



Helen & Hard
Grimstad Library

GRIMSTAD LIBRARY: A SOCIAL MEETING POINT

Posted on January 30, 2020 by martabuges



Categories: [Designing Matter](#), [Energy and sustainability](#), [Helen & Hard Architects](#), [Middle Density](#), [Project](#), [Territory and mobility](#), [Urban Paradigms](#)

Tags: [Accessibility](#), [Architecture](#), [Cultural Facility](#), [Extension](#), [Grimstad](#), [Library](#), [Norway](#), [Prefabrication](#), [Project](#), [Public Catalyst](#), [Timber](#), [Timber frame](#), [Timber Structure](#), [Transformation](#), [Waterfront](#)



The new library in Grimstad has a central, waterfront location. It lies between the old town and the new town center. The intention is for the library to not only be a place to read and borrow books, but for the building to become a social meeting point with the opportunity to host a variety of cultural events. The building is accessible for all.



The context acts as an important driver for the architecture. The building acts as a covered walkway connecting the old town in the north and the new town center in the south. This passageway is filled with a public and cultural program for all the town's inhabitants and visitors to enjoy.





The diagram consists of two parts. The top part shows a cross-section of a building with three components: 'New Buildings' (light blue), 'New Structure' (light blue), and 'Existing building' (grey). A horizontal line represents the ground level. The bottom part shows a similar cross-section with 'New Buildings' (light blue) and 'Existing building' (grey). A red dashed line with arrows at both ends indicates the movement of material from the 'Existing building' to the 'New Buildings' and 'New Structure'.









The building is organized over three floors. The main library functions on the first floor with a secluded children's area on the second. The administration is found on the ground floor. Additionally, the building houses a café, auditorium and exhibition spaces. These are in close proximity to toilet facilities, making it possible to close off this zone for evening events.







Varying the vertical north-facing openings between the prefabricated east- and west-facing panels makes a dynamic façade. This portrays the interior movement, while the building negotiates between new and old.



