



Cult artist  
Pushwagner  
at his gallery

# SO COOL IT'S HOT

A waterfront urbanism project in the Norwegian capital has all eyes turned toward the fjord.

Text **Terry Ward** Photos **Siv Dolmen**

**O**slo is finally getting its moment in the midnight sun. The hype centres around the city's buzzing new waterfront district, Tjuvholmen, where languishing docklands have been turned into a mixed-use development set on a peninsula that juts into the fjord. Here, retail, entertainment, living and work spaces come together – urged on by an unusual combination of retired pop stars and world-class architects – in a patchwork of gleaming, angular buildings where every sightline leads to the moody waters of the fjord.

The success of this dynamic neighbourhood goes far beyond its role in fulfilling one aspect of Oslo's Fjord City project – an ambitious undertaking that began in the 1980s with the rebirth of the Aker Brygge district, right next to Tjuvholmen, and will continue rezoning waterfront areas around the city for years to come. Tjuvholmen's key design elements are meant to make it feel like a "live architecture exhibition" by incorporating high-quality designs by several different architects, says Hossam Gadalla, who worked closely with Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, the driving force behind the centrepiece Astrup Fearnley Museum here. The museum's maritime-inspired design, which conjures a vast sail arching over the clean lines of the wooden buildings beneath, was essential for making the architectural transition between Tjuvholmen's dense development and the open space of the fjord, says Hossam.

And, of course, competent architecture makes for a place people want to be. "Just a few days after opening the area, one can see how it was put to use and well received by the inhabitants of Oslo," says Hossam, no doubt referring to the 50,000 art lovers who visited the museum during the month following its Sep 2012 opening. Even in the early months of 2013, with snow still on the ground, people were out enjoying the sculpture park that lies between the museum and the water (in the summer, a rocky beach near the museum >>

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## 1

**Hafencity, Hamburg, Germany** Europe's largest inner-city development project is revitalising the busy shipping waterfront along the Elbe River with a mix of retail, work and living spaces. The city's spectacular new opera house – not yet finished but already drawing tourists with its unique design – is the neighborhood's core.

## 2

**Lloydkwartier, Rotterdam, Netherlands** The creative buzz in this western neighborhood in Europe's biggest port is mirrored in a mix of modern buildings and revitalised wharves and warehouses that serve as work, living and entertainment spaces.

## 3

**False Creek South, Vancouver, Canada** What was once derelict industrial land has become a model for sustainably-developed residential and retail areas that center on a farmer's market and a waterfront busy with buskers, people flying kites and Sunday strollers.



The stunning Astrop Fearnley Museum



A whimsical installation piece in the museum



The bar at The Thief's Restaurant Fru K

will likely be a popular spot for a dip in the fjord's clean and clear waters).

#### Art in spades

And while the Astrup Fearnley Museum, with its impressive private collection of modern art, is Tjuvholmen's prime cultural draw, the streets of Tjuvholmen host other fine collections on a smaller and more intimate scale.

Magne 'Mags' Furuholmen, who played guitar and keyboard for Norwegian 80s boy band sensation a-Ha, partnered with Paul Stolper to open Stolper + Friends, a contemporary art gallery exhibiting works by the likes of Damien Hirst, among others. "Tjuvholmen has rapidly become the place to go in Oslo for art galleries with diverse profiles and high quality," says 50-year-old Magne, who has – in a radically successful post-pop artistic

## competent architecture makes for a place people want to be

career – worked with glass, paint, etching and woodcuts, and even designed postage stamps. "At Stolper+Friends we try to show a mixture of established and new artists. And with a London gallerist onboard, we get to do shows with a lot of exciting British artists who would otherwise not be shown in Oslo."

The Pushwagner Gallery showcases the graphic and pop art genius of cult Norwegian artist Terje Brofos (more popularly known as Pushwagner), who riffs on dystopian societies with his craft. Oslo's hottest new hotel address, The Thief, is an art-lover's destination of its own, too. Named for Tjuvholmen's past as an 18th-century prison island, the hotel partnered with the Fearnley museum and has Warhols and other masterpieces discreetly decorating the walls of its common spaces (you might forget to step out on your floor while admiring digitally animated portraits by Julian Opie in the hotel's lifts).

