

SOGN & FJORDANE ART MUSEUM

Client: Sogn & Fjordane, Futurum AS
Address: Førde, Norway
Architect: C.F. Møller Architects
Construction: Åsen & Øvreliid
Landscape: Schønherr Landskab
Engineers: Hjeltnes Consult, Sweco AS, Nord Vest Miljø AS
Size: 3,000 m²
Construction: 2010-2012
Prizes: 1st Prize in architectural competition, 2006

One will look in vain for a distinct urban center with traditional urban spaces and well-defined squares in the small Norwegian town of Førde.

Førde draws its qualities from its interaction with the surrounding mountains, which are visible everywhere, and from Jostedalsglaciären, the largest glacier on the European mainland, which lies in close proximity to the town.

It has therefore been a particular challenge to give the new Sogn & Fjordane Art Museum a significant position in the cityscape, reflecting the museum's public importance and its role in the urban context. The central location on the edge of Jøstra River along the main road Langbruvegen has resulted in an architectural approach that emphasizes the building's importance as a cultural institution which embraces the entire surrounding area.

Sogn and Fjordane Art Museum draws upon the distinctive landscape for its architectural expression: the museum lies like a crystal-clear block of ice that has slid down from the surrounding mountains.

As an architectural analogy to when the glacier calves large blocks of ice, the building has a crystalline form and expression. The crystalline form provides an asymmetrical plan solution, with varying displacements in the façade.

The facade is clad in white glass with a network of angled lines, reminiscent of the fracture lines in ice. This network also defines the irregular window apertures. In the evening these lines are illuminated, so that the museum lies like a sparkling block in the middle of the town's darkness.

A triangular continuous void in the center of the building provides large surfaces suitable for exhibitions. A staircase winds its way up towards the sky light in a sculptural formation stretched in the triangular void forming an intuitive movement pattern.

The logistic concept of the museum takes the landscape's embrace of the city as its starting point: The visitors climb up through the museum's four floors of exhibition space, and at the top a panoramic view of the mountains that have been the catalyst and inspiration for many of the museum's artworks and collections can be enjoyed from a roof terrace. The terrace can also function as an exhibition space or stage.

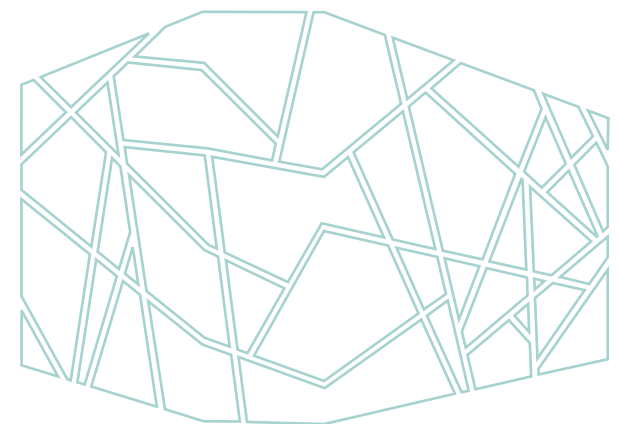
The cool surfaces of the exterior are brought into the museum's interior via the raw, polished concrete floor, but are contrasted by warm colors and lots of wood. The individual exhibition rooms are neutral in the choice of materials and colors, leaving the scene to the individual works of art.

The museum is part of a master plan for a site previously housing the city's dairy. The master plan features a residential building and an office building as well as the museum.

The office building complements and highlights the museum's crystalline appearance. Thus, the building - in accordance with the master plan - is executed in dark tiles representing mountain massiveness and heaviness in interaction with the museum's light and transparent character.

