





*Into the Woods* by Hanna Järbel

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## ABSTRACT

A growing part of the Swedish population are immigrants and many of them have a weak or no connection to the Swedish nature<sup>1</sup>. This has both social and political consequences. Nature, an important part of the Swedish culture as well as physically making up a big part of the public space of Sweden, is a place where people can meet on equal terms and could be an important part of integration work.

Looking at an asylum housing in the small community of Dals Rostock, Dalsland, where many of the asylum seekers feel uncomfortable in the surrounding forest, this master thesis examines what architectural additions could help make the surrounding forest approachable for more and improve it's ability to function as the public space it is, both for solitude as well as social activities.

The project is informed by literature studies, reference projects, analysis of the local context and by working

closely with the particular forest site, extracting locally specific qualities as well as general qualities of the forest. These studies are translated through text, sketches, diagrams and models into a design proposal.

The final design proposal is based around a clear movement through the forest connecting the cut-off asylum housing to the community, and along that movement provide a multitude of spaces for different needs.

The aim of this master thesis is to look at the how the forest can act as a neutral meeting ground, enabling visitors to connect to the place, allowing for spontaneous interaction, social gatherings or for secure alone-time. A public place where people simultaneously gain knowledge and get familiarized with the forest and it's elements.

<sup>1</sup> Moshtat, Y. (2008). *Med andra ögon: Naturmöten med invandrare*. <https://www.naturvardsverket.se>



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## DISCOURSE

### INTRODUCTION

The issue of refugees are one of the most important today. However when discussed the topic is often about statistics and quantities turning people into numbers. What it is like to have to leave your country is something that I can not fully comprehend, I can only imagine. Even after having applied for a visa in Sweden the uncertainty is not over. The asylum investigation process takes a very long time and so does getting to know a new country. In this master thesis I've been wanting to investigate what I as an architect can do to make life a little bit easier for someone who has had to start all over again in a new foreign country.

Nature being part of the public spaces in Sweden, could be an important part of the integration work. There is a culture in the forest where people greet each other and are more open for interaction compared to an urban context (Moshtat, 2008). For me personally a walk through the forest is a constant source of well-being. But if you do not know the Swedish forest and have a different background it can be the opposite, uninteresting or even frightening. This is the case in Dals Rostock, a small community in Dalsland. The asylum housing is seated next to a nature reserve but many of the asylum seekers feel unsafe about the forest and rarely dare to venture far. I wanted to investigate if architecture could help shorten the time it takes for the asylum seekers to feel comfortable in their new surroundings as well as highlight the cultural and social importance that nature has in Dalsland and in Sweden.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

*How can architecture make more people use the forest as a qualitative space for being alone as well as for social activities?*

*How can architecture facilitate meetings between people?*

*What kind of designs are needed to make people with different backgrounds feel comfortable in unfamiliar environments, e.g. the forest?*

This master thesis is also a study on how by taking a starting point from a specific groups needs something can be created that can benefit the whole community and its inhabitants. Social and environmental sustainability is very important to me and in my opinion, should be for all architects. This project incorporates both. An immediate social impact and a long term environmental. Knowledge of, access to and social connections to nature contributes to a closer relationship to nature and a sense of belonging. It may also increase the chances of an awareness concerning nature conservation and sustainable consumption of natural resources (Rönneke, 2012; Wong, 1996).

Dalsland, like many other parts of Sweden suffers from a depopulation due to urbanisation. The incoming new population in form of immigrants should be seen as beneficial for the whole province. By facilitating the formation of social ties and connection to the place, a greater number of asylum seekers may choose to stay in the community instead of moving to a bigger city once granted a residence permit.

I have worked closely with the local context of my site, but this is of course an issue that exists in more places than Dals Rostock. The project aims to look at the Swedish forest as a neutral meeting ground enabling visitors to connect to the place while allowing spontaneous interaction or secure alone-time. A public place where people simultaneously gain knowledge and get familiarized with the forest and it's elements.

## ARCHITECTURAL REFERENCES

### INTENSELY LOCAL ARCHITECTURE

*Constructions - An Experimental Approach to Intensely Local Architectures* is an *Architectural Design*-issue focused on the importance of making/building as part of the design process but with an additional emphasis on localness. Although this project will not be built and therefore can not be part of the making-discourse, the discourse on localness is very relevant. Continuing on the work by Kenneth Frampton, the editors Michael Hensel and Christian Hermansen Cordua see a locally specific architecture as an counteragent to globalisation, homogenisation and generic architecture<sup>1</sup>. It is not about a regional style or a single way to approach things but about interpreting data from local site to best inform design solutions. Structures that respond to distinct local conditions through a performative approach.

The editorial contains a number of interesting built references that share the trait that they are all born out of local circumstances. Often small scale projects designed in an informed and sensitive way. Some of the projects could be read as architecture as a tool for pursuing societal goals. The following pages will look closer at three projects like that.

*“The creative coupling of pre-existing with desired, but unprecedented, conditions holds the key to renewing topographical meaning.”*

David Leatherbarrow, p 29

<sup>1</sup> Hensel, M. and Hermansen Cordua, C. 2015. *Constructions - An Experimental Approach to Intensely Local Architectures*. p. 9



## ARBORETUM BY RINTALA EGGERTSSON ARCHITECTS

GJØVIK NORWAY, COMPLETED IN 2011

The arboretum in Gjøvik is done for Gjøvik Care centre, an institution for juvenile asylum seekers under the age of 15. It is a small garden of trees, specially selected from all habitable continents of the world. The idea was to establish a connection between the geographies of the children's home countries and of their new location. The trees become a physical link symbolizing growth in new soil but also providing the children and the staff of the care centre with the activity of cultivation. The architecture is based on a map of the world with the continents in a row, also symbolizing how the people in the world and our cultures are interlinked.

Wooden windscreens creates better conditions for the trees as well as protects visitors from the wind. Integrated wooden benches enables people to sit down, either to enjoy the space or to find a piece of mind.

TO BRING INTO THIS PROJECT

The wind protected seatings, allowing for both contemplation alone or for social occasions when caring for the trees, is a good example of a type of space that could be needed at Kroppefjäll. With a lot of people living at the asylum housing it can be difficult to find a safe secluded place to be with friends or alone.



## INTO THE LANDSCAPE BY RINTALA EGGERTSSON ARCHITECTS

SELFJORD WORKSHOP, NORWAY, COMPLETED IN 2009

Into the landscape was a workshop held with students in Selfjord, resulting in three structures. The main reasons for the structures was firstly to be used as stopping places for travellers and tourists, secondly to act as meeting places for the locals and thirdly to comment on the local myth of a sea serpent. The workshop was part of a larger project called Selfjord and the legends, an initiative organized to revitalize the local economy and to invite more people to move to the area. Like the area of Dals Rostock, Selfjord suffers from loss of population.

The three resulting structures are a viewpoint consisting of six spaces/rooms forming a circle, a smoke sauna and a fishing camp. They help visitors and the local population to easier access the lake at certain points.

TO BRING INTO THIS PROJECT

The effort of anchoring architectural additions to characteristic features in the landscape without dominating them is interesting also for this project. Examples of that is the wooden viewing platforms on the cliffs overlooking carefully selected views; the lake, nesting areas for birds and the crowns of big pine trees. They worked with viewing points not as final destinations but as starting points for further explorations into nature. They have also integrated existing pine trees in the path to the fishing camp making the visitors come close to the tree trunks. Learned from this is the importance of choosing what views and certain characteristics that are important at the site of Kroppefjäll and work with those.

Another interesting point is how the individual spaces around the fireplace together form a shared space for socializing.



## THE NORWEGIAN NATIONAL TOURIST ROUTES PROJECT

SOHLBERGPLASSEN BY CARL-VIGGO HØLMERBAKK,  
STOR-ELVDAL, 2005

The viewpoint platform is placed at the most recognizable position of the painter Harald Sohlberg's studies for the painting *Winter Night in the Mountains*. The dynamic relation between the pine trees on the hill side and the distant mountains is the starting point for the platform's appearance.

Openings in the floor allows for rain and sunlight to get through to the ground. The floor being slightly tilted gives a sense of a pull towards the view. A staircase also give the option to go to the space underneath the platform and down the hill to the lake.

TO BRING INTO THIS PROJECT

Once again, it is the thorough knowledge of the site that give the project it's qualities. The architects could by carefully examining the site, define the best views and the most interesting spaces between the trees, and then shaping the platform in a way that no trees had to be cut.

The gesture of the tilted floor to enhance the focus on the view in combination with an alternative experience by taking the staircase down to the ground is an interesting example of how to intensify an experience and create curiosity.







## PRE STUDIES

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IMMIGRANTS AND THE (DIS)CONNECTION TO SWEDISH NATURE

FACILITATING BELONGING AND CONNECTION TO A PLACE

FACILITATING MEETINGS AND PREDICTING INTERACTION PROBABILITY

*En växande del av Sveriges befolkning har invandrarbakgrund och många har ingen eller begränsad relation till den svenska naturen. Utan denna relation riskerar en stor grupp människor att hamna utanför arbetet för att nå en hållbar utveckling. Samtidigt är naturen, sett som ett offentligt rum som inte utnyttjas av alla invånare, en integrationsfråga. Om naturen är ett rum, tillgänglig endast för den som är uppväxt med att vara där, kan naturen bli en segregering, snarare än en integrerande faktor.*

- Yusra Moshtat,  
*Med andra Ögon*, p. 17.

*Alla de saker som är typiska för den svenska naturen med kallt badvatten, den tysta skogen, ljusa sommarnätter och mörka morgnar på vintern var till en början självklart annorlunda. Och det tog mig några år innan jag uppskattade saker som att sitta med ansiktet mot vårsolen eller gå ut för att promenera ensam i skogen. I Grekland hade jag aldrig gjort något sådant. Vad tusan skulle man i skogen att göra?*

- The author Theodor Kallifatides,  
interview in *Sveriges Natur* no 5, 2006

## IMMIGRANTS AND THE (DIS)CONNECTION TO SWEDISH NATURE

A growing part of the Swedish population are immigrants and many of them have a weak or no connection to the Swedish nature (Moshtat, 2008). This has both social and political consequences. It means that a growing number of people do not have access to all of Sweden's public spaces of which nature is one, it means that the same group of people are also unable to take part of the health benefits that nature has and it means that there is a risk that a part of Sweden's population may not have an interest in future nature conservation issues and environmental work.

We all have different habits and needs when it comes to nature and different preferences on how to approach it (alone or in a group, for quiet contemplation or social activities). No approach is better than another. Nature is not of interest for everyone and it doesn't have to be either. However because of the concerns mentioned above it is necessary to provide the ability for everyone to connect to nature and inform of their right to use it through Allemansrätten.

When first arriving to a new country as an immigrant nature excursions are hardly the first thing on your mind. But if immigrants can receive knowledge about the nature already as asylum seekers and are able to connect to the new landscape, it will help facilitate a sense of belonging and the knowledge can be useful later in life no matter if they stay on the countryside or move to a city. Early continuous nature experiences increase the chances of an awareness concerning nature conservation and sustainable consumption of natural resources (Rönneke, 2012).

If the parents don't have a relationship to the forest there is also a risk that their children won't either. In the long run that could lead to a decrease in society of the importance to protect nature. (Moshtat, 2008; Rönneke 2012)

For the asylum seekers that end up in asylum housings on the countryside in close or direct relation to the forester, a basic sense of security is a first necessary step in order to feel at home in their new surroundings and for their well-being. Many researchers have emphasized the importance of our childhood landscapes for our identity, homeliness and place affiliation and it takes time to build up the same feelings for a new type of environment (Ouis, 2009).

Wong examined in her study the benefits of contact with nature for new immigrants to help cope with the transition of migration (Wong, 1996). The benefits were a sense of ownership of the new country, feelings of integration instead of isolation, a re-union with nature, the reawakening of a sense of possibility, restoration, empowerment and willingness to participate in caring for the environment.

## HEALTH AND NATURE

Research shows that being in nature has positive effects on people's physical and mental health. It has a positive effect on both preventive healthcare and rehabilitation, as well as has the ability to relieve and protect against anxiety and depression. It affects our blood pressure and pulse and has a positive affect on stress, mental exhaustion and improves our concentration and learning ability. (Hartig et al., 2003; Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989 cited in Rönneke, 2012; Maller et al. 2002; Andersson and Rydberg, 2005 cited by Svensson, 2011)

## OBSTACLES

How we relate to nature is strongly connected to our cultural background. It differs from individual to individual but coming from a war-torn country, a country with many natural disasters or dangerous animals there is a greater risk of feeling unsafe in nature.

In her thesis *Invandrare i tätortsnära natur* Blomqvist describes some of the obstacles immigrants experience. They stated fear of being attacked, dangerous animals and insects but obstacles were also lack of company, the cold and the transportation difficulties. Other reports state that many immigrants experience an uncertainty about what they are allowed to do and where, but also about being unaccustomed of how to dress appropriately in nature.

## PROJECTS TODAY AND THE CRITICISM

There are many projects done across the land in effort to make the Swedish nature accessible for all of Sweden's population. Friluftsrådet, administered under Naturvårdsverket (The Environmental Protection Agency), have the last couple of years reserved 25 million SEK per year for different projects and prioritizes 'new Swedes' as their target group (Ouis, 2009). Some of these projects have received criticism for being short term and without follow-up. They have also received criticism for not making the target group active operators. Some of the projects, like the guided nature tours, have only targeted immigrants and therefore miss the opportunity for integration.

## NATURE AS A MEETING PLACE

Nature can be an important part of the integration work. Nature is part of the public spaces in Sweden and is a place where everyone is welcome and can meet on equal terms.

There is a culture in the forest where people greet each other and are more open for interaction compared to an urban context. (Moshtat, 2008). Many of the Swedish citizens spend a lot of their spare time in the nature, thus making it a good place for immigrants to come in contact with native Swedes and an additional access to the Swedish society. A place where knowledge and experience can be shared in both directions.

## APPROACH

Looking at the verdicts of different projects, some successful methods can be found. The safety that being in a group gives is stressed in its ability to help overcome a fear of nature, in particular at night. The social interaction is stressed as important by many.

Another successful method to make immigrants feel comfortable in their new surroundings is when they can find similarities to their home countries' nature. Yusra Moshtat talks about the great joy when trees and birds from the immigrants' home countries were found in the Swedish nature. (Moshtat, 2008). By creating a safe access to the forest in Dals Rostock, these similarities can be found by the asylum seekers themselves as they get familiarized with it.

Knowledge of, access to and social connections to nature contributes to a closer connection to nature and a sense of belonging (Rönneke, 2012; Wong, 1996). By creating paths and spaces of various types people can find a place which suits their needs and preferences, be it using it as a quick way to the grocery store, as a backdrop for social activities or enjoying it alone. Either way, people can gain knowledge themselves about the forest and get familiarized with its elements, such as the sounds and the smells.

This is not a project about a predetermined correct way of how to experience nature. It is about finding tools to facilitate for more people - not only immigrants - to find their way out in nature on their own terms, whether that be alone or in a group. Tools to first overcome an initial resistance to secondly facilitate a personal connection to the forest. Understanding nature as a social meeting place as part of the strive for a sustainable community.

## DESIGN STRATEGIES

-Facilitating social interaction and meetings, with spaces for bigger groups as well as intimate spaces for being alone or in small companies.

-Clear and easy access to nature, with different levels of exposure, visitable at any time of the day.

-Focus on achieving a sense of security for those uncomfortable in nature.

-Possibility to experience nature without specific shoes or equipment.

*A forest context, and richly moulded architectural space, provide ample  
stimuli for peripheral vision,  
and these settings centre us in the very space.*

- Juhani Pallasmaa,  
The Eyes of the Skin, p 13.

## FACILITATING BELONGING AND CONNECTION TO A PLACE

### DEFINITIONS AND THEORY

*Place attachment* is the emotional bond between person and place due to both physical and social personal experiences of the place, and is a concept used in environmental psychology. The variable of place attachment are in the The Tripartite Model defined as *Person*, *Process* and *Place* (developed by Scannell and Gifford).

*Person* concerns who is attached and can be both individuals or communities. Community behaviours contributes to the strength of place attachment both for the community as a whole, as well as for the individuals of the community through self-pride or self-esteem. People experience stronger attachments to places that they can identify with or feel proud to be a part of.

*Process* concerns how the attachment exists. This regards affective, cognitive and behavioural aspects.

*Place* concerns what is attached and relies both on physical and social aspects. Some environmental psychologist argue that place attachment occurs due to social relationships rather than the physical characteristics of the place itself. A study from 2001 found that while social aspects were stronger than physical ones, both affected the overall person-place bond.

*Place identity* is defined as an individual's perception of self as a member of a particular environment. Sense of place is considered by some to be a characteristic that some locations have and some don't, while others

consider it to be a social phenomena upheld by people and not the location itself. Sense of place will in the rest of this paper be defined as the latter of the two.

A development theory for place attachment is the *security-exploration cycle*. This theory indicates that place attachment occurs when a place incorporates both security and exploration, for example an outdoor space that can be explored and expand knowledge. The following two pages will look at factors affecting sense of security and curiosity for the forest.

### MULTI-SENSORY ARCHITECTURE

*"The dominance of the eye and the suppression of other senses tends to push us into detachment, isolation and exteriority."*<sup>1</sup>

Pallasmaa argues in his book *The Eyes of the Skin* that emphasis on the visual, focused vision, pushes us out of a space making us mere spectators. Unlike places that address all senses or put focus on senses other than the visual (i.e. stimuli for peripheral vision) centres us in the very space, integrates us with it. A place is remembered when it affects our bodies and generated enough associations to hold in our personal world. He also speaks of the importance of getting close: *"The eye is the organ of distance and separation, whereas touch is the sense of nearness, intimacy and affection."* (p. 46).

