

HERITAGE IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

THE GOVERNMENT HIGH RISE

Oslo, Norway.

For The Directorate of Cultural Heritage
(Riksantikvaren). Norway

For the EHHF,

Leuven / Louvain, May 22-23 .

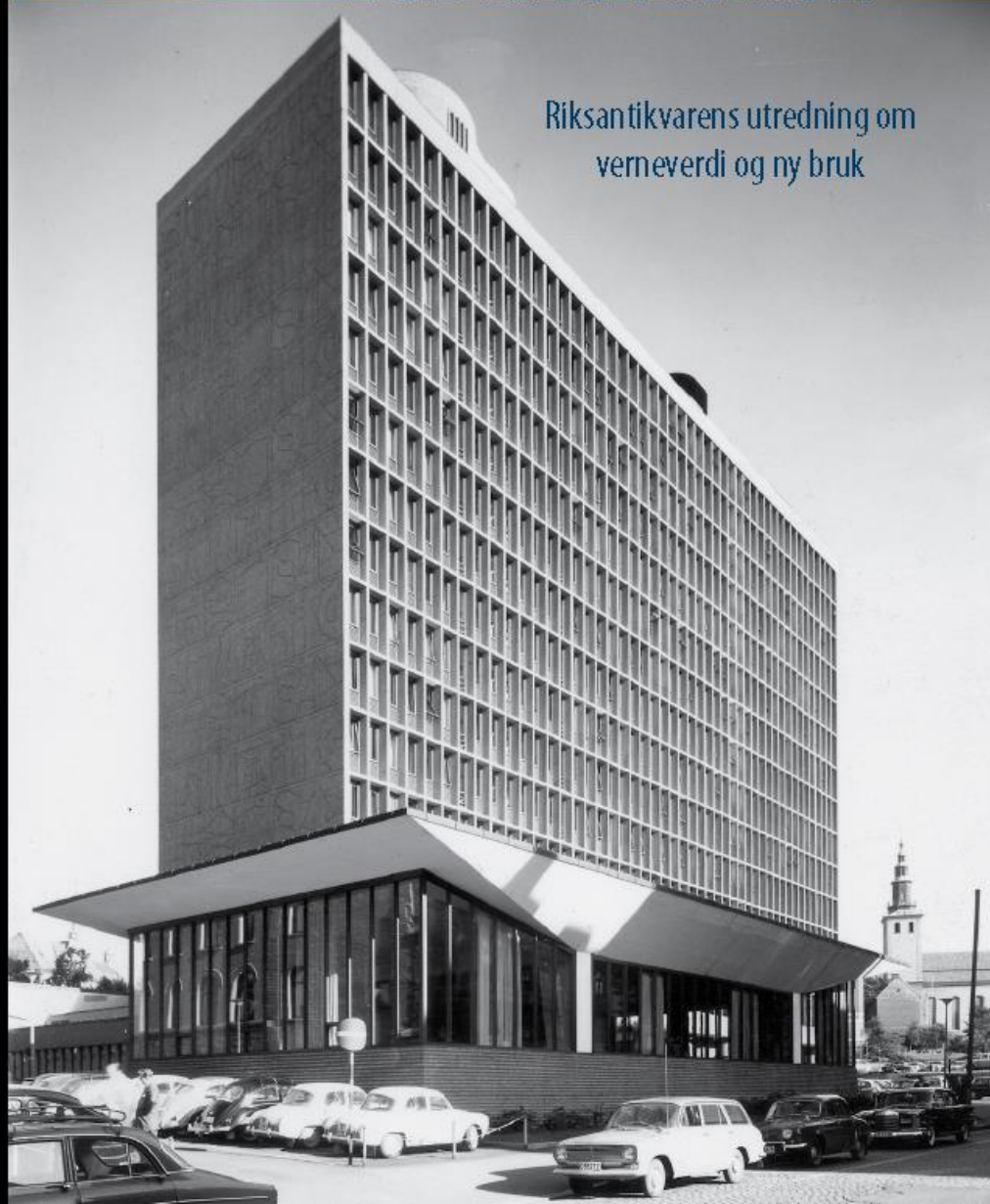
2014





REGJERINGSKVARTALET

Riksantikvarens utredning om
verneverdi og ny bruk



- The historic developments of the area; urban and social.
- New art, design and engineering.
- Agreement on protection
- The catastrophe
- Situation today & Modern technical norms.
Reuse potential
- Conclusions – and Comments



History; change of urban and social environment.



