo: KORO

The art projects at NIH should provoke curiosity and reflection, and encourage debate. Many of the artworks already owned by NIH consist of representations of naked, healthy, young female bodies. Some are in the form of sculptures, but there are also prints and paintings. Although many of these women are in motion, they have been “frozen” at a moment in time. Here there are opportunities for innovative thinking about the representation of movement, as well as issues regarding gender. Artists have an opportunity to address and challenge heteronormative and other normalizing representations. Bearing in mind the diverse groups of users of NIH, the art committee is also seeking works that will appeal to all age groups, while also remembering that encounters with art have the capacity to encourage the formation of new opinions. It will be important to find satisfactory ways for NIH’s existing artworks to co-exist with newer artistic expressions. Purchase decisions regarding standalone artworks will be based on ideas about corporeal representation, heterogeneity, identity and gender. The new purchases must react to, and interact with, the existing works. We also wish slightly to “shake up” an environment that can be experienced as somewhat frigid.

4.1. Positioning

Artists who will be invited to compete for the major outdoor/indoor art project will be requested to focus on the main entrance. The art committee is interested in projects that address/emphasize one or more of the following points:

- * NIH as a place for academic research
- * NIH as a place for participatory activities
- * the type of research conducted at the school, much of which focuses on motion/movement
- * the need to draw attention to the main entrance, which will be partially rebuilt and altered
- * the links between the school and the external environment where many of the school’s activities take place
- * the international, heterogeneous and varied nature of the day-to-day users of the building, who come from all parts of the world and are aged from 0 to 100.

There are possibilities for the art project to extend into other areas of the NIH site and its surroundings, but the main focus should be the area around the main entrance. It is important for this area to be clearly indicated, and the art committee are looking for a project that is both an identity marker and that welcomes students, staff and visitors. It is important for the project to relate to the existing architecture, which is typical of the period in which NIH was constructed. Most of the existing buildings are subject to a preservation order issued by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage. The winning proposal must be of high international quality and be clearly defined as a contemporary art project.

4.1.1. The main entrance and inwards – location A

The entrance to NIH's main building is set to undergo extensive alterations, both internally and externally. These will include the construction of an extension which will also affect NIH's cafeteria. An overarching objective for the art project is to emphasize the fact that the main entrance should be used by everyone arriving at NIH in preference to other entrances to the complex, such as the entrance by the swimming pool. All visitors, staff and students should access NIH's other buildings from the main entrance, via corridors and staircases.

The lobby inside the main entrance will become more open, and the canteen will become more visible from the entrance. In general, the movement of students through the complex will become more visible than is the case at present. Some walls will be removed and there will be more windows and openings between the corridor and the canteen. This will bring about new opportunities for social interaction among students. There will also be a new terrace that will be directly accessible from the canteen, creating a closer connection to the surrounding nature. As mentioned above, the main entrance (location A) will be the site of an outdoor art project.

An "Open Call" will be issued during autumn 2015 requesting artists to make known their interest in participating in the competition for the major outdoor project. The art committee will also have the authority directly to invite artists to participate in the competition.

4.1.2. The corridor between the main building and the gymnasiums/other corridors – site B

The site for the major project currently being created by Børre Sætre is the corridor between the gymnasiums and the main building. Every day this corridor is used by a large number of students and other people. At present the corridor is a passage with windows on both sides, but it also has the potential for additional types of use.

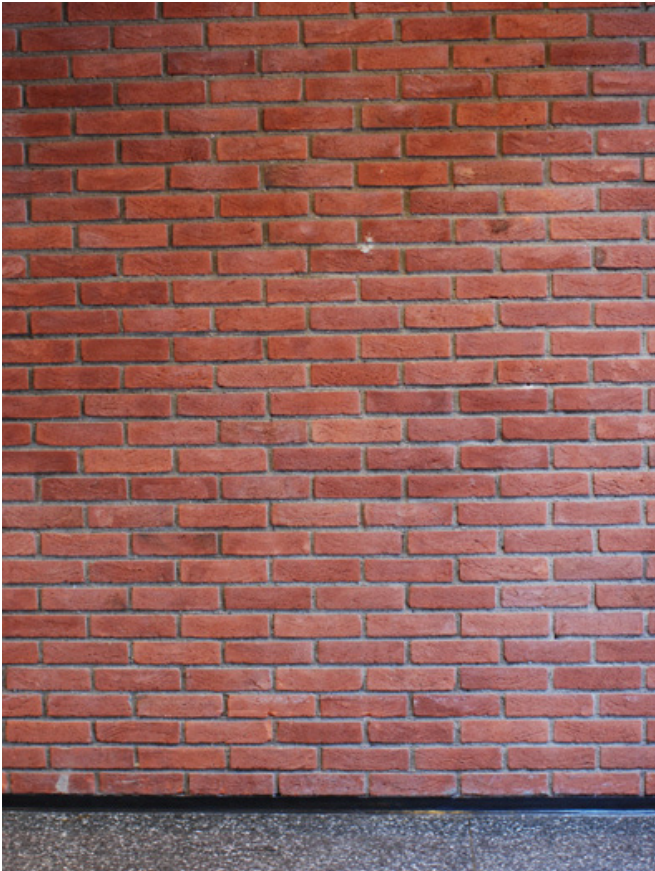
The other corridors in the complex function not only as connectors among the different buildings, but also as ordinary school corridors that lead from one classroom or hall to another within each building. Most of the corridors are dark with low ceilings, and all corridors will have new wood ceilings as part of the refurbishment. Several corridors will be widened, and will also become more visible, so these could also be suitable sites for an art project. It is possible that Børre Sætre will expand his project into additional areas of the complex.