<sup>1</sup> Pallasmaa, J. *The Eyes of the Skin*, p. 19.



## PARAMETERS FOR AFFECTING SENSE OF SECURITY IN THE FOREST

The sense of security is dependent on many factors, but most concern the sense of being in control, not fearing the unknown. To be in a position where one can understand the surroundings and have ability to

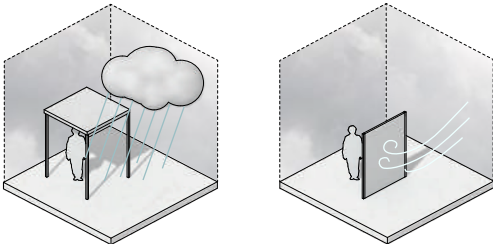
act depending on the situation. As mentioned earlier in the report, being in a group also has a big effect on sense of security.

### SHELTER

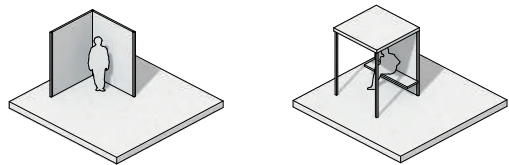
Shelter, whether its protection from the weather or shelter to get a sense of protection, is an important factor for a sense of security. By having one's back

protected or sitting in a defined space of which you can take 'ownership', a sense of feeling in control can be achieved.

#### WEATHER PROTECTED



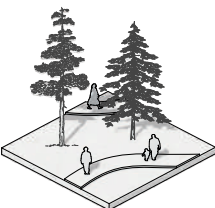
#### SENSE OF PROTECTION



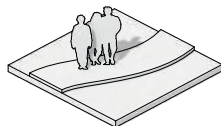
### PEOPLE

Seeing, meeting and being with other people is an important factor as well. As mentioned in *Immigrants & Swedish nature*, being in a group has a big effect on sense of security.

#### SEEING



#### BEING IN COMPANY

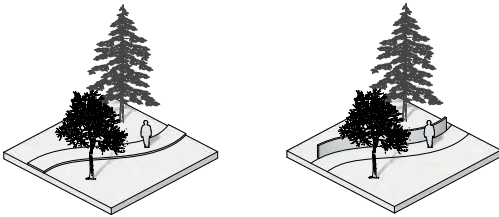


## ORIENTATION

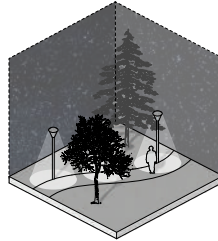
If feeling uncertain in a new environment, knowing or understanding where to go is vital in order to choose to enter it. Help with orientation is achieved by having an overview of the path, but in the forest with

a lot of trees, that can be difficult. Another approach can then be to use “guiding elements”, a clear path, a wall or perhaps light.

## GUIDING ELEMENTS



## LIGHT

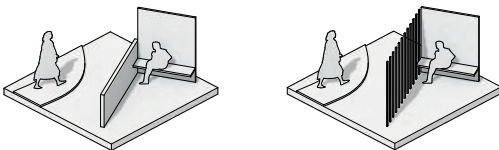


## AWARENESS

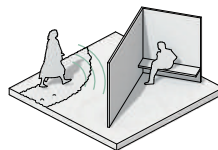
To eliminate the fear of being surprised in a new environment, it is of importance to feel like you have your surroundings under control. This means seeing if someone or something may be nearing you. But

not to lose the sense of being sheltered and enclosed low walls or transparent walls can be helpful. Another approach is to work with ground materials that allow you to hear if someone is getting close.

## SEEING



## HEARING



## PARAMETERS FOR TRIGGERING CURIOSITY IN THE FOREST

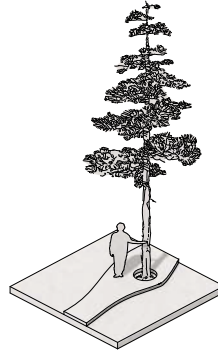
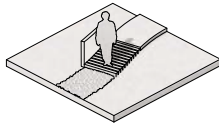
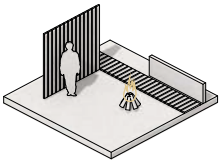
Once a person feel safe in a place architecture can be used to encourage explorations and trigger curiosity, in this case making a visitor linger in the forest. As in

the security-exploration cycle theory both feeling safe yet being able to explore can help strengthen place attachment.

### MATERIALITY

Haptic and smell sensations may trigger curiosity. The forest already being full of stimulation, can still be highlighted in the path and in structures. Sensory

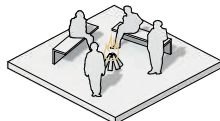
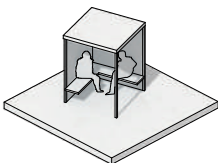
experiences making it more interesting to choose the path through the forest rather than the country road.



### PEOPLE

Another reason for being in the forest is for the social activities. A place to find solitude or peace and quite for a talk with a friend, but also to socialize in

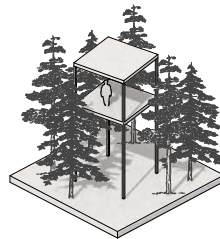
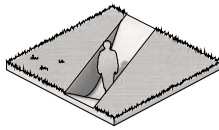
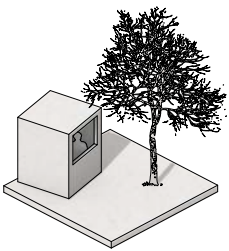
bigger groups. The forest being a good place to meet strangers (see *Immigrants & Swedish nature*) may be a very strong reason to become curious about it.



## DEFINING CERTAIN VIEWS

Highlighting certain views or aspects about the forest is also a way to create curiosity and a reason to linger. Through architecture the forest can be experienced in

a new way which may change the overall perception of it.

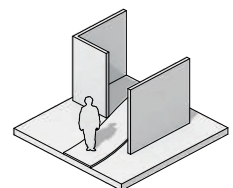
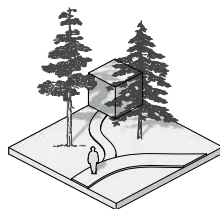
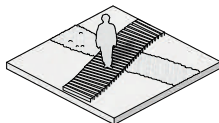
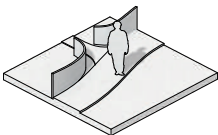


## INVITING SIDETRACKS

By creating inviting side tracks in relation to the main path, taking an alternative route can be encouraged.

## GIVING CLUES

Seeing a structure from further or by using structures which are not fully readable from the outside but needs to be entered, may create an interest of examining things closer.



## CONCLUSIONS

### DESIGN STRATEGIES

The theory of security-exploration cycle to strengthen place attachment will be part of the strategy for this project, aiming at both creating a sense of security for those needing it in the forest, but also encouraging a sense of curiosity for nature and a will to explore.

Understanding the importance of social relationships for place attachment and in turn place identity will be of importance in this project.

In order to create the best conditions for place attachment it is also of interest to look at multi-sensory architecture. Taking all of the senses in consideration, involving the visitors with the ample stimuli already in the forest to firmly place them in the space. Enhancing their physical experiences to awake memories and associations, creating a foundation for personal bonds.



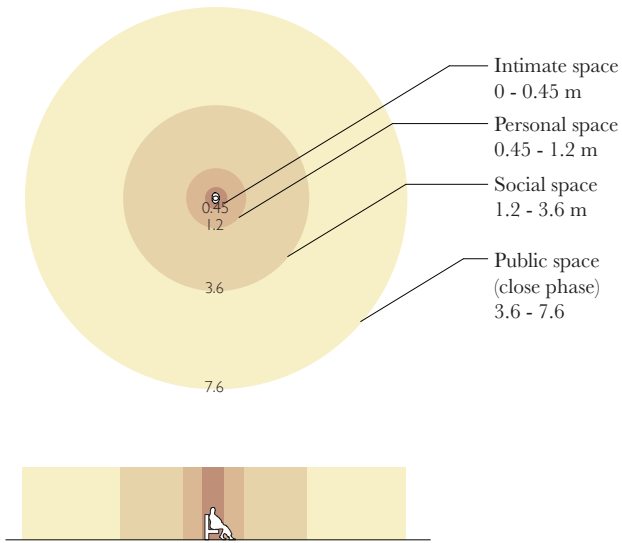


Fig. 1



## FACILITATING MEETINGS AND PREDICTING INTERACTION PROBABILITY

One way to try to evaluate how well a space facilitates interaction, is to look at proxemics, the study of human use of space and social interaction, developed by Edward T. Hall. By using the zones defined by Hall, one can determine what kind of meeting that may take place in a certain space.








To facilitate natural and non-threatening meetings between people that don't know each other it is important to make sure that the personal space is not invaded, but that the distance between the people is not too big to allow for conversation. Visitors should be able to enter and sit down in a shared space comfortably without having to know each other from before.

The number of seats may also determine what kind of meeting that can take place. An intimate space with room only for two demands a certain type of interaction while a space with room for fifty would mean something else.

To facilitate eye contact or conversation in a shared space the visitors must of course be in each others field of vision. However for those wanting privacy the field of vision affects two contrasting wishes. The visitor's possibility to have an overview of the surroundings would lead to a wide field of vision while the wish not to feel exposed or seen by others might lead to a narrow field of vision.

## USING PROXEMICS TO EXAMINE INTERACTION TYPES AND PROBABILITY

### INTERACTION WHILE SEATED

CONFIGURATION OF SEATS	POSSIBLE INTERACTION OUTCOME	INTERACTION PROBABILITY
	Awareness of existence	Unlikely
 	Intimate conversations	Very likely
 	Personal conversations	Likely
	Eye contact and gestures (smiles, nods etc.) Social conversation	Possible interaction
	Eye contact and big gestures (waving etc.) Public conversation	Unlikely

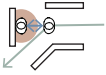
### CONCLUSIONS

The type of interaction and the likeliness of it occurring is dependent on the distance between the seats, and their configuration and the visitors prior relationship to each other.

A tight space demands an intimate kind of conversation which is likely to happen between friends but may be uncomfortable for strangers. If the space is too big, interaction is less likely to happen because of the distance between the two or more visitors.

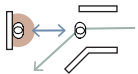
## INTERACTION BETWEEN SEATED AND MOVING

### CONFIGURATION OF PATH

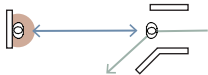


### INTERACTION PROBABILITY

Likely but uncomfortable distance for strangers



Likely interaction



Possible interaction



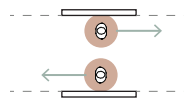
Unlikely

### CONCLUSIONS

The probability of interaction in these situations are dependent on the distance between the visitors and the pre-existing relationship between them. A very tight encounter may be uncomfortable for all involved, while a too long distance may lead to no interaction at all.

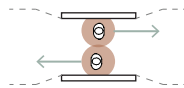
## INTERACTION WHILE MOVING

### CONFIGURATION OF PATH

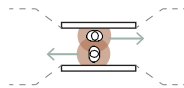


### INTERACTION PROBABILITY

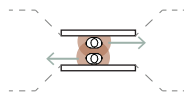
Possible interaction



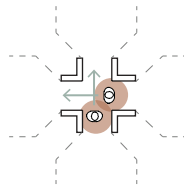
Likely interaction



Need for interaction / cooperation



Need for interaction / cooperation



Possible interaction / cooperation

### CONCLUSIONS

The probability of interaction is dependent on the path width. A narrow path demands some kind of acknowledgment (eye contact, gestures or conversation) and perhaps cooperation.

## INTERACTION THEORIES

### THE F-FORMATION THEORY BY ADAM KENDON

An F-formation is a socio-spatial formation in which two or more people sustain a space to which everyone in the group has a direct and equal access to. The formation consists of three social spaces, which are the o-space, p-space and r-space:



The o-space being the space to which everyone have access to, and to which no external people are allowed. It consists of the overlapping of the people's transactional segments, the area in front of the body that can be reached easily and where hearing and sight are most effective. The p-space is the space enveloping the o-space, where the participants of the formation stand. The r-space in turns envelops the p-space. This space is not used but monitored by the participants to signalize an exit or entering of the formation.

Typically people in free standing groups arrange themselves side-by-side, in an L-shape or vis-a-vis. In groups bigger than two the formation is circular. That way they all have the same access to the o-space and one another, while excluding distractions of the outside world with their backs.

While this is an observation done on free standing people it is of interest when designing comfortable seatings for interaction of different types.



Side-by-side L-shape Vis-a-vis Circular

### INTERACTION TYPES ACCORDING TO ERVING GOFFMAN

Goffman separated unfocused interaction from focused interaction, and focused interaction into common focused and jointly focused.

Unfocused interaction happens whenever individuals find themselves by circumstance in the immediate presence of others, and he claims that on such occasions some form of interpersonal communication must take place simply because of the mutual presence, regardless of the individual intent.

Focused interaction occurs when two or more individuals willingly agree to establish and maintain a single focus of cognitive and visual attention for a time, an agreement rarely verbalized. Common focused occurs when the participants join in a common focused activity, such as going to the theatre, whereas jointly focused means mutual involvement and engagement from all participants, such as in a conversation.

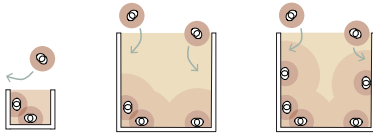
By creating defined paths through the forest with a big chance of being used by many, the so called unfocused interaction will occur. And by creating specific meeting places focused interaction can be facilitated, both common and jointly.

## CONCLUSIONS

### INHABITANCE OF SPACE

If a space is small, a newcomer will perceive it as it as a private and occupied space. Entering the space would feel intruding on what Hall calls the personal space.

If the space is bigger the newcomer will more likely feel welcomed to join the space, being able to sit in the so called social space, allowing the space to be shared between strangers. And while a small space quickly feels private, a bigger space may feel comfortable to share even when filling up.



### NATURAL RITUALS CREATING AFFINITY

So what is it that make a new meeting important and loaded with positive feelings?

In the book *Vardagslivets socialpsykologi* (Johansson, T. Lalander, P. 2014) it is described as a physical closeness/intimacy combined with a common focus, that creates the feeling of a division between the participants and the surrounding world. With the participants developing similar sensations and through interplay they create a sense of solidarity (by being similar) and something Randall Collins describes as emotional energy. He names these types of spontaneous meetings as natural rituals (for example two strangers spontaneously interacting because of a common interest, like fishing) as opposed to formal rituals (for example the ceremony of a funeral). The natural rituals can give a strong sense of affinity. By creating common focuses for visitors this type of interaction can be facilitated in this project.

### DESIGN STRATEGIES

Concerning meetings, the main conclusions is the importance of a variety of types of space to enable people with different needs to find a space comfortable for them. There are some measurements to take into consideration when planning spaces meant for interaction between strangers or between friends. Just as in the general sense of security, it is necessary when creating these spaces to take in consideration the importance of feeling in control, whether it is about having an overview or being sheltered. A great variety of spaces also leads to a greater variety of possible types of interaction.

To facilitate the feeling of affinity through social interaction it can be of interest to create something that can act as a common focus for the visitors. In this project perhaps it is the forest or a social event.



## THE CONTEXT

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THE SITE DALS ROSTOCK, DALSLAND  
THE FOREST CONTEXT AND STIMULI





## DALS ROSTOCK IN DALSLAND

### THE ASYLUM HOUSING

Next to a nature reserve in Dals Rostock, a former sanatorium (later turned into a hotel and spa) is now being used as an asylum housing. Dals Rostock is a small community in Dalsland, with a number of 829 inhabitants in 2010. Dals Rostock, like Dalsland in general, suffers from a population decline. In 1980 Dalsland had a population of 50 000 inhabitants in its 5 municipalities but it is expected to have dropped to 40 000 in 2020. Between 2011 and 2020 the number of inhabitants of working age declined with 3 000 people while retirees and people of 85 years or older increased with 1 000 people.<sup>1</sup> This means that the incoming new population in form of immigrants should be seen as beneficial for the whole province.

The Asylum housing Kroppefjäll in Dals Rostock has been reported as somewhat of a success story in news paper. Despite many of the asylum seekers wanting to move to bigger cities in the beginning, the strong social commitment to the newcomers managed to convince many to stay. The asylum housing opened up in September 2014 and in July 2016 30 of the asylum seekers that had been granted visa had chosen to stay in the community. The director of the asylum housing Lasse Johansson is convinced that the best integration is on the countryside. *‘And this way the Swedish rural areas can survive as well. There are no empty apartments here anymore.’*<sup>2</sup>

However the asylum housing being placed in such close relationship to the forest is slightly problematic. As discussed in an earlier chapter many immigrants can feel uncomfortable in this new environment. What would it mean if more people were able to quicker feel connected to the new surroundings?

### TOURISM

The small nature reserve right next to Kroppefjäll hotel is called Mörttjärn (27 hectare) and was formed in 2007. The name of the hotel comes however from a much bigger tableland nature reserve (1 125 hectare) west of Dals Rostock, formed in 1997. At the start of 2017 Naturvårdsverket declared that it is an area of national interest.<sup>3</sup> It is a popular area for hiking both among tourists and locals.

