



Revitalising the old fish factory Bacalao and transforming it to a new cultural hub

Bacalhau (Portuguese pronunciation: [beke'ʎaw]) is the Portuguese word for cod and—in a culinary context—dried and salted cod.

Through extensive anthropological investigations and on-site field work we have developed a strategy designed to allow for a flexible usability of the old fish factory.

By engaging the local community we believe that Bacalao has the potential to become a cultural landmark of the Faroe Islands. In order for this to happen we have designed a strategy influenced by vernacular building traditions where we place ourselves in and around the existing structures following a series of project objectives that have guided our work.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

WHAT?

Transforming a fish factory in Tórshavn

Why?

Because high quality architecture should not be reserved for big cities and communities.

Because we want to add to the discourse of contemporary Faroese architecture.

Where?

The Faroe Islands

Population: 52.484

Tórshavn

Population: 21.078

Address: Vestara Bryggja 9-13

How?

Through a series of objectives:

OBJECTIVE A

Respect the existing building.

Why?

It exhibits functional aesthetic qualities.

It has historical value for the Faroese people.

How?

By maintaining a distance between the added new, and the preserved old (Scarpa, Exner).

By ensuring that even if the new does not exhibit the same aesthetic qualities, then it exhibits other equal or better qualities (Scarpa, Exner).

By restoring what is needed, and leaving

OBJECTIVE B

Identify activities in need of places.

Why?

It is important to have places for most (legal) social activities within a community.

Some activities may need better facilities than they currently have access to.

How?

By identifying those activities in need of a place, that best fit within the constraints of the specific site.

These activities must be able to easily coexist within the constraints of the specific site.

Identify by passively noticing actors in the community.

Identify by actively engaging with actors in the community.

OBJECTIVE C

Revitalise Faroese craftsmanship.

Why?

There is a proud and unique tradition of boatbuilding on The Faroe Islands.

How?

By seeking tectonic and aesthetic inspiration in the Faroese boats.

By consulting with the few remaining boatbuilders.

(By engaging the community in the construction of the Faroese boat inspired interventions.)

OBJECTIVE D

Represent the site's original functionality and use.

Why?

The site has a history of industrial use, with traces both documental and present in situ.

A small part of the site is still used by the fishing industry.

How?

Reserve space for a small display documenting the building's history and use.

Select traces of the building's heritage can be kept intact. E.g. old equipment, surfaces etc.

A connection between the new communal functions and the remaining fishing industry can exist.

OBJECTIVE E

Allow for flexibility in the building.

Why?

Even though our research into which activities to include may be thorough, the situation might change in the future.

Some users may need more or less space as time progresses.

How?

By modifying the infrastructure of the building to allow multiple independant and or interconnected users.

By designing a strategy for the use of Bacalao, rather than a be all end all solution that is fixed.

Through the use of design guides and systems that allow for flexibility and ensures the fulfilment of Objective A.

By ensuring that most of the construction materials used to inhabit the building are able to be handled by manually.

FAROE ISLANDS

62°00 N 06°47 W

18 islands situated in the North Atlantic Ocean

Population: 52.337

Capitol: Tórshavn

Municipalities: 29

Cities and villages: 129

Districts: 6

Language(s): Faroese - Danish

Main religion: Christianity

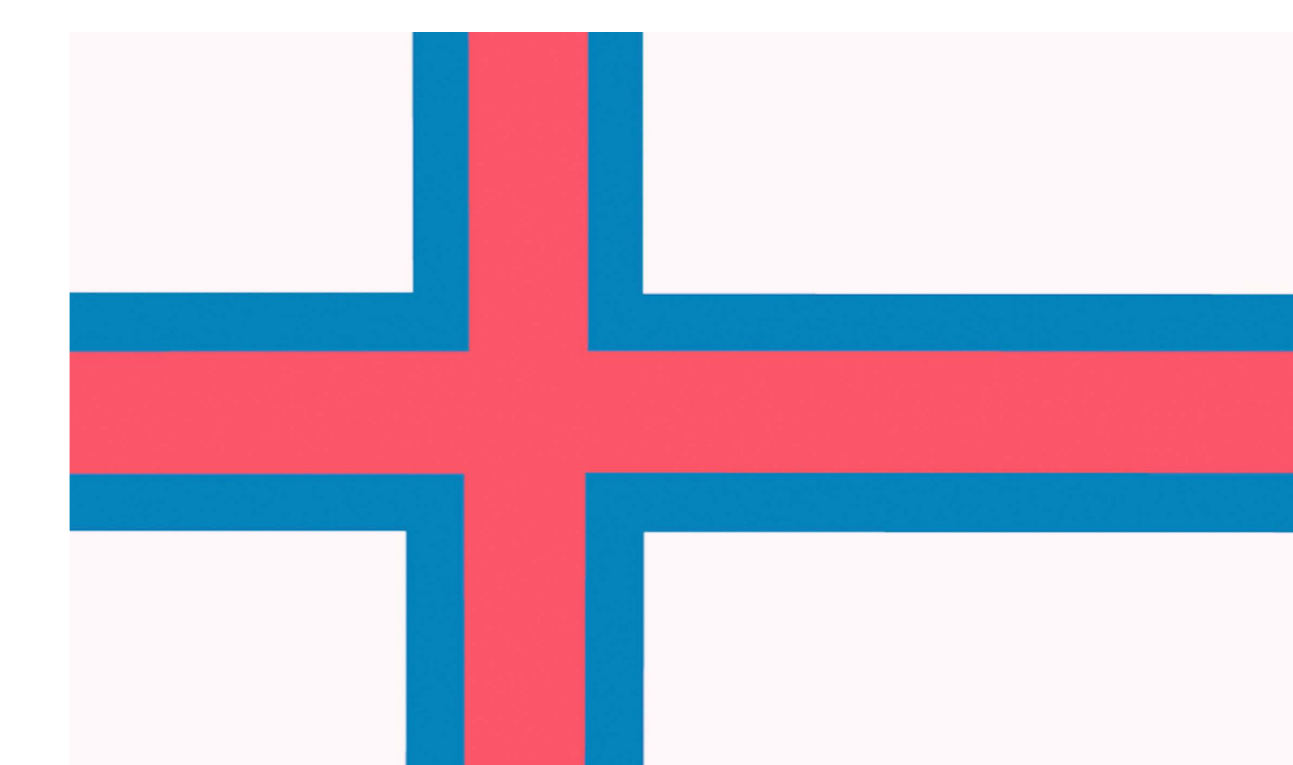
Total area: 1,399 km²

National anthem: "Tú alfagra land mítt" - Símun av Skarði

Part of the Kingdom of Denmark alongside Greenland and Denmark since 1814.

