



HOME IS WHEREVER I'M WITH YOU

- New eyes on housing to promote alternative households

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ABSTRACT

The built environment affects our everyday life and social behaviour. A majority of the dwellings in Swedish cities are built for conventional households. This locks social structures and limits us from seeing the possibilities of a new way of living together with friends, with another family or in a multigenerational home etc. The aim for this Master Thesis is to spur a discussion about diversity and normativity in our future built environment.

A range of methods has been used during the process. A field trip to the Netherlands served as a point of departure to study dense small-scale housing. During the process I also went to Mölndal and Stockholm to visit people living in non-normative households.

I have interviewed a sociologist, studied sociological and architectural literature and been active in social media to study tendencies in our time. Spatial qualities and relations have been studied through sketches and model workshops.

My ambition has been to create space for diverse households by designing a new type of housing in the slope between Gråberget and Vänmötet in Majorna, Gothenburg. To be able to dissolve the conventional housing, and allow a greater creativity in how we live, I have looked beyond regulations and conventions but into experiences, scenarios and actual use of space over time. By disconnecting activities from their common spaces and reorganize them by various levels of privacy, this Master Thesis suggest a experimental typology that aim to reveal a ways of inhabiting.

TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	2	INTERIOR STRATEGY	74
NEW TIMES- NEW SOCIAL HOUSEHOLDS	5	DISCONNECTING ACTIVITY FROM ROOM	77
PLANS FOR GRÅBERGET	7	MAPPING OF ACTIVITIES	78
BUILDING IN A SLOPE	8	QUALITIES	79
MAJORNA	9	INTERNAL SPATIAL PRINCIPLE	80
THE PLOT	13	THE PRIVATE BOX	84
VISION	17	SPATIAL CONFIGURATION	87
STATISTICS	18	MULTIFUNCTIONAL FURNITURE	92
HISTORY OF MAJORNA	22	SECTION A-A 1:50	93
HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING IN SWEDEN	28	PLAN 1:100	97
METHOD	38	SCENARIO 1 - SINGLE PARENTS WITH CHILDREN	101
FIELD STUDIES		SCENARIO 2 - THREE SINGLE ADULTS	103
THE NETHERLANDS	42	SCENARIO 3 - MULTI GENERATIONAL FAMILY	105
DOUBLE FAMILY	43	WOOD	109
CO-HOUSING	44	EXPLOSION VIEW	110
MODEL WORKSHOPS	46	ARCHITECTURAL REFERENCES	111
STUDIES OF HOUSING TYPOLOGIES	49	DISCUSSION	114
STANDARDS	52	REFERENCES	117
URBAN STRATEGY	56	APPENDIX	120
ORIGINAL URBAN STRUCTURE	59	INTERVIEW WITH A COUPLE IN A DOUBLE FAMILY	122
SPATIAL PRINCIPLE	60	QUOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH ANN-KATRIN WITT	128
SITE SECTION A-A 1:400	63	QUOTES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND CHRONICLES	
SITE PLAN 1:800	68	ALEX & SIGGES PODCAST 13-02-15	129
		HANNA HELLQUIST, DAGENS NYHETER 12-09-12	130

INTRODUCTION



Does lack of good examples of non-normative housing limit us from seeing the possibilities and benefits of living together in alternative social constellations?

When spending family holidays sailing, I started to reflect upon the fact that the space of the boat made us interact with our each other in a different way than usual. These experiences made me think about how our living environments affect our everyday life and social behaviours.

Most of our housing stock in our Swedish cities is built to fit the nuclear family, and many of them are difficult

to reconfigure in order to make them fit both alternative households and changed needs. This Master Thesis dig deeper into the subject of housing and explores how alternative arrangement of spaces can inspire to a greater diversity in how we live.

The aim of this work has been to rethink housing to enable various constellations of people living together and to spur a discussion about diversity in our future build environment.

NEW TIMES - NEW SOCIAL HOUSEHOLDS

Households today do not look like they did a couple of decades ago. Nuclear families are still the most dominant type, but more and more people live in other constellations. Part-time families, elderly co-housing and multi-generational living are some examples of non-normative housing that is getting more common.

Combining households in alternative social constellations can have a lot of advantages. Having the opportunity to help each other with cooking, laundry and childcare could for example be a great benefit when there is insufficient time. By designing homes with a great flexibility and without hierarchy in the room configuration, there could be an opening for new possibilities: Friends living together, single parents sharing a home, multigenerational housing etc. It could also be possible for people to afford to live in a more urban context when several incomes share the rents. When planning for a smarter use of space and facilities the heating and power consumption could be reduced.

In *Tillbaka till Framtiden* the sociologists Thomas Knoll and Ann-Katrin Witt look into trends and tendencies of new family constellations. They describe that Swedish people of today resign in many different ways that more or less differ from normative family formations, and new variations emerge all the time.¹

“The more individualized our society gets, the less important the biological family become. Instead more people chose to create close social networks together with others. One can see it as a post-modern behaviour, “everything solid melts” and new constellations arise.”
(My translation, interview with Ann-Katrin Witt, 13-03-06)

In *Bostaden och Kunskapen*, Tommy Berger describes how the available housing stock affects our possibilities to choose how to live and with whom. To just study given

¹ Knoll, T and Witt, A-K. (2011) *Tillbaka till Framtiden: Familjens betydelse för individens livsval*, s. 14

housing patterns, without reflection consider it as expressions of desired ways of living, could therefore lead to wrong conclusions about how to plan for the future.²

A typical floor plan encourages a typical behaviour, which might shape us into patterns that not relate to real life or how we wish to dwell. It is therefore important to let loose of our traditional interpretations of social structures, gender and age in order to create living environment that can fit different social constellations without imagined hierarchies.

The architect Jimenez Lai, professor at University of Illinois and leader of Bureau Spectacular looks at the degree to which an architectural situation affects our behaviour in his project *Three Little Worlds*.

² Berger, T. (2007) *De svenska bostäderna och hushållen: Igår och idag, Bostaden och Kunskapen*, s. 12

Lai means that stacking of generic spaces encourages monoculture:

... a world where being crazy is rare and striving for the typical life is the expected way. The ongoing mutation of culture, however, needs more crazies. It is through misbehavior that newness can be uncovered, rehearsed and emerge out of sameness.

(Lai, J. (2012) *Character Plasticity in Volume*, p. 6-8.)

We need to look beyond traditional ways of both planning and designing to be able to reach sustainable solutions. By dissolving the conventional apartment structures and explore the notion of housing from activities and situations instead of planning our living environment from room configurations and standards new possibilities of urban housing will be revealed.

PLANS FOR GRÅBERGET

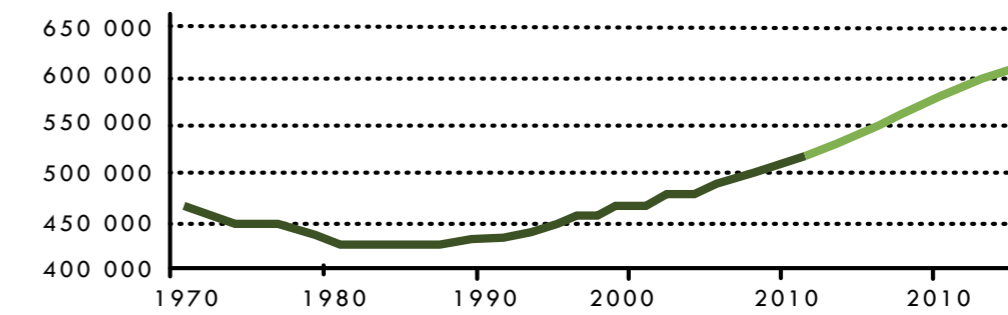


The municipality of Gothenburg is investigating the possibilities to densify Gråberget in Majorna, Gothenburg and has pointed out a number of possible sites in their publication *Program för Gråberget*. 300 new apartments are suggested within the area and there are also plans for new preschools and business premises. The investigation states that the existing apartment stock at Gråberget consists to a large content of small apartments, many of them inhabited by young people and pensioners. According to

the program, the apartments buildings should there for be complemented with new kinds of housing typologies that will ease a bigger social diversity. The program also states that the new exploitation should attract more families with children by planning for larger housing units in connection to the green areas. Because most of the development areas are situated in high-pitched slopes, the municipality wish for creative ideas of suitable housing for dramatic terrains.

BUILDING IN A SLOPE

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION GROWTH IN GOTHENBURG



<http://www4.goteborg.se/prod/G-info/statistik.nsf> (2013-03-13)

Just like many big cities in Sweden, Gothenburg is in need of more housing. In times of increasing urbanisation, our cities needs to be denser to inhabit more people without creating energy-consuming sprawl structures. In order to decrease the need for cars, new dwellings should be built in already exploited areas that hold local services and sufficient public transport.

Gothenburg is a city of hills with dramatic slopes and many of these areas have been left undeveloped during the

years. The loose connection between the neighbourhoods on the tops and the surrounding areas often makes the slopes function like walls between districts. To create a well-connected and dense city, the slopes around Gothenburg need to be utilized without sacrificing the recreational qualities of the landscape and its greenery. To do this, it takes innovation and exploration in order to find ways of handling steep topography.

MAJORNA, A VIBRANT CITY DISTRICT

Majorna is a district situated in the western parts of Gothenburg. The area is well integrated in the city with four tramway lines traversing the area. Most of the buildings are housing dwellings, but close to the harbor area there are also some fully commercial buildings. The road Oscarsleden separates the harbor from the rest of Majorna and which make the areas very different in character and atmosphere.

Majorna has a history as a distinct labour district, but during the last decades the area grew more popular. Today it is one of the most attractive residential areas in Gothenburg and attracts people that value a rich cultural life, closeness to recreational areas and good public transport connections. Majorna is known for being a progressive area with an active population. The slogan used is "The ecological district" and there are several public events every year such a *Megaloppis*, a large flea market and *Konstrundan i Majorna*, an art tour trough the many art studios in the area.

GRÅBERGET, AN ISLAND IN THE CITY?

Gråberget is a hill in Majorna dominated by dwellings from the 1950's surrounded by green areas and steep slopes which creates the natural delimitations. The neighborhood is perceived as a self-defined part of Majorna, because of it's dramatic topography. The few connections to the surroundings that makes the area hard to reach despite the central location.

HISINGEN

GÖTA ÄLVSBRON

GRÅBERGET

OSCARSLEDEN

traffic route

SLOTTSSKOGEN

recreational area

VÄSTRA KYRKOGRÄDEN

cemetery

FIGURE GROUND
1:10 000





Functionalistic housing at Slottskogsgatan



Lamellas at Kabelgatan



Mariaplan



Businesses



Studios at Vännötet



Vännötet



Landsbövdungehus



Allotment gardens, Slottskogskolonin

THE PLOT

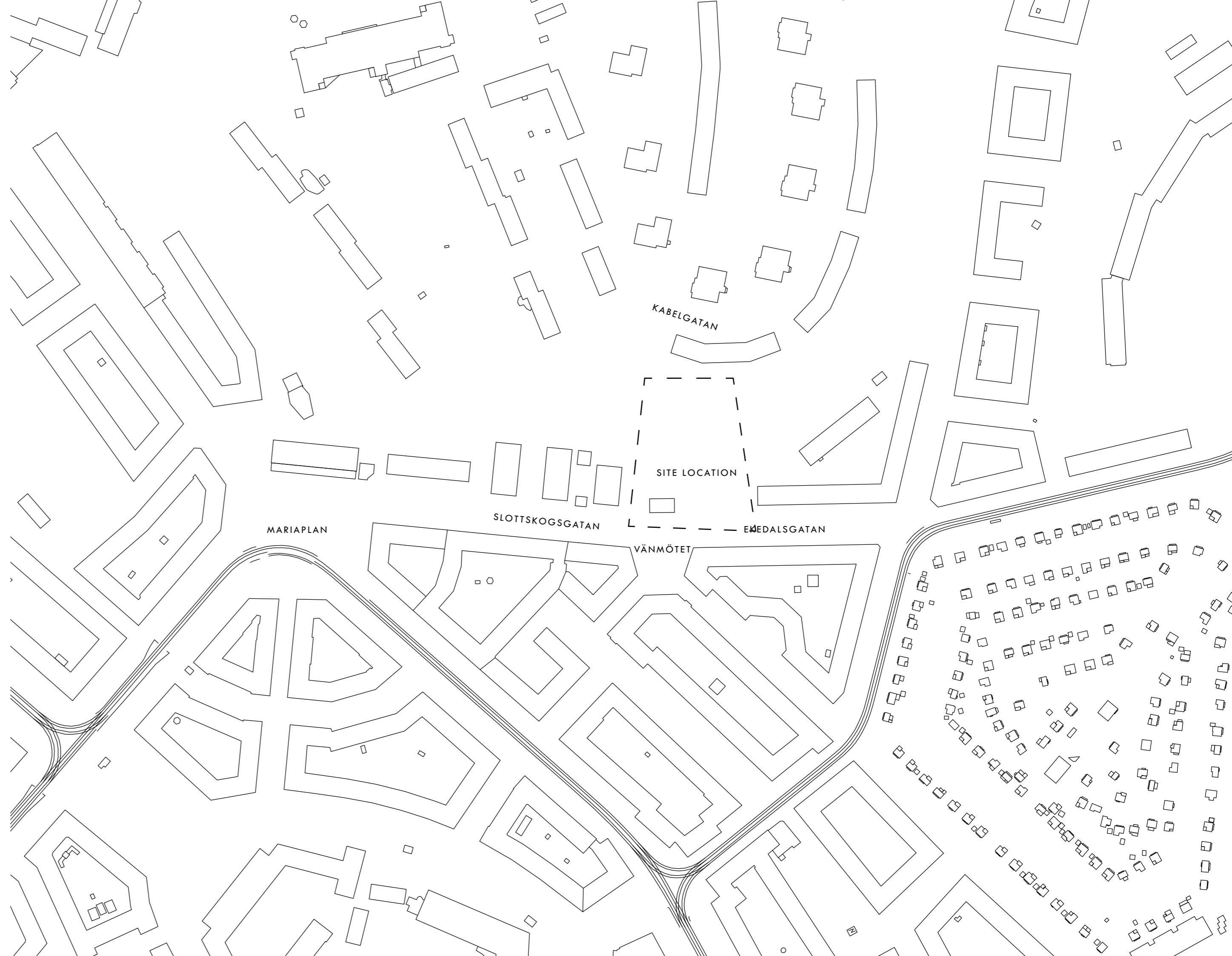
The plot is situated at the southern slope of Gräberget. According to the plans provided by the municipality of Gothenburg the site should be exploited with approximately twenty apartments and space for businesses towards Ekedalsgatan/Slottskogsgatan.¹

The space in front of the chosen plot is called Vänmötet and the area holds a range of creative businesses and studios. There is also a traditional workers café called *Skogen* at the site, which contributes to the non-commercialized character and genuine atmosphere. The local centre of the area, Mariaplan, is located close by and holds a lot of small boutiques and services such as a shoe store, a pharmacy, a grocery shop, cafés and restaurants.

The plot is very hilly and inaccessible, but for those who are in good physics there are a few attractive spots with tall oaks and dizzy views over the rooftops of Majorna. Because of its location and difficult topography the site has become a gap between several city-planning principles. In the south direction the 1920's block structure characterizes the urban space, while in the north direction the 1950's lamellas and tower blocks dominates the hill. In the west direction you find functionalistic lamellas and in the other direction there are allotment gardens that was planned in 1915. In this plot, between different ages' ideas of the ideal city structure, I believe there could be space for a future typology and a new kind of living.

¹ Göteborgs Stad (2011) *Program för Gräberget- inom stadsdelen Majorna 1*
Göteborg, Programråd Februari 2011, s. 5

FIGURE GROUND
1:2000





VISION

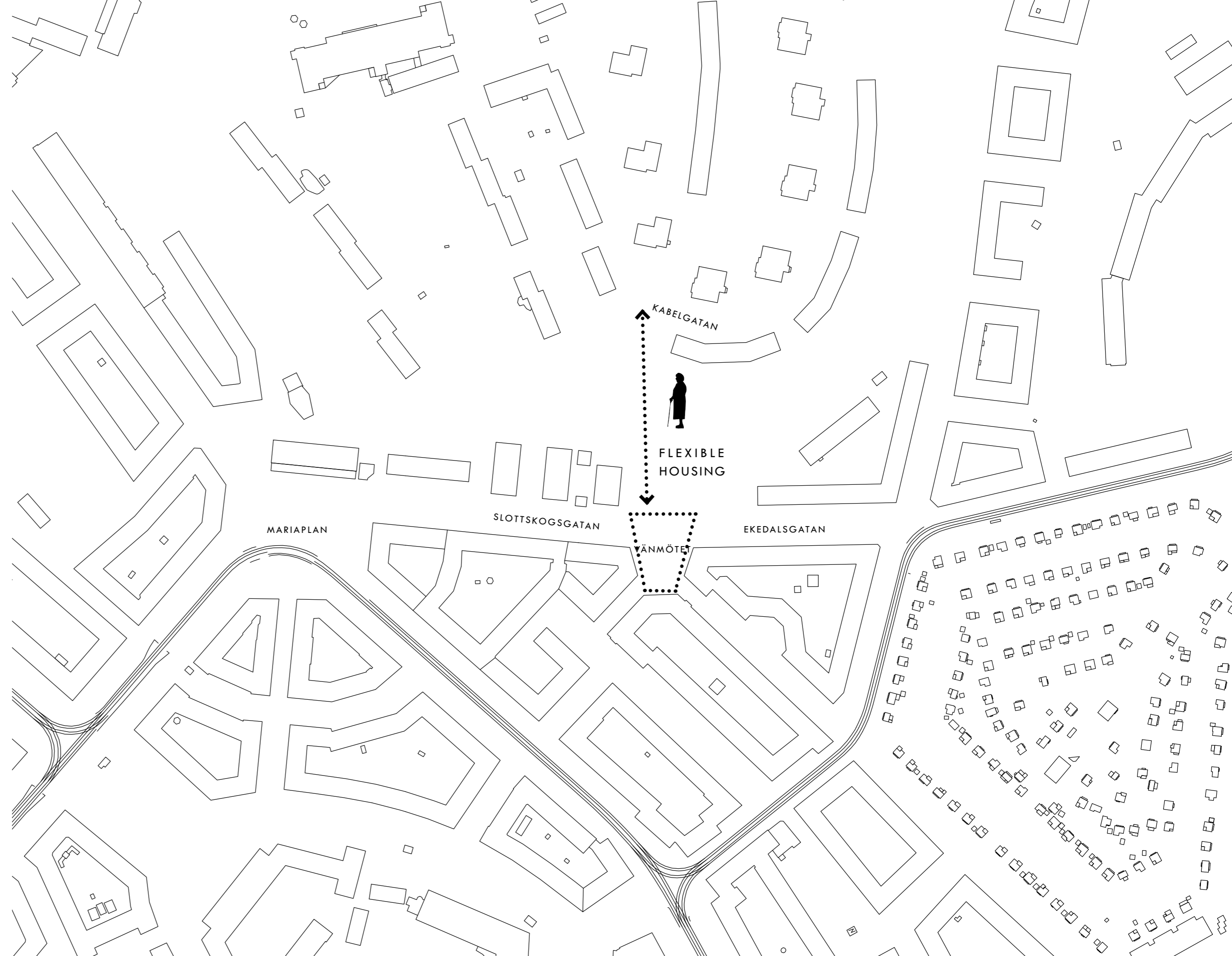
In relation to the municipality's investigation of the area, workshops were done with the inhabitants of Gräberget to find out about how different areas in the neighborhood are used and how these could be developed in the future.

