INTEGRATION // CULT-I-VATION
TO BLUR THE BARRIERS IN SOCIETY AND THE URBAN LANDSCAPE // A SOCIAL SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY FOR BERN

MASTER THESIS 2012
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BACKGROUND

The focus field of our master thesis deals with social sustainability. The thesis is within the framework of a competition, the Schindler award 2012. The task is to address the needs of a neglected urban area in the shadow of the proud and famous UNESCO Heritage old town of Bern in Switzerland.

Characteristic for Schindler award is that the competition raises the advantages in the overall subject of disability. This year's competition adds another aspect of functional impairment – social and mental disability. The challenge is to include facilities for those suffering from social and mental disabilities living at the fringe of our society; people such as drug abusers, alcoholics, the homeless and destitute.

The scope of the competition includes an overall master plan for the specific site, propose a conceptual architectural concept for the project perimeter, including the building partially dedicated to the relocation of the drug center. The program of the competition were defined but left much freedom in our own interpretation and innovation.
BERN AND THE SITE

Bern is the capital of Switzerland with a population of 135,000 inhabitants. The city positioned as the fourth largest city in Switzerland is not an economic hot-spot, it is a small city surrounded by a striking landscape with a lively historic town, attractive cultural institutions, universities and the river Aare which is a wonderful and very used recreational area for the city inhabitants.

Our site is located at the north-west corner of the old town, in an area once occupied by the fortifications and the military training grounds. Through the site runs the main infrastructure for car and train traffic. The high-density infrastructure inhabiting the site is the main reason for a blocked urban development. A consequence of that became controversial usage. One of few functions inhabiting the site is Reitschule. The building was occupied in 80s by activists and with that followed conflicts between activists and the police. Many years later Reitschule is today a center for alternative culture, still unruly and controversial.

With very few residents living in the area and with a concentration of functions dedicated to fringe groups (the drug center, the alcohol center and the emergency sleeping shelter) the site is today a strange mix of wasteland, parking lots, a meeting point of culture activists and retreat of fringe groups.
1. The main elements of the site is the parking lot and the railway bridge.

2. Here you can get a feeling of whos in charge of the site – its not the people its the cars.

3. One of few functions inhabiting the site is Reitschule. The building was occupied in 80s by activists. Many years later Reitschule is today a center for alternative culture, still wild and controversial.

4. Aare river is a very important recreation area and very much appreciated in everyday life.

5. The view and connection from the site down to river Aare.

6. In the corner of the site and at the entrance to river Aare valley is the drug center situated.
DRUG POLICY IN BERN

Bern is pioneering with its drug policy, it was the first city in the world to introduce a drug center and space for drug consumption where drug abusers are allowed to consume their illegally acquired drugs under controlled sanitary conditions already in 1986.

Instead of repression the drug abusers are here offered a sheltered place, new sterile syringes, consultancy, meals, health checks and social acceptance. The drug center was extremely controversial at first but the outcome was successful - drug related crimes has been reduced aswell as an increasing health among the users. In Sweden, there are still no equivalent.
Links between mainparts of the city are missing. There is no clear connection between the city district Alpenegg (to the left) and the site as well as Altenberg (to the right). The existing connections over the river Aare are dedicated for cars and train traffic.

The railway bridge cuts through the city and forms a barrier between the cultural institutions and it ends the old town of Bern with no clear continuity.

A visual and easy accessible connection to the river Aare is missing. Aare is an important recreation area and very much liked by the Bern inhabitants.

The site is complex in its topography with large height differences. From the seabed of Aare there is 35 m up to the square and another 26 m up to Alpenegg.

Due to today’s location of the Drogenanlaufstelle (drug center), Alkisstübl (alcohol center), the Notschlafstelle (the emergency sleeping shelter) and the lack of other functions in the area there is a concentration of fringe groups inhabiting the site.

URBAN ISSUES

SOCIAL ISSUES
Our urban strategy is to make two links with a hot-spot in its crossing point. In the crossing point we suggest a square. The East-west link connects the city district Alpenegg going over Eilgut where we propose a high density housing area, over the square, down to river Aare, over to city district Altenberg. We want to strengthen the axes of the cultural institutions by adding more culture. The square is programmed with a 24-7 program and becomes a lively central part of the city. River Aare becomes accessible and is activated, the river walk gets a clear start and goal. The site is no longer an eyesore, nor an undefined left over waste land. It’s now central, well connected and filled with a diversity of life and culture.
Our social strategy is driven from the believe that diversity and mixture is the goal for reaching social sustainability. The site is dense when it comes to concentration of fringe groups - we want to de-concentrate by adding new life and a mixture of functions to the site that attracts a large variety of users. We have designed a social program for re-integration embedded in the new functions inhabiting the site. The social program is divided into four steps and the aim is a sustainable re-integration in society.
THE FIVE DEVICES
// THAT CONNECT PEOPLE, NATURE, CULTURE AND A FRAGMENTED PART OF BERN.

