



# The architecture competition for students by students spanning 120 hours

The moment youve all been waiting for! This is the assignment  
for the 2013 edition of 120 HOURS:

## ARCHITECTURE vs. NATURE

### **SITE:**

GEIRANGER, Stranda municipality, Møre og Romsdal, Norway

### **PROGRAM:**

Cruise Ship Terminal

### **BACKGROUND:**

120 HOURS has this year teamed up with students from BAS - The Bergen School of Architecture. Focusing our attention on the western coast of Norway, the competition aims to take a critical view towards the crown jewel of the picturesque coast: The Geiranger fjord.

Norway is celebrated for its breathtaking serene nature, deep fjords and tall mountains. The scale and visual impact of such a dramatic context is contrasted by an overly modest -almost invisible - vernacular architecture within the fjord villages. The most common approach to building in this context is to subvert to the existing conditions in both the built environment and the surrounding scenery. The result is the conservation of a status quo in which the central hierarchy between architecture and nature is absolute.

Geiranger is a small village comprised of a meager 250 inhabitants. However, the destination experiences an astonishing 300 000 cruise ship passengers during peak summer seasons. With ships averaging 228.5 meter in length, an unequivocal scalar imbalance manifests itself. A consistent return of such mega-structures takes annually despite the lack of serviceable and supporting infrastructure within the village. With such massive ships come massive requirements.

Lack of proper docking opportunities obliges a self-sufficient ship to anchor, feeding off its own diesel powered generators to supply energy. Passengers must travel ashore via small ferries, to and from the “mother ship”, burning additional fossil fuels, evading the pristine untouched nature of the site. Recently, the valley has undergone a drastic and uncharacteristic decline in air quality.

Can we design structures at a scale that accommodates the astonishing flock of visitors, projecting a sustainable relationship between tourism and its consequent footprint on a truly unique natural setting?

### **TASK:**

The task of 120 HOURS 2013 is to design a Cruise ship Hyperdock structure that actively and formally engages the surrounding context and natural conditions. The proposed structure must accommodate a minimum of three cruise ships at once, (see attached specifications on required docking space), and attempt to supply clean energy to the ships while docked, implementing a sustained approach for future gain. (continues on next page)

(task continues)

The structure may also include other programs such as: Hotel, Harbor office, Tourist office, laboratories, bike and kayak rental, sports fishing possibilities, etc. You are free to choose any supplementary program, but this is not a requirement. The extent of the site is indefinite, and you will define it yourself within the center of Geiranger, both on land and sea.

## EVALUATION:

Your competition entry will be evaluated using the following criteria:

**Originality** - The project should have a clear formal attitude, with a strong presence in the existing situation. The participants must take a distinct position on the relationship between architecture and nature, (to contrast, enhance, imitate, juxtapose, subvert, ignore etc.). This attitude should be clearly legible in the presented proposal.

**Spatial concept** - How do the physical structures relate to program and site?

**Argumentation and representation** - Are the arguments for the proposal convincing and well presented, both in terms of program, spatial concept and formal execution?

## FORMAT:

Your proposal must be presented on maximum two landscape oriented A1 sheets using any techniques of your own choice (sketches, diagrams, 3D visualizations, model photos, CAD drawings, etc.) All text must be in English. You may use the material provided, but this is not a requirement. You can find a lot of source material both online and in libraries. All delivered material must be marked with your participant code, and should not include any information that may give away your identity. Your A1 charts should be uploaded as PDF at [www.120hours.no](http://www.120hours.no) within the deadline (February 9, 14:00 UTC+1). The size of the file must not exceed 20MB.

If you have any questions, you may search for answers in the online FAQ and at our Facebook page, or send us an e-mail at [contact@120hours.no](mailto:contact@120hours.no)

Remember to mark the e-mail with your entry code.

*Good luck!*