The children in the group mentioned the northern parts of the chosen site as an area that they would like to spend more time in, but because of the topographic conditions it is difficult to reach. The teenagers wished for a communication from Kabelgatan to Slottskogsgatan/Ekedalsgatan at the slope, while the adults pointed out attractive spots for barbecues and views over the city.¹

STRATEGY

- The greenery of the slope has a great value, but because of the dramatic terrain it's not used as much as it could have been if it would have been more accessible. My approach is to keep as much of the existing qualities and make the area easier to access for all the inhabitants in the area.
- An added communication structure will ease the connection and dissolve the natural limitation between Gräberget with the area around Vänmötet.
- The urban space in the most southern part of the slope will be defined and programmed with a flexible structure for new studios and businesses that will attract more people to the public space.
- Flexible housing with close connection to the surrounding nature will be added to the site.

¹ Göteborgs Stad (2010) *Workshop Gräberget, Hur används platser på Gräberget idag? Vad finns det för behov av utveckling?* (2010-09-22), s. 7-10



STATISTICS

Gråberget is one of nine primary areas in Majorna-Linné which is the largest district in Gothenburg with about 62 800 inhabitants. A large amount of the population of district are young adults while there are few families with children in the area.¹ This is the result of that from the 35 000 residences in the area, 60 % of them are rented apartment, and only 6 % of the dwellings are single-family houses. ¹ Most of the families that leave the district move to residential areas in the suburban areas in other parts of Gothenburg, and neighbouring municipalities. In 2011, 14 % of the children in Gothenburg were born in Majorna-Linné, the highest number in the city, while only 8 % of the school kids in the city lived in the district.²

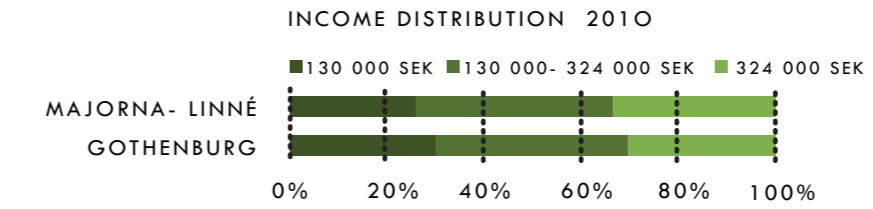
¹ <http://goteborg.se/wps/portal/enheter/stadsdelsforvaltning/majorna-linne-stadsdelsforvaltning> (2013-01-18)

² <http://www4.goteborg.se/prod/G-info/statistik.nsf/34f4087fac810b1ac1256cdf003efa4b/3dc3de878193c66fc12578760035a987> (2013-01-18)

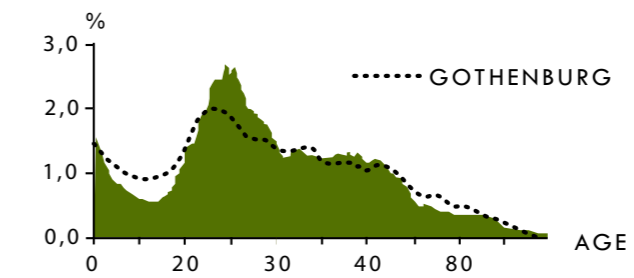
Regarding economical resources, the medium income in 2011 among the women in the age 25-64 years old in the district, were just over 250 000 per year while the average man earned about 300 000. This put Majorna-Linné among the four lowest ranked districts of the city. This is a surprisingly low place in comparison this to the level of education.

In 2011, about two thirds of the inhabitants (25-64 years) have a post-secondary education, which is the second highest level in the city³

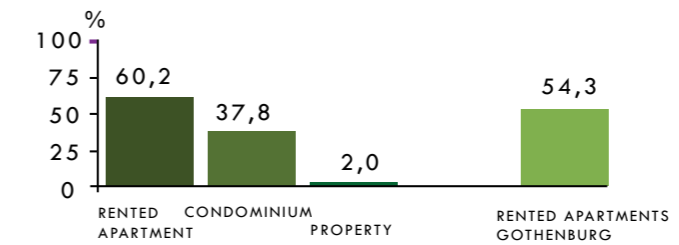
³ Ibid. (2013-01-18)



AGE DISTRIBUTION



THE APARTMENTS AFTER OWNERSHIP CATEGORY



SHARE SMALL HOUSES

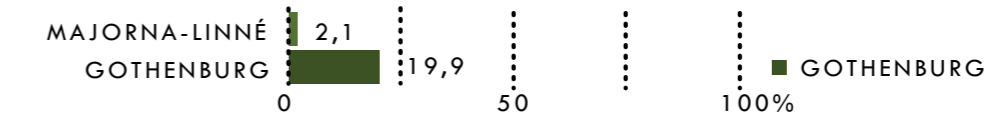




Illustration of Gamla varvet

HISTORY OF MAJORNA

Because of the situation by the intake of Göta Älv, the area that today is Majorna has been populated since the Iron Age. The oldest ancient remains were found in today's Sandarna in the western part of the city, in the 6000s B.C.

OLD ÄLVSBERG

In the mid 1200s a wooden fort, Älvöseborg was built at the area of *Klippan*, a strategic spot to control the traffic between Kattegat/ Skagerrak and Sweden. The fort was replaced after the in the 1500s by a stone fort, Älvsborg Castle.¹ The agricultural land around the castle that supported the castle with food was called *Kungsladugård*, and the area today wears the same name. Many people worked at the farm at that farm; there were 450 cottages that inhabitant could live in with the help of daily onerous services. Älvsborg Castle lost its military and economical significance in 1621 when the fortified town and Dutch enclave, Gothenburg became the economical centre of the region.

¹ Carlsson, G. (2007) *Majorna- En resa genom fem sekler* s. 12

EARLY INDUSTRY

Shipbuilding have during the years played a central role in Majorna, and a lot of the inhabitants have worked a the industries. In the mid 1660, a yard, Gamla varvet was founded and around that area which today is Stigbergskajen. Apart from supporting and administrative building, a small suburban village for the employees started to emerge.² In the 18th century the shipbuilder business flourished and three new yards was established in the area: Nya Varvet in the year 1700, Wikens varv in 1747 and Kustens Varv in 1784. The The Swedish East India Company that was founded in 1731 vitalised the new business which and made the shipbuilding in Gothenburg very intense.³

During the Great herring period that started in 1740, the population of Majorna increased and centres for refining of the fish started to pop up along the river. New housing was established in the area, both cottages for the workers and manorial dwellings for the businessmen and their families.⁴

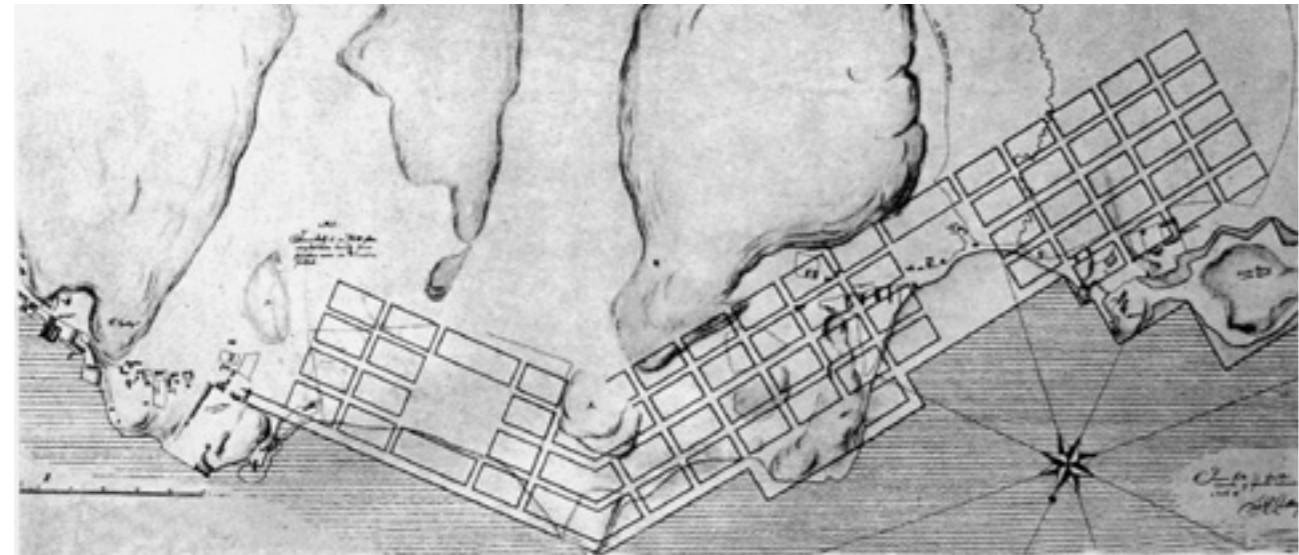
² Ibid s. 20

³ Ibid s.19

⁴ Ibid s. 44



Map over Gothenburg 1888



J.E Carlbergs plan over Majorna that never was realised



MASTERPLANS

King Karl XII had plans for the area back in 1717. He asked the governor general Johan Eberhard Carlberg draw a city plan over the area and the inhabitants was asked to mark out streets and plots that could be sold to speculators.⁵ The plans failed. The situation of Majorna was regarded too distanced to Gothenburg and there wasn't an urgent housing shortage at that time. Not until 1878, ten

years after Majorna was incorporated in Gothenburg the district was regulated and transformed according a master plan. The person who transformed Majorna into the character of today was Albert Lilienberg. He made the first Master plan of the area that was realised with *landshövdingebus* in the north part of the area and small houses and row houses in the southern parts.

⁵ Ibid, s. 48

GRÅBERGET

The southern and eastern parts of Gråberget remained unplanned and until the 1950s when the urbanisation was intensified and more space was needed for expanding and densifying the city by starting to build on sites with dramatic terrain. This part of the hill was quite inaccessible with dips that made it almost an island in the city and on the top; there were only an orphan house, a cluster of homeless shelter and two water reservoirs.



Homeless shelters 1936

The master plan was established according to the thoughts of community unions with freestanding apartment buildings with a common centre. Along the main street, Kabelgatan tower blocks were built while lamellas were placed along the edges of the hill op like old times fortress. This new way of planning the cities was a protest to the grid plan, and was made to enhance the communion among the inhabitants. The streets were designed as dead ends in order to decrease the traffic by cars in the area.



Kabelgatan



Double cottage in Lundby, Stockholm

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING IN SWEDEN

PRE- INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION HOUSING

The first house type in Sweden that has similarities to houses of today was the firehouse. It occurred at that time when one learnt how to cultivate the soil and therefore could settle down. The houses were built out of timber without any windows and just a hole in the roof for the smoke of the fire. The firehouse included all living functions, but later on one started to split the functions into different houses. There were shelters for food storage, cattle, lavatory, sleep, work and socializing. These buildings were organized in different ways into farms depending on geographical location. For example in the most southern regions of Sweden, the farms were usually built from four single-floor buildings that shaped a rectangle in order to hold the small cattle. In the west costal areas, where the population lived from fishing, the buildings were organized to use the most of the hilly environment and create shelter from the harsh winds.

Until the industrial revolution, the majority of the population in Sweden lived in rural areas. There were different social positions; far from every one could afford to own their own land. A lot of people lived in small cottages and made their day work at the farms in the area. Despite economical gaps, *allmogon* is an accepted term when talking about culture and lifestyle among common people in the rustic society. This fact made the housing and furniture very standardized and slowly developed during many centuries. There were two dominant types of dwelling houses: the single- and the double cottage. The first one consisted of only one room with a hearth and additional chamber and porch. The second type looked like the first one, but with an additional room that wasn't used at daily basis but for storage, as a guestroom or at feasts. The cottages were often very confined because of the fact that families of that time usually were larger than today. Aside from large broods, the grandparent's most often stayed in the same house.



Stockholm Fair 1930

URBANIZATION

During the industrial revolution in the 19th century, the urbanization grew larger and young people moved to the cities to work at the new factories. In order to house all the workers and their families, apartment buildings were raised where the contract of the tenements were connected to the employment.

The housing units were very small and confined. A lot of the large families lived in a single room, spisrummet, and it was common that the family had an additional lodger to help their financial situation.¹

In the 1920' the standard of living in the cities was increased to some extent when new housing areas for the labour force were built in the cities. The new apartments had one or two rooms and were equipped with bathroom and hobs. These new housing made the life easier for many people at this time but still in 1932, 70% of the workers families in the cities of Sweden still lived in apartments of only one room and a kitchen.²

¹ Konsumentverket, (1979) *Boende förr nu och i framtiden*, s. 5-11

² Gromark, S. (1983) *Boendegemenskap: En kritisk granskning av boendegemenskap som samsällsangelägenhet, av dess värden, villkor och förutsättningar samt exempel på praktisk tillämpning i ett västeuropeiskt sammanhang*, s 123

FUCTIONALISM

During the Stockholm fair in 1930 a whole new approach of living was introduced. In Sweden this movement was called functionalism and these new ideas was an interpretation of the modernistic thoughts that had flourished in Europe since the 1920's. The focus on this fair was the concept of a future democratic lifestyle for the big mass and included every scale of living, from architecture to kitchen appliance. By introducing standardization of products that were mass-produced and was designed to achieve the optimal function, prices could be cut and the products and housing would apply to every one despite economical resources. The new home was a place for the new life. The old times of heavy furniture and tiring housework for the women would be gone forever. Apart from previous ages, the new apartments were designed specifically for the nuclear family and multigenerational living and additional lodges was part of a time one left behind. In Sweden, the new social housing that would save the population from the low sanitary conditions was built in quite large amount before the Second World War started.



Vällingby Centrum

POST-WAR IDEAS

At the end of the war, Sweden experienced flourishing economy as a result of being a neutral part in the battles. In 1947 the government tabled a program for a large-scale social housing investment. During 1940's studies were initialized in order to map how people actually lived and used their dwelling to sharpen the standards and assignments for future planning of social housing.³

In the 1950's the idea about the suburb what hold work, housing and local service was realized in a few places in Sweden. Årsta Centrum and Vällingby Centrum are renowned examples of the so-called ABC-city that was inspired by American and English figures. This new structure of living was based of the thoughts about the relation between the dwellings and "the small neighborhood" with natural meeting spots at the common services for people living in the same area.

³ Konsumentverket, (1979) *Boende förr nu och i framtiden*, s. 21-25

ONE MILLION DWELLINGS

In spite of previous attempt to spark the social house building with high standards Sweden had not succeeded to meet the need of affordable dwellings. In 1965, a big decision was made: One million dwellings would be constructed in ten years. The idea about suburbs with local centers was developed and large clusters of apartment blocks in the outskirts of the cities were built around the country. Also in the city centers new dwellings were replacing housing that didn't reached the new standards. Aside from the large-scale projects, a big part of the housing units that were built during this period were single-family houses and three story buildings both in the urban areas but also in the smaller towns around the country.