Mainly Self-governing with home ruling since 1948.

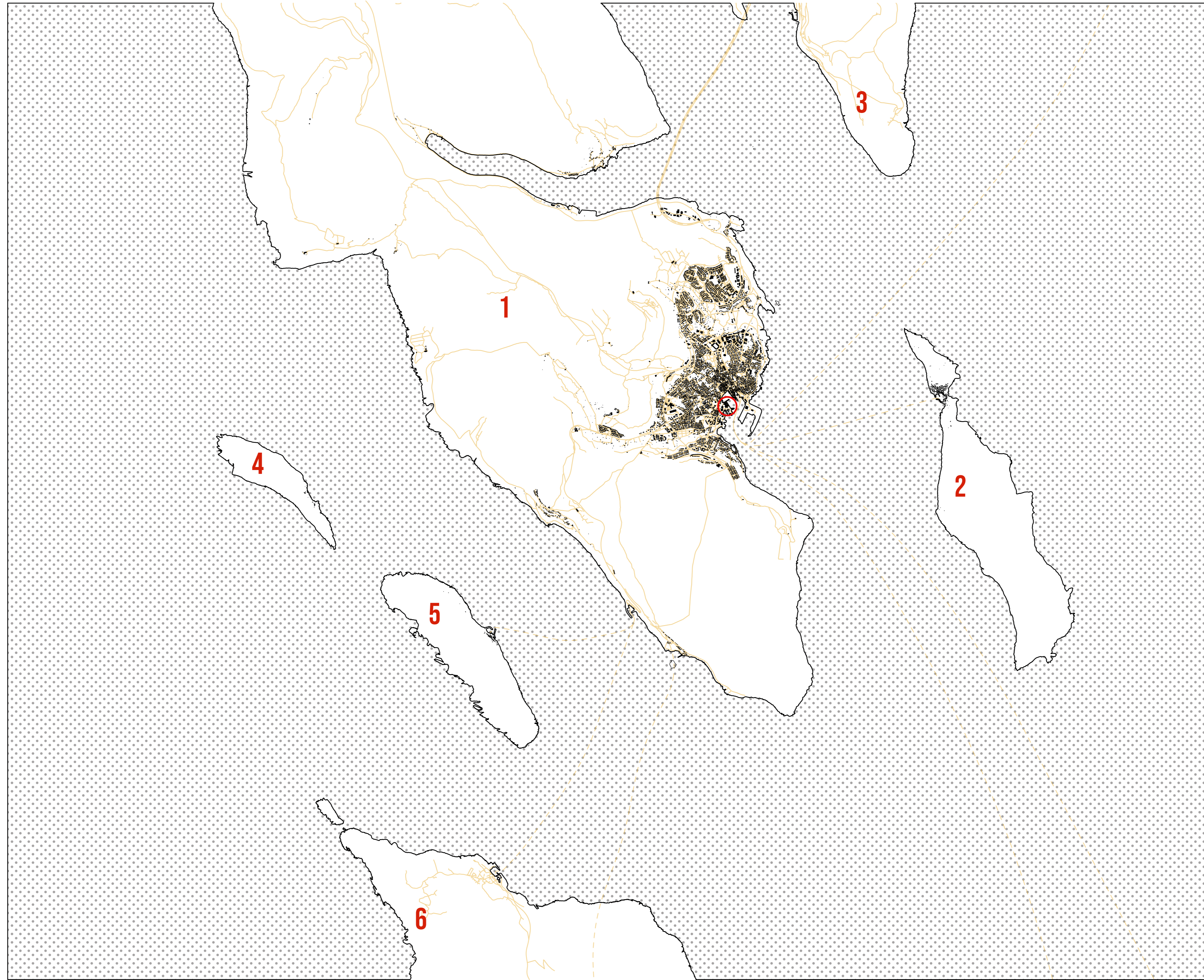
85% of the economy comes the fishing industry.



