Research/Site Analysis

Site observations

LIVING ALONE  LOW FREQUENCY OF SOCIALISING

SWEDEN  SPAIN  SWITZERLAND  AZERBAIJAN  RUSSIA  MERGE

LONELINESS IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (PERCENT)

Source: European Social Survey 2012 (54,000 Participants)

Site of intervention
North east flank of Ön

The relation between the built and the unbuilt and the need solitari ness on Ön

interesting sites
specific biodiversity (beavers, woodpeckers, bats)
cul-de-sac (existing road)
settlements, meadow
sparsely grown vegetation
densely grown vegetation

Research/Site Analysis

background
Folkhem 2.0 -
Dwelling for individual existensminimum
(in a collective spirit)

Twelve small rental housing units with high integrity for ascetic preferences
The first non-peripheral Naturum of its kind to be implemented in a close-to-urban context.
Thermalbad och Kajakhus
Dwelling for individual existensminium
(in a collective spirit)

surrounding medium

returning home after work should be a blissful experience

The face towards the city and an enabler for an alternative transportation
Architecture is most often associated with the built landscape, rather than the unbuilt. Planners and architects have traditionally studied the city through its built fabric, meaning the housing, significant buildings and the infrastructure. I want to find the potential in redefining the edge of what the city can become by investigating the un-built territories. In doing so, also attempt to bypass the need to exercise full control over an entire territory under threat of expropriation and instead strategically define a crucial limit between the city and its surroundings. Therefore, I have decided to settle on the island of On, whose northern headland points directly towards and almost penetrates the city center of Umeå. It is also an island with attachment issues to the rest of the city, both physically and mentally. Hence, due to the propositional municipal plans of urbanising it in order to reach the set out goal of 200 000 inhabitants by year 2050 - the island is under threat of becoming deterritorialised.

Deterritorialisation refers to the weakening of ties between a location and the existing cultural entities such as people, objects, languages, or traditions former associated with that given site. It thereby implies that certain cultural aspects can transcend the territorial boundaries in a world that consist of things fundamentally in motion. Deterritorialisation is most often followed by a reterritorialisation when another culture for example is implemented.

What is urban planning today? How is, and how can the contemporary city be transformed? But above all, on what does the quality of its public spaces depend? The quality of its meeting-places? In short, what can make our cities more liveable and attractive?

A common misconception of wild nature is that it exists outside of our cities, without our permission in difference to the greenery we are faced with on a daily basis - the tram. These entities of rural and urban are separated. Hence, the naturarum in Sweden are all located in peripheral places. By creating a certified Naturum in a urban context highlights the importance and spreads the knowledge about the complex relation between the built and unbuilt landscape.

I suggest that we are in need of a new strategy for the future development of our urban sprawl. Today’s urban development is in many ways pervasive in its abstract form. Simplification and the phenomena of the idea itself that one can multiply or repeat a solution that has already been found creates generic spaces impossible to distinguish from other urban sprawls. It is chess-board planning where the actions carried out are preconceived. We read a map but do not understand the whole territory. The verification of the building zones need to be examined on the basis of more qualitative aspects. The reserves need to be more carefully examined in order to find its true potential and a strategic logic should be established beyond communal borders in order to preserve the coherence of the existing community or cultures current on the site. What is the relationship to the existing settlement, its infrastructure and surroundings?

The very concept of my approach is to reach beyond the abstraction planning and the understanding of the city as mere urbanisation by shifting the focus towards the un-built therefore also means the re-establishment of meaningful relationships between people and their own place, food and all other resources needed to support their life in a given place.

I intend to propose a much smaller scale of dwelling units as a first step in this process of reevaluating the site. The citizens of Swedish cities has to a great extent never learnt to cooperate with neighbours and develop a natural feeling for how their city is being built and why it needs to continue to change and transform itself. The privilege of independence easier takes foothold in better financially posed locations instead of the more vulnerable ones where there is a lack of formal networks. Instead the reliance in the community is greater in these areas, and I strongly believe that we can learn from that.

My intention is to bring back a sense of collectivism within the lived space, while at the same time encourage important and often neglected notions of solitude and impermanence into my future dwelling project, pari passu pay tribute to the unbuilt fabric and natural breeding space of central Umeå.

The strategy will be modest and the initial intervention minimal and dependent of slow growth and the relation of the need of everyday life. A building should be the last possible solution to all issues - for example an appropriation of land.

med måttta is the middle way solution to all issues - for example an appropriation of land.

living in unbuilt territories
Architectural Concept
Dwelling for individual existensminium
(in a collective spirit)

Typologies and case studies that have had an influence of the outcome of this project

Background

Various types of monasteries were examined and analyzed.
These were typologies that I saw as potential in, due to my program of inhabiting the values of solitude and impermanence into the dwelling project.

That is also the reason for participating in the Buddhist meditation.
The analysis of various types of monasteries from different centuries ended with a merged hybrid of all the forms together overlapping in order to find common nouns and strengths to reinterpret into my project.

Architectural Concept

Dwelling for individual existensminium
(in a collective spirit)
Implementation on site
Living in unbuilt territories

Not only reading a map and intuitively see leftovers but intervene and understand its territory.
Architectural Programme & Site Strategy

Municipal proposal for future expropriation with focus on the northern headlands.

Connection points to both Umeå C and Teg and the majority of the in total 2500 household proposed to come up.

On the north east fields two conventional housing blocks are proposed. Hermitage is an alternative to that.

To secure a richer biodiversity on site, to control the dynamics of the expropriation and that a cultural heritage is being kept the Hermitage is necessary.