



Senstad construction. The practice is currently building a new farmhouse in Senstad, about an hour outside Oslo. The vision is to integrate the new house into the farmland without disturbing existing historic farm buildings or the scenery. The new house is being built into the ground, with a grass roof designed as a slight hilltop in the garden. This building has been tailored to the family's as well as the farm's basic needs.

for growing the family's vegetables. Floor-to-ceiling windows open out onto the garden. "None of the house's original elements has been removed, but rather worked around. All the kitchen components, such as the table, worktop, even the roof, are built to serve as furnishing elements, and as a part of the garden."

"This room had to be practical and functional. It is the family's activity that will personalise and define the room. By using concrete as the primary material, contact with the garden is promoted, instead of a constant worry over dirt ruining the floors," Tandberg explains, concluding: "A building's elements should have purpose on several levels, not just the aesthetic."

The art of merging an old building with a modern lifestyle

Bjørn Tandberg runs Tandberg Arkitekter, an architectural practice specialising in restoration and new construction. He aims to find new uses for historic buildings in modern society while challenging the buildings' original purpose.

By Anette Berve | Photos: Tandberg Arkitekter

"Architecture is about conveying history and connections. Architecture can question how you use a building and how a family lives. I want to challenge the traditional conventions of layout and structure," says the architect.

Inviting the outdoors in

Bjørn Tandberg founded Tandberg Arkitekter in 2002 in order to investigate modern construction together with conservation. His passion is evident in the company's portfolio, where restoration and the use of primary construction dominate. When the team works on projects, be it cabins, housing or churches, the focus is on bringing nature closer to our everyday life.

"Modern technology can facilitate the interaction between nature and humans, to let the cold outdoors become a part of the building. Historically, Norwegian buildings

consisted of a flexible structure of rooms, more integrated with nature and the elements. I enjoy challenging these room layouts and allowing clients to decide what suits them. Today's home owners want freedom, space for their personal lifestyles, their belongings, and their family," Tandberg insists, adding: "Integrating old elements with modern materials and modern lifestyles can be a tricky act. It is about identifying the different elements and materials with historic significance and determining what new qualities can be introduced. History cannot be copied, but new elements can ensure the preservation of an existing element."

Practical and individual

In Vålerenga in downtown Oslo, the practice has succeeded in balancing the old and the modern. A wooden townhouse from 1822 was given a modern extension with a kitchen and integrated greenhouse



Totengata in Oslo

For more information, please visit:
www.tandberg-arkitekter.no