4.1.3. Dividing proposals for the outdoor art project

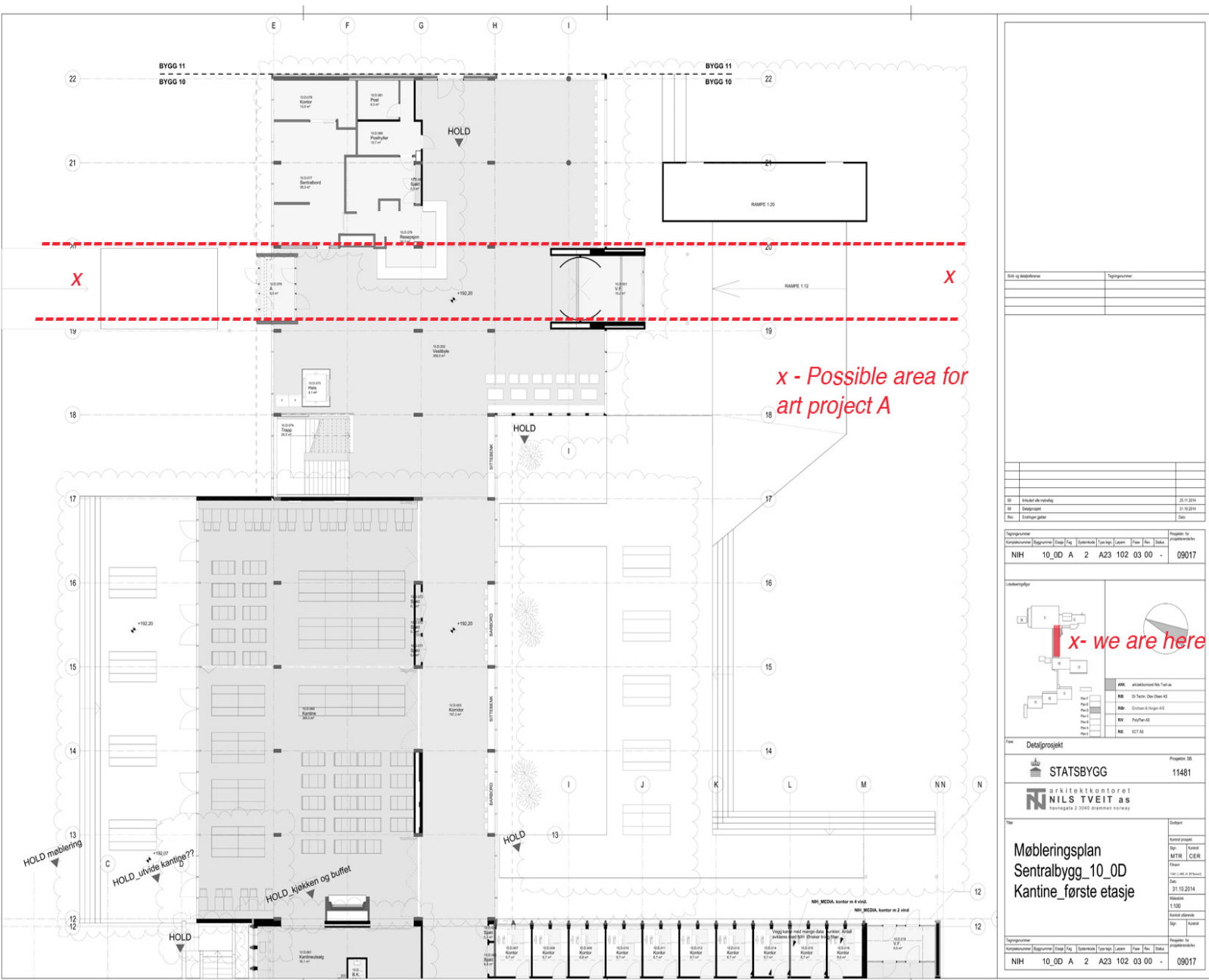
The artists who are invited to compete for the major outdoor art project will be free to prepare their proposals in one or more parts. The artists may either present a single overall solution that includes both the interior of the main entrance and the outdoor area, or they may choose only to address the outdoor location.

