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Degree Project in Architecture, Second Level 30 credits

Examensarbete inom arkitektur, avancerad nivå 30 hp

"Searching for the Sacred"

"Söka eftet heliga"

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Searching for the Sacred
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Fragments and Coherence Studio

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When I encountered the Woodland Chapel by Asplund at the first sight, I could not forget its sacred atmosphere and deliberate proportion. Since then, I found myself interested in sacred religious space and hope to have a chance to design a chapel by myself which may be exotic to me.

My proposal for the chapel is an attempt to create an isolated shelter in a city environment which offers the architectural silence. And a place that you can get a feeling of being embraced and at the same time embrace the moment and doing nothing. It was a process of both researching and designing simultaneously.

The chapel would be my top priority and also included some functions as café, lavatory, office and garden as complements.
The site was chosen in Bellevue park. The extensive view of Brunnsviken and Haga park and the existing beautiful sequence of buildings of historic interest on the Bellevue Mountain are crucial factors for me to choose as well as my resources and references for my project.
Borgund stave church

Borgund stave church is built in the village of Borgund around the year 1180 from the middle ages, consists of nave, apse and chancel with the gallery around, with a raised center and a gable roof. The construction in stave church is based on the use of bearing staves and pillars. The roof beams are supported by steeply angled scissor trusses which is typical of most stave churches.
Woodland Chapel was the first chapel built in Woodland Cemetery, designed by Asplund, completed in 1920. To be modest to its natural surroundings, it is positioned at the end of a woodland path which leads straight into its pillared portico, with trees rising closely around it. The chapel itself is square and inside there is a circular dome through which indirect light floods in to make the space unexpectedly bright.
Mock-up
Among these, I chose two most crucial cases which are Woodland Chapel and Brogund Stave Church because of the extreme difference and similarity between them. It would be a must for me to make study models to be better known with the scale, centralized plan, continuous columns, contrast in light and darkness and so on.

Project Proposal
I made a theoretical project, a small-scale chapel in Stockholm, which developed from the two precedents. The chapel would be my top priority and also included some functions as cafe, lavatory, office and garden as complements.