Our analysis of the site, the challenge of the competition and an on-going everyday discussion about social sustainability, integration and the complexity of how to include everyone lead us to five devices of different character that gives an answer to the urban and social issues of the site. Together they create a unit/a recipe for an overall social sustainable proposal. Apart they treat the urban and the social issues in a various of ways.
The Meadow – We suggest a new high-density housing area, we want to give more people the opportunity to live central although in a green context.

The Rock – By combining the alcohol-center and the drogenanlaufstelle with culture and offices we create a mix of users.

The Forest – is our main focus area. The elevated railway track is an urban divider, splitting up the space in three parts and the railway traffic is a disturbing element when it comes to noise pollution. The Forest stands for blurring with its play of light and is a place for socializing.

The Barn – The old location of the drogenanlaufstelle is rebuilt into a barn that acts as a hostel giving the place a new life.

The Field – consist of small farming lots that activates the slope and handles the height-difference on a diagonal basis.
THE MASTER PLAN

DISTRIBUTION OF USE

- Residential: 64,000 m²
- Hospitality: 3400 m²
- Culture / Leisure: 6300 m²
- Reitschule: 5200 m²
- Office: 5960 m²
- Education: 190 m²
- Other / Agriculture: 1500 m²
- Drogenanlaufstelle: 630 m²

Total: 64,640 m²
We have designed a social program embedded in the five devices at the site. To be able to start using the drug center you need to become a registered member. We see the drug center as a good starting point and opportunity to get re-integrated back in the society. The aim is that the drug and alcohol abusers will be encouraged to take part in the social program which is divided into four steps.

Step two after being registered is to get a place to live, a so-called Housing first concept. The concept is built on the idea that, first you get a place to live - then you get individual support to be able to keep your home. In step three of the program you are offered a first job with responsibilities. In the Field you are offered a space for farming where you as a user can cultivate crops that you get benefits from either by leaving the goods at the Barn or sell it yourself on the market in the square. Showing a more or less problem free development in the field you’re ready for the last step in the program which is a job in the Barn (the hostel). This job means more responsibility and is the last step in getting re-integrated in the society. The aim of the program is that its going to work as a win/win strategy for a social sustainable Bern.
THE FIELD // THE BARN
// CULTIVATION, PARTICIPATION, INTEGRATION, RESPONSABILITY

The Field is connecting the citylevel with the river Aare by a pattern of cultivation lots. The contextual situation of The Field is complex with its topography. By the uniformed pattern made by a concrete stair and ramps system we take up the height-differences diagonally making the Aare river more easy accessible. The terraced squares are used as small farming lots, the main part of them are used by the social program - the rest is possible to rent and the revenue goes back to the social program. Moving from the citylevel you pass by tulip fields, potatoe plantations, barbeque platforms and the goal is situated in the river Aare where you find a platform for water activities.

The Barn stands for simplicity and offers a affordable shelter. By integrating a new hostel on the previous site for the drug center we give the place a new life. The Barn serves the Field with organisation and equipment.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM // THE FIELD

Lots dedicated for the Social program

Rentable lots
THE MEADOW
// A LIVELY CENTRAL HOUSING AREA IN THE GREEN

The Meadow refers to diversity among users, types of ownership - rentable and buyable as well as social housing (the first housing concept). Our proposal suggests a high-density housing area - we want to give more people the opportunity to live central, although in a green diverse context. Under the housing area we inhabit parking lots for the people living in the area as well as people visiting the site. The character of the Meadow and the Field are related to each other (similar contextual situation), they therefore speak a similar language. We have been using a similar way of treating the height differences in both cases with a diagonal concrete stair-and-ramp-system.

The Meadow is a place for everyday life, recreation and leisure with its public park, where you find sport activities and an on-going urban life. Drink your morning coffee surrounded by a poppy field and take your kite for a flight in the afternoon sun.
Student housing
Distribution of type of living // The Meadow
Owned apartments
Tenant apartments
Housing first
A central public park for recreation.