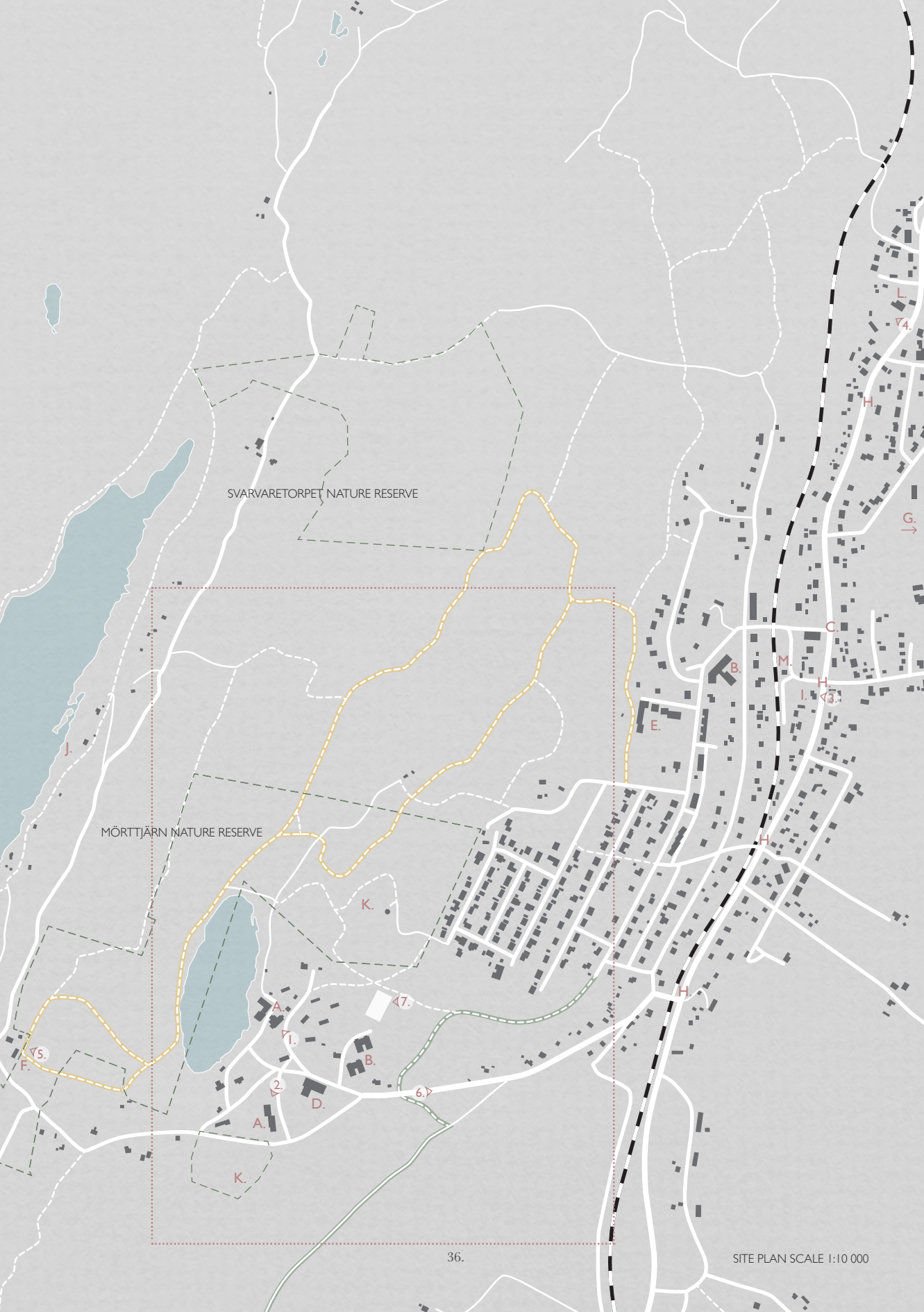
In 2007 the six municipalities of Dalsland together formed Dalsland Turist AB, in order to develop what they see as the future business; the tourism. The main attraction in Dalsland is nature, with many hiking trails and nature reserves. Especially popular is Karolinerleden in Kroppefjäll nature reserve. It is a 12 km long trail which follows the same path that Karl XII took with his army to Norway in 1718. It was forgotten but was cleared again in the 1960's and is now one of Dalsland most popular trails.

With the very start of Karolinerleden being just close to the asylum housing and with the nature reserve now becoming even more of an attraction, can this be used to Dals Rostock's advantage? Could an architectural addition address both the needs of the asylum seekers, the locals and the visiting tourists?

<sup>1</sup> Blomgren U. (2013). Dalslandskommuner på väg att tyna bort. <http://www.bohuslaningen.se/>

<sup>2</sup> Translated quote from Swedish. Larsson A. (2016). Efter kritiken - nu väljer allt fler Dals Rostock. <http://www.gp.se/>

<sup>3</sup> Anderstedt, M-L. (2017). Kroppefjäll har blivit riksintressant. <http://www.ttela.se>



SVARVARETORPET NATURE RESERVE

MÖRTTJÄRN NATURE RESERVE

## DALS ROSTOCK IN DALSLAND

### INDEX

#### INSTITUTIONS

- A. Asylum housing (Kroppenfjäll hotel)
- B. Home for elderly
- C. Health centre
- D. Preschool
- E. School

#### ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES

- F. Orienteering club
- G. Sports club



#### NODES

- H. Bus stops
- I. Grocery store

#### ATTRACTIONS

- J. Old stone quarry
- K. Lookout/View point
- L. Herbarium and folk museum
- M. Old railway station

#### TRAILS


-  Karolinerleden, hiking trail
-  Lighted track

### BACKGROUND

At the time Kroppenfjäll Hotel was a sanatorium it was meant to be separated from the rest of the Dals Rostock community, but today that means that the asylum housing is also slightly cut off from the community with the popular sports club, the only grocery store, the bus stops and the health centre. Today a lot of the asylum seekers walk along the country road, but by working with the piece of forest that is in between the areas the barrier could instead become a link and a meeting point for all.

Because of its small size, Dals Rostock does not have a public space, such as a library or a Folkets hus. The annual events are located either at the Orienteering club or at the folk museum. None of these places are ideal for this and are furthermore both are located slightly on the outskirts of Dals Rostock.

Apart from the asylum seekers being able to choose a better path to Dals Rostock, it is through that piece of forest that Karolinerleden starts. It is also connected to the Mörtjärn nature reserve.

 Photos from site on the following page.









MÖRTTJÄRN NATURE RESERVE

MÖRTTJÄRN

D.

A.

E.

B.

A.

C.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

9.

8.

1.



## DALS ROSTOCK IN DALSLAND

### INDEX




#### INSTITUTIONS

- A. Asylum housing (Kroppenfjäll hotel)
- B. Home for elderly
- C. Preschool

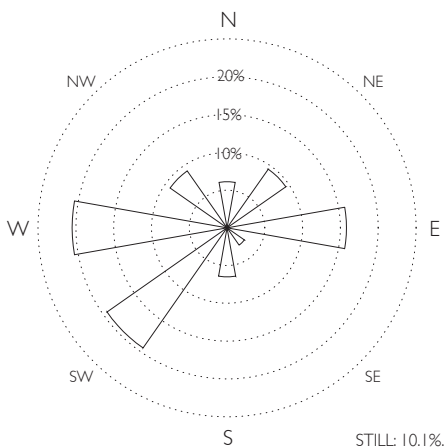
#### ATTRACTIONS

- D. Small fire place
- E. Sports field
- F. Attractions along Dr Saedéns path

#### TRAILS

-  Karolinerleden, hiking trail
-  Dr Saedéns path
-  Lighted track

#### WIND DIRECTION OVER THE YEAR.



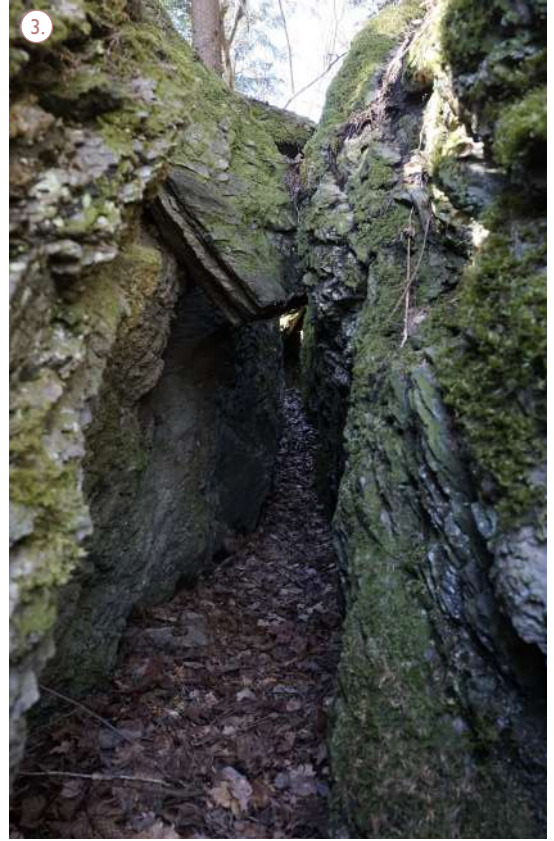
### DR SAEDÉNS PATH

In the area and in particular in the Mörttjärn nature reserve there are plenty of paths and small monuments/attractions hidden in the forest. These are from the time of the sanatorium and along a path named after Dr Saedén. Some of them are made by nature itself, while some are man-made. The path can now and then be tricky to follow, at times it is quite hidden while at others times there are so many paths crossing and intersecting that it is difficult where to go.

Perhaps this is the reason the path isn't used by the asylum seekers while popular with the locals. It is an entertaining path to walk but if one feels slightly hesitant about the forest or is afraid of becoming lost, the path is too demanding.

X. ▽ Photos from site on the following page.

ALONG DR SAEDÉNS PATH







SEASONAL CHANGES

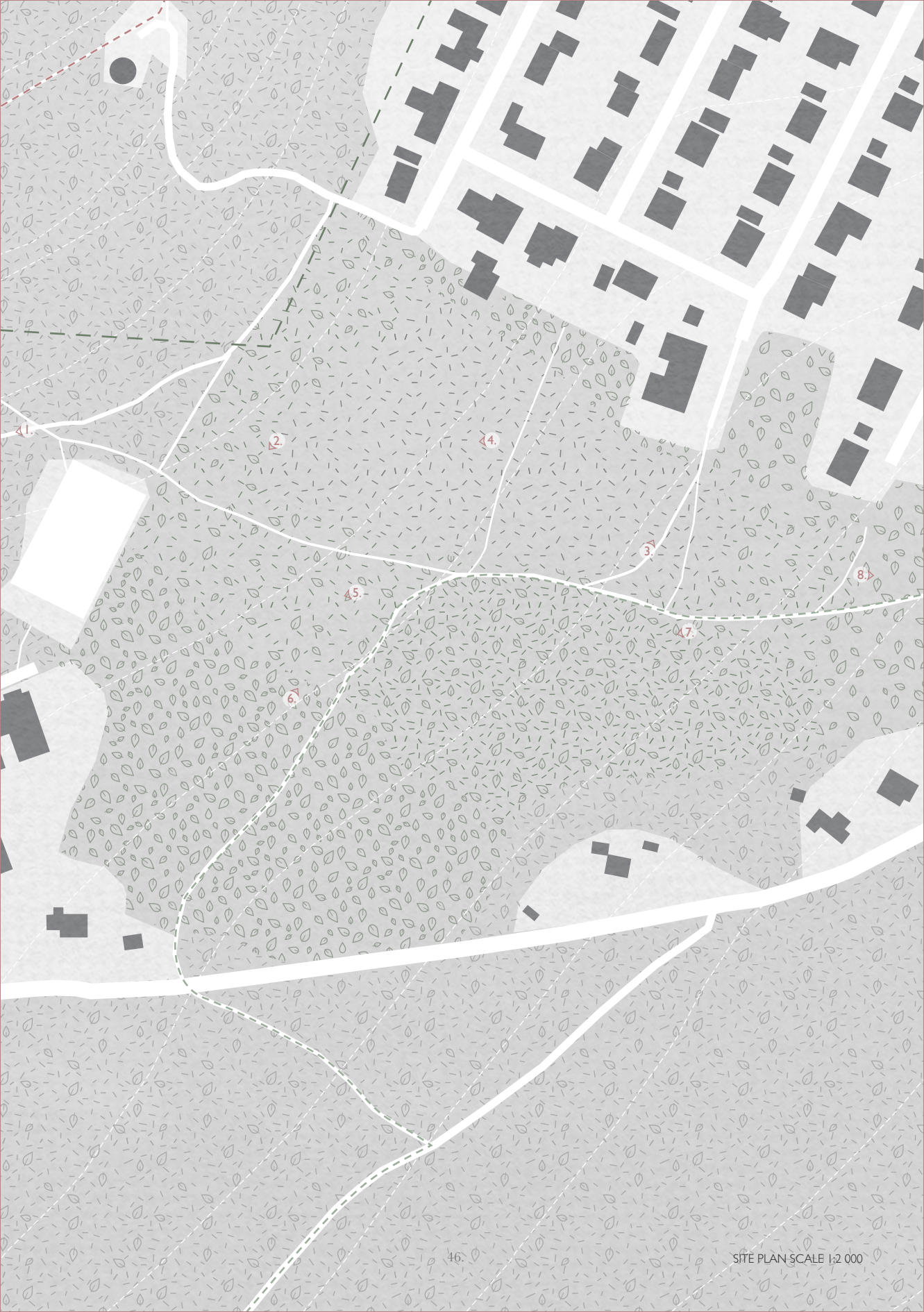




DIFFICULTIES UNDERSTANDING AND FINDING THE PATHS







## A LINKING PIECE OF FOREST

### INDEX

#### FOREST TYPES



Open mixed forest



Dense mixed forest



Open coniferous forest



Open deciduous forest



Dense deciduous forest



Undefined forest

#### TRAILS



Karolinerleden, hiking trail



Dr Saedéns path

### FOREST EXPERIENCES

When walking the Dr Saedéns path, I lost track of where to go. Suddenly there was so much noise. For a split second I thought I might encounter my first wild boar, but I stood still and instead discovered all the blackbirds making lots of noise rustling the dried leaves on the search for food. I looked up and saw a big tree leaning and rubbing against another making loud noises. It was because of previous experiences that I knew that birds and trees were much more likely to make the noises than a wild boar, but still even I was confused for a split second. If then, someone who has no previous experience of the Swedish forest encountered this, would they stay to figure out what the source of the noise was?

How can architecture create a safe ground for gaining this kind of knowledge and experience? Developing the linking piece of forest, outside of the nature reserve between the area of Kroppefjäll and Dals Rostock, could be one answer to this. The relatively small piece of forest still manages to consist of many different types of forest and spaces, providing diverse experiences.

✕.▽ Photos from site on the following pages.





Part of an existing path. Difficult to walk in rainy weather.



Mixed forest with relatively large trees.



Spruce forest with very large trees. Interesting light and sound conditions. Ground covered with spruce needles.





# POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO THE SITE

## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS

### ASYLUM SEEKERS

- Information
- Outdoor SFI-classroom
- Guiding elements
- Good path
- Places for privacy
- Places for social gatherings
- Places for kids to play

### THE SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL

- Places for kids to play
- Picnic spot
- Outdoor classroom

### THE HOME FOR ELDERLY

- Good path
- Picnic spot

### ALL IN THE COMMUNITY

- Outdoor cinema
- Lectures
- Theatre
- Sport events (e.g. finish area)
- Places for privacy
- Places for social gatherings
- Places for kids to play
- Picnic spot
- Viewpoints
- Shared books

### TOURISTS

- Picnic spot
- Information
- Overnight stay
- Guiding elements (Start of Karolinerleden)

## COMBINABLE FRAMEWORKS FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS



A. Information communicated through architecture, signs or conversation.



B. Seatings with a directed focus, possibly in the form of tiered seatings.



C. Walk-friendly paths facilitates for people without proper shoes or with walking disabilities.



D. Intimate spaces for comfortably sitting alone or with company.



E. Spaces suitable for a group of people with seats facing each other, possibly around an open fire or tables.



F. Elements which encourages play, such as climbing or balancing.



G. Weather protected structure



H. Guiding elements helping with orientation



USING THE PERCEPTUAL SYSTEMS TO EXAMINE THE SEASONAL QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOREST

The American psychologist James J. Gibson reformulated the classic five senses into a perceptual system in his book *The Senses Considered as Perceptual Systems* (1966): the basic orientating system, the

auditory system, the haptic system, the taste-smell system and the visual system. These have been used to understand site specific and season specific qualities or traits of the site.

NAME	MODES OF ATTENTION	GENERAL STIMULI	SPRING STIMULI
The basic orienting system	General orientation	Terrain Altitude Accessibility	-
The auditory system	Listening	Vegetation Animals and other people Weather	Bird song Sound of rain
The haptic system	Body sensations: touching, muscle movement, temperature etc.	Vegetation Weather Temperature Water	Cold night, warm days Thaw and slush
The visual system	Looking	Light, shade. Day sky, night sky Weather Vegetation Paths	Longer days, more sun hours Budding and sprouting
The taste-smell system	Tasting	Edible crops Water and/or precipitation	Sprouts
	Smelling	Vegetation Weather Animals and other people	Fresh air, grass, petrichor

SUMMER  
STIMULI

AUTUMN  
STIMULI

WINTER  
STIMULI

-

Insects, bird song  
Sound of rain and/or thunder  
Wind

Warmth of the sun  
Warm water

Sun and distinct shadows  
Greenery and flowers  
Trodden paths or  
Overgrown paths

Berries

Flowers, grass  
Barbecuing, camp fires  
Warm earth and bark

-

Rustling of leaves,  
Acorns etc. dropping to the ground  
Sound of rain, hail and/or  
thunder  
Wind

Wind, wetness  
Slippery wet leaves  
Frost

Shorter days, less sun hours  
Abscission, bright colours,  
Soil, fallen leaves showing paths

Mushrooms, apples etc.