Late 1800



Rikshospitalet. The central hospital

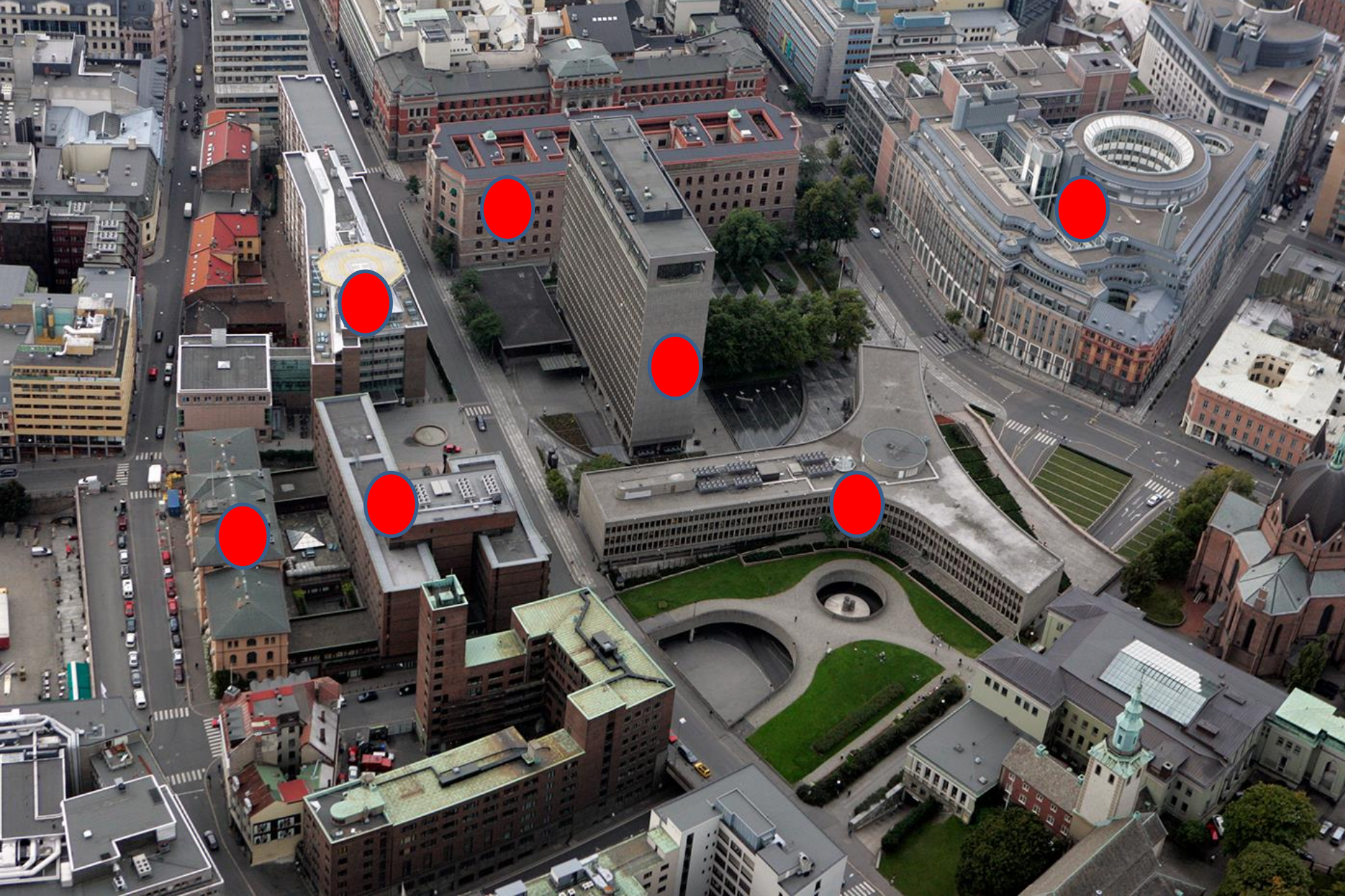


Independence 1905.





