

A THOUGHT OF A NEW PLACE TO INTERACT

Master Thesis in Landscape Architecture, 30 hp

Självständigt arbete vid LTJ-fakulteten, SLU

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to propose ideas for a new urban square, questioning how to 'land' to the area and start up a space in a transforming city structure. Discussing what are the possibilities of creating a new place to interact and generating the energy at the place to prompt people to use it.

To approach this matter, the thesis first looks at theory and investigates public life on three existing squares in Malmö. The preference to work with the squares came because they are considered one of the main elements in the city that support active use of urban fabric. In order to add a new functioning place to the network, an understanding of the characteristics of the present squares is necessary. The resulting knowledge can be helpful in making proposals for the new square.

Although proposals could take place on any site, the execution will be done in Norra Sorgenfri. It is currently one of the new development areas in Malmö. The Malmö city's position is that urban life should be introduced before the built structure. This is a different approach, as in a traditional planning process, it would be the other way around. Thus, the challenge is how to create the triggering energy that could bring people there in the first place, while the development is at a start-up stage!

To approach this challenge, the thesis investigates a design principle called urban acupuncture. The method is seen as a response to the time consuming urban planning process, where the idea is to create energy with quick design solutions. It focuses solely on the place and how the emerging public use will further spread to the surrounding area and live it up!

The thesis does not want to give any final solution for the resulting square. It rather starts the discussion of how one could approach the space that should become a new public square without the assistance of any external built structure. In addition, generating in its essence public life and evoke the knowledge of the place. The execution at the place is presented through different proposals, relating to the theoretical research, spatial observation and personal interpretation.

KEYWORDS: Public life, Square, Urban design, Urban acupuncture, Interaction, New space and place

PREFACE

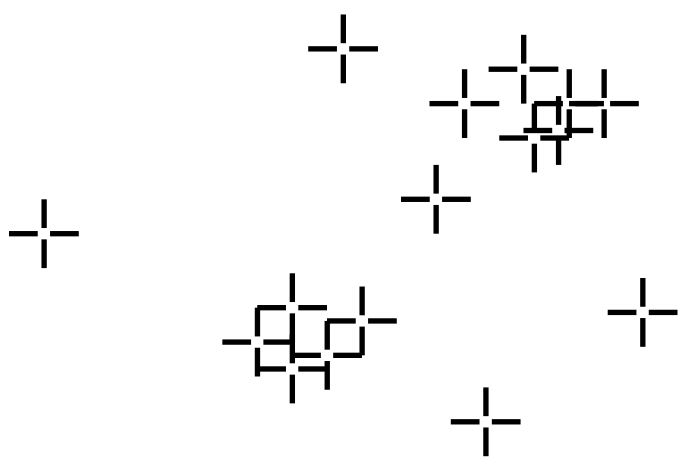
The inspiration to work with public places and find the essence of the main energy that drives people to use them came from a visit to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen, Denmark. There was an exhibition called 'Green Architecture for the Future'. Some of the displayed projects talked about instant energy creation at the place using urban acupuncture. This was my first introduction to this urban planning/design terminology. City acupuncture was presented as a new alternative tool for establishing today's urban fabric and activating public life. Inspired by that, I asked: 'What is energy in the public space?' Is it created by the spatial structure, people, location, connections or maybe something else? 'A thought of a new place to interact' is a work that wants to discuss the possibilities of establishing lively public life and public places. How does space in the city become something and how does it change according to the transformation of the urban structure?

When to think about the city, it has a variety of ways to stimulate the citizens. Still, what creates the positive tension at a place and prompts people to go there? Could it be some kind of external or internal matter that evokes energy? To get some idea about that, I think it is important to understand the nature of the place and at the same time to reflect on what are or could be the tools to establish essence there!

This thesis is not trying to say that the previous methods of creating public spaces are out of date and should be replaced. The latter could be seen, for example, when Modernism rejected traditional practice and replaced it with a new approach. It is about analyzing, asking questions, discussing, getting knowledge and reflecting on what could help create a pleasant and functioning public space, combined with the existing knowledge and experience.

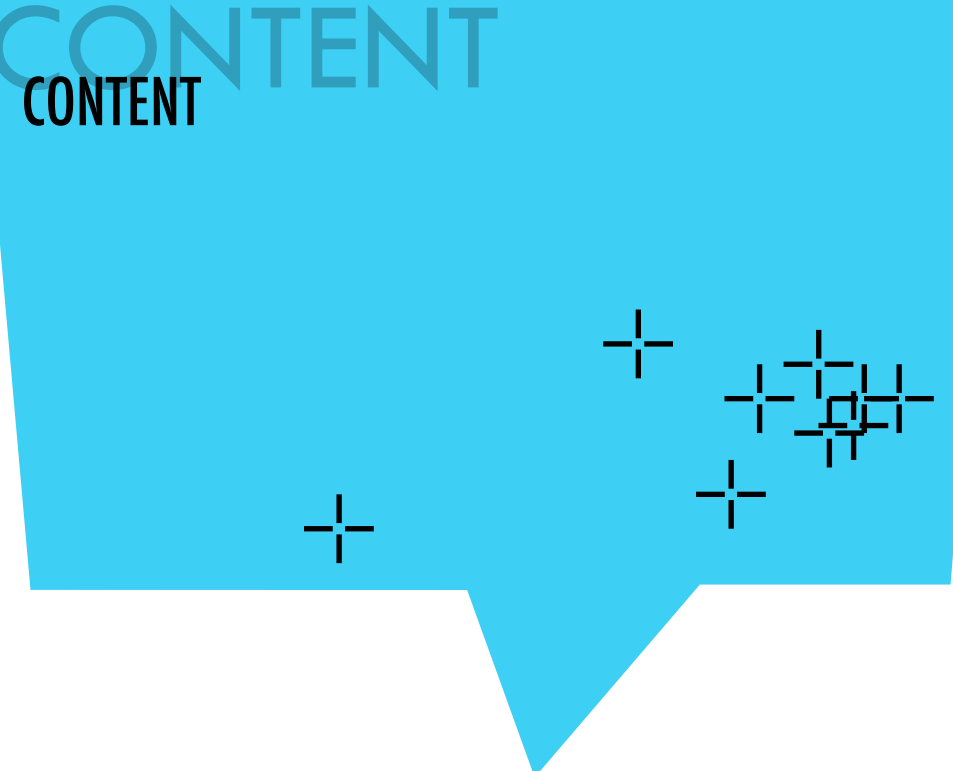
The work is not about giving final answers and solutions. I see it more as the start of a discussion and groundwork of how to approach changes and needs in contemporary urban fabric. The made proposals are not fixed solutions, but triggers for a further detailed development.

*Urbanism is to be lived today and
thus must be judged according to
today's needs and aesthetics
(Camillo Sitte', 2010-02-05)*



I would like to thank my supervisors Mats Lieberg and Martin Arfalk who have been quiding me throughout the process of writing the thesis and supporting me with different inputs and recommendations.

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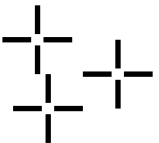
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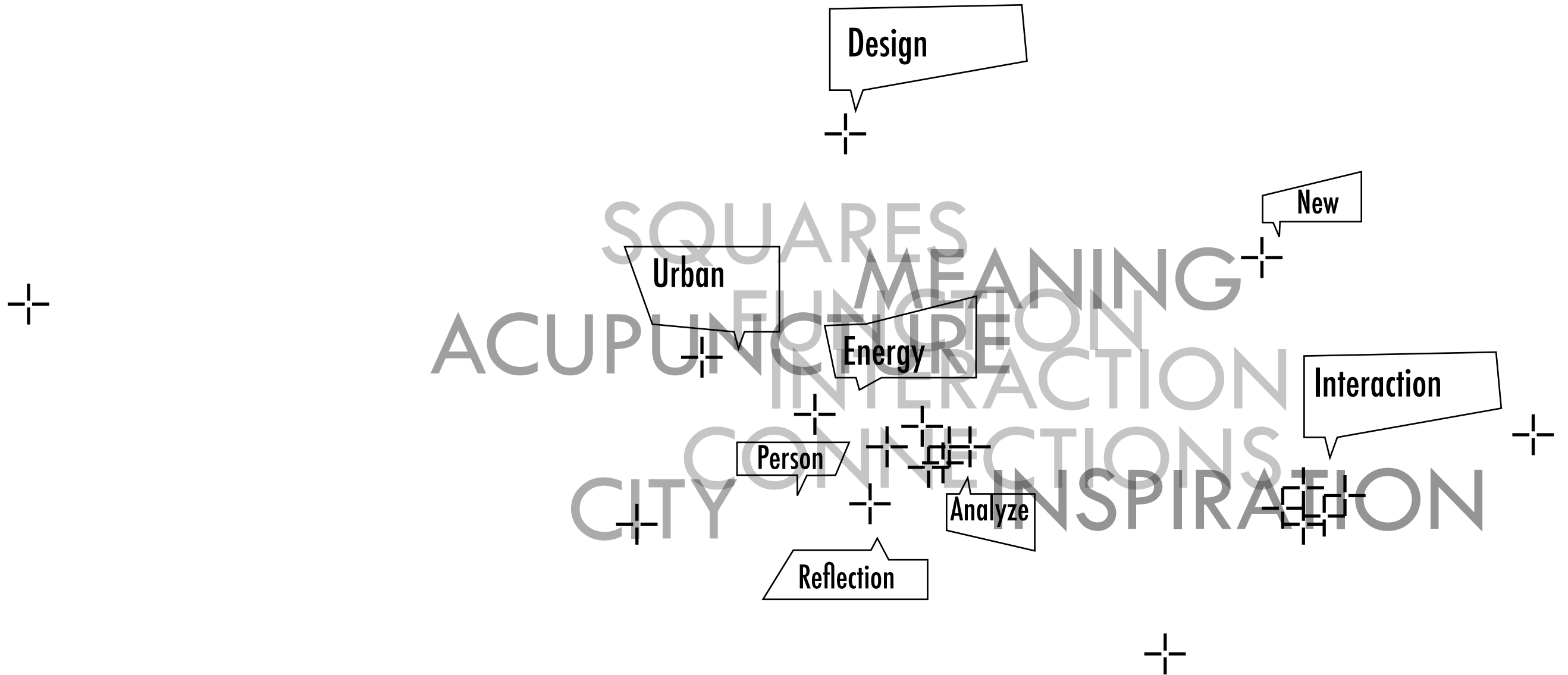
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INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

_BACKGROUND

_THE OBJECTIVE

How does space change according to the transformations that take place in a city structure? How does space turn into a new place for public use? It depends partly on how urban fabric changes through different processes. Urban planning and design are the main tools of organizing this built environment. Trying to respond to the spatial needs and new driving interests on society.