Fresh air, decay, petrichor

-

Crunching snow  
Stillness

Snow, ice, coldness  
Slippery ice, thick snow

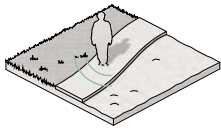
Darkness, ambiguous light  
Bare deciduous trees  
Clearly trodden paths or  
Hidden paths in the snow

-

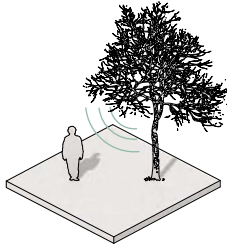
Camp fires

## EXAMPLES OF SENSORY EXPERIENCES IN THE FOREST

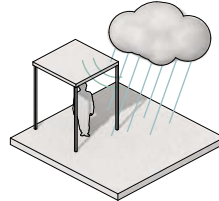
### HEARING



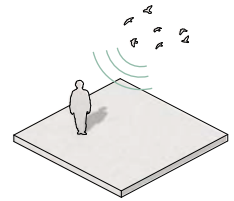
Sounds of ground materials



Sounds of trees and rustling leaves

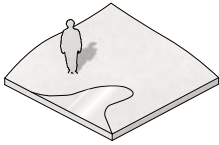


Sounds of wind and rain

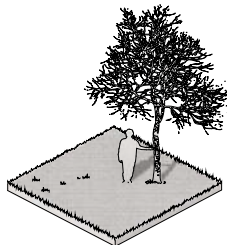


Sounds of birds and insects

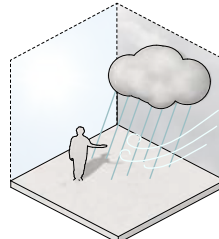
### HAPTIC



Touch and temperature of different surfaces and elevation difference



Touch of vegetation and trees

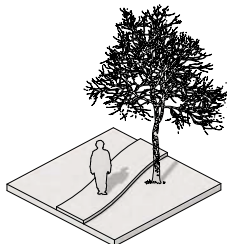


Touch of different weather

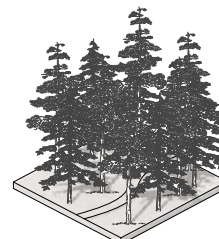
### VISUAL



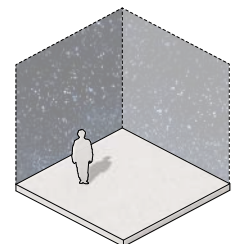
Viewing up close



Viewing surroundings

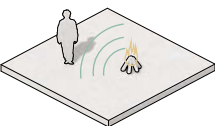


Overviewing

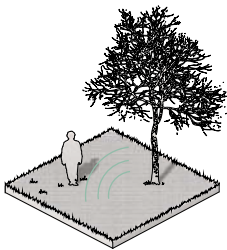


Sky view

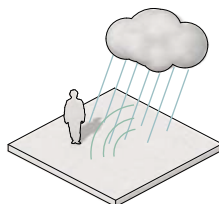
### SMELL



Smell of open fire




Smell of vegetation



Smell of rain, petrichor and moist





*Det är kanske det mjukaste och mest trösterika uttryck som finns i hela världen -  
i ljudet av snöklungor  
som glider ner från  
gröna tallgrenar.*

- Ko Un,  
Stundens blomma, p 37.







## DESIGN PROPOSAL

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THE DESIGN STRATEGY

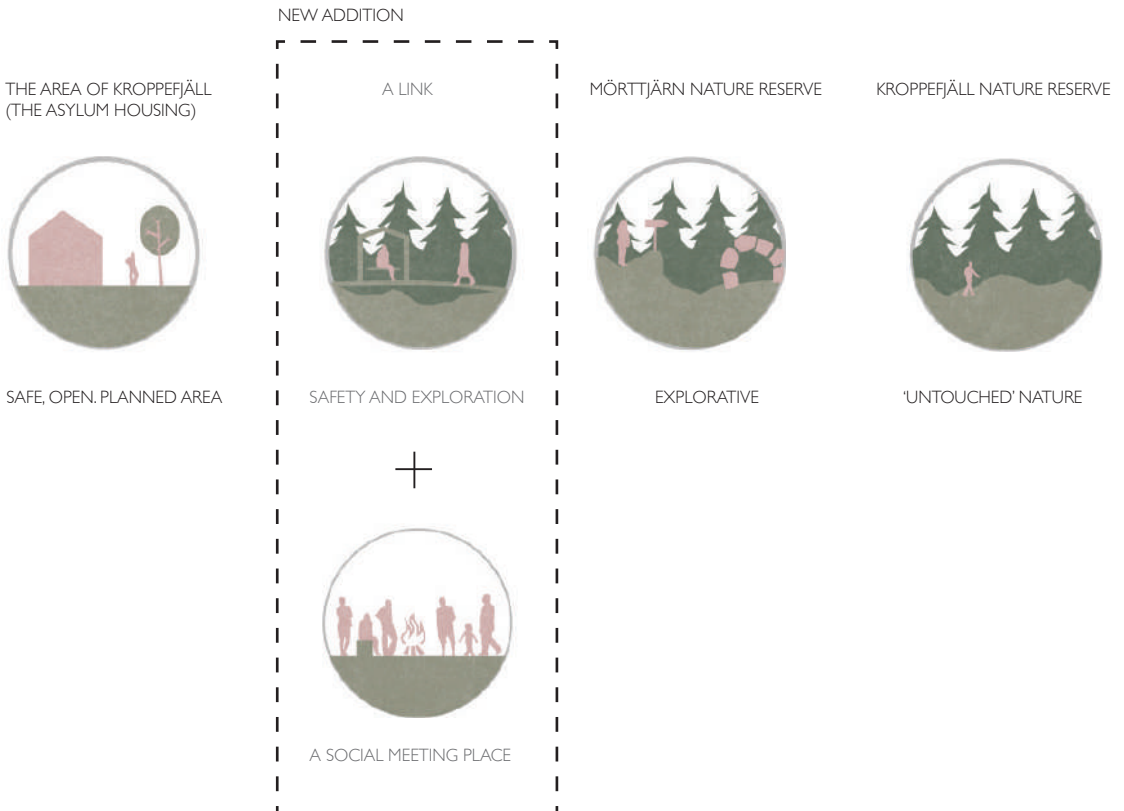
ISOMETRIC OVERVIEW

THE ADDITIONS IN DEPTH

MODEL PHOTOS

## DESIGN STRATEGY

With the area of Mörttjärn nature reserve holding plenty of exploratory paths and with the more wild nature of Kroppefjäll nature reserve within hiking distance, the people in the area do not lack opportunities to enjoy nature once comfortable in it. But the step from the open, planned area of the asylum housing to that might be too steep, hence the asylum seekers not daring to venture far. It can be easy to lose track of where to go when investigating the area of Mörttjärn nature reserve. The suggested proposal will therefore act as that missing step, providing both safety and nature experiences.



A strong guided movement through the forest links the Mörtjärn nature reserve and the community, with the path to the asylum housing connected to it. This gives the asylum seekers a fast and secure path to and from the community, but one that can also lead them to the new shared bathing area and Mörtjärn nature reserve. Connected to it is also the start of Karolinerleden, the hiking trail leading to Kroppefjäll nature reserve.

With Dals Rostock lacking a good public space, a social meeting place is placed in the middle of the piece of forest. For a strengthened sense of security, a safe place within the large space, the area is enclosed with a secondary additional movement.

Having found particular points of interest at the site and taking the visibility through the sometimes dense forest into consideration, this secondary movements is adapted. Along it more intimate spaces are located, encouraging exploration while also providing more privacy in various degrees. This also leads to a greater number of intersections between the two paths and a correlating number of opportunities to try the other path.



SITE PLAN SCALE 1:4 000



THE DESIGN PROPOSAL

KROPPEFJÄLL HOTEL:  
ASYLUM HOUSING













SCALE 1:800







## THE PATHS

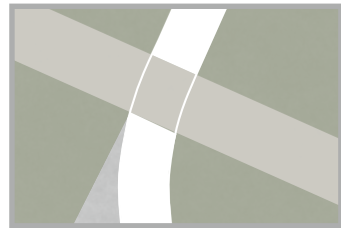
To make people feel safe in an unfamiliar environment help with orientation is of great importance. The paths in the area all have different appearances and width to help separating them from one another. The main wooden path cuts through the forest while a secondary path out of white steel circles around it and through the forest. The clarity of the different paths' layout helps with orientation and gives a visitor something to relate to even when straying off the paths. By lifting the paths slightly from the ground and with the use of subdued LED-lights, they are easy to see and walk all year round.

## THE PATHS

The paths (the main path, the secondary and the connecting ones) all have different appearances and width measurements to make it easy to orientate oneself. The main path is simple and straightforward. It is a lifted wooden path, easy to walk and see.

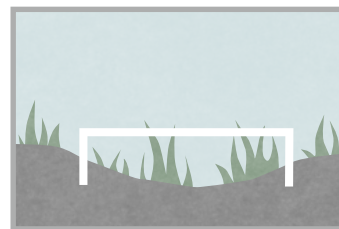
The possibility to walk it in a high pace and seeing a long way on it makes it a safe path for those uncomfortable in the forest. The secondary path is made out of white steel and expanded metal, clearly visible in the forest.

At the intersection the hierarchy of the paths is clear. The main path is not hindered but the secondary path may attract as an alternative route. At this particular intersection by the sports field the third connecting path is gravelled.

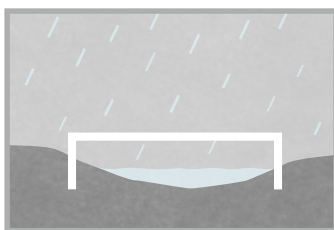


Intersection of paths.

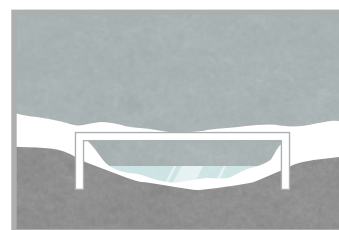
An obstacle as mentioned in *Immigrants and Swedish nature* are that many do not have access to proper clothes for walking in the forest. In this proposal the paths are lifted to eliminate this obstacle. By keeping the lifted paths permeable they are visible and easy to walk all year round.



Summer



Spring/Autumn



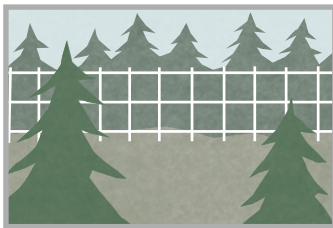
Winter



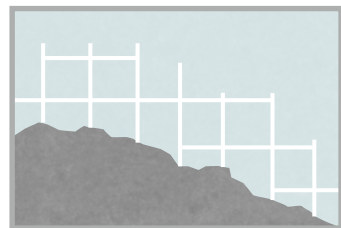
## MATERIALS

This particular project is not about leaving the nature seemingly untouched or unaltered. In order for the paths to function as the guiding elements they are as well, they need to be visible and clear, to help with orientation. The secondary path and its construction

is made out of white steel and expanded metal making it very easy to see through the forest. This makes it easy even for people just walking along the wooden main path to understand how it cuts through the landscape and how it encloses the area.



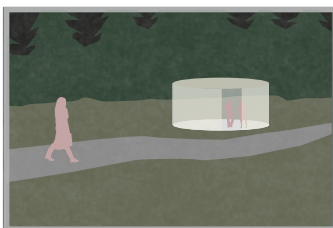
Construction visible through the forest.



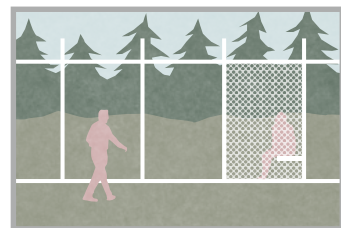
Construction makes visible the topography.

For the social activities that need to be weather protected fibreglass has been used as the wall material. If the spaces are used at night they give out a warm glow for those walking in the area, clearly showing that an activity is taking place and people may join.

At other places white expanded metal has been used. The possibility to alter the size of the perforations gives a flexibility concerning opacity. The material can be used for an enclosing and protective effect on a space while still allowing for people in the space to see his/her surroundings or for a person outside the space to see if it is occupied.



Fibreglass walls emitting light.



Expanded metal as wall material.

## GUIDING PATHS

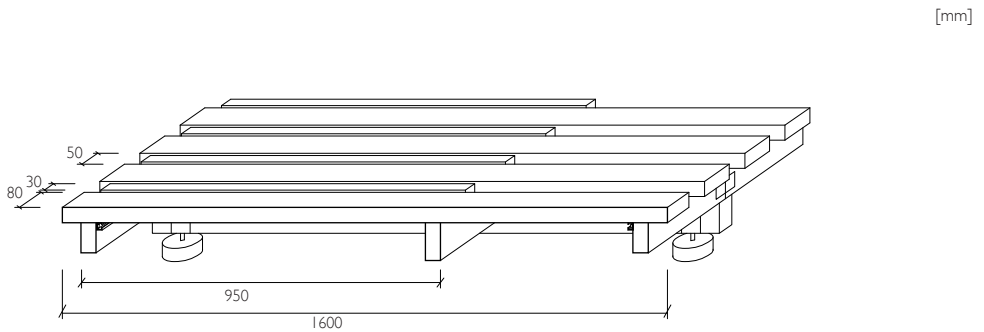
Like mentioned earlier, both paths are slightly lifted for an enhanced permeability and for visibility. LED-lights are placed under the paths. The light is

however subdued making the paths visible but not strong enough to make the surrounding forest into an impenetrable darkness.

### THE MAIN PATH

The main path is made out of pressure impregnated wood, local spruce or pine. By using slats of different width a part of the path is kept semi open allowing for snow to fall between the slats thus making it easier

to walk in winter. The part of the path with only small distances between the slats allows for a greater speed while walking through the forest, with less of a risk of tripping.

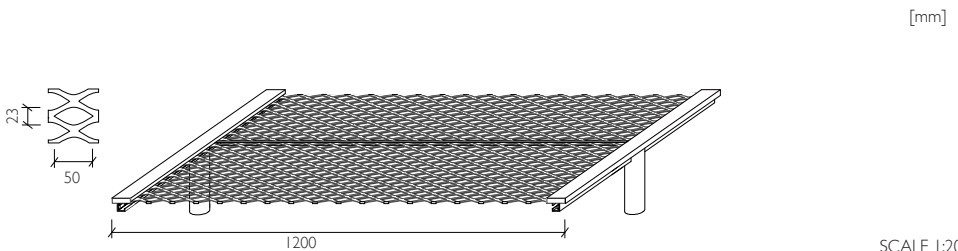


SCALE 1:20

### THE SECONDARY PATH - GROUND LEVEL

When following the existing terrain the secondary path is only slightly lifted and is made out of expanded metal, giving it a light yet visible

appearance. The ground is visible for someone walking on the path and the openings allows for water and snow to fall through.



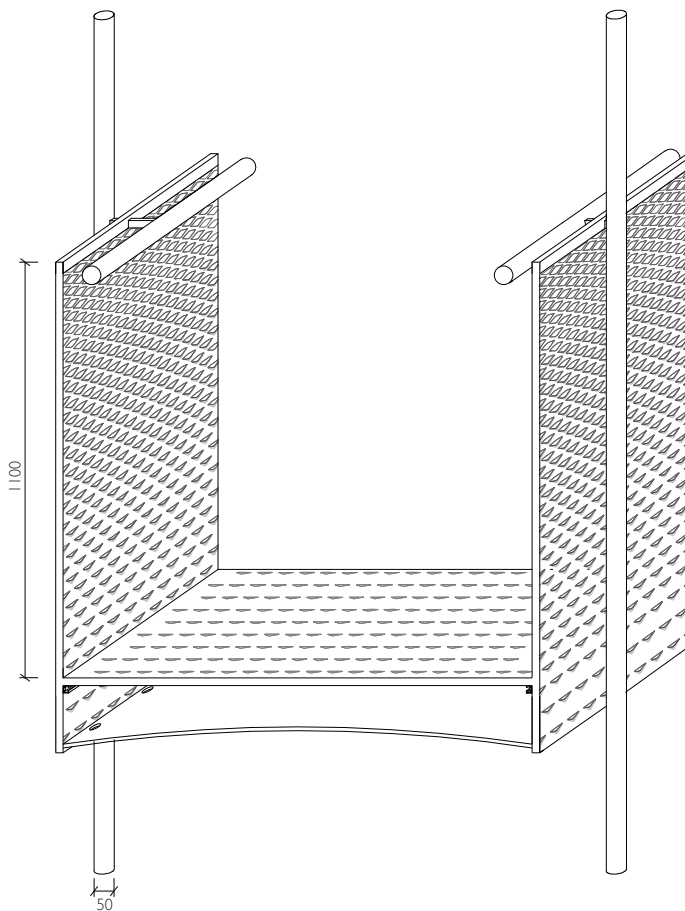
SCALE 1:20



### THE SECONDARY PATH - LIFTED

When the secondary path is lifted the floor and the railing is made out of 'flex metal', another type of expanded metal. The openings in the floor allows for rainwater to run off while also functioning as slip protection where the path is sloping. Using a double

flooring makes the walk more pleasant for the visitor not having to see the ground many meters below and also makes it possible to hide the use of ramps, giving the path a smooth appearance when cutting through the forest.



