

The Mt.Tron University of Peace

A humaniversity for universal harmony

Detailed project description



Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation
Alvdal
Norway

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*Front cover: The gentle light of the morning sun reflects on the snow-clad Mt.Tron in winter.
View from North near the village of Tolga.*

Back cover: Mandala made by Illario Bilato as directed by Swami Paramananda.

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**Alvdal
Norway**

PREFACE

The Mt.Trøn University of Peace Foundation, situated in Norway, is a private, ideal initiative dedicated to establish the first international University of Peace ¹⁾ which provides a unique and concrete, large scale plan for individual harmony and collective peace in the world. This booklet presents the background for the foundation and a detailed project description for the realization of the Mt.Trøn University of Peace, in Alvdal, Norway.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the only common pact of humanity, and represents a great and useful foundation for the further development of a truly humane society. However, humanity is facing many serious problems and tough challenges in the world today. We see that in spite of the immense resources, technical know-how and material effectiveness of modern society and "Western lifestyle", we do not succeed in solving our fundamental problems as human beings, nor do we give priority to the uniquely humane values. Putting ever greater distance between ourselves and the bare conditions of natural existence, we are in need of an overall view of human life and a meaningful perspective on humanity. Also the constant insecurity and problems of conflict and strife in the world need to be solved at the "grass-root" level.

The University of Peace takes the problems and challenges of humankind seriously and aspires to provide a practical tool to do something about them, both on the individual and on the collective level. We aspire to run a global centre for Humanity which will be open for all, free from dogma, "-isms", prejudice and passing political or spiritual trends – independent of any religious, ideological, or other affiliations – and which will function as a trans-national forum for peace, human possibilities and human dignity.

We invite you to read this presentation about the University of Peace to be situated in an incomparable location on Mt.Trøn in Norway, to share our vision for peace and harmony in the world, and to become a participant in the realization of the Mt.Trøn University of Peace.

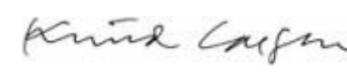
Mt.Trøn University of Peace Foundation,
Alvdal, Norway



Bjørn Pettersen
(Chairperson)



Tripti Chatterjee
(Board member)



Knud Larsen
(Board member)

¹⁾ We are of course aware of the existence of several institutions known as "Peace Universities" in the World, however it will become clear from this booklet in which ways the Mt.Trøn University of Peace is different and in fact totally unique.

MAIN POINTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PEACE

What is the Mt.Tron University of Peace?

- * A transnational forum for humanity, which centres on *the human being*, not on phenomena, religion or politics, and which focuses on human integration, human dignity and human possibilities.
- * A "humaniversity" that works for the development of the individual – physically, mentally and spiritually – solely through the individual's own natural resources, and which raises central and universal human issues on the collective level.
- * An independent centre for peace, which works from the basic "grass roots level" that there will be no outer peace without inner peace, i.e., no collective peace without individual peace.

Why do we need the Mt.Tron University of Peace?

- * Because when the basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) and necessities (health, education, security) of life are satisfied we still need a *purpose of life*. That purpose is spiritual satisfaction – independent of any 'ism' or religious or ideological dogma – which is inner and humanly universal, making for the perfection of life.
- * Because we need to know ourselves as humans – physically, mentally and spiritually – to solve individual and collective suffering.
- * Because the tendency of all life is to conquer each other, and as humans we need to learn *how* to conquer – not by religion, politics, science or commerce but by the *art of life* – by compassion, self-sacrifice and wisdom (understanding, sympathy and service).

What will the Mt.Tron University of Peace do?

- * Offer a concrete and unique, large scale plan for collective peace and individual harmony never tried before in this world.
- * Run "Art of Life"- courses on the individual level, and international seminars, conferences, festivals, exhibitions, etc., on the collective level. Also, potentially, host international peace negotiations at diplomatic and political summit level.
- * Serve as a human sanctuary where humans meet as humans and relate to each other as natural humans independent of faith, belief, race, colour, rank, title or position; and as a human beacon, which will inspire not only individuals, schools, organisations and institutions all over the world, but even governments, states and the United Nations.

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*Mt. Tron in winter seen from North.
Detail of the Front cover.*

SUMMARY

First, the **conceptual basis** for the University of Peace is explained. The world situation is unbalanced and conflict and suffering afflicts individuals and societies all over the world. In spite of the constant acquisition of knowledge and the growth of higher education, half of our so-called “best brains” are directly engaged in the war industry. And a large majority of all education, scientific research, commerce and resources are used to feed the machinery of war and to conquer each other. A compensating knowledge of the true nature of the human being and the development of truly humane societies is urgently needed if we are to replace conflict with an established peace that is more than a mere formal agreement between combatants.

Idea, goal and activity presents the **idea and goal** of the University of Peace. Nature provides us with all we need for the inner and individual peace that is necessary for outer and collective peace. The University of Peace will be a *global* centre in the mountains for the spiritual consciousness-raising of humanity. In time it will consist of a number of Universities of Peace throughout the world and students from all continents, countries and cultures who, by moving between them and living, studying and gaining experience of each and friendship with them all, emerge to become teachers in the art of life and in the wisdom of peace. This is a concrete plan to create peace and harmony individually and collectively throughout the whole world. There follows a description of the **Mt.Tron University of Peace** to be situated on Mt.Tron, Alvådal, Norway.

The **Mt.Tron University of Peace** will serve the real purpose of education, to manifest the perfection already

within us, by creating conditions conducive to the blossoming of the human being into perfection and the practice of a conscientious, scientific and practical approach to self knowledge rooted in nature, generating peace and harmony as its natural outcome. It will operate as an international centre for humanity, free from dogma and independent of any religious, ideological, political or other affiliation, and hold and host conferences as well as high level peace negotiations. The Mt.Tron University of Peace will also promote the establishment of other peace universities. In the course of time as increasing numbers pass through the University of Peace and spread throughout the world so will the likelihood of war progressively diminish.

The core of the **Plan of activity** is a three-step “Art of Life” course using the tools of body and mind given to us by Nature, comprising *Learn language of body, Read the mind and Know Thyself*. There will also be regular seminars, conferences and cultural events for specific groups and the general public. The annual cycle of activity will mirror that of the natural seasons.

Next, the current **Project** to realize the University of Peace is described: the **Foundation, major events** to date, its **general views** relating to *ecology, economy and operation*, and the **present situation** regarding *local authorities, legal conditions and the status quo* as well as *next steps* for further progress.

Finally, there is a detailed description of the preliminary project which provides a detailed contextualised account of the latest architectural plans developed for the Mt.Tron University of Peace.



The logo of the Mt.Tron University of Peace symbolizes «the spiritually conscious human being with the message of peace and harmony». It depicts the essence of the University of Peace:

The Eye = “the mirror of the soul”; showing the human being as its main concern.

The Dove = “the messenger of peace”; showing its nature and mission.

Bird symbolism is universally spiritual, reflecting the free spirit, and often the bird is in a role as the combiner of ‘heaven and earth’.

The eye always reflects the essence of any human being. Its form is most wonderful: the oval shape of the whole eye reflects the Dynamic aspect of life, while the circular shape of the iris reflects the Static aspect of life: the two together symbolizing the Absolute Truth of Life.



The site of the planned University of Peace on the “Peace Plateau”, Mt.Tron, with the peak in the background. View towards North.

CONCEPTUAL BASIS

In the world today there is great unrest and instability. Deep changes occur in various fields of human life and existence – socially, culturally, religiously, politically, economically, technologically, biologically and ecologically. The gulf between rich and poor people and nations is huge, and the gulf between human society and virgin nature is even bigger. The Western way of life, which has now been spread and adopted almost all over the Globe, is a constant threat to natural resources and the ecological balance everywhere. In spite of the constant acquisition of knowledge and the growth of higher education, half of our so-called “best brains” are directly engaged in the war industry. And a large majority of all education, scientific research, commerce and resources are used to feed the machinery of war and to conquer each other. Ideological selfishness, religious intolerance and political greed are constant factors of conflict and strife both locally and globally. In spite of the cry of the masses after the 2nd World War, “Never again!” and in spite of the end of the “Cold War”, the danger of a 3rd World War is very much alive and the exercise of global terrorism is in fact already being experienced.

At the same time humanity all over the world is connected by various means of communication as never before in history, and in a way so that all are more or less dependent on each other. “The Global Village” is practically a reality. The United Nations have produced the only common pact of humanity – The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights – which is a solid basis and a great tool for future political and humanitarian work in the world. It is independent of race, religion or ideology and is an inspiration for human rights and peace organizations all over the world.

Yet the individual human being still has no priority in society. Every day human values and truly humane development are sacrificed on the almighty altar of economy. As regards world peace the many scientific peace research institutes have failed in developing an exact science of peace and the several institutions named “peace university” in the world are mainly occupied only with the teaching of conflict resolution. There is as yet no major institution independent of race, caste, religion, ideology, dogma or creed, which focuses

on the naked and natural human being on a purely spiritual basis. There is as yet no human forum, which stresses the necessity of a complete knowledge of man – physically, mentally and spiritually – and the necessity of an overall view of human life and a meaningful perspective on humanity. There is as yet no human stronghold, which says that the problems of human life will be solved by spiritual consciousness-raising and that peace will be a positive side effect of such effort.

Man is suffering in the world because he doesn't know himself, and the world is suffering because there is no knowledge of man available. We have extensive knowledge of the physical world and universe – all the natural sciences are highly developed – but we have very little knowledge about the human being – about ourselves. We know so much about events light years away in the far distant universe, but nothing really of what is happening to us during the night when we sleep, or about from where we have come and unto where we are going. Do we know the real identity behind our name and form? About what is nearest to us – ourselves – we know practically nothing. In the Western world we have acquired everything but have lost ourselves in the process. Moreover, it is a well-known fact that we use only about 5% to 10% of our brain capacity while the rest lies dormant. Is it not reasonable to assume that man will become an entirely different being and have a completely different outlook on life when the rest of the 90%-95% brain capacity becomes activated?

In the Western world or lifestyle most people have everything they need for existence; like food, clothing and shelter, and for education, health and security, but they lack the seventh and ultimate purpose of life, namely spirituality, which secures the perfection of life. What is spiritual is universal – the common basis on which we all rest. It is the inner source or unity in which we all are alike, beyond the barriers of geographical and national borders, language, culture, tradition, sex, social differences, titles and mental impressions, imagination, ignorance, delusions and ego. A spiritual person always feels equality, unity and solidarity – a deep intuitive feeling and understanding that “the same heart is beating in all of us”. In spirituality there is always simplicity, insight, broadmindedness and



Shantibu, Alvdal, Norway, situated on the forest-clad slopes of Mt. Tron at an altitude of about 700 metres, is the headquarters of The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation.



The "Peace Plateau" on Mt. Tron situated between the peak to the left and Sørkletten to the right of the picture, as seen from the village of Alvdal in late summer. View towards East.

compassion coupled with an unreserved and unselfish will to help others. In other words – spirituality always means naturalness, wisdom, love and sacrifice.

How can we create peace and stability if we do not know and experience what peace and stability are? Is peace only a pact or an agreement between two or more parties – a mere pause to secure rearmament for new conflicts and strife? Is peace merely, as declared in a main scientific definition, the absence of violence – is it not also the presence of something contrary to violence? Will there ever be outer peace without established inner peace? War starts in the mind, pollution of nature and ecological disasters start in the mind, just as illnesses start in the mind. So we have to watch our mind to

eradicate these and other causes. In other words, we have to know ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually to gain peace and harmony both individually and collectively.

The world now really needs a great unifying institution, which focuses on the human being, human life and humanity for a more humane society and for peace and harmony in the world. An inspiring centre for human rights, human dignity and, most of all, human possibilities – a spiritual sanctuary where all can meet as humans and communicate as human to human. A human spiritual lighthouse which can inspire not only individuals but also the United Nations and other organizations, institutions and schools all over the world.

IDEA, GOAL AND ACTIVITY

The Mt.Tron University of Peace has been planned to meet the most pressing demands of humanity in modern society (as stated above). Not as an academic institution where learning and the acquisition of information form the basis of human activity, but as a centre where it is the human being who is the focus of attention, and how the natural growth and development of the individual influences the peace and harmony of society. The activity of Mt.Tron University of Peace will operate on both the individual and the collective level.

Idea and goal

The basic idea is that there will be no outer peace without inner peace – no collective peace without individual peace – and that humankind is both cause and effect of war and peace in the world. Therefore human beings themselves are the key to the fate and destiny of humankind, and therefore the exploration of the human being is necessary. In this quest our starting point is that we do not need to acquire anything from outside because by birth we already have everything from nature. We only need to learn from nature – which is always in harmony with herself – and to unfold what is already there, because real education is the manifestation of the perfection already within ourselves.