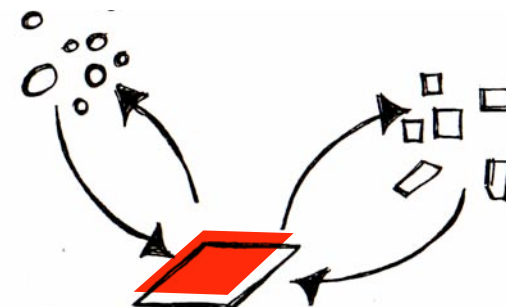
In the thesis, I am interested in squares, that are seen as one of the main actors which lay the foundation for the public life in our towns (Moughtin, 1992, p.1). Even though there are many aspects that could be discussed under this topic, I will narrow it down into some limits. The first question been asked, then I am interested in how a new square could be established in a changing urban structure. It could happen in a new development or neglected area that needs to have a public space, or take place on already existing one. Thus the

context does not have the biggest importance, but the idea how one space becomes a place for public use. At the same time, it is also an attempt to respond to the situation where long-term urban planning is the basis for design activity. Even though a devised urban plan is necessary for a well-functioning city, it is often criticized because of the long process (Breuer, 1994, p.16). In order to handle these time-consuming situations, I will look into a method called urban acupuncture. It is implemented as a quick design solution at the place, vitalizing public life through, so to say, energy injection. Jaime Lerner ('Jaime Lerner', 2009-09-07), an architect and former Curitiba mayor in Brazil, is one of the introducers of the method. He says that the planning process slows down the emergence of new sites and it can't respond to the current spatial needs. However, this could be solved with the fast approach of urban acupuncture. ('Jaime Lerner sings of the city', 2007 March)

The spatial investigation and proposed design ideas are taking place in **MALMÖ CITY**. During the last years the town has grown in terms of population. It means that the city has to take different steps to develop according to the needs of its citizens. This has placed high pressure on the urban planning and the expansion of public facilities. According to the overview plan, it is pointed out that the city needs more attractive public spaces, routes, activities and institutions where citizens can interact and meet each other (Malmö City Planning Office, 2006 Feb.).

One of such new urban planning transformation is currently under way in **NORRA SORGENFRI**. I will be using this as an execution area for my proposals. It is an old industrial territory that will be given a new appearance and functions. According to the vision, Norra Sorgenfri will be an amalgamated part of the inner city which connects eastern Malmö with the city center. According to the city vision, the public life and public spaces (streets, squares, parks) should be introduced before the built environment. (Malmö City Planning Office, 2008 Oct.) From this perspective, the process sequence is interesting. Looking at the traditional planning processes, the public space is established together with the buildings or afterwards, but in this case it is the other way around! Hence, this could mean that there is a need to apply a new approach for designing an urban square. The more traditional way has different spatial preconditions for establishing a new place for citizens. In order to handle this planning approach, I will use the urban acupuncture method.

The **OBJECTIVE** of this work is to propose visual ideas for a new urban square and to ask how to 'land' into the area and develop a new space? The place of execution of the ideas will be Norra Sorgenfri, where I will discuss what could be the possible ways of creating a new place to interact and generating energy at the place to prompt people to come there.



The objective (red): new place, a square, to interact!

THE QUESTIONS REACH TO THE DESIGN

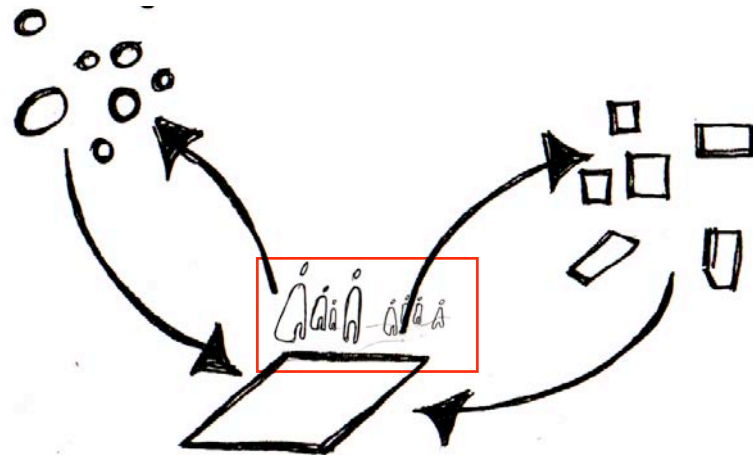
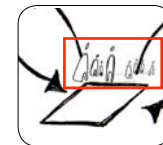
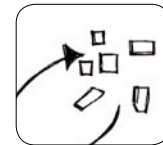
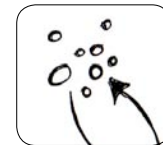
The **QUESTIONS** that I focus in the study process are:

Localization:	How are different squares positioned in the public network system?
Connection:	What are the possibilities of going to the place?
Function:	How and why is the square used (public life)? What is the program on the square (physical aspects)?

To **REACH TO THE DESIGN** of the study by presenting proposals, I will go back in steps. I will try to understand the definition of urban square and urban acupuncture and the theory of space or place creating. I will also look at different squares in Malmö, to use the perceived knowledge from there, when approaching the execution space.

My working process is:

1. Gathering knowledge from the literature studies and about the theory of urban acupuncture. Getting an overview of the vision program for Norra Sorgenfri.
2. I will look at different sample projects, where urban acupuncture is used as a design tool, to understand the idea's approach.
3. I will study three squares in the city of Malmö in relation to the new square. I will make a synthesis, which combines theory and spatial observations, to approach Norra Sorgenfri. I will set up the questions by looking what is the situation on the present squares and how it could be applied in a new place for interaction.
4. On the basis of the different approach possibilities, I will elaborate possible visual design proposals. Which could fulfill the time gap, meanwhile, the building process and evoke the knowledge of the place. Taking account the observations, theory, use of urban acupuncture and personal perception.



The sketch illustrates the working process:
collecting knowledge and bringing back to the place of execution

As a short introduction I will present some main concepts that has an important place in my thesis. These are the central points that are presented as a discussion base in my work. There are a lot of different approaches how they are treated in the urban or landscape design concepts. I have related them to different authors and ideas. To some of them I will turn back in the coming chapters.

Theory of SPACE and PLACE: What is 'the good city' with its structure? Moughting finds it a very subjective interpretation because there are no fixed solutions (1994, p.25). In the 'The Urban Design Reader' M.Larice and E.Macdonald also point out that the city's physical form is revised constantly. Different eras, times, geographies, and economics have given rise to this variety of urban physical forms, because people have had various theories about the best solution (2009,p 7).

When looking at the urban structure and how it is interpreted, then there is terminological question about the difference between SPACE and PLACE. This discussion is broad and there are different points of view that could be debated. I am not going to address it in depth but I find it important to mention, because it involves ideas how 'something' becomes 'something' in an urban fabric! As, for example, how a new open space could be linked to an existing network or how it becomes relevant in public life.

One of the first key thinkers about the meaning of space was Henri Lefebvre (Kitchin & Valentine, 2004). He criticized theorists who take spatiality for granted and do not see it something important for social life. According to Lefebvre, the space could be treated in three different ways: 'perceived space' as everyday social life, theoretical 'conceived space' as planners see it and 'lived space' that is created through personal imagination and experience. He sees space as something that is socially produced; it is not about physical arrangement of elements. Spatial patterns are reflections of social actions and where one can extend itself mentally and physically (Shields, 2004, p.210). Thus, space becomes something when an activity takes place there.

In his writing 'The Phenomena of Place', Christian Norberg-Schulz (2009, p.131-132) discusses the difference between space and place. According to his explanations, then the structure of the place compromises both: aspects of characteristics as well the space. Thus, places are designated by nouns such as 'forest', 'street', 'square', 'floor', 'roof', wall', grove', door', etc. It means that they are considered to be real things in their nature. Space, on the other hand, is a system of relations and prepositions. It is designated by adjectives such as 'over', 'under', 'close', 'in', 'out', 'within' etc. Finally, he adds that place is the point of departure as well the goal. The meaning of the place could be complemented with the thought by Joaquim Español 'A place is not just any place. It is a site with human vestiges...' (Español, 2007, p.144). Thus the physical space turns into a place through the presence of humans.

These thoughts connect to the urban design definition of placemaking what was introduced in the 1970's by architects and planners. The term is used to describe the process of creating squares, plazas, parks, streets and waterfronts that attract people ('Placemaking', 2009-09-18). In addition, M.Larice and E.Macdonald explain it is as a desire to make more meaningful places and defeat the globalized placelessness. Thus, it is an attempt to reinsert meaning to the place, using for example culture, history, memory, symbolism, aesthetic, beauty etc. (2009, p.151). In my work, I will refer to the theorists like W. H.Whyte, J.Gehl, D.Appleyard, A.Jakobs, who emphasize the presence of people and placemaking.

These thoughts prompt the question as to how to execute the space with physical shapes that will become into existence through humans?

URBAN SQUARE, WHAT IS THAT?

There is a wide variation how practitioners and theorists define a square. There are different standpoints from where the understanding of square is formulated. Architect, landscape architect, sociologist, economist, psychologist and so forth could form it and all of them stress some specific aspect more or less. Thus, it is possible to find overall descriptions up to very specific ones.

According to the definition of the free encyclopedia Wikipedia, the urban square can be also called town square, civic center, city square, market square, public square, plaza, Platz, piazza, place, and 'maydan'. It is an open space, which is mostly found in the hart of the traditional town and used for community gathering. It also mentions that the centrally located squares are usually surrounded by small shops and they have a hard surface that is suitable for bigger events. One of the representative feature is the fountain, well, monument, or statue in the middle of it ('Town square', 2010-03-11).

In the book 'Form and Fabrics in Landscape Architecture: a visual instruction' the landscape architect Catherine Dee (2004, p.70) says that two of the most important enclosed urban space types are squares and courtyards. In her words, the public square has a big role in the cultural, social and commercial life of the city. The success of the square is determined by the function and how the buildings are forming the enclosing edge of the space. The square should be designed as a flexible and diverse space to accommodate different public use. She finds that cafes, eating places and symbolic buildings have an essential place creating the public life there, but adds that landscape design could add new forms and identity for urban space.

Kevin Lynch (1981, p.443) describes in his book 'Good City Form' square as an activity focus in the heart of an intensive urban area. In most cases, it would be paved, enclosed by high-density structures and surrounded by streets or at least be connected with them. Features on the squares are meant to attract groups of people and facilitate meetings.

