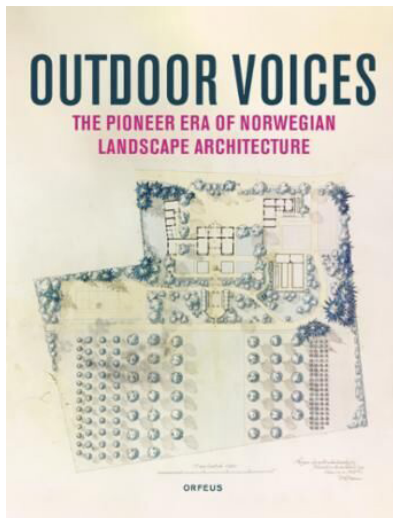


# Outdoor voices

## The Pioneer Era of Norwegian Landscape Architecture

Editor: Jenny B. Osuldsen

Publisher: Orpheus Publishing, Oslo 2019



Norway has the oldest landscape architecture program in all of Europe, dating back to 1919, shaped by outstanding professionals. In 2019 the University of Life Sciences (NMBU) celebrated the 100th anniversary and seven significant landscape architects wrote about Norway's most significant landscape influencers and designers between 1900-1960. Amongst the authors are NMBU professors, renowned Norwegian researchers, and landscape planners. In 271 abundantly illustrated pages one can read about the first "outdoor voices", in what has been called the pioneer era.

The book consists of nine articles, in addition to an introduction by editor, landscape architect and partner in Snøhetta, Jenny B. Osuldsen. The original Norwegian version of the publication was translated to English by John Irons and emphasizes two topics. Indulging in the important protagonists of the early 20th century and their influence on the academic study program. All articles are enriched with original landscape drawings and sketches that have never been published before, in addition to numerous recent photographs of famous gardens and design masterpieces.

The Norwegian title of the book unfortunately gets lost in translation, because the concept of *utestemme/ innestemme* (outdoor voice/ indoor voice) is often referred to children when being too loud indoors. The pioneers had to act loudly to be noticed. When reading about the landscape architects several of their projects are examined and thoroughly explained. It is very interesting when reading about the projects is that it feels like revealing hidden treasures, unknown even for experienced readers. Due to the project sites often being completely unknown, a reference explanation or map could add an extra clarity and insight where the different landscape designers had their focus, domain, and interest. Throughout the book the name Marius Røhne is mentioned several times. He was the city gardener in Oslo between 1916-1948 and a chief figure in park politics nationwide. His career and influence on public parks, and whether he affected the academic education, could have been a captivating addition to an already great collection of pioneers. All the writers clearly show great knowledge and capability to the stories of their subject. Some posts are easier to follow than others, probably due to the required brevity of the texts. Every person's story is incredible, and good narrations help the readers indulge in each landscape architect, triggering desire for more.

Highlighting Norwegian landscape architecture between 1900-1960, this collection does exactly that. The reader gets a fair picture of the life's work of the most important landscape designers in the pioneer era. The appetite for more information on the subject is awakened, leading to a much deeper appreciation of Norwegian landscape design. This book is highly recommended to those who know little about early 1900s landscape architecture history in Norway, but also for connoisseurs.