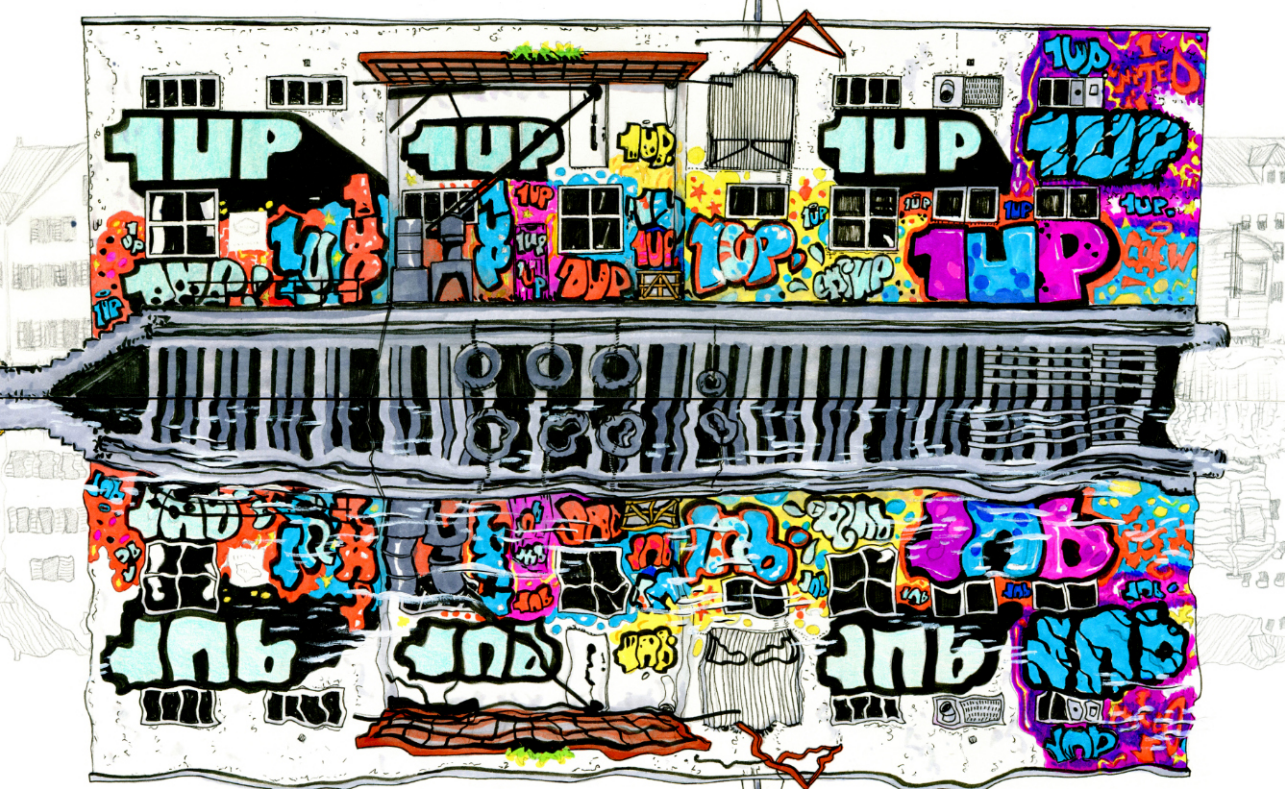


EIN VANDRING



ENGLISH
VERSION

GEENOM GRYDA

WRITTEN BY
THOMAS
MACINTYRE

ILLUSTRATED BY
LEO RIBEIRO

A JOURNEY THROUGH GRYDÅ

INTRODUCTION

Dear reader – welcome to
A JOURNEY THROUGH GRYDÅ.



In this comic, you join a father and his daughter as they walk through the neighborhood of Badedammen in Stavanger. Along the way, we hear the story of a unique area – its rich cultural heritage, how it has changed over time, and how local residents have fought to protect the neighborhood from unsustainable development. This is a story about belonging, resistance, and a little hope rising from the grydå (the pot).

Before diving in, let us set the stage.

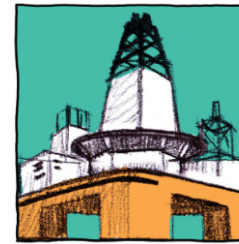
The story of Badedammen stretches back thousands of years. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Storhaug area has been inhabited for approximately 6,000 years. Some 5,000 years ago, early farmers began clearing the Stone Age forest to make room for grazing land. Over time, the landscape evolved into heathland, a delicate balance between people, animals, and nature. This approach to farming persisted until the 1700s, when it came to be viewed as old-fashioned, even though it had supported sustainable living for thousands of years.



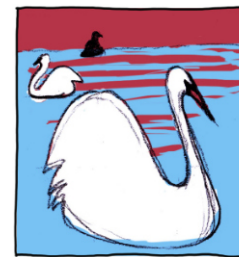
By the 1800s, the region was entering a new era. Stavanger grew into the center of Norway's herring industry. Herring was plentiful along the coast, and just between 1888 and 1916, ten canneries were set up in the Badedammen area. Workers settled in

the area, and a neighborhood grew up around them, filled with crowded houses, narrow alleys, and winding paths – almost like a small medieval town.

