

NORDIC
ARCHITECTURE
NORDIC WOMEN

SUMMERHOUSE
WENCHE SELMER

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WENCHE SELMER

Wenche Selmer was born in 1920 in Paris to norwegian parents. She finished architecture school in Oslo during 1946 and worked for both Marcel Lods in Paris and norwegian architect Arnstein Arneberg before she started her own firm in 1954. She and husband Jens Selmer had the firm together and were life long working partners, supporting each other without interfering in each other's work. Apart from running her own firm she was a teacher at the Oslo architecture school.

Her designs were wood- and timber designs and she focused heavily on fitting her houses to the surrounding landscapes and buildings. She was careful to consider all surrounding buildings, regardless of their perceived qualities, and she wanted her houses to blend with nature rather than making them stand out.



Source: Arkitektur N nr 8, 1980.

SUMMERHOUSE AT BELTESHOLMEN

Wenche Selmer started working as an architect right after the Second World War, something that shows in her frugal designs. She used materials wisely, and never more than she needed, and was careful to keep her budget when designing a house.

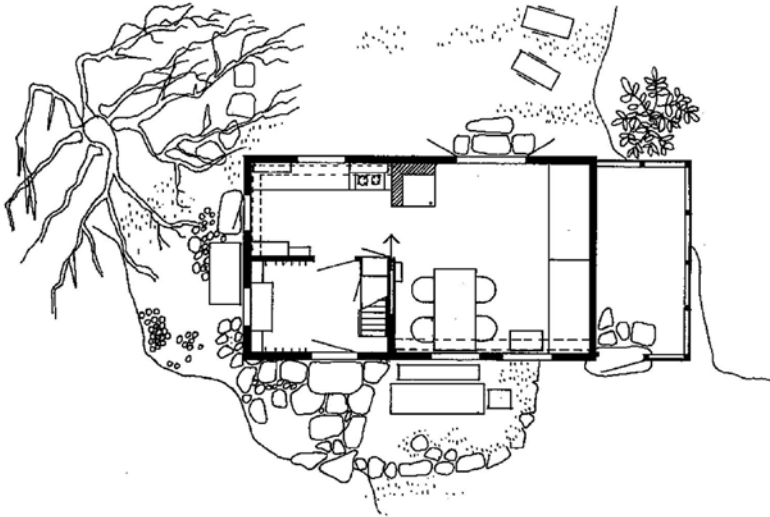
The exterior of the Summerhouse at Beltesholmen is supposed to remind of an old fishing cottage. The house only has the bare necessities - a fireplace and a stovetop, clever storage and beds that are placed mindfully to fit as many people as possible into the cottage. The inspiration for the interior comes from a sailing boat that Wenche and Jens Selmer owned.

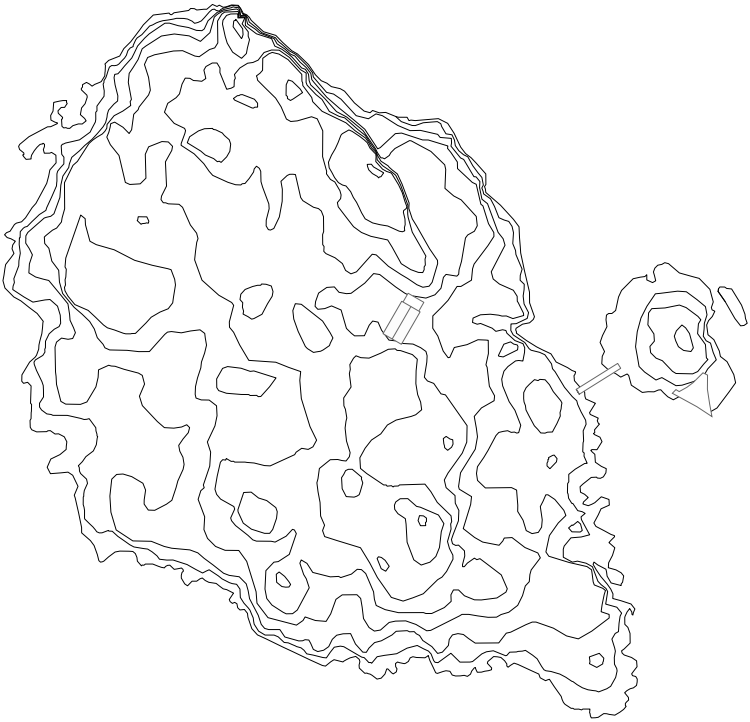


Source: Norwegian Wood, Elisabeth Tostrup, 2004.