The enormous project was realized by using prefabricated elements, which made it economically possible to reach a better standard and larger housing. The implementation of this program has been a very crucial factor to create the foundation of our Swedish welfare society, but along with the building of new areas, critics to the way of design-



Kronoparken, Karlstad

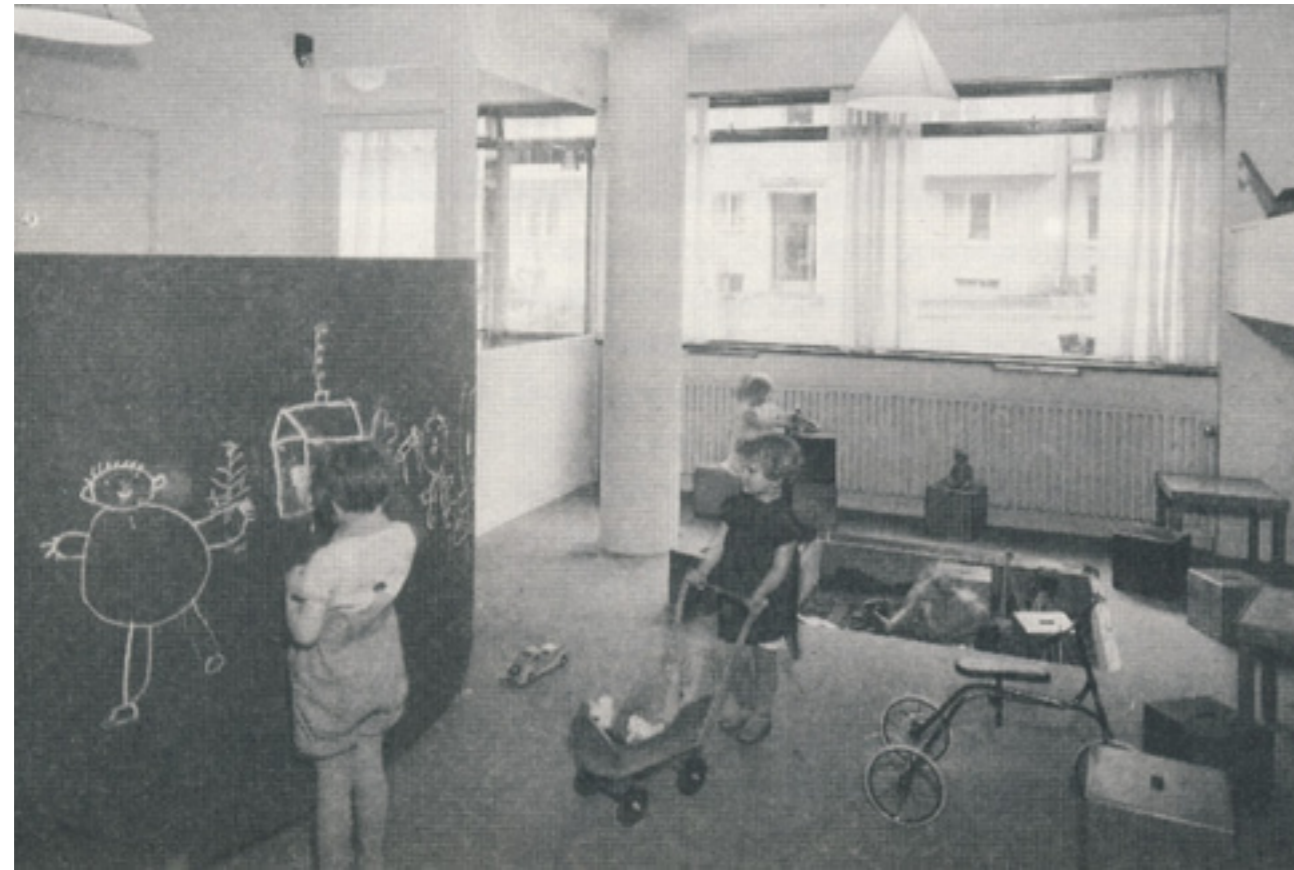
ing the living environment started to occur. The rational building technique often made all the houses in an area have the exact same appearance. The large cranes that were needed to demolish the existing landscape, which were not replaced by any new values in the semi-private environments. The elements were most often made out of concrete, which made the apartments hard to individualize and reconfigure according to the needs of the habitats. The absence of relation to the human scale and created an explosion of critics from the public. This debate resulted in an increased consciousness of the importance of the “untouchable” values of living, and mixing of typologies were introduced many of the following projects during the 1970’s. Experienced alienisms that the conformism in the built environment brought during the “mass production areas” made a lot of people search for a more subjective living. The small house stock increased rapidly where the families had large opportunities to make changes according to shifting needs and wishes.⁴

⁴ Gromark, S. (1983) *Boendegemenskap: En kritisk granskning av boendegemenskap som samhällsangelägenhet, av dess värden, villkor och förutsättningar samt exempel på praktisk tillämpning i ett västeuropeiskt sammanhang*, s 123

The goal of building one million dwellings succeeded and in 1975 Sweden had the highest housing standards in the world.⁵ Many of the apartments were left vacant when more people chose to move into their own houses. Along with abolition of public subventions in the beginning of the 1990’s the building of housing decreased, but halfway through the decade a new housing shortage occurred as a result of the increasing urbanization. In contrast to previous times social approach, most of new dwellings that was built at this time were exclusive apartments in central urban locations.

Today, the cities of Sweden suffer from housing shortage again and a lot of people live in cabined sublet apartments. The waiting time get access to a rented apartment is often very long and the rents consume most of the income. We need to build more dwellings that are accessible for not just economically privileged people, but also for the young people, the pensioners and for families with kids. In order to create a diverse and tolerant city, the new housing needs a bigger generality and flexibility to make it attractive and accessible for more people.

⁵ Björk, C, Reppen, L, Nordling, L (2000) *Så byggdes staden*, s. 58



Collective house by Sven Markelius. Kungsholmen, Stockholm

ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

Parallel to the Swedish history of housing, there have been some examples of rethinking of the concept of housing that saw possibilities of choosing a living that stands out from the crowd.

Beside the ideas of the modern nuclear family after the Stockholm fair in the 1930's, there were also thoughts about how the homes could be rationalized by organizing them into collective housing where all the cooking, washing, etc were done jointly and the children were taken care of in a day care in the same building. This new way of living would make it possible for both the adults in the family to work. These thoughts was formulated in command of Alva Myrdal and Sven Markelius who had been one of the most influential architect's in the Stockholm fair. Two years later the first proposal of a collective housing that they called "family hotel" was published and it sparked a great debate, but just a few of these collective housing projects were built in Sweden.⁶

During the period of large scale production of dwellings in the 1960's and 70's, the discussion about the values of community housing was brought up again and new household constellations started to become more common. In the end of the 1970's the discussion was intensified and more people requested alternative to the existing housing typologies and new living constellations.

⁶ Elmqvist, A-M (2006) *En debatt om kollektivhus i det tidiga 1930-talet- Den gifta kvinnan möter moderniteten*, s. 3

A renowned example is Stacken at Teleskopgatan in the outskirts of Gothenburg that was started as an experiment in cooperative between Göteborgshem and Chalmers University of Technology in an existing building where a lot of the apartments were empty at that time. Stacken is still running today more than 30 years later and all families have their own apartment, but also additional communal space with, kitchen, workshops etc. From the beginning there was also childcare run by the parents. The work community that all members are part of take turns doing chores like cooking, cleaning and maintenance and this has been key for the successful organization.⁷

Collective housing is often connected to the 1970's when many people tried out to live as extended families with a political agenda. Some of them moved out from the cities to run their own farms. Moder Jord in Tollarp in Skåne and Skogsnäskollektivet in Ramsele are two examples from this period that are still running. In collective housing where the "extended family is a crucial concept, all spaces except the private room are communal and it is common to share all cooking and cleaning. This type of alternative to the normative way of living is still closely connected to a certain kind of lifestyle. By dissolving the hierarchy of housing and introducing a new typology that is not connected to prejudgments and notions, I believe more people will dare to try living in new social constellations.

⁷ Gromark, S. (1983) *Boendegemenskap: En kritisk granskning av boendegemenskap som samhällsangelägenhet, av dess värden, villkor och förutsättningar samt exempel på praktisk tillämpning I ett västeuropeiskt sammanhang*, s 26- 27

METHOD

The tools for investigation of the subject have been to study literature, reference projects, and housing typologies. I also went on study trips interviewing people that have chosen an alternative living. Another important method have been to keeping up with both social and traditional media in order to recognize tendencies and thoughts about our future living and relation to each other.

The possibilities and limitations of the chosen site have been explored trough models and sketches. The same method was used when studying spatial configuration inside the dwellings.

FIELD STUDIES

THE NETHERLANDS

A field trip to Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Delft was made to study housing projects, public spaces and dense structures.

One discovery that was made was that the gap between the private space and the public is smaller in The Netherlands than in Sweden. This gave the inspiration of trying out typology that of a private houses in urban contexts, with less outdoor space than in regular villas. The boathouses are and MVRDV's house with a dissolved structure was a great inspiration of alternative small-scale private space in dense urban contexts.



Narrow housing with dissolved interior



Narrow urban space



Small scale housing in an urban context

DOUBLE FAMILY

In a 115 sqm apartment in Södermalm, Stockholm two couples and two children lives together. See appendix for interview.

The family told about all the experienced benefits of this kind of living, like spending more time with your siblings's child, hang out together passivly and cook for each other. This type of household is still quite rare, but visting this home gave great inspiration to design a typology that fit alternative households like this.



CO-HOUSING

In the co-housing building Kornet in Gothenburg the residents has their own apartments and share facilities such as kitchen, library, workshop etc.

Even though the house is open to every one at every age, most of the people at Kornet are older than 65 years old. At this study visit I discovered that there are many elderly people that live alone, but would like to spend more time with other people when they get retired and spend their days at home. Living together with friends in this period of life will prolong the life, as one of the inhabitants stated!



MODEL WORKSHOPS

SITE AND STRUCTURE



Falling leave

- As platforms to build on
- Possibilities to be beneath and above
- Movement and rythm



Weaved structure...

- Organisation of movements
- Layering of privacy
- Parallell activities



... with different sizes

BUILDING CONFIGURATION



Along the curve

- Clear directions
- Great views
- Covers the hill



On top of each other

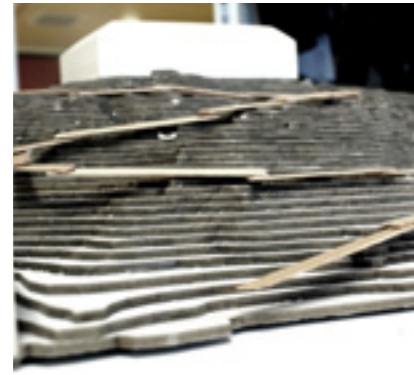
- Clear definitions of volumes
- Possible to enter from different heights
- Three house associations



Around a courtyard

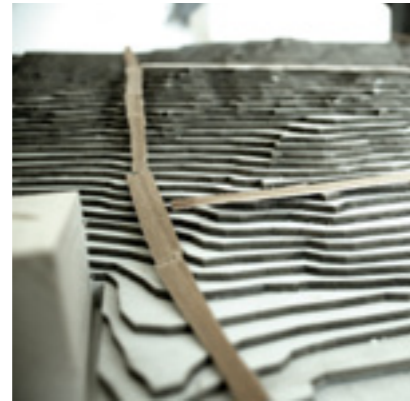
- Creates a semi-private space in between
- Possibilities to create relations between the neighbors

COMMUNICATION



Follow the height curve

- Possibilities to travel with wheelchairs and bikes
- Possibilities to plan for public activities along the path
- The path would take up too much space and destroy the slope



Straight way

- Need of stairs or elevator
- No continuous public path
- Creates dead ends



Along the hill

- Flat paths, easy access to the houses
- Clear division of the communication: Flat along the mountain and stairs up the hill

ARRANGEMENT OF CLUSTERS



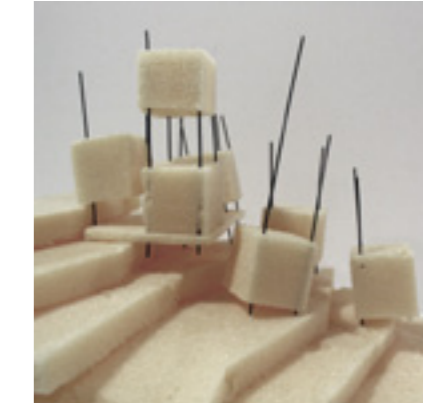
Small houses

- Associations to earlier development at the site
- Narrow passages and courtyards
- Accentuates the hill
- Intimate semi-private spaces
- Detailed silhouette



Framed semi-private spaces

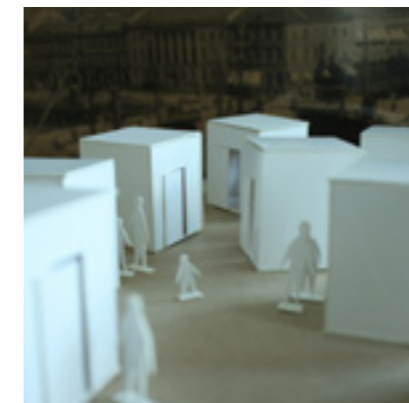
- Define the space between the houses.
- Creates natural meeting points



Interior architecture

- Interior architecture with a similar structure as the urban configuration
- Possibilities to be on top/below
- The volumes are creating a floating room inbetween
- Tree house associations

CONFIGURATION OF THE SMALLEST UNITS



Village structure

- Spaces inbetween like streets in a village
- Two-dimensional structure



Stacking

- Continuous room
- No vertical connections



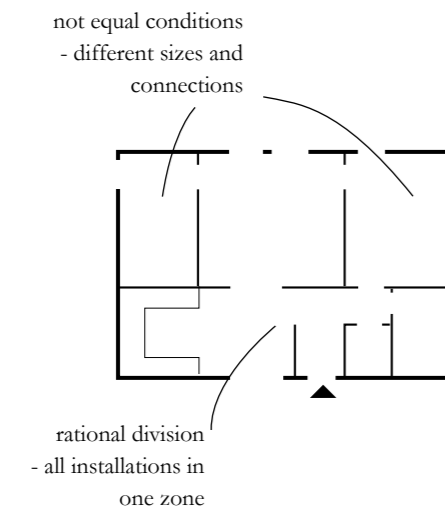
Floating spaces

- Possibilities to be on top and below
- Creating semi-private spaces
- Floating room with connections in three dimensions

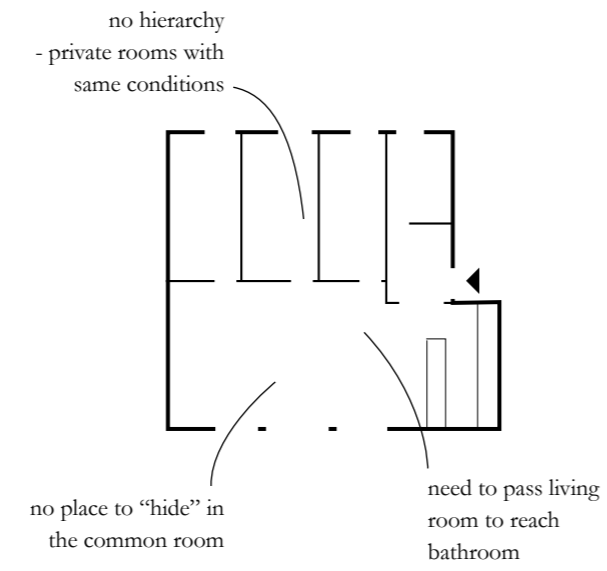
STUDIES OF HOUSING TYPOLOGIES

To understand the anatomy of contemporary dwellings we studied different modernistic typologies. The examples are collected from the chapter *Bostadens Typologi* by Ola Nylander in *Bostaden och Kunskapen*.

