Hytter i Norge
Cabins in Norway

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Institut of Geography
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Maureen Le Doaré

Photo: Maureen Le Doaré
Outline

Introduction
  Questions
  Materials and Methods

I-History of cabins and perception by the Norwegian society
  Historical development
  Classical representation through the Norwegian society
  Main motivations for Norwegians

II-Paradox of the modernization of second homes and their impacts on the environment
  Looking for modernity
  Positive and negative impacts on the environment

III-Integration and local development
  Possible local conflicts
  Possible development and nuances to it

Conclusion

References
Introduction

• Definitions
  – Cabin: «a small, simple wooden house».
  – A large part of second homes in Norden.
  – Also a large part of the accommodation for tourists
  – Presentation will focus on cabins as second homes in Norway.

• Questions
  – Which development and evolution for second homes in Norway?
  – Which impacts on the landscape and the environment?
  – How are they integrated in the local development?
Materials and Methods

Literature selected
- Several articles mostly about Norway, or Norden
  - Chapter 15 of Norway: nature, industry and society (Rusten and al.)

Main points studied
- History and perception by the norwegian society
- Modernization and impacts on environment
- Integration and development
I- History of cabins and perception by the norwegian society

- Started in the 19th century with the decline of the agricultural society.
- Originally from old farms transformed into second homes with low standards.
- Growing urbanization and increase of leisure time.
- Development of transports (cars, better roads...).
About 50% of the Norwegian population have access to a second home.

Culturally linked to rurality and family, two main parts of the Norwegian society.

The cabin is often located in the original location of the family: a return to the roots.
Perception in the norwegian society

• Major place in the society

«Nowhere in the world second homes ownership are as common as in the Nordic countries» (Müller)

- Place of gathering and social interaction: same purpose as family meal.

- Sharp contrast between leisure time (week-end) and work (week).
A way to:
- Escape from the stress of urban life
- Being «back to nature»: the primitive aspect of the cabin is very important (re-use of old parts and do it yourself)

Tourism: a way to experience a traditionnal way of life.

But, more and more modernization, cabins are getting far from the original ideal.
II- Paradoxe of modernization of second homes and their impacts on the environment

- More and more modernization of the cabins.
- Sometimes more money is spent into the second home than the main one.
- Looking for more comfort but so getting away from the «primitive» idea of the cabin as «back to nature».
Exemple of modernization: Cabin in Sør-Trøndelag with a parabole.

- Getting away from the urban life but still connected thanks to new technologies (the Internet, phones, TV...).
Working on a cabin in Dovrefjell in summer, while the weather is good, to make it bigger

Nowadays in Norway, the total new constructed floor space of second homes is larger than of dwelling buildings.
- The cabin has to be *koselig*, but to be so, does it have to be moderne equipped?

- Do people should privileged modernity of traditionnality?

- Problem that:

  If a cabin is too raw, some member of the family could not want to go there and so it could be less used.

**Answer could simply be:**
Depends on people's expections.
Impacts on the environment.

45% of the second homes are wide spread. => impact on the landscape.

Visual impact: permanent constructions

Voss fjellandby in summer Exemple of a concentrated cabin area.

An isolated cabin on the coast in Sotra (Hordaland). Sprawl of natural landscape
Negative impacts on the environment...

Modernization + increasing of the number of cabins
→ permanent infrastructures (cabins, roads, energy)
→ increasing in the consumption of energy and water
→ increasing of the land use / quicker erosion
→ more wastes (solid, wasted water)

Sometimes on the coast it is directly rejected into the sea and so it destroys the ecosystem.

→ increasing of greenhouse gases emission
...But some nuances, thanks to modernization

- Modernization = better wasting treatment, using of sustanaible energy forms (solar, wind...)
  → depending on the cabins, some are more environment friendly than others.
- Still see as a «green» tourism and «green» holidays.
Impact on the flora:
Can be damaged or disturbed by the import of foreign species around the cabins, decorations.

For example: *Amelanchier spicata* and *Cotoneaster lucidus*. Nice for decorations.

Picture: *Amelanchier spicata*

Impact on the wild fauna, as reindeers. Because it can break the reindeers tracks for instance.
The construction of cabins, especially on the coast is also disturbing the free access to nature. So it's **against All Men's right (Allemannsrett)** for the free access to nature. And so limited the area for leisure.

Despite these impacts, it still viewed as an efficient way of maintaining the link between humans and nature.

What about the impact on development?
III-Integration and local development

- Some conflicts are possible between local population and owners of second homes.
  - Because of contradictions in the development aims
- BUT case of Norway is special because:
  - Low density and large areas => spatial separation most of the time between second homes area and main homes areas. So few sharing of space.
  - No concurrence on the real estate market, so no price increasing

Figure 2. Area of holiday house area by the area of county. 2011. Percent

Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority.
Often second homes main areas are next to touristic zones and help for the development of leisure activities (ski, golf...). And not too far from the main cities (division west/east in Norway).

Many rural municipalities are declining so second homes are viewed more as a benefit.

The main regions are Oppland and Buskerud. (People from Oslo region)

- Often second homes main areas are next to touristic zones and help for the development of leisure activities (ski, golf...). And not too far from the main cities (division west/east in Norway).
• It can lead to some developments:
  – Urbanization, better infrastructures (roads e.g)
  – More services
    • Less and less 'Do It Yourself' at the cabins, people prefer to buy services: thus demand for work.
    • But these works are temporary.

• But most of the time spent at the cabin is short (week-end), and not much consumption there.

• Creation of a network between the areas with a circulation, this network is called «home». Connections and interactions. (Knut Ailde)
Conclusion

- A development following the decrease of the agricultural society, and now deeply into a norwegian ideal, family gathering and return to a simple life.

- A simple life but paradoxically an increasing modernization of cabins

- Several impacts on the environment (fauna, flora, landscape...) but a «green» image.

- Integration complicated, and development existant but not so important.

- More and more norwegians prefer to buy a flat abroad, because it too expensive to have a cabin with high standard, and new expectations.
Harstad Hallan M., "Hytta er der sjelen hører til": en undersøkelse av verdier i fritidslandskapet og hyttefolks landskapssyn, 2010.
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Illustrations

- Photos:
  - Maureen Le Doaré
  - Corinne Le Doaré
  - Melanie Liebig (: reindeer picture)
  - Lokmartin.com (Voss Fjellandsby)

- Graphic and maps:
  - Ssb.no