

THE JOURNEY MAGAZINE

Projects 2026
by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



► THE ALMENDINGEN ARCHIPELAGO

This is the Almendingen archipelago

A place shaped by nature — and the passage of time. To reach Almendingen, you travel to the edge of the world. Past mountains and fjords, beyond the roads — to where land gives way to sea. Even before you arrive, you start to understand — the journey is part of what you came for.



► ARCHITECTURAL GEMS FOR SALE

Two islands. Two masterpieces by Snorre Stinessen

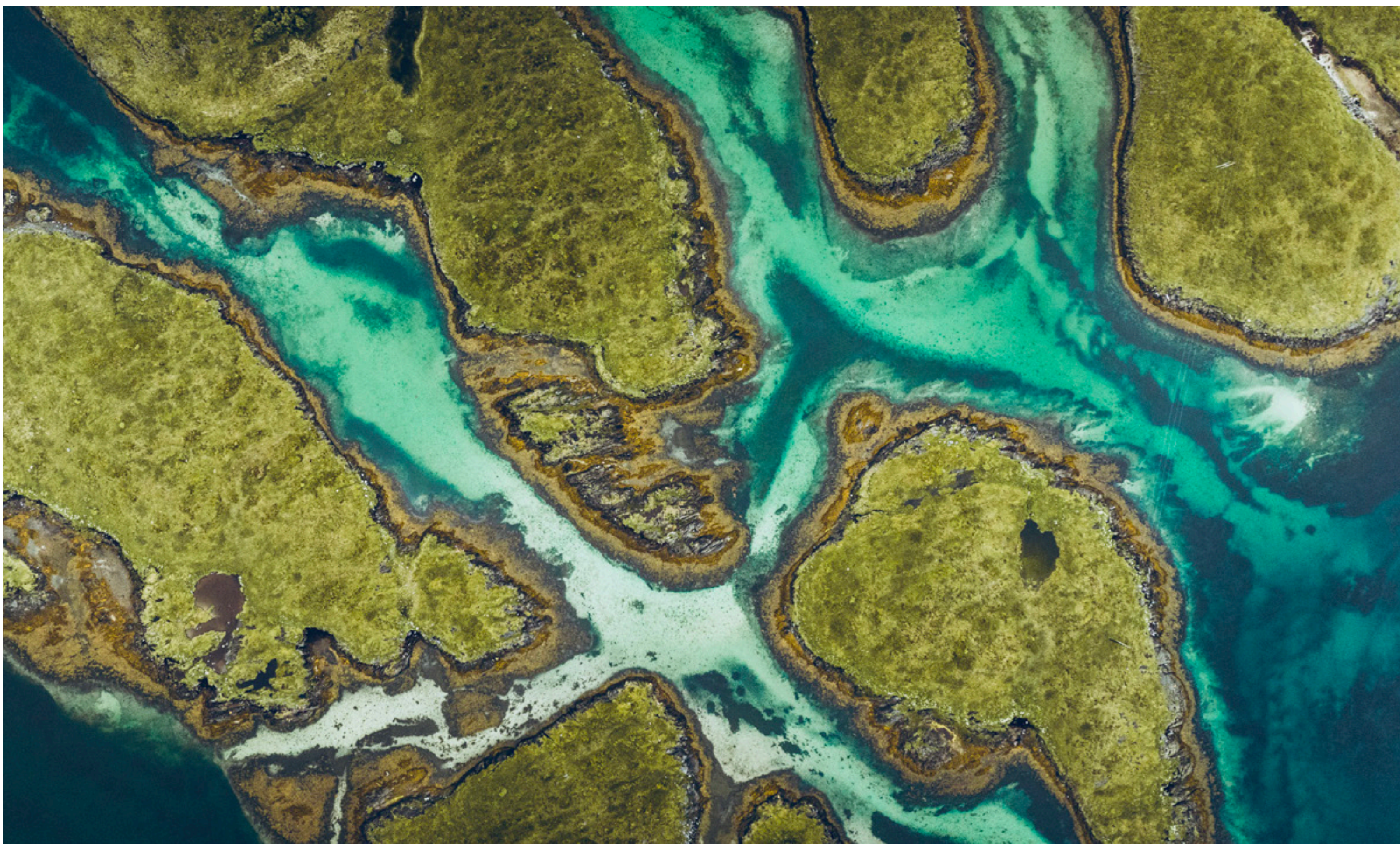
On the Almendingen island, a UFO-like house seems to have touched down from another world — resting softly by the shore, wrapped in glass and light, offering endless vistas of sea, sky, and the scattered pearls of the archipelago.



Across the water on Skjåholmen, another vision unfolds — a sculptural wave in wood and glass that rises from the rock as if shaped by the wind itself. Both houses are sanctuaries of solitude and design, each with its own island, suspended between ocean and horizon — framed by the majestic Seven Sisters mountains.

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





► **The archipelago at the journeys end**

Just off the coast of Sandnessjøen, and only a few miles north of The World Heritage landscape of Vega – lies Herøy – a vibrant archipelago of larger inhabited islands surrounded by thousands of smaller islets and skerries.

Far out among them, where the sea and sky merge into endless horizons, you'll find a small cluster of islands – named **Almendingen** by the locals – a place where nature still sets the rhythm and tranquility feels untouched by time.