Decades later, another transformation was on the horizon. When oil came to Stavanger in the late 1960s, the neighborhood changed once again. This new era of wealth introduced new priorities, such as the increasing demand



for housing. In 1986, the municipality of Stavanger set its sights on developing Badedammen, and an international architectural competition was launched. The winning entry came from Swedish architect Ralph Erskine, whose ambitious proposal included canals and views towards the scenic Ryfylke. But the plans were never carried out. Old industrial structures were instead replaced with parking areas, commercial offices, and high-density housing.



The latest round of approved development plans is now pushing out yet another section of this historic neighborhood. Artists and craftspeople who once animated the surviving buildings are now being forced out, and the vibrant diversity of the community is steadily fading. Yet the neighborhood lives on. In the face of continued change, many remain committed to preserving its spirit. People continue to fight for the cultural and communal legacy of Badedammen, challenging the development they view as profit driven – Grydå represents one of many alternative visions for this beautiful neighborhood.

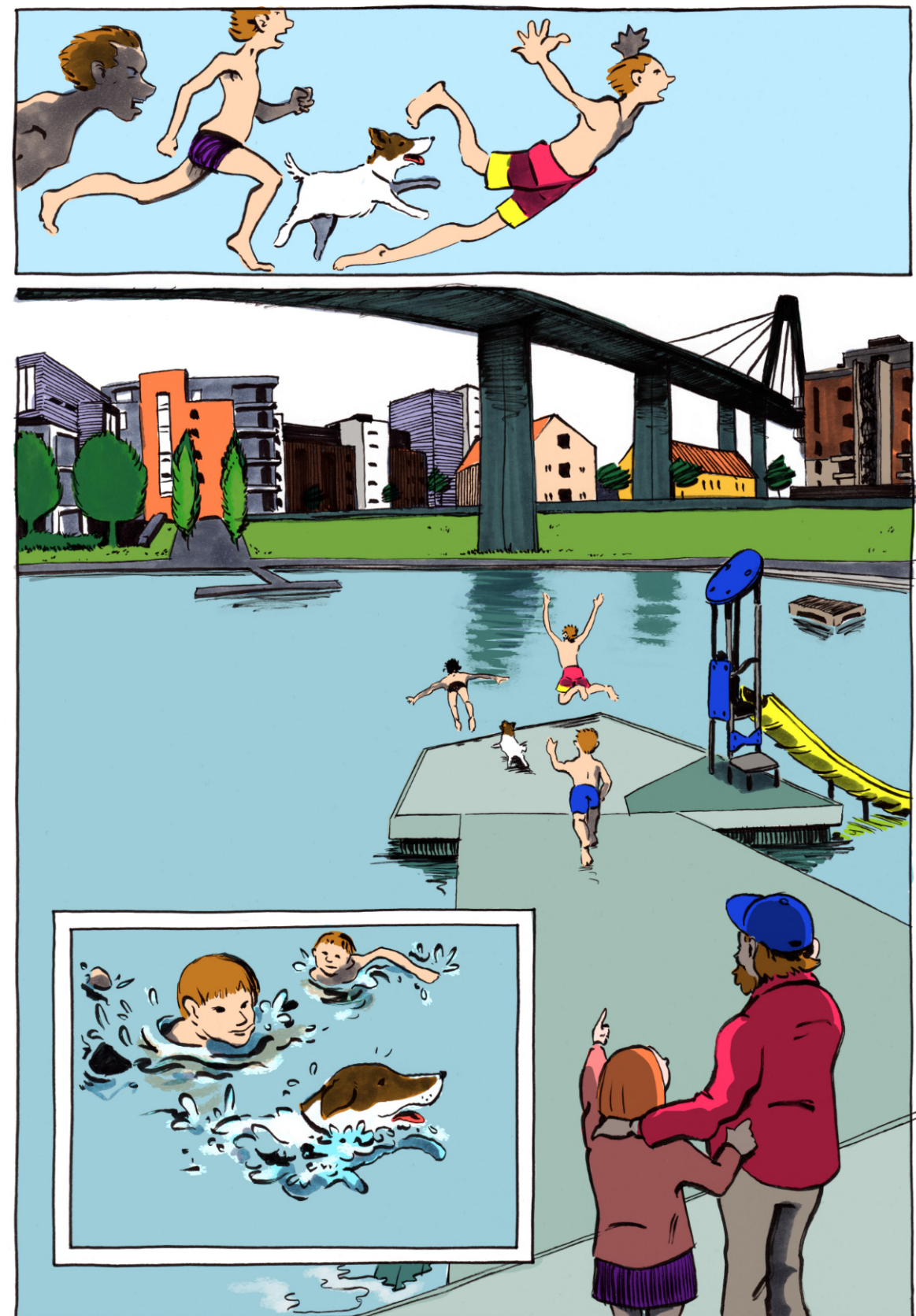
Change will always come, but it is important to remember the roots of a place – and to dream of the alternative futures we can create together.