The Mt.Tron University of Peace will be the first in a

series of Universities of Peace in the mountains in countries throughout the world. It will therefore also be working to initiate the establishment of similar Universities of Peace in other countries and continents, so that in time there can develop societies of students who will ambulate between the various universities. Ideally there will then be students from all over the world living together in each of the universities where they will come to learn to know each other. After a certain period, these students will move to another university of peace in another country or on another continent, where they will learn the culture and customs of that people or nation. In this way they will progress around the Globe until eventually they have become friends with all tribes, countries and cultures. These young men and women will, after concluding their studies at the University of Peace, become teachers in the art of life and art of living, and in the wisdom of peace, both in the ordinary school system and elsewhere. Thus, in the course of time, it will grow ever more impossible for the coming generations to wage war against each other.

It is necessary to situate the University of Peace in the mountains because of the incomparable mental peace and quiet one experiences in such surroundings, especially over some period of time. The mind naturally



Mt.Tron in late autumn with the river Glomma in front. View from North-West near the village of Tynset.



*Mt. Tron in summer with the
river Glomma in front.
View from North-West.*

reflects the wide horizon and becomes as open as the infinite heavens above. Highly elevated above the stress and troubles of everyday life on the busy plains and in the narrow valleys, our worries and problems disappear unnoticeably, and at last we find ourselves in harmony with nature.

This is, thus, a grand, concrete plan to create peace and harmony individually as well as collectively throughout the whole world. It is a fact that the tendency of all life up to and including human societies is to conquer each other. Still, as humans, we don't know *how* to conquer. The University of Peace will teach us how to conquer life and each other through compassion, self-sacrifice and wisdom (understanding, sympathy and service).

Plan of activity

The activity of the Mt.Tron University of Peace will operate on two levels simultaneous-ly: individual and collective. On the *individual level* the central pillar of activity will be a three-step "Art of Life" course, which will run continuously throughout the active parts of the year:

1. *Learn language of body.*

This will be a 'survival class' – a kind of ecology of the body – to learn how to survive in the world. The focus will be on food habit, lifestyle, physical relaxation, breathing, exercises, etc.

2. *Read the mind.*

This will be a 'silence class' to gain insight into our own psychology in peaceful and harmonious surroundings. The focus will be on mental relaxation, concentration and observation.

3. *Know Thyself.*

This will be a 'philosophical class' to examine the great and fundamental questions in life in the light of our self-identity and our self-integrity. Questions like "Who am I?", "From where have I come and where am I going?", and "What is the meaning of life?" will be central here.

On the *collective level* the Mt.Tron University of Peace will act as an international centre for Humanity – free from dogmas, "isms" and prejudices, and independent



The "Peace Plateau" on Mt.Tron in summer with the road to the peak. View towards North-East.



View from the "Peace Plateau" towards Mt. Rondane in the South-West, on a bright winter day. Clouds are covering the valley of Alvdal.

of organisations, religions, ideologies, and political or spiritual trends – open for all irrespective of age, sex, race, mental makeups or attachments. It will function as a transnational forum for peace and human dignity where all important queries and compelling alerts regarding humanity are on the daily agenda – raising central and universal human issues – and where conferences with these themes will be held. It may also host meetings for peace negotiations at political and diplomatic summit level.

Conferences and forums on peace and humanity will be held for the general public or for targeted groups whenever required throughout the active parts of the year. These events may be initiated and arranged by the university, or the university will function as host for other institutions or organisations. At weekends regular seminars will be held on a variety of subjects, and various cultural events like exhibitions, concerts, theatrical performances and films will occur regularly during the entire active season. International music festivals for groups of indigenous peoples and for sacred music with an emphasis on its spiritual/religious context, as well as ordinary folk music will be held

annually, and there may be other annual festivals too.

The year will follow the course of nature with activities peaking during summer and at a minimum during winter, interspersed with two moderately active periods. Thus the annual cycle of activities will follow this scheme:

March-April-May:

One three-month "in depth" Art of Life course.

June-July-August:

Three or four three-week intensive Art of Life courses, and festivals.

September-October-November:

One three-month "in depth" Art of Life course.

December-January-February:

"Hibernation" with 'rent a room for the winter' for those who want to have a prolonged retreat. Owing to the winter climate and snow there will be no courses or activities for the general public.

PROJECT

The Mt.Trøn University of Peace Foundation

In February 1993 a group of idealistic people established The Mt.Trøn University of Peace Foundation, as a free, independent, private and ideal foundation, which is self-owned and has a simple and concise organizational structure with a board of three members. Its aim and objective is to realize the first University of Peace on Mt.Trøn in Alvdal in Norway. It will administer the idea of the University of Peace itself and lead all planning work. It will also be conducting fund-raising.

The Mt.Trøn University of Peace Estate Inc.

In August 2010 the Mt.Trøn University of Peace Estate Inc. was established to handle the financial aspects of the project. The company will handle the buying of the land and the construction process, and administer all real estate with buildings and movables, including inter alia rental of buildings and rooms.

After the establishment of the estate company the Foundation's statutes were reorganized and adapted to the Company, with the Foundation as the highest authority for all attached companies and organs. The seat of both is at Shantibu in Alvdal, Norway.

The idea of the future "University of Peace" was mentioned in two books published in 1921, "Karlina Rani" and "Kalkaram", by the Indian Sannyasin and Professor Swami Sri Ananda Acharya (1881-1945), who resided on the slopes of Mt.Trøn in Alvdal, Norway, from 1917 to 1945. More recently the inspiration to start a concrete project given by the Indian Sannyasin Swami Paramananda (1954-1999), who stayed at "Shantibu", Alvdal, in 1989-90, 1993, 1995 and 1998, has been a major influence behind the Foundation and the project. In 1920 Sri Ananda said that the University of Peace would come in "a 100 years' time".

Major events

1993: A first draft of plans for the project was drawn up in collaboration with the architects Snøhetta and Gaia-Oslo and delivered to the municipality of Alvdal, which responded positively. The Mt.Trøn University of Peace was also the subject of the final diploma for two

students of architecture at the Norwegian Institute of Technology. A logo was made and a folder with information on the project in both Norwegian and English was published and distributed free to all the households of Alvdal, and more widely.

1994: The Norwegian national television channel (NRK) broadcast a 15 minute programme about the plans on the national network during peak viewing hours.

1995: A prospectus on the project was printed in connection with a formal request to the municipality of Alvdal. On October 12th the local authority passed a resolution to prepare a council plan for the Mt.Trøn area which will allow for the university plans of the Foundation.

1996: The architect Professor Knud Larsen at the Norwegian Institute of Technology made a sketch project for the Foundation, and a detailed presentation of the whole project was delivered before the executive committee of Alvdal municipality.

1998: A quarterly newsletter in both Norwegian and English – "The Mt.Trøn Mail" – began publication to update interested subscribers about the progress of the project, and the newsletter has been issued regularly ever since.

1999: The Foundation's first WEB-pages were published on the Internet and a new folder was printed and published. Two of the local political parties included work for the plans of the University of Peace in their election programme.

2001: A work model was made by Professor Knud Larsen.
2002: Professor Knud Larsen completed the "Mt.Trøn University of Peace Pre-Project 20.02.2002" containing completely new drawings, the culmination of the preceding years' planning work.

2003: A new logo was made. Professor Knud Larsen completed extensive improvements to the pre-project, in early spring and it is now called the "Mt.Trøn University of Peace Pre-Project 03.03.2003". On the Internet entirely new WEB-pages were published comprising the whole project. The creation of a 3D presentation of the project started. A new general information folder on the project was published, and the present booklet was printed and published in English for the first time. Two of the Foundation's board members contributed at the international Peace Symposium "Pathways to Peace" held at Griffith University,



Mt.Trøn at sunset one bright summer evening, as seen from the neighbouring valley of Alvdal to the East, Tyllaldalen.

Brisbane, Australia.

2005: Full moral support from "Heart to Heart Service", run by Teresa Hsu (born 1898!) and Sharana Rao in Singapore, by letter of 30th August 2005.

2006: The Mt.Tron University of Peace was delineated on the municipality's land use map.

2007: For the second time the development of the Mt.Tron University of Peace appeared in the municipal election party manifestos of both the Centre Party (Sp) and the Left Wing Party (V) at the local election. Alvdal's new mayor Olov Grøtting publicly declared her great wish as a Mayor to realize the Mt.Tron University of Peace.

2009: The Municipal Plan of Alvdal 2008-2020, where a site for the University of Peace had been allocated in the Part of Land Use, was adopted by the local council on June 25th. The Foundation invited affected ground owners on Mt.Tron to a meeting to prepare for a regulation plan. An architect student of landscapes at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences took the Mt.Tron University of Peace for the subject of his Master's degree project.

2010: The Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. Was established to deal with all economic and material aspects of the project. Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. Initiated work on the required regulation plan at the "Peace Plateau" on Mt.Tron and hired the architects of landscape firm Feste North East Inc. At Tolga as consultant.

2011: The project was divided into four phases, and the Norwegian governmental aid company Innovation Norway offered in February a grant for the financing of Phase 1, including regulation plan and land acquisition. On July 1st the regulation plan "Detailed Regulation for the Mt.Tron University of Peace" was delivered to the Alvdal municipality for further processing. By letter of November 11th 2011 The Royal Department of Knowledge granted dispensation from the law for using the name "Mt.Tron University of Peace". On December 23rd the local company Vingelen Development Inc., according to order, delivered a Possibility Condition (analysis), which was attached to the Regulation Plan.

2012: "Detailed Regulation for Mt.Tron University of Peace" was unanimously passed and sanctioned by the Alvdal Local Council on April 26th.

General views

Ecology

The intention is to create an ecological pioneer project –

a self-sustaining unit with alternative sources of energy. Ecological thinking and simplicity will be the basis for concepts, materials and building methods. It is a fundamental element of the principles of the University of Peace that the building will rest harmoniously in its surroundings with materials and design which complement the site, and it is intended that 'new' ecologically soft technologies, with regard to energy and the handling of waste, will be naturally integrated into the construction.

Economy

The buildings will be financed by national and international benefactors, private persons and institutions, and by special campaigns. There will be no loans. After the construction is completed, the budget will cover operating expenses and maintenance. The Company will have complete ownership of the buildings at all stages.

Operation

Operating costs will be financed chiefly through income from Art of Life courses, seminars, hire of the conference hall and other rooms by other institutions and the renting of rooms for retreat by private persons. In addition there will be income from the sale of literature, post cards and a variety of effects made at the University, cafeteria business, tourism and from various donations. Rental of the whole campus to summit meetings on political and diplomatic summit level may also happen. There will also be organised a "Society of Friends" supporters organisation with its own statutes which will aim at financing the operation through a yearly contribution based on relatively small sums, but with an increasing membership.

Present situation

Local authorities

The local authorities have always been positive to the Mt.Tron University of Peace project but for many years lack of staff and finances prevented the local municipality regularly updating the municipal plan, which did not start until February 2005. In this planning process the project was included in accordance with the local council's resolution of 12th October 1995. In the "Municipal Plan for Alvdal 2008-2020", under "Land Use", the municipality earmarked almost all of the "Peace Plateau" on Mt.Tron for development solely for three purposes, namely: The University of Peace, base for hang glider activities and cafeteria at Sørkletten. The whole municipal plan was finally passed on Thursday 25th of June 2009.



Mt.Tron seen from the village of Alvdal on a bright summer day. View towards North.

Legal conditions

In 1998 the municipality of Alvdal expropriated land on the very top of Mt.Tron for the benefit of the Norwegian Air Traffic and Airport Management who then built a civil radar installation on the site. In connection with this the local authorities started a case at the land consolidation court in 1997 to determine the owner- and user-rights on Mt.Tron. This case was concluded in 2004 and the court has registered a total of 105 parties with legal rights to the mountain and organized them into four separate bodies of joint ownership with their own defined sectors of the mountain. These right-holders are mostly local farmers with traditional, established, usage for grazing their cattle or with land or properties bordering the mountain at the tree line, and cabin owners, hunting parties and so on who have had these rights for generations.