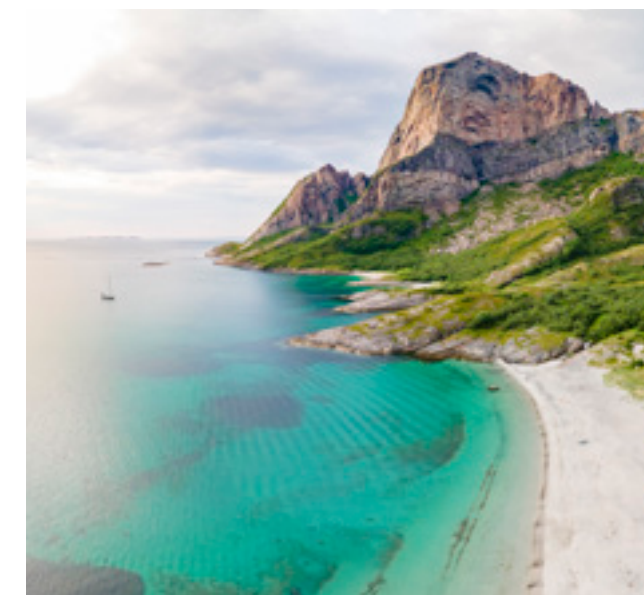
THE ALMENDINGEN ARCHIPELAGO

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





... the journey itself is part of what you came for.



THE JOURNEY TO

ALMENDINGEN





by Snorre Stinessen Architecture

THE JOURNEY

There are places you don't simply visit.
You arrive — slowly.
Through air, wind and sea,
until the world around you starts to quiet down.

This is Almendingen.
A place shaped by nature — and the passage of time.

To reach Almendingen, you travel to the edge of the world.
Past mountains and fjords, beyond the roads
— to where land gives way to sea. Even before you arrive,
you start to understand
— the journey is part of what you came for.

You come here by sea, or by sky.
Not because it's easy
— but because it's worth it.
Each mile takes you deeper into something real.
Something true.

The first time you arrive, you feel something ancient.
A calm that doesn't ask to be found — but will find you anyway.

Almendingen is for those who seek connection
— with nature, with others, and with themselves.
Here, luxury is not about excess.
It's about belonging.

In the end, the journey to Almendingen never truly ends.
Because once you've been here,
something inside you stays.

This is Almendingen.

North of ordinary.
Closer to self.





by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





► **A paddler's paradise**
The archipelago that begins at Vega stretches north toward the many islands of Herøy. Here, a paddler's paradise unfolds among the shallow, sheltered waters around Sandvær and Husvær – perfect for exploring by kayak.

WHERE KAYAKING FEELS LIKE PARADISE

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





ARCHITECT OF CALM

On the edge of the sea, architecture becomes poetry. Meet Snorre Stinessen — the visionary Architect behind the Nordbu and Skjåholmen lodges at Almendingen.

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PROJECT MADNESS

Behind Almendingen lies a family's dream — meet the Olsvik-Dengeruds, the heart and soul of what they lovingly call their project madness.

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THE WAVE

At the remote island of Skjåholmen a wave is literally transforming out of the iconic coastal landscape. House No. 1 for sale

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NORDBU LANDING

It looks like this new Stinessen house just landed on top of the Almendingen island. House No. 2 for sale

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THE SPIRIT OF THE COAST

Meet the people of the Herøy archipelago — neighbours, friends, and passionate guides who bring the landscape to life in every season.

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► **Design & Copywriting:**
Thomas Riise / fronthub.no

Photo
We gratefully acknowledge Visit Helgeland for access to their image bank, showcasing the work of many outstanding photographers.

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by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



ARCHITECT OF CALM

Out here in the Helgeland archipelago, nature sets the rhythm — wide horizons, quiet islands, and the ever-changing Arctic light. It is this landscape that inspired architect Snorre Stinessen. Known for architecture that listens before it speaks, his work is shaped by a deep respect for place.

At Almendingen, his sculptural houses rise carefully from the rocks — bold in design, yet calm in presence. Architecture that doesn't compete with nature. But frames it.

► **Design & Copy:** Thomas Riise / Fronthub
Photos: Ivar Kvaal, Albrecht Voss (Cabane Tortin),
Kjell Ove Storvik (Manshausen), Steve King (Malangen)
og Snorre Stinessen Architecture (Aurora Lodge).



THE SOUL OF ALMENDINGEN



Meet Award winning Architect Snorre Stinessen.

Working between the Arctic light of Tromsø and the softer Mediterranean rhythms of Italy, architect Snorre Stinessen has built a reputation for designing architecture that feels both strikingly modern and deeply connected to its surroundings.

His work does not seek to dominate the landscape. Instead, it listens carefully — to wind, light, and terrain — and responds with quiet confidence.

From his studio in Tromsø, Stinessen has spent years shaping buildings along some of the most dramatic coastlines in the world. Yet his approach remains remarkably humble. Nature sets the stage; architecture simply frames the experience.

His philosophy has earned international recognition. In 2025, Stinessen received **the prestigious Architizer A+ Award**, honoring projects that push architecture forward while remaining grounded in human experience. The award places him among a selected group of architects whose work is shaping the future of contemporary design.

When the Dengerud family first brought Snorre Stinessen here, they called it their “project madness.” A dream born from equal parts courage, curiosity, and love for this wild and beautiful place. What began as a vision for a family retreat has evolved into a destination unlike any other — a living expression of nature, architecture, and human connection.

Snorre looks out towards the endless ocean, follows the waves: “I didn’t want to build on these islands,” Snorre almost whispers: **“I wanted to build with them.”**

Each structure in Almendingen is born from its surroundings — not imposed upon them. **The Almendingen House** will soon rise from the rocky terrain of the main

island, becoming the quiet heart of the wider estate. More than a residence, it is conceived as the operational and hospitality centre of Almendingen, supporting curated experiences, guest services and the people who bring the archipelago to life. From here, guides, chefs and hosts can help unlock the possibilities of the surrounding islands while preserving the sense of privacy and seclusion that defines the place.