D.Appleyard and A.Jacobs (2009, p.104-105) in their writing 'Towards an Urban Design Manifesto' talk about the square as a space between buildings. In the meaning of a good place it has to have a good relation to the structures that bound it. The square is defined as an outdoor environment, where people come and go from any direction. They bring people together and through that promote public interaction.

For C.M.Cooper and C. Francis (2009, p.372-373), the urban plaza is a hard-surfaced outdoor public space, which is meant only for pedestrians. The main function of the square is to provide a possibility to sit, eat, stroll and watch how the world goes by. It is a place to stop at, rather than pass through.

Cliff Moughtin (1992, p.87) says that the building facades define the square. It is one of the most important elements in an urban fabric to settle public space and offer a good position for public and commercial buildings in the city. According to his analytical observation, the square could be categorized in two ways: as a form or in a means of function.

Jan Gehl and Lars Gemzøe (2004) does not define specifically how the squares should be formed, but say that together with the streets they promote the recreational use of the city. It is a place for stopping and stay over, serving all the city functions that need space. In the research works, they have focused on public life on the squares and what determines it. The usage pattern and intensity are influenced by: location, shape, size, aesthetic quality, views, climate, details, sitting possibilities and their placement (Gehl & Gemzøe, 2004, p.26).

William H. Whyte (2009) is not putting any frames for the square. He talks about that, also like Gehl and Gemzøe, as one of the main

INTRODUCTION

_ CENTRAL POINTS

public life places in the city together with the streets. He emphasizes the importance of sitting places on the plaza, the sun and shadow effects or how to use vegetation. The main thing what he is focusing on, is how people occupy it: is it used or is it empty! He discusses and tries to figure out why people like to stay there, where the conversations take place or why they settle themselves to sit. Thus, he views plazas as a good place (or possibility) for social interaction.

All of these definitions have their importance and place in urban design. I am also aware that there are more theorists who have an opinion of the square's nature.

In order to define my target objectives, I will set the limits in my work. First of all, I selected places that are designated as a square (in Swedish 'torg') in the city map of Malmö. In addition, it is an enlarged open space and have a hard surface layout. The space will have till some extents of enclosure and entries.

In my observations and analyzes, I will focus on two aspects: the overall spatial structure and the human activity at the place. The first point is important, because I would like to understand how they position in the urban fabric. Is it a place to stop, pass through or is it perhaps a node? How does the structure program affect the life on the square and what is the main function there? I find it relevant because developing the new urban square in Norra Sorgenfri means creating, first of all, a notion of the place. How to define a space when the building structure is yet to come?

The other point of interest is to observe how people use the square. Looking at different activity possibilities can reflect how the space may or may not stimulate them to use it and come by. I would like to get a closer understanding what is the driving force on different squares and what importance the place has in the citizens' everyday life. Thus, if think about Norra Sorgenfri, then why should citizens come to the new urban square? What could be the triggering energy that attack and encourage usage?

The idea of **URBAN ACUPUNCTURE** is to make a design in a short period of time and have an instant effect on establishing a new image. It is called a method of enhancing non-performing areas. It is seen as a positive factor that will influence also the surrounding development around that point. Urban acupuncture could be used as a temporary solution that stays at the place until the surrounding is developed enough to support public life on its own. At the same time, it can be a flexible solution that could be expanded further according to the ongoing process in the area. (A more comprehensive overview of the theory and different sample projects are presented on the pages 26-36).

This thesis is an exploration of different ideas, theories, interpretations, projects and inspirational ideas. They all are closely linked to each other. To be able to combine these different inputs, I have tried to combine different methods during the working process. Thus, it would be hard to specify the exact sequence of the methods that I used during the research. It means that I addressed more than one task at a time and already in the beginning I started to collect material that I thought I would like to present in my final work

For this purpose, I created chapter document in InDesign, where I put all the material that I produced, photographed, sketched and wrote down while exploring. I chose to work with that method, because organizing them into different sections gave me a good overview what I have and still need to add. At the same time, it also gave me the possibility to return to the ideas that came up during the process. In this way, by combining theoretical (such as reading and

mapping) and empirical (such as sketching and making simple pictographs) skills, I was hoping to get a better insight into the subject I was working with. The main core of this project process is now presented in this thesis.

Even though I combined different tasks, I set up different stages that helped me to structure my working method and gain knowledge. These were the ground points that were important to be able to go deeper into the process. All mapping, analyzes, graphical material, drawing I will order from more overall to detailed scale. For better understanding and comparison, I looked at the same aspects in all the existing places (squares) or sample projects (city acupuncture).

1. Before starting, I gained some initial knowledge through reading in order to set the targets what I would like to focus on when studying the objectives.
2. I used a theoretical sample to choose the three main squares in the city of Malmö for my research objects.
3. Further reading and looking at other projects helped me specify what I would like to know about the squares, when going to the place and making a more specific analysis. These characteristics are presented in the research part through sketches (page 22-24) that in my opinion could be the backbone of the new urban square.
4. In addition to the existing situation, I also made an analysis of Norra Sorgenfri vision strategy, in order to understand the city's main ideas. In a connection with my idea to use city acupuncture as a design tool, I explored what this terminology means, how it is defined and how it is executed in projects.
5. In order to approach the idea of making a new urban square I look at the problem from different perspectives. I made a synthesis of my studies by comparing all the four squares in the same aspects and asking what could be the possible directions for the new urban square.
6. From the different small scenario possibilities, what could affect the space nature, I continued to develop possible design proposals for the new public space of Norra Sorgenfri.

Choosing **SAMPLE OF SQUARES**

J.Gehl and Gemzøe have given a good overview in their books 'New Public Spaces' (2006) and 'Public Spaces-Public Life, Copenhagen 1996' (2004) how the function of the square has changed through the history. They reflect that not all the squares have the same function and meaning in the urban fabrics, even though all of them are open spaces in the city structure and meant to use by everyone. In the books, they exemplify through place analyses that the location, structure, different priorities in the society, interpretations of public space have had a strong influence on how the squares are functioning and who are the main users. Inspired by that, I have chosen three differently located squares in Malmö in a hope to get a more comprehensive understanding of how different plazas are or are not functioning. These squares are: Lilla Torg, Värnhemstorget and Fridhemstorget.

The first criterion was the location, and in this regard, I decided to pick one in the center of the city (Lilla Torg), one at the edge of the center (Värnhemstorget) and one outside the city center (Fridhemstorget). The location also decides the context characteristics around the square: is it a commercial area, business area, residential area or a mixture of them. The second criterion was the connection, i.e. how easy it is to go there and how people usually arrive there. As the third criterion, I tried to consider the different use and users of the place. Thus, I tried to select different places for the purpose, in order to find out whether these criteria mentioned above play a role

in determining what kind of public life takes place there. In the investigation part, I will ask whether the new square should resemble the existing ones or what are the various possibilities to become public space? Naturally, the selection is rather limited and not necessarily exhaustive. It is rather a starting point for thinking and further discussion about the diverse squares in an urban network.

The **COMBINED TECHNIQUES** I used in the project:

Mapping (large- and small-scale)- It is about marking the location and a survey method by marking the activity location. Both J.Gehl and W.H. Whyte have used this method to note different aspects of public life in the space. Gehl, for example, has conducted a survey how the cafe areas have increased during the last year (2004, p 61). Whyte has used this method to show where incidental conversations took place on the street corner (2009, p.9).

In my thesis, I use this both on a large and a small scale

- > First, I apply it to show the three squares in the context of the city of Malmö and their locations by indicating the positions of the three places in the network system of squares. Showing the connections (or poor connection) with other public plazas and between themselves.
- > On a small-scale level, I use this for mapping physical aspects of the squares like entrances, accesses, important elements on the square, cafes, restaurants and commercial institutions.

At the same time, it is also a method for me to trace human activities on the squares. While making the observations, I try to find out if there is some kind of characteristic usage of the space, or places for activities that take place there. Mapping of both physical and functional aspects on paper gives a better overview of the use of the urban space and possible links between them.

Visual analyzing (working on a small scale) In this part, I refer to C. Moughtin (1992, p.7, 25-59), who has used this method to understand the role of the square in the urban fabric. In his analyses, he focusses on which ideas form the public realm and how it is defined by the key elements: streets and squares .

In my thesis, the visual analysis is used to note particularly the physical characteristics that form the peculiarity of the square. I do not focus on small details but rather on how the surroundings define the nature of the space. On all of the three squares, I look at the same characteristics in order to be able to compare and make some conclusions afterwards.

The elements that I focus are:

- > entrances (how one reaches the square and how enclosed is the space)
- > edge activity (how much are the building facades involved in the public use of the square)
- > commercial institutes (cafes, restaurants, shops, entertainment etc.)
- > the use of the space
- > driving forces (why people mostly come there)
- > adds (temporary things that change the squares use/image)

Observations (on the squares)- In this method, I rely again on J.Gehl (2004) and W.H.Whyte (2009). Both of them have used monitoring in their research of public life to record how people use squares or streets. In the observations, I try to follow Whyte attitude: just being on the place and looking with my eyes wide open. Whyte had done it for 16 years, just walking the streets and public spaces and observed how people use them (2009, p.1).

I have chosen this method of research because as mentioned before I am interested in the driving forces related to a square that invite one to participate in the activities there. Referring to Gehl, the observations could give a clue as to whether the square is used because: it is necessary, optional or means of social interaction (Gehl, 2009, p. 365-366).

I visited all the three squares (Lilla Torg, Värnhemstorget, Fridhemstorget) three times to make observations.

1. I visited each square on one of the weekdays in order to get familiar and map the physical nature of the square. When being familiar to the place, it would not require so much attention to do the activity research.
 - > I stayed on the square for 2 hours between 12.00-14.00
 - > During the time, I made a visual analysis of the elements that I named hereinbefore.
 - > In the second half, I listed the activities that occurred on the square to get the first impression of the characteristics of the square.
2. A day observation: it took place between 26th – 28th December 2009. On one of these days, I visited one of the squares three times during a day to capture the square's rhythm. According to Whyte, it exists on all squares around the world (LaFarge, 2000, p. 253). Thus, the main time periods according to him are:
 - > Morning (8.00-9.00) - the start of the day and setting up the square
 - > Noon (13.00-14.00) - presumably the liveliest time in the day when the lunchtime mixes with the day activity. It should be the high point of the day.
 - > Evening (17.00-18.00) – the end of the working day and start of the evening activity.

