# BUSY BOSSE!

#### INTRO

The site Bossekop, Alta, represents the current trend of traditional production being relocated from urban, to desolate areas, leaving behind a "clean slate" for transformation. With this relocation, are we in fact, at risk of losing urban qualities, intrinsic to production only; such as social networks, working cultures, or knowledge exchange between professionals?

This entry examines the importance of human interactions and networks that comes with a diverse productive/industrial foundation, from scattered across great geographical distances. Bossekop harbour front is perceived as a converging meeting ground for cross-cultural understanding, between professionals, tourists, and new and native citizens alike.

#### **CONTEXT & COMPARATIVE STUDIES**

Why is a meeting ground in general, of great importance to Finnmark, the biggest county in Norway? The fact is this, the population distribution is so dispersed one could assign approximately  $64.000 m^2$ , to each single individual there. Or to put it in perspective; the average citizen/area ratio in Norway is  $10.000 m^2$  per citizen, Telemark, Oppland, or Hedmark being the average. On these terms, Finnmark by far outranks any other county, making it the most scattered area in Norway. Here are some other ratios for comparison:

1<sup>st</sup> Finnmark = 63.863m<sup>2</sup>

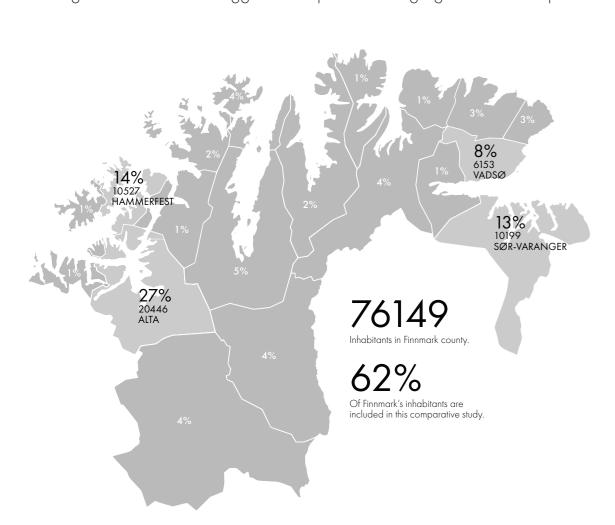
2<sup>nd</sup> Sogn & Fjordane = 16.886m<sup>2</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> Akershus = 814m<sup>2</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> Oslo (lowest) = 68m<sup>2</sup>

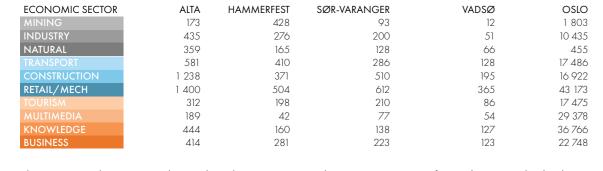
New York City = 15m<sup>2</sup>

The second most dispersed county in Norway Sogn & Fjordane, is still 4 times denser than Finnmark (Oslo 900, New York 4000 times). It is safe to say that the agglomeration of citizens in Finnmark changes the traditional concept of urbanity. However, looking into the distribution of population in Finnmark, Alta is actually beyond the norm within its own county, as almost 1/3 of the citizens resides there, making it the most urban city within a vast geographical area. Its critical mass within Alta, makes it the most natural grounds to actually meet and interact with people in the region. 4 of Finnmark's biggest municipalities are highlighted on this map:

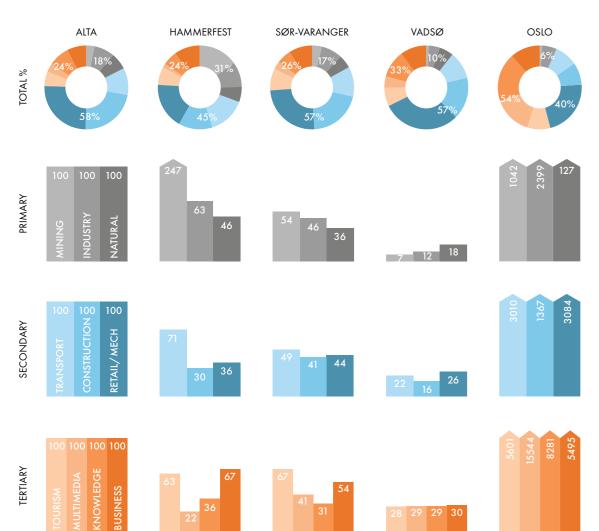


# **EMPLOYMENT RATES & STATISTICS**

Production must be understood as the employer of specific professionals and the incentive for a functioning modern city. Or to be precise; employment rates, dictates a city's specific production. The brief mentions entrepreneurialism, knowledge and tourism, as sectors of interest in Alta. The quantitative data from Statistics Norway's (SSB), depict more accurately the number of professionals in Alta, and 3 others in the county (62%) + Oslo (1st fiscal quarter 2017). Obvious public sectors, such as health care, education, administration etc. have been excluded. This **table of employment** shows employed workers within each sectors:



The sector diagrams show the division in each sectors, in **total** %. The graphs below, shows the same numbers as in the table of employment, just indexed with Alta as reference point, for easier comparison between the municipalities:



Descriptions, according to Norwegian industry codes:

- Primary sector: Mining, includes extraction of coal, ore, oil, gases etc. Industry, includes refining and production of raw materials, production and related activities. Natural resources, include agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- Secondary sector: Transport and logistics, include shipping, goods, storage, and related repair. Construction, includes buildings, renovation, sewage, infrastructure etc. Retail/mech, includes commerce and maintenance of products and motor-driven vehicles.
- Tertiary sector: Tourism, includes, accommodations of all sorts, restaurants, catering, bars, pubs etc. Multi-media, includes arts & aesthetics, media production, telecom, ICT & informatics etc. Knowledge-intensive industries,



include services, of higher professional and technical proficiency. Startups, and corporate businesses falls under here. **Business**, include ordinary business ventures and public bodies, from leasing & rentals, public administration, education, health, corporations etc.

# PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES

The table of employment, shows that Alta has the majority of professionals in all sectors (except Hammerfest's mining industry). Mining, which directly refers to the slate industry, takes only maximum of 3% of employment. The sizes of professional communities in Alta range between 2-8 times bigger than any of the 3 municipalities chosen for this study.

Sectors which dictates **communities of considerable size** are (100-200% bigger): industry, and natural resources. Farmers, lumberjacks, and fishermen, and workers in refineries, makes up of a considerable amount of the task force in Alta (15%). It is worth mentioning that 95% of Finnmark's natural resources and properties were owned by the government (Statskog), until it was deregulated for the private market in 2005, under Finnmarkseiendommen. This most likely has caused the unprecedented opportunism and entrepreneurship within related fields. **Extraordinary professional communities** worth mentioning are (200%+ bigger): construction, retail/mech, multimedia, knowledge-intensive industries and regular businesses. There are 1638 employed in construction and retail/mech, which makes up of 47% of jobs in Alta (Oslo 31%), Although the total % is the same throughout in Finnmark, Alta is 2-3 times bigger than any of the other 3 municipalities in the comparative study. Implementing a workshop for further exploration within construction, entrepreneurial ventures and mechanical concerns for example, would be highly valued.

In regards to the tertiary sector (multimedia, knowledge-intensive industries and regular businesses), the total%, or division of it, Alta is below the other 3 in the county. Again, the sheer size of population in Alta, makes the tertiary sector here of such critical mass, that these communities has to be considered as important and defining ones for the county. Such as multimedia and knowledge (where startups & entrepreneurs falls under), are higher than the 3 other municipalities combined. It would be wise to encourage and capitalise on this clustering of intellectual property of knowledge and culture to stay in the county, either through incentives or appropriate programs. Although students has not been part of this statistics, the brief mentions the University and Kunnskapsparken, of importance to the innovation culture in private sector, of both local and regional collaborative nature.