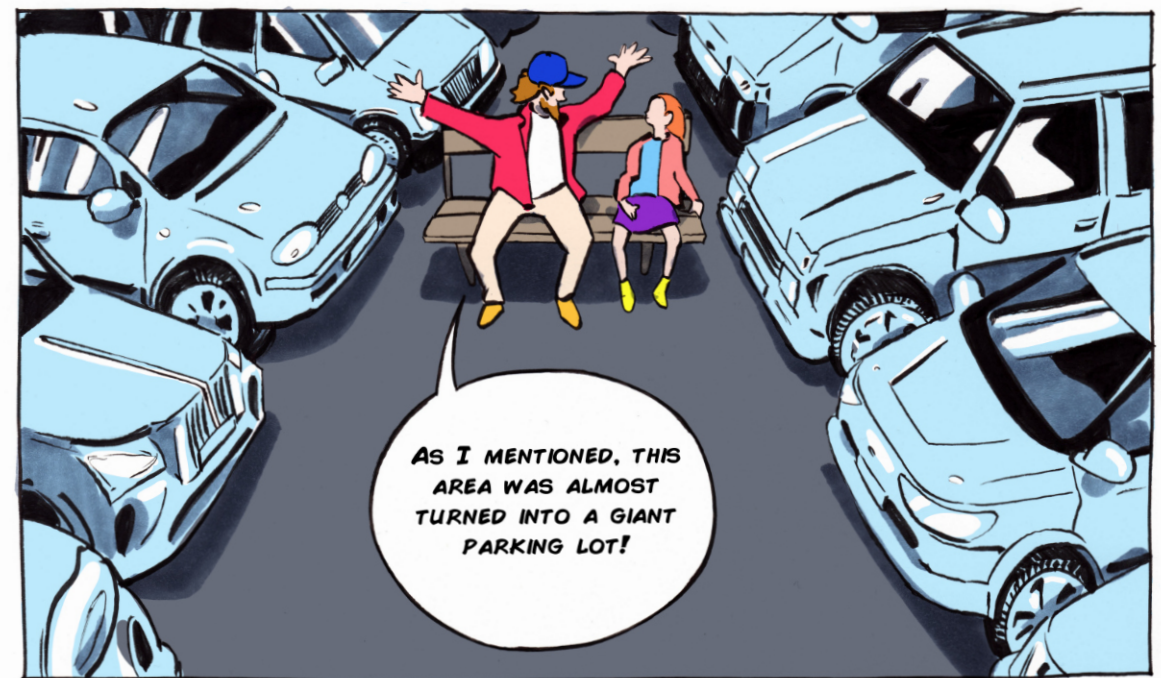
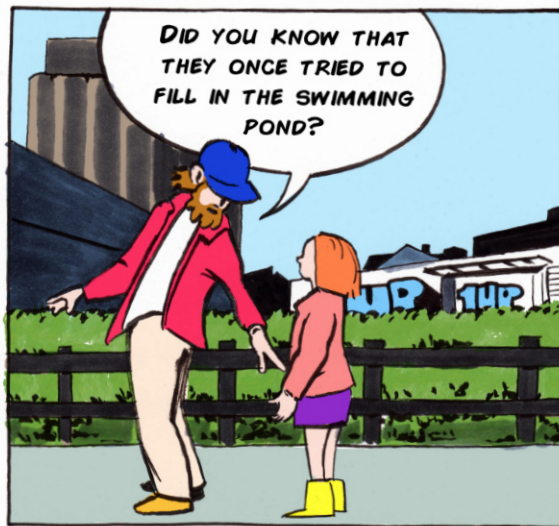
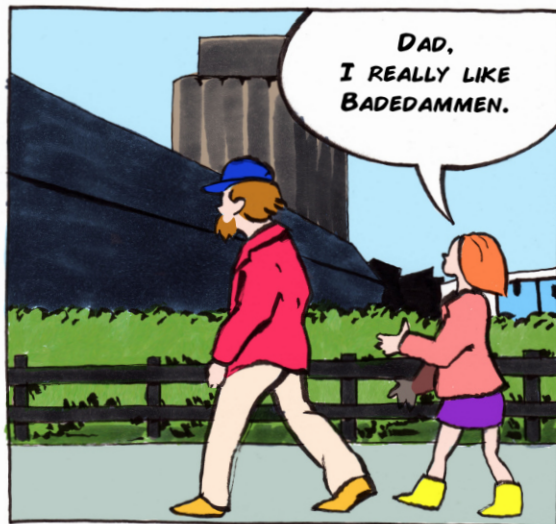