#### Wine and dine

Oslo is a notoriously pricy destination to dine, and you'll shell out even more in Tjuvholmen than elsewhere in the city. But eating well is practically guaranteed. Norway's spectacular seafood – think cod fished from the fjords near Møre and live Varanger King Crab tempting you from the restaurant's driftwood tanks – steal the show at Sjømagasin, far and away Tjuvholmen's most stylish address for lunch and dinner. Some 80 percent of the menu is seafood, and the dining room sticks to the theme with floor-to-ceiling windows that bring the fjord views soaring inside.

### DIRECTORY

**Tjuvholmen Sjømagasin**  
Tjuvholmen Allé 14  
Tel +47 2389 7777  
Opens 11am-10pm,  
Mon-Sat; closed Sun.  
[www.sjomagasinet.no](http://www.sjomagasinet.no)

**Olivia**  
Bryggegangen 4  
Tel +47 2311 5470  
Opens 11am-11pm,  
Mon-Thu; 11-1am,  
Fri-Sat; 12-11pm, Sun  
[oliviarestaurant.no](http://www.oliviarestaurant.no)

**Astrup Fearnley Museum**  
Strandpromenaden 2  
Tel +47 2293 6060  
Opens 12-5pm, Tue,  
Wed, Fri; 12-7pm, Thu;  
11am-5pm, Sat-Sun;  
closed, Mon  
General admission  
USD17 per person  
[www.afmuseet.no](http://www.afmuseet.no)

**Bølgen & Moi**  
Tjuvholmen Allé 5  
Tel +47 2244 1020  
Opens 11-1am,  
Mon-Sat; 12pm-1am,  
Sat; 12-5pm, Sun  
[www.bolgenogmoi.no/](http://www.bolgenogmoi.no/)  
Restaurant/Tjuvholmen

**Stolper + Friends**  
Tjuvholmen Allé 6  
Tel +47 2283 2249  
Opens 12-5pm,  
Wed-Sun  
[www.stolperandfriends.com](http://www.stolperandfriends.com)

**Pushwagner Gallery**  
Tjuvholmen Allé 10  
Tel +47 2283 1618  
Opens 12-6pm, daily  
[www.pushwagner.no](http://www.pushwagner.no)

**Hanami**  
Kanalén 1  
Tel +47 22 83 10 90  
Opens 11am-11pm,  
Mon-Fri; 1-11pm,  
Sat; 3-10pm, Sun  
[hanami.no](http://hanami.no)

**Alex Sushi**  
Strandpromenaden 11  
Tel +47 2243 9999  
Opens 4-10pm, daily  
[www.alex sushi.no](http://www.alex sushi.no)

**BAR**  
Bryggegangen 6  
Tel +47 9400 2094  
Opens 5pm-1am,  
Tue-Wed; 5pm-3am,  
Thu; 4pm-3am Fri-Sat;  
closed Sun-Mon  
[www.bygdoyallerestaurant.no](http://www.bygdoyallerestaurant.no)

**The Thief**  
Landgangen 1  
Tel +47 2400 4000  
[www.thethief.com](http://www.thethief.com)

Norway has enthusiastically embraced the sushi trend, and fans of the raw stuff head to the minimalist Alex Sushi where the fish line-up includes a not-for-everyone but very Norwegian offering: Whale. For something more fusion, hit Hanami, with its robata grill and Japanese-style tapas that are perfect for sharing (try the scallop ceviche). Bølgen & Moi, a popular chain with outposts throughout Norway, is an inviting little spot for an afternoon cake or coffee before you're back to the gallery hopping. For delicious Italian-style pizzas with gourmet toppings like Parma ham and artichokes, pop into the area's most casual and cosy nosh spot, Olivia.

At the end of the day – and the time can vary given Norway's endless summer days in Jul and Aug and seemingly longer winter nights between Oct and Mar – two Tjuvholmen spots draw the beautiful people to clink glasses. "Tjuvholmen is quite trendy especially in the summer, when it's very nice to sit outside eating and drinking in the sun," says Trude Sæterøy, a medical equipment company product manager who often visits Tjuvholmen. "Stay later in the evening to finish off with drinks at BAR," she recommends, referring to a waterfront watering hole where people descend more for the pumping lounge music and buzzy vibe than the food. And for flutes of bubbly in what could well become this summer's most see-and-be-seen spot, set your sights on the rooftop champagne bar at The Thief, set to open in time to make the most of Norway's midnight sun. ■



Malaysia Airlines flies direct from Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to London (LHR) twice daily on the A380; from LHR, oneworld partner British Airlines flies to Oslo (OSL)



Alex Sushi's menu features the Norwegian specialty, whale



Sleek and chic: The Thief is a member of Design Hotels