The different things that I tried to notice in the day rhythm were: the main movement directions, manner of use (alone/groups), going through or staying, the main accumulation and fluctuation spots, most used areas on the square and dependence of the use on the edge activity (cafe/restaurant/shops etc.) or target nodes. I also tried to capture what is the driving force on the square and what sets the atmosphere.

3. The last observation took place on Sunday between 13.00-14.00. I found that interesting, because according to Gehl, the optional public activity occurs when the space supports that through good physical planning (2009, p.365). In general, Sundays are rest days when people take time off in order to enjoy their free time. It is also a day when most of the shops are closed. Then there is more likely a need to find alternative activities how to spend time in the city (if wished!). With my observations, I wanted to discover whether the squares play some role also in people's free time and optional activities.

While doing the observations I was doing field notes. In every outdoor visit I made a protocol, where I wrote down all of the activities that took place, who were the different users, the main characteristics of the square and the physical aspects, springing from my raised questions.

The investigation will be summarized in the third chapter where I juxtapose all the three existing squares and the new square.

Taking photographs - It is one way to record and memorize the situations and activities that took place while making observations. I think it is a good tool because it gives a possibility to return to the situation. While observing, there are a lot of aspects that need to be focussed on and it is easy to miss one while concentrating on another one (J.Jr.Collier, M.Collier, 1986). In my work, it has been more like a helping tool for myself to record my visits and visual experience at the place.

Sketching is the start of a creative process for me. It is the first step in a long process when the initial ideas and impressions are put down on paper. I find it is a very important tool, because it is a quick way to explore different ideas and make notes of what I have seen. I find that with the help of sketching, it is easier to understand the place and become aware of the situation that is set up there. A simple drawing is also much easier to 'read' and to memorize. 'A line on the paper is much better than white sheet in front of you' (Lennard Nord, oral advice to students while tutoring).

In my work, I will practice how to present ideas in **pictographs**, i.e. to describe as a visual language ('Pictograph', 2009-11-24). I find it a very useful skill, because it helps clarify and forces to be exact about the messages and ideas I want to pass on. It seems a rather simplified way, but helps to bring out the main core in order to explain the concept of the intentions.

Reading literature is essential to get familiar with different theories, points of view and get a basic knowledge of the subjects.

I look for **inspiration and reference projects** to learn and get inspired. It could be a great source for new or transformation of ideas.

REFLECTION:

I am aware of that the research could have been much more exhaustive and detailed. I could have used longer periods of observation, counted people or interviewed the citizens at the place, like Gehl or Whyte have done it. There are many options how to discover different aspect one of a square. One of the critical aspects could be that the observations took place during Christmas and New Year's period. The cold weather and holidays perhaps reduced the use of outdoor space. Nevertheless, I find it important to see how the public life takes place when the conditions are not the most favourable for that. It could be argued whether it reflects the importance of different squares in the city structure. However, this thesis is not trying to be a scientifically proved document, but still it is done systematically. This research is more like an eye opening to the complexity and realizing that there is more than one way of seeing things.

By choosing the observation as a research method was my wish to see the squares more as a whole. I was inspired by Paul Goldberg who described W.H. Whyte as a city reader:

'He only began to see things when the people were in them... He thought all of us, more than anything, to look, to look hard, with a clean, clear mind, and then to look again- and to believe in what you see.'
(LaFarge, 2000, p. ix).

I found the method suitable for my thesis because my aim was not to work at a detail level, but primarily to determine the status and essence of the existing squares. It was a working manner to become aware!

The combined methods that I have used helped me find the basis for approaching the new urban square in Norra Sorgenfri. The observation as to how the existing spaces are functioning or not functioning was the starting point for asking questions, sketching the basic ideas. Guiding how to think about the space and starting to reflect what this new space could be and what could be the toolbox for establishing it.



Design

New

Urban

Energy

Person

Interaction

Analyze

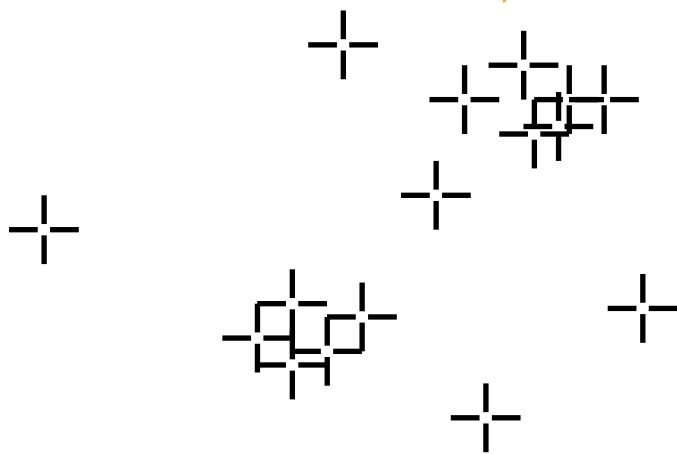
Reflection



BACKGROUND

LITERATURE STUDY

In my literature study, I selected theorists who have looked at the link between urban design and public life from a different angle. C. Moughtin talks about urban design through architectural composition. W. H. Whyte describes it more from an individual perspective. J. Gehl reflects about both physical and social aspects on an equal level. They find that public life and public space is something that can not be separate, but all of them have their own angle of approaching it.



URBAN DESIGN seen THROUGH ARCHITECTURAL COMPOSITION

Book: *URBAN DESIGN: STREET AND SQUARE* by Cliff Moughtin (1992)

In the book, Moughtin discusses and illustrates urban design through architectural composition. In the arguments, he uses Camillo Sitte city planning artistic approach ('Camillo Sitte', 2009-10-16) method to establish the ground rules for urban design. He says that urban design is an arrangement of different elements. The main actors in the play are the squares, streets and buildings that establish the public face of the city. As the main subject, this book discusses how the arrangement, design and detailing influence the meaning and the role of the three aspects mentioned above.

It addresses the question what is defined as a good design. He admits that there is no right answer because of different ideologies. He finds that the important tools to define good architecture are: order, unity, proportion, scale, harmony, symmetry, and rhythm. He uses these and other analytical methods to examine good urban form and arrangement for buildings, streets and squares.

In the chapter on squares, he emphasizes that the public plaza is one of the most important elements in the city design. It is a strong method through which towns are decorated and given distinction. In his analyses, he categorizes squares by function and form. These two aspects embody different aspects. A square's function is about supporting the activity and being a visual attraction. The functions result from: different locations and different types of symbolic meanings in the city structure. A square must have a concept of the center and function as a node. It must have an emphasized design approach to indicate the transition from one spatial situation to another. The impression should be perceived through the place's layout.

The square as a form is about: enclosure, size variations in heights, view angles, social distances, square's layout continuity, views to and from the space, hierarchy in their appearance (dominant, monumental etc.) and connection with other spaces.

He also states that contemporary square design neglects old design traditions. These squares have become windswept places, traffic islands or parking squares because there is no supporting structure around them. He emphasizes that the most important physical element is the enclosure in order to establish a public social meeting place.

PUBLIC SPACE seen through INDIVIDUAL OCCUPATION

Book: *CITY: REDISCOVERING THE CENTER* by William.H.Whyte, foreword by Paco Underhill (2009)

This book is a resume of Whyte's and his team's research in New York, where they tried to rediscover the city center's essence and compatibility through human activity. It was a part of the New York Planning Commission's plan to develop some guidelines for making the urban life more sustainable. Whyte's main working method was direct observation, close examination of people's everyday life and the interchanges in it. Besides that, they occasionally used interviews and experiments. To be able to go back to the situation, they used a film recorder. In order to understand what makes (or does not make) city work, and how urbanism is applied, he focuses mainly on individuals who are the key element and the energy creator at the place.

The first part of the survey addresses the social life on the street that is the river of life in the city. Streets have their physical qualities and their usages. As the main thing, they found out that people attract other people, even when the place itself is not so pleasant. What draws people to these sensory streets is the busy life there, different kinds of trading activities, sounds, illuminated displays, eat-

ing places, face to face interaction and mixture of users. As the streets are moving flows, it means that they are also a strong reason to arrive at a place like squares.

In the second part, Whyte discusses the design of places (squares!). The best used places were sociable plazas, where the location was a prerequisite of the success. The strong flow of people is what makes an active city life. The critical factor was how the square is related to the streets, what possibilities are there for staying and resting (sitting). He also notes that sun and wind protection, light and trees play an important role in the use of a space. The research also revealed a fact that a place can become interesting when the design elements are located and things happen at the eye level of people. He summarizes that the social situation is more important than the physical one to have a public life at the place. The key element is the people that attract the others.

In the last part, the discussion is focused on how the industrial era, through its megastructures, blank walls, zoning and diffusion has influenced (and still influences) the city structure and the public life there. Even though he argues that centers have been simplified and they have lost enough their initial characteristics, the centers will hold! Because he sees the essence of the man and that the human presence is the energy of the place. This is the engine, the city true 'soul'.

PUBLIC LIFE seen through PUBLIC SPACE AND PUBLIC USE

Book: *NEW CITY SPACES* by Jan Gehl & Lars Gemzøe (2006)

In this book, J. Gehl and L. Gemzøe are reflecting about their research, analyses, identifications and mapping of elements of urban fabric that together constitute the energized whole. In this book, the object is different public space strategies and the development of the architectural layout of the public space. The discussion is about the interplay between urban life as a meeting place and the spatial structure as a facilitator. They emphasize that cities can focus and condense physical, intellectual, creative energy only through citizens' participation.

Winning back the public space is manifestation to foot traffic! They signify that the traditional use of public space (mostly squares), as marketing, meeting and connection node has become a conflict. Mostly because of the different social priorities and the competition of the space (like foot vs. car, market vs. super mall, face-to-face vs. virtual communication). Because of the different ideologies, they note that the current meaning of city as a public arena has lost its importance. Fortunately, it is taking another turn!

Through the nine urban public space strategies, the book illustrates how the unified policy can improve the whole public life system in the city. These attempts have different focuses, but in general the setting is to improve the spatial condition (lighting, architectural elements, foot traffic, floor materials) to stimulate public use.

The presented 39 sample projects, in the book, show different architectural expressions in public space, various urban situation and types of urban squares, stressing that design should emphasize spatial clarity when creating new squares. With respect to the characteristics and location, the authors have pointed out that there are different squares: city center, recreational, on the edge, traffic, monumental neighborhood etc.

J. Gehl and L. Gemzøe emphasize that in order to provide good urban quality and vitality it is necessary to make public spaces available for the citizens.

Book: '*PUBLIC SPACES-PUBLIC LIFE, COPENHAGEN 1996*' by Jan Gehl & Lars Gemzøe (2004)

This research is a story about Copenhagen's central step-by-step transformation from a car-orientated to a people-orientated city. It describes how the physical changes in the urban space influence the usage of these places. The book focuses mostly on public space and public life, how the research is carried out and what could be the next steps to improve the public spaces.

