

A Transformable Fortress on a Nordic Islet

WEEKEND HOUSE STRAUME | KNUT HJELTNES ARKITEKTER
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Although it might be difficult to believe, Weekend House Straume, situated on the rocky islet of Sildegarnsholmen, came from humble origins. In designing this home, Knut Hjeltnes Arkitekter had the peculiar challenge of recreating the spatial structure of an old warehouse that had been washed away by an intense storm in 1992. The islet has belonged to the family of the house's current residents—Peter and Marianne—for many generations, hence their interest in making a permanent home there.

Designed for a harsh, flood-prone environment, the house is now equipped to survive any disaster. Seven steel frames that give the structure its shape are firmly anchored to a concrete-plinth cast, built on the warehouse's old stone foundation. Susceptible to flooding, the ground floor contains both insulated and uninsulated spaces—a kitchen

and living room, plus storage for wet suits, fishing nets, and sails—fortified by steel and glass walls. Living quarters—four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a cinema room—are located on the floor above. For extra privacy, the architects divided this level into two independent spaces, each with its own staircase. The light-filled, visually stunning attic provides extra room for storage, guest accommodation, and social events.

A feature that perhaps brings Weekend House Straume closer to a castle or fortress is the timber façade—its combination of hinged and sliding panels allows the home to, on short notice, shield all windows and open spaces, and block out the strong winds. When the residents are home, or when the weather is calm, the house easily opens back out to the world.

It is easy to imagine that the interior of such a space might include only the bare essentials. However, the house's amenities, although minimalist in nature, evoke comfort more than pure function. The spacious sofa in front of the fireplace offers a ground-level spot from which to contemplate the horizon and listen to the sounds of the sea. And the wooden textures and muted colors of the bedrooms effortlessly create an atmosphere of calm and coziness.



LEFT PAGE The interior is characterized by simplicity and minimalism. **RIGHT PAGE** Built with seven steel frames and wrapped in a timber envelope of sliding panels, the building can remain completely anonymous when not in use, but transforms when inhabited. **FOLLOWING PAGES** An ascetic interior is cozy and comfortable, providing the necessary features for a functional and enjoyable living space.