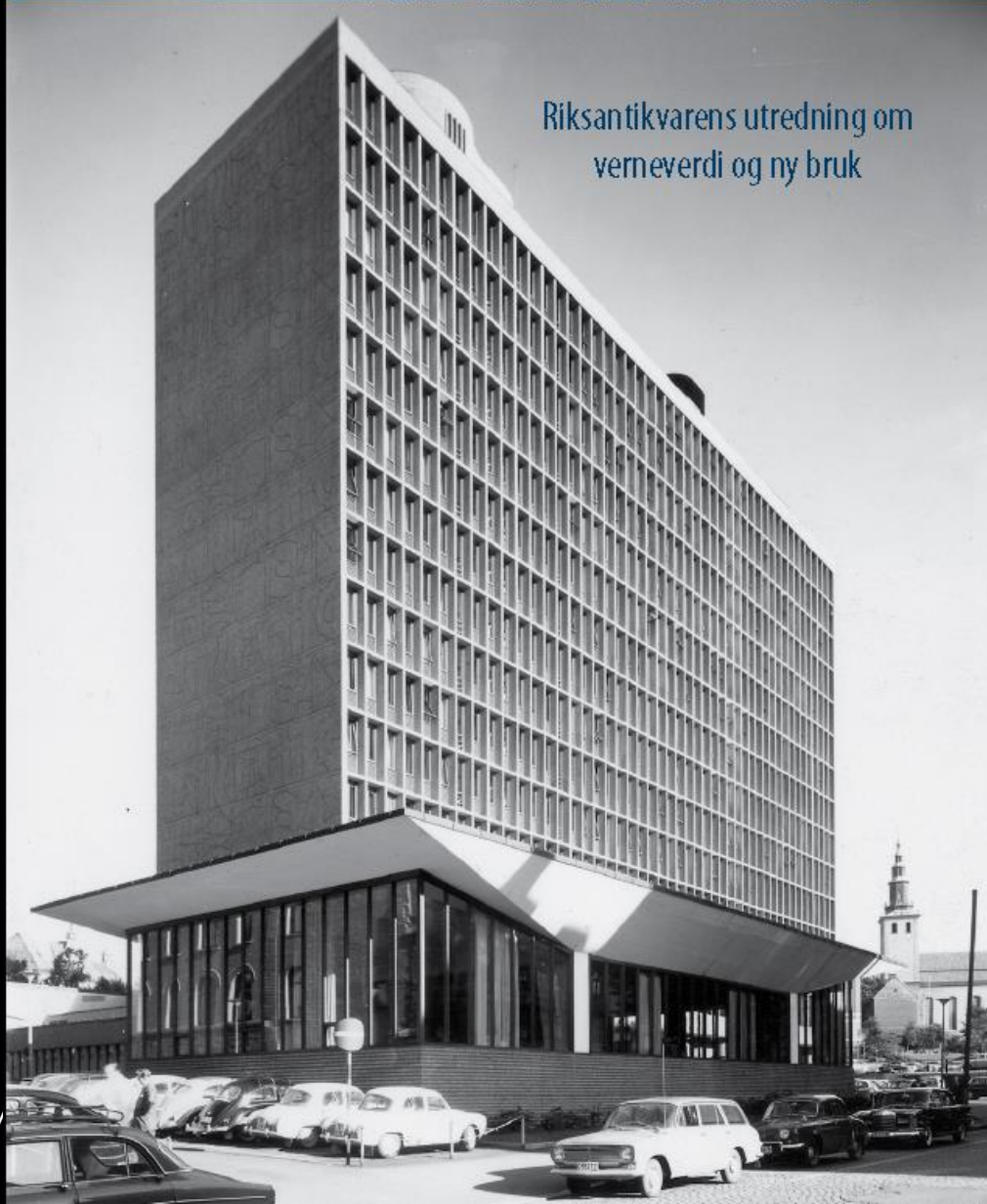
Architect Viksjøs model for new Government quarter.





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Modern - New art, design and engineering.

- New building technique. Norwegian invention.
- New modern art.
- Symbol of New times
- Symbol of new direction in policies. Marking this political supremacy.
- The social-democratic 'welfare state' (welfare with other connotation).