Movement, connections through the Meadow and the relation to Alpenegg.

Public program - entrancefloor framing the main link and the street, Neubrückstrasse.

Ramp and stair system - taking up height and framing space of activity.
The Rock stands for stability and is to be seen as an attraction spot. In the program of the competition we are challenged to come up with a solution for a new drug center, with an integrated public restaurant. Our approach is to take it one step further and make a turn in the program. We suggest a culture building in which we integrate the drug center.

By placing the drug center in a bigger context and interfuse it with other functions we avoid concentration. The Rock is programmed with 24/7 functions to make the site lively and safe.

The program of the Rock is multifunctional – where we share spaces between functions, activities and time. The entrance hall is used as a lounge for presentations, temporary exhibitions, dining area, nightclub and bar.

Moving up in the building we have balconies with spaces for the coffeebreak – study places, meetings and transportation. By this we want to gain an active space with social interaction.
Program 24/7

Culture
Drogenanlaufstelle
Office
Nightclub
Bar/Restaurant
Shop/Café

Public program - theatre, library, commerce, nightclub, restaurant, café, exhibitionspace

Shared space - conference rooms, group rooms, foyer

Rentable space - officespace, studiospace, atelier

Program dedicated to the drug center

To climb the Rock
Principle of public flow // Out-door

The journey in the cave
Principle of public flow // In-door
The Forest stands for blurring with its play of light and is a place for socializing. The elevated railway track is a urban divider, splitting up the space in three parts and the railway traffic is a disturbing element when it comes to noise pollution. An architectural answer of that is the roof - blurring out the barrier - unifying the three parts into one, protecting from noise and a play of light. The forest is spread out in strategic spots in direction of the two links to strengthen the whole area. The construction of the roof can be used for haging of components such as out-door seating places for the café, market tables and playground swings aswell as light sources and backdrops when there’s a concert. The square is a 24/7 lively place for social interaction. It is planned to inhabit bigger and smaller events. The rock and new office building together with the Reitschule frames the square.
The roof - A climate shelter and connecting

Bending/Folding - Protection against noise pollution

2nd Bending/Folding - Diversity of spatial qualities

Stretched out - Connecting The Meadow, The Field and the culture axe
ROOF SYSTEM
// THE PRINCIPLE

The roof is constructed out of a various of 6 components. Dense (aluminum sheet) - programmed to be a noise and climate shelter. Transparent (expandable sheet metal) - letting light through. Combining the components in different manner - gives a variety of spatial qualities. The angle of the components are ranging from 80 degrees to 30 degrees, all sides are equal and measures 5 meter - making them combinable.
ROOF- AND PILLAR CONSTRUCTION // THE PRINCIPLE
INTEGRATION // CULT-I-VATION
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THE FIVE DEVICES
// THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE, NATURE, CULTURE AND A FRAGMENTED PART OF BERN

THE MEADOW
// A central housing area
// Stands for Diversity
// Addition of life

THE ROCK
// A culture building with a megapedale site
// Stands for Sustainability
// A place that attracts people

THE FOREST
// A roof and a central square
// Stands for blurring homogeneous spaces
// A place for sustainability

THE BARN
// A place for community
// Stands for Simplicity
// Renewal

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URBAN STRATEGY
// THE LINES THAT CONNECT

SOCIAL STRATEGY
// DE-CONCENTRATION, INTEGRATION, DIVERSITY

Our urban strategy is to make a whole with a bar spot in its crossing point. In the crossing point we suggest a square. The East west link connects the city district of Bernweg going over the bridge where we propose a high density housing area. Over the square, there is a roof area that is clearly defined. This area is formed by adding more culture. The square is programmed with a 24/7 program and becomes a lively central part of the city. River flows become accessible and activated. We suggest a clear structure to start and goal. The site is longer on roof, are an undulating left river area land. We now central, well connected and filled with a diversity of life and culture.

Our social strategy is defined from the belief that diverse and unique is the goal for reaching social sustainability. The site is a former school site, once in a lifetime opportunity to regenerate. We want to do something by adding life and a mixture of functions to the site that attracts a large variety of users. We have designed a social program for reintegration embedded in the new functions inhabiting the site. The social program is divided into three steps and the area is sustainable to integration in society.
THE FOREST
// A CENTRAL SQUARE FOR ACTIVITIES, CULTURE AND LIFE

The Forest stands for Blurring roles in place of light and a place for encountering. The elevated railway track is a cultural divide splitting up the space in two parts and the railway traffic is a disturbing element when it comes to noise pollution.