At selected times of the year, The Almendingen House may also be experienced on its own terms through a limited number of **private and carefully curated stays**. Crafted from natural materials that will age gracefully in the coastal climate, it is designed to belong to the landscape rather than compete with it.

But accolades are not what define Stinessen. At heart, he remains a craftsman. While much of today’s architecture begins on a screen, Stinessen often begins with a sketchbook. Lines drawn by hand slowly evolve into spaces that feel both precise and organic — buildings that appear almost inevitable in their surroundings.

This approach is clearly visible in the two lodges he designed for the islands surrounding Almendingen.

On the island of **Skjåholmen** Stinessen has created a flowing structure that resembles a wave unfolding across the rock. Wood and glass curve gently along the contours of the island, forming a building that feels shaped by wind and sea rather than imposed upon them.

Across the water on **Nordbu**, the design takes on a different expression. A striking wood and glass structure appears to hover above the shoreline. Often described as a UFO-like landing, the house is



► **The Skjåholmen Wave**
The Skjåholmen house, shaped like a wave of glass and wood, resting quietly on its own island.



Architect of calm

Snorre Stinessen, the award-winning architect whose calm, sculptural designs define the Almendingen houses.



both futuristic and subtle — a sculptural form that opens itself completely toward the horizon. Large panoramic windows dissolve the boundary between interior and exterior, allowing the surrounding archipelago, ocean, and the Seven Sisters mountain range to become part of the architecture itself.

“For me, great architecture is about the entire experience, where every detail matters. From the precision and craftsmanship of **Polar Life Haus** to the exceptional design and quality of **Expo Nova**, **Poliform** and **Antonio Lupi**, we have brought together partners who share the same uncompromising commitment to excellence. The ambition is to create something truly extraordinary, where architecture, materials and interiors come together as one seamless expression,” says Snorre.

Though visually distinct, both houses share the same architectural DNA: openness, restraint, and a deep respect for place. Each sits lightly in the landscape, offering uninterrupted views across the islands and the ever-changing northern sky.

This ability to combine bold contemporary design with a sense of calm is what has made Stinessen one of the most compelling voices in Nordic architecture today. His buildings do not shout for attention. They invite you to pause, to breathe, and to look outward.

Perhaps that is why his work feels so at home in places like Almendingen — landscapes where silence, horizon, and weather are as important as walls and roofs.

In the end, Snorre Stinessen’s architecture is not simply about buildings. It is about creating spaces where people can reconnect with the world around them — and perhaps with themselves.

**North of ordinary.
Closer to self.**



ARCHITECT SNORRE STINESSEN

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





► **The man and his sketch book**
For Snorre Stinessen, every project starts the same way — a sketchbook, a conversation, and the first lines always drawn by hand.

THE SKETCHBOOK

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



Cabane Tortin, Swiss alps
 Like an eagle's eyrie, Cabane Tortin is perched above the millenia-old Tortin glacier at 3000 meters altitude in the the Swiss resort of Nendaz/Verbier,



Manshausen, Malangen & Aurora Lodge'
 The Renowed projects at Manshausen (1), Malangen (2) and the Aurora Lodge in Lyngen (3 and 4).

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



PROJECT MADNESS

Behind Almendingen lies a family's great dream — meet the Olsvik - Dengeruds, the heart and soul of what they lovingly refer to as their project madness.

► **Design & Copy:** Thomas Riise / Fronthub
Photo: FlyBy & the Olsvik-Dengerud family



MEET THE OLSVIK-DENGERUD FAMILY



Some ideas begin quietly.
Others begin with a leap into the unknown.

For Terje Dengerud and Ellen Olsvik, the vision for Almendingen started as a simple thought: What if we created something truly different here?

Not just another destination. But a place inspired by the history of the place and the many families who lived on these islands more than 60 years ago. And, rooted in nature, local knowledge, and bold architecture — a place where the raw beauty and history of the Helgeland coast could meet new ideas, new experiences, and a new way of living with the ocean.

What followed was what the couple themselves jokingly call “Project Madness.”

In the middle of the Herøy archipelago, they acquired several small neighboring islands — windswept pieces of land surrounded by crystal-clear water, seabirds, and the quiet rhythm of the Atlantic.

On one of the largest islands, a farm as the heart of the project is taking shape: A farm utilizing the strength of the surroundings: wild sheep farming and seaweed production, paired with an adventure center, guest rooms, and a lodge where visitors can stay and experience life in the archipelago.

While Almendingen may look forward, its foundations are deeply rooted in history.
For generations, these islands were part of a working coastal farm, where fishing and agriculture went hand in hand. The landscape visitors experience today was shaped by people living from the sea and the land, maintaining fields, grazing animals, and harvesting nature’s resources.

For Terje Dengerud and Ellen Olsvik, restoring Almendingen is not simply about creating something new. It is also about bringing new life to an old tradition.

It will also be the home of the Dengerud family’s own farm house — a place to gather, host, and share the landscape they have come to love.

But the vision does not stop there.
On the two neighboring islands, two spectacular architectural statements are rising from the rocks — each designed by renowned architect Snorre Stinessen. Each island will host one single lodge, sculptural and striking, placed carefully within the landscape. Private retreats where architecture and nature meet, offering a rare experience of solitude at the edge of the Arctic Ocean.

Even the buildings of the farm — the activity centre, the lodge, and the guest spaces — carry the same architectural signature.

It is an ambitious project.
A risky one.

But projects like this rarely begin with calculations alone. They begin with something deeper: curiosity, passion, and a willingness to believe that extraordinary things can happen even in the most remote corners of the world.

The Olsvik-Dengeruds know this well.