The attention in the public space is on streets where to move and on the squares where to stay. The improvement has been carried out mostly through a pedestrianization scheme as well as by strengthening the main movement flow arteries and connections between main targets. The different activities are supported by the variation of the essence of physical spaces. The research shows that the space is more valued when it is detailed, it has a variation in the building facades, compact human scale and good micro climate conditions (sun, windless). The use of a new quality material on the streets and squares has also helped promote the popularity of city spaces. The nightlife and good city lighting help to prolong the usage of the city. They mention also that if the center is functioning well, the reach out to the adjacent areas is not a problem and they can also be activated and connected to the active public life!

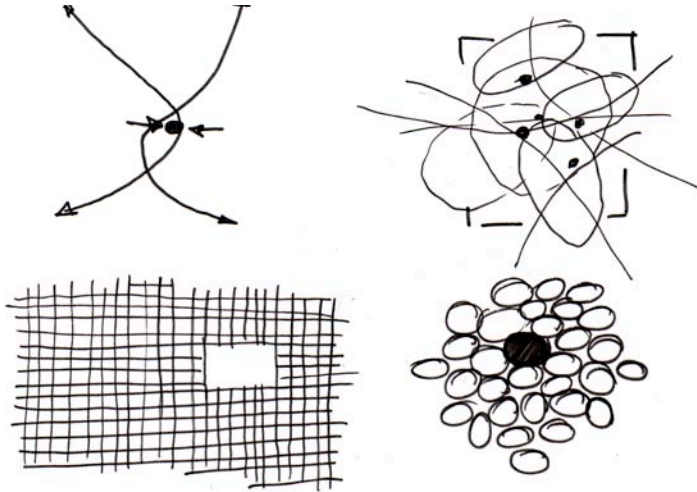
The survey of usage patterns through observations and mapping show that it has intensified and become diverse. They exemplify this through fourteen selected places. The city has become a recreation place where to stroll, spend one's leisure time and stay over! The study shows that the qualities of the public space and the social changes have varied people's habits. In their analyzes, it has come out that there are different factors that influence the squares usage and create the characteristics. Walking has become very popular and is seen now as a fun and recreational experience. The car-free squares have become popular for spending time in the public space. People stay there either by sitting, standing or just watching passers-by. Public life is getting more and more popular in Copenhagen. It has become more a public forum where different activities and adventures take place through interaction and exchange of information. As they say, there is a 'growing addiction to public life' (p.48).

THEORY

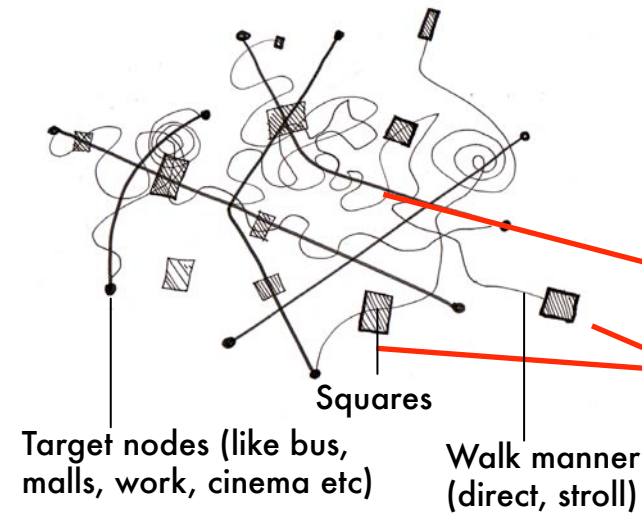
LOCATION, NATURE

From the theory, I found that there are several important aspects that could be the backbone for understanding the essence of the space. They affect the importance of the place, the characteristics, how one feels there and what are the possibilities to use it. To illustrate the determined elements, I have included my sketches that hopefully make it easier to capture the idea.

SQUARE IN URBAN FABRIC



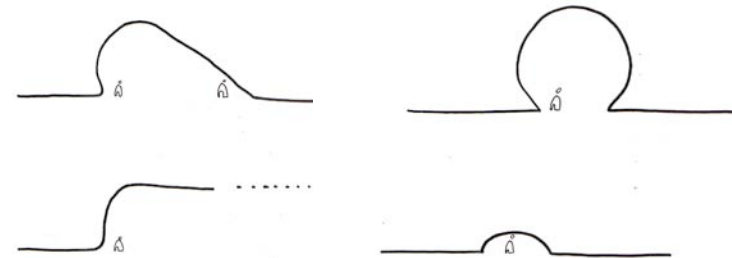
OPTIONAL vs NEEDED USE



In the book 'Public Spaces – Public Life, Copenhagen 1996', Gehl and Gemzøe talk about various squares that are differently located in the city fabric. The location defines what the usage pattern is likely to be and why people go there. It is also of significance whether the city structure is used for necessary activity or as a recreational means (2004, p.16-23).

- There are 3 possibilities to come across a square
- one needs to pass it
 - one may come to the square when taking a stroll along the main street as a means of recreation
 - the square is a target on its own because of its nature.

GO vs 'SETTLE IN'



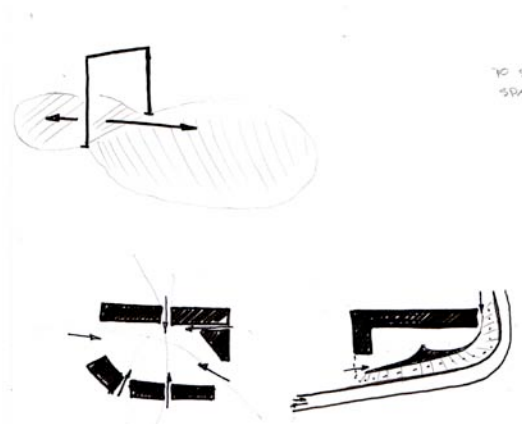
The square in its appearances has two main meanings: a node to arrive at and at the same time a place to depart from (Moughtin, 1992, p. 94). Also, Gehl has pointed out that the spatial factors such as size and shape have an influence on whether people find it good to stop at and 'settle in' (Gehl & Gemzøe, 2004, p.26).

NODE = IMAGEABILITY (Lynch 1960, p 9)

The urban fabric with its structure forms the basis for how the city is recognized and understood. The streets and open spaces are the bases for orientating and setting up goals where to go, stay, pass etc. Moughtin finds that one of the square's main function is to be a strategic spot for positioning (1992, p.89).

Lynch has showed this through experiments when investigating the importance of imageability for city residents. He asked them to draw maps with strategic orientation points by heart (1960, p.140). Lynch wanted to show how the essence of different locations, connections and spaces have an effect on the use of the surroundings. A strong image makes a place to remember.

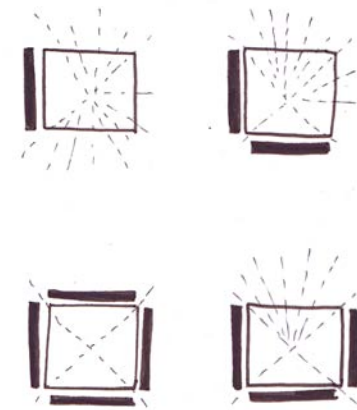
LEADING TO THE SQUARE, PORTAL



Boundaries are important in order to realize the transition from one space to another and to structure the city (Moughtin, 1992, p.95). Moughtin compares the entering with a door that has been the most important element in architectural design since ancient times. He finds that a square with its layout and entrances should function as a portal that creates a feeling of arriving somewhere. He argues that it is important that the city should be perceived as a continuing space (1992, p.94-95). Square with its portals can offer experience of:

- openings
- change of scale
- change of views
- contrasts
- theme

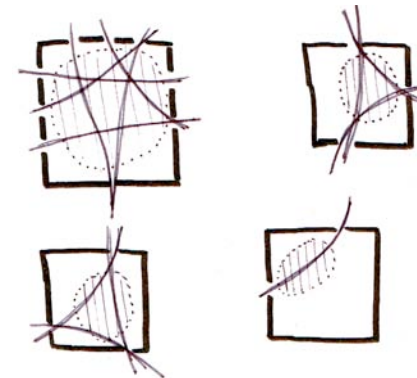
ENCLOSURE



The space is perceived with the help of the edges that frame it. Like Moughtin has said that the enclosure is the most important physical quality in public space design (1992, p.123). This framework will give a square different characteristics, like:

- dominance
- sense of entering
- feeling of being at the place
- defining the space
- movement directions and possibilities to enter (portals)

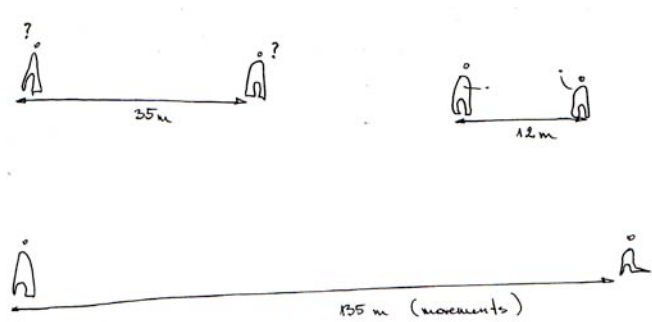
POSSIBILITY TO INTERACT



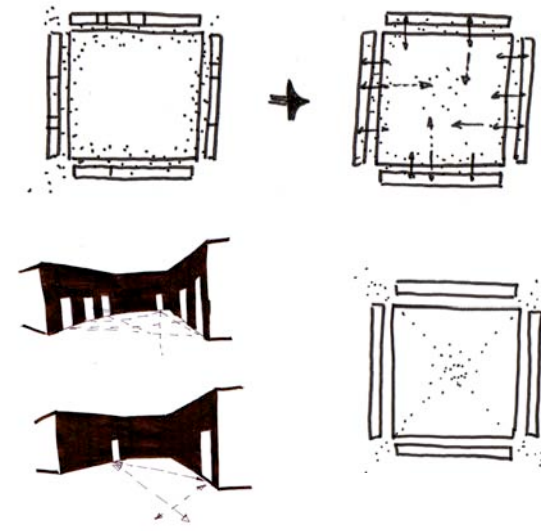
The access to the square can determine which part of the area is used the most. The different entrances from the buildings and pathways help activate the place.

