"KUNGSHAGEN"

"Recognizing the qualities of the existing"

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Introduction

My project take place in a midsize city 1,5 hours south of Stockholm by train. It’s estimated to have a huge growth and is at this moment planning a lot of new housing areas. In the trails of urbanization there are a housing crisis in almost every part of Sweden. The rural countryside is depopulation itself- but as much as people move to the capital, many also move to midsize cities close to their old ones. Nyköping is one of those. It’s also possible to commute quite easily to Stockholm and therefore it attracts many commuters that use the city in a new different way. There is an image of how a prosperous and attractive city looks like, and to fulfill this we clean up our cities so much that they start to represent an artificial way of life. With the same references and smaller budgets- a generic countryside is spreading across Sweden.

For a long time location has been important for how cities are expanding, and with better and faster infrastructure many more distant cities are thriving in a new way. The image of the city becomes more important to attract commuters. Nyköping is doing an extensive marketing- campaign for people to move there by advertising a simple life by the sea. It’s showing a very tidy way of life, black and white pictures of the archipelago and happy people. The problem is that when I investigate this image, it doesn’t fit with the existing location and structure. How could the city instead work with what it actually has? What to do with what actually existing?

By doing a research of the city of Nyköping I have found a site that has a lot of potential, but are not going to be built in the following 15 years. So I have this gap in time that I can fill to make the area vibrant. Im working with a method that grows out of the place and activate it through use. By creating multifunctional, easy to do public places I’m changing the urban context. My additions to the site are all easy to do by yourself. Direct participation in the building process will help people establish an ongoing attachment to their new area.

I’m combining two themes- reconnect the city to the water and recognize the qualities of the existing. The site has an interesting industrial history and by adding people and functions into it I’m opening up peoples eyes of what they actually have. Can this site lead to another way of representing and thereby transforming the city? How can I with small means change this area into something inviting and thriving?
01. The atlas
Research of a City and finding a Site
User-based media such as Instagram, Pinterest and TripAdvisor provide information about environments, places and events that can be visited. These platforms show what people want to appear in, what they recommend others to see. Unlike travel guides done by authorities or city planners, this information is based on what the common man recommends.

In the case of Nyköping, it is clear that the most photogenic and recommended places are located along the river and near the historical sites. Down by the harbour, the places are fewer.

Instagram is a user-based platform of images that describes as a "catalogue of ideas". Pinterest is a user-based media that promotes and shares ideas. TripAdvisor is a website for travelers based on user-created tips and content.

The Nyköping Kommun suggested sights include the culture promenade and the situationistic citywalk. The culture promenade is an unplanned flanering in the urban landscape.
Due to the changing landscape, the center of Nyköping is located 2 km from the waterline. However, the role of water is still important. The vast majority of cultural and historical buildings are located along the river. Industrial buildings fill out the periphery empty parts. The industrial areas closest to the bay have changed many times. With the possibility of transporting goods by ships, they have been a great value for the whole city, which means that the water is to be contaminated. The few buildings still standing from the early days are today residential and cultural centers. Today, the west side of the port area is planned for exclusive accommodation.

The distance is bike-friendly. From the harbor to the center takes 15 min. Following the Nyköpingsån is a well-organized park promenade.
The official “Live in Nyköping” campagne
02. The Site
Understanding the site.

The site is located in an industrial area in a bay towards the ocean. An area that has a great location, but are sometimes described as ugly and uninteresting. It is that kind of area that every city has.

It is very closed and not very walkable- filled with these industrial buildings that are mostly connected to vehicle-services. The size is almost the same as Gamla stan in Stockholm- but the content is very much denser. The actual architecture is very cheep, odd and functional. The area is also hardmade with pavement and there are not much greenery to talk about. But this type of architecture is actually very clever and adaptable to different kind of functions. It’s also temporal in it’s essence- it’s not meant to be there forever. These places are moving further and further away from the city when new housing are made.

But instead of cleaning up the city, hide away these places that are so interesting and important for the everyday life you should invite people into them. Turn them into places for people-watching, naturewatching and watching peoples labour. With small additions you could rather easily transform this area into something more attractive.
SITE INVENTORY


WAREHOUSES

There are many larger buildings made of corrugated sheet metal. Functional and easy to build with no visual excesses. Often isolated and with functions such as storage, car washes, and garages. Typical are larger garage doors for vehicles.

TOWERS AND HUTS

Nyköping is a very picturesque city proud of its castle and small town heritage. The seaside architecture of towers on the offices buildings from the 90th flirts with the notion of romantic seaside. Recreation, "dansbanor," and classic architecture of the archipelago.

FENCES

Every plot is surrounded by fences.

SIGNS

With buildings that don't tell about the functions within, signs are the only way to know what the buildings contain without maps.

LOW BUILDINGS

VERTICAL LINES

HARDMADE SURFACES

ROUND SHAPES

Functional, non-permanent buildings with easy construction made of highly durable tarp. They speak about the later industrial history, of function, and are easy to pop up in your backyard. The cylindrical form stands as a monument of bygone area of the Nyköpings Gasworks, the military airfield that was shut down in the mid-1900s.