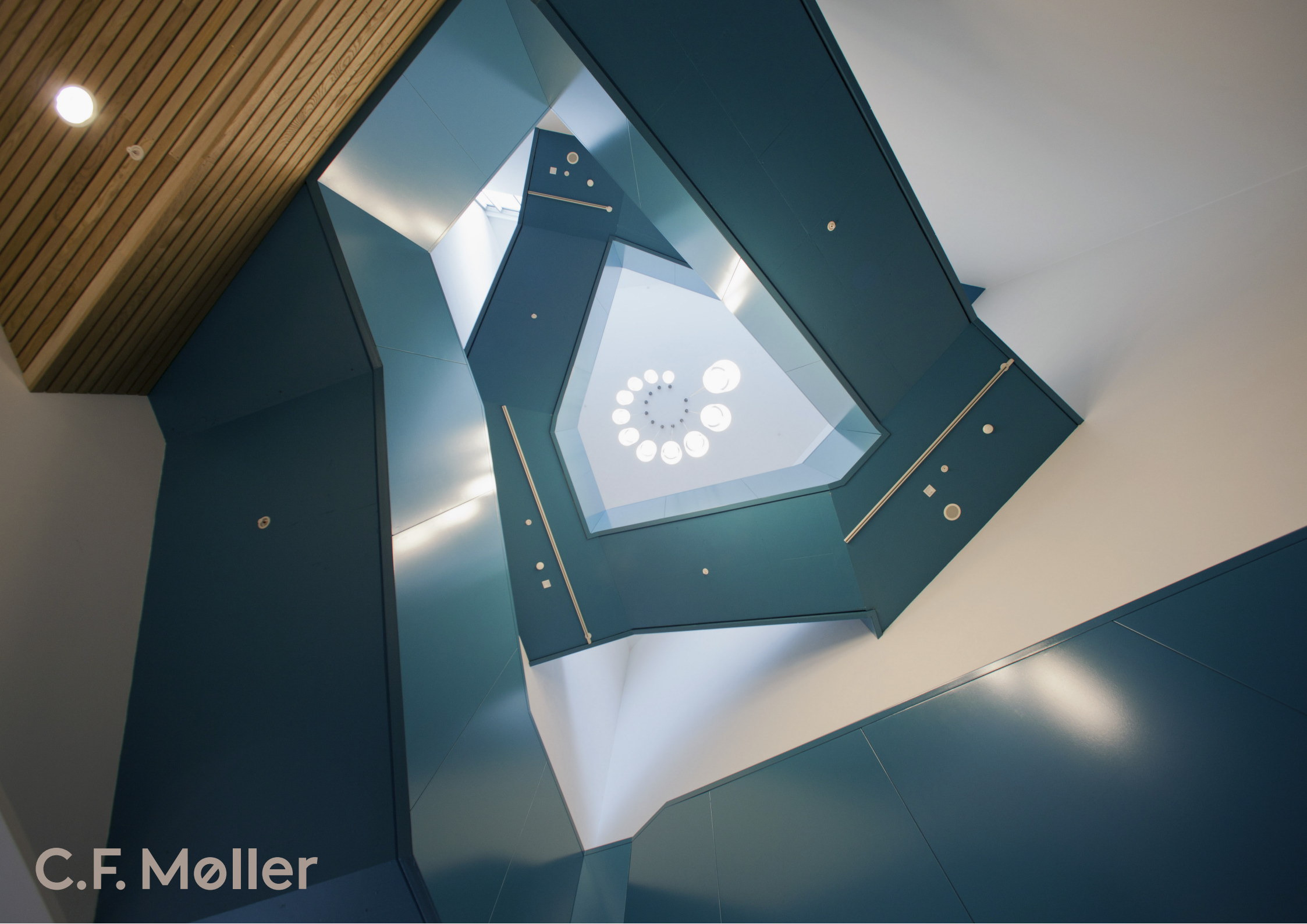
By situating the parking facilities below the buildings an open town square between the buildings is made possible. From here, the museum's café and lobby area is visible making the square a natural part of a spatial ensemble that ends at the museum's rooftop terrace.

The unified construction on the site adds a new condensed urban environment to the city, which in its vocabulary draws inspiration from the great all-embracing landscape to which the city subordinates.