[mm]

SCALE 1:20

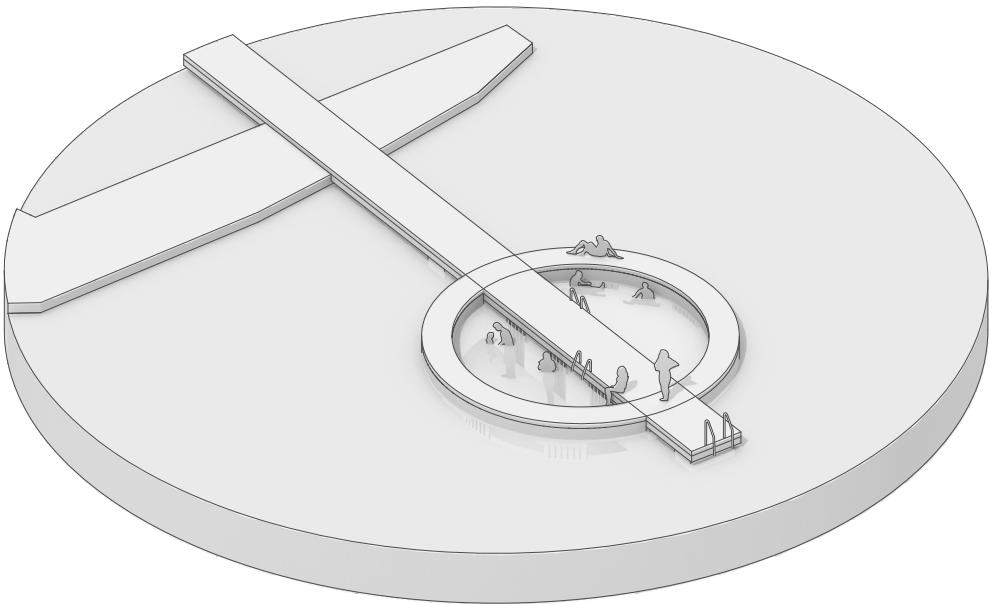


## SWIM SAFE

To the west the main path continues out in the lake of Mörttjärn and becomes a new swimming area for the community of Dals Rostock. The jetty has two levels under water making it a safe place to enjoy the water for everyone regardless of swimming abilities. Connected to it is a fire place overlooking the lake as well as two new changing rooms. When not in use these changing rooms can be opened up into one combined wind protected seating area faced towards south west and the sun.

## SWIM SAFE

### THE JETTY



#### Description:

In response to the many drowning accidents that tragically have happened to asylum seekers in Sweden, initiatives have been made to raise the swimming ability among newcomers with swimming schools at asylum housings. The new floating jetty has two levels to stand on under water, making it safe for children and adults to enjoy the water regardless of previous swimming abilities.

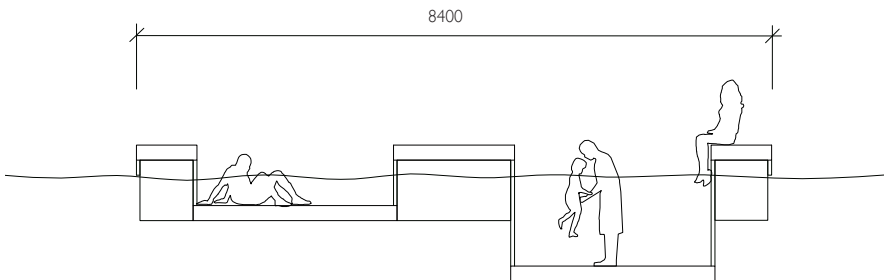
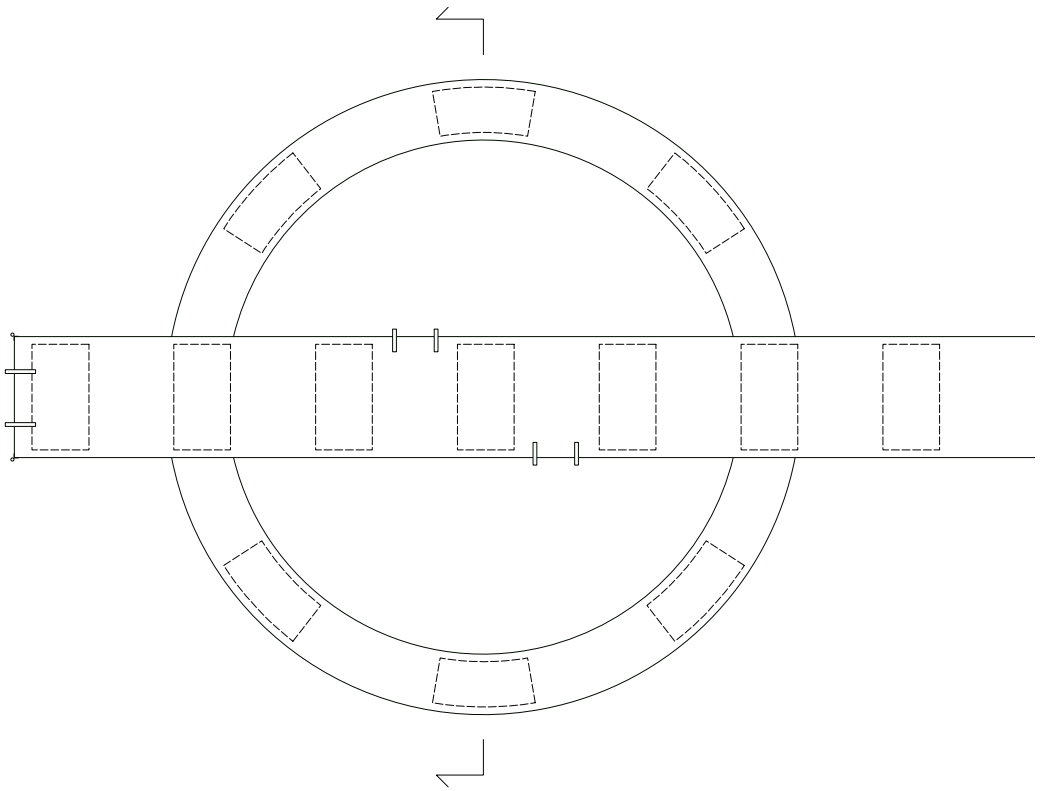
#### Characteristics:

Defined space / Enclosure:	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Private / Intimate space:	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Social / Welcoming space:	● ● ● ● ●
Weather protection:	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Distance between facing visitors:	Outer circle 8 m.
Corresponding proxemics zone:	Public space



SWIM SAFE

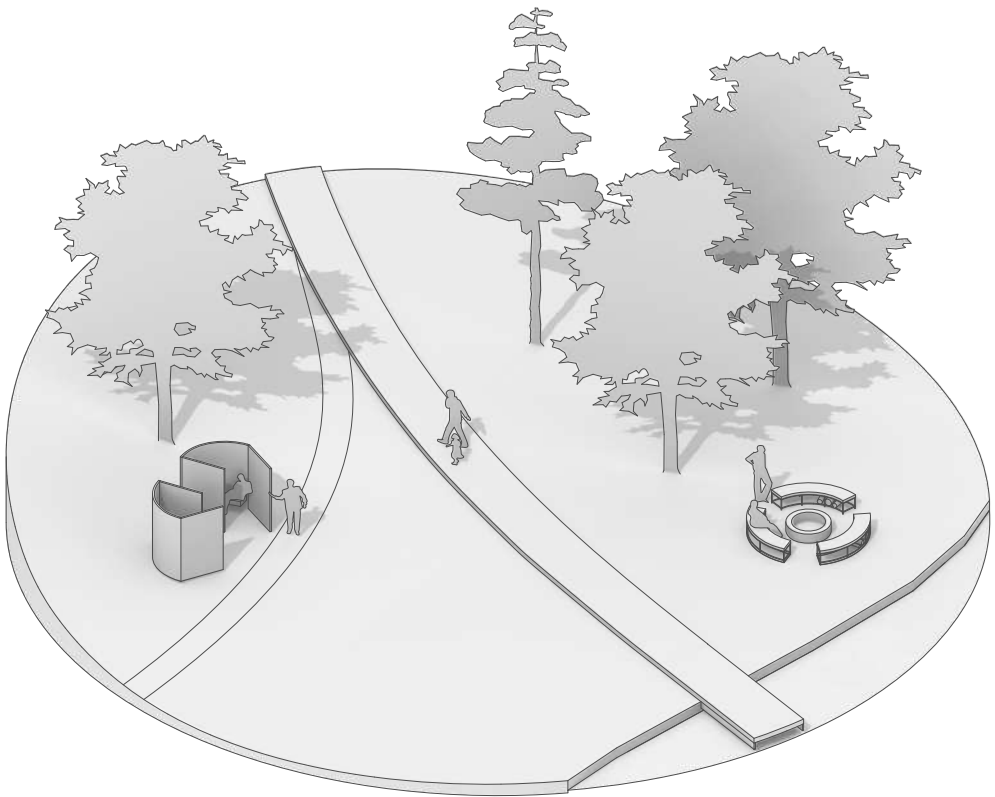
THE JETTY



SCALE 1:100

SWIM SAFE

CHANGING ROOM / SHELTERED SEATINGS



Description:

Connected to the main path and the jetty is a fireplace and two changing rooms. When not in use the two changing rooms can be opened to create a combined wind protected seating area turned towards south west and the lake.

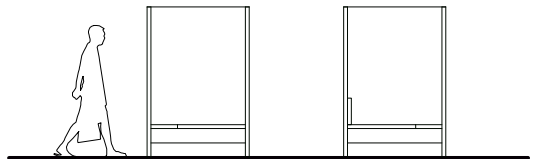
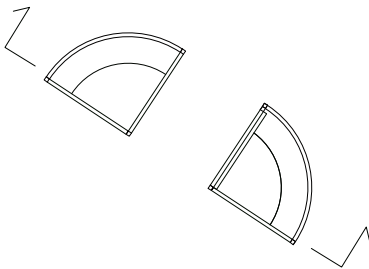
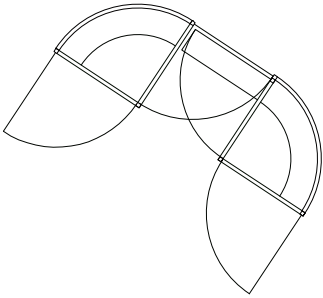
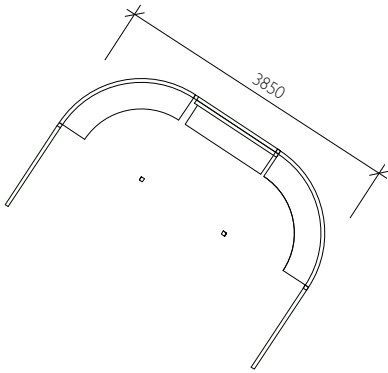
The benches of the fireplace can double as open shelves for storage of firewood.

Characteristics:

- Defined space / Enclosure: ● ● ● ● ●
- Private / Intimate space: ● ● ● ● ○
- Social / Welcoming space: ● ○ ○ ○ ○
- Weather protection: ● ● ● ○ ○
- Distance between facing visitors: Approx. 3 m.
- Corresponding proxemics zone: Social space

SWIM SAFE

CHANGING ROOM / SHELTERED SEATINGS



SCALE 1:100





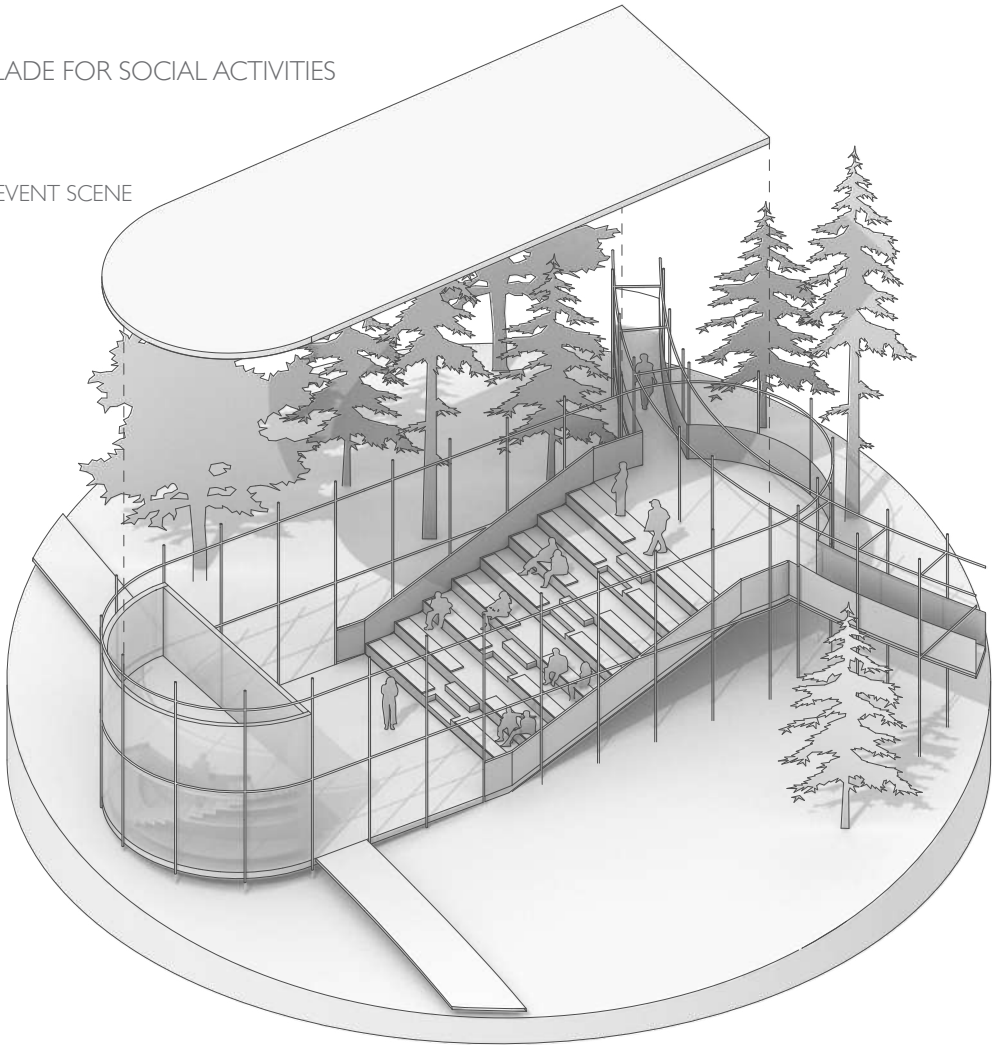
## A GLADE FOR SOCIAL EVENTS

In the middle of the main path the forest opens up slightly to a glade with spaces for bigger gatherings and social events, a public space within the forest. Here is roof covered tiered seatings for events such as outdoor cinema, theatre or outdoor teaching. A fiberglass-cladded building serves as a weather protected shelter, a preparation room before events, as a shared library for the community and a possible overnight stay. Two fireplaces are also located here and are of a size that can hold bigger gatherings, one being open and the other cladded in fiberglass.

Both the tiered seatings and the fire places being in close connection to the paths invites passersby to become part of happenings and facilitates interaction. The two structures cladded in fibreglass light up at night when in use, like glowing lanterns in the forest, clearly showing that an activity is taking place.

## A GLADE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### THE EVENT SCENE



#### Description:

Along the path is an open structure with tiered seatings connecting the main path to the lifted secondary path. Here events such as outdoor cinema, theatre, outdoor teaching etc. can be held.

The closed building clad in fibreglass connected to it can be used as a meeting place when the weather is bad, as a storage and preparation room before events (e.g. a theatre performance) and functions as a shared library for the community with open shelves to exchange books. There's also the possibility to use the loft as an overnight stay.