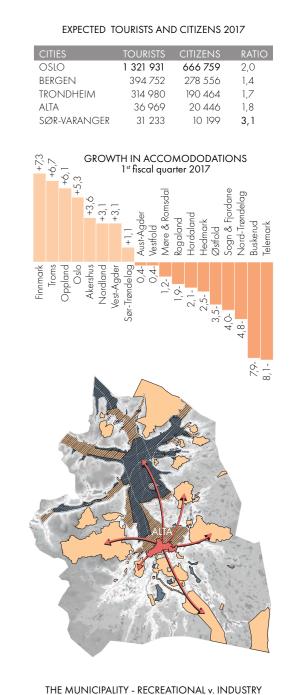
# **BOOMING TOURISM**

Entrepreneurship and knowledge-intensive industries has been well-covered in the analysis of the employment rates. The tourism industry seems modest at best (312 employed). Yet, it should be measured by the rates of visiting tourists. Another source, Statistikknett.no, confirms that, Finnmark, is currently the fastest growing tourism county in Norway, with a 7,3% increase in accommodations, resulting in an expectancy of almost 37 000 tourists a year in Alta alone. Hotel accommodations in Norway makes up for 81% of these accommodations (others being cabins, tents, camping etc.). Which means, Alta, has to handle more tourists through employment, buses

leading to natural sites, hotels and infrastructure, than other cities like Bergen and Trondheim, and almost the equivalent of Oslo, comparing the citizen/tourist ratio in each of the cities. There may be many factors as to why Finnmark is experiencing a booming tourism industry, but there is no hiding the fact that Alta specifically, are attractive during both summer and winter with activities outside city limits, such as fishing, hiking, kayaking, cross country skiing in the setting of pristine nature and Northern Lights. The city itself still has to handle an incredible amount and growth of incoming/outgoing tourists, with suitable tourism infrastructure and services etc.

# SOCIAL CHALLENGES

A qualitative study of Alta uncovered possible socio-cultural barriers between new and native citizens. Some of the inhabitants describe this as a serious issue in Alta, at settings from church goers, to the city planning office. Observations indicate that the threshold for inter-mingling were high. Some newcomers mentioned their neighbours as decisive for their window into the local community. This applied to everything from secrecy around areas for cloudberries and mushrooms, to casual social activities and gatherings etc. The locals reasoning however, was not out of ill intentions but on the contrary, some communities were so tight-knitted, and oriented around local interests that it was hard envisioning any new additions to their group, while others could not stand the thought of investing in newcomers that were leaving anyways. Barriers between neighbourhoods was mentioned as still going strong, such as mental barriers for Elvebakken natives to actually go to Bossekop. Other remarks were the lack of casual meeting grounds or recreational urban spaces (non-commercial), and former plan authorities has made comments about Bossekop being the last frontier for testing and developing unique installments to the city, as the other centres already has undergone. These fundamental challenges for basic tolerance that may have negative repercussions on many levels of society, as for the newcomers to thrive, building relations and bonds, or the cultural experience for tourists in general.



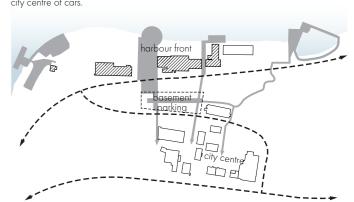
Orange indicates recreational and protected areas, such as cabins, boating, fishing, biodiversity and tourist sites etc. Blue indicates industries, such as aquaculture, agriculture, feedstock, mining, etc. The vast natural resources, recreational sites and the booming tourism industry, makes Alta city look more like a port oriented outwards, the pristine Arctic nature, rather than the city being the destination itself.



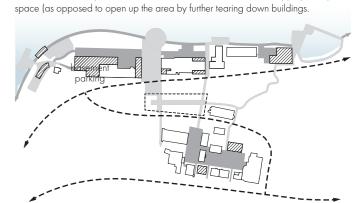


# **PHASES**

1st PHASE - The harbour front and city centre connected. Simple warehousetranformations of minimum physical intervention, but maximum social effect. Critical areas of the shoreline will be functional; transportation, industry and tourism port, activities, and leisure. Parking garage under the co-habitat established, to relieve the