Status quo

In the autumn of 2010 the Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. initiated work on the required regulation plan

at the “Peace Plateau” on Mt.Tron and hired the architects of landscape firm Feste North East Inc. at Tolga as consultant. The Municipality of Alvdal was a co-regulant in that they were regulating for all the other activities in the area apart from the University of Peace. The finalized regulation plan was delivered to the Municipality of Alvdal on July 1st 2011 for further processing and on April 24th 2012 “Detailed Regulation for Mt.Tron University of Peace” was unanimously passed and sanctioned by the Alvdal Local Council.

Next steps

The Mt.Tron University of Peace now works for a dialogue with the land owners on the “Peace Plateau” to achieve a letter of intent regarding the buying of the building site. We are also ready to make contact with private persons and institutions who, with commitment and goodwill for the project, wish to support it morally and/or economically.



The characteristic shape of Mt. Tron is a landmark everywhere in the Northern part of Østerdalen (The Eastern Valley). View from North at a small lake near the village of Tynset.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT

The Country

Norway is a long, sparsely inhabited, mountainous country facing the North Sea of the Atlantic Ocean. Its, relative to its size, extremely long coastline is in many places very rugged and has deep fjords unparalleled in the world. The mountains reach heights of nearly 2500 metres, some covered by “eternal snow” due to the relative proximity to the Arctic Circle. The warm Gulf Stream hitting the west coast after travelling across the Atlantic keeps the country from being entirely snow-covered. The few larger towns are all located along the sea with harbours for ocean-going vessels. In the interior of the country there are valleys with small farms and villages. Norway has a long border with Sweden and shorter borders with Finland and Russia in the extreme North.

The Mountain

One of the main tourist valleys, Gudbrandsdalen, runs north from the capital Oslo in the south and connects with the middle and northern part of the country via the high plateau of Dovre which is bordered by some of the highest peaks in Norway. Running parallel and to its east is Østerdalen (Eastern Valley) ending in the small town of Røros which was founded on rich copper mines in the 17th century. Røros is the source of the river Glomma (the longest river in Norway) which runs through Østerdalen. Coming from the South, and about 70 km from Røros, the valley broadens out at the village of Alvdal which, at its right side, has the 1665 metre high (above sea level) majestic landmark of Mt.Tron.

This solitary mountain could be taken for an extinct volcano but it consists in fact of some of the oldest rock on Earth (500 million years). Even so it has some special geological features which attract scientists.

It was on the south-western slope of this mountain that Swami Sri Ananda Acharya (see page 10) settled in 1917 and it was on a large, saddle shaped plateau south of, and 365 metres below, its summit that he located the site of the future University of Peace. This plateau has since then been called the “Peace Plateau” and Mt.Tron has been known as the “Mountain of Truth” or the “Mountain of Wisdom”.

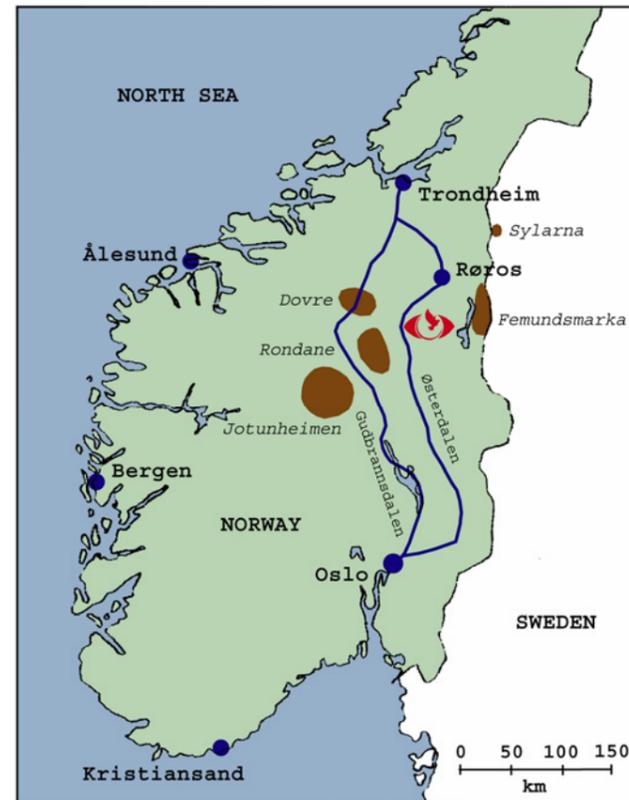
Recently a television transmitter (1960) and a civil radar

installation (2000) have been placed on the very top of the mountain, connected with the valley bottom by the second highest car road in the country which is closed by snow for half of the year. It is the existence of this private road which makes construction of a large building complex on the plateau possible.

The Neighbourhood

The private part of the road starts at Tronsvangen on the south-western slope of Mt.Tron, a small collection of wooden huts just below the tree line, one of which was the residence of Sri Ananda. A few hundred metres further down in the forest is the former residence of Sri Ananda’s principal assistant, Einar Beer, who died in 1982 at the advanced age of 95. It is now the headquarters of the “Mt. Tron University Peace Foundation”.

On the western slope of Mt.Tron at about 1400 metres and about 3 km from the plateau is situated Sri Ananda’s grave. It can be reached by foot along a marked path in about an hour from the Peace Plateau and the view being gorgeous it will be a favourite excursion.



Schematic map of Western Europe showing Norway and its relationship to the other Scandinavian countries, Russia, the sea and the Arctic circle.

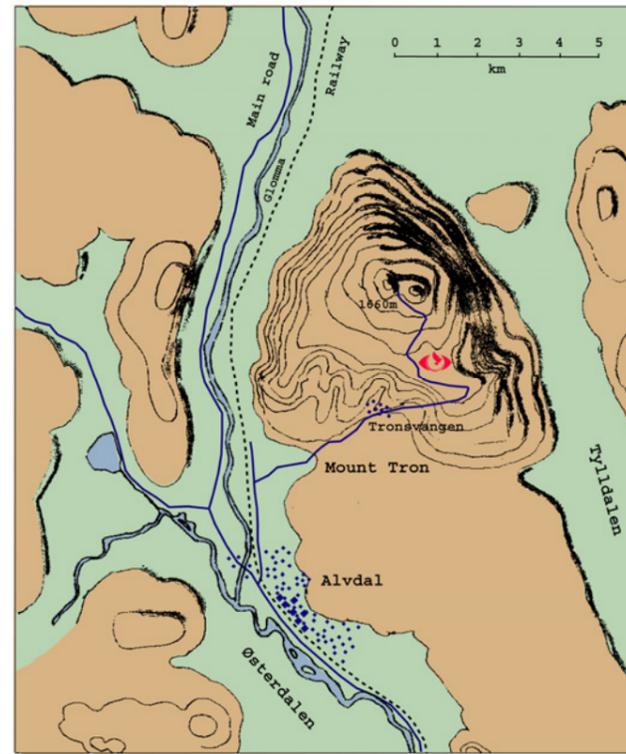
Schematic map of the southern part of Norway showing the location of the Mt. Tron University of Peace (logo) in Østerdalen about 300 km north of the capital, Oslo. Norway’s major mountain ranges surrounding Mt. Tron are named in italics.

In the valley next to the river Glomma is Alvdal, a small community around a railway station with the administrative headquarters of the municipality of Alvdal, a rather large area primarily consisting of forest and mountains.

Near the centre of Alvdal is a modern museum designed by Norway's foremost architect, Sverre Fehn, which houses a collection of drawings, paintings and objects by the famous "son of Alvdal", Kjell Aukrust, and has Mt. Tron as a focal view point.

There is regular train- and bus connection to Oslo and Trondheim. Røros, about 75 minutes by car north of Alvdal, has a local airport. From Alvdal by either train or car it takes about four hours to Oslo to the south and three hours to Trondheim to the north. Trondheim is Norway's third largest town with the northernmost medieval, gothic cathedral in the world.

The municipality of Alvdal has, unlike many other similar municipalities, no problem with depopulation and stagnation. However, The Mt. Tron University of Peace will generate new activity in a number of fields, further stimulate the local economy and general regional development, and will "put Alvdal on the map".



Schematic map of Mt. Tron with surroundings. The location of Mt. Tron University of Peace is marked by the logo.



Aerial view of Mt. Tron in winter with the village of Alvdal in the foreground. View towards North-East.



Aerial view of the Eastern side of the «Peace Plateau» on Mt. Tron, view towards West. The Mt. Tron Road crossing the plateau can be seen.

The local administrators therefore view the Mt. Tron project positively. Some of the local activities that will benefit from it are ecological farming, lodging of guests, transport and other service activities.

The “Peace Plateau” can be seen from Alvdal, but the buildings themselves, situated over the edge of the saddle, will not be visible from the valley.

The Site

The plateau is high over the tree line and has only sparse vegetation between the scattered, small rocks covering the ground. The plateau is about one third of a square kilometre in area with a monument in the middle consisting of a granite monolith and a low stonewall inscribed with Sri Ananda’s poems considered to be the “first stone” of the “Peace University”. The actual building site is about 200 metres north of the monument on the largest flat area of the plateau and “facing” east. The elevation over sea level of the site is exactly 1300 metres.

The existing driveway crosses the plateau more or less from southeast to northwest on its way to the top. Where it crosses the edge of the “saddle” a car parking area will mark the point where a new driveway takes off to

the right connecting the existing driveway with the main entrance of the building complex. Cars and busses will be expected to park here out of sight from the buildings but within walking distance (400 m). Passengers will be driven to the sidewalk directly below the main entrance. The new driveway is horizontal, following the natural contours of the terrain, and only when nearing the roundabout does it rise slightly towards the entrance. The byroad leading to the service uses a natural depression in the terrain to scale about 7 metres rising from the driveway.

The building site is on top of the gently eastward sloping terrain with flat areas towards south and west. To the north the top of Mt. Tron is rising steeply. To the east there is an uninterrupted view of the mountain ranges stretching into Sweden. To the west, the mountains comprising Jotunheimen, Rondane and Dovre with the peak Snøhetta, are all parts of the most impressive ranges in Norway.

Directly to the south the view is somewhat restricted by Sørkletten, the southern edge of the plateau. It is from this edge that hang gliders jump to soar over the southern slopes of Mt. Tron.

Very often a cold wind blows from the south-west, necessitating artificial shelter of outdoor relaxing areas.

Snowfall is not excessive, but the dry, constantly drifting snow in the open landscape blocks the upper part of the driveway for about five kilometres.

The Buildings

Arrival

The driveway can be kept free of snow from approximately the beginning April to the end of November. In those months guests will arrive either by bus or private car or even by foot via a direct path from Tronsvangen. From December to March communication will be by snowmobile or snow scooter, or by ski for those who are the most sporty. Helicopters can land on the roundabout if necessary.

The sidewalk where guests will alight is at a level 5 metres under the terrace leading to the main entrance. The broad stairs are flanked by granite bastions on top of which are sitting places for the enjoyment of the rising sun shielded from the western winds. A long ramp for the disabled and for luggage cars bypasses the stairs. The drop of level has the effect that cars and buses will not block the view from the entrance terrace.

Shortly before arriving at the roundabout a byroad to the left gives access to a service yard for service cars and arrival of goods.

After dropping passengers at the sidewalk the driver will take the car/bus to the parking area and walk the 400m back along the driveway. Normally the driver will not need the car again for several days.

Layout

The Peace University consists of a number of rather differently shaped buildings interconnected around a square courtyard. They range in height from one to five floors.

The general layout takes as its point of departure the traditional cloister-type courtyard bordered by a covered gallery. This gallery is extended in the corners to form the main arteries of communication. The different buildings are “hung” on the galleries which can be extended further in case buildings are added in future. Each building is formed in such a way as to express its function and the buildings are put together in a play of volumes and shapes that both fit into the landscape and make stimulating variations over themes primarily guided by a few materials and their implicit laws. The multiplicity of forms also has three practical reasons: The complex may not be built in one step. One or more buildings can



be built later without the first step looking mutilated. The complex can be extended in the future by adding one or more independently shaped buildings to the extended galleries without disturbing the impression of the whole. There is economy in “wrapping” each function as tightly as possible in a building form that is not forced to follow a set of general, formal standards.

Universal rules of orientation

The location of the different activities relative to each other follow, as closely as possible, prescriptions from ancient Indian literature (concerning the best built living environment for humans in this part of the world according to weather and climate) as interpreted by Swami Paramananda (see page 10) in direct communication with the architects: General orientation exactly North-South and East-West. Main entrance from the East (with the morning sun), secondary entrance from the South. An open courtyard with a pool and surrounded by low walls towards the East and the South to allow the morning sun, with its fresh supply of charged ions, to enter. Kitchen (fire) in the south-eastern corner, and diagonally opposite washing/bath-rooms (water) in the north-western corner. Storage (storm fencing) in the south-western corner, and diagonally opposite assembly (peaceful place) in the north-eastern corner. Sleeping rooms towards west. Buildings to be lowest in south-east and spiralling counter clockwise upwards to reach the highest point

The Monument on the «Peace Plateau» on Mt.Tron is both a memorial to Swami Sri Ananda Acharya and the foundation stone of the planned University of Peace. Situated at about 1300 metres (4000) feet above sea level, it consists of a 4 metre high white granite monolith with inscriptions and a relief of Swami Sri Ananda Acharya together with a stone wall with inscriptions.



