



Left: In a proposal for the area next to the Norway Trade Fairs in Lillestrøm, Vindveggen Arkitekter designed a green lid on top of the highway that would solve a multitude of pressing issues. The plan prioritised more parking space, better noise reduction and easier access to the river Nitelva. **Right:** Vindveggen Arkitekter's apartment project Haneborgåsen Panorama in Lørenskog offers proximity to Oslo, the region's most modern hospital, several shopping centres and soon the world's biggest indoor skiing hall.

Vindveggen – the all-rounders from Akershus

The Norwegian county of Akershus, circumventing the capital of Oslo, is growing at a tremendous speed. That means high demand for all types of buildings, from houses and apartment buildings to schools and sustainable parking solutions. Vindveggen Arkitekter, based in the city of Lillestrøm, has specialised in designing all of it.

By Eirik Elvevold | Photos: Vindveggen Arkitekter

"Vindveggen's main strength is the ability to step into other people's shoes – most of our architects can do a lot," says CEO and architect Martin Glomnes. Born and raised in Akershus, Glomnes has seen the county's transformation up close. "Oslo Airport at Gardermoen, especially, has changed a lot. Suddenly, the region east of Oslo became way more central. There is now an extreme demand for housing, and we've never had more to do."

As the real estate market in Oslo keeps boiling like never before, more and more people are looking to the surrounding areas for attractive options. The trend is evident from the public interest in Vindveggen Arkitekter's new apartment project, Haneborgåsen Panorama in Lørenskog. Even though the 160 apartments will not

be ready until 2018, several hundred potential buyers have already been in contact with developer Haneborgåsen Utvikling.

"The apartments will have an amazing view towards Oslo in the west. You'll live close to a modern hospital, large shopping centres and soon the world's biggest indoor skiing hall, developed by Selvaag," Glomnes explains.

Staying green when business is booming

When competing companies face a hot market, it is often easy to throw sustainability aside. CEO Glomnes is convinced, however, that things are moving in the right direction and praises the common effort from Norway's public and private sectors.

"Vindveggen is among the offices actively trying to adapt their designs to the environment. As an example, we made an interesting proposal for the area next to Norway Trade Fairs in our home city of Lillestrøm. We designed a green lid on top of the highway, which would include much-needed space for parking and housing, shield the local population from the traffic noise and give people better access to the river Nitelva," says Glomnes.

Also in the use of materials, Glomnes has seen a positive development. Solid wood, for instance, has become an increasingly popular alternative to concrete. Vindveggen Arkitekter is now working on an internal database, supported by the Research Council of Norway, which will make it easier to choose green on a daily basis. "The system is quite simple, but very important. It will help us navigate in the jungle of materials," says Glomnes.

For more information, please visit:
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