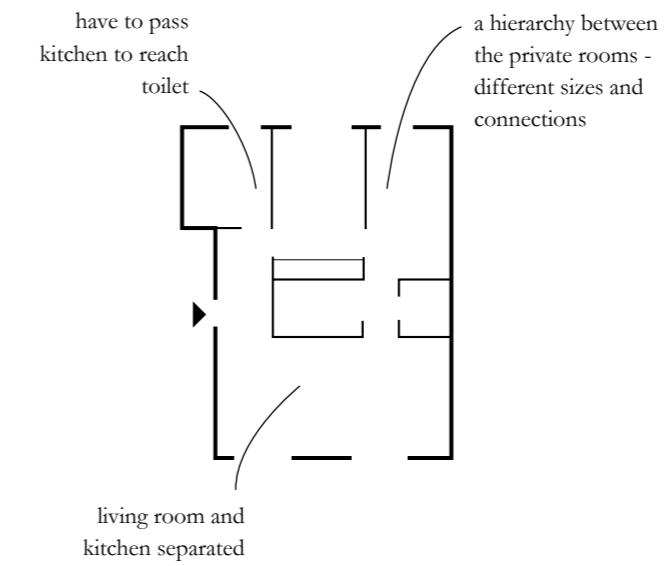
CONFIGURED BY FUNCTION AND INSTALLATIONS



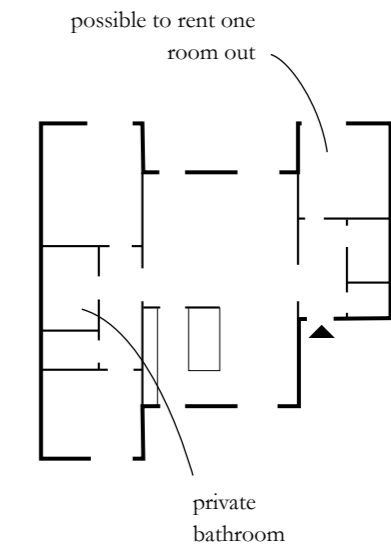
APARTMENT ORGANIZED AROUND THE A CENTRALLY LOCATED ROOM

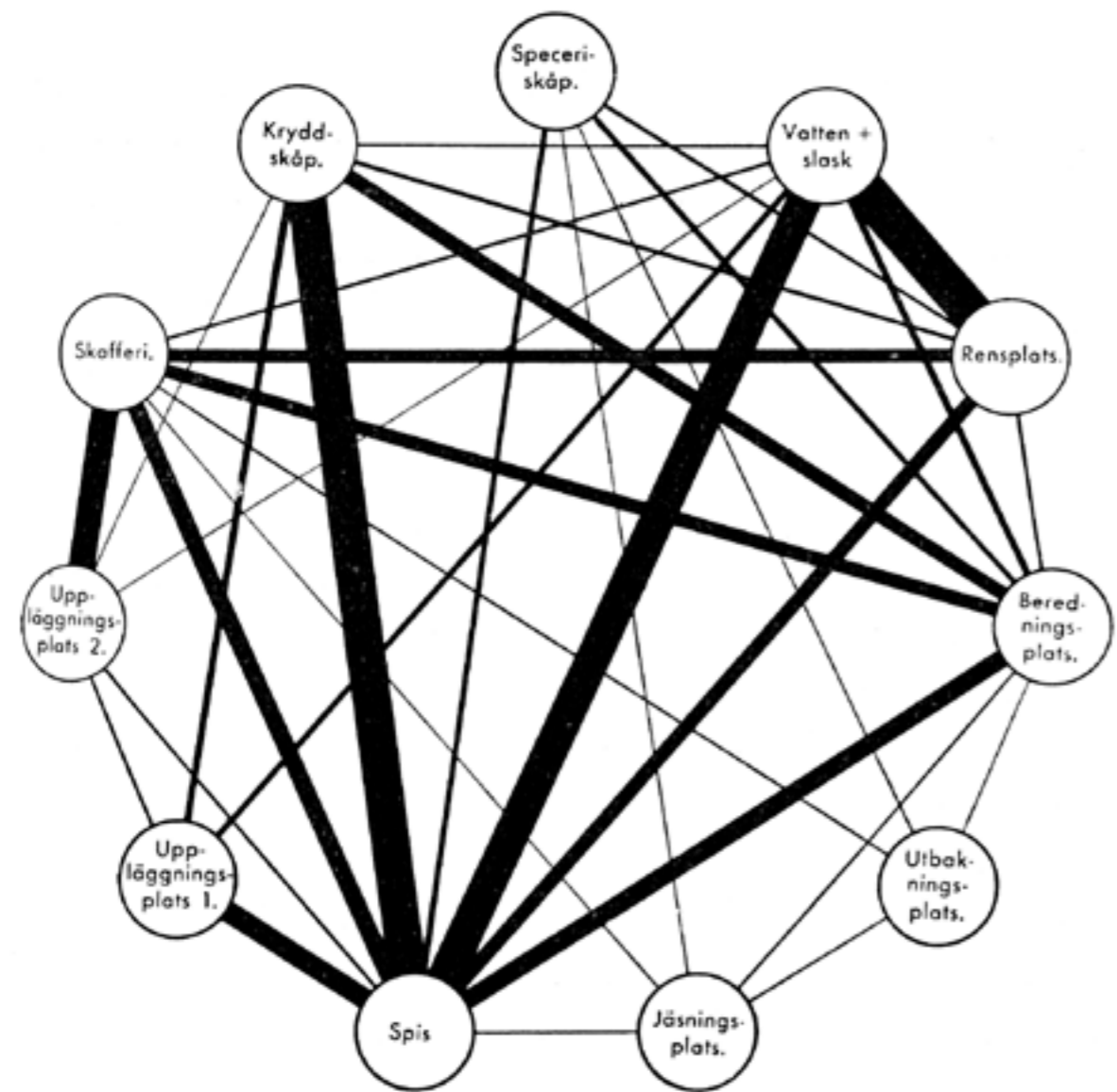


APARTMENT DIVIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS



APARTMENT DIVIVIDED INTO ZONES





Hemmens Forskningsinstitut: Diagram representing the Swedish kitchen standards

STANDARDS

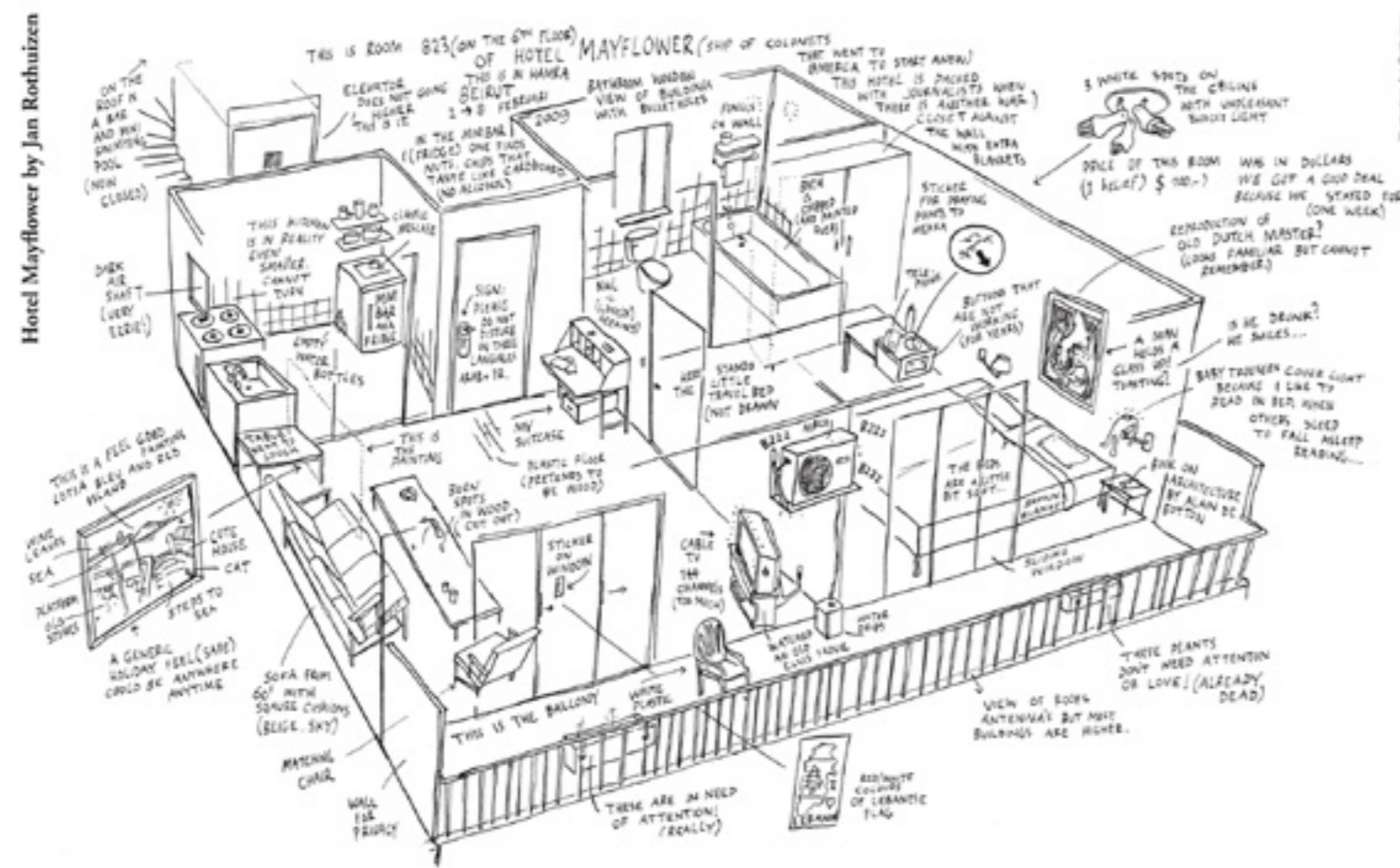
Sweden has a long tradition of studies in the area of housing in order to formulate standards for the housing production. The first studies started in the end of the 1930's and lasted until the mid 1970's. Many of them were done by Svenska Slöjdföreningen (Swedish Society of Industrial Design) and Hemmens Forskningsinstitut (The Home Research Institute). The studies made the foundation for the God Bostad that was published in three different editions from 1954 to 1964. Beside the standards on design and equipment to provide housing loans, it also contained a discussion about comfort and an augmenting text that should convince the reader about the advantages of the standards. In 1975, the additional text about soft dimensions was taken away and the demands were justly established. Even though the rules have been replaced by advices since the last 20 years, the demands often stand as design tools when new housing is built instead of the other way around.¹

The use of norms when planning housing aim to create dwellings that is democratic and suits all people no matter if you are old, sick or have a disability. This should of course be a fundamental requirement in our entire built environment and Sweden is predecessor in this area. The problem is not the advices but when the norms are taken

¹ Eriksson, J. (2007) Vad vet vi och vad behöver vi veta? ,Bostaden och kunnskapen, s 73-74

for rules and we forget about other values in the build environment. The society is rapidly changing and the habit of planning for watching television together is a artifact from times before the tablets, smart phones and "TV on demand" where natural parts of our daily life. These help lets for have taken out consuming of media out on the street and we don't know that the future holds in these areas. Large living rooms with space that is hard to use for other activities are there for not only economically and environmentally hard to defend, it also hold us back from seeing new possibilities of living.

Another example is the difficulties of living together with in different social constellation other than the nuclear family when following the prevalent norms. The standard model of newly constructed housing in Sweden besides from bathrooms, storage etc, often consist of one large room that contain both space of socializing and cooking, one master bedroom and a few smaller bedrooms. This structure is still quite well functioning for the nuclear family that is still the most common family type, but as mentioned earlier, the amount of new household types are increasing. This standard hierarchy inside the dwellings, dose not permit a for example two couples living together, or multigenerational living without running out of space or privacy. Flexible structures are therefore a necessity in order to achieve more democratic and tolerant living environment.



FLEXIBILITY

Japan is a predecessor in the area of variability in architecture. In the thesis *Japanska rum*, Kristina Fridh describes how sliding doors and mobile elements were used in order to change the shape, light and use of the rooms and reorganize the internal configuration in the traditional tea-houses called sukiya.¹ The building style occurred in the end of the 16th century and it had a great impact on the following architecture in Japan ever since and the modular concept with pillars and beams have big similarities to modern structural elements. The flexible way of organizing space is closely connected to the notion of *Ma* that is a perception the indivisible relation of room and space, specific for the Japanese culture. If we look back our eyes our own Swedish history of housing we find big variability and flexible use of space and furniture. Besides the general rooms that could be used for different occasions in for example double cottage that was the most common house type before the industrial revolution, also the furniture tells a story of ingenuity when it comes to different use over time. The gate leg table, which can be extended, and the sofa bed are two examples of traditional furniture types with multiple uses as a spacious and economical necessity.

SOFT DIMENSIONS

Close your eyes and imagine the sun hitting your face the first day of spring, or the way fresh sheets feels on your skin when going to bed after a long day. Moments when all your senses are active and your mind and body are one. In order to create successful living spaces it takes ardour and sensuous presence. Parallel to flexibility and generality, planning for "untouchable" qualities the notion of living should be axiomatic approach in the design of housing.

¹ Fridh, K (2001) *Japanska rum - en diskussion kring tomhet och förändrighet i traditionell och nutida japansk arkitektur*, s. 132

This could be a useful tool to bring another dimension of sensuality to flexible and general dwellings structures. Ten people inhabit an apartment designed for four people, and there are couples living in flats planned for six people. There is a gap between the expected behavior inside our homes and the actual use of them. The main function of bathrooms is usually to serve daily hygiene routines, but there are numerous activities and situations taking place in these spaces. Parties, four people putting on make up in front of the same mirror and heart-to-heart conversations. No spaces are mono-functional but are rather layered by various situations and activities over time, both during the day, week, year and decade. The architect Inara Nevskaya have together with the Dutch office DUS Architects started up a research project on the term *Soft Dimensions*. This term captures the dimension of how architecture actually is used and how knowledge in this area can be help when planning for more resilient housing.²

Housing have very much been a question of lifestyle and consumption in the last two decades, but I believe that people is starting to long for a life with less belongings that always have to be updated in order to stay tuned with the latest trends. Natural materials such as wood, stone, wool and leather started to find their way back to the Swedish homes. The intense discussion of the environmental disasters of consumption has slowly reached the big mass and people are getting more and more conscious about our unsustainable lifestyles. By designing flexible, multifunctional furniture inspired by Swedish traditional furniture, designed from scenarios and use them as fittings for the dwellings the need for space and consumption could be decreased.

² Nevskaya, I. (2012) *Soft Dimensions. Volume*, vol 33, nr 3, p. 14-16

URBAN STRATEGY



ORIGINAL URBAN STRUCTURE

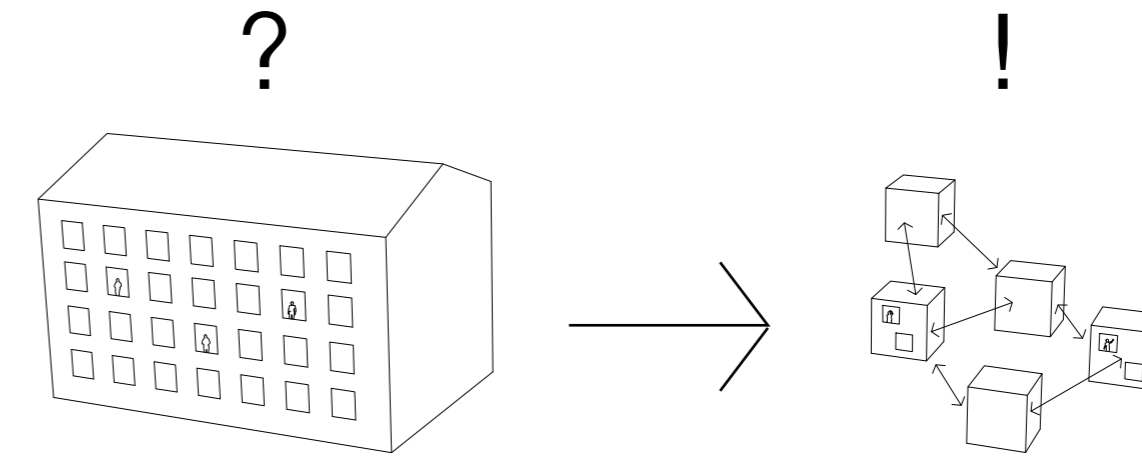


Slottskogsgatan 1916

Building in dramatic landscape in urban contexts is challenging, but not impossible. This picture is taken at the same street in 1916.

The small-scale structure accentuates the landscape and creates intimate semi-private spaces. These qualities are explored and developed in the proposal.

SPATIAL PRINCIPLE



In apartment buildings, the connection between neighbors is weak. Without well functioning semi-private space you may not know who is living on the other side of your wall.

The concept of having an own house and the opportunity to be at home outside promotes communication between neighbors. It's easier to say hello or ask each other for help.



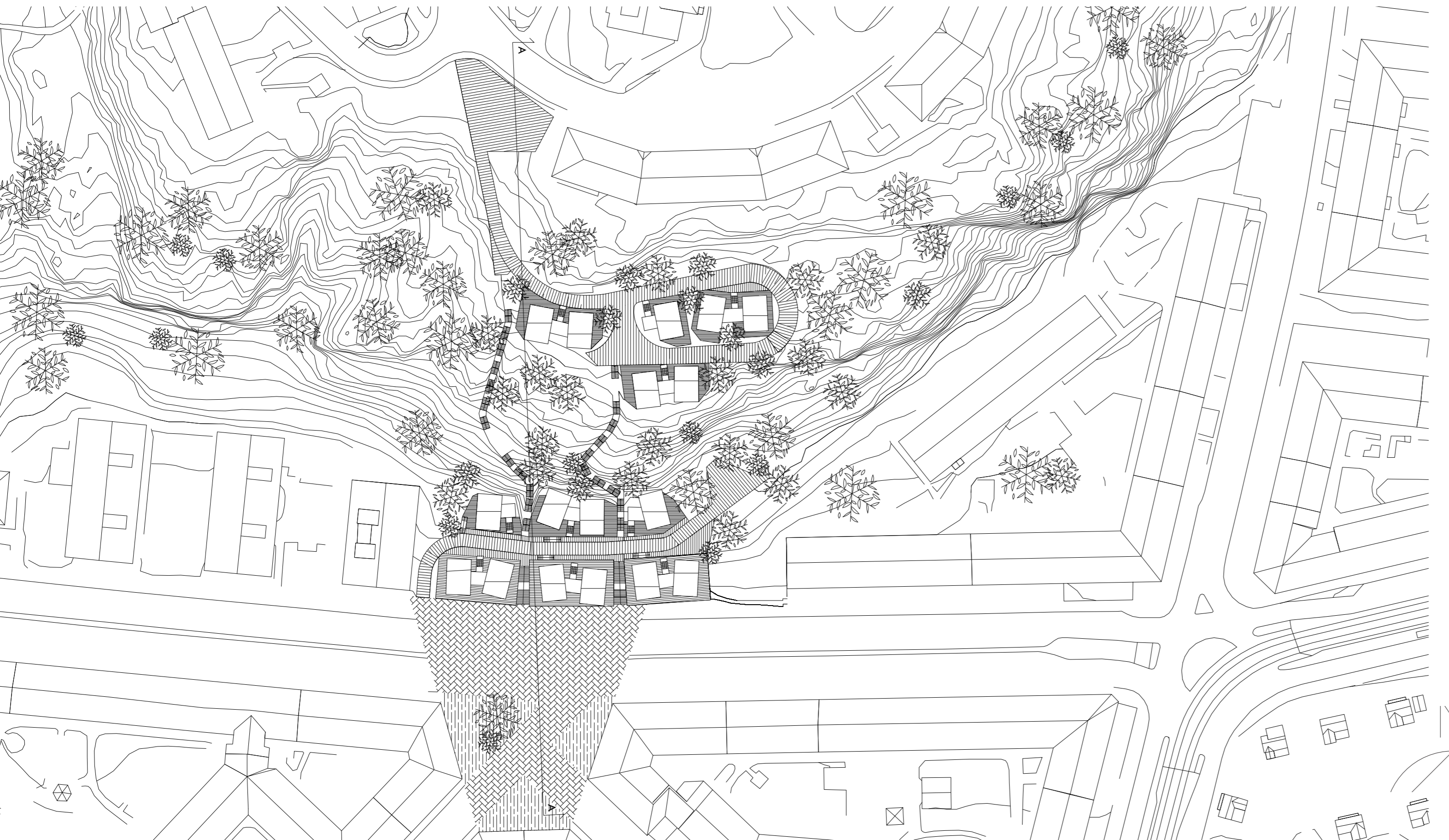
SITE SECTION A-A 1:400





VIEW FROM VÄNMÖTET

The shifting angles of the roofs emphasize the shape of the hill while the scale and orientation of the dwellings let the greenery in the slope characterize the atmosphere of the site.