The "Peace Plateau" on Mt.Tron in summer seen from Sørkletten with the peak in the background. The Monument can be seen a little to the right of the centre of the picture. View towards North.

towards south-west. A few prescriptions concern interior space: Beds to be located with headrest towards either East or South. Circular silence room to seat 108 people in the outer row facing the centre. Circular (here octagonal) assembly hall.

Functions and Space

Entry

From the entrance terrace one enters the complex by passing between two massive granite “towers” into a 6 metre wide entry hall from which there is a view into the northern gallery and beyond to the open courtyard.

Galleries

The gallery framing the courtyard comes in two widths: 6 metres and 3 metres according to the amount of traffic and secondary functions. It is one storey high and has a slanted ceiling with articulated supports. An exception is the gallery in the western wing which is the lower of three alike galleries one above the other and therefore with a flat ceiling.

The gallery which continues the entry hall is 6 metres wide and has a couple of sitting groups along the floor to ceiling windows towards the courtyard. Sliding doors give access to the courtyard and opposite doors lead into the large sitting room. Next to the western wing a large, glass covered opening down to the basement floor with open stairs leads to the silence room.

A row of sliding doors in the gallery along the eastern wing gives access to the dining hall. In the gallery itself are placed cafeteria tables to serve day guests, for ex-

ample members of the hang gliding club. In the northern end of the east gallery an area next to the foyer is reserved for temporary exhibitions.

The western gallery serves two stairs, elevator, meeting rooms, health clinic and offices and rooms in the four piers.

The southern gallery serves the goods entrance, kitchen, garages and caretaker’s rooms in the tower. A large sliding door opposite the garages give access to the courtyard for the removing of snow.

Entry “towers”

From the entry hall there is also access to the two “towers”. The one to the left contains a couple of public toilets and open stairs up and down. The gently curved stairs down give access to wardrobes and more toilets and also to the public archives. The stairs up lead to a technical room with observation equipment on the 2nd floor and to the telescope room itself on the 3rd floor. The telescope is a 16” Meade SCT (or equivalent) telescope equipped with an electronic AP6 CCD-digital (or equivalent) camera. The telescope will be used by a permanent, local group of students and other interested people, and it can be worked by remote control via the Internet.

At the ground floor the left tower also contains a kiosk to serve both long term and day guests.

The tower to the right contains one single, three storey high, square room which is the foyer to the assembly hall. From the balcony at the second floor one looks down both into the foyer and into the assembly hall. Two large windows at 3rd floor level give daylight to the space.



View of the «Peace Plateau» seen from the top of Mt.Tron towards South. Below the plateau is seen to the left the valley of Tyllidalen and to the right the valley of Alvdal.

Eastern wing

Apart from the two towers this wing is one storey with slating ceiling and articulated constructions. The northern part is the dining hall seating 180 people. The southern part is the kitchen with an extension functioning as a greenhouse/bio shelter. The southern slanted wall of the greenhouse is all glass and the kitchen gets its primary daylight through a glass wall towards the greenhouse. From the dining room there is a panoramic view over the mountain ranges to the east and a large glass wall towards the gallery connects the space with the courtyard. The dining space is subdivided by means of the exposed constructions and their supports into smaller units of space each holding 18 seats. This is to make the hall more intimate to smaller groups and single persons. There are buffet tables along the centre. Doors from each dining unit open to the gallery.

Southern wing

This wing in one storey with slanted roof contains pure-

ly service functions with no guest areas. To the west is a garage for a couple of cars/snowmobiles and snow scooters. In the middle is the goods entrance for service personnel and delivery. Stairs and elevator give access to storerooms in the basement. Kitchen functions such as scullery and bakery are located here in connection with other secondary kitchen facilities.

The gallery in this wing is open to all as a bypass.

Assembly hall

This two-storey hall is square with double symmetry. It is entered from the foyer tower along a diagonal. The central main space is octagonal, has a flat floor and is covered by an eight sided, low pyramid. The hall seats about 450 people in a conventional lecture arrangement. Mobile platforms and pull-out stepped podiums allow for a multitude of arrangements. A central skylight underlines the multi-purpose character of the space. Three minor two-storey halls at the corners can be closed off for separate use independently of the main hall for exhibitions, semi-



Aerial view of the «Peace Plateau» with a model of the University of Peace superimposed into the photograph at the exact location of the building site.

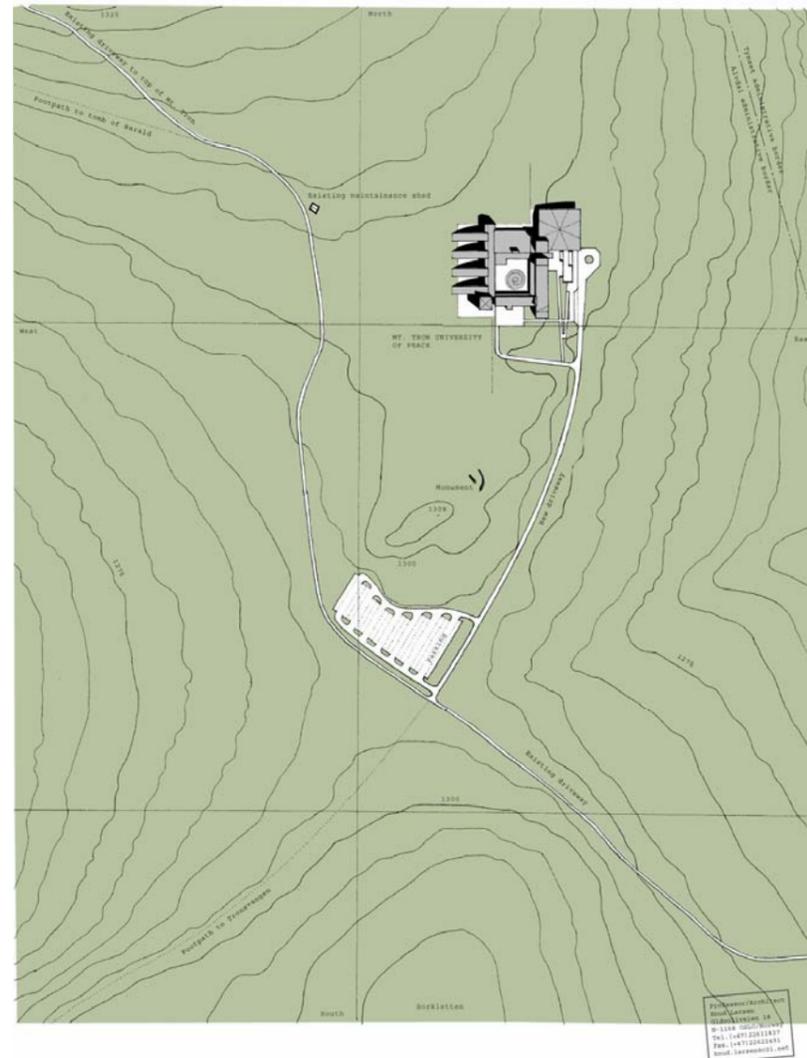
nars, banquets etc. They each have a different view towards the surrounding mountains. They can also be used as extensions of the central space. When the central space is used for a separate function the minor halls can be reached via the second floor “bridges” connecting the closed spaces used for service functions. These spaces serve at first floor as storage for chairs, tables, platforms and podiums and as access spaces for the minor halls. On second floor they contain rooms for video projection, audio equipment, computers, steering devices for artificial lighting etc. The “bridges” are faced with clear glass on both sides so that daylight enters the central space via the minor halls. When any of the halls need darkness the light is regulated with Venetian blinds. From the minor halls sliding doors open to triangular outdoor terraces for people to draw some fresh air and enjoy the view.

Northern wing

This wing is conceived as one single large, three-storey space. It is covered by a slanting roof meeting the built up rock foundation in a curve. Daylight pours in from the south through the glass wall towards the courtyard filtered through solar cells embedded in the glass. The lower, northern part of the space is lit by a row of six large skylights placed level with the roof. Open balconies in the second and third floor serve as a library while the living room for guests with mainly groups of sofas and armchairs is the dominating function at ground floor. A huge open fireplace also serves as an important member of the main construction. The western part of the space at ground floor can be shut off from the living room by sliding walls to be used for seminars or even small conferences. Open stairs lead to the library at second floor with 900 metres of shelf space, librarians’ desk, reading places for research, a department for periodicals with armchairs and a space for computers. This floor can also be reached from the gallery in the West wing. The stairs continue to a newspaper-/ TV room at third floor with large sofas and a magnificent view over the mountain ranges towards the east and south. The news room can also be reached from the west wing gallery.

Western wing

This wing is a narrow, “heavy” linear structure in three storeys which dominates the entire complex and acts as a sort of backbone onto which several other structures are “hung”. Three galleries, one on each floor, the



northern wing with gallery, the courtyard and the southern wing are all connected to its eastern side. Four three storey piers with guest rooms are attached to its western side while the southern end of the wing gives access to the five storey tower.

The west wing is mainly occupied by guest rooms but at ground floor they are replaced by three seminar-/ meeting rooms, a health clinic and service rooms.

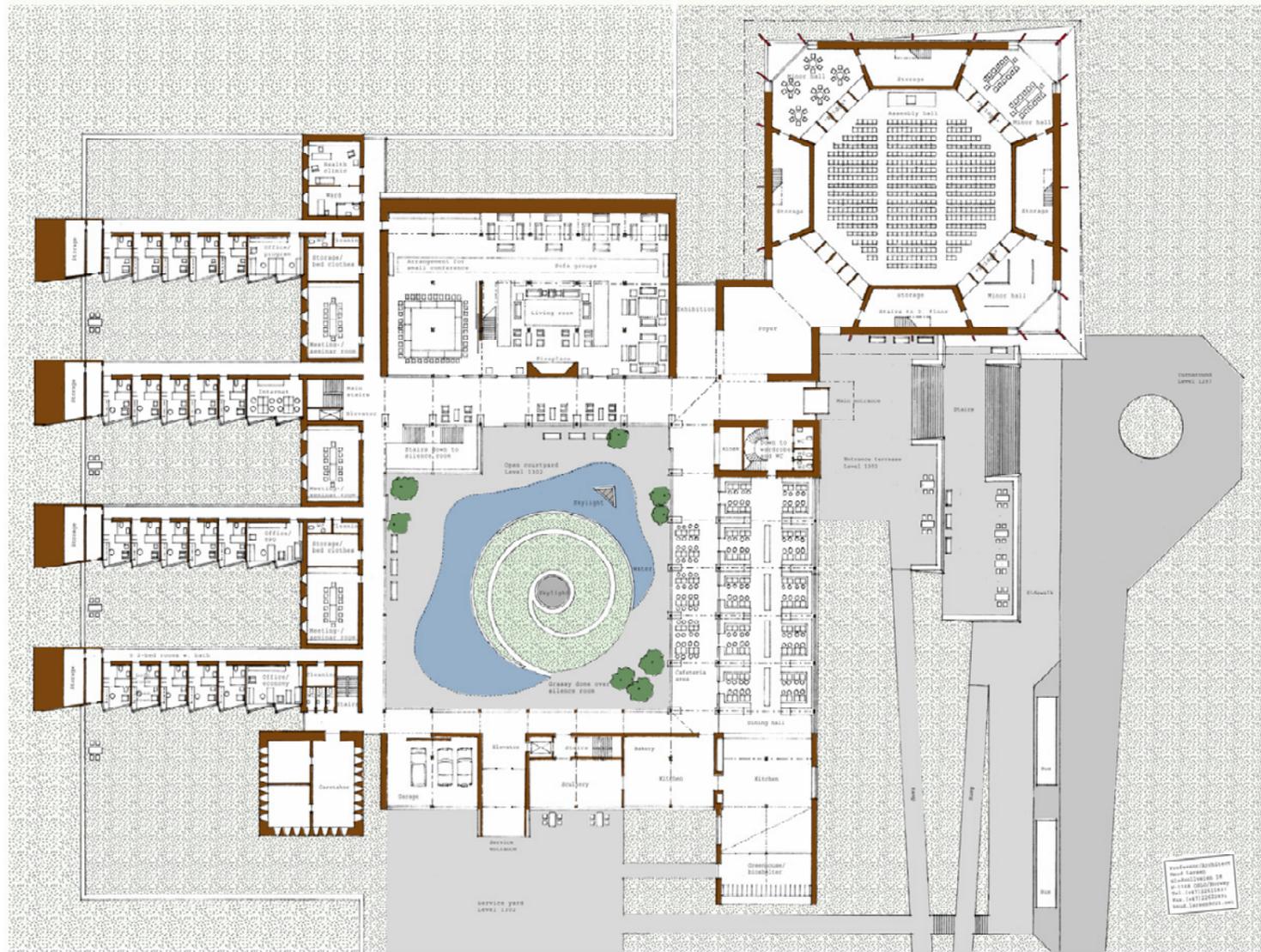
The main stairs and elevator are located in the west wing with easy access from the northern, main gallery. Secondary stairs in the southern end serve the internal communication as well as the tower.