SUBSTANDARD STREETS

The streets in the area are not made for pedestrians. There is an irregular use of sidewalks and many streets are lined with cars. There is no particular hierarchy between the streets which makes you uncertain of where to go. Towards the water leads a narrow gravel road lined with lawns.
New Regional Museum
Local industries
Local industries
Swamp
New housing development
Historical buildings
Restaurant and cultural area
Outdoor dance/floor, miniature golf, sports
canoe stadium
Broadwalk along the water
Industries, Foodstores, Offices
New housing development
New housing development
New housing development
New housing development
New housing development
Housing development
Housing development
Siteplan
New Regional Museum
Local industries
Swamp
New housing development
Housing development
New housing development
New housing development
New housing development
Industries, Foodstores, Offices
Housing development
New housing development
Historical buildings
Local industries
Local industries
Swamp
Pier, wavebreaker
Outdoor dancefloor, mini-Canoestadium
Historical buildings
Local industries
Local industries
Swamp
New housing development
New housing development
New housing development
Housing development
Diagram over shoreline and functions
"The one thing people don’t get, which I find interesting, is that when we were doing it I kept saying, ‘our job is to defend the High Line from architecture’... ‘A lot of people think it’s this big architectural statement. It wasn’t – it was really pulling back from architecture.’

- Ricardo Scofidio

"It became a ruin and it was self-seeded, all of that was what we built the thing out of," added Elizabeth Diller. "So our feeling was that our biggest work was not screwing it up – because it was already there."

- Elizabeth Diller

"Raumlabor are committed to dealing with places 1:1, discovering and using what we find within the conditions at the site. In the process of doing, we learn more about the investigation site through active design and finding new methods that are open to appropriation and upgrading existing methods. We do not always solve problems; we initiate processes that give players the opportunity to get to know, understand and use the city and its dynamics, as well as its possibilities."

- Raumlabor
My addition to the site is a process. It starts with something that could be continued by itself. One of the main decisions was not to change the functions. The project is about the public spaces instead of the streets. Today the industrial site is designed for motion. Vehicles in the industrial area, the walking and runners that go around the shoreline. But you don’t really use this area. There are no organisation of sidewalks, the streets are too wide to be understandable, cars are parked everywhere. There are no vertical connection for the pedestrians – you usually walk around the area rather than through it. And it’s quite big. There are a few places to sit. To really appreciate the place you need to be able to talk a pause in it. In order to open up the area for the public I decided to claim a part of it for the people – from the middle to the water.
Division of spaces

Based on topographical data.

Focus

The site is divided into different plots with different features. There are differences against one another.

New infrastructure

No new infrastructure.

Division of spaces

The site is divided into different plots with different features. There are differences against one another.

Surface

The area is divided into different sections based on topographical data.

Transportation routes

Movement patterns are small and slow.

There are large areas where movement is not allowed or possible.

Sightlines

Due to the large industrial buildings, the view of the water is mostly blocked other than along the beach promenade. The connection to the water is limited.

Natural borders

With water on two sides, a larger road in the north and a marshland area that is likely to flood, there are several natural boundaries that define the area.

Water

With water on two sides, a larger road in the north and a marshland area that is likely to flood, there are several natural boundaries that define the area.
HARDMADE SURFACE
SOFT GRASS
WATER
BRIDGE
SUBSTANDARD STREETS
INDUSTRIES
CONTAMINATED SOIL
EMPTY SPACE
CONTAMINATED WATER
WATERSPORTS
PROMENADE
PLAY
PAUSE
MOTION
RECREATION
PEOPLEWATCHING
WALK
SKATE
RUN
HANGOUT
NATUREWATCHING
CHILL
MEET
TALK
SPORTS
SWIM
CANOE
HANGOUT
RECREATION
SAUNA
PRESENT
FUTURE
PRESENT
FUTURE
PRESENT
FUTURE
PRESENT
FUTURE
Division of spaces
Division of spaces
The furniture
FLOATING ISLAND

cleaning water with plants

SCALE 1:100

HUB 01. WC

SCALE 1:100
SITTINGPLACES AND PLANTING
softens the hardmade area and gives rest
SCALE 1:100

BUMPS
Roadbumps for children, scaters and play
SCALE 1:100
The future.
Adding the existing.

The strip is something that you like a carpet roll out on top of the existing structure. It’s not permanent anywhere, and therefore it opens up for change.

People themselves attract urban life and change. And by inviting them from the water into the industrial area it also opens up. Maybe one day the owner of the vehiclerepair see the potential and add the function of a cafe, the owner of another building turns it into a theater. The amazing odd looking officebuilding from the eighties turns into an open cooffice where the self-employed Stockholmers can rent a spot. It would be so interesting if the scientists embraced this polluted ground and created a educational and research facilit, for investigating natural ways of cleaning this soil- which is possible but timeconsuming.

Instead of hiding the places where "real life" is going on I try by this project to make it public. In the future of Nyköping, people will come and Instagram themselves infront of the fantastic industrial buildings in this vivid urban context, instead of just the beautiful water. The old structure of the industrial area could create something very interesting if you build on it. And when it’s time for an actual organized change the area is already inhabited by people and maybe some of the amazing odd buildings still lives on.
5. EXPERIMENTAL GARDENS
Within this time span there is an opportunity to investigate how to clean the soil in a more environmentally friendly manner.

5. RENTABLE WORKSHOPS
Workshop spaces for creating larger art and objects.

THE STRIP
The "Strip" activates the site through its users. With more people moving through, the features will change over time. New activities and features create greater involvement in the area.

1. THEATER, WORKSHOP, OFFICES
This building with large spans could host concerts, manifest theaters, workshops.

2. RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
Popup cafés, foodtrucks, kiosks, street vendors, markets

3. WORKSPACE/OFFICES
With more newly moved commuters, places are needed to work "from home".

4. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
Rentable spaces with fantastic location and views by the water.

5. EXPERIMENTAL GARDENS
Within the time span there is an opportunity to investigate how to clean the soil in a more environmentally friendly manner.
A CONTAINER COULD EASILY BECOME SOMETHING ELSE

THIS IS A CONTAINER YOU CAN TURN INTO WHAT YOU WANT