What started as an idea has grown into a vision for something rare — a place where sea, architecture, food, and local culture come together in a way that feels both modern and deeply rooted in the traditions of the coast. A bold dream in the middle of the archipelago.

Perhaps a little madness.
But the best ideas often are.



► **At the building site**
The architect Snorre Stinessen (left) with Terje Dengerud, Cathrine Myrland Stinessen and Ellen Olsvik (right)

THE ARCHITECT AND THE OLSVIK-DENGERUD’S





► **Hiking towards the top**
Summer hiking in the surrounding mountains, with sweeping views across the Helgeland archipelago.

THE DØNNAMANNEN MOUNTAINS

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



Norwegian Crab on the Menu ▶
Fish, mussels, oysters and Norwegian crab — harvested from the surrounding waters and served straight to the table.



▲ **The Dengerud family**
The son Erik as Captain (1), mother Ellen Olsvik (2), daughter Karianne fishing (3) and the family hiking with the Seven Sisters mountains as spectacular backdrop (4).



THE WAVE

Skjåholmen is a sculptural wave of glass and timber, that seems to rise from the sea itself — a dialogue between light, transparency, and motion.

► **Design & Copy:** Thomas Riise / Fronthub
Photo: FlyBy & Snorre Stinessen Architecture



HOUSE NOT FOR SALE



by Snorre Stinessen Architecture

Welcome to Skjáholmen

Out on the edge of the archipelago, where three small islands almost touch at low tide, lies the plot at 28/10 — a quiet outpost shaped by wind, weather, and centuries of coastal life. Here, bedrock breaks through the heather, the sea moves in slow rhythms, and the horizon wraps around you like an open invitation.

The house is part of a larger vision unfolding across these islands: a collection of refined retreats and small-scale cultivation, designed for travellers who seek the rare and the real. High-end, yes — but rooted in the landscape, in local knowledge, and in the promise of tailored experiences crafted together with the people who live here.

From a distance, the building barely reveals itself. Two long rooflines rise gently from the terrain, echoing the island's own contours as they lift toward the northeast. Beneath them, a cluster of rooms forms a sheltered courtyard — a modern tun — where indoor and outdoor life blend seamlessly. Glass, stone, and timber frame moments rather than walls, creating places to linger while leaving the surrounding nature untouched. The architecture doesn't try to disappear. Instead, it listens. It mirrors the weight and rhythm of the landscape, offering a presence that feels both deliberate and deeply respectful. Wildlife passes quietly, seemingly

unbothered by people who remain within the soft boundaries of roof and glass. The design defines where life unfolds, so the rest of the island can remain wild.

From the main sea route, the house is almost invisible — a low, sculpted form dressed in materials that echo the stone slopes of Skjáholmen. From within, however, the world opens: the shifting sea, the silent islets, the endless northern sky.

This is not just a building. It is a way of arriving — slowly, gently — into a landscape that has always been here, waiting for those who choose to listen.

[Plot 28/10]



The Wave

The Skjáholmen house — sculptural architecture by Snorre Stinessen, rising from the rocks above the sea.

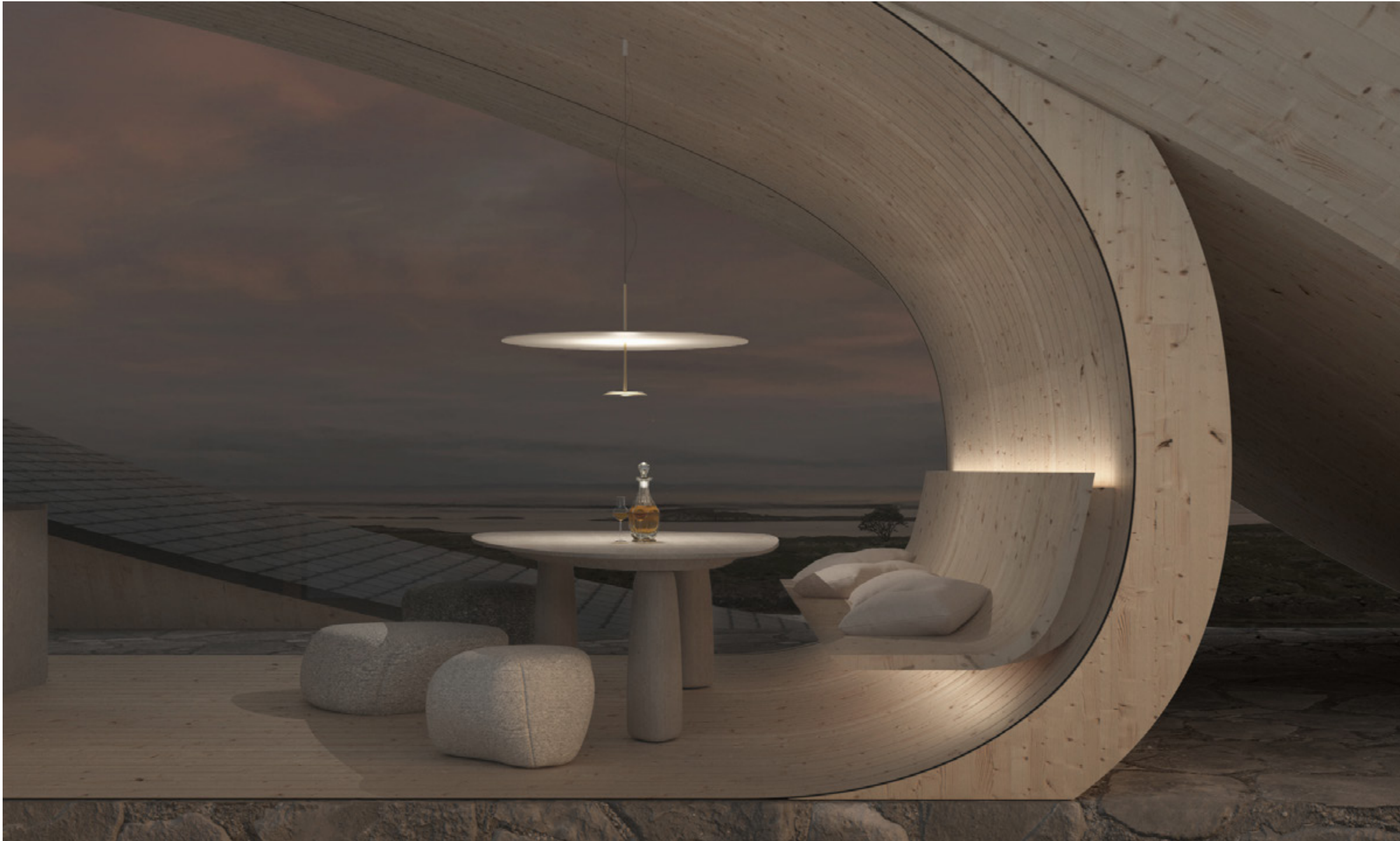
Polar Life Haus — building the Skjáholmen Vision