From the two upper galleries there is a splendid view of the eastern mountain ranges. The gallery itself is wide enough to allow a few chairs to be brought here to relax

Site Plan

Scale 1:7500

The saddle-shaped «Peace Plateau» with the Mt. Tron University of Peace. The monument is seen between the buildings and the parking area. North is up. Contour lines for every 5 meters.



and talk while enjoying the view or to meditate on the rising sun.

The rooms have their own shower-/toilet unit and a French door opening to the view of the western mountains. The 8 rooms with ordinary double beds are located in this wing. The rest of the rooms are basically single rooms but with a second, optional bed folded against the wall as in a train sleeper.

Piers

The four piers are identical. The narrow shape with only rooms towards south is chosen to have all rooms lit by

the sun and to avoid a central, dark corridor. The roof starts at ground level and curves over the top of the west wing. There are guest rooms on all three floors in addition to a single office space at ground floor in each pier. Some of the rooms have extra high and slanted ceilings due to the shape of the roof. In 8 of the rooms the ceiling is high enough to allow for a loft room with an extra bed.

The pier has an internal backbone in the shape of a heavy rock wall which is the main structural element. On entering into privacy one penetrates the heavy wall and gets a feeling of extra protection. The outer wall of the

Ground floor plan

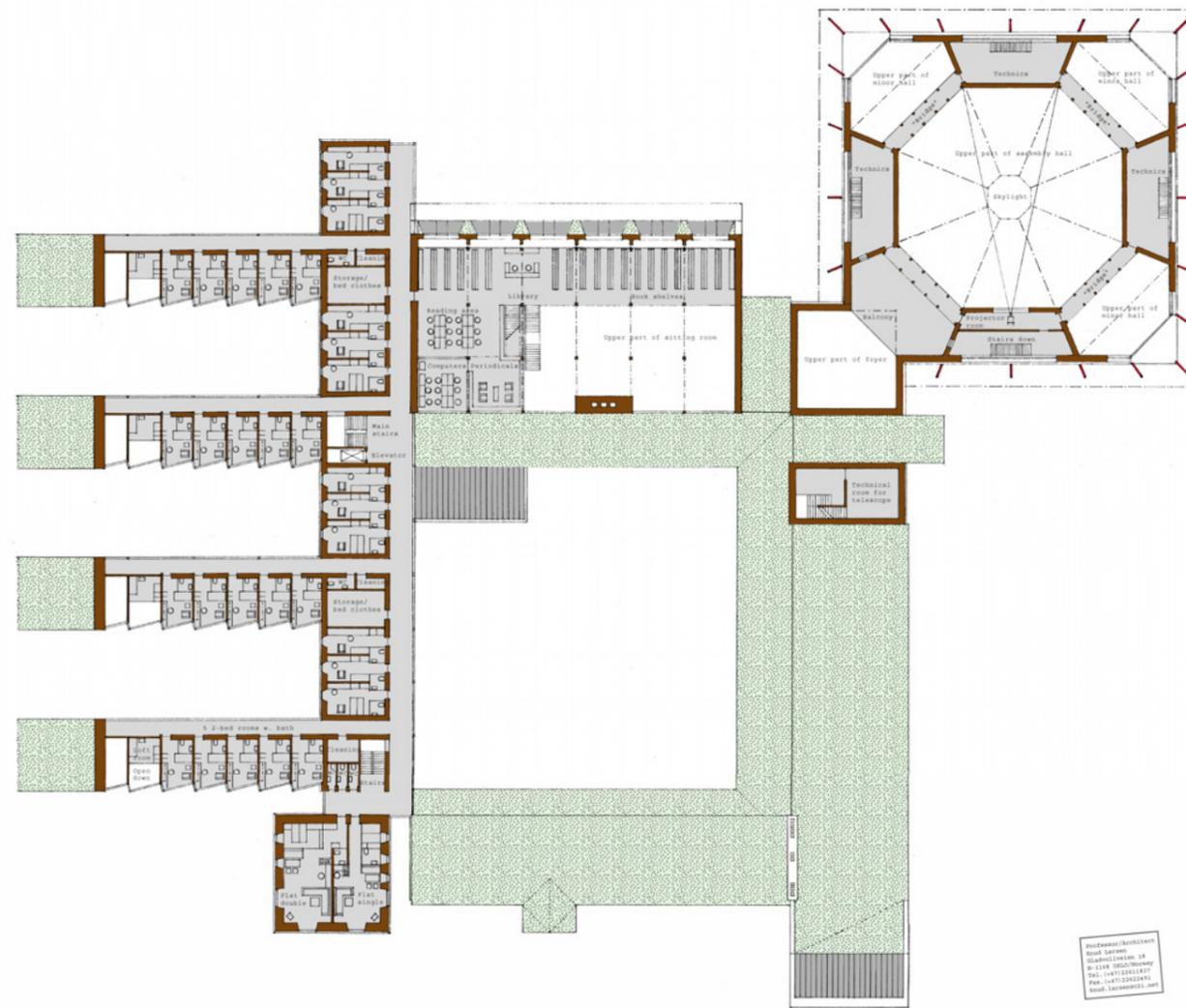
Scale 1:750

Arrival area with the main entrance right.

In the open central courtyard the grass-clad dome covering the silence room. Assembly hall at upper right, piers with rooms to the left, dining hall below right and living room in the upper centre.



The "Peace Plateau" on Mt.Tron in autumn with the Monument to the right and the site of the planned University of Peace in the centre of the picture. View towards North-North-East.



rooms is slanted to allow for a French door towards southwest and the fine view. The view will be better than seems possible at first glance at the plans since one is looking over the curved roof of the neighbouring pier. A small square window secures privacy but also allows the early sun to enter.

The room is dominated by a wooden element containing the bathroom and an alcove with basically a single bed but also with an optional extra bed like in the west wing. Still another bed can be pulled out under the single bed to make a kind of a double bed. A writing table with a light chair and a shelf on the wall receives daylight from the left and an armchair is placed so that it points to-

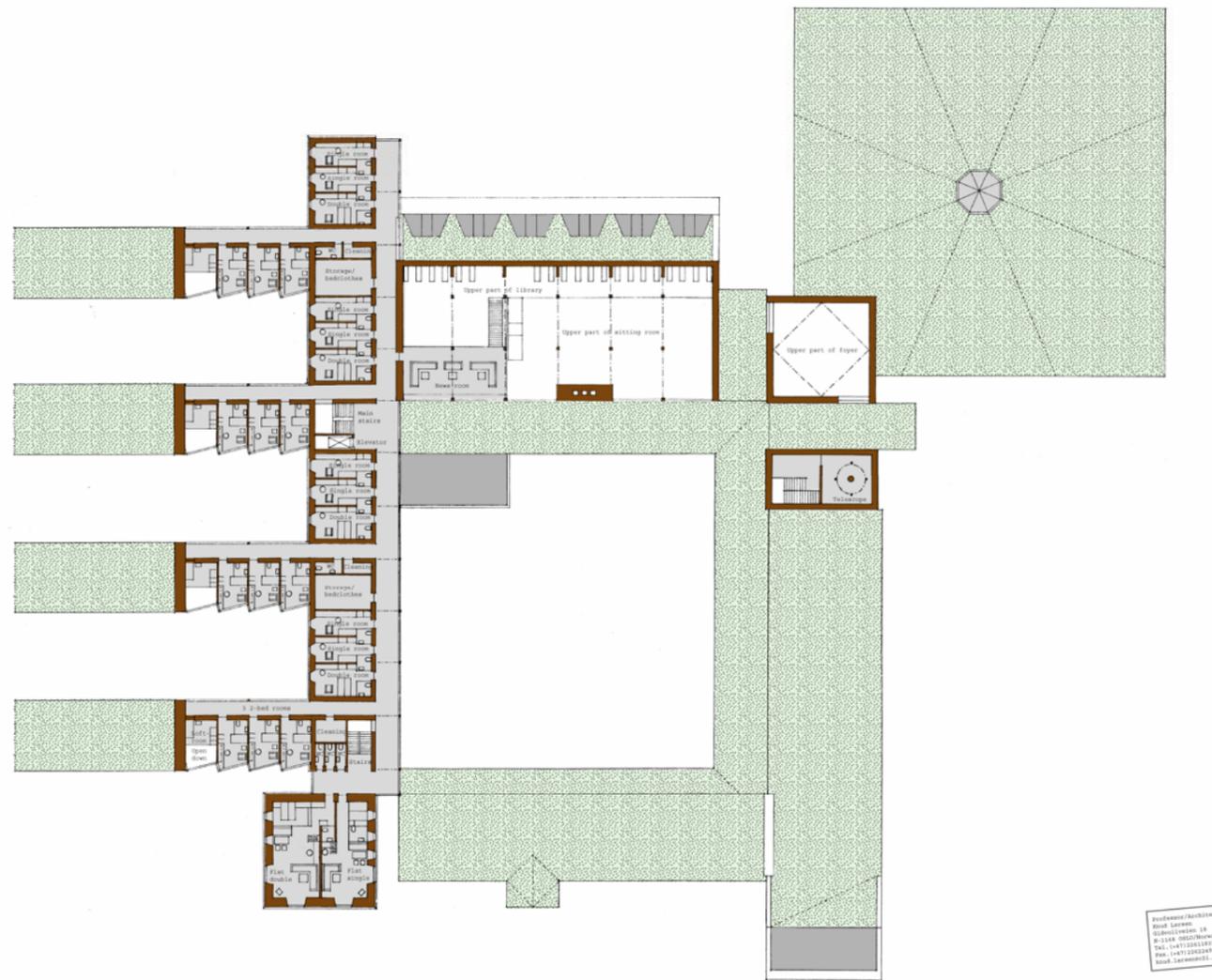
wards the view. A clothes cabinet at the end of the table delimitates an entry zone for over wear, boots, skis etc. Where there is a loft this has a bed, a clothes cabinet and a writing table towards the main room. The loft is entered by a ladder attached to the clothes cabinet in the entry zone.

The pier at ground floor ends in a storage room and an exit to the open space between the piers where the sun can be enjoyed for a few days a year. A low rock wall defines the border between the cultivated and the natural surroundings, and keeps the sheep out.

First floor plan

Scale 1:750

The library above the living room in the upper centre. The tower with flats for staff below left.



Tower

The tower is the culmination of the upward spiralling movement of the roves. In plan it reinforces the diagonal created by the assembly hall, the foyer tower and the courtyard. It is a square rock construction in four storeys topped with a very light construction covered by a double curved roof. The rock walls are only sparsely penetrated by windows giving light to the caretaker's spaces at ground floor and to flats for staff on the remaining floors. The top room is entirely glazed from floor to ceiling to celebrate the extraordinary view: undoubtedly the very best view in the country covering all the

main central mountain ranges.