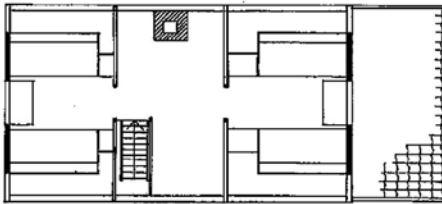
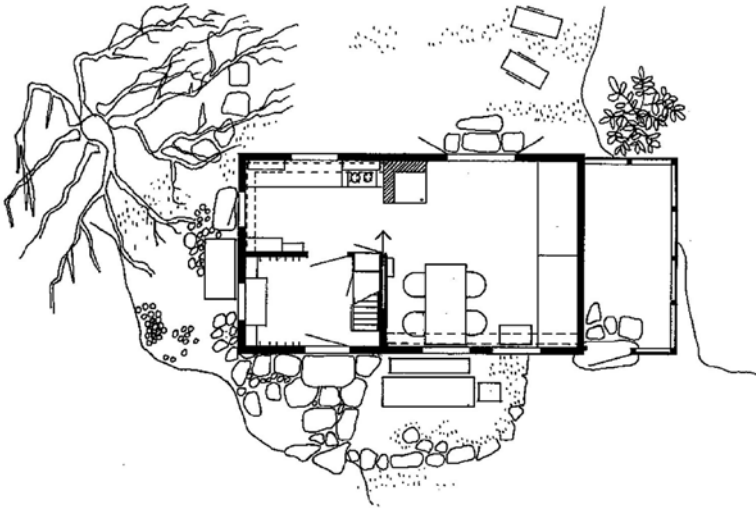
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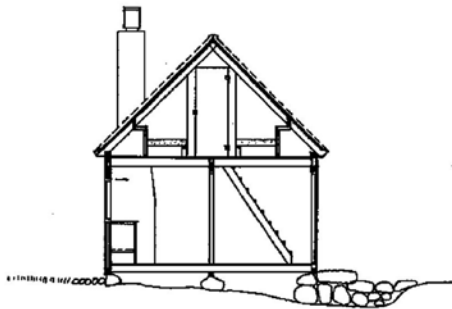
The house is situated on a remote island in the Norwegian archipelago. Selmer's idea of good placement was that the best site was not for building on, but rather to enjoy as it already was. The house is placed under a big tree and the footprint is smaller than the Selmer's initially wanted it to be. Wenche Selmer chose to make the house smaller in order to not have to ground blast to fit it to the site.

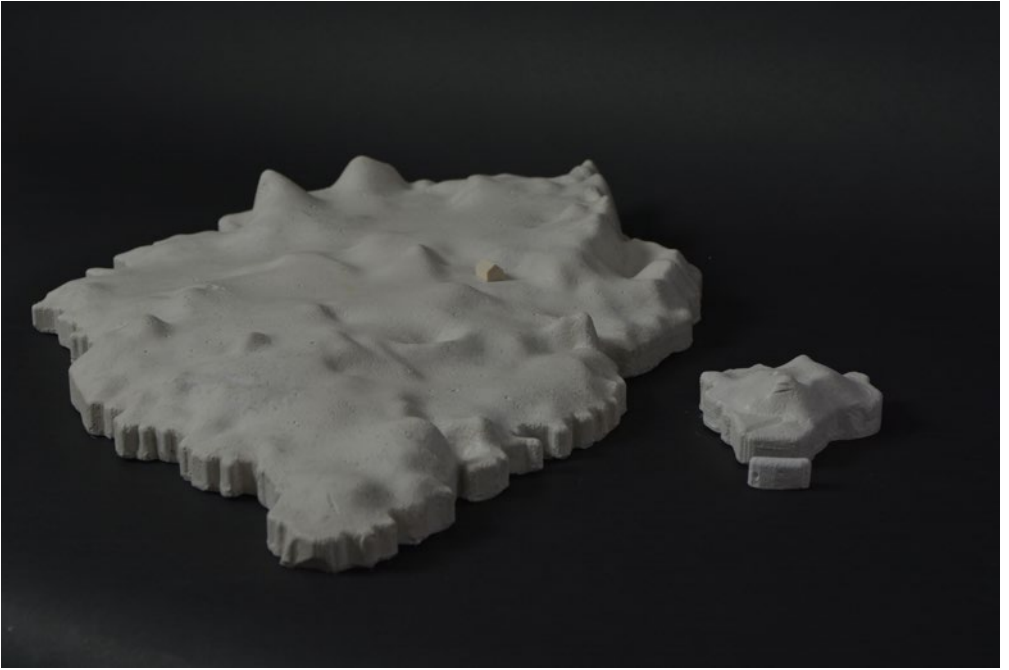




BLUEPRINTS







Landscape model. Scale 1:400.





Main model. Scale 1:20.





Complementary model. Scale 1:10.



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