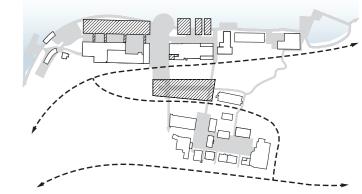


 $2^{\mathsf{nd}}\,\mathsf{PHASE}\,\text{-}\,\mathsf{Completion}$  of different urban spaces for activity-dense area: boardwalk connecting the shoreline, multifunctional spaces at the harbour, and extensions for the warehouses. The city centre relieved of cars in favor for a more appropriate public



 $3^{\rm rd}$  PHASE - Finalising the shoreline with the last structures + the co-habitat, the structures with the longest construction time. This phase infuses residential and workspace to the

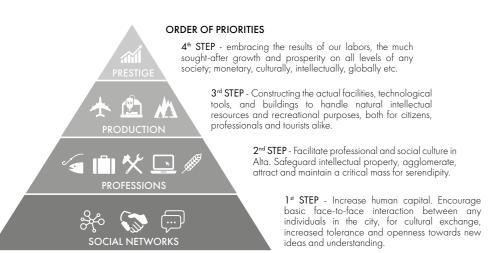
area, into the culture and tourism oriented harbour front



#### **IDEOLOGY OF APPROACH**

This entry intentionally engages in the socio-cultural aspects of the theme, productive cities, and stresses its importance, the question is why? Cities compete against each other, more now than ever, in terms of attracting/ maintaining human capital towards more productive cities. In the pursuit of a more productive/prestigious society, one has to ask; does great empires arise from grand facilities, stellar harbour front developments, elaborate tourism infrastructure, or even the numbers of employment rates on knowledge workers?

We conclude on the same note as renowned scholars on the foremost productive communities, such as Castells, Porter, Florida etc. Yes, all of the aforementioned aspects are important. Yet, it is the fundamental paradigms of human interaction and relations, that binds Alta's diverse industrial foundation together. Simple things, such as basic knowledge exchange, tolerance, openness in a given area, makes it easier to learn, stay busy and be more productive! To put it bluntly; 1st step is the universal glue for any society. It must be acquired, before the successive steps can take place, as explained in this pyramid, below;



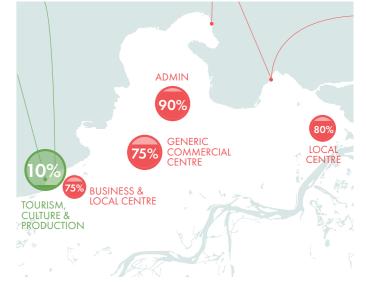


# **URBAN STRATEGIES**

REPRESENTATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE - lanes along some of the main roads reinforced with variations of qualities for cyclists, skiers, rollerblades, and softer vessels. The agenda is to counteracting the car-based society and urban sprawl without elaborate interventions. First obvious connections are the city centres, but also connecting the farmlands and forestry and some check points with products for better



CENTRE TYPECASTING AND DEVELOPMENT STAGE - in this regard, Bossekop (harbour and centre distinguished) was mentioned by a former planning authority of Alta, as the last chance for developing missing urban aspects (percentage are representative, not concrete information). The harbour is the only centre directly connected to the sea ports. Bossekop envisioned as everything the other centres are not; as the resting pod for tourism, and professional production and interaction



VOLUMES - adjusted for existing terrain height and buildings, preserving sight-

lines and introducing new viewpoints. Bossekop harbour front oriented as a

# **PROGRAMMING**

IMPLEMENTATION - moderate densification (blue) and transformation (red) of the harbour front. Some structures and parking (dashed) removed in the best



CROSS-CULTURAL PROGRAMMING - hybrid programs encouraging

meetings of people in different settings. Note: the color codings are just

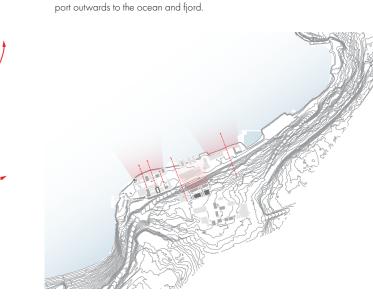
highlighting intended mixes, others are also welcome to join in!

recreational or professional, indoor or outdoor, winter or summer events etc.