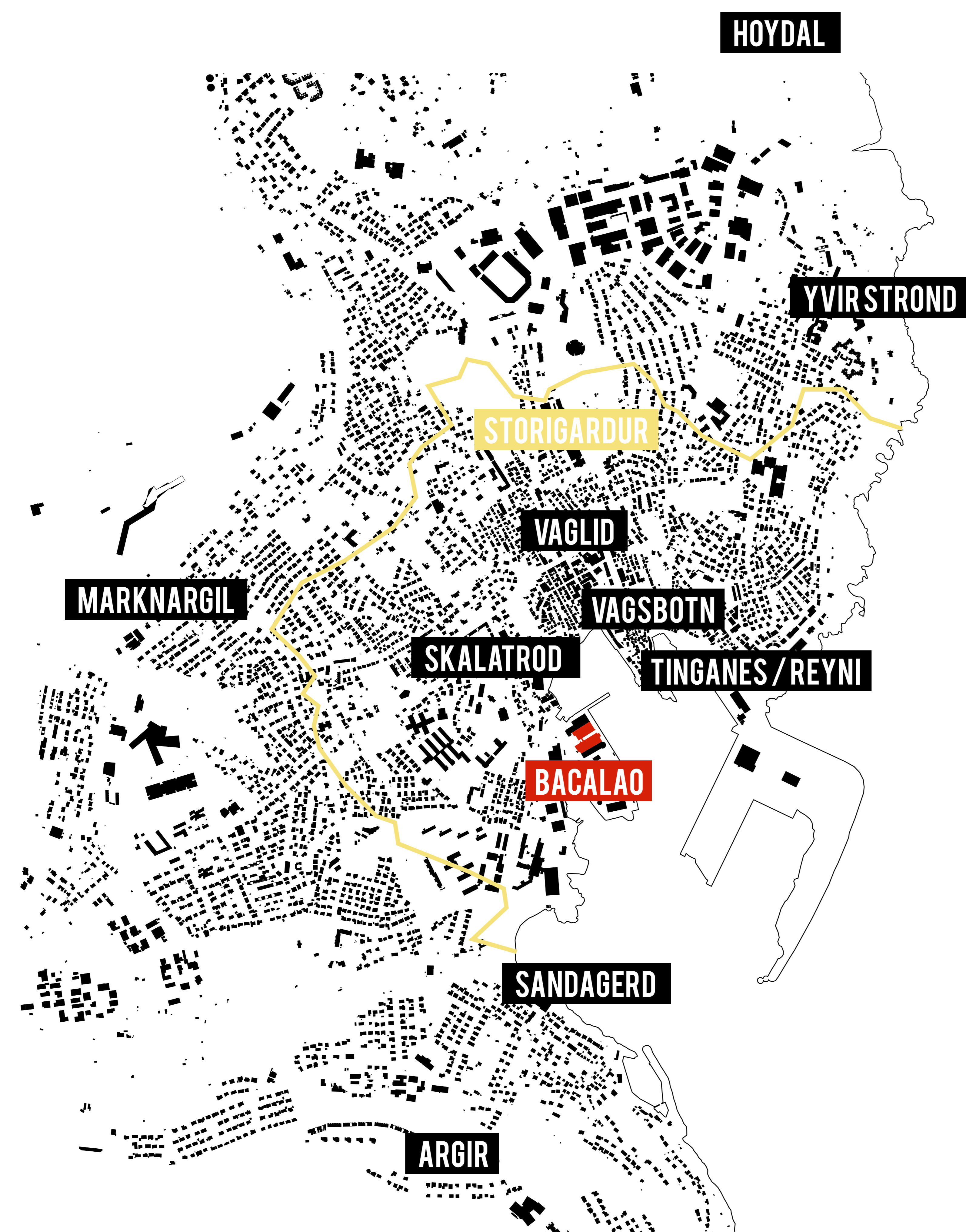
GEOLOGY

The origin of the Faroe Islands dates back to the extreme volcanic eruptions 55 millions years ago when the North Atlantic plateau was created. From the cooled lava was the basaltic foundation emerged. The different cooling periods are recorded in the basaltic pilars and layes found in the Faroese landscape which makes the geology specially interesting as the different periods are very visible. The landscape is mainly dominated by the grass covered basaltic underground. Vallies and fjord were formed by melting gletchiers in the different ice ages diffining the landscape.





- 1 - STREYMOY**
- 2 - NOLSOY**
- 3 - EYSTUROY**
- 4 - KOLTUR**
- 5 - HESTOY**
- 6 - SANDUR**



AREAS IN CENTRAL TÓRSHAVN

Tinganes / Reyni: Historical area which includes Parliament and the oldest neighbourhood, Reyni.

Vágsbotn: Historical maritime area that includes Cathedral, merchant houses and other cultural relevant locations.

Vaglid: City center where government buildings and Townhall is located

Skálatrøð: Former industrial area that includes old warehouses and the largest parking area of Tórshavn.

Sandagerð: Beach area

Argir: Former suburb, now intergrated with the city.

Marknargil: Main road connecting Tórshavn and also the area for most educational institutions.

Hoydal: Historical site with oldest preserved examples of vernacular architecture. Also it connects the new newer suburb Hoyvík with the rest of the city.

Stórigardur: Old city wall



Glasir - Tórshavn College



Berjabrekka - Communal neighbourhood



Yvir við Strond - Stórigarður



Sandagerð - Beach



Vesturkirkjan - Church



Vaglið - City center

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF THE FAROE ISLANDS

Apart from the obvious traditions and customs of a society that is rooted in fishery, Faroe Islands have a very strong cultural heritage. In many ways you could say that the stubbornness and insisting of preserving ancient traditions is what is characterizing the modern Faroese culture. Below are a few examples.

Storytelling: Illiteracy and the remote location was the foundation of the mouth to mouth traditions, poems and folklore. Recorded on paper the late 1800's Dr. Jakob Jakobsen and V.U. Hammershaimb were the first to convert the spoken language into text and gather fairytales and stories from the villages of the faroe Islands.

Whalekillings: The killing of pilot whales is a tradition that dates back several hundreds of years. As it was originally every whale that is slaughtered is dived in equal parts to the local community. It is also one of the oldest recordings of wildlife killings in the world. As controversial as it may seem it is however one the most sustainable and equal distributions of meat.