C.F. Møller



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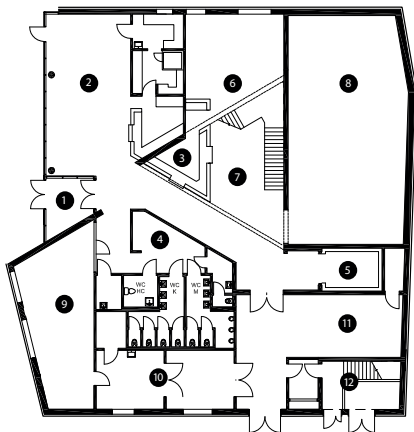
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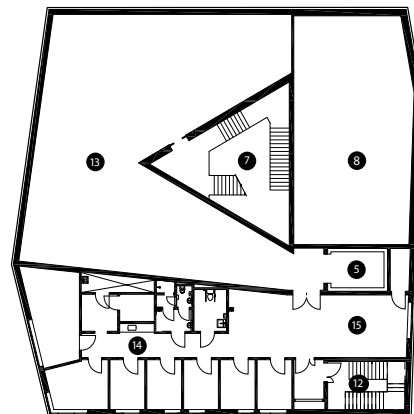
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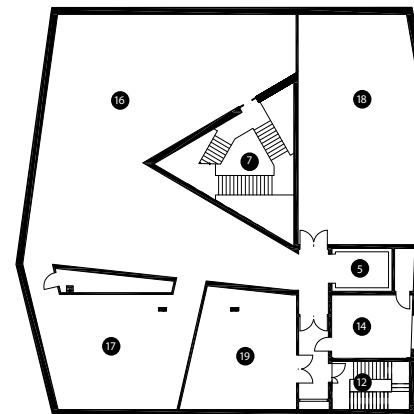
First floor



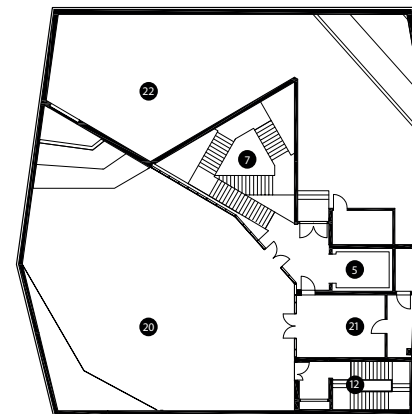
Second floor



Third floor



Fourth floor



- 1: Main entrance
- 2: Café Sobra
- 3: Reception
- 4: Wardrobe/wc

- 5: Lift (access from undercroft parking)
- 6: Museum shop
- 7: Main stairs

- 8: Special exhibition
- 9: Teaching
- 10: Workshops
- 11: Deliveries

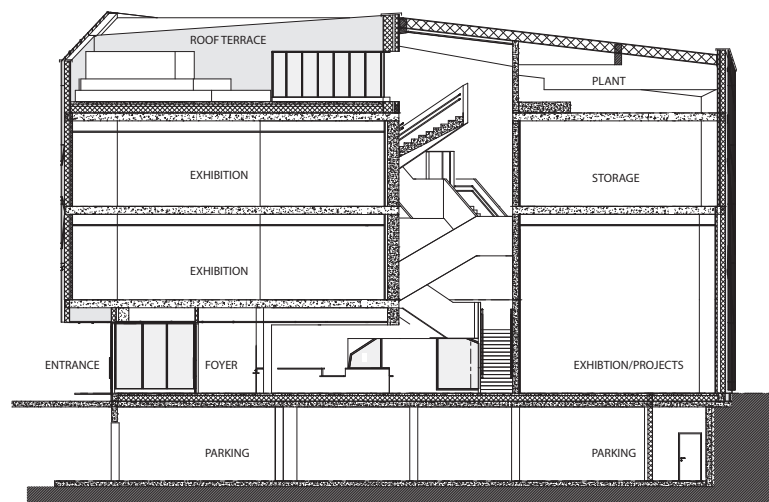
- 12: Staff entrance/escape stairs
- 13: Exhibition space 2
- 14: Administration

- 15: Library
- 16: Exhibition space 3
- 17: Exhibition space 4
- 18: Temporary storage

- 19: Props room
- 20: Roof terrace
- 21: Exhibition space 5
- 22: Plant room



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