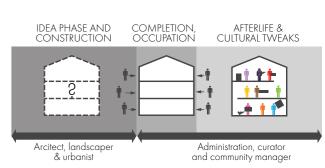


CONNECTIVITY

BIKE + POCKETS - lanes connected to a variety urban spaces of various qualities and spatiality. This is to lower the threshold of moving around the area, and between the other city centres.



**CURATION** How can a proposal be rooted in social and cultural planning, as mentioned in the 1st step of priorities? The proposal is additional curation or administration of intended or observed beneficiary cultures emerging, after the fact of occupation of Bossekop development.. This will increase the success rate of implementations, such as the cohabitat, coworking space, The Hatchery etc.



The tools in architecture, urbanism, and design are limited to bricks and mortar, landscaping, and strategical planning. We design for hypothetical users, and leave at the very moment of completion and occupation. This is where a 24/7 curation, or a full-time administration for cultural planning comes in as crucial for the afterlife; the tweaks, and changes according to actual users, their preferences, quirks, and a better experience for the ever-changing socio-cultural tendencies of tourism.

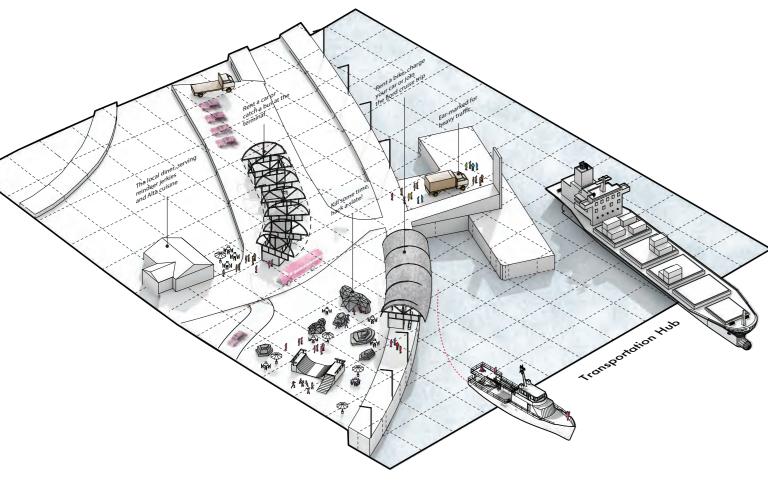
# **SERENDIPITY**

These seemingly exotic hybrids, serves an important functions for the networking society; to counteract any possible social barriers, encourage unforeseen, bordering awkward, yet beneficial encounters of social, cultural and professional character, between citizens, for the tourist, a farmer overseeing his crop, or a business meeting, it all happens in a mixture of strange, yet unlikely places, that the user is bound to run into an unusual social settings. What topics to you explore when you cook food with strangers? What happens when you competitively overbid your neighbour in the fish auction? How serious can the