Different locations at NIH

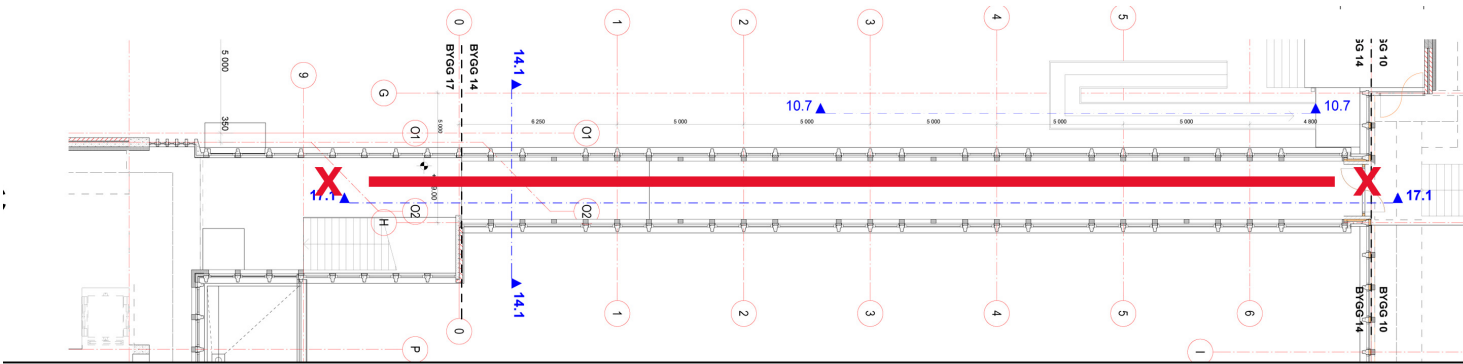




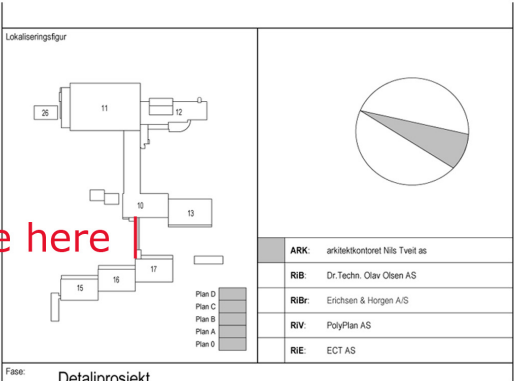
Situation map, possible location of art project A. Canteen and main entrance



X - area for art project B



we are here





Location for art project B

Photo: KORO

5. Pedagogic approach

As mentioned above, the various facilities at NIH are used by a wide range of individuals and groups. When disseminating information about the art projects, we wish to reach out both to NIH's primary users – its staff and students – and to the large group comprised by visitors to the school.

The art committee wishes to implement dissemination strategies that will reach different target groups both in connection with the inauguration of the art project, and throughout its lifetime. In order to ensure continuity, the art committee wishes to direct dissemination efforts particularly towards the employees, who may thereby become ambassadors for the artworks in relation to students and other users. Among the practical measures under evaluation are materials for the NIH website, an open seminar about art at NIH, and the preparation of folders of information. The art committee wants there to be an open attitude and a good flow of information regarding the artworks.

We will use digital channels such as the NIH website while the art project is still in production. Students also have regular access to free student newspapers, and we will attempt to implement a dialogue with one of these.

5.1 Seminar/Information folder

We wish to arrange a seminar for employees and students at NIH with a focus on public art and the planned art project.

6. Preservation

Artists must supply technical data about the artworks and any maintenance requirements.



The Canteen area

Photo: KORO

Budget for Norwegian School of Sport Sciences,

Art project total	5900000
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Project management/art consultants

Art consultants' fees	590000
Travel expenses	150000
Contingency	145000

TOTAL Consultancy-related costs	885000	885000
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Art-related costs

PROJECT 1

Competition honorariums	x3	90000
Site inspection, travel, facilitation		20000
Commission		1500000
5% fee to Relief Fund for Visual Artists (BKH)		75000

TOTAL Costs for art project	1685000	1685000
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PROJECT 2

Competition honorariums	x5	150000
Site inspection, travel, facilitation		35000
Commission		2200000
5% fee to Relief Fund for Visual Artists (BKH)		110000

TOTAL Costs for art project 2	2495000	2495000
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Dissemination		
Seminar at NIH, printed materials,		200000
Documentation		20000
Signage		15000
KORO dissemination activities		200000
Purchase of artworks		400000
	835000	835000

Total costs	5900000
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View of on of the oldest gymnasium

Photo: KORO

8. Schedule

Art project 1.

22/01/15: Art committee and artists to inspect sites at NIH

30/03/15: Submission of competition proposals

Week 15 (week beginning April 6)/2015: Art committee to judge competition proposals

Week 17 (week beginning April 20)/2015: Signing of contract with selected artist(s)

Jan/Feb/Mar 2016: Installation

May/June 2017: Handing over of artwork/reopening of NIH

Art Project 2.

September/October 2015: Open Call

November 2015: Art committee to judge competition proposals

December: Art committee and artists to inspect sites at NIH

February: 2016: The winning proposal to be published

March: 2016: Signing of contract with selected artist(s)

Spring 2017: Installation

May/June 2017: Handing over of artwork/reopening of NIH