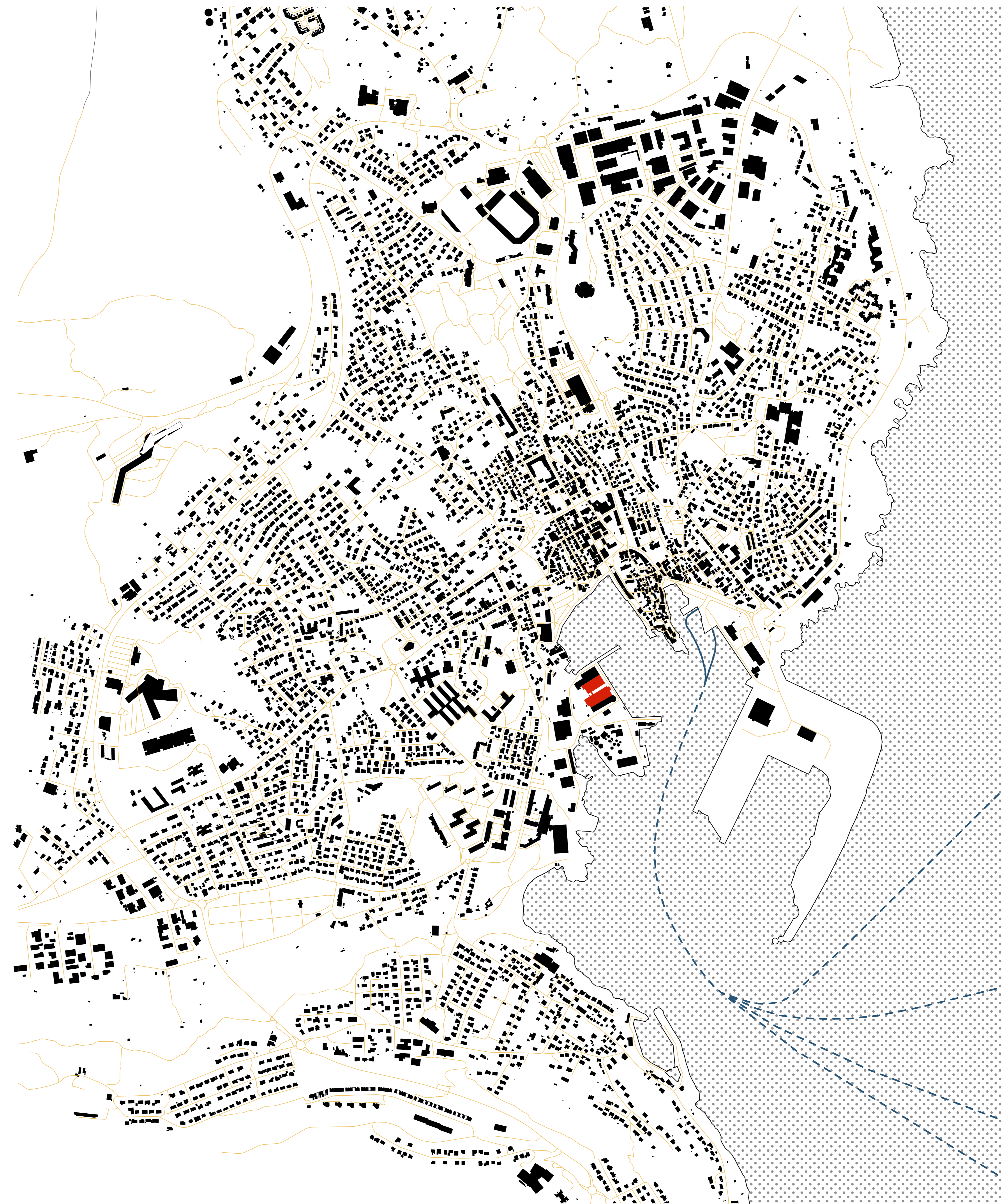
Ólavsøka: The annual national festival located in Tórshavn is collection of all major cultural events. Most people on the Faroe Islands own a national dress and on Ólavsøka people celebrate for 2 days.

Kvæðir: As mentioned before storytelling has always played a big part of the Faroese culture. Kvæðir or ballads were one the ways the faroese preserved the language and histories. The ballads are sung or chanted in a chain-like formation that accomodate everyone interested. Today people still dance and sing, espacially and special ocations such as weddings or other major celebrations.



CENTRAL TÓRSHAVN

1 - 5000



1900



1920



1970



2021



TÓRSHAVN 1900



At the turn of the century Tórshavn continues to slowly expand. The town is dense and automobiles have yet to arrive making the infrastructure exclusively for pedestrians.

Tinganes, the old district dated back to the 1600's, is lacking overall planning. The houses are built where the space and landscape allows it. This results in a dense and diverse expression. In the mid 1800's habitual zones are starting to influence new buildings and areas as Tórshavn grows. General building dimensions are being dictated by the government resulting in a different type of living than previous. This method of dimensions is the foundation of how to parcel land in the coming many years.



TÓRSHAVN

1930



Tórshavn has gotten its first pier and harbour area. The old district, Tinganes, remains the city centre with vital functions such as church, school, parliament and store. The city is starting to grow in a north-west direction. Population grows from around 1600 people in 1901 to close to 3000 in 1925. Tórshavn is still within the old city-wall, Stórigarður.



TÓRSHAVN

1970



Tórshavn is spreading more and more and new districts are starting to emerge. The infrastructure is starting to include automotive traffic resulting in bigger and wider roads. The harbour areas are developing at a high rate and the largest industries are located in this area. The population grows from 3000 in 1925 to around 8000 in 1975 and the city is starting to expand beyond the old city-wall.



TÓRSHAVN

2021



The smaller district from the 70's are fully integrated in city and the expansion is now including all the former suburbs and well beyond. Tórshavn is fully adapted to automotive traffic with several roundabouts and traffic lights. The harbour is expanded and is now framing the maritime area as well as serving as protection from the weather and waves from Nólsoyarfjørð. Tórshavn is now directly connected to the other cities on the Faroe Islands, with the new subsea tunnel connecting Streymoy and Eysturoy. Another subsea tunnel is in the making, connecting Streymoy with isolated island Sandur. The population today is around 14.000.



FINSENS

ARTIST WORKSHOPS

Located in Tórshavn city center is the newly transformed community school, Finsens. Originally built in 1956 and the largest and most modern school of its time but after several years of abandonment Tórshavnar Kommuniskúli was transformed into what today is known as Finsens, named after the famous Nobel Award winning physician and scientist Niels R. Finsens. The school was one of the first few modernistic projects on the Faroe Islands and is decorated by the best faroese artists of their time William Heinesen, Zachrias Heinesen and Janus Kamban.

Finsens, today, is a student housing building with a few public functions, such as a gym hall and an auditorium. It also houses a few private long term workshops for artist as well as a graphic workshop.

The artist workshop is an initiative by the municipality of Tórshavn and is perhaps one of the first of its kind in the country. It is supposed to secure the workspace of the artists.

Unfortunately the space and equipment is very limited only housing 5 artist spaces.

The cultural scene is relatively large on the Faroe Islands and the lack of workspaces forces creatives to either work from home or rent private spaces. This has a negative effect on the quality produced due to the economic factor.