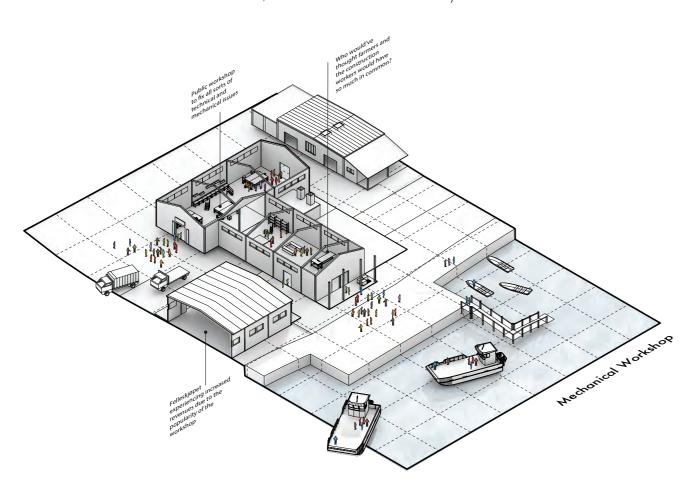






#### TRANSPORTATION HUB

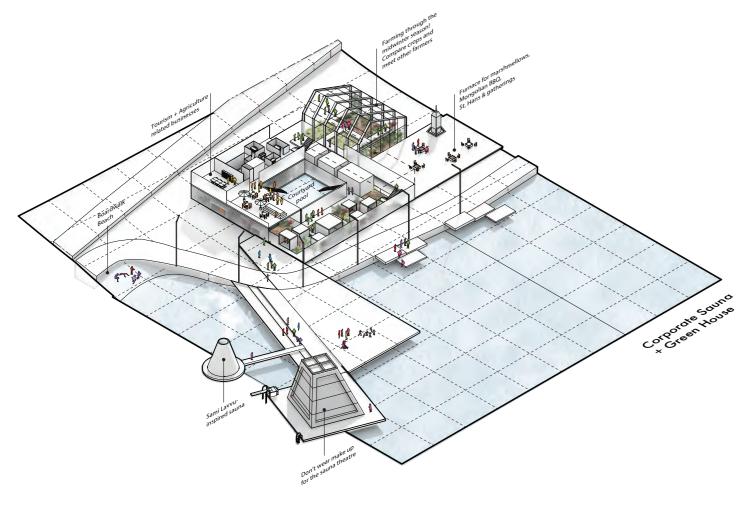
This hub functions as the gateway between the city and nature, from transportation to quarries, Nordic Lights sites, or back to the airport. All aspects of transportation are pooled together for easy access to goods, bus, cars, bikes, charging stations etc. A soft programming is provided, to easing the transition between the Culture Complex & others, to transportation systems for citizens, professionals and tourists, and the industrial area, with souvenirs and culinary exeriences.



#### MECHANICAL WORKSHOP

A program in accordance with Felleskjøpet's aspirations for their workshop, and in service of the biggest professional communities in the county; such as farmers, lumberjacks, mechanics, construction, entrepreneurship etc. This workshop will have a public character, serving professionals across a wide range, with technical and mechanical equipment, towards a more inclusive culture, giving the citizens an incentive or a topic to connect, bond and socialise over.

The workshop is to encourage serendipity and possible interaction between handson experiences with the craft and knowledge of different industries. Concerns such as mechanical issues regarding agriculture, University-related engineering activities, test ground for both entrepreneurial- and industry-related issues.



# CORPORATE SAUNA + GREENHOUSE

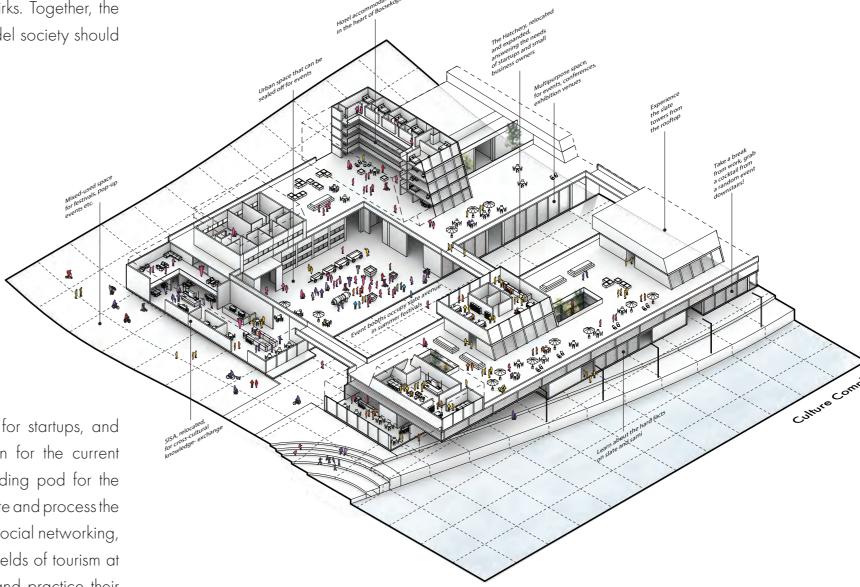
What does an office, sauna and greenhouse have in common? Seemingly a freak occurrence between work, leisure and farming, this programmatic mesh answers different geographical, practical and socio-professional challenges.

The sauna challenges the flow of corporate discussion and bargaining within the super-casual setting of saunas. Alta is also situated in the Arctic circle, of 3 month-periods of polar days and nights, making it only possible to maintain certain types of crops. The greenhouse enables a greater variety of farming. The space between saunas and crops also offers a meeting ground for the farmers across great geographical distances to interact, other professionals, or curious people are welcome to join in.

