Holmsund has always been about wood. A company founded on the principles of sawmilling and log-driving during the 19th century. They have a history in constructing their own homes with the Egna hem-movement, during which the municipality helped workers in constructing their houses by dismantling through subsidies.
Holmsund had this identity for a long time, but in the second half of the 20th century the settlement was fragmented by railways and other infrastructures. Holmsund remains as a suburb of Umeå rather than as an entity on its own.
The mapping displays several important factors that play a role in the location in which it seems proper to intervene. The type of buildings in the city centre are multi-family housing but they lack certain amenities that were discussed in the interviews - amenities that are present in the villa neighborhoods, including gardening possibilities and an outlet for creative production like a workshop. The roads, the railway, and the noise levels convey the amount of cars in the area and what actions need to be taken pertaining to that. Bus stops should be present to make for easy travel to and from the area.

Possible gardening green areas reveal the spots where one can easily turn the urban fabric into a cultivating area. Some buildings in Holmsund activate the street with retail services, creating flows to and from them and providing reasons to meet others. These are mapped and in the city centre an intervention could patch into this network.

In the city centre I've mapped the possibility to simply walk around without feeling restricted by physical or social boundaries which helps to see missing links, and how these streets could be transformed.
To walk around freely on the site is perhaps something we assume works well but when analysing the retail network there are certain paths that are blocked off and informal. Patching into this network I can open up some of the blocked shortcuts to better accommodate for new development on the site. Looking at how the streets are activated by retail and retail farms as well where over patching can be done.

Patching into the site the proposal places a housing block with an attached workshop and a garden in the underutilised park space. The proposal is also to place a cultivation area with garden allotments to the west of that on a hill.

Project timeline

Strategy
The proposed layout places a market in the garden allotments for customers to directly see the source of the products they buy. The work-shop is located as a direct relation to the multi-family housing in order to create a sense of connection and value of the multi-family housing. When drawing the paths and inner streets, I focused on creating intimate spaces for slowing down the pace and for increasing encounters. The hidden garden opens up from the tight inner street and provides a social space through which residents can experience the site. The proposed layout is a fragmented social sphere where smaller satellite spaces suit different types of people.
Design Concepts

The idea is to convey the garden as hidden inside the building. This is done by letting the trees protrude from the heavy base and in this idea, a second concept is realised, the floor dichotomy, letting the ground floor be heavy and the upper floor be light.

This solid base is carved to make room for the programmes, creating a monumental volume which shapes the building in sections.

In the leftover solids lie auxiliary functions such as walls, toilets, storage and other peripheral functions. This resembles the use of walls in castles and is instrumental in designing within a strict framework.

Floor Dichotomy

Sketch of floor dichotomy

Carving Concept

Solid mass
Garden carved
Intimate street space carved
Main programmes carved
Second floor added

Leftover Wall Space
Load bearing elements + everyday life

Hidden garden

Weather conditions

The apartments are placed so that no light enters during early morning hours. For the last few hours of the day the sun enters in a shaft north east of the apartment and creates a private, intimate outdoor space for the residents. During the last few hours of the day, sunlight enters the apartment ground floor and the social space opens up the public on the ground floor, moving up to the second floor of the apartments where living room conditions are for late night nights.