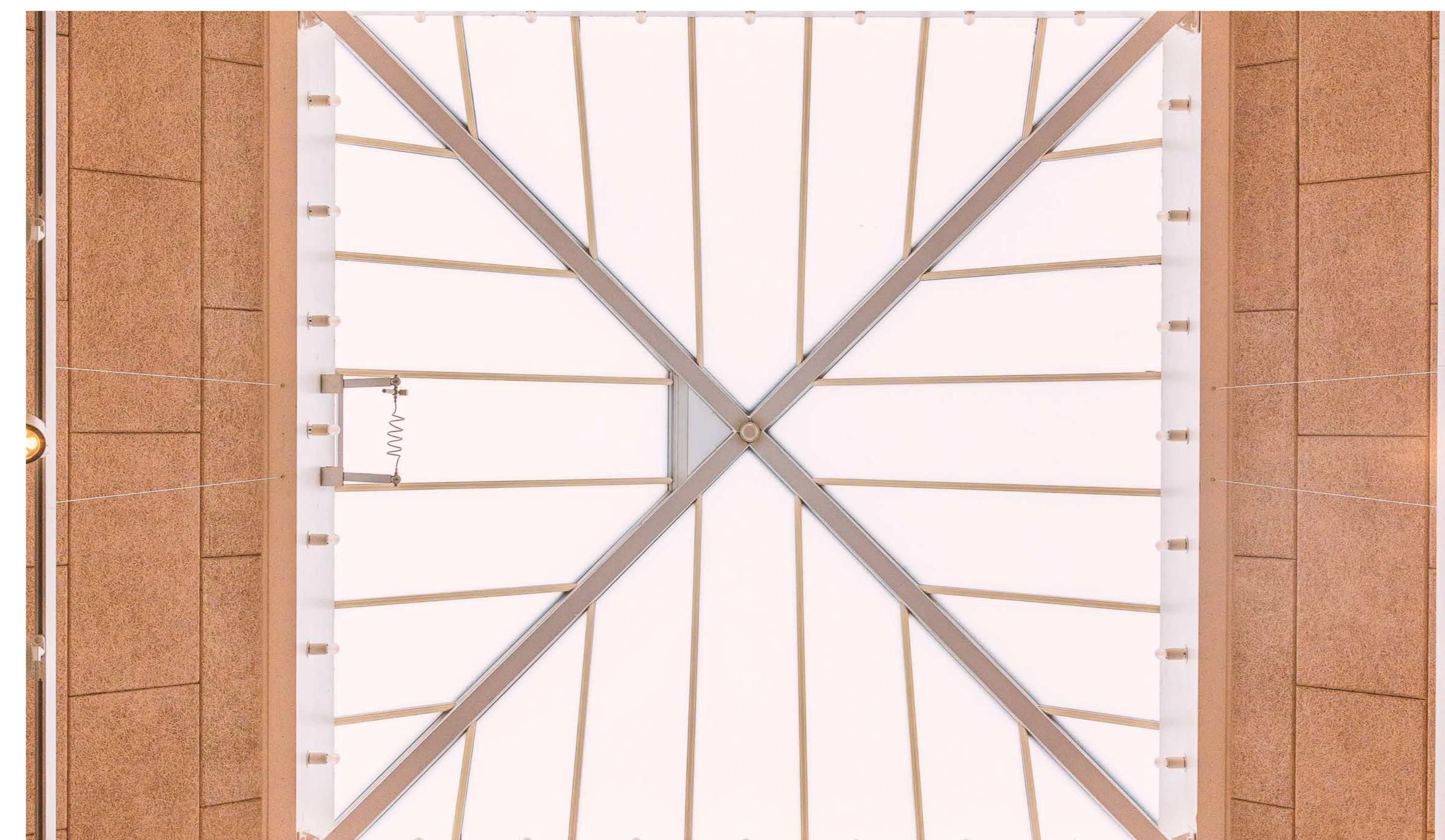
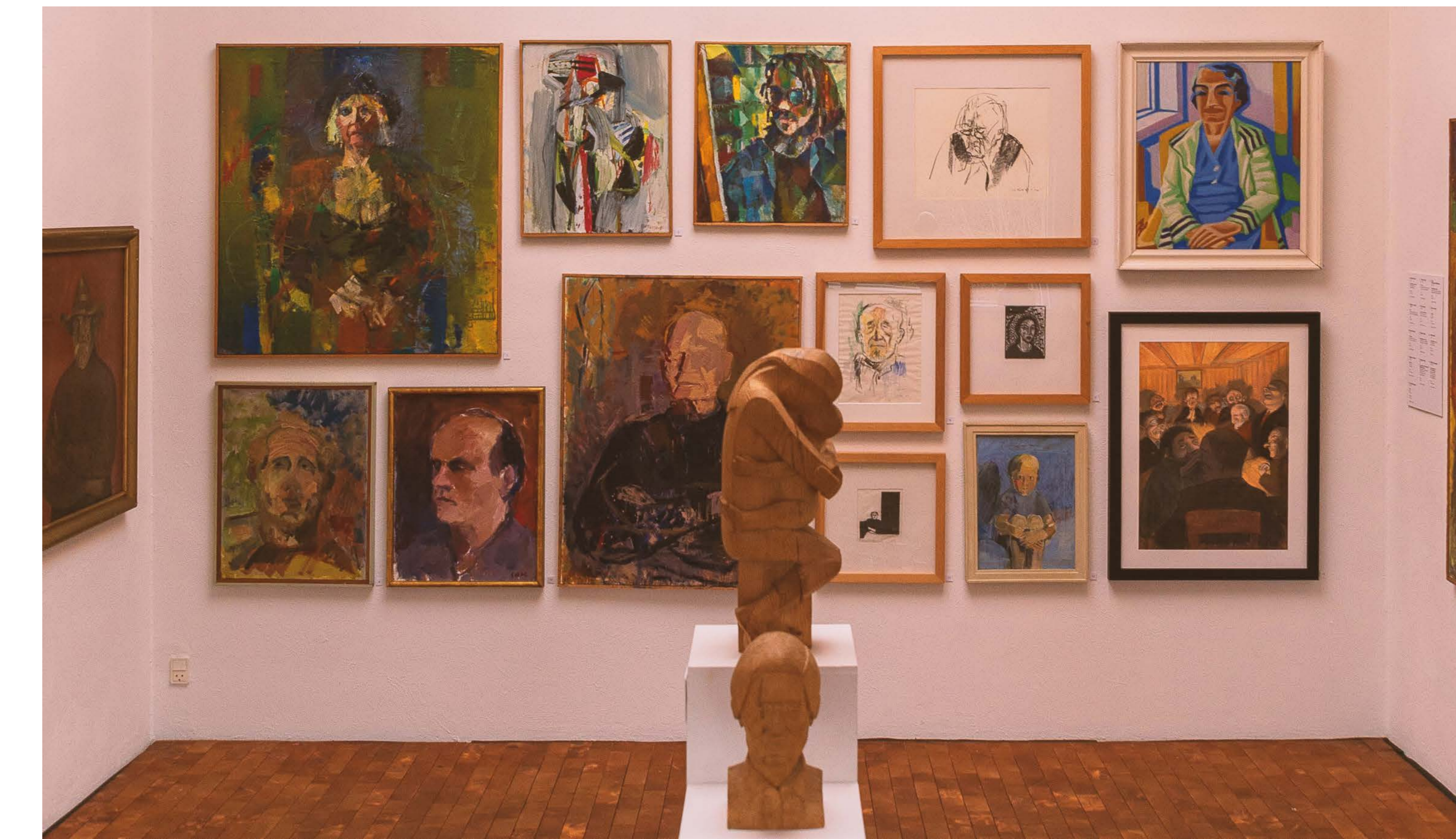
BACALAO