An architectural corner of cut in the rock - Blurring out the barriers - applying the three parts into one, protecting from noise and a cycle of light. The forest is spread out in a strategic spots in direction of the two sides to strengthen the whole area. The constructions of the roof can be used for hanging of components such as out-door seating places for the café, market tables and playground swings as well as light structures and buildings when there is a concert.

The square is a HUB truly placed for mixed interactions. It is planned to habitat bigger and smaller events. The rocks and new office building together with the Reitschule frames the square.

BERN AND THE SITE

TO BLUR THE BARRIERS IN SOCIETY AND THE URBAN LANDSCAPE // A SOCIAL SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY FOR BERN

Together they create a unit/a recipe for an over-competition and an on-going everyday discussion. Our analysis of the site, the challenge of the new functions inhabiting the site. The social program is designed with a diversity of life and culture.

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
THE ROCK
A PLACE FOR CULTURE, INTERACTION AND LIFE

The Rock stands for stability and is to be seen as an attraction spot. In the program of the competitions we are challenged to come up with a vision for a new drug center, with an integrated public restaurant. Our approach is to take it one step further and make a turn in the program. We suggest a culture building in which we integrate the drug center.

In planning the drug center on a bigger context and interfuse it with other functions we avoid concentration. The Rock is programmed with 24/7 functions to make the site lively and safe.

By placing the drug center in a bigger context and interfuse it with other functions we avoid concentration. The Rock is a place for culture, interaction and life.

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Our approach to the given program is as mentioned, to integrate the Drug-center in a bigger contextual situation. To enter the Druganlaufstelle - either as staff or client - you use the big entrance in the rock. The Druganlaufstelle is situated on level 2 and with an internal connection between the levels.

The Rock is the main program area. On level 3 the program for the alcohol clients are situated, as well as the administration offices for Alkistübli, Pinto and La Strada. The Lounge on the entrance floor is ment to be used by the Druganlaufstelle when it is a wish.

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The program of the Rock is multifunctional – where we share spaces between functions, activities and time. The entrance hall is programmed with 24/7 functions to make the site lively and safe.

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Another positive effect of a shared program is the economical aspect. The aim of interfusing the program of Drogenanlaufstelle and to share space with surrounding functions is to blur the borders, mix up people, de-concentrate and in a way to increase anonymity.

The small street restaurant on the entrance floor is also meant to be used by the drogenanlaufstelle. The lounge on the entrance floor is meant to be used by the drogenanlaufstelle when it is a wish. The administration offices for Alkisstüble, Pinto and La Strada.

The Rock is a multifunctional space designed to accommodate various activities such as offices, culture, nightlife, and municipal services. It is proposed as an integration of a new drug center with an integrated public restaurant, aiming to blur borders, mix up people, de-concentrate, and increase anonymity. The small street restaurant on the entrance floor is designed to be used by the drogenanlaufstelle, and the lounge on the entrance floor is intended for use by the drogenanlaufstelle when desired. The administration offices for Alkisstüble, Pinto, and La Strada are also planned as part of the Rock's multifunctional design.
You see your door, you're home! You move further up the hill, again diagonally when you now enter Alpenegg! You see a pedestrian and bicycle road upwards the hill. A green park arises between the high roof ends where a new character arises. It's the Meadow, the new housing area. The road infrastructure is kept mainly as it is today, with minor changes to raise the quality of the area. We add cross-overs for pedestrian and bicycle, we add a noise protector - the roof - and we make the area Eilgut accessible and linked to Alpenegg by building a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge. We link the area - Schützenmattstrasse - and you get a more close to nature experience than if you would have chosen the noisy streetlevel are giving Neubrückstrasse a new public life.

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The contextual situation of The Field is complex with its topography. By the uniformed pattern made by a concrete stair and rammed gravel you follow the area of the road that is steelated over the sand fill lot of the river Aare. You see tulip fields, potato plantations, barbeque platforms and the goal is situated in the river Aare where you find a platform for water activities. Moving from the citylevel you pass by tulip fields, potatoe plantations, barbeque platforms and the goal is situated in the river Aare where you find a platform for water activities.

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As you're now finished with your visit at the conference center in Altenberg it's time to go home. You see first your path going through the sand fill lot of the garden. You see first your path going through the sand fill lot of the garden.