SITE PLAN 1:800

The addition is divided in two clusters. The north one is accessible by wheelchair and ambulance from the top of the hill, and the south one from the square.

Public spaces for look outs, barbeque and temporary events are added at the top of the hill and by the tall oaks in the southwestern part of the hill.

Public stairs connects Gräberget with Vännötet

The new dwellings are dancing up the hill creating playful structure and intimate semi-public space. The small scale of the additions relates to the allotment gardens in southwestern direction.

The square is cladded with bricks to define the space, connect to the surrounding buildings, slow down the traffic and to give the square identity



The inner layer is a calm street with space to play, and socialize

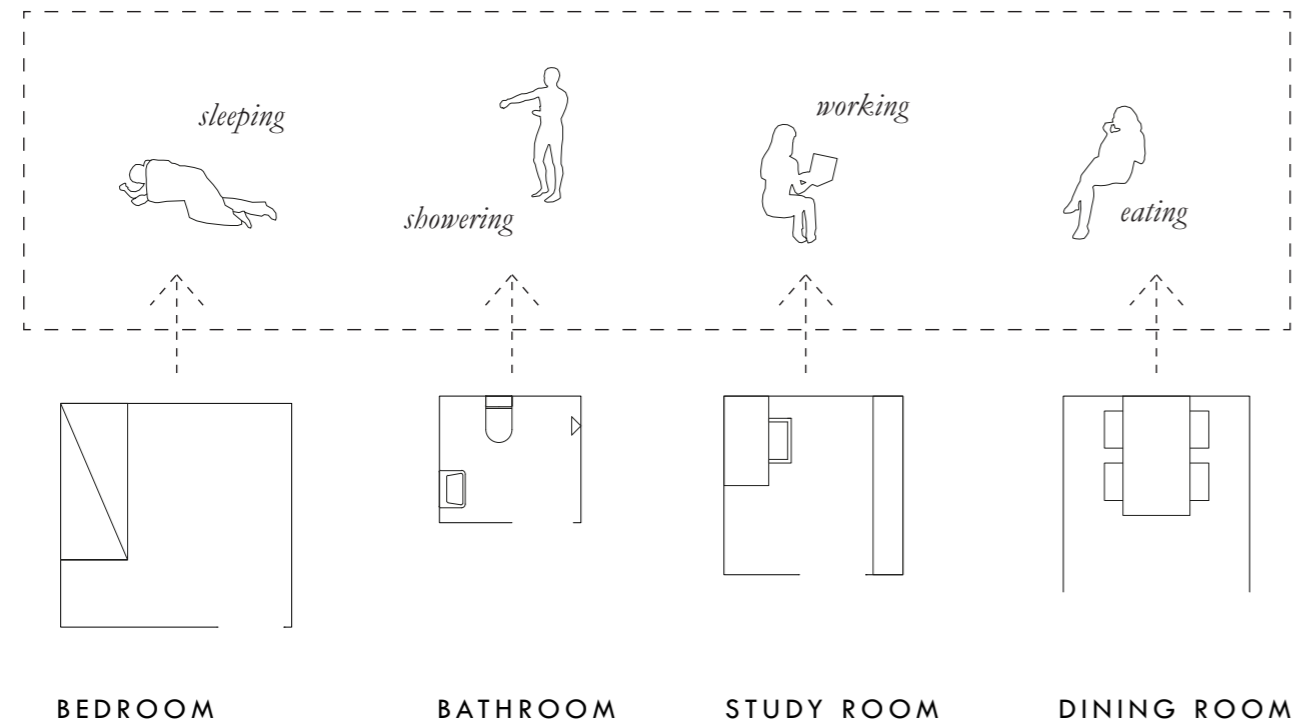
VIEW FROM MAJVALLEN



INTERIOR STRATEGY



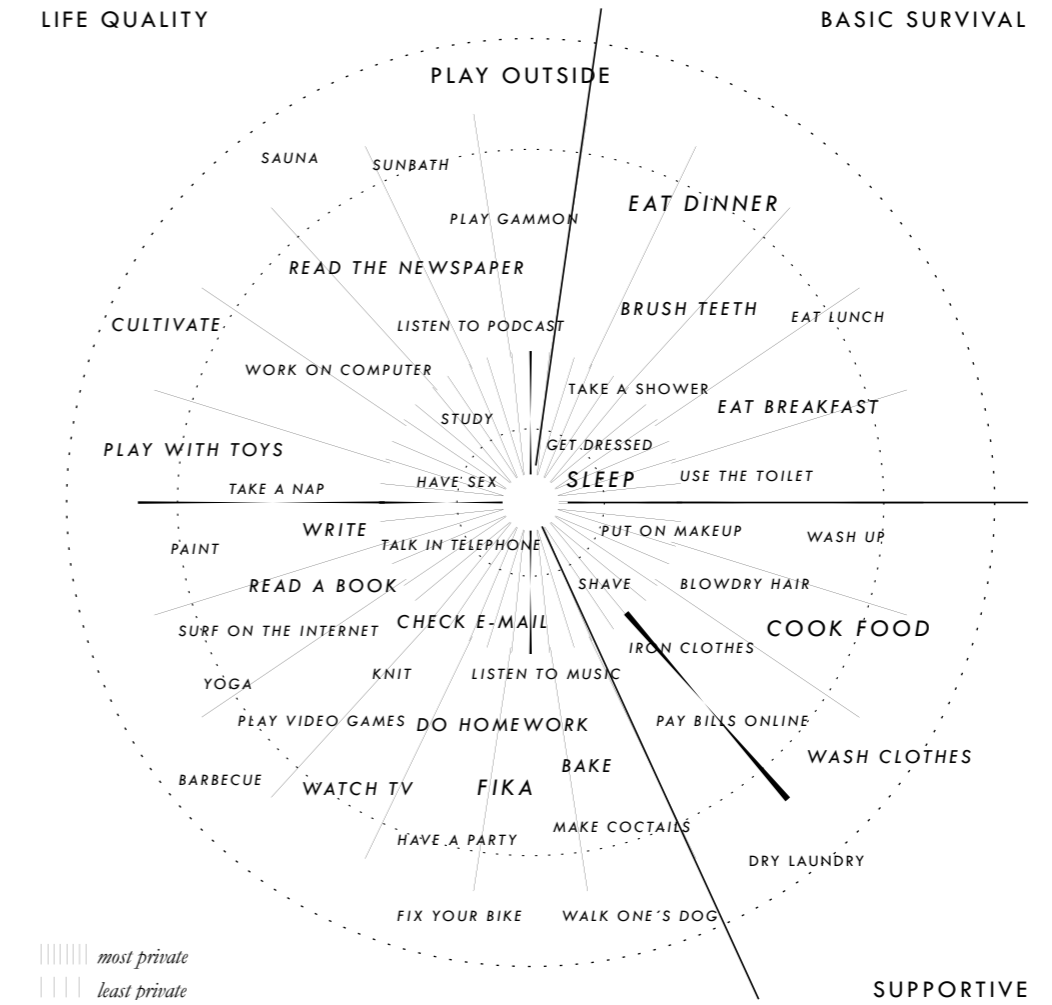
DISCONNECTING ACTIVITY FROM ROOM



In order to rethink housing I started “from with in” by the exploring the constitutional scale to prevent common configuration of housing limit the design of the project.

The first act was to liberate the body and its activities from its regular rooms in conventional housing.

MAPPING OF ACTIVITIES

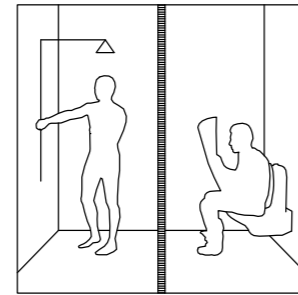


The activities in our homes was divided into grades of privacy; From the most intimate in the middle that you do alone or with your partner, to the most public that can be done outside the walls of our homes. All activities was also divided into three categories; The basic survival

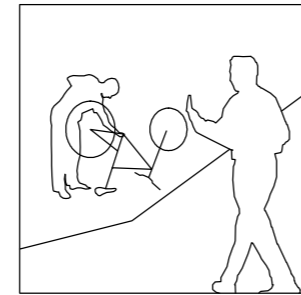
that are common for all people, the supporting that are substantial for having a worthy life, and the life quality which represent those activities that is you chose do when you've extra time depending on personality, interests, age for example.

QUALITIES

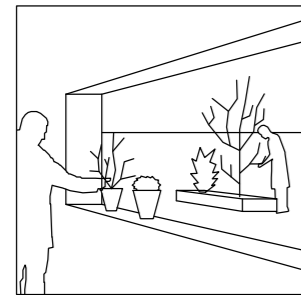
In order to translate the mapping of activities into actual space, the question of how we like doing things needs to be addressed. This has been made by both designing for different households and scenarios but also from subjective experience of enjoyable situations in relation to space.



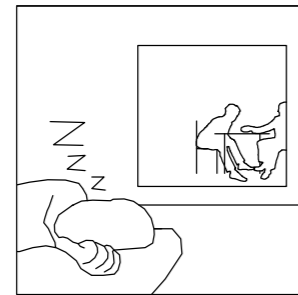
Shower even though someone is using the toilet



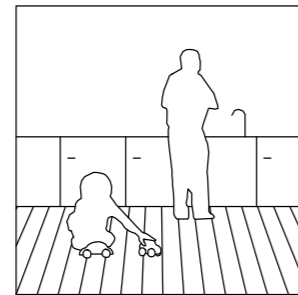
Ask your neighbor for help spontaneously



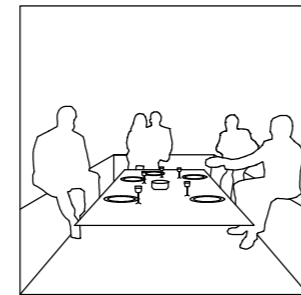
Cultivate outside and at the same time being at home.



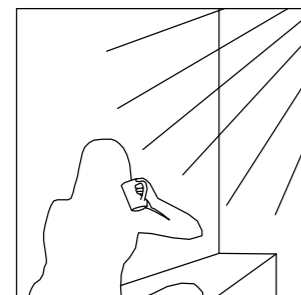
Fall asleep to the sound of people talking



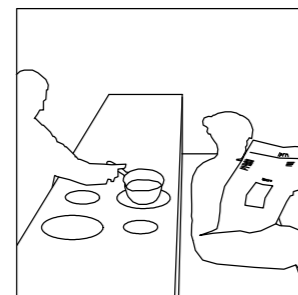
Play next to your parent making dinner



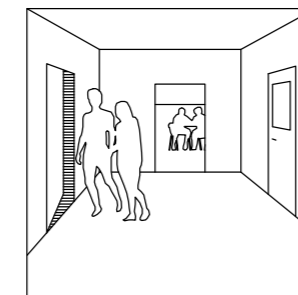
Share dinner in an intimate way, like on a sailing boat



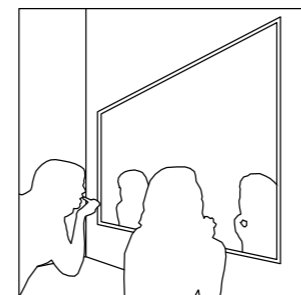
Drink morning coffee in the sun



Chat while you are doing other things

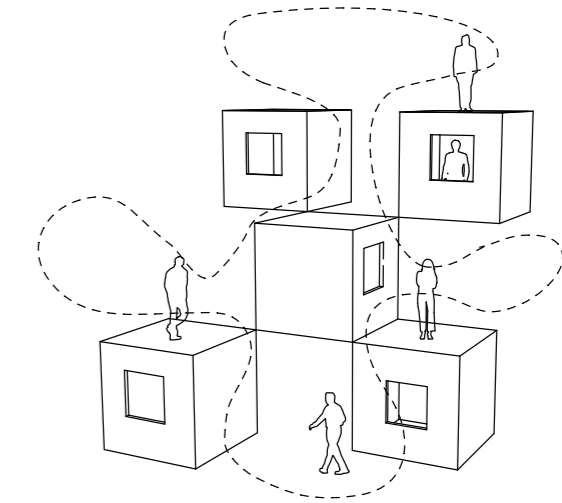
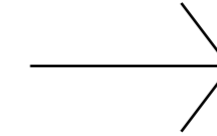
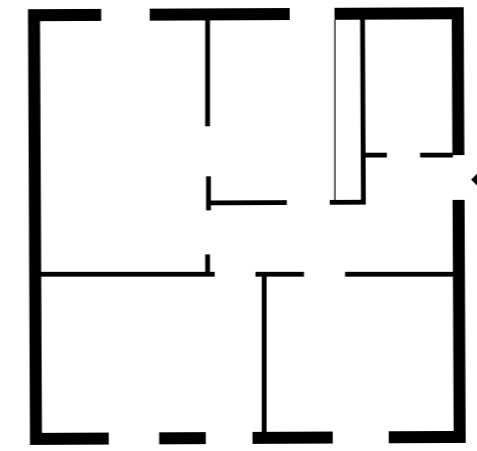


Sneak inside without anyone noticing



Hang out while putting on makeup together

INTERNAL SPATIAL PRINCIPLE



In the same way as the apartment buildings miss well-functioning semi-private spaces, many apartments also miss this quality; to be a part of a social context with out need of participating.

By dissolving the two-dimensional structure and work in all three dimensions, continuous spaces with space for both privacy and social situations are created.





The boxes becomes almost like tree houses in the crowns of the slope

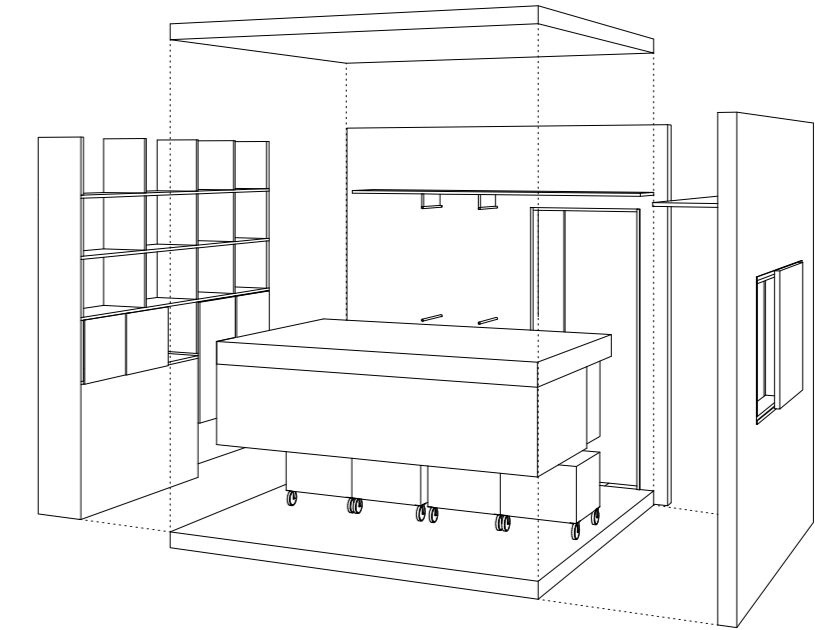
THE PRIVATE BOX

Book shelf

Space for storage, shutters are optional

Storage boxes on wheels

*Room for storage of items used seldom,
for example skis, sleeping bags etc.*



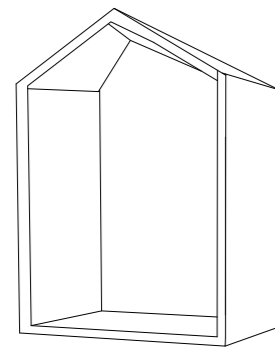
By organizing the most private activities that you want to share only with your self or with your partner, the private boxes or the “tree houses” was designed. They are inspired by the interior of boats with enclosed storage minimize the need of space.

The boxes all have the same size and hold a bed, storage and space for dressing and can be used by one person or a couple. They are inspired by the interior of boats with enclosed storage minimize the need of space. The size of the bed can be changed if more floor space is needed for a wheel chair.

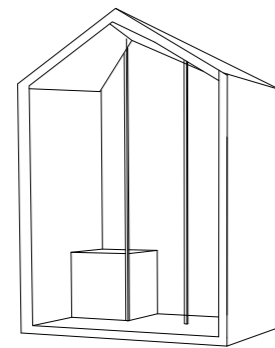


SPATIAL CONFIGURATION

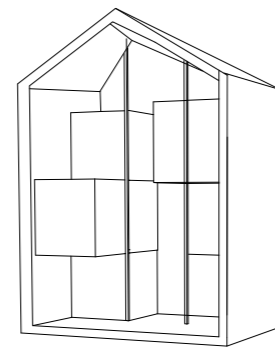
The interior of the houses can be regarded as an architecture in the architecture. By looking upon the private boxes as a furniture, the interior is allowed to be very specific even though the architecture in itself is general.