#### CO-HABITAT

Mainly a student housing, the habitat mixes elements of dwellings, hostel, bed & breakfast, hotel, through a curated system (289 units). Other than the need of student housing, the program addresses another critical aspect; the observations of socio-cultural barriers. A platform is offered, where new & native citizens, and tourists, can rent a space together, in a collective. There will be an administration curating different tenants for mixed collectives; to craft new relations, knowledge exchange, and encourage social activities between different citizen-factions, combating potential socio-cultural segregration.

Students and locals will seek this place out for cheap rent, or out of sheer adventurous curiosity. New citizens to understand all the aspects of their newfound home. Tourists to get an insight into the daily Arctic life, all of Alta's harshness and quirks. Together, the people represent an inclusive and tolerant model society should follow!



#### **CULTURE COMPLEX**

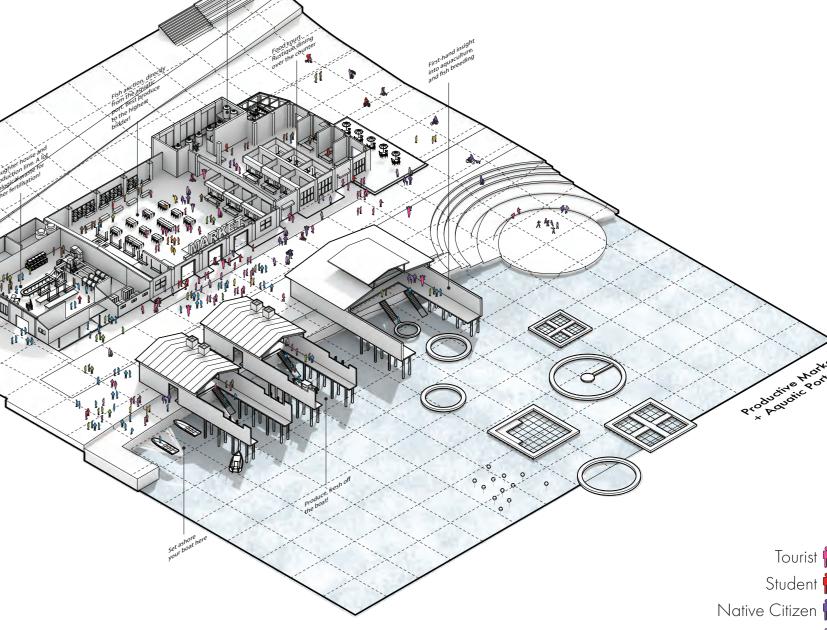
The complex is a mesh providing workspace for startups, and regular business owners, and accommodation for the current booming tourism industry. It is the definite landing pod for the aftermath of outdoors activities and to contemplate and process the vast outdoors experiences of Alta, through arts, social networking, and teachings of local history. Students in the fields of tourism at the University will be able to find work here and practice their profession before graduation.

The program, coworking spaces, represents a new curated realestate model; peddling in memberships instead of sqm, social culture instead of commodity. An administration will be important in selective curation and assigning members towards a defined working culture. The cheap rent and shorter contracts is enabled through smarter digital systems, and students, startups, freelancers, small business owners etc. sharing the costs in a shared working environment. This does not only enable serendipity among diverse professionals, but also makes it possible for them to be included in the urban context and knowledge exchange, where the cost is usually high. This model also makes it easier for property owners to lease out mega structures at a more frequent rate, and increase the liveliness, 24/7 use and sustainability of buildings.



With a farming & fishing community three times the size of the next biggest in the county, this marketplace is to showcase the trials and tribulations of the industry, and the aspects making it all worthwhile.

The focus here is purely on how fresh produce arrives, gets handpicked, gutted, and how it can be consumed across different ethnicities and cultures, directly from the sea, and onto the slab. By exposing the entire chain to the public, the farmers, professionals, students and local inhabitants can partake and appreciate better the nature of this industry, and of course, in company of each



Native Citizen

New Citizen

Fisherman

Farmer

Worker †
Corporate †
Freelancer †