#### Characteristics:

Defined space / Enclosure:



Private / Intimate space:



Social / Welcoming space:



Weather protection:

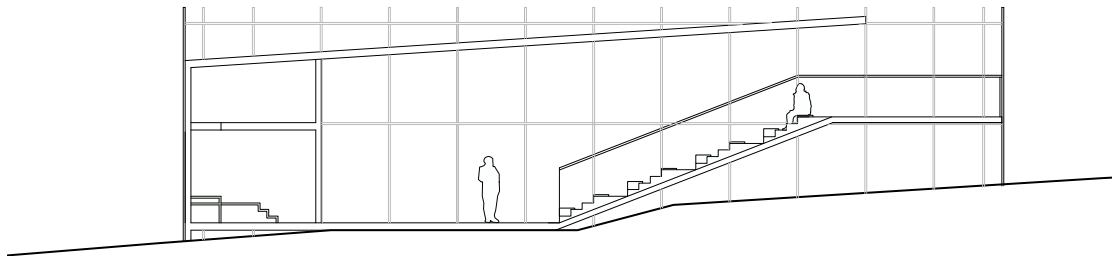
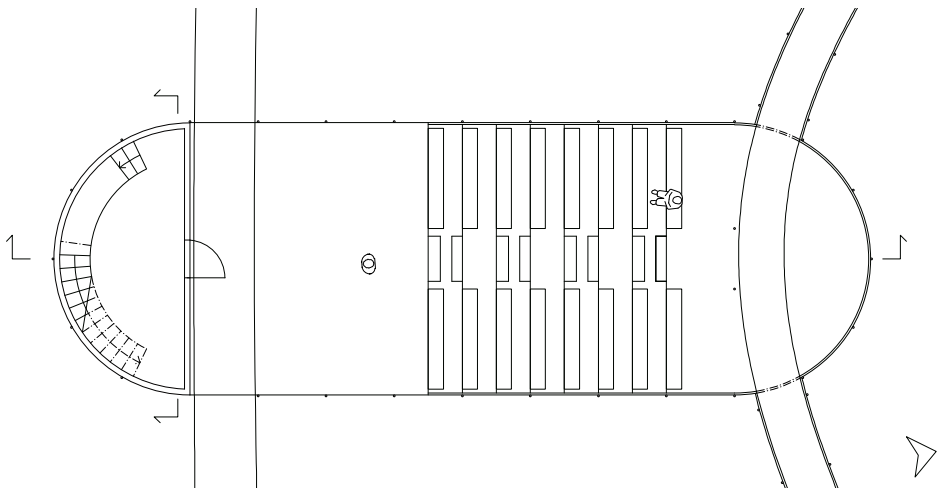
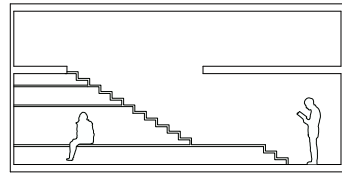


Proxemics zone:

Public space

A GLADE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

THE EVENT SCENE



SCALE 1:200

## A GLADE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### MEETINGS OVER A FIRE



#### Description:

Two fireplaces are placed along the main path. The open fireplace extends over the path making it easy for people walking along the it to interact with people sitting by the fireplace. There are extra seats making it possible to hold bigger gatherings and community events. Next to it is a second weather protected one. It is clad in fibreglass making into a glowing lantern when in use, visible from the main path as well as the secondary. It is connected with openings both to the fireplace as well as to the path to facilitate interaction between different groups of people.

#### Characteristics:

Defined space / Enclosure:



Private / Intimate space:



Social / Welcoming space:



Weather protection:



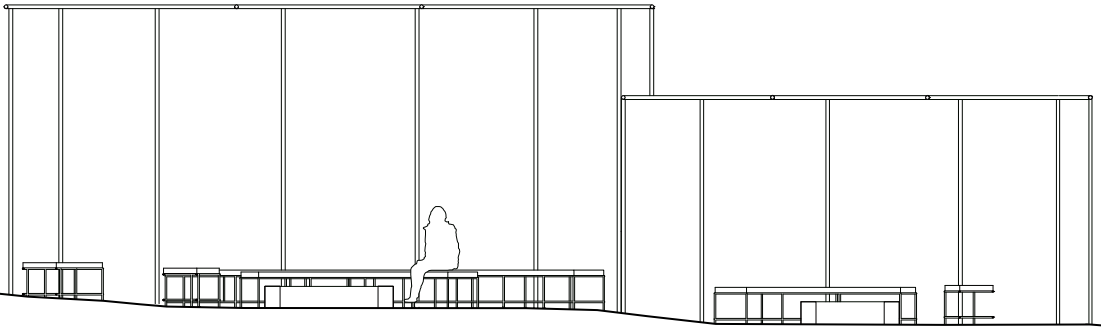
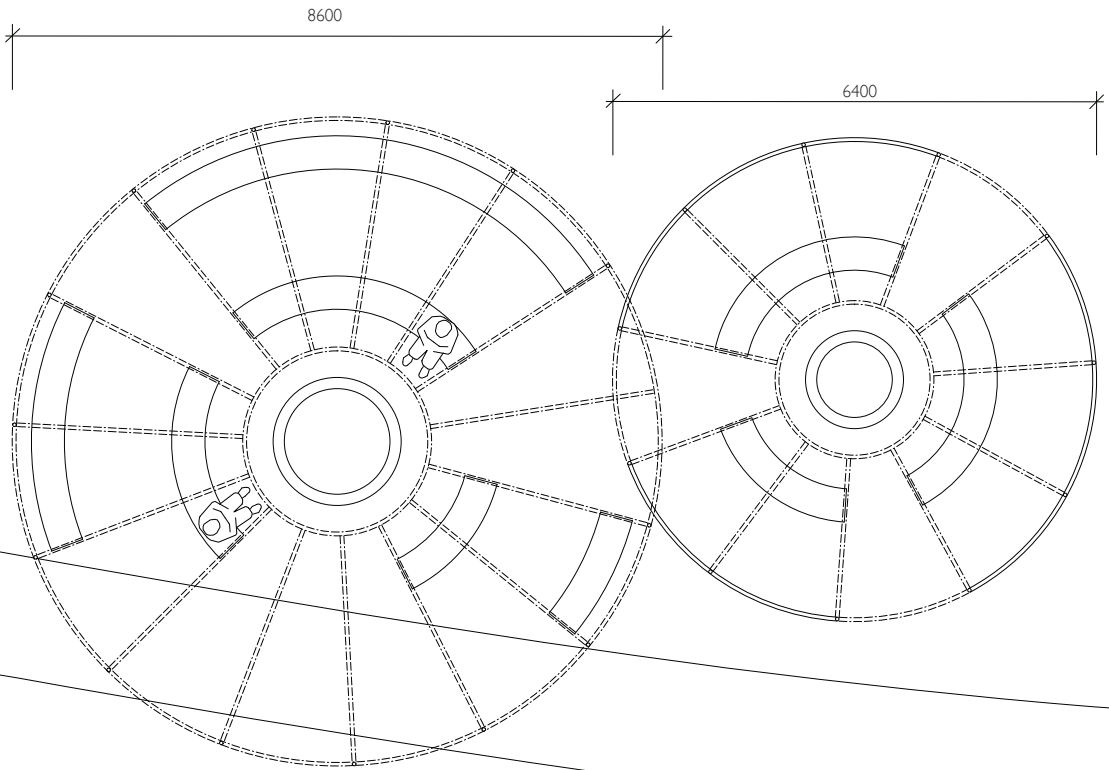
Proxemics zone:

Public space



A GLADE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS OVER A FIRE



SCALE 1:100



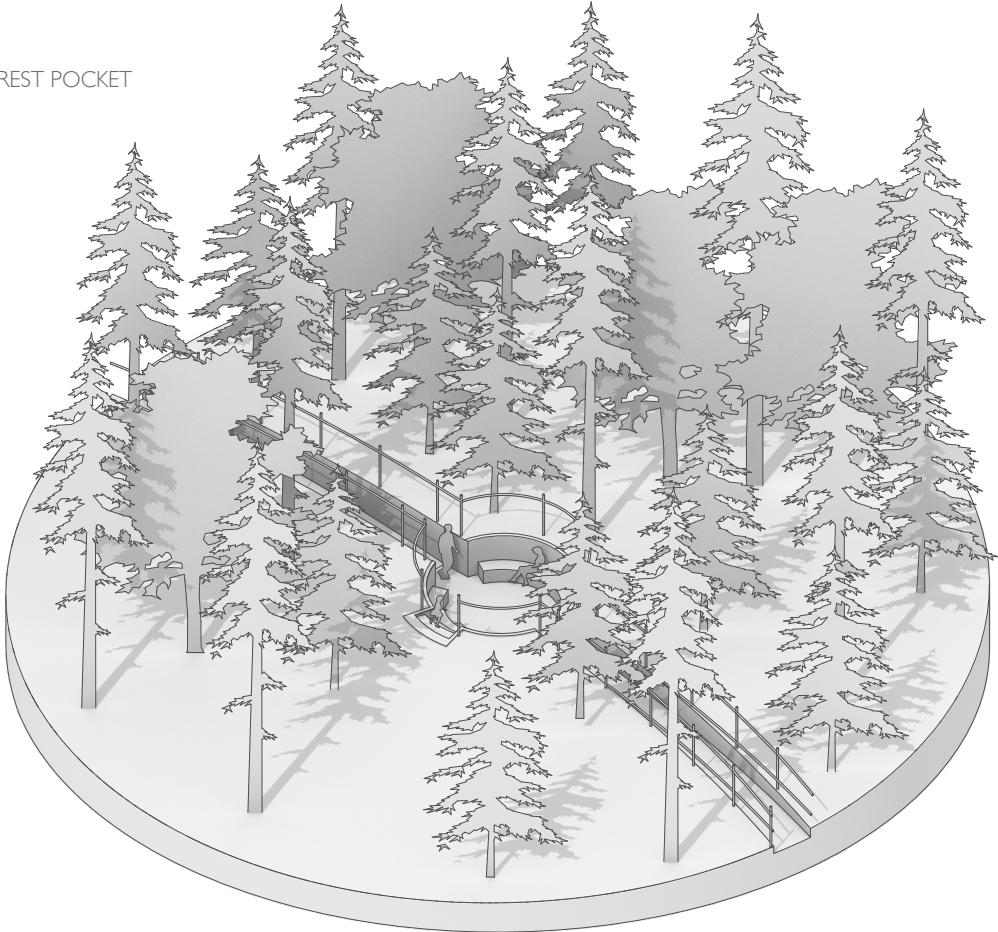
## VIEWING THE FOREST DIFFERENTLY

The area worked with is a sloping area and this has been taken advantage of in the secondary path to give new experiences of the forest and to make a visitor more aware of the surroundings. By letting the path sink into the ground in the north east a visitor is lead to a small sunken pocket in the forest. Here you can sit down and really get close to the ground and smell it. From there the path does not descend as quickly as the topography making a visitor end up at the top of the tiered seating. From there the path is completely horizontal but as the topography changes the path ends up being 9 meters above ground, making a visitor come close to the tree tops and once again views the forest from a new perspective.



## VIEWING THE FOREST DIFFERENTLY

### A FOREST POCKET



#### Description:

With the path lowered into the ground a visitor gets closer to the ground and can be made aware of things otherwise not noticed, such as the smell of the forest ground, the texture of the moss or the hectic life of ants. At its deepest point, roughly 1.1 meters below ground is a small pocket with seatings, before the path gradually is back on ground level because of the sloping topography. Here a seated adult is on eye level with the ground. The stair leading up from the pocket to encourage further exploration in the forest, can be used by children to achieve this as well. The seats being turned towards the path and the opposite seats may facilitate interaction between strangers.

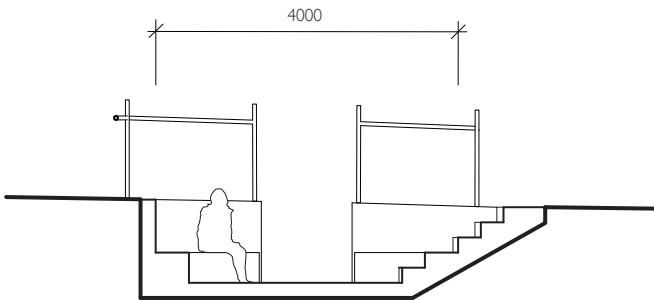
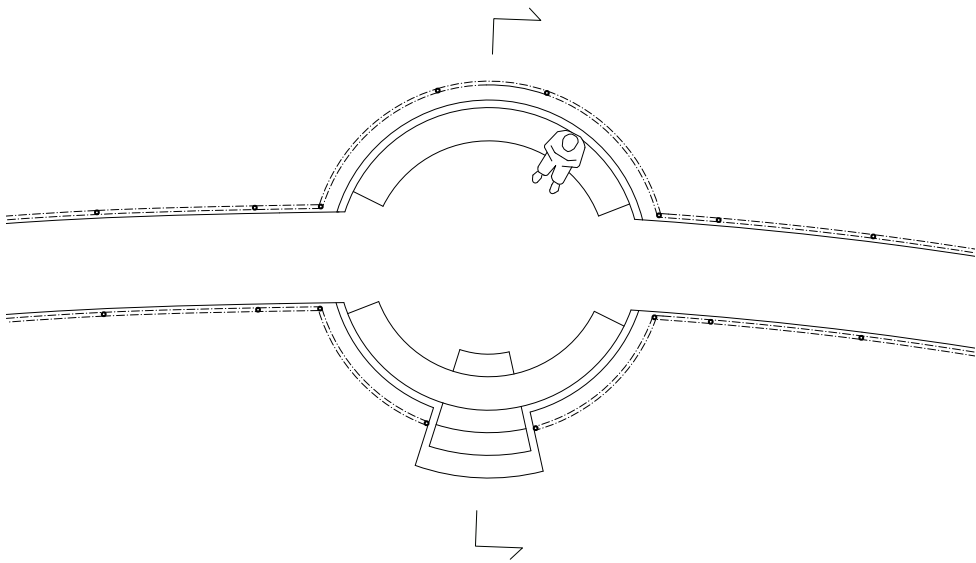
#### Characteristics:

Defined space / Enclosure:	● ● ● ○ ○
Private / Intimate space:	● ● ○ ○ ○
Social / Welcoming space:	● ● ● ○ ○
Weather protection:	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Distance between facing visitors:	Approx. 3.6 m
Corresponding proxemics zone:	Social/public space



VIEWING THE FOREST DIFFERENTLY

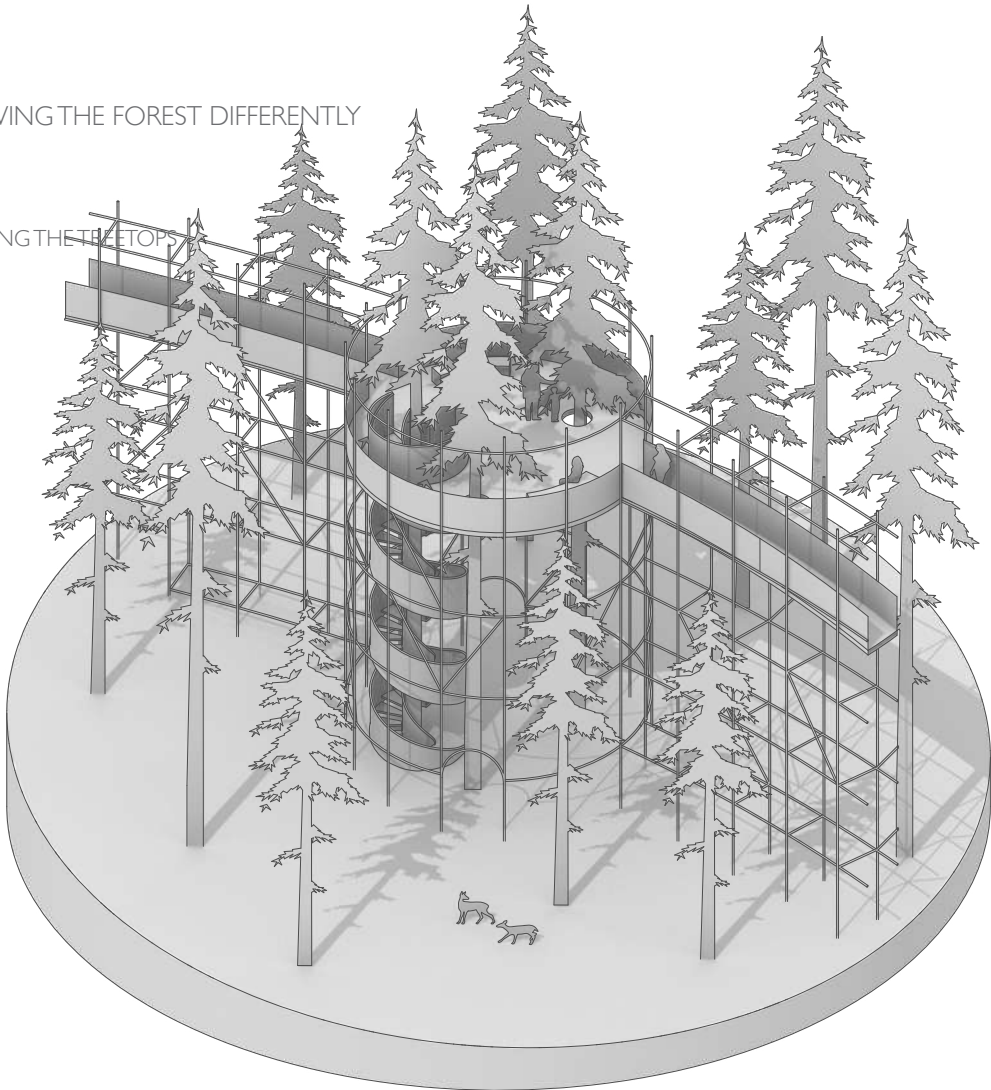
A FOREST POCKET



SCALE 1:100

VIEWING THE FOREST DIFFERENTLY

AMONG THE TREE TOPS



Description:

Roughly 9 meters above ground the secondary path is at its highest before its ascends back to ground level. Here visitors are able to get close to the tree tops in a way they usually can not. The forest at this particular point is an open coniferous forest with solely tall spruces.