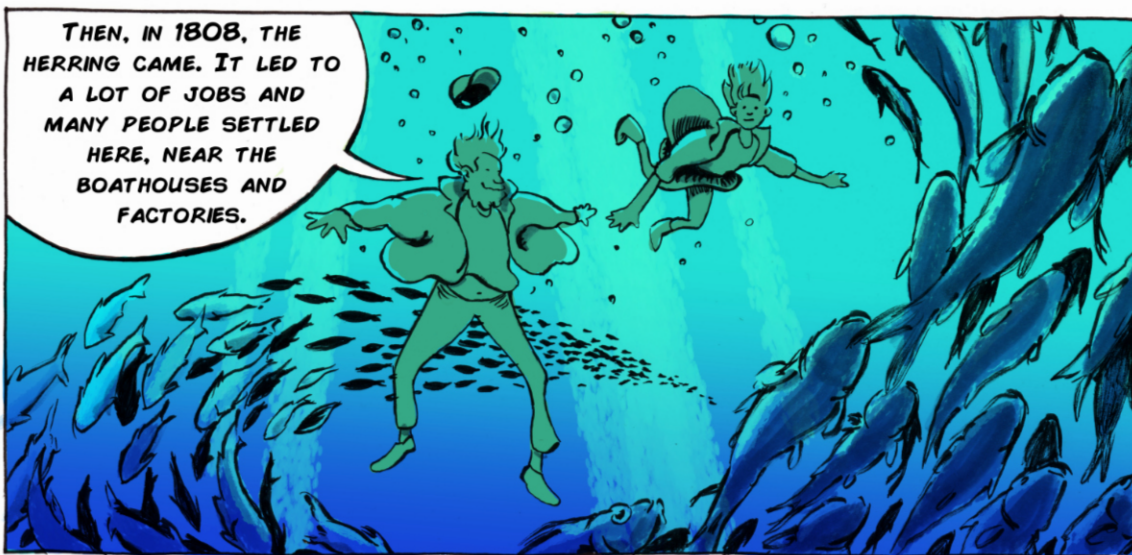
NORGE - NOREG - NORWAY

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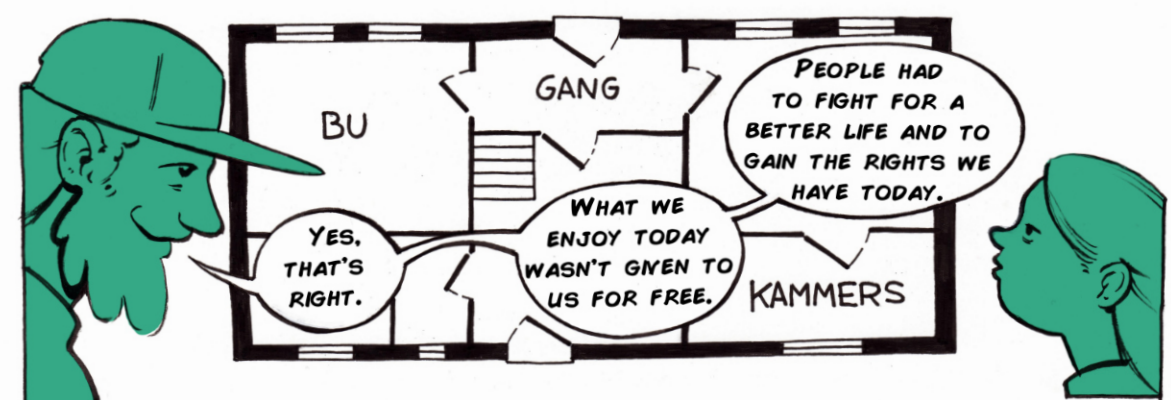


THEN, IN 1808, THE HERRING CAME. IT LED TO A LOT OF JOBS AND MANY PEOPLE SETTLED HERE, NEAR THE BOATHOUSES AND FACTORIES.



MOST OF THEM WERE QUITE POOR, AND THEY LIVED IN CROWDED CONDITIONS! IN THIS SMALL HOUSE, THREE FAMILIES LIVED TOGETHER. IMAGINE! 23 PEOPLE UNDER ONE ROOF!

THREE FAMILIES SHARING THE SAME HOUSE? I'M REALLY LUCKY TO HAVE A BEDROOM ALL TO MYSELF.