Anthropological research

LISTASAVN FØROYA NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

Located in the northern part of the city park, known as Plantasjan, lies the national art museum, Listasavn Føroyar. Built in 1970 and extended in 1989 by architect J.P. Gregoriussen the building consists of a contemporary gallery and a second extension showcasing historic artworks. The conditions of the museum are poor due to the lack of reparations. This effects exhibitions because the museum cannot accommodate international artists or works because the building does not live up to the minimum safety and condition standards required. This results in exhibitions that are not showing progress but rather almost only historic exhibitions that showcased in loops.

A bigger and more modernized museum should be prioritized in order to secure a more progressive and diverse cultural life.



BACALAO

Anthropological research

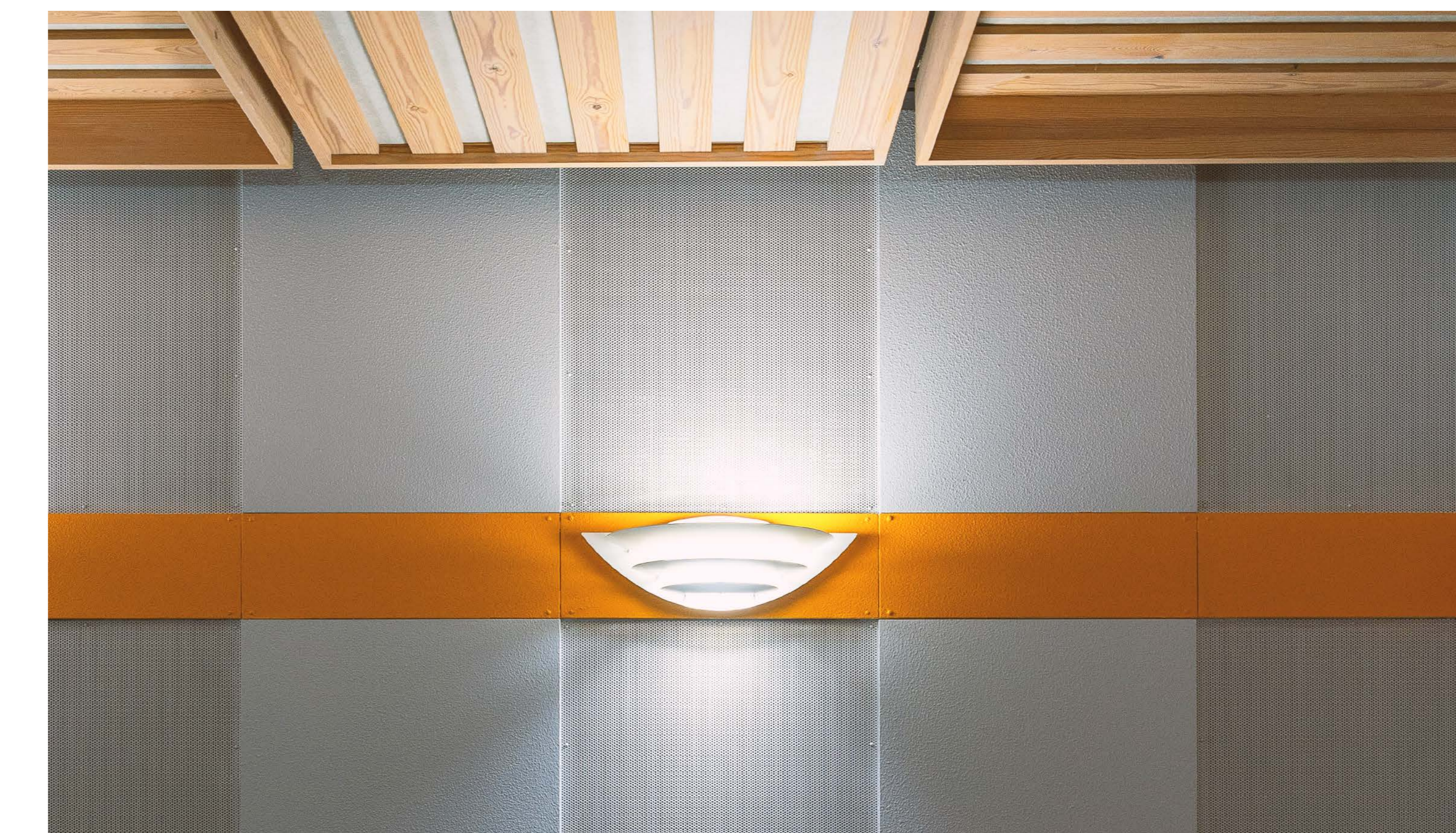
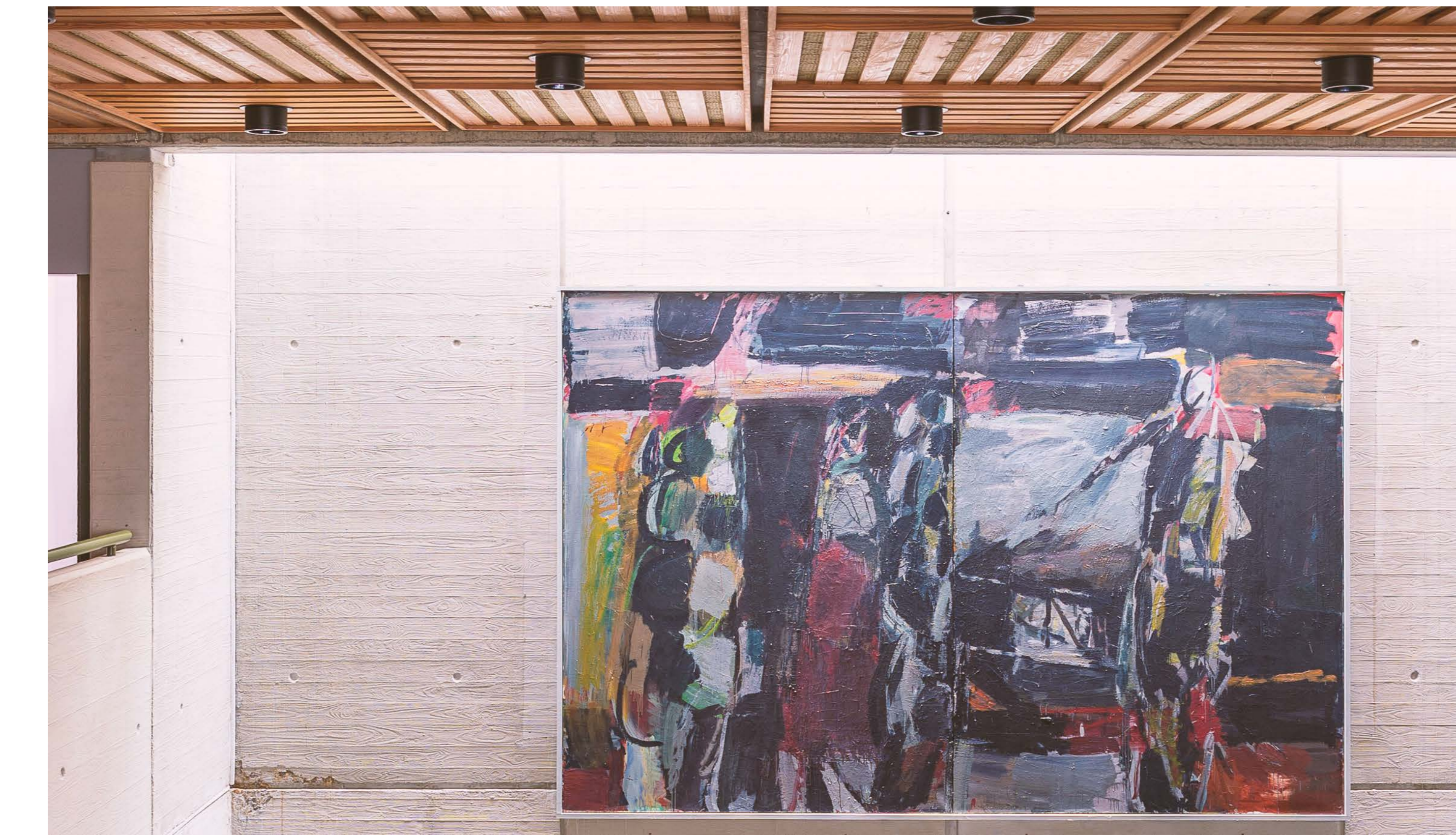
KRINGVARPSHÚSIÐ