Naturebetong

Never done
before



New Govt. quarter

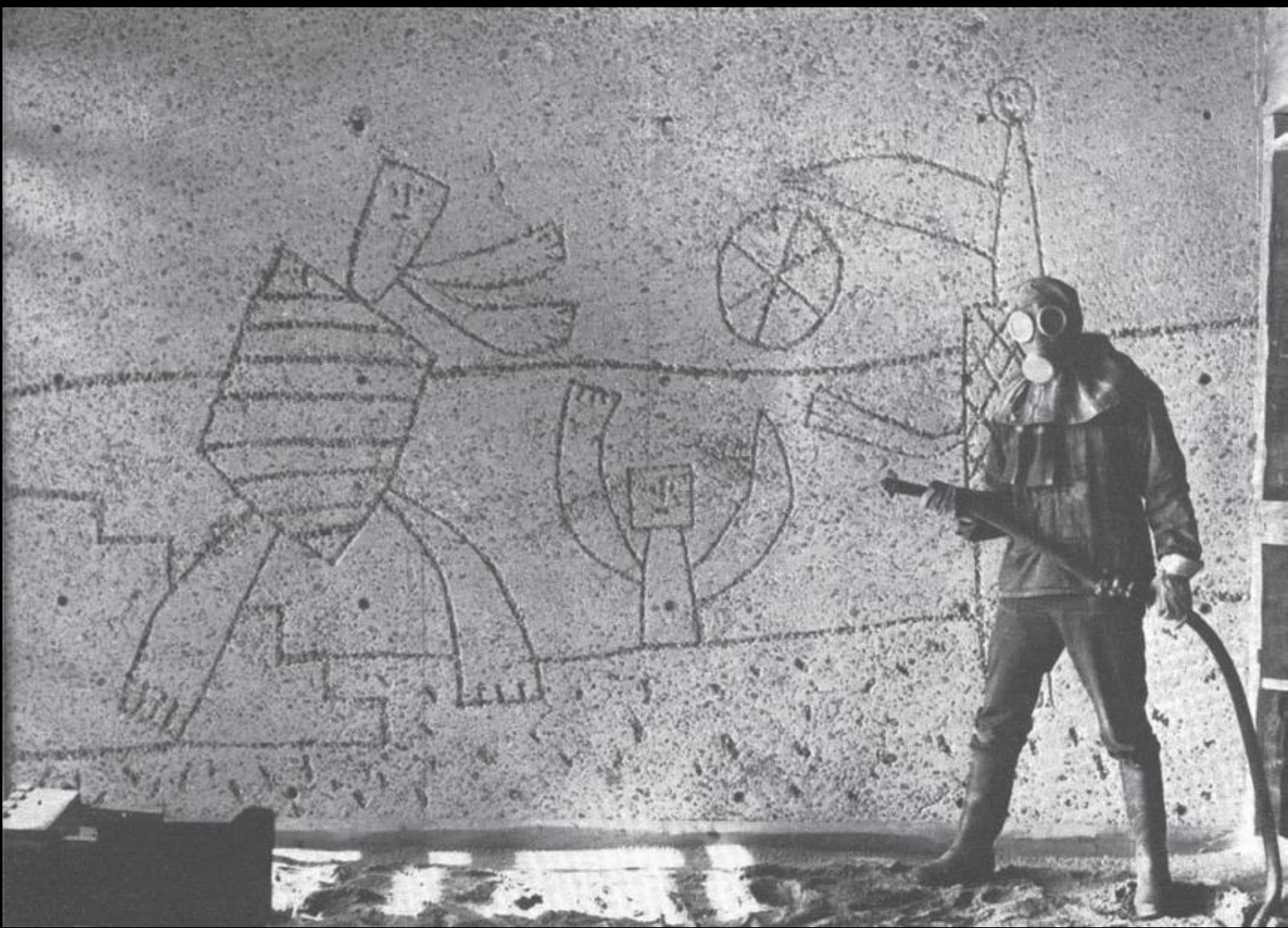




Picasso med skissen til Stranden, og det endelige kunstværket i Carl Nejsars udførelse i Højblokken. © Succession Pablo Picasso/BONO, Oslo 2013.
Foto af Picasso: Carl Nejar, foto fra Højblokken: Siri Wolland, Riksantikvaren

New art





One of the staircase walls in the process of being sandblasted by Carl Nesjar. The design is a beach scene by Pablo Picasso. (Photo: "Concrete Quarterly", January-March 1960, n. 44)





Erling Viksjø, Y-
bloc of
Government
complex in Oslo,
1970

Tore Haaland





Over: Inger Sitter © Inger Sitter / BON02013. Foto: Leif Anker, Riksantikvaren
Under: Tore Haaland © Tore Haaland. Foto: Leif Anker og Ingegerd D. Dring, Riksantikvaren







Agreement on protection 2011.

Relevant Government bodies agreed to follow the proposals from State Property Board and Riksantikvaren concerning the high protection value in June 2011.



THE BOMB



Foto: Statsbygg

July 22. 2011





Photos: Siri Wolland/
Scanpix/
Slagheap/Flickr

Painful heritage?



Everything on hold!



