

ACTIONS AND BUILDINGS

This artistic safari is a result of many people's response to our challenge. Tou Scene issued an open invitation, proposing that people set up temporary activities in former industrial spaces in the neighborhood of Tou Scene. What triggered this idea was the presence of Kulturlaboratoriet, a cluster of artistic workspaces in the old Tin Factory in Ryfylkegata, that emerged spring 2008. K-lab represents the same kind of communal action that kicked off Tou a few years ago.

Cultural action is necessary, and filling buildings with art is necessary. This event is self-organized and self-promoting, without censorship or curation. Tou Scene provides help to access to buildings. All artists are responsible for organizing and presenting their work themselves. The public participates on its own responsibility.

Another trigger is the state of slow transformation of this part of town. In the 1870-80's the canning industry of Stavanger made the place flourish with affiliated businesses like production of packaging and labels, factories of concrete, tin, soap, as well as mills, bakeries and brewery. The main structure of streets and buildings that we have today, was formed through the industrial growth. East Stavanger became the leading industrial part of town, including settlements for workers. By 1984 the population was reduced to half, but nowadays growing again, and might reach 15.000.

Until late 1990's most of the industrial buildings were abandoned or used for temporary storing or production purposes. In 1999, private owners and Stavanger municipality started the development project "Urban Seafront". Until this point the area was regarded as not suitable for residential purposes. The Urban Sjøfront vision was presented as a composite urban space, combining lighter industries with culture/service and housings.

The locations of the safari are in various conditions: refurbished, abandoned, under threat of demolition, changing owners, under renovation. One of them is actually the upper buildings of Tou brewery itself, still empty and with an insecure future 7 years after the start of Tou Scene.

- Stavanger Havelager (Hermez) – from mid-1800 Stavanger Foundry and Docks, around 1900 the main employer in town with 500 workers. Later used as storage place for Stavanger Harbour. Now temporary storage space waiting to be rebuilt as housing and offices.
- Atha Yoga – Canning factory from early 1900. The spaces used in this safari show the state of decay before the renovation work in the building started. Under development to Yoga center, art gallery and apartments.
- Calder & Gaarden/Tjøland atelier - Earlier Rasmus Sands bag factory. Location of several small businesses. Will stay approximately as today.
- Stavanger Tin Factory, Ryfylkegata – started early 1900 and featured a spectacular 60 m high tower. Since the 70's used for industry, storage, sound studio, skating hall, now a part of the plan "The Centrum Axis" (Sentrumsaksen). Location of the artistic collective Kulturlaboratoriet.
- Lervigsvn 22, Empty Tou Buildings – production halls of the brewery, in the 80-90's used as office spaces for major companies in the oil business etc. Not a part of Tou Scene's contract. Stavanger City has shown some interests in the buildings, but up to now there has been no results in the negotiations with the private owner.