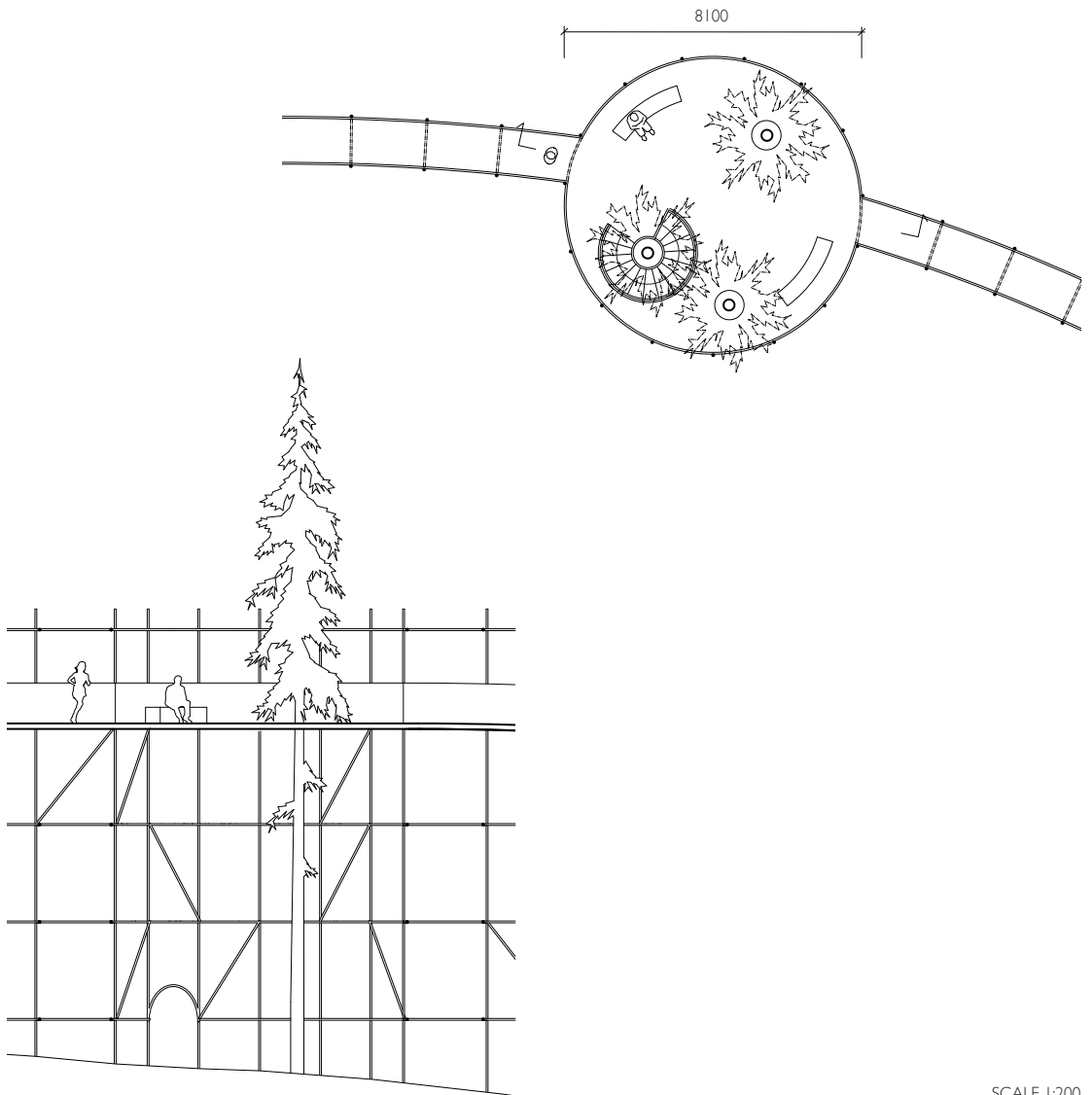
Taking a seat at one of the two benches a visitor can choose to face outwards towards the forest view or inwards towards the path and the opposite bench. A stair gives a quick access to ground level and for personal explorations in the forest, leaving the path.

Characteristics:

- Defined space / Enclosure: ● ● ○ ○ ○
- Private / Intimate space: ● ● ○ ○ ○
- Social / Welcoming space: ● ● ● ○ ○
- Weather protection: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
- Distance between facing visitors: Approx. 6.4 m.
- Corresponding proxemics zone: Public space

VIEWING THE FOREST DIFFERENTLY

AMONG THE TREETOPS



SCALE 1:200





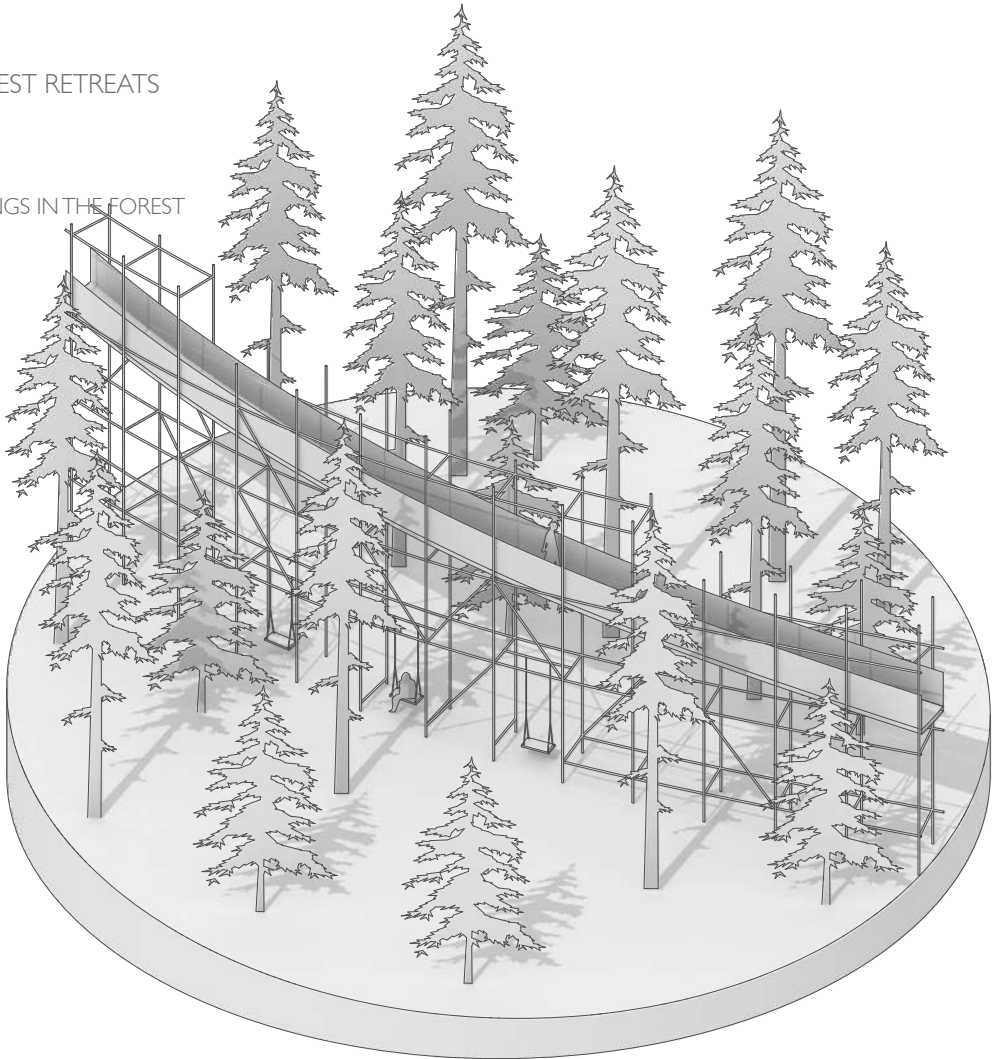


## FOREST RETREATS

Along the secondary path are spaces for those seeking more privacy but still in safe connection to the path. These three types of spaces vary in size, privacy and exposure allowing for visitors to find a spot suitable for their needs. A shelter is placed right at the border where the spruces abruptly stop and a birch and aspen forest starts, giving two completely different views depending on which way a visitor faces. Spaced out swings are placed under the path in a part of the forest with large trees. Lastly two intimate spaces are placed under the path overlooking the open birch tree area and the start of the main path.

## FOREST RETREATS

### SWINGS IN THE FOREST



#### Description:

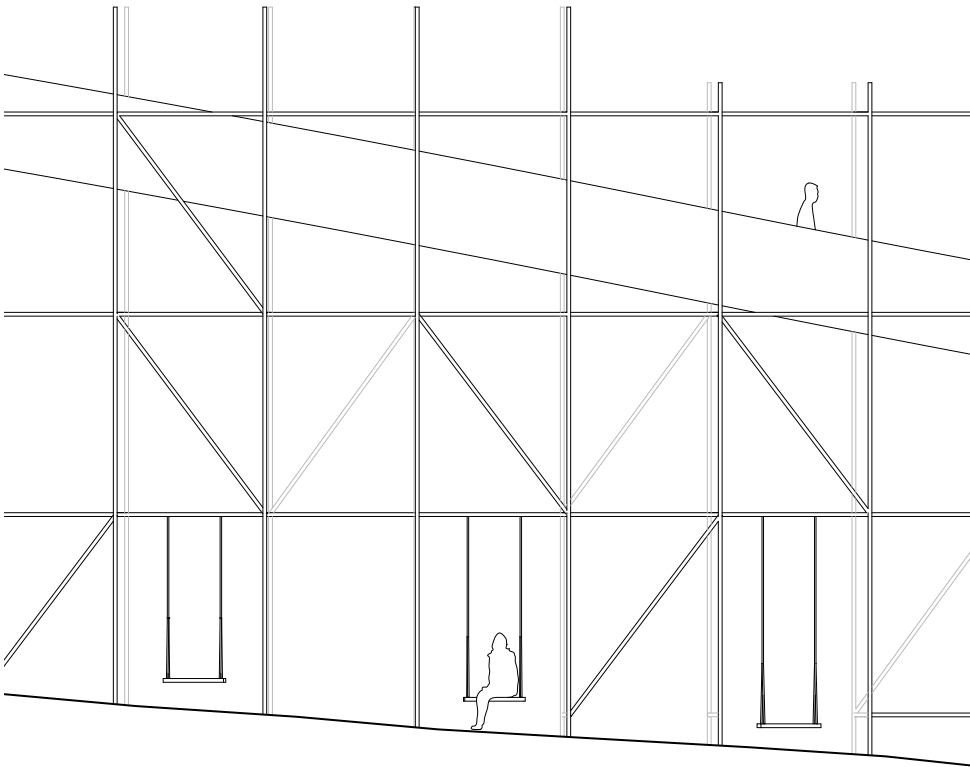
Placed under the path as it descends down from the tree top lookout, are three seatings in the form of swings. The swings being spaced out makes sure no one can come and sit too close to a visitor if they want privacy. Not having to use walls to define the private space, the visitor is able to take in the whole surroundings. However the swings are wide enough to let two close friends share it comfortably.

#### Characteristics:

Defined space / Enclosure:	● ● ● ● ●
Private / Intimate space:	● ○ ○ ○ ○
Social / Welcoming space:	● ● ● ● ○
Weather protection:	● ● ● ● ●
Distance between visitors:	2.2 m, not facing.
Corresponding proxemics zone:	Social space

FOREST RETREATS

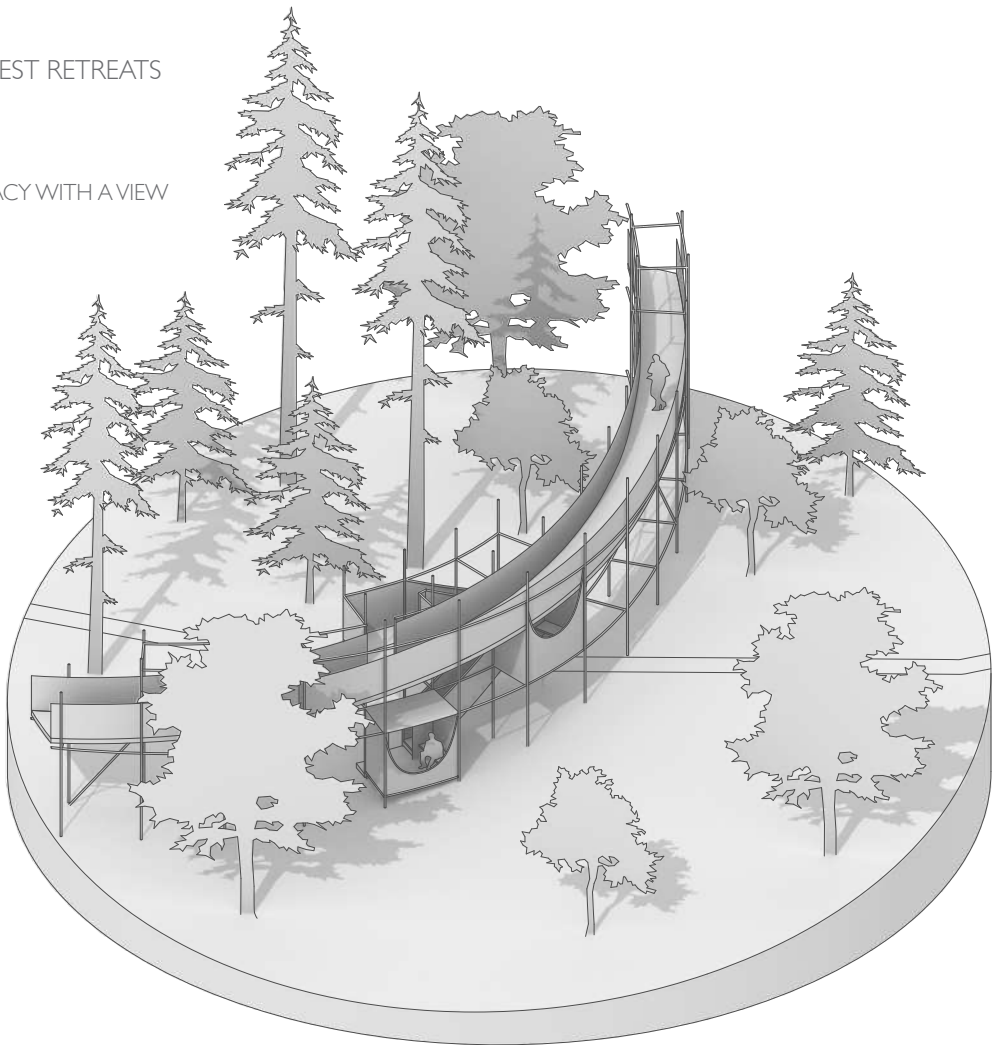
SWINGS IN THE FOREST



SCALE 1:100

FOREST RETREATS

PRIVACY WITH A VIEW



Description:

Under the east part of the secondary path, two intimate rooms are created on top of the hill, overlooking the open birch area and the eastern start of the main path and Karolinerleden. The two rooms are created within the construction and can be seen from below the hill creating an interest for those unfamiliar with it. These small spaces are intimate and are unlikely to be entered by a stranger if already occupied, making them good places for people wanting privacy but with a high sense of security thanks to the enclosure and the overview.

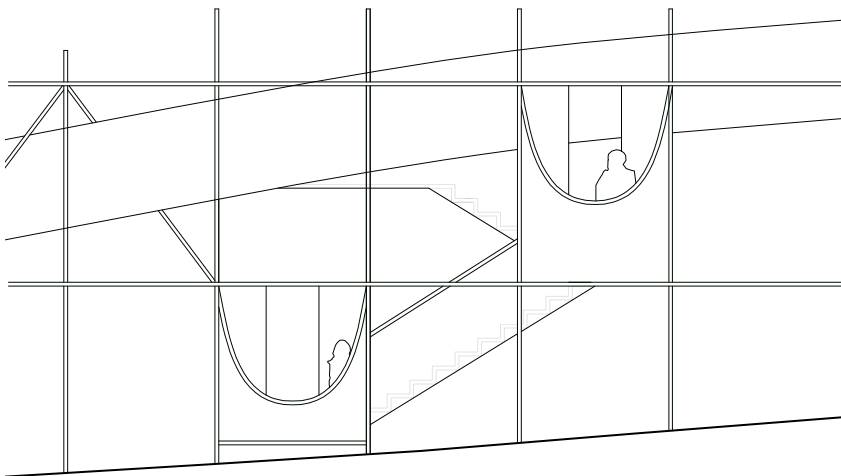
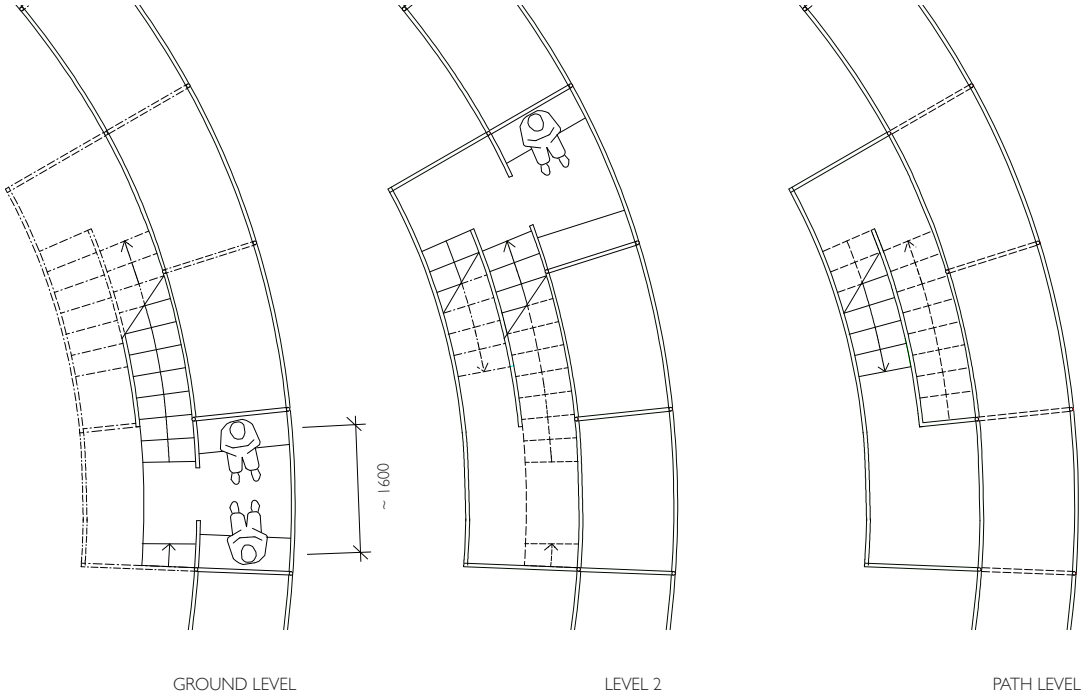
Characteristics:

- Defined space / Enclosure: ● ● ● ● ●
- Private / Intimate space: ● ○ ○ ○ ○
- Social / Welcoming space: ● ● ● ● ○
- Weather protection: ● ● ● ● ●
- Distance between facing visitors: Approx. 1.6 m.
- Corresponding proxemics zone: Social space



# FOREST RETREATS

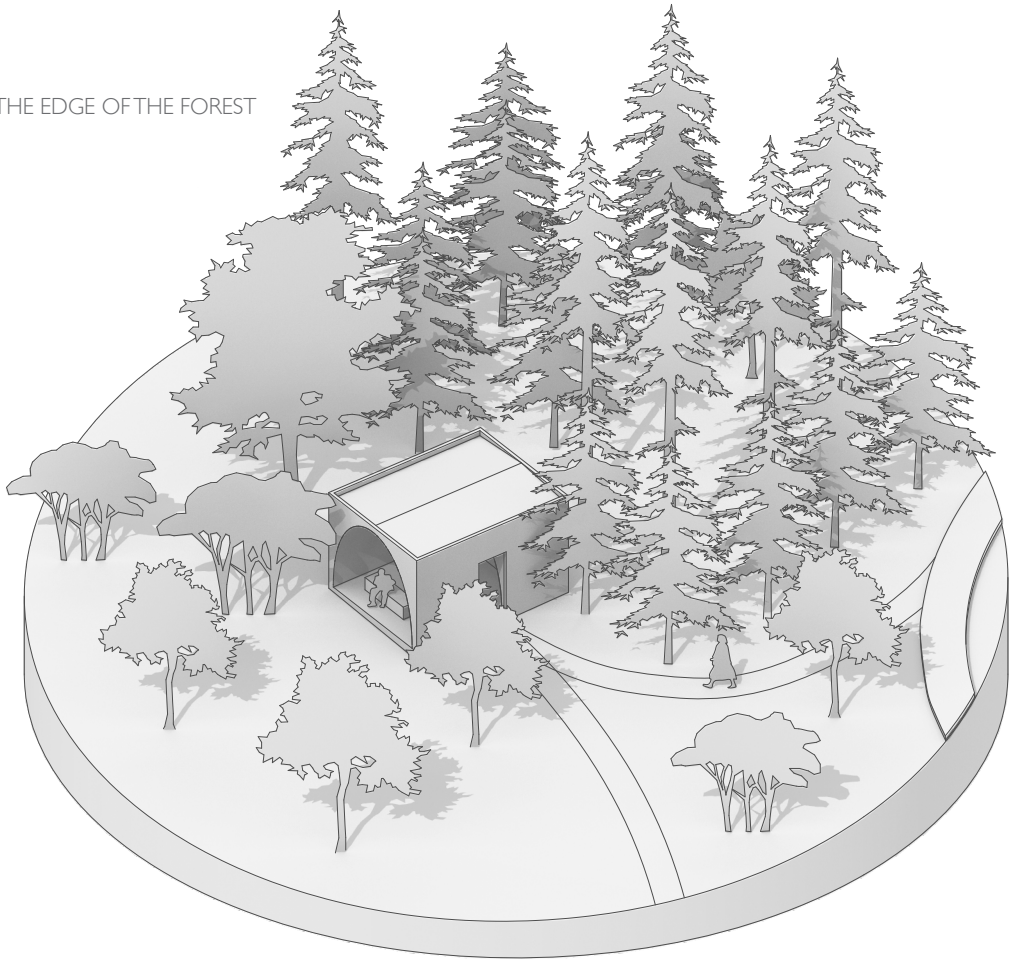
## PRIVACY WITH A VIEW



SCALE 1:100

## FOREST RETREATS

### AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST



#### Description:

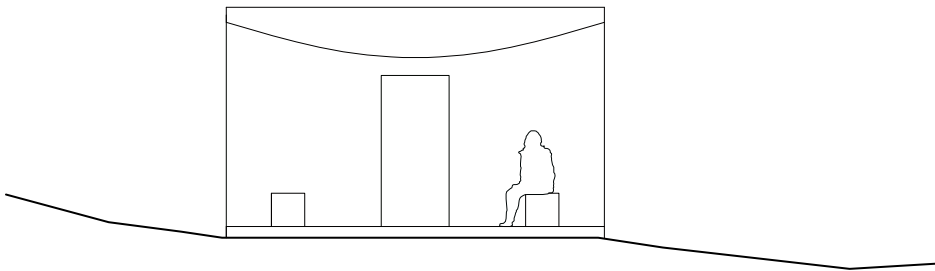
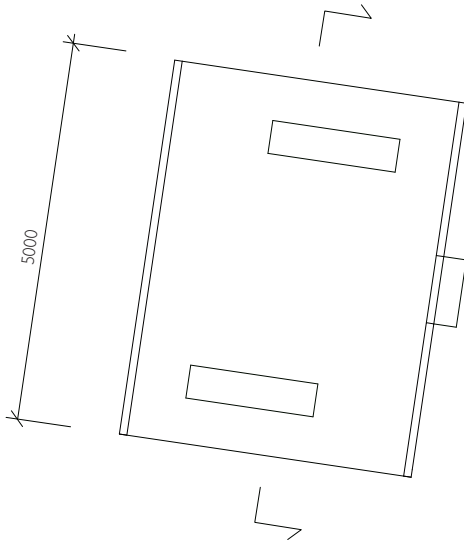
To the south, where the dense mixed forest abruptly stops and gives way to a birch and aspen forest, a weather protected shelter is placed. The shelter frames two completely different views depending on which way a visitor chooses to face, highlighting the change in landscape and light. A third choice, apart from turning towards the leaf trees or turning towards the dense mixed forest is to turn towards the other bench. This makes the space possible for both intimate conversations next to someone or talking to someone further away.

#### Characteristics:

Defined space / Enclosurement:	● ● ● ● ● ●
Private / Intimate space:	● ● ● ○ ○
Social / Welcoming space:	● ● ● ○ ○
Weather protection:	● ● ● ● ● ●
Distance between facing visitors:	Approx. 3.3 m.
Corresponding proxemics zone:	Social space

FOREST RETREATS

AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST



SCALE 1:100

## DIFFERENT PLACES FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS

### SIZE

Size can help determine what can of interaction that can take place in a space. A small space may feel private whereas a big space can be welcoming for newcomers.

- Alone/small company
- Small group (4-10 people)
- Gatherings (10+ people)

### EXPOSURE

Exposure here stands for how exposed/unsheltered or how protected/safe a visitor is in the forest.

- Protected
- Semi-exposed
- Exposed

### PRIVACY

Privacy here is a determination of how strongly visitors can 'take ownership' of a particular space if seclusion is wanted.

- Private
- Less private
- Open

### VIEWING ABILITIES

The views given while seated in the different spaces.

- Viewing nature
- Choice of view
- Facing other people
- Directed attention

### WEATHER PROTECTION

To which degree the seatings are weather protected.

- Protected
- Semi-protected
- Unprotected

	SIZE	EXPOSURE	PRIVACY	VIEWING ABILITIES	WEATHER PROTECTION
SWINGS IN THE FOREST	●	●	●	●	●
PRIVACY WITH A VIEW	●	●	●	●	●
FOREST POCKET	●	●	●	●	●
AMONG THE TREE TOPS	●	●	●	●	●
AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST	●	●	●	●	●
EVENT SCENE	●	●	●	●	●
OPEN FIREPLACE	●	●	●	●	●
SHELTERED FIREPLACE	●	●	●	●	●
THE SWIMMING AREA	●	●	●	●	●









SECTION MODEL - AMONG THE TREE TOPS





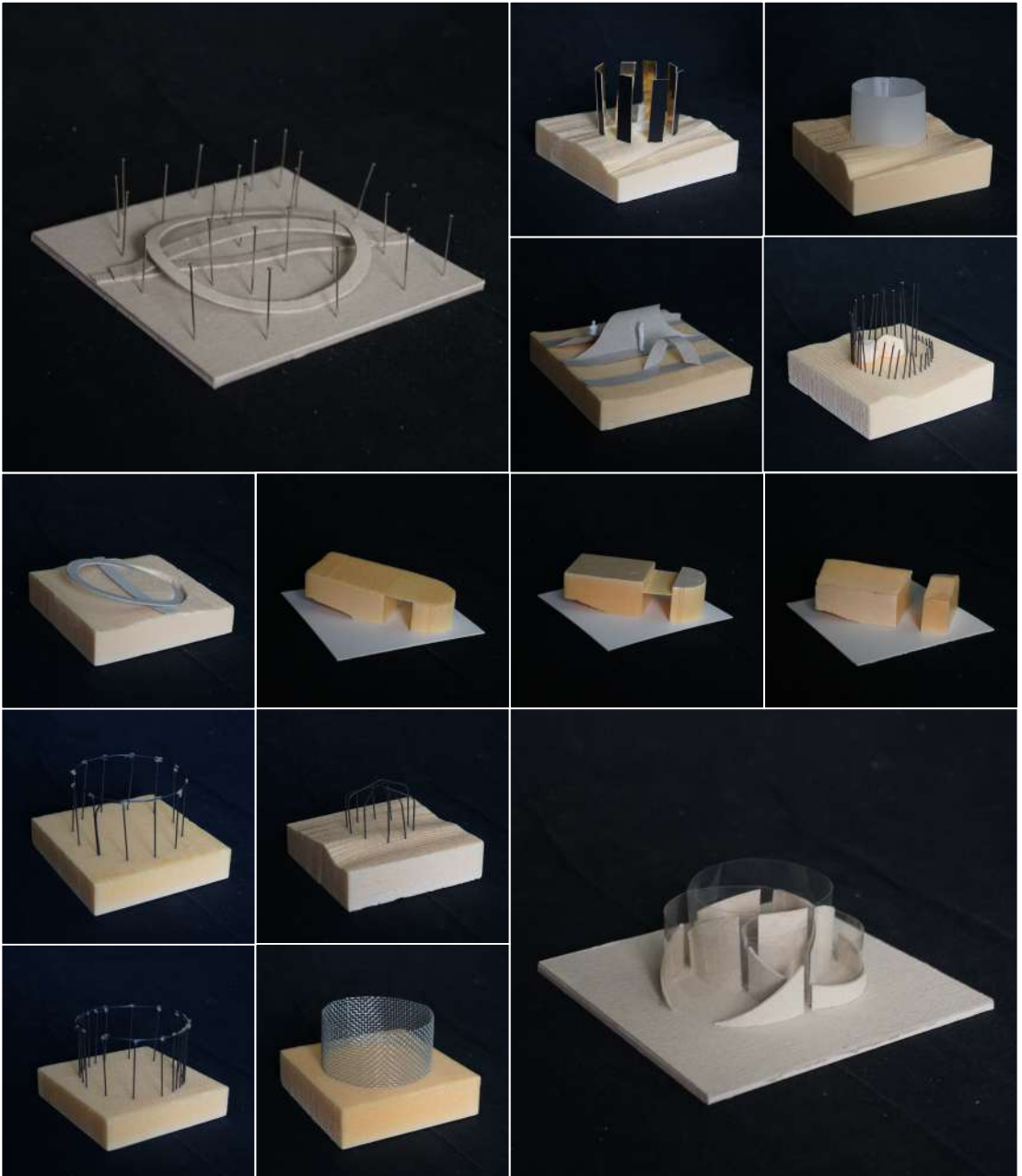




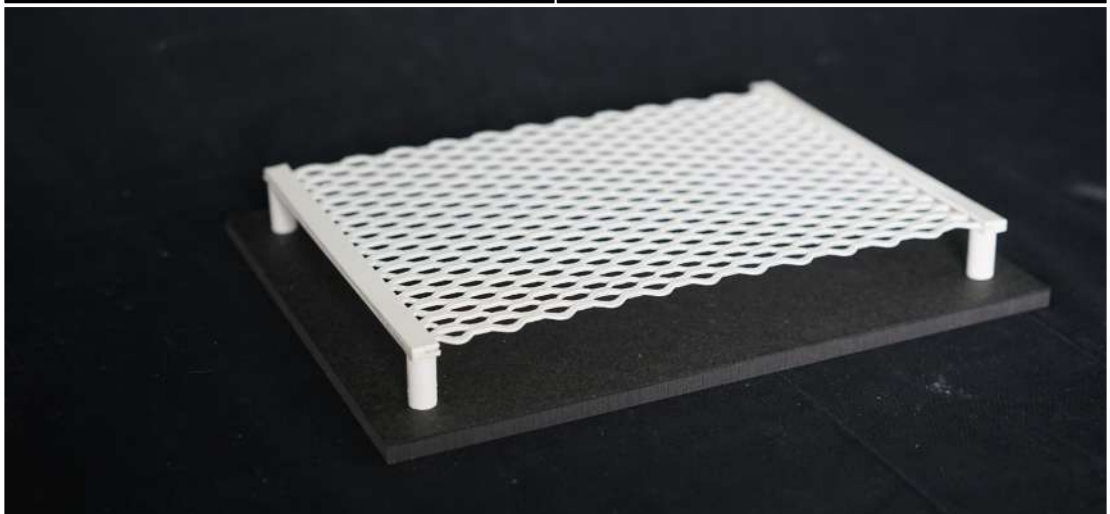
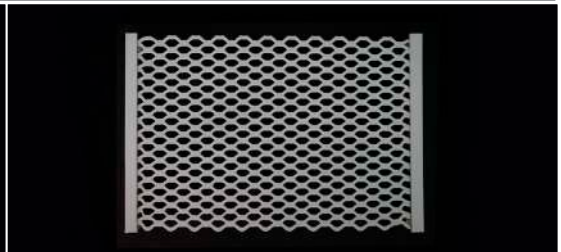
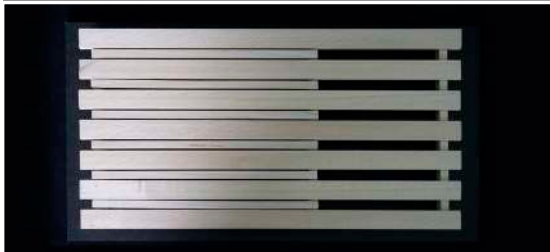
MODEL - THE FIREPLACE



SKETCH MODELS



PATH MODELS







## CONCLUSIONS

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REFLECTIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHY



## REFLECTIONS

*Into the woods* has for me been about combining things important to me in life. Nature and architecture but with a social relevance, something that aspire to be more than just 'nice'. My proposal is not the only way to deal with this issue, it is one possible alternative that evolved to what it is during this semester. If there had been more time, the end result might have looked differently. But rather than discussing appearance, I hope that this master thesis leads to a discussion about what integration could mean in architectural terms. I hope it can raise questions about who has access to our public spaces in Sweden. Rooms that we might consider open to all may in fact be closed for some, and this is important to keep in mind as an architect, even in completely different projects. From working with this project I have created a toolbox for myself when thinking about how to facilitate meetings between people and how to think of accessibility, which will be applicable in future projects as well.

My research questions at the start of this project were:  
*How can architecture make more people use the forest as a qualitative space for being alone as well as for social activities?*  
*How can architecture facilitate meetings between people?*  
*What kind of designs are needed to make people with different backgrounds feel comfortable in unfamiliar environments, in this case the forest?*

These questions do not have short answers, but I hope that my project can be one answer to those. By creating a space in the forest that clearly signalizes that this is a place to spend time a visitor can feel safe while simultaneously gains knowledge and gets familiarized with the forest. Once that foundation has been laid I think the step, physically and mentally, to enjoy the "untouched" nature is remarkably smaller.

Nature is a big part of the Swedish culture, in the sense of individual experiences but also undeniably socially by being in the forest together or talking about it. It is a common ground which a majority shares. Apart from actual meetings in the forest, creating a framework for people to safely build up associations and a connection to the forest will lead to an easier understanding of that cultural part as well. Making people able to join those discussions at a workplace or similar is something which is mentioned in the reports informing this project.

When talking about my project interesting discussions have always happened. One man talked a long time about how he has asylum seekers as neighbours but he never sees them. So one way of facilitating meetings is simply to make people see each other. Intersecting main paths, the ability to see when events are happening, benches that are facing other benches or paths are simply all versions of that. And lastly, to feel comfortable in an unfamiliar environment two main aspects (among others) are related to that: other people and orientation.

My claim starting this project was:

*Nature, being a big part of the public space in Sweden, should be treated as such; as a place where people are able to meet on equal terms. An architectural addition on a forest site next to an asylum housing in a small countryside community can help enable that and at the same time have a positive effect on individuals (e.g. feeling safe in an unfamiliar forest) and the collective (through a shared social space).*

And I still hold that to be true.

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## IMAGE INDEX

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p. 9: Rintala Eggertsson Architects, (2011) [Digital image]. available: <http://www.ri-eg.com/projects/2011/arboretum/>

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