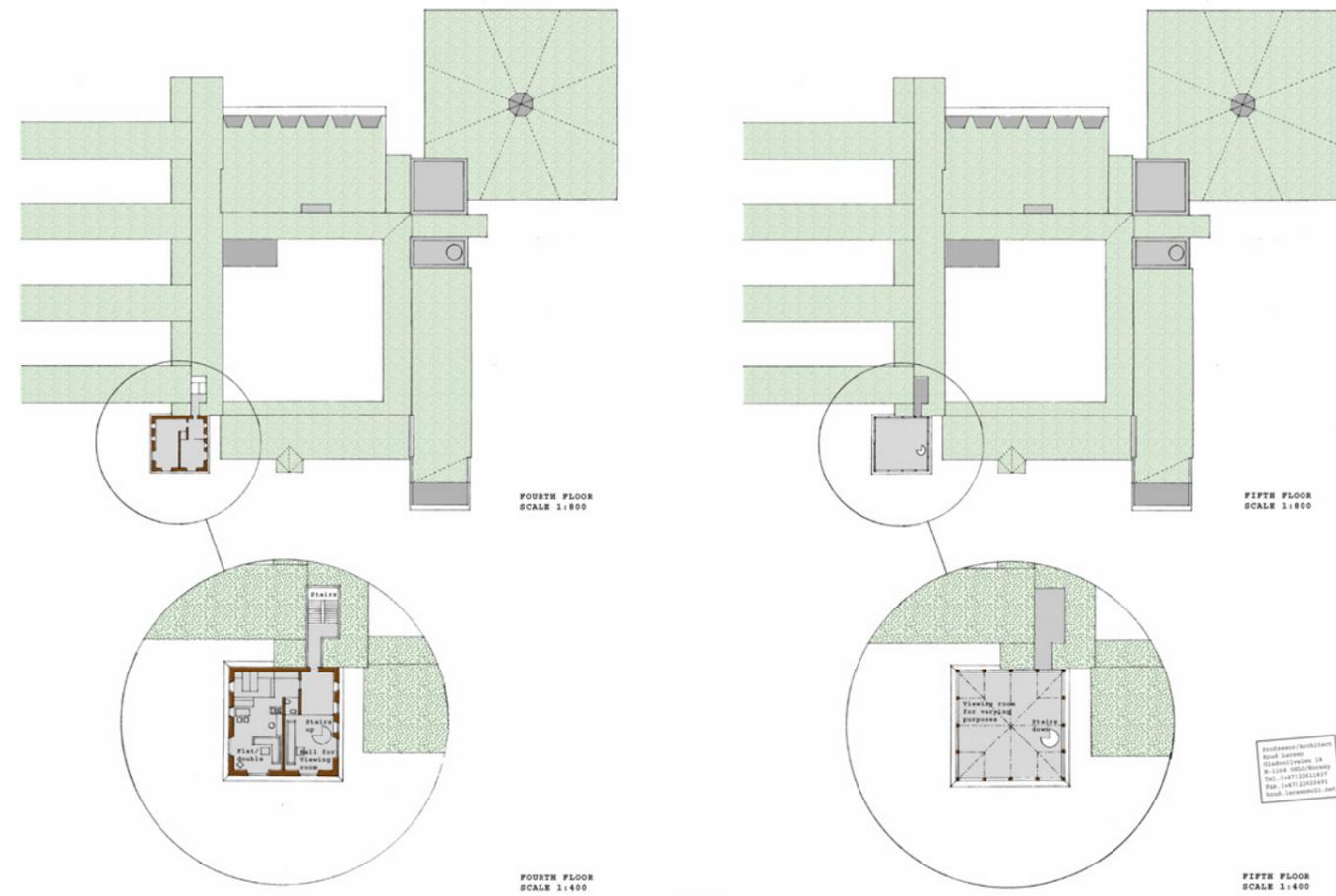
The multipurpose room has a 100 square metre free floor space with open view to all sides. Access is via spiral stairs from an ante room below. Furniture is limited to pillows.

There are three flats for couples and two flats for singles. Each flat has its own small kitchen corner, dining area, bathroom, entry zone and separate bedroom, in addition to a living room with two double French doors opening to gorgeous mountain views. The French doors can, at the sides exposed to wind, be protected by sliding shutters.

Second floor plan

Scale 1:750

The news room of the library in the upper centre. The telescope in the entrance tower to the right.



Courtyard

The courtyard is in a way the most important space of all as it symbolizes the quiet void within around which all activity centres. Its paved surface has a depression in the middle forming a pool with no defined edges. In the pool a small hill covered with grass and flowers rising to about 2 metres marks the underground silence room. From the skylight on top of the hill water is running in a gutter to the pool. In the pool itself another triangular skylight lights the entrance door from the ante room to the silence hall. This ante room is reached from an extension of the northern gallery near the main stairs. Here, stairs descend into the ante room via a wide opening in the ground covered with a light glass construction extended from the gallery. Most of the courtyard is on solid ground and therefore

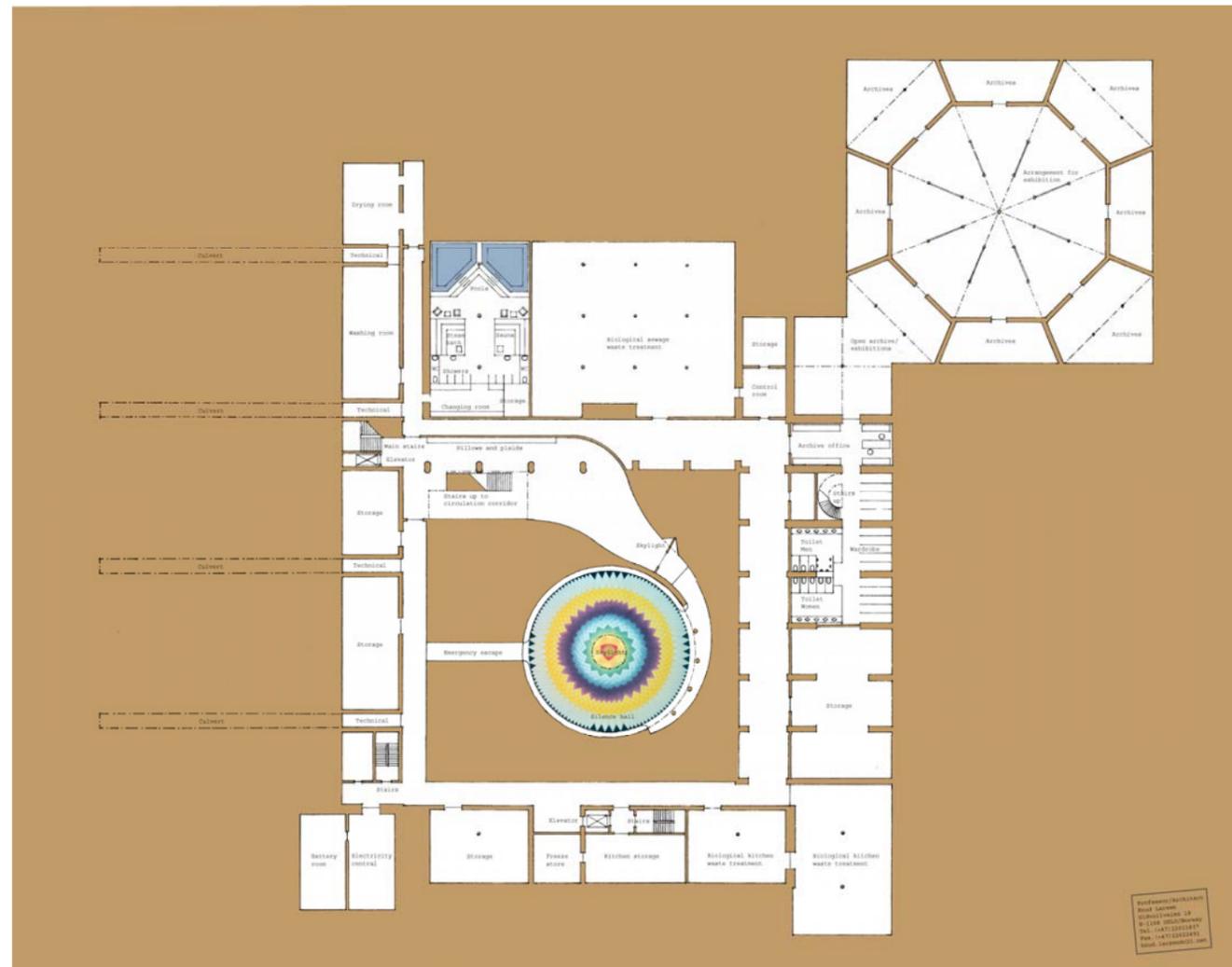
permanent plants, even small trees, can grow there. Being screened from the cold western winds will makes this space a favourite place during breaks and a couple of benches along the edges provide rest for sun seekers taking the time to enjoy a cup of tea.

Silence hall

The silence hall is a circular space covered by a dome and sunk into the courtyard so that only part of the dome shows. The intention is to give the hall a cave-like feeling. Its walls are exposed rock and a bench formed from the rock is running along the perimeter of the space. Otherwise the space is empty with a flat floor covered with a carpet with a mandala design. The space is lighted by a circular skylight at the centre of the dome. The hall is entered from an oblong ante room

Third and Fourth floor plans
Scale 1:750

The viewing room at the top of the tower has a 360 degree panoramic view of the most impressive mountain ranges of Central Norway.



narrowing to connect to the eastern side of the hall. This is done to minimise as much as possible any disturbance from the coming and going as normally people will be using the hall in an uncoordinated way. In the ante room users furnish themselves from shelves with pillows and shawls. The ante room is also accessible from the main stairs as well as from the elevator. The floor of the hall is lower than the average floor in the basement. The floor of the ante room is therefore slanting slightly, increasing the feeling of moving down into the earth.

Basement

A basement is excavated under all buildings except for the piers which only have culverts for technical installation. Some of the basement functions have already been descri-

bed and apart from those most of the space is storage. However some specific functions shall be mentioned. The basement under the kitchen contains food stores and a plant for treatment of the biological kitchen waste. Under the northern end of the west wing washing and drying rooms are located and under the north wing is a sauna and steam bath facility with pools and showers. Under the rest of the north hall is a plant for biological sewage waste treatment. Sewage is here turned into a harmless dry product suitable as fertilizer. Under the assembly hall and foyer a group of rooms functions as more or less public archives of book collections, art and objects collected through donations from all over the world. At the centre the space is used for temporary and permanent exhibitions from the archives. An ante room holds computers, registers and tables for researchers.

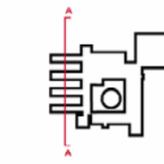
Basement plan

Scale 1:750

The central silence hall with the mandala carpet. Archives under the assembly hall. Sauna with pools under the living room.



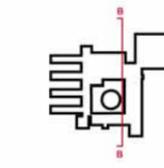
The gold of the evening sun reflected on the snow-clad Mt.Tron, New Year's Eve 2000 while the village of Alvdal is frozen at a temperature of minus 30 degrees Centigrade.



Elevation/section west
Scale 1:750

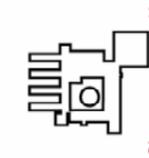
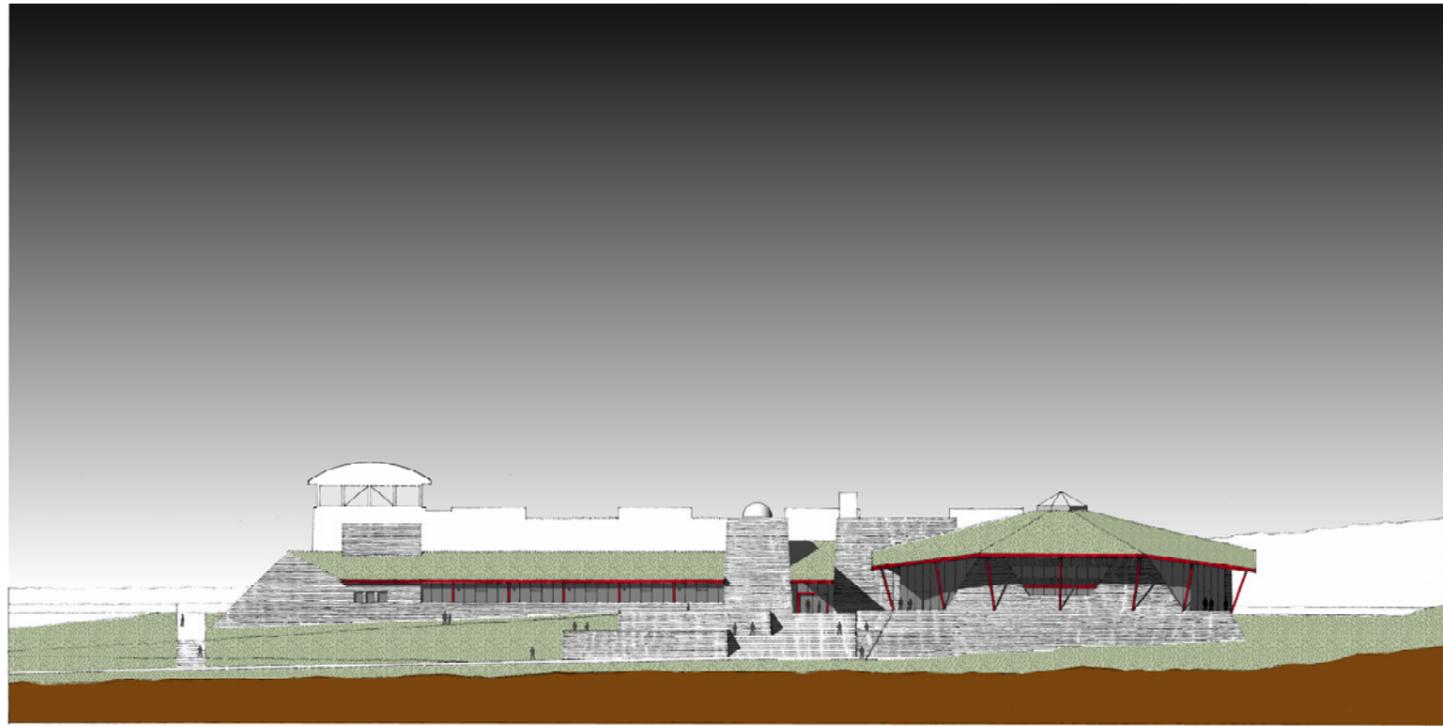
Main room wing w. meeting rooms at first floor.
Single (10) and Double (8) rooms at second and third floor.
Four secondary rooms wings w. four offices at first floor.
Two (10) and three (8) rooms (1) at first to third floor.