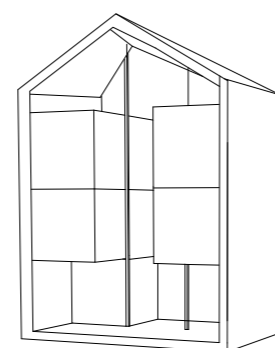
The outer shell is a general space with loadbearing walls of solid wood.



The first floor is the common level. It is 37 sqm and holds space for eating, cooking, socializing and uses the bathroom facilities.

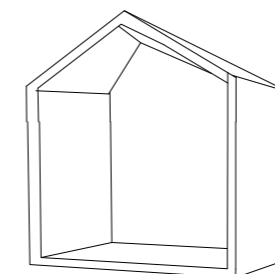
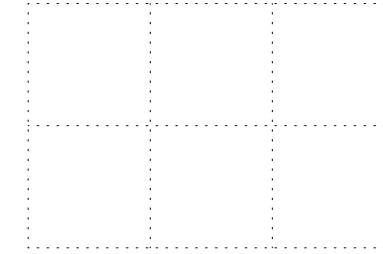


The residents decide how many private boxes they need and how they want to organize them to create different spatial configurations.

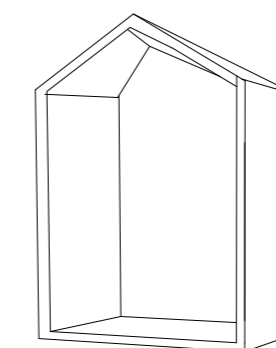


If the needs are changed or the house switches owner, it is possible to both add and subtract private boxes because of the easy mounting in the outer walls.

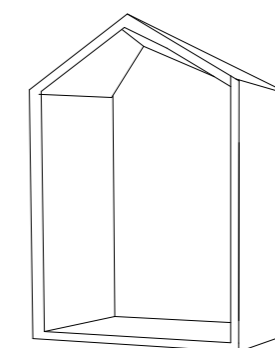
By using a small grid with the dimension 2600 x 2600 mm, the interior can be very efficient without losing any spatial qualities. The project can be regarded as a kit that can ease building of an own house in the city without demands of neither large space nor furniture to fill up the house.



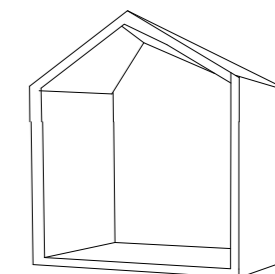
TYPE 1
Space for two levels



TYPE 2
Space for three levels



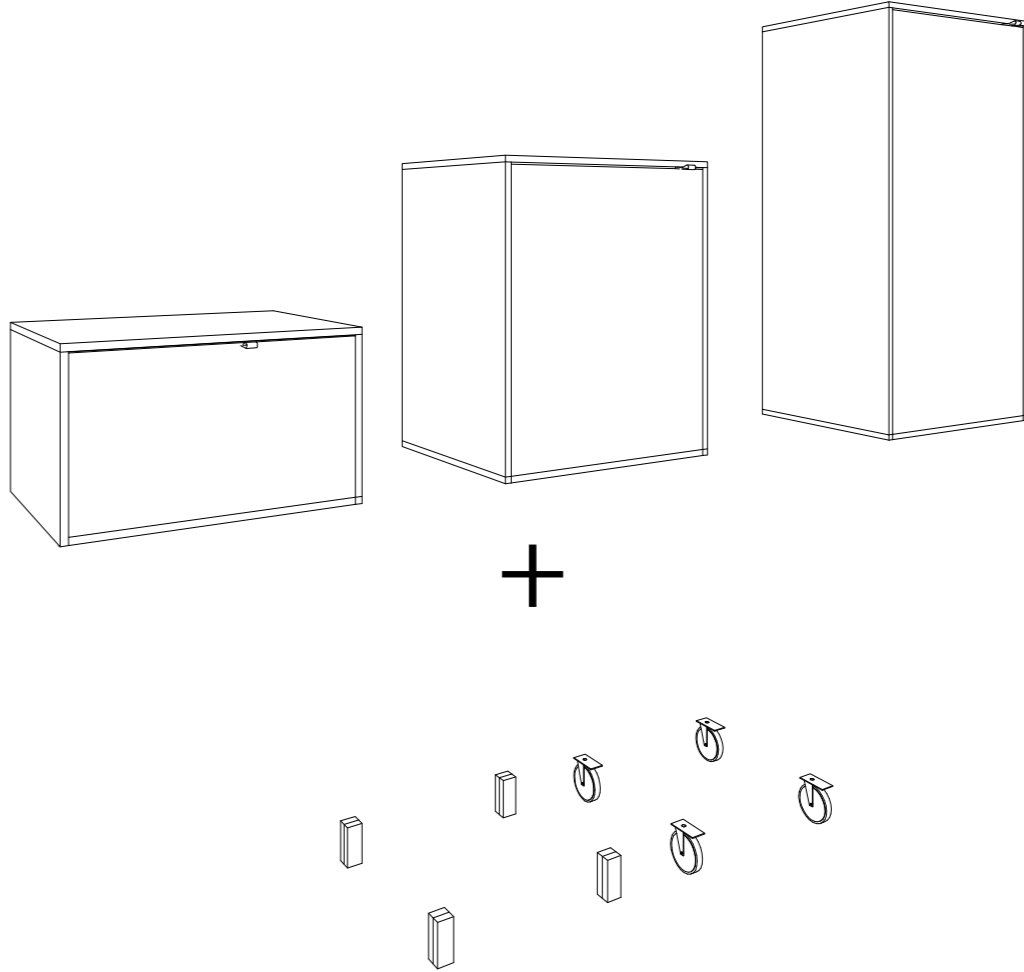
TYPE 3
*Space for three levels +
subterranean basement*



TYPE 4
*Space for two levels +
subterranean basement*



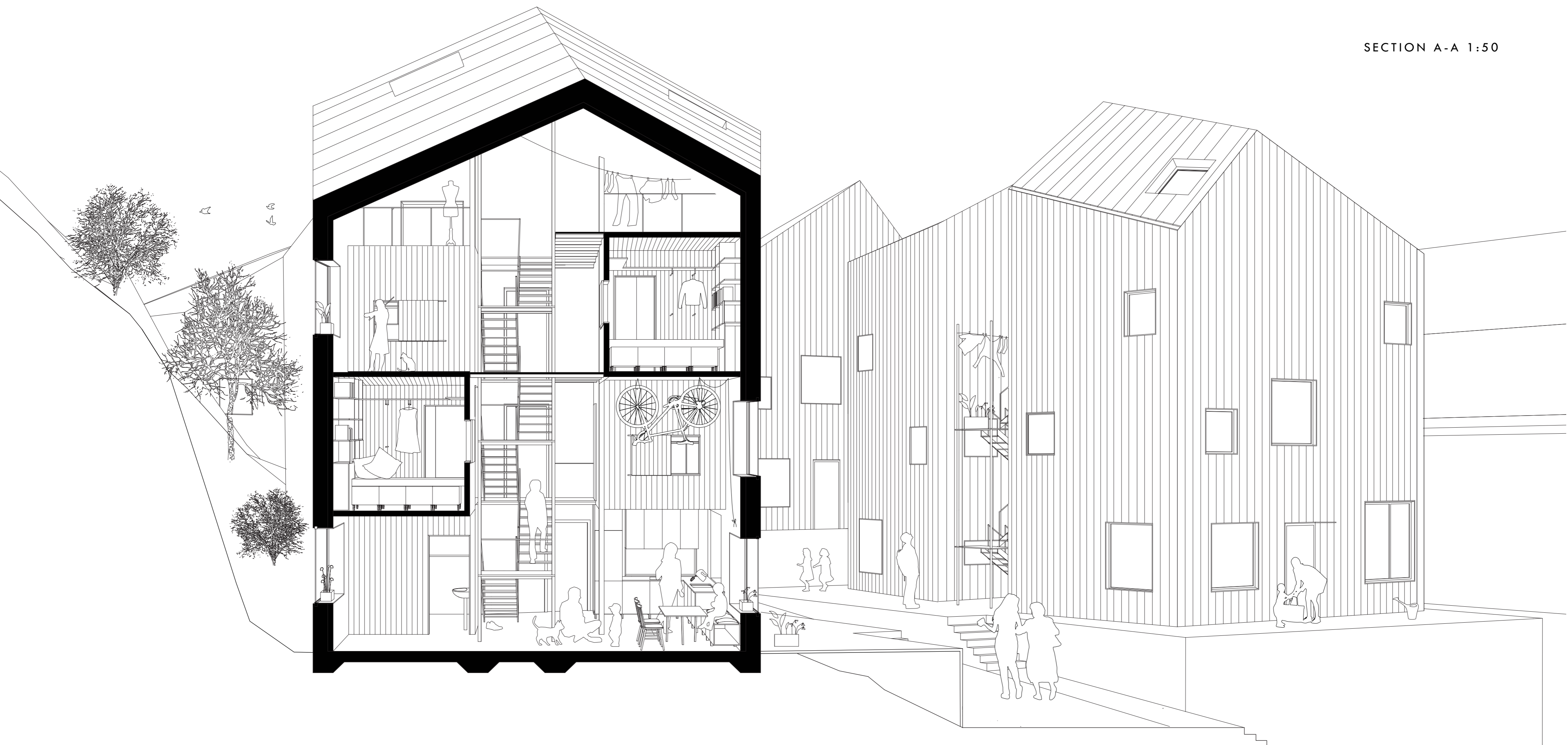
MULTIFUNCTIONAL FURNITURE



By using multifunctional furniture pieces as components of the house, many functions and spaces can be included in the interior.

This way of looking upon furniture can decrease the need of space and create more efficient housing.

SECTION A-A 1:50





PLAN 1:100

Most of the houses share a room with another house. This feature makes it possible for two families to live close together but still have private space. The shared room can be used for having people staying over night in a proper bedroom with out need of extra permanent space in the house. It also provides space for temporary use if some of the inhabitants for example break a leg.

The area for media consumption on the first floor is not space consuming but large enough for watching TV, playing video games etc.

Thanks to the sofa that seats many there is space for many people to have dinner together in an intimate way without needing extra space.

The hygiene unit is divided into three parts so the functions can be used separately and thin walls in the can be folded to fit a wheel chair.

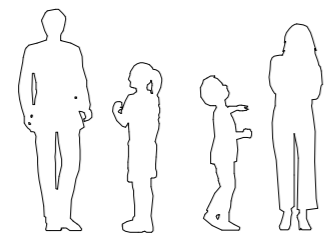
The private deck outside provides space for out-side dinners and cultivation during the warmer months.

The external staircase makes it possible to sneak in to the own room with out need to cross the common areas.



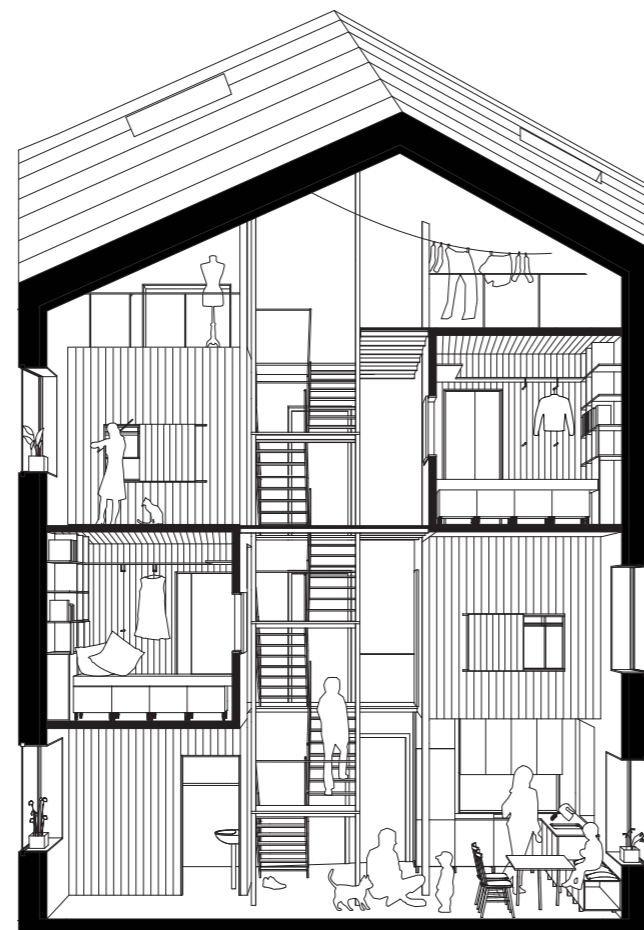


SCENARIO 1
SINGEL PARENTS WITH CHILDREN



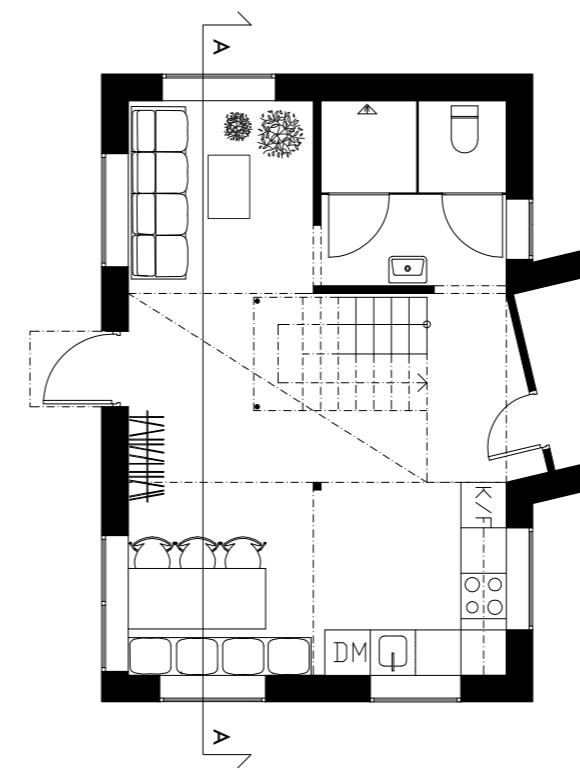
Two single parents with children could afford to live in an urban context but still get the qualities of living in small house. With two adults in the household, the children never have to stay home alone even though the parent needs to work late, see friends or work out.

The semi-private spaces provide space for more private socializing with in the two small families. The benefit of having space for work ease being at home with the children, but still be able to work.