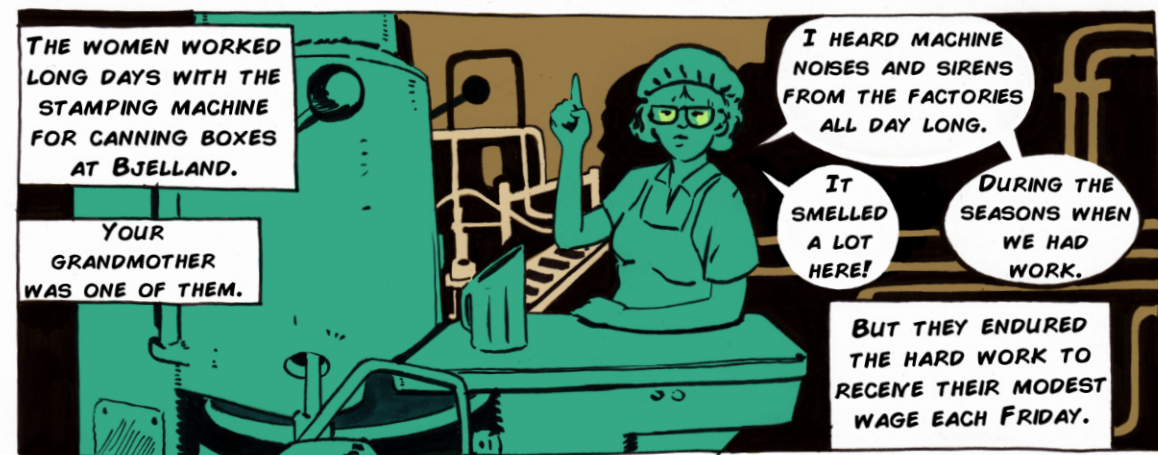
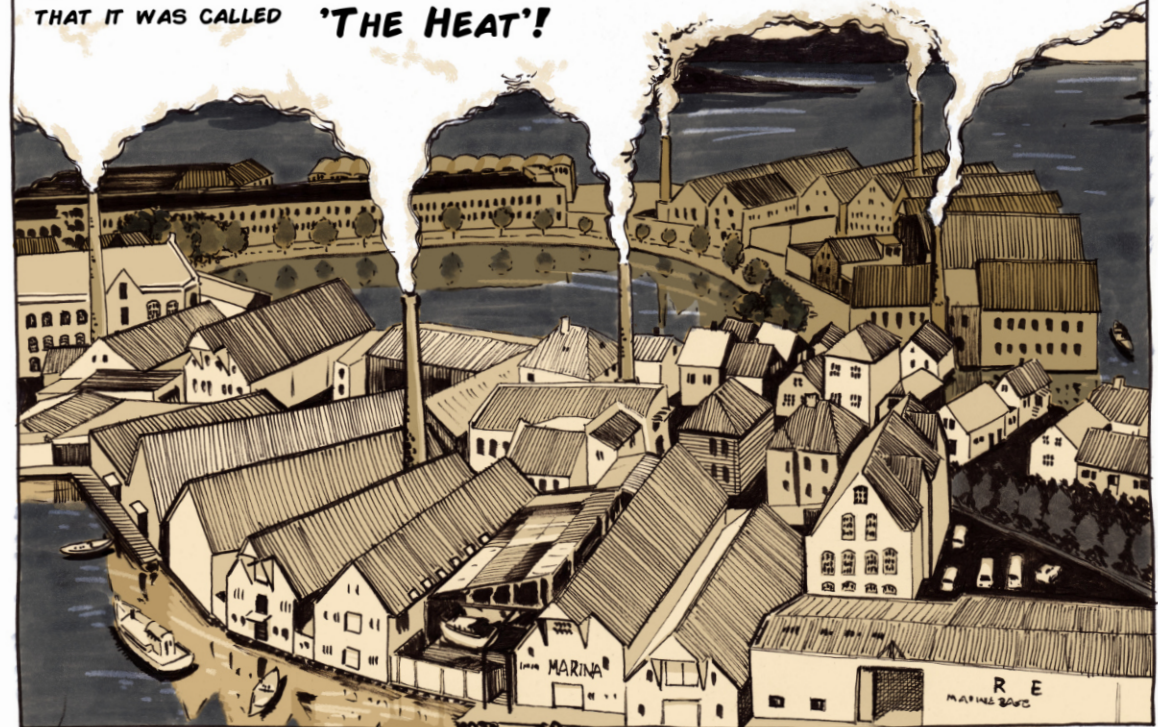
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT WE ENJOY TODAY WASN'T GIVEN TO US FOR FREE.

PEOPLE HAD TO FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE AND TO GAIN THE RIGHTS WE HAVE TODAY.

KAMMERS

IT WAS THE CANNING INDUSTRY THAT TOOK OVER AFTER THE PERIOD OF HERRING AND SAILING SHIPS. THERE WERE SO MANY TALL FACTORY CHIMNEYS SPREAD ACROSS THE AREA THAT IT WAS CALLED 'THE HEAT'!



THE WOMEN WORKED LONG DAYS WITH THE STAMPING MACHINE FOR CANNING BOXES AT BJELLAND.

YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS ONE OF THEM.

I HEARD MACHINE NOISES AND SIRENS FROM THE FACTORIES ALL DAY LONG.

IT SMELLED A LOT HERE!

DURING THE SEASONS WHEN WE HAD WORK.

BUT THEY ENDURED THE HARD WORK TO RECEIVE THEIR MODEST WAGE EACH FRIDAY.

UP UNTIL THE EARLY 1970S, THIS WAS A THRIVING INDUSTRIAL AREA. AFTER OIL WAS DISCOVERED IN THE NORTH SEA, AN OIL BASE WAS BUILT AT BADEHAMMEN. BUT IT MOVED, AND THE OIL COMPANIES WERE ESTABLISHED IN OTHER AREAS.

THE OLD FACTORIES HERE STOOD EMPTY AND ABANDONED. A COUPLE BURNED DOWN.