Different crossings create more possibilities for interaction (purposeful or surprising advent). It influences:

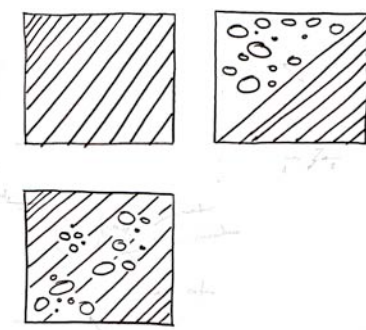
- use and occupation of space
- interaction possibility
- what could be the most used spot through circulation



EDGE EFFECT



ACTIVITY INTEGRATION



In the book 'Life between building', Gehl (2001) talks about how buildings ' functions can support public activities. If there is taking place an active life, then it will encourage also the use of the open space center area. The most common is that the space occupation starts from the edges and moves towards the middle if the program on the place supports that.

The facades and the activity in the surrounding buildings can affect the use of the squares. Also, Whyte has pointed out that the vitality of the square depends on (2009, p.108-116):

- building usage (opening hours, function)
- in-out movement on the space (circulation and sitting pattern)
- passive participation in city life (observing other)
- design on the eye level
- possibility to stay over (standing, sitting possibilities)
- symbolic meaning, size, location of the space (go through/ stay/ go to square)

Integration in public life is a valuable asset that can provide different activity levels for different users. Gehl and Gemzøe focus on how through the sole function, certain time limit or user group can shut down the city. Thus, it is important that the space could have a mixture of use that could create a diverse and lively usage period: from day to night (2004, p.34-35).

Mats Lieberg (1995, p.734) talks about using the public space as a stage. According to the space design, it could be used as a back- or on stage. This can encourage different activity integration.

The size and enclosure of the space affects how a person feels there and how easy it is to experience the presence of others. Moughtin has pointed out (it can naturally differ on personal and cultural level) the basic distances that could be used to describe a square's social interaction levels (1992, p.38-39).

- 12 metres is the distance at which acquaintances meet and recognize each other.
- 33 metres is the optimal distance for interaction at a neutral level (strangers in the city) and identifying faces.
- 135 metres is the maximum distance where it is possible to tell whether the person is a man or woman and see body gestures.

REFLECTION

In order to 'land' at a new area and establish a new interaction place, there is a need for a basic understanding where to set off. From these readings, I became more aware what the urban fabric is and how it is defined from a more architectural point of view. It seems that the physical framework influences quite a lot the way we perceive the city. With its appearance, it sends visual messages, emphasizing some movement directions, allowing to step off from a busy traffic path or encouraging having eye contact with strangers. These various physical structures gives different characteristic spaces for the city and also guides the public life at the place. Thus, the layout of the square could support or hold back the possibility to interact. When thinking about the physical status of the space, there are many spaces that are, so to say, 'leaking' and cannot 'hold' life in themselves. It seems that it is often connected with a weak physical structure. When reading Moughtin's works, it becomes clearer that there is a strong relationship between a built structure and an open space. They cannot exist separately, because they are defining each other! To emphasize space change, arriving, node, directions or, for example, sitting spots, there has to be a visual framework. The aspects that Moughtin is talking about are important to help orientate in the urban fabric. At the same time, it gives a possibility to create different sceneries that can offer diverse experience and activity possibilities in the city. If the cities were built up only through a street network or different square clusters, how do we make decisions in our directions then?

The reading also indicated that the space is something that reflects the trends in the society, in lifestyles, economics, what is good for the individual etc. Thus, there are different possibilities from where the design ideas originate and what questions they encounter. Thus, it seems that a space should be flexible in order to respond to the changes that take place. Even though the collective body is developing, the perception of the supportive activity space will probably stay. There will always be shifts in our needs but individual bodies, that occupie the space, stays.

The expression for the square as a place to stop, settle in is a good reflection of how the urban fabric is used or can be encouraged to use. It is about moving and staying either because of the necessary or optional needs. Thus, it could be seen as a constant circulation between coming and going. In order to enjoy and support the recreational meaning of the urban life, there has to be a layout for that. It should give a chance for people to occupy the space with their presence and turn it into something! Thus, it is important to have a good location that is easy to access and move there! At the same time, in order to stop there is need for the possibility to sit, observe, act, lay, stand, wait, have a shelter, explore or why not being curious.

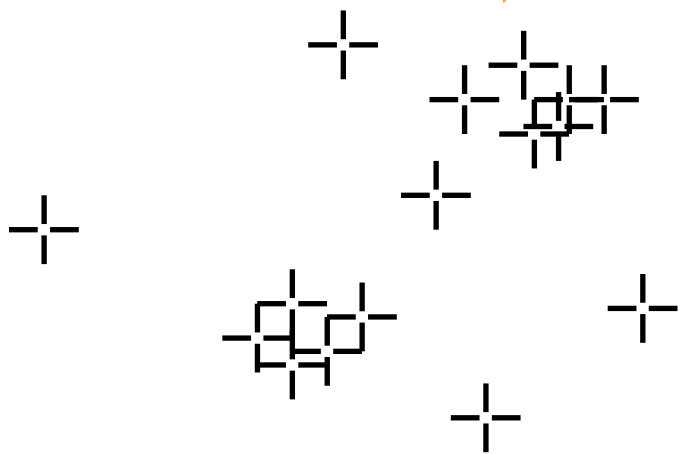
A new square in Norra Sorgenfri is at the moment a visual idea that should become a reality through space structure and human occupation! What should be the framework and attractions that make it possible to form a new spot for public life in the city? How to make it to a place that is an experience in its own essence?

Even though I have been now focusing on these three main theorists, I have also got inspiration and knowledge from other urban researchers and writers like K. Lynch or J. Jacobs. I will turn to them in my writings, but unfortunately I did not have a possibility to go deep into their work.

4. URBAN ACUPUNCTURE

THEORY OF URBAN ACUPUNCTURE

While the previous chapter was about how to acknowledge and handle the meaning of space and place (square), then now I address the theoretical part of the so- called city acupuncture. It is a short overview of a possible method of approaching urban planning and design in a wish to start up interaction spots for city life.



What does the definition mean? Probably to most people it is an Asian medical term that means opening up energy blockage. Seeing it at the Louisiana, Museum of Modern Art in Denmark made me ask how it is interpreted in the urban context. Why urban planners and designers have started to use this definition? By whom and why this term has been defined? Is it a new way of dealing with urban development or is it just a fashionable word in design and planning vocabulary?

According to the limited material that I was able to find, most of them were articles on the Internet. Thus, it may mean that it does not have a strong place in the theoretical literature as the other design concepts. In most of the readings it was referred to two key persons. One of them is Manuel de Sola Morales and the other is Jaime Lerner.

According to the British architect and critic K.Framton, the Barcelona urbanist Manuela de Sola Morales has coined the term urban acupuncture. K.Framton describes Sola Morales acupuncture concept as a small catalytic intervention strategy. The main idea was that these projects had to be realized within a short period of time and give a maximum impact to the surrounding. Sola Morales' contribution in Barcelona's process was through architectural interventions (Framton, 2000-05-01). It was formulated during the Barcelona revitalization in 1980s when the city rejected the General Metropolitan Plan after Franco dictatorship. The idea was to transform the city through small urban projects. The focus was on small public spaces in the neighborhood and in the city that needed to be redone. (Nelson, n.d). In the article 'Public spaces in Barcelona 1980-2000', Benach Nuria (2004) has described the catalytic concept as:

"...this urban intervention was 'metastatic, strategic, for reconstruction, and mainly supported by the design of public spaces, since they are most immediately effective to achieve these goals'. They are metastatic because 'a series of actions can be the focus of regeneration for the surroundings;' strategic, since 'in order that metastasis can be effective, the initial 'infection' has to be applied to the nerve center of the neighborhood, of the city, of the metropolis,' and for reconstruction, because 'to build in what is already built, to improve what already exists, to transform, to modify, to rehabilitate, to re-signify, to underline or to create identities are the clearest and most important objectives.'" (Nuria 2004, p.155)

K. Framton has mentioned Sola Morales in many of his articles, like 'Critical Regionalism Revisited: Provisional Thoughts on the Future of Urban Design' (2003-10-27) ; Seven Points to the Millennium an untimely manifesto (2000-05-01); or The catalytic city: Between strategy and intervention (2003). In all of these articles he is discussing and makes critics towards nowadays urban development that has created a sheed urban fabric and urban regions that do not conform to the idea of traditional city compact structure. He finds that Sola Morales approach (urban acupuncture) could be one solution how to deal with the problem:

'...the critical designer brings to the spontaneous aggregation of contemporary urban form the possibility of intervening at a single meridian point in such a way as to release tensions and to engender new energy flows within the situation, not only in terms of the specific site but also with regard to future developments emanating from that site in ways which cannot be foreseen.' (Framton, 2003,p. 76).

'He (Sola Morales, remark by author) has used it (urban acupuncture, remark by author) as a metaphor for intervening in an urban fabric in such a way that this intervention has a catalytic effect, meaning that it has a high level of pertinence to the surrounding urban fabric and the evolving historical fabric. ' (Čeferin, 2008 Nov.)

Jaime Lerner, former Curitiba mayor and architect, is the other person that is associated with the term urban acupuncture. According to K. Frampton, Lerner started to use the concept later on (Čeferin, 2008 Nov.). Jaime Lerner has done a different urban planning approaches, through what the Curitiba is known city in Brazil, where the innovative changes have taken place. According to the article 'Curitiba Ex-Mayor Prescribes 'Urban Acupuncture'', Lerner describes the method as a solution that can bring revitalization and sustainability to the world's metropolitan areas (Worldchanging team, 2007-01-28). In the same article, he also stresses that there is nothing bad about the problems in the urban fabric, he, vice versa, encourages to see these as a possibility for innovative solutions! These could be precisely the trigger points where something new could start! His first example of using such a method is the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit system) that he introduced in Curitiba in the 1970s and what has become an effective city transport system (exemplification on page 30). Lerner sees urban acupuncture as a method where the focus is on the key points that could increase the energy flow. Thus it means that by affecting right pressure points it is possible to bring about a positive effect to the whole surroundings (Hinchberger, 2006-01-18). In his own words, he describes urban acupuncture concept as:

'Urban acupuncture is not limited to physical interventions... The idea is to create energy.' (Hinchberger, 2005-12-19).

'So in the city, you have to work fast. Planning takes time. And I'm proposing urban acupuncture. That means me, with some focal ideas to help the normal process of planning...' ('Jaime Lerner sings of the city', 2007 March).

'I believe that some medicinal "magic" can and should be applied to cities, as many are sick and some nearly terminal. As with the medicine needed in the interaction between doctor and patient, in urban planning it is also necessary to make the city react; to poke an area in such a way that it is able to help heal, improve, and create positive chain reactions. It is indispensable in revitalizing interventions to make the organism work in a different way.' (Edge::Generate, 2009-02-20)

Besides these two most appeared named, there are some more projects and names that have interpreted it.