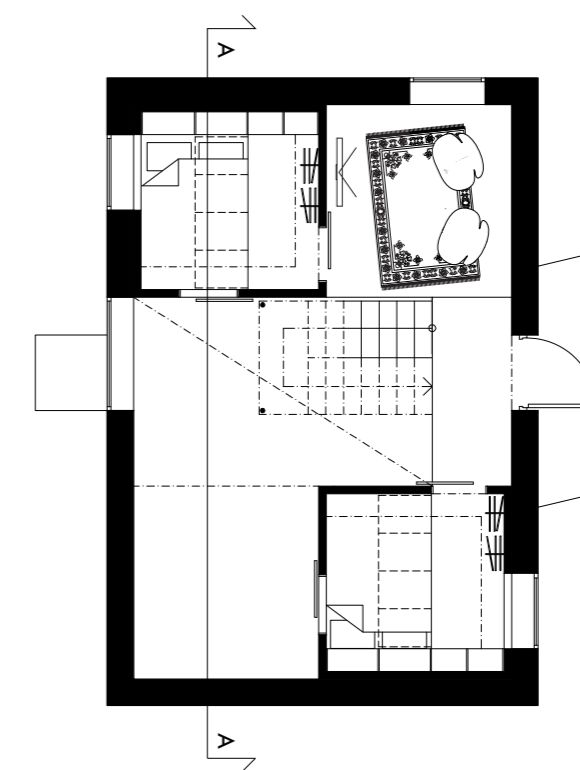


SECTION A-A 1:100

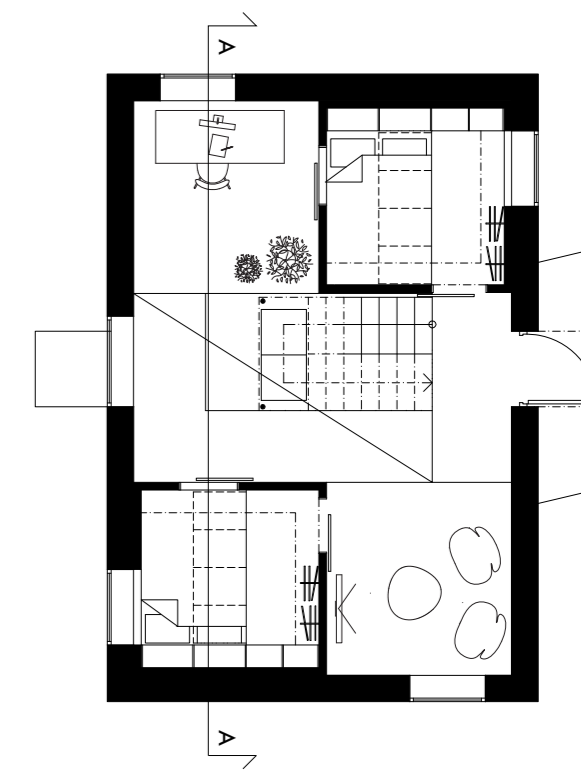
FLOOR PLAN 1



FLOOR PLAN 2



FLOOR PLAN 3

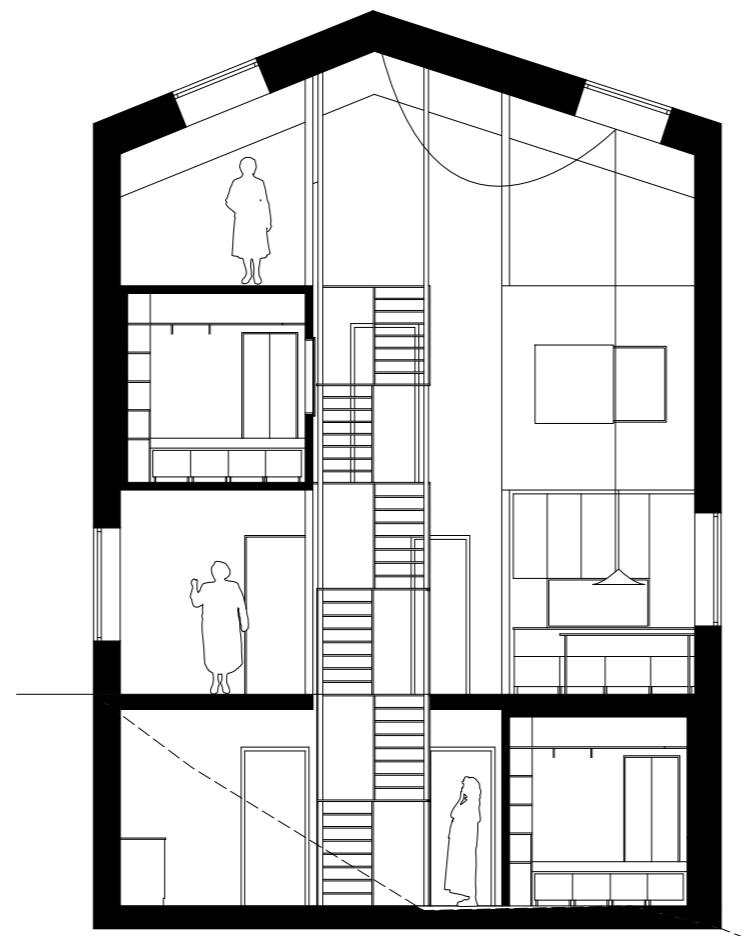


PLAN 1:100

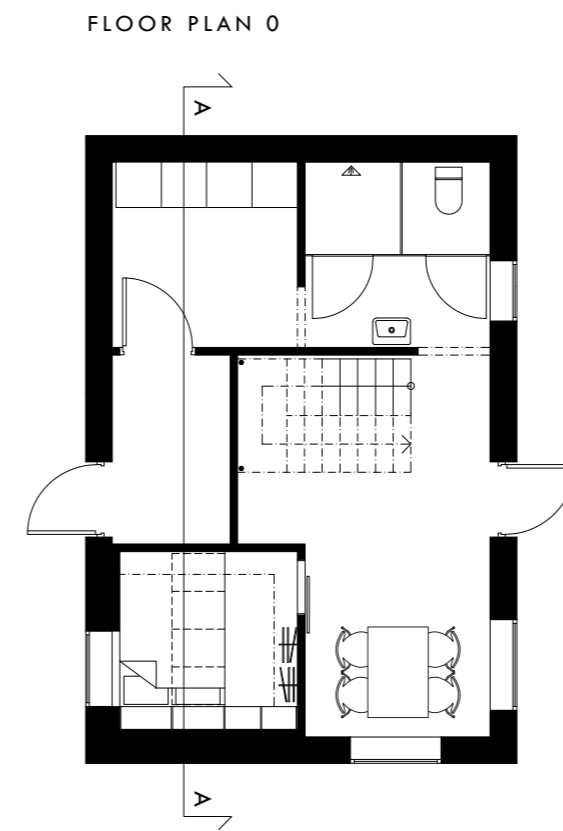
SCENARIO 2
THREE SINGLE ADULTS



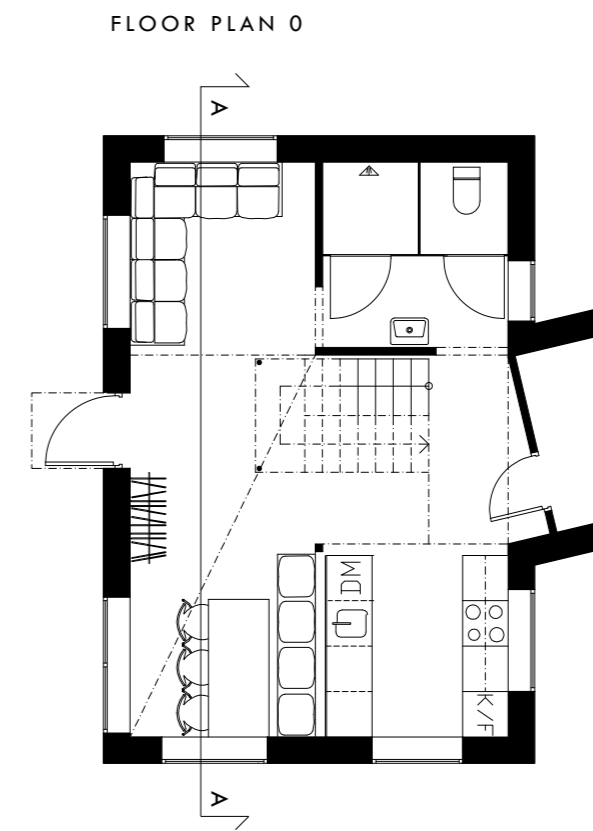
Many elderly people live by themselves after their partners have past away. By sharing a home with friends in the same situation, you could share the rent; help each other out with practical's that get more difficult when you're getting older. More private space could also be provided if someone finds a partner.



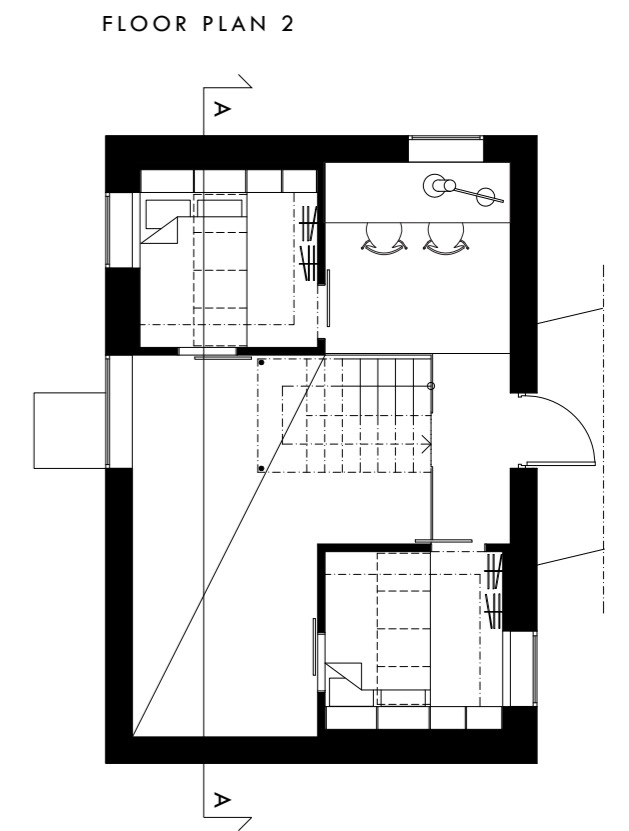
SECTION A-A 1:100



FLOOR PLAN 0



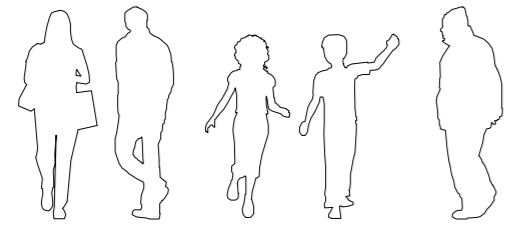
FLOOR PLAN 0



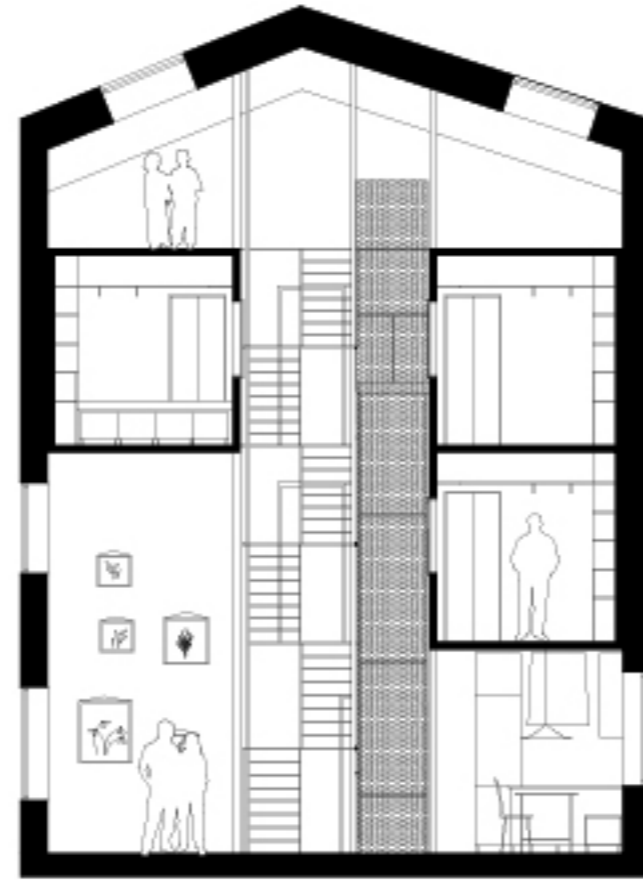
FLOOR PLAN 2

PLAN 1:100

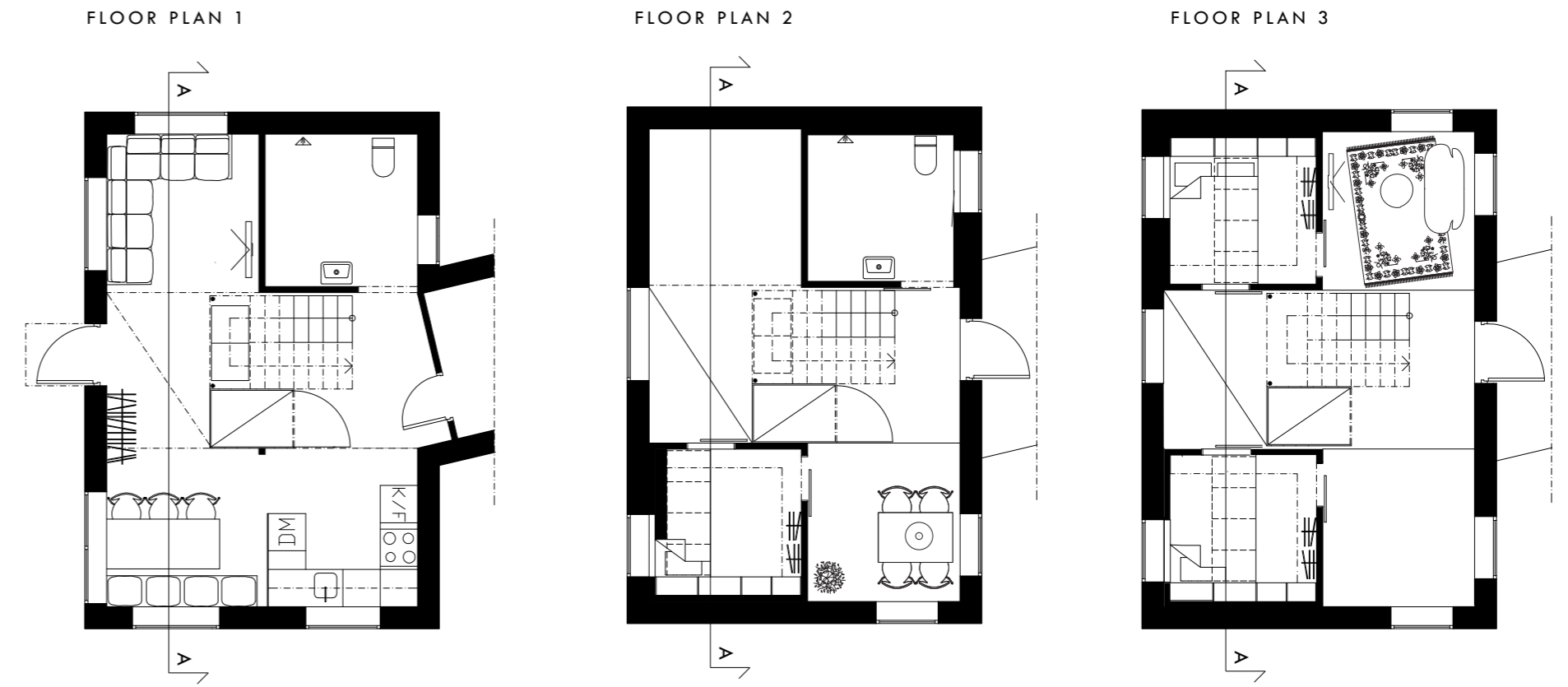
SCENARIO 3
MULTI GENERATIONAL FAMILY



Couples with children and grandparents can benefit from staying together. The grandparent will be able to help the family with cooking, baby-sitting, and home works and at the same time get help from the family with difficulties that comes with age and different diseases. The older member of the household could also get its own floor plan with hygiene facilities and space to be alone or socialize with friends. If needed, an industrial scissor lift could be installed next to the staircase and the walls in the bathrooms space can be folded to fit a wheel chair.



SECTION A-A 1:100



PLAN 1:100



WOOD



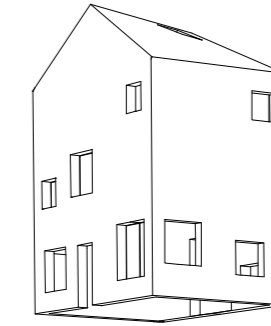
Majorna is a district characterized by wood houses both today and in the former days. The new addition use solid wood as the structural principle and the indoor surfaces, which make the houses easy to adjust according to changed needs and personal taste. For example the boxes can be painted in different colors to express who lives inside it. The solid wood has a lot of qualities; aside from being a renewable material and with an energy effective refining process, it also have positive impact on the indoor climate since it holds heat and moist.



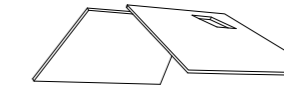
The facades and the roofs are covered with reversed cover boarding to give the houses an even surface. The cover boards are treated with green vitriol to make the houses blend together with the greenery.

EXPLOATION VIEW

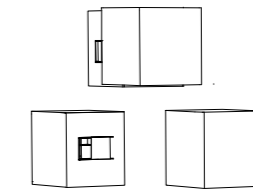
climate shell / insulation, surface layer etc.



roof slabs, cross laminated timber

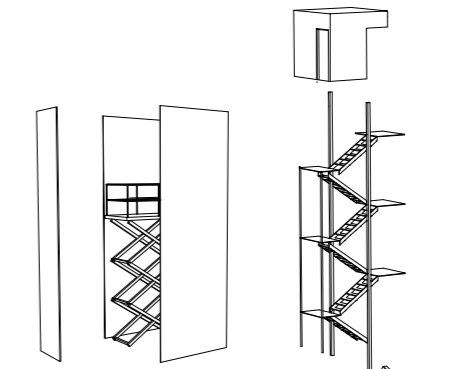


*boxes of cross-laminated timber
shelf system of plywood*

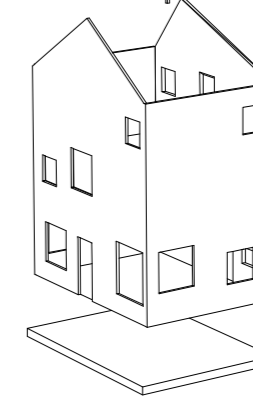


timber pillars

*stair case and or
industrial platform lift with perforated steel sheets*



walls, cross-laminated timber



slab fondation

ARCHITECTURAL REFERENCES

DISSOLVED HOUSING STRUCTURE



House NA by Sou Fujimoto

The nested spatial configuration in the NA house both demands creativity of usage and promotes social interactions. Lack of slabs dividing the space vertically creates a continuous room and layering of spaces that challenge the concept of housing.

SMALL SCALE HOUSING IN DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES



Fiskebäckskil, Boshuslän, Sweden

In the west-coastal area of Sweden villages traditionally are built from small-scale houses that follows the natural rocky topography. This structure creates narrow urban spaces, microclimate between the houses and appear almost like extensions to the landscape.

FINNISH SUMMERHOUSES



Traditional Finnish summerhouses are built for the simple life and are free from manners and extra details. The solid wood and the close relationship to the surrounding landscapes offers are sensuality and space for rest and socializing.

MATERIALITY



Hus Morran by Johannes Norlander

Natural wood interiors creates a warm atmosphere and a feeling of more space when all the surfaces have the same appearance.

DISCUSSION

The starting point for this thesis was a thrifty thought on sailing boat, a sunny morning in the end of July. The sea gulls shouted and on the deck, parts of the company were preparing the sailing of the day. The thought that struck me was that this easy life, far away from our natural habits and patterns is something that could be realized in our daily life. The curiosity of what the end product would hold has driven me through this work and has made me explore the concept of living from a new direction. Starting up the project by investigating the subject from within instead of the other way around, the road of development were exiting in that sense that it was impossible to see where it would end up.