AND WITH THE NEW OIL MONEY CAME NEW WEALTH AND NEW PRIORITIES.

THE DEMOLITION STARTED, AND NEW APARTMENT BLOCKS SHOT UP IN THE AREA. THEY STOOD LIKE A TALL FENCE, HIDING THE VIEW OF THE FJORD.

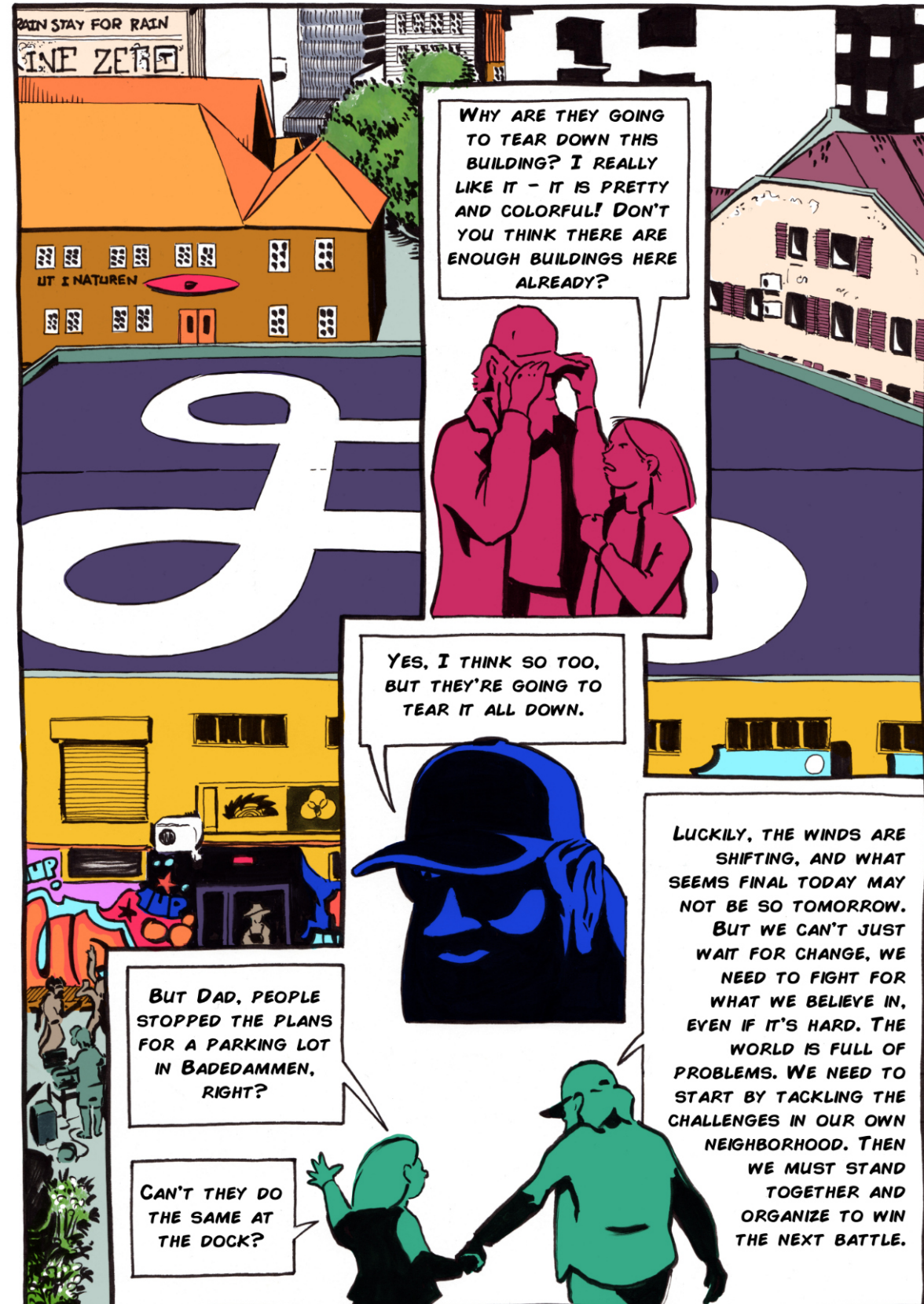
DID YOU KNOW THAT AT THE END OF THE 1980S, THERE WERE PLANS TO BUILD CANALS HERE, JUST LIKE IN VENICE? IT COULD HAVE BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO THE AREA.