According to M. Marzi and N. Ancona (2004), it is a philosophy that handles some territorial and social problems. They do not see it as a manner that could be used on its own, but as a helping device. Rather, it is used to achieve sensitive effects in a quicker way, but still following the overall planning scheme and operating principally within a structured context.

The Internet site NationMaster (n.d) quotes that Finnish professor Marco Casagrande has formulated urban acupuncture as an environmentalism theory. In his concept, he refers directly to Chinese medicine. Casagrande (2009-02-09) describes cities as a complex organism where the energy flows are determined by the citizens' actions and urban development. Through punctual manipulations, he wants to help decayed industrial areas achieve ecological urban development towards the 3rd Generation City. In his words:

'Urban acupuncture aims into a touch with the collective psyche of the city...Urban acupuncture can be applied to an existing city through art. The true environmental art in the urban context is urban acupuncture...Urban acupuncture is turning the urban compost to fruitful top-soil.' (Casagrande, 2009-02-09)

Ecosistema Urbano (n.d) is an architects' office based in Madrid, Spain. They call themselves an open system that is dedicated to architectural research and design. They put a lot emphasis on ecology, that is the basis for sustainable cities and sustainable planet. Their concept is to act, based on the actual needs, not based on future utopias. In two of their key projects: Ecoboulevard [repared]

and 'Urban Voids' (Ecosistema Urbano, n.d) they have used the concept of city acupuncture. In these projects, they have use the method as an 'emergency' actions that could operate while the other urban dynamics are catching up. The quick solutions are made to primary support urban active life and the recently established young greenery. The pinpoint projects are the ones that activate the place and are the main focus points at the beginning of the longer process. The goal is to support the surroundings while it is growing stronger in its character. This means that the initial projects could be moved or they merge into a process and develop into something new in the future.

REFLECTION

If to extend this theory of making changes at the place, then there are probably a lot of diverse examples how cities have used this kind of strategy. It could be done, for example, through restoring small open spaces, new buildings or art projects. Thus, the broad idea about the action making on the place is not a new strategy in urbanism.

Whether it is only just a new modern word in planning/design theory? A short literature study shows actually how the idea has developed. When Framton reflected on Manuel se Sola Morales' action mostly through the static architectural interventions, then Ecosistema Urbano has stepped forward and sees it as a dynamic process. They see urban acupuncture as a starting point but nothing stable. Therefore, I find the attitude and the idea behind the project decisive. It is not seen only as a project that fulfills the set requirements for a place as a goal. The small intervention of urban acupuncture is about a solution that tries to comprehend a broader surrounding. It is like a try to make a crack into the urban silence and spread out the pointy energy.

In the following chapter, I will present some of the projects mostly by the persons and teams that were discussed in the previous section to illustrate their visions how urban acupuncture could be used.

4. URBAN ACUPUNCTURE

SAMPLE PROJECTS

I have indicated six different projects that are described through the use of urban acupuncture. I have chosen these examples because they were the first ones where I learned about this method and got inspiration. I have also made this selection in order to illustrate that the design idea is supplied on different scales, visions and they have various future perspectives. Thus, urban acupuncture, as J.Lerner says, is not fixed to the form, but to the idea that a quick action or response is needed!

In order to understand the aim of the process and core of the idea I have divided the projects into four parts: outset, vision, tool, and transformation. Except for the 'tool' section, I have tried to find the main question that could indicate the problems that are important in this regard. Through that I hoped to get a better understanding what is the starting point and end goal for different projects. It has given me a possibility to define the tools (acupuncture method) that is used to give an energy injection to the system, space, and place or to the vision. Through simple sketches, I will give forward visually these main four parts.

OUTSET

- WHAT?
- What is the problem?
- What is the weak point in the urban fabric?
- What is not working
- What is the scale, that the existing situation is influencing

VISION

- HOW?
- How to change the problem
- How to create a new energy at the place
- How to make the place 'visible' again
- How to find more sustainable solutions
- How to have a quick solution, that has effect

TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- light constructions, elements
- at the place solution
- interesting materials
- infrastructure
- involve local people
- green structure
- specific activity at the place (music, art, climbing)
- ahaa effect

TRANSFORMATION

- WHERE TO?
- flexibility
- transformable
- knowledge making
- growing
- functional use
- symbolism

BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

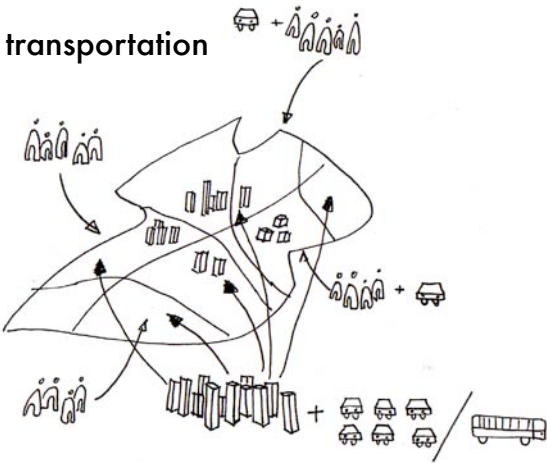
Curitiba is a city in Brazil. One of the biggest problems in this growing city was its inoperative traffic system. Cars were taking over the city streets and citizens were hardly using city for spending leisure time. The quick change had to make city pedestrian friendly and restore confidence about functioning urban fabric.

Jaime Lerner
(‘Jaime Lerner’, 2009-09-07)

CURITIBA: Bus Rapid Transit system (B.R.T)

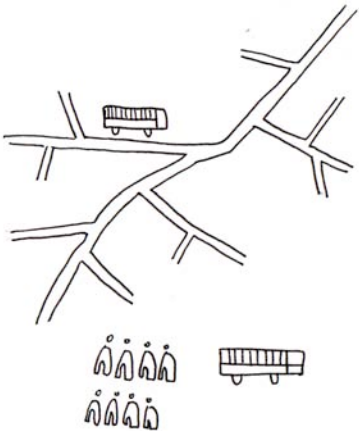
OUTSET

- growing population
- spreading urban structure
- growing numbers of individual cars
- defective public transportation



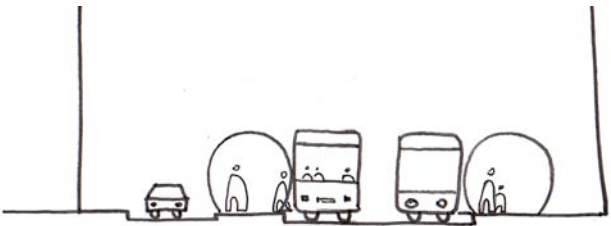
VISION

- more buses
- encourage people to use public transport
- frequent traffic schedule



TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- divided traffic lines
- new waiting stops that functions like metro stops
- more buses



TRANSFORMATION

- 10 000 passengers are transported in a minute
- high usage percentage
- many cities have implemented the same system

WIRE OPERA HOUSE

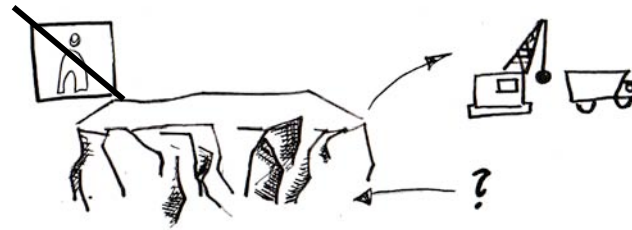
The Ópera de Arame, or the Wire Opera House in southern Brazil.

It was a project how to transform an old industrial area into a new public space. It was a question how to create a meaningful place and at the same time introduce environmental knowledge?

Jaime Lerner
(‘Jaime Lerner sings of the city’,
2007 March)

OUTSET

- former rock quarry
- unused space
- it was forbidden to enter, because of its dangerous setting (falling)
- need for new attractions in the urban life



VISION

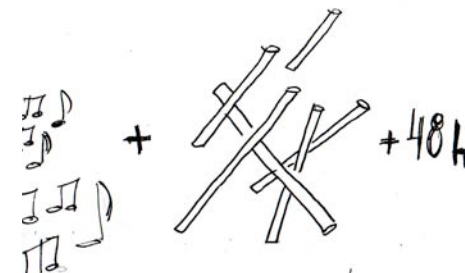
- open the place to citizens
- place to meet, memorize
- part of a green urban park
- to promote urban environmental education
- raise the awareness of sustainable practice



CURITIBA: Wire Opera House

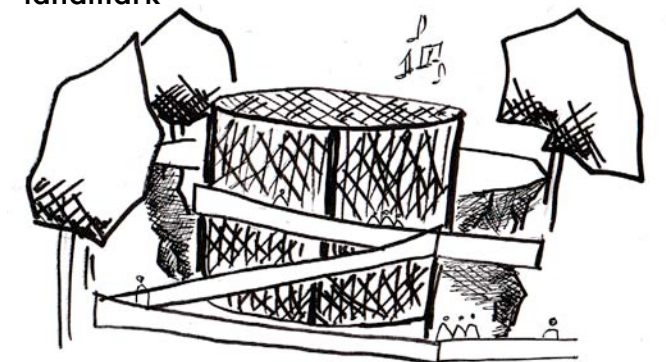
TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- theme: music-, performance
- material: steel tubes
- light construction that is easy to build and does not require so many resources



TRANSFORMATION

- one of the major tourist attractions in the city
- known by the locals
- landmark



ACUPUNCTURE

_BARCELONA

Barcelona's revitalization journey

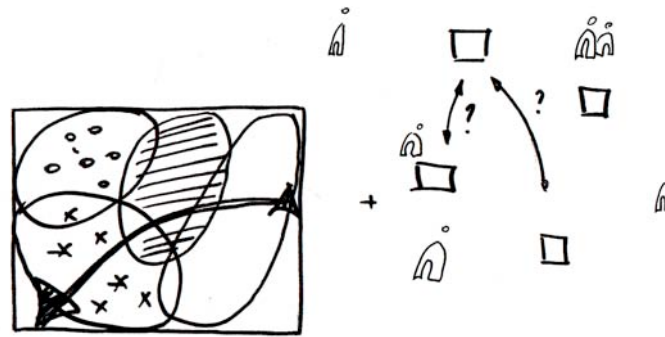
The project focussed on different public spaces in the city. There was a lack of connection between them and in their quality. The goal was to work on a small scale to make a change. These improvements were made to encourage people to use outdoor space again. These neighbourhood development projects had to turn Barcelona into a city that could accommodate big celebrations during the Olympic games!