The site was chosen because of its hard conditions and a strong belief that problems spurs creativity and new thoughts. Building small houses in central plots creates a lower density than apartment buildings would, but it could also have a lot of advantages. Besides from propose a new

kind of living in alternative constellation, it also suggest a new small-scale typology that could stand as inspiration for future densification of hilly plots in our cities. The scale does not only complement the existing housing stock, but also make the nature both usable for exploitation and at the same time preserve a lot of the existing qualities at the site. Majorna is a progressive district with a lot a people that are open to innovative ways adapting to a more sustainable lifestyle. This fact in combination with the problem of young families leaving the area for buying their own houses in more rural area will make the choice of site extra suitable and could stand as a inspiration for other districts.

Taking a step back from the standards of planning housing has both been inspiring and challenging; it have made the project and investigations taking other turns that it usually would have done. I have also met difficulties that might need more time to be developed. The initial state-

ment that all people should have the same spatial conditions for the most private activities in combination with the demand that you should be able to sleep undisturbed on the first floor would have made the base of my houses a lot bigger in order to gain the same flexibility. This made me take the decision to sacrifice this quality and chose another solution where you can chose between a staircase and a platform lift or adding both alternatives. This might not be the perfect answer of the question about accessibility, but by exploring new possibilities of spatial configuration before limiting the process according to standards, will result in innovations and development of our built environment.

My proposal is different from how we build in our Swedish cities today. The big building companies most often chose the most rational and economical way of building dwellings. This is a way to ensure the revenues, but the result is a monochrome housing stock that doesn't allow

creativity in ways of living. The aim of my proposal is not to fit the way of building housing today, but to show an alternative where some qualities of conventional housing are replaced by other ones. For example, my project does not include parking lots, large storage space, and bathrooms at every floor. Instead the inhabitants will gain more freedom in how they want use their space. For example there are opportunities to add more storage and choose the amount of bathrooms. Other qualities gained by choosing this kind of living is to live in an own house in an urban location with instant connection to nature from the own front door. In combination with the great flexibility, I believe this new typology is missing in our cities because we will never know what the future will hold.

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WORKSHOPS

Hagbert, P. Living Lab Student workshop (2012-12-14)

The diagram on page 75 is made after attending a workshop held by the research project *Living Lab /Homes for Tomorrow* at Chalmers where we mapped activities in our homes in relation to e.g. privacy and time.

INTERVIEW

E-mail interview with Anna-Karin Witt (13-03-06)

WEBSITES

<http://www4.goteborg.se/prod/G-info/statistik.nsf/>

<http://goteborg.se/wps/portal/enheter/stadsdelsforvaltning/majorna-linne-stadsdelsforvaltning>

APPENDIX

INTERVIEW WITH A COUPLE IN A DOUBLE FAMILY

Tove, 35, och Jesper, 42, är ett par som delar lägenhet med Toves syster Ellen, 33, hennes man Stefan, 38, samt deras barn Viggo, 2, och Mette, nyfödd. Vi träffade dem för att höra hur de resonerar kring sin vardag och samhällets syn på deras livsstil.

“Den stora fördelen för mig är att man avlastar varandra bättre jämfört med i ett traditionellt hushåll”

Tove, Jesper, Ellen och Stefan har bott tillsammans sedan 2005. Det hela startade i ett radhus i Rinkeby, där de under perioder också delade sitt hem med andra. I sin nuvarande lägenhet, en femma vid Hornsgatan på Södermalm, har de bott sedan 2011.

Tove:

Det finns en ekonomisk- och en miljömässig fördel med att bo tillsammans på det här sättet. De är inte anledningen till att vi valt denna hushållsform, men det känns ju rätt bra.

Den stora fördelen för mig är att man avlastar varandra bättre jämfört med i ett traditionellt hushåll, en parrelation, just vad det gäller att vara sällskap åt varandra. Det är något som ingår ganska mycket när man är ihop - att man är sällskap. Jag och Stefan har jobbat jättemycket i vissa perioder, och

Stefan jobbar väldigt mycket natt. Då hade ju Ellen suttit hemma själv med barnen, vilket skulle kännas jättejobbigt. Som det är nu behöver man inte oroa sig för att den andra är ensam. Man själv får mindre dåligt samvete, och partnern blir inte lika irriterad.

Jesper:

Det är ju skillnad på att vara hemma själv och rulla tummarna eller bara fika och sitta och tjöta med någon annan. Det är mycket trevligare att ha sällskap.

“Att bara vara i en samvaro utan att man behöver anstränga sig jättemycket är väldigt skönt!”

De tar upp en viktig aspekt angående social interaktion, att det inte behöver handla om att utföra aktiviteter tillsammans.

Jesper:

Hemma är vi ju tillsammans. Vi är ju liksom här hela tiden fast vi kanske inte planerar att “nu ska vi baka bullar ihop”. Det blir att man umgås parallellt på något sätt. Man kan sitta och läsa för sig själv och samtidigt utbyta tankar och funderar. Att bara vara i en samvaro utan att man behöver anstränga sig jättemycket är väldigt skönt!

De medger att det säklart inte är friktionsfritt att leva så tätt inpå varandra, men att fördelarna överväger nackdelarna.

Tove:

Det uppstår ju andra typer av problem att lösa jämfört när man är två, men det kan man ju aldrig komma undan. Ingen kan ju leva ett oproblematiskt lin. För oss kanske det tar lite längre tid att välja soffia eller räkna på vem som betalat vad, men hade vi inte bott tillsammans hade det varit andra problem. Till exempel hade Ellen och Stefan oftare behövt lösa barnvakt och jag hade behövt anstränga mig mycket mer för att ha kontakt med mina syskonbarn.

“Vi är två familjer som är en familj”

Trots att de sysslar med olika saker har de oftast samma tider, vilket de inte ser som något problem. Det handlar mycket om att de har vant sig vid varandra och vid att kompromissa. En förutsättning är säkert att de är personer som inte alltid måste ha det precis som de själva vill. De har hittat ett sätt att respektera varandra på.

Tove:

Det är ju som att man bor ihop med den man är ihop med, fast det är två till. Vi har bott ihop så himla länge, så man tänker inte ens på det. Sen är det säkert en fördel att jag

och min syster har en gemensam bakgrund. Vi har liknande värderingar när det till exempel gäller: hur rent är rent? hur betar man sig mot varandra? hur mycket kommunicerar man? Tove och David förklarar att de ser sig som två enheter i ett hushåll.

Vi är två familjer som är en familj. Man kan ju tänka lite som i sin vanliga familj. Ens föräldrar är ju en familj, och jag och min partner är en, men vi är ju ändå en familj tillsammans.

Synen de har på sig själva präglar också mer praktiska delar. Ekonomiskt har de räknat ut vad det kostar med allt i månaden, och alla sätter in pengar på ett gemensamt konto. De har också en matkassa som alla har varsitt kort till. All mat är gemensam och de köper det som behövs från matkassan. Däremot är det inte alltid så att de lagar mat tillsammans. Vissa veckor planerar de vem som lagar, andra veckor planerar de inte utan istället frågar varandra.

De beskriver sin inställning som omvänd, allt är gemensamt och vill man ha någonting för sig själv så får man säga till.

De säger att det ibland hade varit skönt att få vara ensamma, men i slutändan kommer de alltid fram till att fördelarna väger tyngre än nackdelarna. Vill man vara ensam är det bara att gå in på sitt eget rum.

Jesper:

Det finns en oskriven lag som säger att stänger man dörren om sig så vill man vara själv. Om det inte är något jätteviktigt så stör man inte varandra. Det är en förutsättning för att det ska fungera att bo tillsammans. Ibland har man ju behovet att vara själv.

“...det är ju Ellen, Stefan och barnen vi vill bo med! Det är väl det som gör det udda kanske.”

När vi frågar ifall det skulle finnas plats för fler personer i hushållet är svaret tydligt.

Nej. Vi har ju provat det, vi har bott ihop med ett annat par och en annan kvinna tidigare. Just nu är vi inte intresserade av att bo kollektivt i sig, det är ju Ellen, Stefan och barnen vi vill bo med! Det är väl det som gör det udda kanske.

Det som Tove och David tycker är bra med planlösningen på den lägenhet de har nu är att den är lite uppdelad. Den har tre rum mot en korridor med ett eget badrum som passar Ellen, Stefan och barnen. Samtidigt ligger Tove och Davids rum lite avsides med dörr till vardagsrummet. De berättar att det tillhör en vägg som man kan sätta in för att ytterligare avgränsa vardagsrummet från Ellen och Stefans del som de funderar på att sätta in. En annan bra sak är mellanhallen som man kan använda som

arbetsplats. Ellen brukar sy mycket och sitter då där.

Tove:

Den enda nackdelen är att det bara är en dusch och att den ena toaletten är såpass liten. Vi skulle behöva mer plats för våra saker och det kan bli lite trångt på morgonen när alla ska göra sig i ordning.

Tove säger att det hade kunnat fungera om man hade haft som en liten hall till badrummet, med spegel och handfat. Då hade man kunnat sminka sig och borsta tänderna samtidigt som någon är på toa.

Tove:

Och så hade det varit skönt att ha det lite större. Arbetsrummet är inte så funktionellt, när både jag och Stefan använder det frekvent. Jag hade gärna haft mer utrymme, och gärna ännu större sociala ytor.

Vi frågar hur länge de tror att de kommer bo kvar.

Tove:

Jag tror vi kommer bo kvar här ganska länge. Ellen och Stefan kommer nog inte skaffa fler barn och som det ser ut nu finns möjligheten för barnen att ha varsitt rum. Lätt 7-8 år till. Man tänker liksom inte så, man har inte den framförhållningen. Så länge det fungerar bor vi kvar. Det är som när man är ihop med någon, man gör inte upp en plan för hur länge det ska funka. Det här är samma typ av “kontrakt”, och så får vi se hur länge det fungerar.

När de berättar för andra om sin livsstil möts de av blandade reaktioner.

“Människor är så konventionella i hur de ser på boendet så de kan inte ens föreställa sig en annan situation.”

Tove:

Den vanligaste kommentaren är “Gud, vad trevligt att bo ihop med sin syster! Men jag skulle aldrig kunna göra det.”

På något sätt känns det som att folk inte tror att de har kontroll över sitt eget liv. Människor är så konventionella i hur se ser på boendet så de kan inte ens föreställa sig en annan situation. Jag kan förstå det, har man levt ett liv som bygger på normer är de svåra att bryta. Jag och Ellen var så unga när vi flyttade ihop och då var det lättare att vänja sig vid något nytt.

De berättar att en del människor reagerar genom att säga att de aldrig skulle klara av att bo som Tove och Jesper, då de är rädda att inte få vara ensamma. Vi diskuterar människans privata sfär och att folk har ett stort behov av att känna att de kan ha ett privatliv.

“Jag tror att de medför ganska mycket psykologiska problem, den där ensam-sfären.”

Tove:

Jag tror att de medför ganska mycket psykologiska problem, den där ensam-sfären. Att folk känner sig mer ensamma och är olyckligare men att de inte riktigt vet hur de ska göra för att förändra situationen. Det är svårt att hitta former för gemenskap. Till exempel, vi har en vän, hon är singel men skulle gärna bo med andra fast inte i ett typiskt kollektiv med politiska agendor. Det är synd att det är svårt att hitta

“En rolig sak är att många uttrycker ju att de gärna skulle bo i parboende. Att de gärna skulle ha sin familj nära, men inte i samma hushåll.”

ett mellanting.

Tove:

En rolig sak är att många uttrycker ju att de gärna skulle bo i parboende. Att de gärna skulle ha sin familj nära, men inte i samma hushåll. Det som är svårast att jämföra är ju vardagen, alla småsaker, till exempel att mjöken är slut, att bestämma vem som ska dammsuga och så vidare. Många vill gärna ha samvaron, att man kan ses utan att det krävs mer. Det ser man ju också i mindre städer, där det inte är så ansträngd bostadssituation, där väljer folk att bo nära varandra. I Stockholm och Göteborg är det i princip omöjligt att välja var man vill bo, det finns en marknadssituation som omöjliggör

“Idag är inte bostadslösningen anpassad till det mänskliga beteendet!”

att bo tillsammans på det här sättet. En lösning hade kunnat vara att man kan köpa två lägenheter som hänger ihop. Idag är inte bostadslösningen anpassad till det mänskliga beteendet!

Jesper uttrycker att det finns ganska många fördomar om människor som väljer alternativa boendeformer.

Jesper:

Jag drar mig lite för att säga att vi bor i ett kollektiv då fördomarna är så stora. Folk säger saker i stil med “Aha, odlar ni krasse då eller?”. Jag brukar säga att vi bor i storfamilj istället.

Avslutningsvis berättar Tove och Jesper att de har planer på att förvärva lägenheten som ligger vägg i vägg med deras.

Tove:

När den blir ledig önskar vi att vi får ta över. Då kan min mamma flytta dit, just nu bor hon några kvarter bort. Antingen slår vi ut väggen eller så behåller vi det som det är.

Tove:

Folk har ju ett starkt behov av att bo nära varandra, det är synd att det är så svårt att få till det.

“Folk har ju ett starkt behov av att bo nära varandra, det är synd att det är så svårt att få till det.”

QUOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH ANN-KATRIN WITT
FIL.DR OCH LEKTOR I SOCIOLOGI VID HÖGSKOLAN I HALMSTAD

“Vi ser en inflyttning till storstäderna bl a för att arbetstillfällena på mindre orter blir allt färre. Vi ser en ökning av mindre busbäll. Många som varit gifta väljer att leva som särbo när de träffar en ny partner.”

“Eftersom vi i Sverige oftast är självförsörjande, både kvinnor och män, är vi mer fria att välja familjetyp än tidigare generationer var när mannen var familjeförsörjare. Jag tror på en ökad flexibilitet trots att vi ser tendenser av romantisering av det förflutna.”

“Jag menar att tillgången på bostäder begränsar människor i deras livsval och det är förstås negativt. Unga har problem

*att flytta hemifrån eftersom mindre dyra bostäder saknas”
.... “för t ex en tvåkärnfamilj finns inte många boende alternativ. Då får man köpa en stor villa t ex och då kommer bakgrundsfaktorer som ekonomi och social klass in. För de bättre ekonomiskt ställda finns större möjligheter att realisera sina önskemål om boende än för personer med lägre inkomster.”*

“Ju mer individualiserat sambället blir desto mindre betydelse får just den biologiska familjen och människor knyter istället band med människor som de själva väljer och som blir nära dem. Man kan se det som ett postmodernt agerande, allt fast förflyktigas och nya konstellationer uppstår.”

QUOTES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND CHRONICLES

ALEX & SIGGES PODCAST
13-02-15:

Sigge Eklund efter att ha varit på sin brors bröllop:

...att bo på en ö såhär med 65 personer, för så många var bjudna på bröllopet, det kändes lite som att få kontakt med mänsklighetens ursprung. Man förstod ganska snabbt att såhär levde våra förfäder, tillsammans i hyddor

“Vår vardag hemma i Sverige, där vi lever isolerat från varandra i olika lägenheter, den är skæv”

Det fanns en inneboende trygghet i den här modellen, som jag verkligen kände av under helgen. Vår vardag hemma i Sverige, där vi lever isolerat från varandra i olika lägenheter, den är skæv. Det finns i vår natur, i vår strävan, att bo i grupp.

När man lever i grupp så blir personligheternas olikheter inte något man stör sig på utan något som adderar någonting, det tycker jag är fascinerande.” ... “Jag känner mig väldigt nyfiken på, kanske inte att bo i kollektiv, men på idén att lämna sambället med 100 personer.

Det var härligt att vara en del av en grupp. Och att vara nära naturen.

HANNA HELLQUIST,
DAGENS NYHETER 12-09-12:

Linda och jag åker och hälsar på ett par kompisar till mig som har uppfyllt sin dröm och köpt en stor kak som ligger mitt ute på landet men ändå nära stan, vilket även är min och Lindas dröm. Det är ett fantastiskt hus, och mina vänner har renoverat det och inrett det efter konstens alla regler.

Både Linda och jag när ju en vision om hur vi en vacker dag ska bo i var sitt dyliskt hus med var sin kärleksfull partner, vi ska bo nära varandra så vi kan hälsa på ofta, och vi ska ha äppelträd och kryddor i fönstren och hundar och barn och tulpaner på våren. Vi vet precis hur vi ska ha det, vi vet bara inte hur vi ska få det.

När vi kommer hem till mina kompisar håller maken på att skörda äpplen i trädgården och på farstustrappen står en stor bänk till brädden fylld av små rosalila plommon. Inne i det lantliga köket hjälper den fyraåriga sonen till med att skala äpplen, det finns såna riktigt smarta äppelskalare, visste ni det?! Jag är helt förundrad. De tar bort kärnhuset och allt! Och de gör äpplena till spiraler, det är helt genialt!

Efter middagen äter vi hembakt äppelpaj och dricker vin och Linda får göra en brasa i kakelugnen, först får hon lära sig bugga ved såklart, och hon är en riktig bejare på att bugga ved. Så klart. Det är en perfekt kväll. Precis så som Linda och jag tänker att vi ska ha det en vacker dag, på var sitt håll.

Min pappa sa en gång till Linda att hon var den bästa svärsonen han nånsin hade haft. Och det hade han ju rätt i. Jag har aldrig levt i en kärleksrelation som har kunnat mäta sig med den relationen jag har med Linda. Vi är varandras ständiga partners. Men vi blickar alltid över våra egna huvuden, långt bort, obegripligt långt bort och så klagar vi över hur jävligt allt är, när allt i själva verket är väldigt bra.

I ett samhälle där den sexuella tvåsamheten betyder allt så är det lätt att glömma att vi har alla möjligheter att leva precis det liv vi drömmer om. Vi kanske bara inte kommer att få lika mycket sex. Men ärligt talat, hur mycket sex har ett par småbarnsföräldrar som renoverar ett sekelskjuteshus från grunden?