Family-owned for generations, Polar Life Haus is a global supplier of premium, sustainable timber homes. Combining advanced factory prefabrication with bespoke craftsmanship, the company delivers fully integrated building systems where every detail is carefully engineered. This approach ensures exceptional quality while making it possible to build efficiently and predictably in remote, weather-exposed locations such as Almendingen.

polarlifehaus.com

PANORAMIC VISTAS





► **Curved interior walls**
The wave shape flows into the interior, where soft, rounded walls mirror the building's sculptural form.

THE WAVE FORM FLOWS INTO THE INTERIOR

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



A Wave with a view

The wave form extends indoors, shaping the interior with soft, rounded lines.

Excellence in Every Detail

From architecture to interiors, no compromises. The Nordbu house bring together world-class design and exceptional craftsmanship.

Manufactured by Polar Life

Haus, with exclusive kitchens, bathrooms, furnishings and interiors from renowned design houses **Poliform** and **Antonio Lupi** delivered through our long term partners at **Expo Nova**. Every element is carefully curated to reflect the highest standards of quality, sophistication and timeless design.



Skjåholmen

Interior details from the wave shaped house (1, 2 and 4).
The Kitchen (3)



NORDBU LANDING

The house at the Nordbu island perches like a grounded spacecraft, an organic landing from another world. Its form opens in two directions, capturing both the vastness of the ocean and the intimacy of solitude.

► **Design & Copy:** Thomas Riise / Fronthub
Photo: FlyBy & Snorre Stinessen Architecture



HOUSE NO. 2 FOR SALE



Meet the Nordbu house

On Almenningen — the quiet island between Innerøya and Skjåholmen — the landscape opens in soft folds of heather and stone. Here, where the tide draws delicate lines between three islands, the house on plot 28/11 finds its place: not above the archipelago, but within it.

This home belongs to a wider vision taking shape across the surrounding islets: a constellation of small retreats, slow agriculture, and curated experiences made for travelers who seek both stillness and story. The sea, the wind, the long history of settlement—everything lingers here, shaping how one arrives and how one stays.

Unlike its sister on the outer island, this house must share space with others—both the old cluster of homes and the new designs emerging around it. Privacy, therefore, becomes an art form. The architecture listens, turns, and narrows its focus. Two walls open to the landscape; the others remain quiet, protective. The terraces pull back under sheltering wings of roof, framing views while guarding moments meant only for those inside.

The building lifts gently off the ground, allowing the earth beneath to breathe, letting light and moisture

reach the moss and grasses that belong here long before any human arrival. From the highest terrace at the entrance, the rooms step downward—slowly—toward the northwest, where the sea gathers light and the world feels most open.

This is a house that understands its neighbours—human and wild alike. It offers presence without intrusion, views without exposure, belonging without dominance. It becomes part of a living fabric of islands shaped not by ambition alone, but by humility, rhythm, and respect.

A small retreat. A quiet gesture. A home that watches the sea while keeping the island wild.

[Plot 28/11]



Nordbu landing

Nordbu — the UFO- and box like house with its sweeping glass façade and spectacular views across the archipelago.

PolarLifeHaus — building the Nordbu Vision

Family-owned for generations, Polar Life Haus is a global supplier of premium, sustainable timber homes. Combining advanced factory prefabrication with bespoke craftsmanship, the company delivers fully integrated building systems where every detail is carefully engineered. This approach ensures exceptional quality while making it possible to build efficiently and predictably in remote, weather-exposed locations such as Almendingen.

polarlifehaus.com

UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS





► **Wood and glass**
 Pale natural wood meets
 floor-to-ceiling glass, opening
 Nordbu to the surrounding sea
 and sky.