NATIONAL PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMPANY

Located in Sortudíki, Tórshavn, next to the nordic cultural house, Norðurlandahúsið, lies the national broadcasting company, Kringvarp Føroya (KVF). Originally built for radio the building now also includes TV productions. The building contains two main TV studios and a couple other smaller rooms for TV recording. The TV studios host several mobile sets that are being used for different purposes. KVF produces approx. 50 % of it's content. The rest is licensed from channels such as DR, TV2 or NRK.

Because KVF is a relatively small organisation it does not include other productions. This results in a film industry that does not have the required facilities. A film organisation, called Klippfisk, located next to Bacalao, has a cutting room but is the only of it's kind in the country.

The faroese filmindustry is in blossom, with several short films being nominated in international film festivals and the first major Netflix production in the works. In order to meet the demands of growing film industry facilities need to be available.

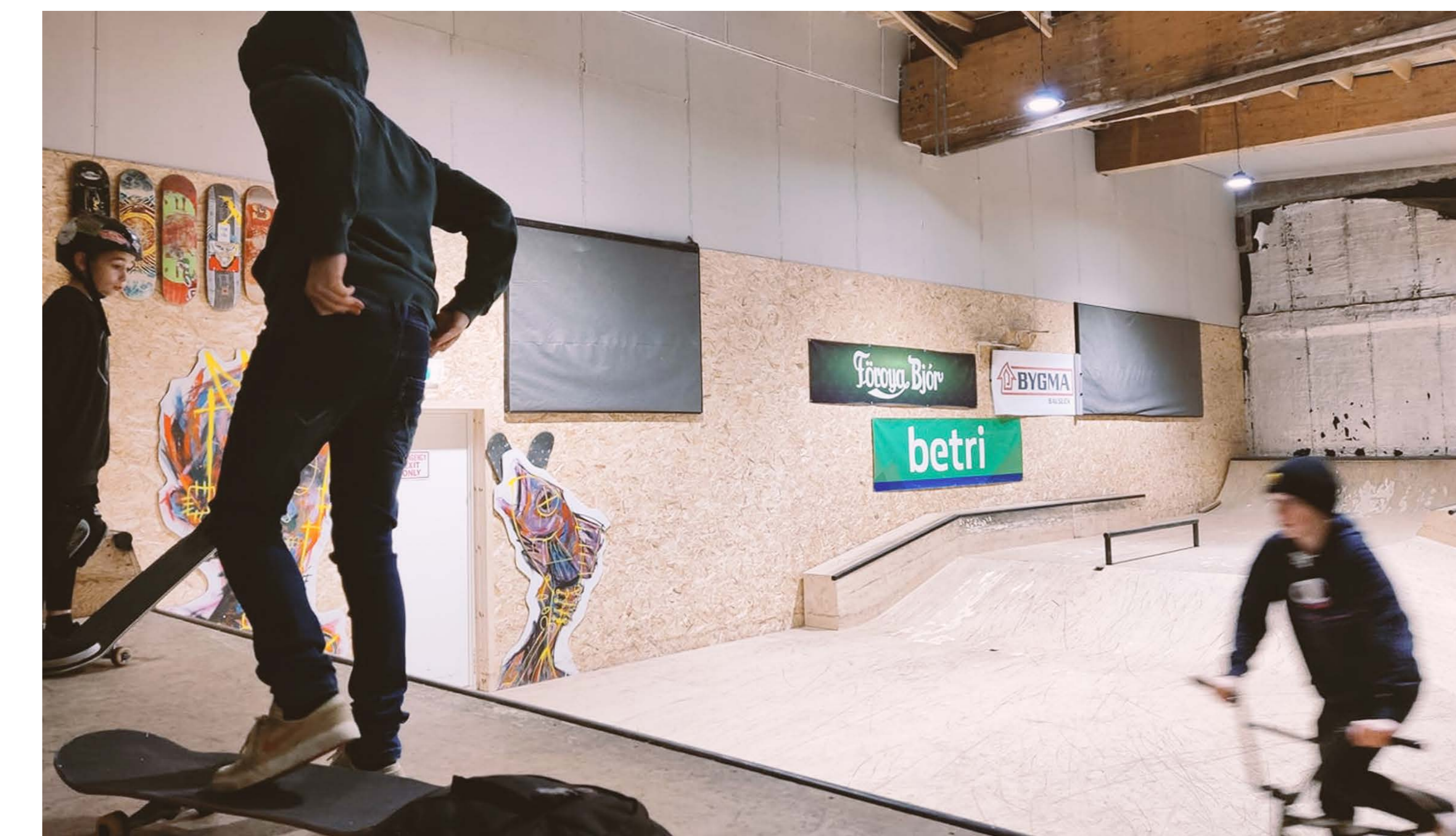
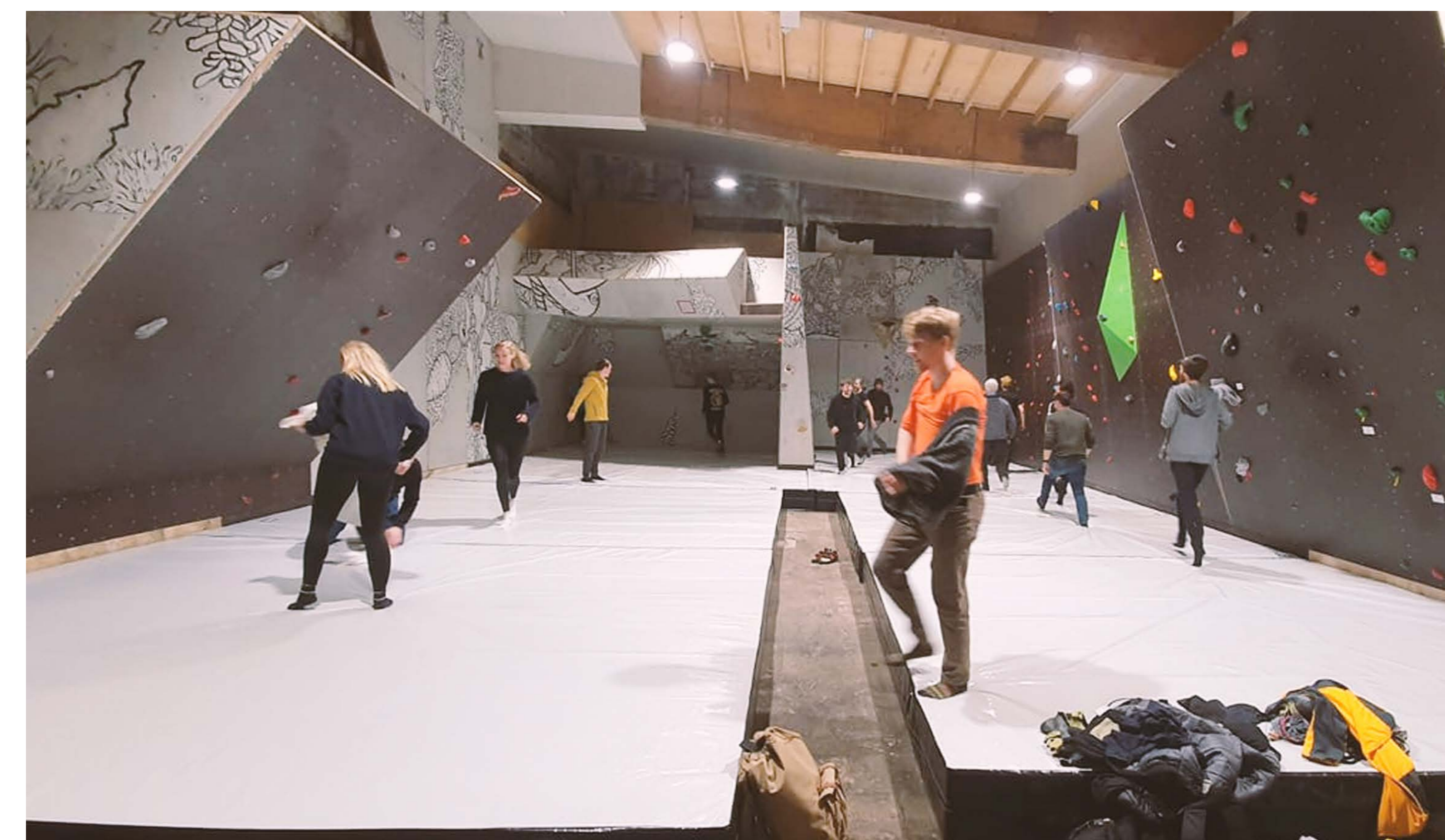


BACALAO

Anthropological research

SKATE & KLINTRIFELAG SKATE AND CLIMBING CLUB

Located in the Bacalao facilities is the Skate and Climbing Club of Tórshavn. The club was granted access to the building as a pilot project to see if there were any interests in these new sports. The facilities were built by voluntary work and has combined over 300 members. As the interest has grown severely during the last couple of years the spaces are getting to small for the club. The spaces located on the old freezing hall and is divided by a wall. The hall is located on the 1. floor and the remaining floor space could easily be incorporated in an expansion of the skate and climbing park.



BACALAO

Anthropological research

STREET FOOD

Street food is a growing industry with more and more mobile serving trucks. The foodtrucks have diverse selections ranging from traditional to international foods. The food trucks do not have any specific locations and on has to follow online were to find them. The trucks are also very reliant on the weather making it very hard to predict when to have open. A location that is not as effected by the weather conditions would make this industry much more reliable and beneficial.



BACALAO

Anthropological research