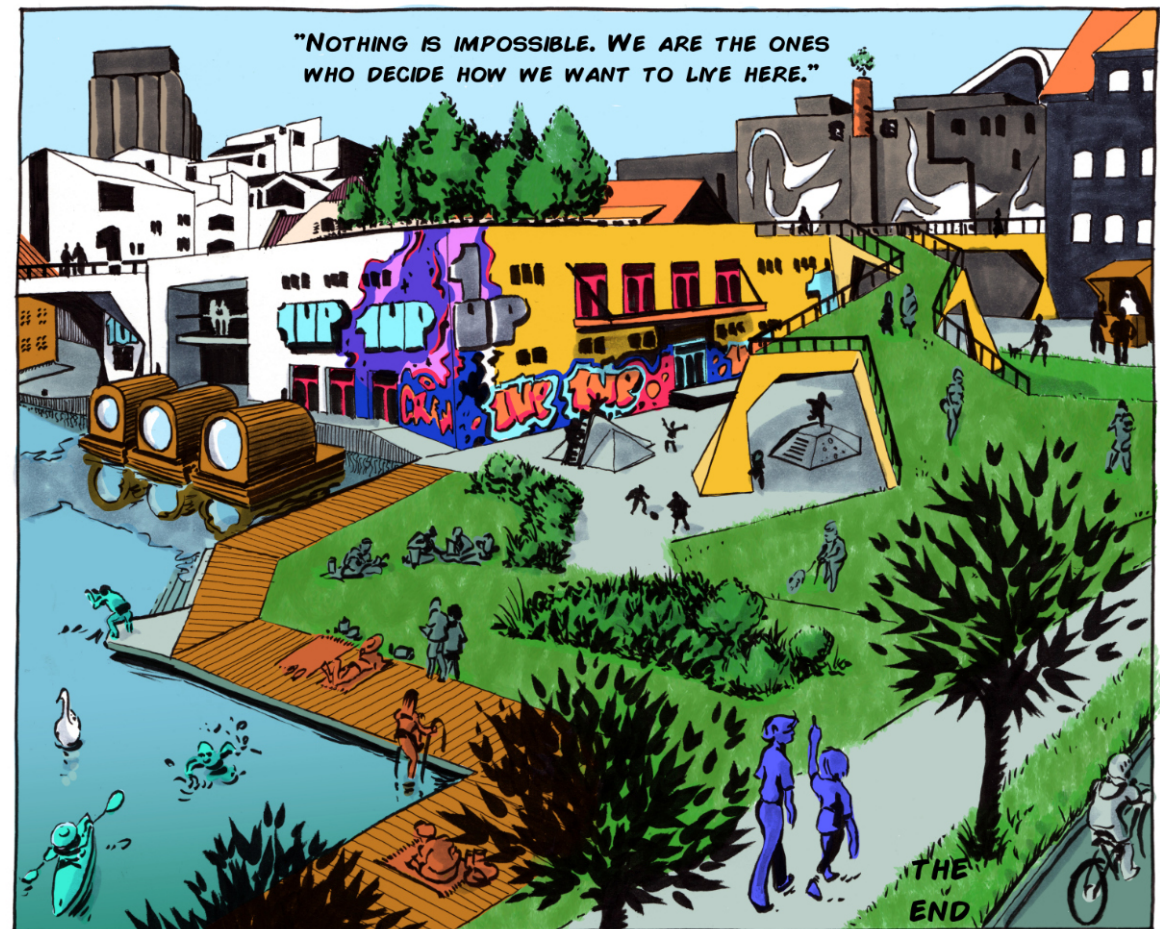
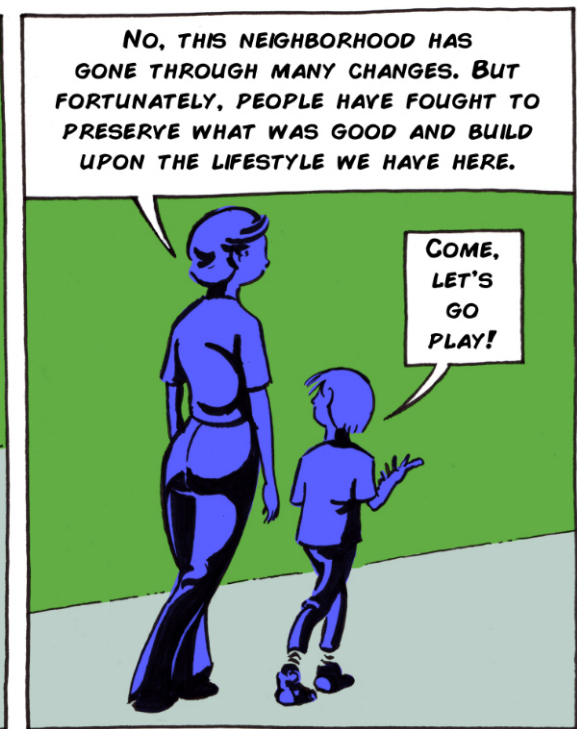
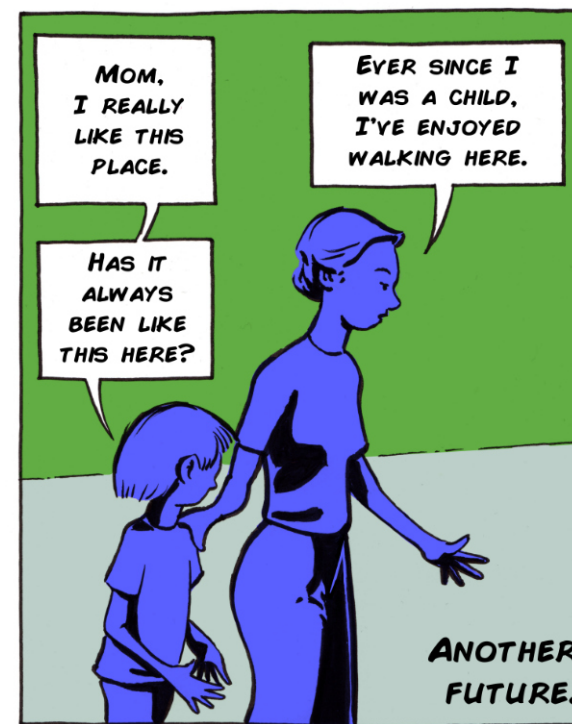
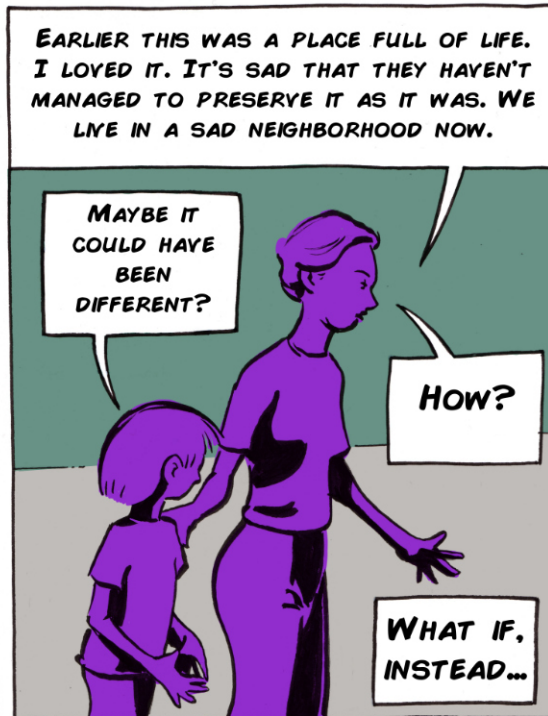
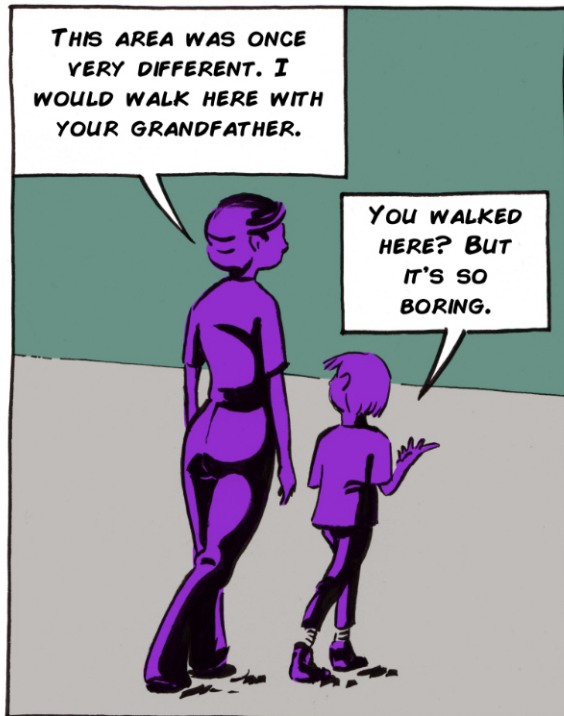
VENICE!

