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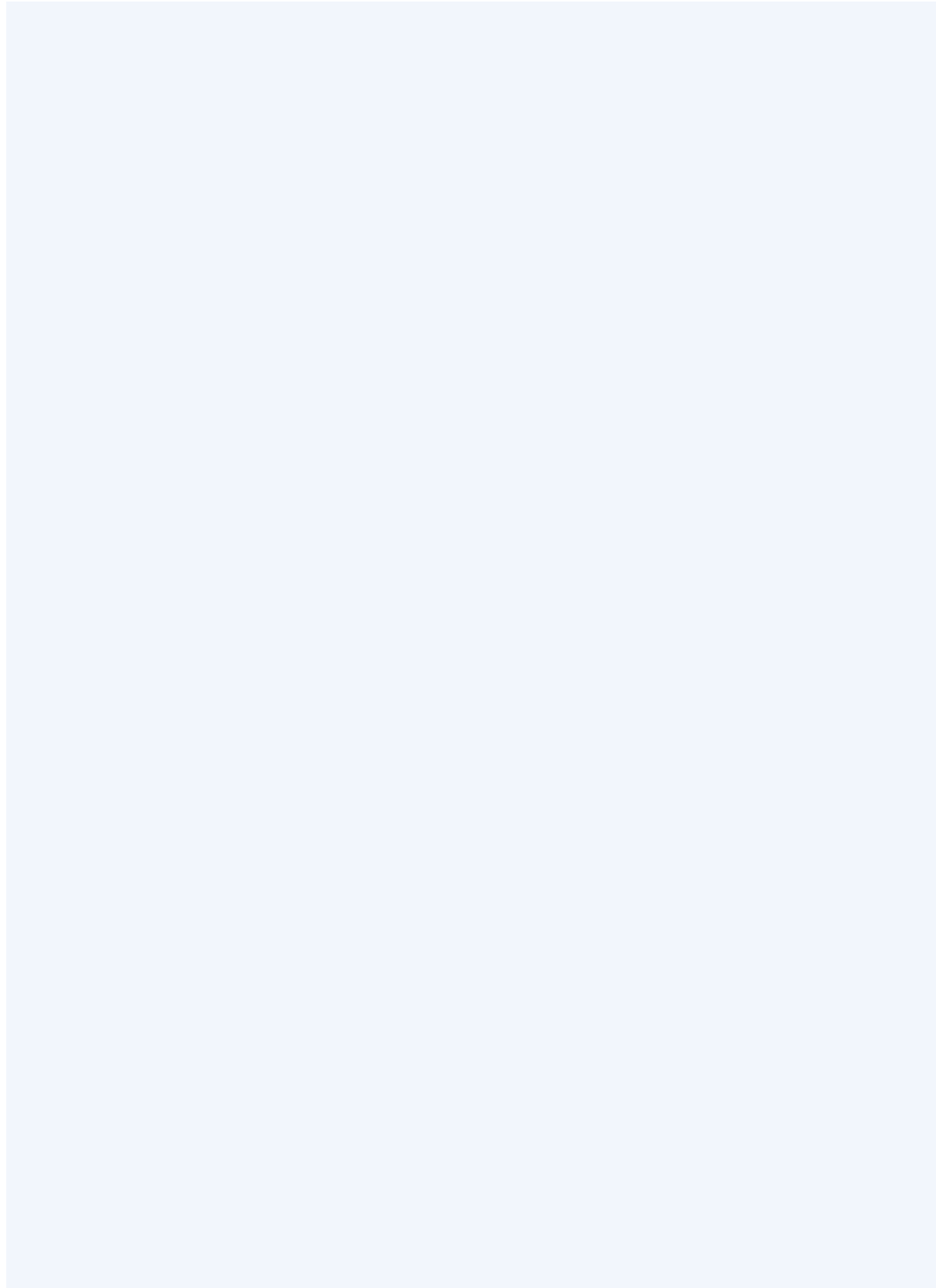
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Norway's spectacular fjords and deep valleys have proven to be a source of inspiration for many.

From film to photography, the country is awash with tourists, travellers and creatives keen to have their artistic spirit kindled by the stunning scenery.

It comes as something of a surprise, then, that it is the points from which tourists take in the view rather than the view itself that inspired Aberdeen student David Jebb on a recent trip to the Nordic country.

The 23-year-old from Belfast was awarded a travel scholarship by the Royal Society of Ulster Architects last year, and the Robert Gordon University architecture student chose to follow Norway's [Turistveger](#) to discover more about the country's relationship with architecture and how it is sympathetic to its surroundings.





□(David Jebb)