A MARVEL IN GLASS AND WOOD

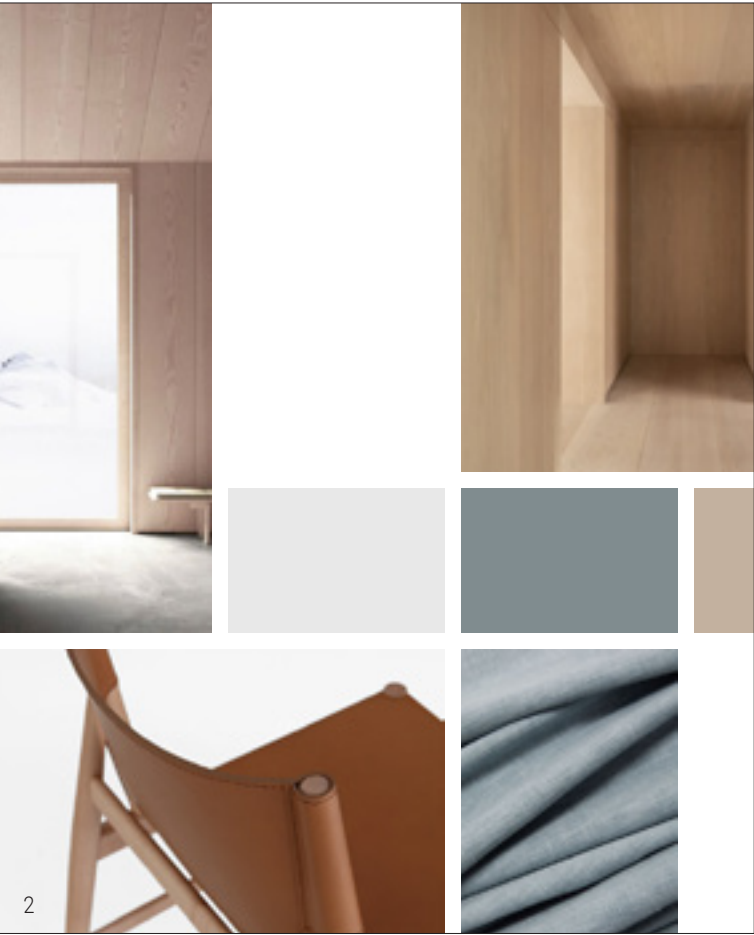
by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



Nordbu by night
Glass façades at both ends of Nordbu frame sweeping views across the Helgeland archipelago.

Excellence in Every Detail
From architecture to interiors, no compromises. The Nordbu house bring together world-class design and exceptional craftsmanship.

Manufactured by **Polar Life Haus**, with exclusive kitchens, bathrooms, furnishings and interiors from renowned design houses **Poliform** and **Antonio Lupi** delivered through our long term partners at **Expo Nova**. Every element is carefully curated to reflect the highest standards of quality, sophistication and timeless design.



Nordbu
Nordbu details – warm wooden interiors (1, 2, 4) meet the calm coastal setting by the sea (3).



THE SPIRIT OF THE COAST

In Herøy, adventures don't come from brochures — they come from people. Here, the locals are a part of the adventure. Cooks, florists, fishermen, divers, farmers, mountain guides and seaweed harvesters — people who know every current, every inlet, every mountain ridge. They don't just show you the way. They share a way of life.

► **Design & Copy:** Thomas Riise / Fronthub
Photo: FlyBy, visithelgeland.com, Trond Andersen and the Olsvik-Dengerud family



ACTIVITIES WITH LOCAL FRIENDS



Meet the Local Heroes

There is a certain kind of courage required to live out here. Not the loud, heroic kind you read about in books — but the quieter kind. The courage to stay, to build something where others might see only distance and wind. The courage to dream big in a place defined by open sea and small communities.

At Almendingen, this spirit is everywhere.

It begins with a simple philosophy: local knowledge is essential in this environment. The craftsmen, fishermen, farmers, divers, chefs, sailors and guides all share a deep familiarity with the archipelago and the surrounding mountains—many of them born and raised here. These are people who know every tide, every mountain ridge, every quiet island hidden among the skerries.

When you arrive, you will be welcomed by someone with a close connection to the area: a fisherman who knows exactly where to set the crab pots; a diver who can take you beneath the kelp forests, where the Atlantic reveals its hidden life; or a kayaker who has spent countless evenings gliding between the small islands that make this archipelago one of the world’s most beautiful paddling destinations and there are many ways to experience it.

Join a local fisherman at dawn and pull crab pots from the cold, clear water. Spend the day fishing along the shallow banks and reefs that surround the islands. Dive or free dive in the kelp forests where the water glows in deep shades of emerald and turquoise.

Or harvest seaweed directly from the Almendingen seaweed farm, learning how one of the ocean’s most sustainable resources is cultivated and prepared for the table.

On calmer days, paddle slowly through the maze of islands by kayak or SUP. The water here is astonishingly clear — shallow stretches shimmer in turquoise tones that often surprise visitors expecting the harsher colors of the North Atlantic. It feels almost Caribbean, just framed by Arctic mountains and seabirds.

On land, the landscape opens in a completely different way. Local guides will take you hiking in the dramatic mountain range known as **The Seven Sisters**, where seven peaks rise from the sea like a natural cathedral. From the summits, the entire archipelago unfolds below — thousands of islands scattered across the horizon.

And when winter arrives, the same mountains become something entirely different.

Local ski guides lead randonée expeditions where you climb silent ridgelines before dropping through deep powder snow — sometimes skiing all the way from steep alpine peaks directly down to the sea.

Out here, adventure isn’t manufactured.

It is simply part of everyday life. But the local spirit doesn’t stop with guiding visitors.

Across Helgeland, you will find families and pioneers who — much like the Olsvik-Dengerud family with their own «Project Madness» — dared to start something extraordinary in places most people would consider too remote.

They are the local heroes of this coastline.



Born with skis on their feet

There’s a saying in Norway that people are born with skis on their feet — and once you see the mountains of Helgeland in winter, you understand why.



HIKING & RANDONÉE FROM SEA TO SUMMIT





► **A Randonnée paradise**
The archipelago offers great Mountain vistas – enjoy hiking in the summertime, while you should bring your randonnée gear for the wintertime. The possibilities are endless and you will be safely guided by local mountain guides.

