

## Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art

Oslo, Norway

2006 - 2012

Tjuvholmen is a new cultural district south-west of central Oslo. Combining art, work and entertainments, the complex includes the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Contemporary Art and an office building, nestling between a sculpture park, a small beach and the waterfront promenade.

As a follow-up to the regeneration of Aker Brygge, the former site of the Oslo shipyards, Tjuvholmen has a privileged position on the water's edge with views of both the fjord and the city. The brief given to the Renzo Piano Building Workshop involved the creation of premises to display the permanent collection of the Astrup Fearnley Museum, an independent gallery for temporary exhibitions and an office building that would host part of the collection on the ground floor. The three buildings, faced with poplar staves, are protected by a three-dimensional glass roof that almost touches the ground in the new park. A visit to the museum unfolds through rooms with different spatial arrangements and lighting that develop through the three buildings making up the complex and link them together.

The building north of the canal houses the premises of the permanent collection of the Astrup Fearnley Museum. The exhibition galleries, passing below a large urban flight of steps, arrive on the square that skirts the Tjuvholmen Allé before joining up with the ground floor of the office building. To the south, beyond the pedestrian bridge that crosses the canal, is the gallery for temporary exhibitions. The space is laid out on two levels and offers the visitor a succession of experiences dictated by different volumes and forms shaped by the curve of the roof and, in part, illuminated from above by skylights. The terrace on the third level has an exhibition area for sculptures offering a magnificent view of the city. The four-story office building is arranged around a central atrium bathed in natural light, which filters through the glazed roof.

The landscape is an integral part of the project. The seafront promenade connects Tjuvholmen to the city center. The cafés, beach and sculpture park attract all kinds of visitors, who make the public space lived-in and integrated with the rest of the neighborhood. The feature that characterizes the project is the large glass roof that soars above the buildings, uniting them and signaling their presence on the waterfront. The large glass sail is supported by curved beams in laminated wood that straddle the canal and the various buildings. The beams rest on slender steel columns reinforced by tie-rods, also in steel, inspired by the rigging of the sails that populated the ancient shipyards. The glass is silk-screened with white ceramic reducing its transparency by 40%.



In the façades, wherever possible, low-iron glass panes were used to enhance transparency and minimize the color of the light in the exhibition spaces.

L. Ciccarelli