WHAT A SHAME IT NEVER HAPPENED, DAD!

GONDOLIER, TAKE US TO THE DOCK!

YES, BUT WE CAN IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE.







NORGE - NOREG - NORWAY

2025

“A JOURNEY THROUGH GRYDÅ” is a comic developed by local inhabitants, supported by the EU-funded NEBSTAR project (2022–2025). The project has explored creative approaches towards more inclusive, sustainable, and aesthetically driven urban development in the city of Stavanger. Over the course of the project, researchers from the University of Stavanger, along with residents and users of the Badedammen area, have used the Utopian Futures Workshop method to discuss, dream, and explore how to enable alternative futures for this historic neighborhood. This place, rich in memories and cultural heritage, is now at risk of disappearing in the shadow of new building plans and profit-driven visions. Grydå (the pot) offers an alternative vision and a new direction forward.

A special thanks to participant and local artist Leo Ribeiro, who brought this process to life through a comic – a visual story that highlights some of the many voices from this diverse and vibrant corner of Stavanger. Gratitude also to everyone who submitted stories and anecdotes that form the foundation of this narrative, and to the Grydå group for contributing to the development of alternative visions for the Badedammen area. Thanks also to Endre Elvestad for providing the historical background in the text, and Gunnar Roalkvam for the local dialect translation in the Norwegian version of the comic.

We hope you find inspiration in both the story and the illustrations – and that you also take the time to reflect on the big question: How can residents gain more influence over the development of their own neighborhood – not just in Stavanger but throughout Norway?



This work has been performed within the NEB-STAR (New European Bauhaus - Stavanger) Lighthouse project which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101079952.