SKIING FROM MOUNTAINS TO FJORD

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture



Skiing from Summit to the Sea
Imagine standing on the summit of a steep Arctic peak. Below you lies an untouched line of powder snow. Far down in the fjord, a large sailing catamaran awaits you – quietly on the water.

This is the experience created by **Nordvær Ski & Sail** – an adventure concept run by passionate sailors and mountain guides who combine two of the great Arctic experiences: sailing and ski touring.

Guests live aboard the boat, sailing between islands and fjords while searching for the perfect mountains. Each morning begins with a climb through silent snow-fields, followed by long descents that sometimes end directly at the shoreline – where the boat waits like a floating basecamp.

It is one of the most spectacular ways to experience winter in Northern Norway.

And when summer returns, the same vessel becomes the perfect gateway to explore the Helgeland archipelago under sail – gliding between islands, hidden coves, smaragd green seas and open horizons that stretch far into the Arctic light.



▲ **Nordvær Ski and Sail**
From sea to summit to sea (1), The Nordvær guides will make sure you have a safe journey (2). The Nordvær lies in the fjord waiting while you make it to the top of spectacular summits (3 and 4).



The Nordvær Catamaran
Offers tailor-made expedition
journeys for up to six guests in
three ensuite cabins, with a
focus on local food culture,
nature, and activities such as
skiing, sailing, diving, and the
Northern Lights.



Nordvær Ski and Sail
Marte and Eric on the Nordvær Yacht.



Guardians of the Eider

Far out in the Vega archipelago lies **Lånan**, a tiny island where one of Norway's most remarkable traditions still survives.

For generations, families here have lived alongside the eider duck, carefully tending small houses and shelters where the birds come to nest each spring. When the ducklings leave their nests, the precious eider down remains behind — one of the softest and most exclusive natural materials in the world.

Today, between 500 and 1000 birds return each season. The work is meticulous and patient. The down is collected by hand, cleaned and sorted through a process that has barely changed in centuries. What remains is a living example of a fragile partnership between humans and nature.

Visiting **Lånan** is like stepping into another rhythm of life — quiet, deliberate, and deeply connected to the sea.

A Culinary Surprise

In a small coastal community not far from Almendingen, you will find a culinary restaurant that consistently surprises visitors from larger cities.

Til Elise fra Marius is widely regarded as one of the finest gourmet restaurants in Northern Norway — a place where world-class cuisine is created from ingredients sourced almost entirely from the surrounding region.

The menu changes constantly, shaped by the seasons and the sea. Fish landed the same morning. Lamb raised on nearby islands. Herbs and vegetables grown in the short but intense northern summer.

It is a reminder that great cuisine doesn't depend on big cities — only on passion, craftsmanship, and exceptional ingredients.



► **A visit to Lånan**
Eider down from Lånan and Halmøyen — one of the world's most exclusive natural materials, carefully collected by hand after the birds leave their nests. Aud, one of Halmøyen's dedicated bird guardians, helping protect the eider ducks and their centuries-old traditions.

At Lånan, the world's most exclusive duvets are hand-crafted from hand-harvested eider down. Only 10–12 are produced each year. Each one costs around NOK 100,000.

Photos: Trond Andersen and visithelgeland.com

PREPARING EIDER DOWN AT LÅNAN



Til Elise Fra Marius
A culinary destination in
Northern Norway – Til Elise fra
Marius serves refined dishes
inspired by the sea, the moun-
tains, and the seasons.



▲ **A Culinary destination**
The Gourmet restaurant owned by Elise and Marius (1 and 3),
dishes and flavors of Helgeland, that are elevated to a gourmet
experience worth traveling for (2 and 4).



The Skolo Café
The archipelago that begins at Vega stretches north toward the many islands of Herøy. Here, a paddler's paradise unfolds among the shallow, sheltered waters around Sandvær and Husvær — perfect for exploring by kayak. Why not make a stop at the Skolo Café for their perfect pizza.



Welcome to Skolo
A low key traditional café at Skolo — a welcoming meeting place for locals and visitors from across the archipelago. (2, 3 and 4).
The Olsvik-Dengeruds on their way to Skolo (1).



A Leap of Faith

Sometimes the boldest adventures are the quietest ones. The café and restaurant **Skolo** is run by a family who made a remarkable decision: leaving a more conventional life behind and moving to this remote part of Helgeland to create something of their own. What they built is more than a café.

Skolo has become a warm meeting place for locals and travelers alike — a small but vibrant hub where good food, the best pizzas, conversation and community come together in a place many would have considered too remote to succeed.

It is proof that sometimes the greatest luxury is simply belonging somewhere.

Whisky at the Edge of the Ocean

On the tiny island of Myken, surrounded by the Arctic Ocean, another bold idea took shape.

A group of friends decided to create the world’s first Arctic whisky distillery.

Today **Myken Distillery** produces small-batch whisky using an unusual ingredient: desalinated sea water from the surrounding ocean. The spirit is distilled slowly over open flame in traditional copper pot stills — combining centuries-old Scottish traditions with the raw environment of the Norwegian coast.

It is an unlikely place to make whisky.



► **Myken Whiskey distillery**
On the remote island of Myken, whisky is crafted from desalinated seawater drawn from the surrounding Arctic Ocean. Distilled slowly over open flame, it has become one of Norway's most distinctive whisky experiences.

WHISKEY DESTILLED IN NORTHERN NORWAY



Flowers at the End of the Road

On Herøy Island you will find a place that feels almost surreal in this rugged coastal landscape.

Etcetera is not just a flower shop. It is an artistic universe created by renowned florist Tommy Eide, a two-time Norwegian champion in floral design.

Inside, visitors discover spectacular arrangements, rare plants, interior objects and gourmet delicacies — all curated with a creative energy that has turned the shop into a destination in its own right.