▶ via STV

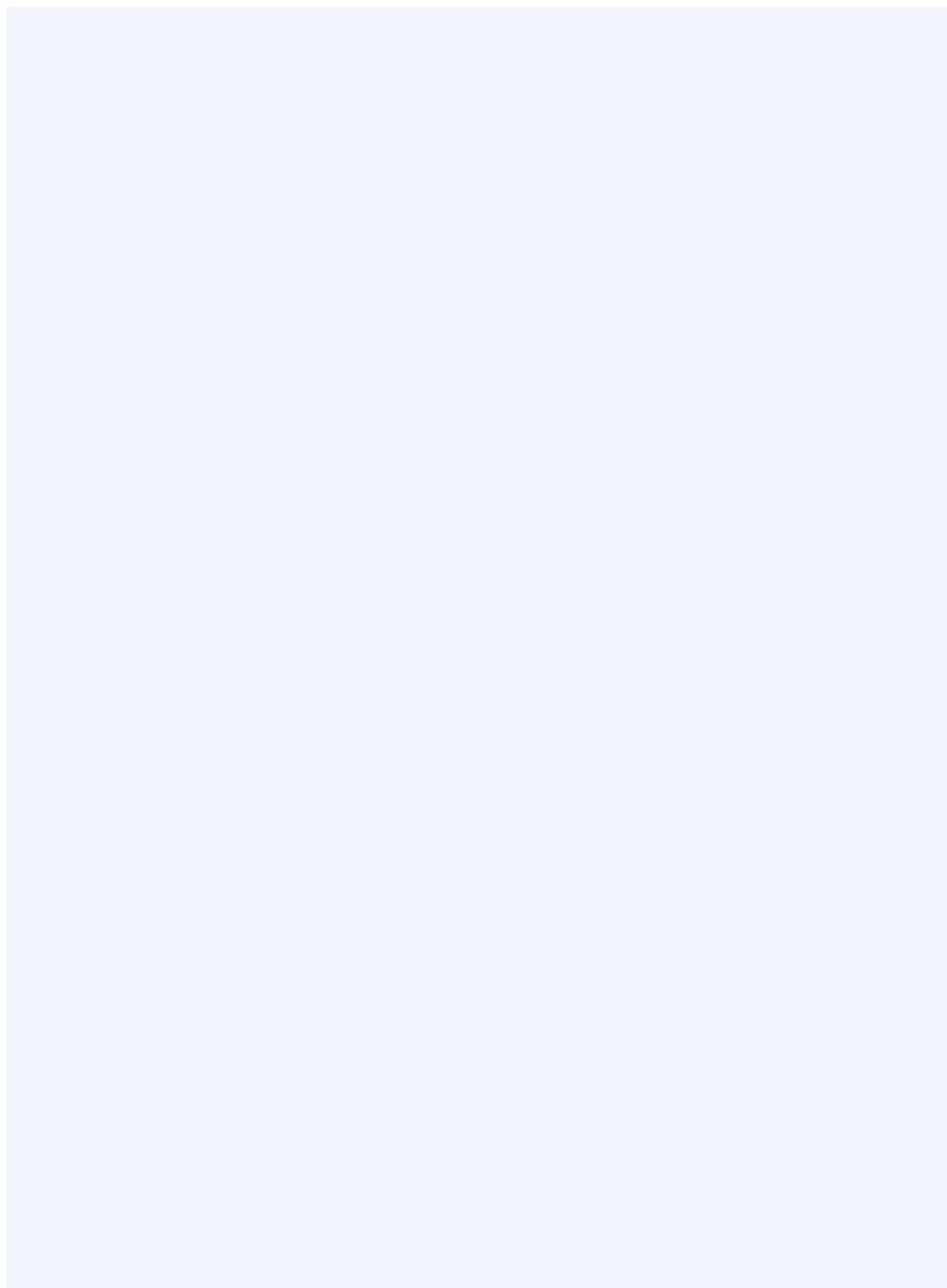
He said: "My initial stimulus for studying the tourist routes and their interaction with the landscape came as a result of seeing the Giant's Causeway Centre.

"While it's undoubtedly a very good building and a lovely concept, I questioned why, within Northern Ireland, we consider that the best way to preserve the landscape is

to hide the building below ground."

In stark comparison, the majority of the Turistveger is angular and obvious, jutting out from the rocky faces of fjords - naturally created narrow bodies of water flanked by tall cliffs - making for a unique counterpoint to Ireland's hidden architecture.

David adds: "I went to Norway expecting to learn lessons about the creation of a sense of 'place' and to encounter daring concepts that have carefully considered their expressive or aesthetic qualities."





□(David Jebb)

▶ via STV

Indeed, that is exactly what he discovered. Armed with his camera, the keen photographer captured some stunning images of the angular creations zig-zagging up the rocky terrain that provide dramatic viewpoints and scenic rest stops for the intrepid traveller.

The 18-route trail that snakes across the country provided David with plenty of inspiration, with his favourite building offering a stunning view over a deep valley naturally carved from the rock thanks to glacial erosion.

"My favourite project of those I saw on the routes was Reiulf Ramstad's angular visitor centre and viewpoints," he said.



□(David Jebb)

▶ via STV

"While they could not be described as subtle, the beautifully crafted corten steel and concrete platforms boldly hang over the edge of the Trollstig pass creating quite an experience for the visitor – it's certainly one I won't forget.

"It's a really incredible experience, there are these viewpoints that hang three to four meters out from the cliff edge – you can look down and see the drop below. It is a really good project, really well designed."

And looking back at his time in Norway, David adds that the scenery often reminded him of Scotland.

He said: "The views of the fjords were very similar to the Scottish landscape - at times I thought, 'this could be in the Cairngorms'."



□(David Jebb)

▶ via STV

As David returns to his studies, he hopes that his travels will continue to inspire him. And who knows, perhaps Scotland's coastline will be highlighted with one of his designs in the future?

To see more pictures from David's time in Norway, head to his Tumblr page [Travelling North](#).

Do you think Norway's unique architecture could be translated into viewpoints and exhibitions near Scottish landmarks? Let us know at [@STVAberdeen](#) or over on our [Facebook page](#).

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