"A city within the city"

Joel Larsvall

Handledare/ Supervisor
Peter Lynch

Examinator/ Examiner
Per Franson

Examensarbete inom arkitektur, avancerad nivå 30 hp
Degree Project in Architecture, Second Level 30 credits

25 maj 2018
Stockholm was formed on an archipelago where water separates the inner-city districts, which gives the city its distinctive character.

As a reaction to the increasing population the city underwent a considerable expansion in the beginning of the last century. At first the city extended around the islands of the city centre, for it later to extend into suburbs reaching far away from the city centre.

Today the city is once again increasing in population, but unlike before its borders cannot be expanded. We face the problem of densification, of filling in the gaps in-between sparsely spread out suburban communities.

A commonly used strategy is to mimic the form of the inner city in new developments, regardless of their actual position in the city. These developments often lack the urban life that was planned for; the reason being that there is not enough people for a culture of congestion. There cannot be only one answer to how the city should approach the question of densification since the conditions vary depending on the site. At each site both nature and the juxtaposition of the urban and suburban condition has to be considered.

Right before the functionalist breakthrough, the planners and architects faced a similar problem. There was a need to densify the city along its periphery and to make use of vacant sites that had been too difficult to exploit. Loose groups of blocks were built on ridges or in former valleys. With their location, coordinated execution and distribution of streets, the groups of blocks became domestic enclaves, linked to the adjacent city in key situations. The large perimeter blocks framed nature, providing generous courtyards in interplay with the streetscape, thus mediating the urban and suburban condition. When the inner city continued to expand, these enclaves became interwoven with the urban fabric, becoming cities within the city.

Today former harbors, and industrial areas often make place for larger residential developments. One such site is Lövholmen, which is situated on the immediate limit of the inner city. Here, any architectural intervention would have to deal with the dialectics of urban and suburban, architecture and nature. The project aims to synthesise these factors, learning from the references and revisiting their urban strategies whilst making the buildings suitable for the conditions of contemporary living. The project aims not only to bridge the gap between architecture and urbanism but to make a proposal of how the city can grow in continuity with its history.
DOMESTIC THEMES
THE BIG PERIMETER BLOCK INHABITED

BLEKTORNOMRÄDET
PER OLOF HALLMAN
STOCKHOLM

KVARTERET FÄRJAN
SIGURD WESTHOLM, SVEN WALLANDER
STOCKHOLM

KVARTERET FÄRJAN
SIGURD WESTHOLM, SVEN WALLANDER
STOCKHOLM

HOLMIA
SIGURD WESTHOLM
STOCKHOLM

The courtyard as park

Entering from the courtyard

The plinth defines the street

Entering from the street
THE LARGE PERIMETER BLOCK TYPE
INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY

KVARTERET FÄRJAN
SIGURD WESTHOLM, SVEN WALLANDER
STOCKHOLM

KVARTERET LJUSET
SVEN WALLANDER
STOCKHOLM
I believe that city should expand in continuity with the past. And that the means by which Per Olof Hallman is dealing with the city periphery would be appropriate to apply to the area of Lövholmen. For an urban intervention here can’t simply copy the innercity across the waters, it would have to mediate between it and its more direct suburban setting, respecting the qualities of both.

The site is located in close proximity to the innercity, yet isolated by its narrow position between the waters of Mälaren and Trekanten. It’s surrounded by large scale office buildings and service housing, is connected both to the traffic hub of Liljeholmen and the suburban area of Gröndal.

A majority of the industrial buildings on site needs to be demolished for sanitary reasons. What is left is four buildings of historic and contemporary cultural significance, among which Färgfabriken being an important art institution. The scale of the large perimeter block allows a new framing of the existing four buildings which are not aligned to the main artery of Lövholmsvägen.
THE URBAN PLAN
PROCESS

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS ON SITE
1:6000

BLEKTORNET AREA ON SITE
1:6000

HOLMIA ON SITE
1:6000
THE URBAN PLAN
PROCESS

PROPOSAL 1
1:6000

PROPOSAL 2
1:6000

PROPOSAL 2
1:6000
THE URBAN PLAN
PROCESS

SITE MODEL
PROPOSAL 1

SITE MODEL
PROPOSAL 2
The building is an attempt to optimize the Stockholm large perimeter block type. Earlier examples were mainly consisting of small and dark units, facing either street or courtyard. The main idea of the plan is to keep the idea of circulation within the courtyard, while providing a wider range of flats, that have a connection with both street and courtyard.

The courtyard is accessed either through a stair or from the corners. One reaches the individual staircases from the courtyard, which thus transcend from being a motif or a recreational area, to a threshold through which one enters the dwelling. Since the courtyard is raised, the intimacy of the courtyard is maintained even though it’s open.

The typical unit has two bedrooms with kitchen, dining and livingroom diagonally arranged. This allows for a connection between the common areas.

One corner provides 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments. The other corner a 4-bedroom together with a 1-bedroom unit. A wider range of apartment types is an answer to the varying needs for housing solutions today. The building could accommodate both the individual, the family and the collective under the same roof.
Ground floor figure plan
1:500

modell 1:500

Exterior perspective

Interior Perspective

A0

A1

A1