Travelers moving between Herøy and Dønna often stop here, surprised to find such a burst of color and creativity in the middle of the archipelago.



▲ **Etcetera Florist, Herøy**

Etcetera combines floral artistry, interior design and gourmet treats in one of Helgeland's most unexpected destinations.



Which is exactly why it works.

The Spirit of the Coast

Seen together, these stories reveal something essential about Helgeland.

This is not a region defined by remoteness. It is defined by people who dare to build something here anyway.

Families who protect centuries-old traditions. Sailors who turn mountains and sea into unforgettable adventures. Chefs, distillers, farmers and entrepreneurs who choose to create something extraordinary far from the obvious places.

In many ways, they share the same mindset as the Olsvik-Dengerud family and their vision for Almendingen. A willingness to step into the unknown. To pursue ideas others might call madness.

And in doing so, they have created something rare: a coastline filled not just with natural beauty, but with stories worth discovering.

At Almendingen, these people are not attractions. They are your neighbours. Your Friends.

They are the Local Heroes who make this place what it is.

North of ordinary.
Closer to self.
▲



► **Great treasures**
The true spirit of Helgeland lives in the people who choose to build, create and dream where others see only distance. Families, pioneers and entrepreneurs who have transformed bold ideas into extraordinary stories.

The greatest treasures of Helgeland are not only found in nature, but in the people who call this coastline home.

THE SPIRIT OF THE HERØY COAST





UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

by Snorre Stinessen Architecture





► **By the Bonfire**
Bonfire evenings with good friends, warm flames, and a glass of good wine — sharing stories long into the quiet northern night.

BY THE BONFIRE WITH A GLASS OF WINE





THE JOURNEY ITSELF IS PART OF WHAT YOU CAME FOR





THE REAL ESTATE AGENT

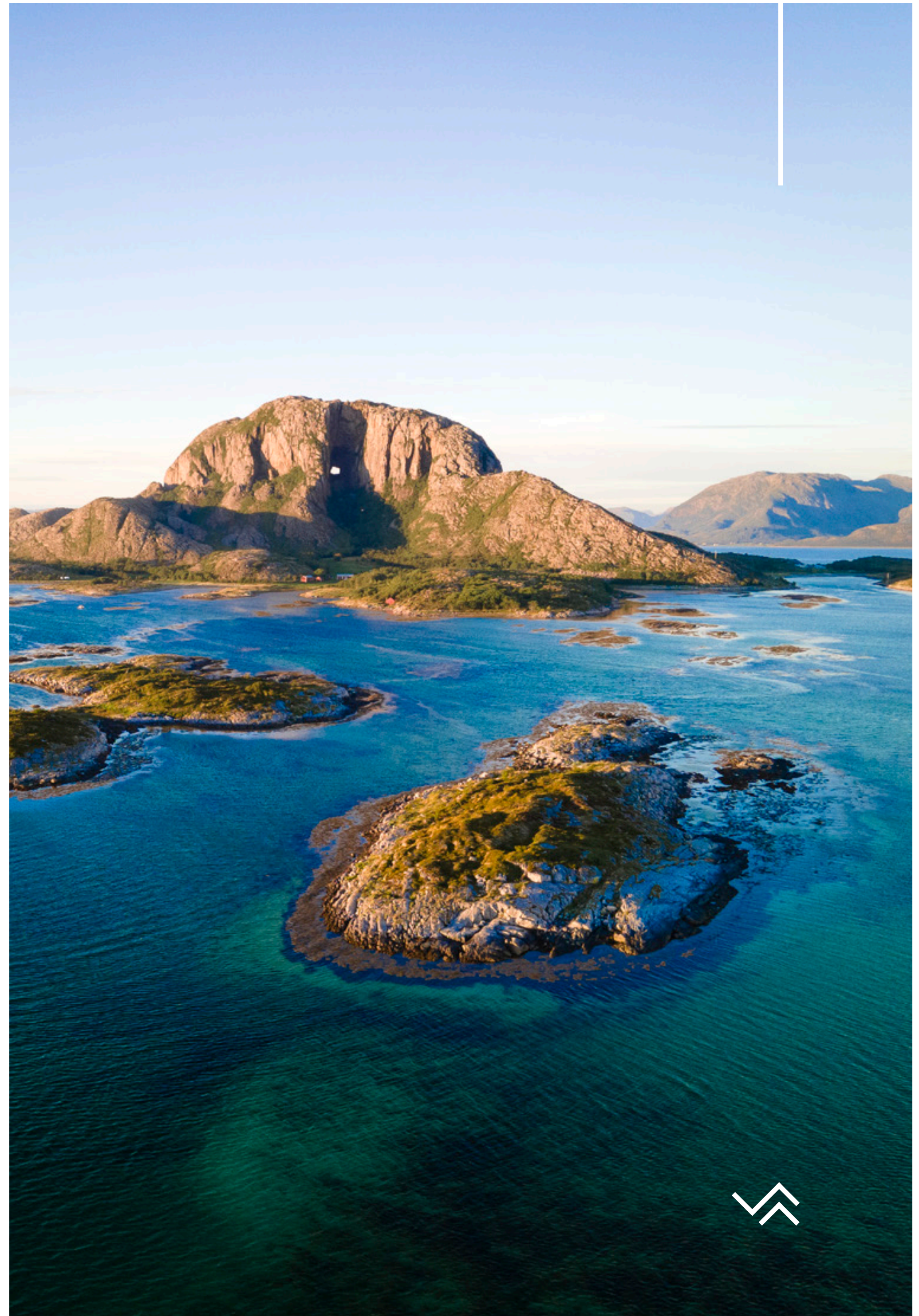
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