Viewing room (first floor)
Five staff flats (on second-fourth floor)
Laboratory/Manufacturing shop (first floor)
Technical equipment (basement)



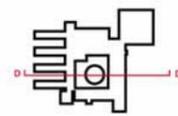
Section north-south
Scale 1:750

Service entrance
Kitchen / Bakery
Storage (basement)
Narrow Hall (basement)
Open courtyard
Newspaper room (third floor)
Library (second floor)
Living room (first floor)
Biological waste water treatment (basement)



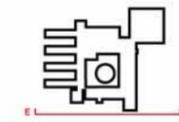
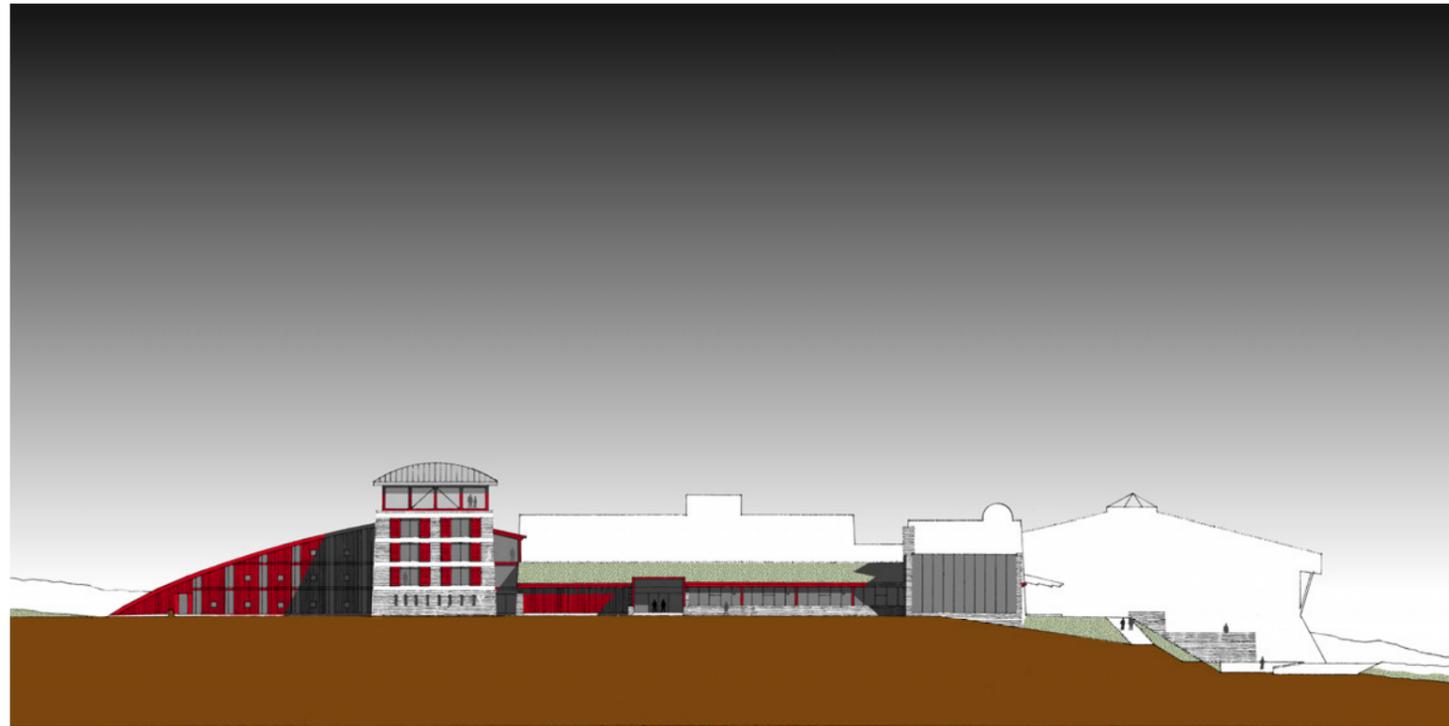
Elevation east
Scale 1:750

Driveway Greenhouse / Bio shelter Kitchen Dining hall Telescope second- and third floor/ Main entrance Assembly hall



Section east-west
Scale 1:750

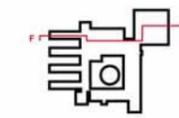
Bedroom wings Open courtyard Kitchen second-floor floor/ Living room second floor/ Solar cell panels in library window Cafeteria Dining hall (first floor) Bedroom stairs and lavatories Sidewalk Driveway



Elevation south
Scale 1:750

Viewing from (11th Floor)
 Staff flats (on second-fourth floor)
 Discharge/Reception shop (1st floor)
 Technical equipment (basement)

Garage Service entrance Kiosk Greenhouse/2nd office Sidewalk Driveway



Section east-west
Scale 1:750

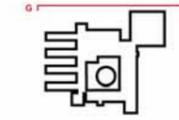
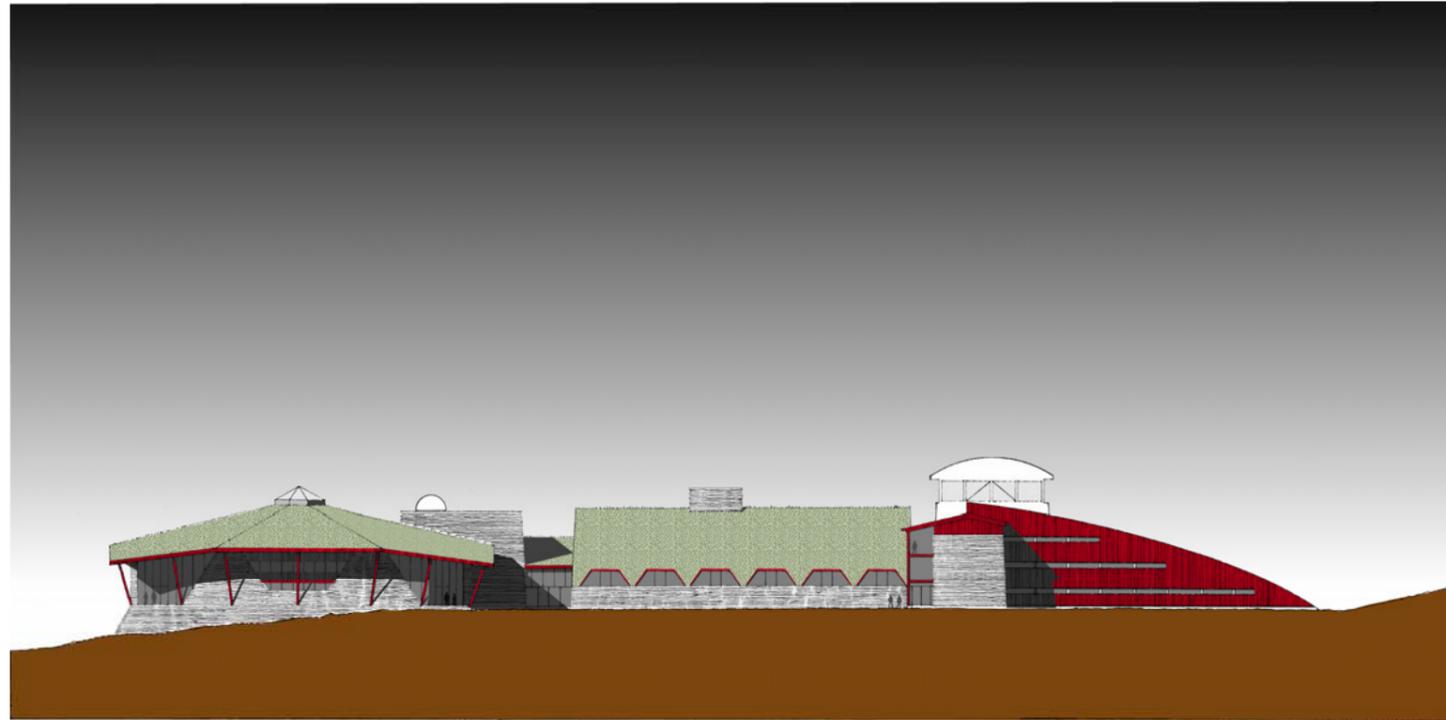
Assembly hall (1st floor)
 Active (basement)

Paper

Spring room (1st floor)
 Biological waste treatment (basement)

Library (ground-floor)
 Bio/Pharm/Genetics (basement)

Bedroom wings



Elevation north
Scale 1:750

Materials

The multiplicity of forms is counteracted by the consistent use of only a few simple materials. Rock walls anchor the buildings to the natural rock. The walls “grow” out of the ground and could basically stand by themselves. Their lightly slanted outer surfaces reinforce this anchoring to the ground and facilitate their construction. Ideally all the stone walls should have been built first as a framework seemingly cut out of the natural rock itself and then the lighter constructions added later. The intention is to create a clear feeling of the walls growing up from below and the rest of the building being lowered down to be supported by the “natural” walls. This means that the stone walls “grow” as high as needed in each case for support and fire protection.

The second material is wood. New research has opened up for wooden constructions even in apartment buildings. Once the fire protection is properly taken care of wood can be used in all constructions and the use of concrete and steel can be reduced to a minimum. Wood is also economically advantageous in this location with

only a short period of road access as it secures a dry, fast building process with light elements (difficult transport).

The third material is glass. New types of glass with increased energy efficiency are constantly being developed. Large glass areas are therefore not necessarily a waste of energy. Glass with embedded solar cells is used in the large south wall in the north wing and probably also in the galleries of the west wing if feasible. Glass frames are made of wood with aluminium on the exposed outer surfaces.

The fourth material is the grass covered roves. These roves are traditional in Central Norway. They are beautiful and long lasting. The “grass” in this case is not ordinary lowland grass but a combination of the sparse vegetation on the plateau. The tower and the telescope cupola are clad with sheet metal.

Interior floors in ground floor galleries, kitchen and service areas are all polished natural stone. All other floors are from wood. Interior walls are, where not stone, all panelled with wood, possibly painted.



Mt. Tron in summer seen from the village of Alvodal with view towards North-East.

Equipment

All furniture is made of solid wood upholstered with textile. Carpets, apart from in the silence room, are only used in the living room and library. The guest rooms and staff flats will eventually have some small carpets. These are all specially designed for the Peace University and probably handmade in Tibet. Ceramic tableware, glasses, cutlery, tablecloths and furniture textiles are also specially designed and produced for the site by some of the many craft friends of the Peace University. Many kinds of art objects produced specially for this purpose by artist friends from all over the world are found both indoors and outside. Each guest room has a painting or other art object which can be exchanged by the guest from a store of art in the archives. The choice is made from a visual database between a wide range of art objects from Tibetan thangka to modern photographs and posters.

Provisions

A natural water source emerges on the plateau close to the site at the foot of the mountain top. A small dam with a pump and an underground pipe will generate the necessary freshwater.

Electrical energy is provided for the existing technical installations on the mountain top. A line will have to be drawn from there. Eventually the Peace University should supply its own electricity from a wind generator located together with the other two technical installations on the summit.