Situation today

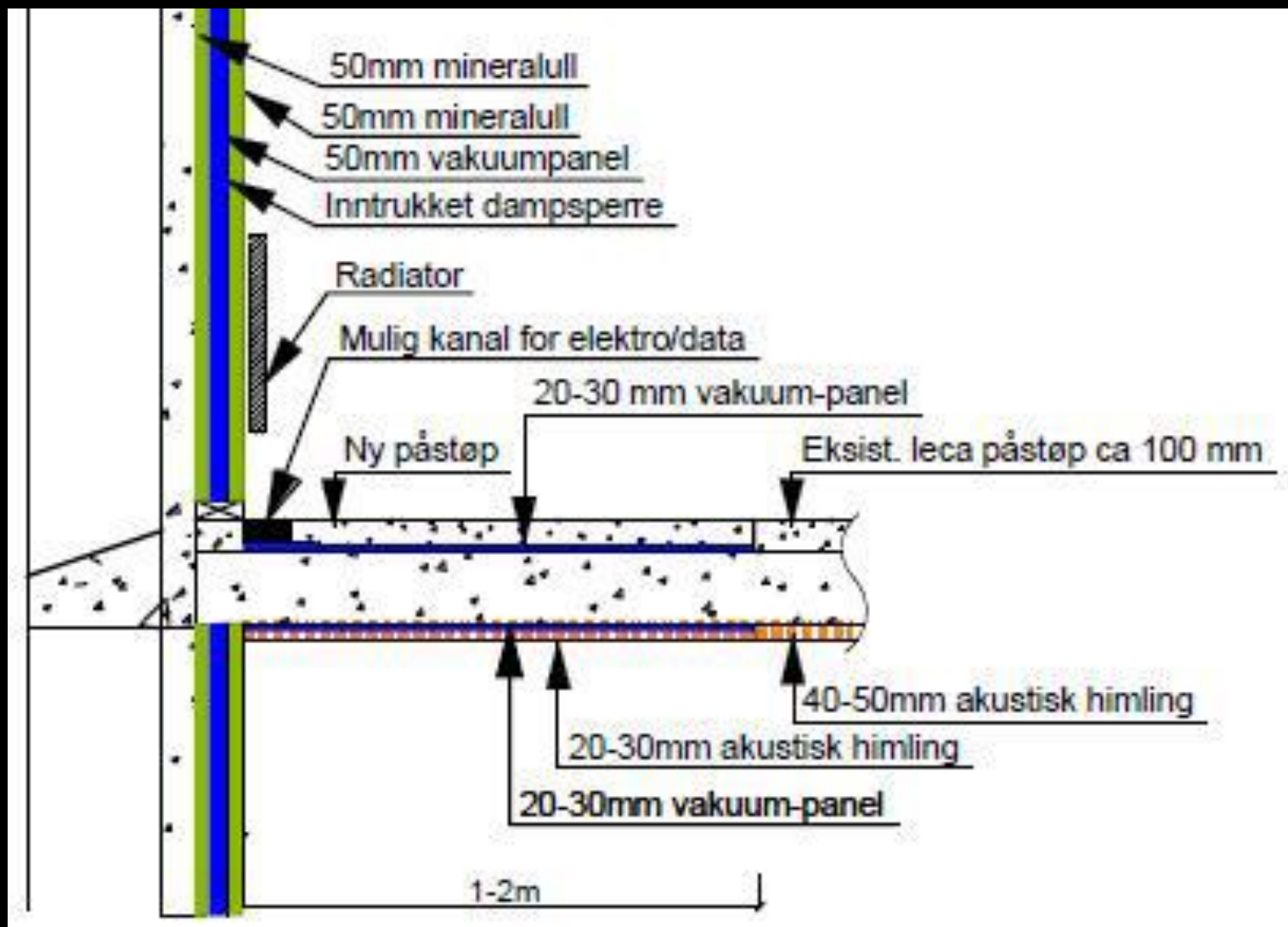
- A protection plan agreed one month before the attack on July 22 2011. Put on hold.
- The bomb did not affect the building shell. The integrated art-works are intact.
- Consultancy report to Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs – proposal to demolish - 27.06.2013
- New Government, Fall 2013.
- Heritage Authorities Protection plan presented 2014 (new)
- TBD by Government in June (to be decided)



Technical demands - EU regulations

- Can be satisfied.
- Have proven this in other similar type buildings.







- The High-rise and the Y-building; most important iconic buildings of the modern post WW!! Norwegian social-democratic 'welfare'-state . Agreement 2011 Protection .
- Alternative value (added) of **urban property in central location** vs historical value / iconic value. A question of demolition or protection.
- The art and the building cannot be separated.
- Protection only exteriors, lobby and integrated art
- Contemporary technical demands, energy performance, security can be met!
- Additional costs of rehabilitation? Not significant.
- Reuse value high.



The political issue another
question?



(Internal administration issue)

Very resource demanding for heritage authorities to engage in such processes and to have access to needed specialists!

But to have capacity to engage with such issues is necessary if you wish to be politically relevant and mainstreamed!



END
Thank you