1. The Rock, culture building
2. Reitschule
3. Kulturzentrum
4. The Barn - Hostel
5. The Forest, square
6. New pedestrian/bicycle bridge
7. Botanische garten
8. Altenberg
9. Hodlerstrasse
10. Bollwerk
11. The Meadow
12. Urban green + Agriculture - Public park
13. Water activity jetty
14. Kulturzentrum
15. Langzeit und Rotation
16. River Aare

DISTRIBUTION OF USE

| Residential | 45,800 m² |
| Hospital | 2800 m² |
| Culture/Leisure | 5500 m² |
| Reitschule | 5200 m² |
| Office | 1060 m² |
| Education | 1060 m² |
| Other/Agriculture | 1750 m² |
| Commercial groundfloor | 11000 m² |
| Other | 350 m² |
| Total | 66,670 m² |

Meeting point of the river Aare - Schützenmattstrasse - and you get a more close to nature experience than if you would have chosen the noisy street-level.

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THE FIELD // THE BARN
// CULTIVATION, PARTICIPATION, INTEGRATION, RESPONSABILITY

The Field is connecting the citymovement with the river Aare by a pattern of cultivation fields.
The contextual situation of the Field is complex with its topography. By the uniformed pattern made by a concrete stair and ramp, we take up the height differences diagonally making the Aare river more easy accessible. The terraced squares are used as small farming lots, the main part of them are used by the social programs - the rest is possible to rent and the revenue goes back to the community. Moving from the dyked up river by tulip fields, potato plantations, barbeque platforms and the goal is situated in the river Aare where you find a platform for water activities.

The Barn stands for simplicity and offers an affordable shelter. By integrating some located in previous site for the drug center we give the place a new life. The Barn serves the Field with organisation and equipment.

- Rent and sell – a first job with responsibility
- Work and get paid
- Study and get paid

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Step two after being registered is to get a place to live, a so-called Housing first concept. The concept is built on the idea that, first you get a place to live - then you get individual support to be able to keep your home. In step three of the program you are offered a first job with responsibilities. In the field you are offered a space for farming where you as a user can cultivate crops that you get benefits from either by leaving the goods at the farm or sell it yourself as the market will be open.

Showing a more or less problem-free development in the field you're ready for the last step in the program which is a job in the Barn (the hostel). This job means more responsibility and is the last step of getting re-integrated into the society. The idea of the program is that it's going to work as a win/win strategy for a social sustainable Bern.

The Meadow refers to diversity among users, types of ownership - rentable and buyable as well as social housing (the first housing concept).

Our proposal suggests a high-density housing area - we want to give more people the opportunity to live central, although in a green diverse context.

Under the housing area we inhabit parking lots for the people living in the area as well as people visiting the site. The character of the Meadow and the Field are related to each other (similar contextual situation), they therefore speak a similar language. We have been using a similar way of treating the high differences in both cases with a diagonal concrete stair and ramp system.

The Meadow is a place for everyday life, recreation and leisure with its public park, where you find sport activities and an ongoing urban life. Drink your morning coffee surrounded by a poppy field and take your kite for a flight in the afternoon sun.
SOCIAL PROGRAM

A SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR RE-INTEGRATION IN 4 STEPS

We have designed a social program embedded in the five devices at the site. To be able to start using the drug center you need to become a registered member. We see the drug center as a good starting point and opportunity to get re-integrated back in the society. The aim is that the drug and alcohol abusers will be encouraged to take part in the social program which is divided into four steps.

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THE MEADOW

A LIVELY CENTRAL HOUSING AREA IN THE GREEN

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A LIVELY CENTRAL HOUSING AREA IN THE GREEN

The Meadow refers to diversity among users, types of ownership - rentable and buyable as well as social housing (the first housing concept). Our proposal suggests a high-density housing area - we want to give more people the opportunity to live central, although in a green diverse context. Under the housing area we introduce parking lots for the people living in the area as well as people visiting the site. The character of the Meadow and the Field are related to each other (similar contextual situation). They share a spoken dialectimilar language. We have been using a similar way of treating the height difference in both cases with a diagonal concrete stair and ramp system.

The Meadow is a place for everyday life, recreation and leisure with its public park, where you find sport activities and are going about life. Drink your morning coffee surrounded by a poppy field and take your kite for a flight in the afternoon sun.
THE FIELD
SOURCES OF REFERENCE
// A LIST OF GREAT INSPIRATIONAL READING
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