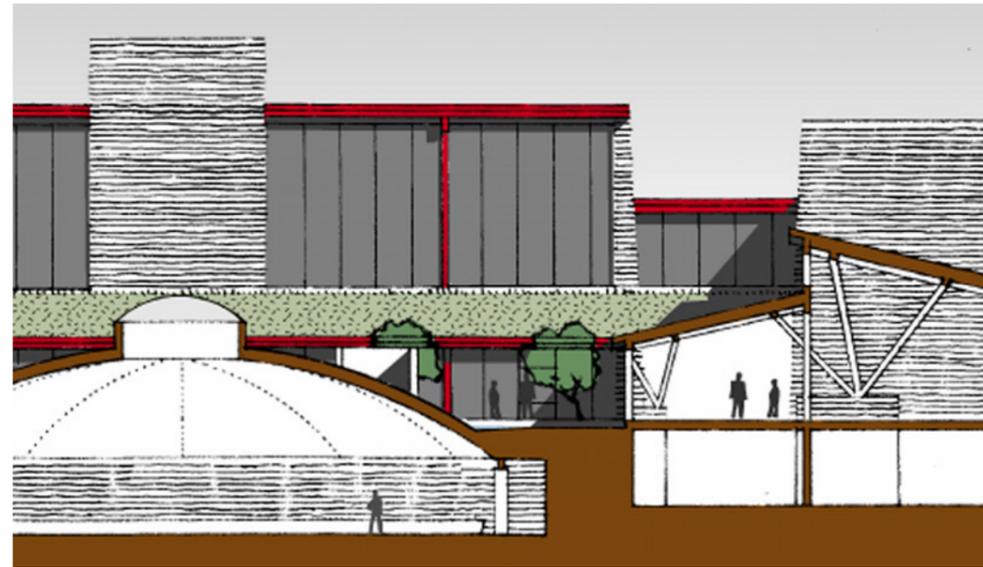
External services

Extra hotel capacity, both large scale and private, in the valley is needed at times of big events with several hundred guests. Ecological grain, vegetables and egg production will naturally occupy farmers in the neighbourhood and the valley. Daily transport of external guests by bus, taxi and snowmobile will be a major undertaking. There will be a number of service jobs for local people at the Peace University buildings, for example cooking, cleaning and general maintenance.

CONCLUSION

The Mt. Tron Peace University as a living place

The activity level in the Mt. Tron Peace University will vary greatly. At times the place will bustle with activity with hundreds of people milling around, at times it will be very quiet with only a few residents absorbed in their

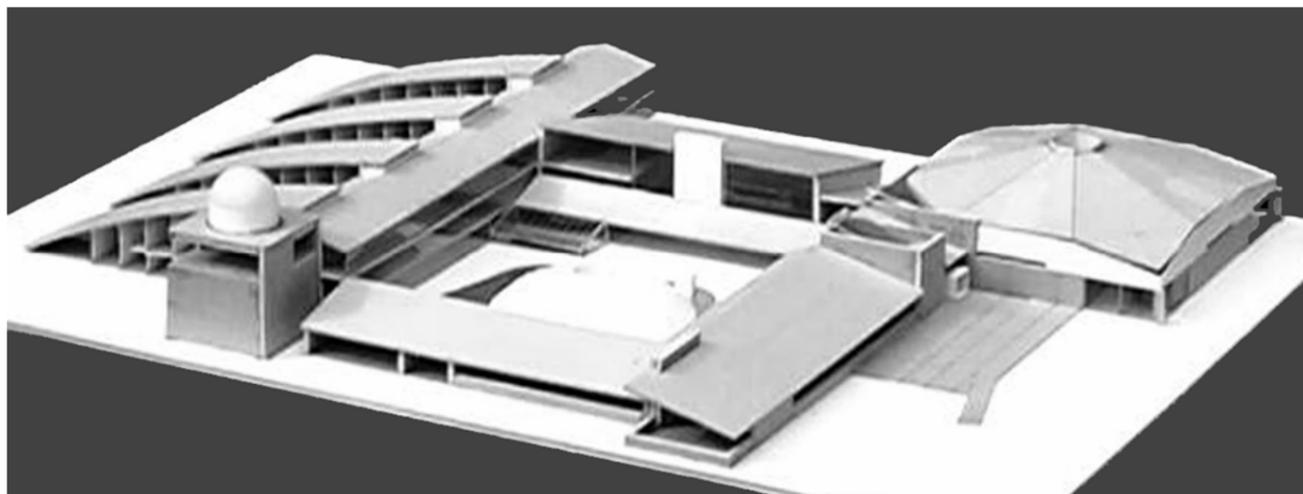
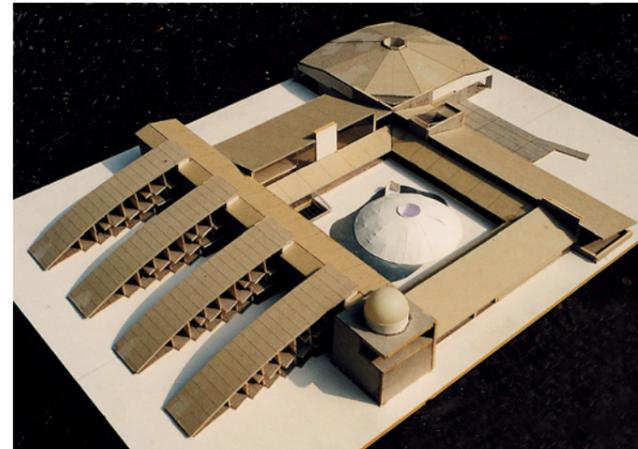
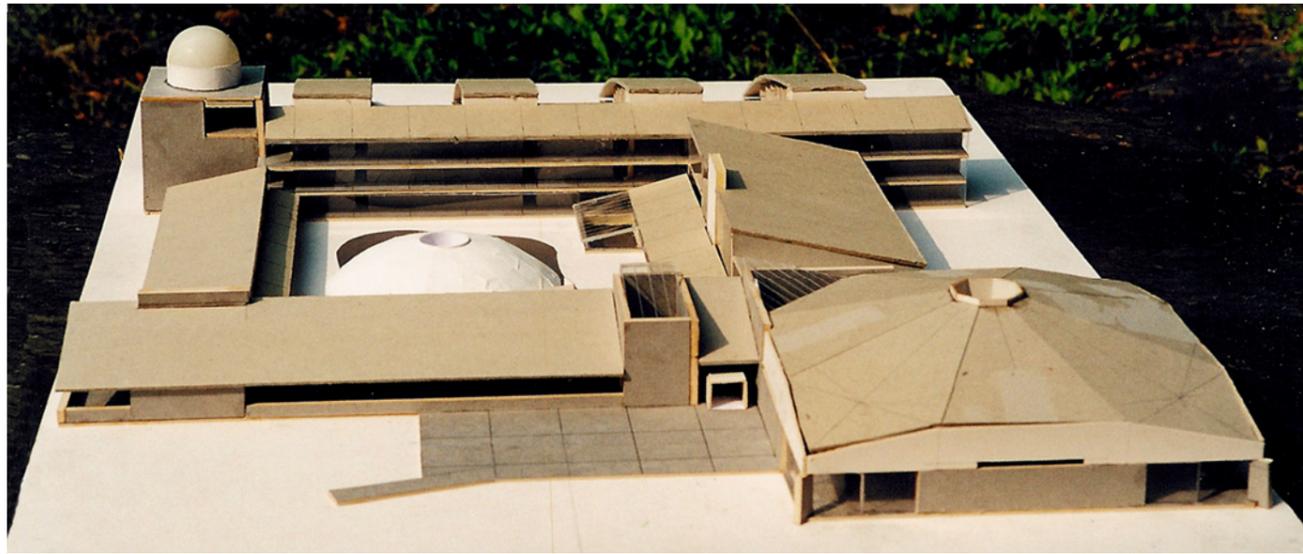


Detail of section on page 25

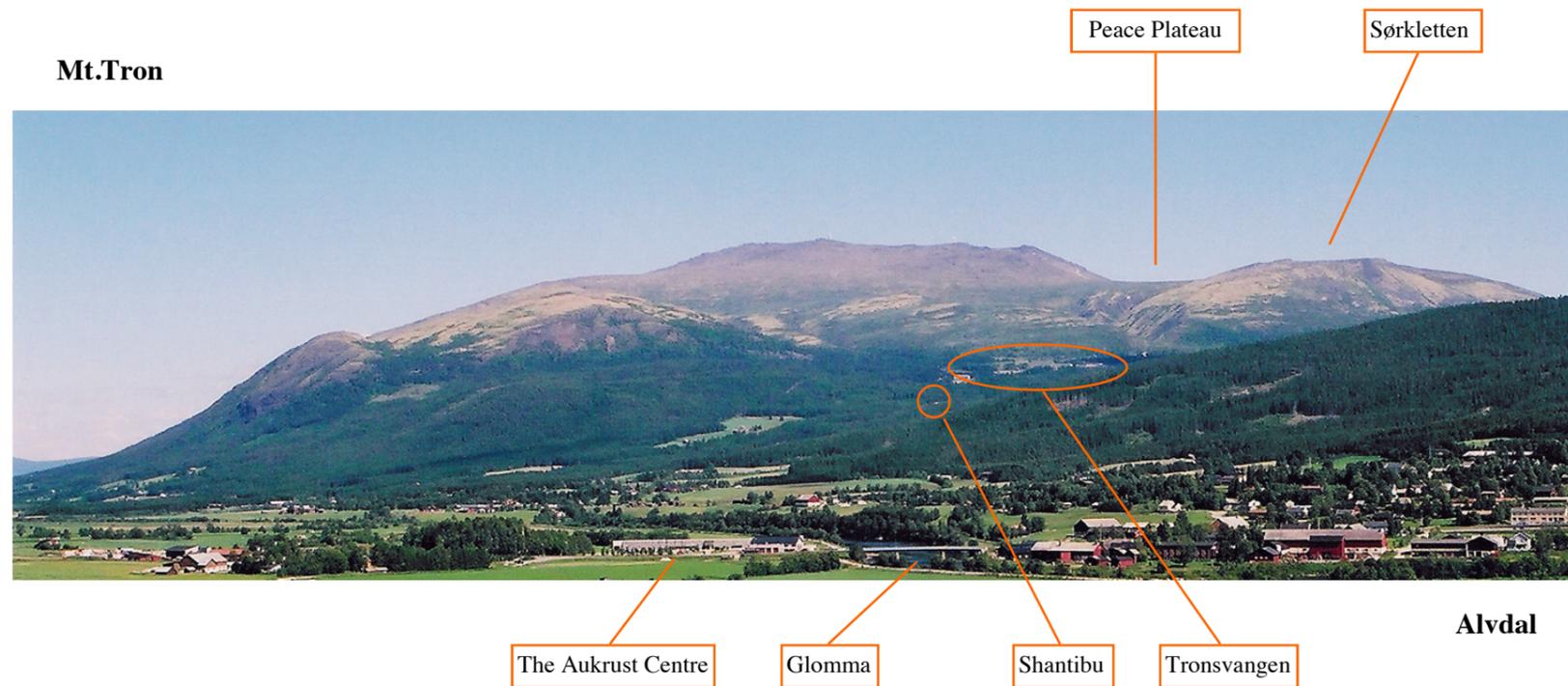
own projects. The challenge for the architecture is to prepare the stimulating, human backdrop for both types of activity level. On the one hand, in a very practical sense all the spaces shall be shaped to handle masses of people communicating and relaxing in one type of space and then moving effortlessly to another type of space. On the other hand, any space shall also be inviting to a single person wanting to make use of its potential. The flow of movement shall be so natural that minimal directional signs are needed. This is achieved by the right use of dimension, proportion, texture and colour.

Architecture is the delightful play of light and shadow over surfaces of different materials and patterns. A natural use of materials where the properties of each material is well known and clearly exposed will quieten the mind. The right introduction in each space of abundant sunlight will give meaning to the space and connect to time and the outer world. How stimulating and uplifting are shafts of sunlight “wandering” through and articulating a space and its familiar surfaces, be it a room or an open landscape!

The basic intention behind the architecture of the Mt. Tron University of Peace is to create an environment, in this inhospitable but at the same time extremely uplifting environment, which is so functional, natural, beautiful and filled with light that, not only does it put minimal stress on the mind, but it also exposes the radiant beauty of all creation.



Rough model
Three views of an earlier development stage. Since then the main entrance has been changed. The telescope has been moved from the top of the tower to one of the smaller entrance towers and a greenhouse (bio shelter) has been added to the kitchen wing. Finally the assembly hall and the living room/library building have been reshaped.



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