Manuela de Sola Morales
(Nelson, n.d)

BARCELONA: Revitalization of public spaces

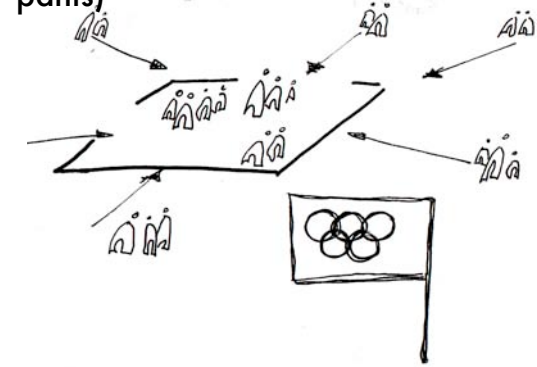
OUTSET

- master plan can not solve the local problems
- public spaces (squares) in a bad condition
- there is no functioning public space network
- people don not use the city so much



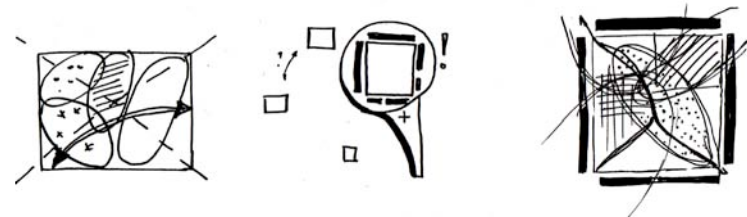
VISION

- bring people back to outdoors
- enjoyable public life
- livability, meeting places, socializing
- Olympic Games (that the city should be able to offer a quality space for all the participants)



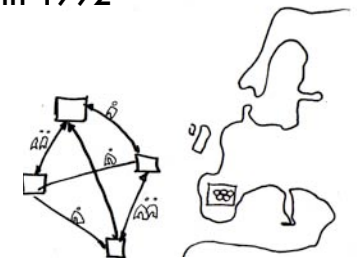
TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- abandon the master plan
- focus on a small scale (the squares that are central points in urban fabric and public meeting place)
- functioning network system between the squares
- investing money in good materials to build up these spaces



TRANSFORMATION

- Barcelona has become one of the well-known examples of functioning public space system
- city is loved by tourists and its citizens
- the city has become very livable
- Olympic Games in 1992



U ACUPUNCTURE

_GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM BILBAO

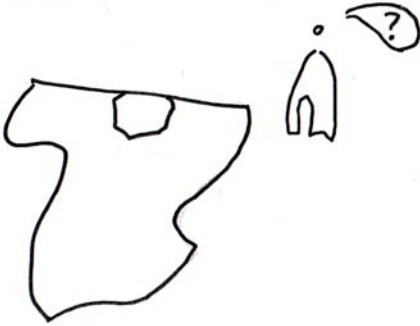
The revitalization journey of Bilbao!
Bilbao is a city in Spain that was unknown before the invention of urban acupuncture! It was an unpopular place to live at even for local people. The urban structure was decayed and did not offer much experiences and opportunities for inhabitants. It was about getting a new image to the city. It was achieved through fascinating architecture, establishing a new art cener.

Frank Gehry
(' Guggenheim Museum Bilbao,
2009-09-18)

BILBAO: Guggenheim Museum of modern and contemporary art

OUTSET

- unknown city
- unpopular place to live at
- city needed innovation to get better reputation



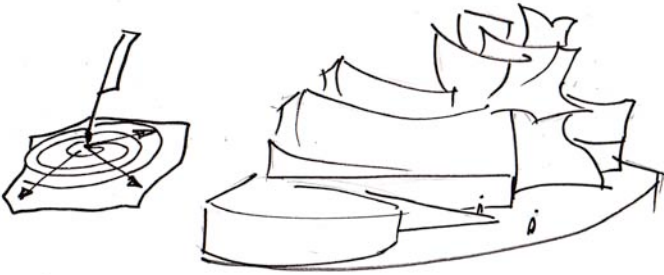
VISION

- to attract people to visit the city
- better urban conditions
- to do something that is unique



TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- a museum of modern and contemporary art
- a great building by the famous architect Frank Gehry
- an attraction that has an effect also to the surrounding areas (interest for other developers)



TRANSFORMATION

- the building is spectacular and a lot of people know the city because of the building's image
- tourism
- to the world map!



'URBAN VOIDS'

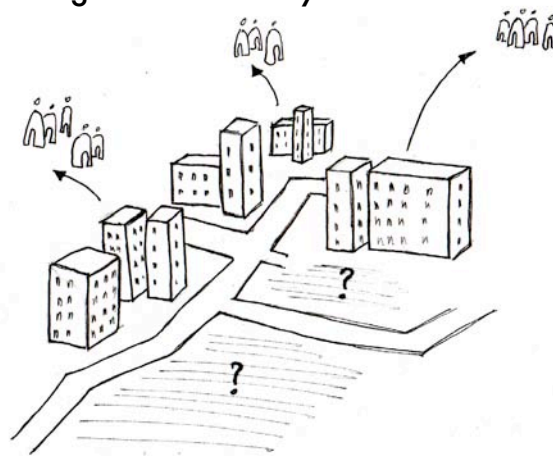
'Urban Voids' was a competition to get ideas how to reconstruct Philadelphia city in USA. The main question was how to respond to the crisis of vacancy? The aim was to suggest ideas for Philadelphia's loose structure and imagine fantastic long-term solutions. The proposal had to provide an idea how to change and reshape the urban and natural forms throughout the city.

Ecosistema Urbano
(Ecosistema Urbano, n.d)

PHILADELPHIA : 'Urban Voids'

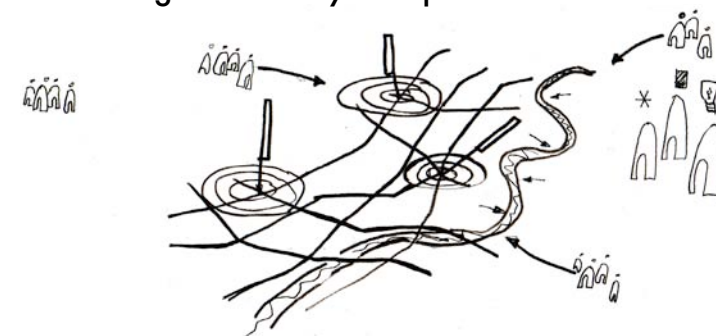
OUTSET

- vacant places
- people are leaving
- there are existing street structure that is not functioning in the best way



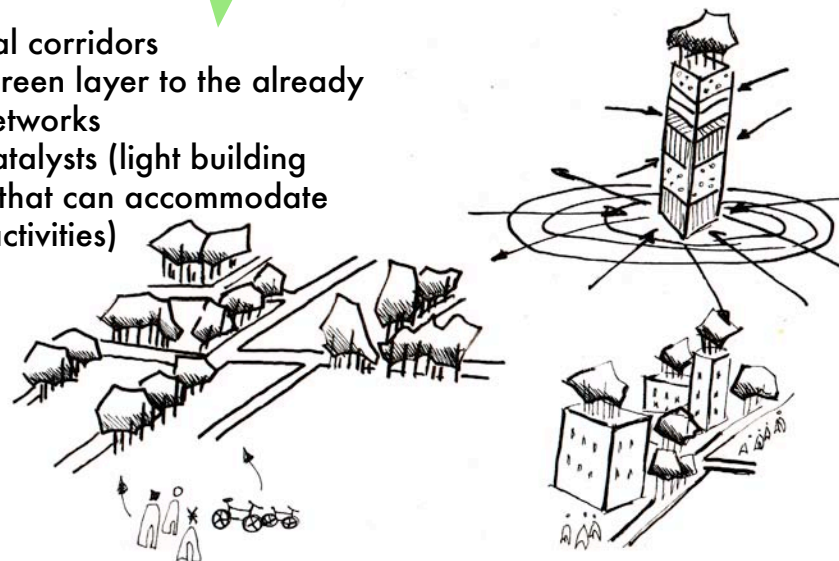
VISION

- greenery
- urban self-reparation by starting discussion with locals
- new green network
- public life on the street
- ecological mobility and public life



TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- ecological corridors
- adding green layer to the already existing networks
- urban catalysts (light building structures that can accommodate different activities)



TRANSFORMATION

- a self sustainable city structure that is combination of public life and ecological aims

_ECOBOULEVARD [repaired]

'Ecoboulevard' Industrial Revitalization in Spain

The idea of the project was to find a temporal design solution to support existing renewed public space. It was a question how to deal with the time gap, while the newly settled structure is too weak to function on its own. The solution is offering activity and socializing possibilities, combined with environmental education.

Ecosistema Urbano
(Ecosistema Urbano, n.d)

OUTSET

- a vacant place
- a new public space with greenery
- problem: the greenery takes time before it look and functions as it should be



VISION

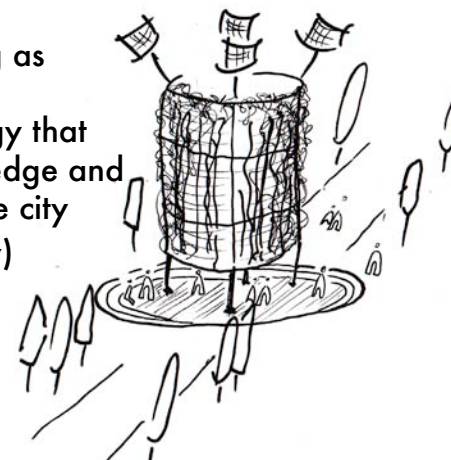
- to bring people and green elements to the city streets
- to offer substitution while the surrounding trees are growing
- public activity and sustainable outdoor life
- bring more green elements to the city , that is important but ecological and also for the people



MADRID: Ecoboulevard [repaired]

TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

- 'air trees' (covered with greenery)
- temporary structures
- 'air trees' are functioning as pavilions
- adding modern technology that could provide new knowledge and also offer something to the city environment (solar energy)



TRANSFORMATION

- transform from built structures to mature greenery
- making a meaning of the place
- leaving behind a flourishing green way
- better urban environmental conditions



While analyzing the projects it became clearer to me how urban acupuncture is focusing on a goal. It is to solve a specific situation connected with the place on its own and to gain maximum effect from the energy injection. According to my interpretation, the main meaning was not to design an aesthetic space, but the core is how to invite people to occupy the space and at the same time make it easier to use. It could be achieved through a good traffic connection, interesting way of using materials, encouraging green corridors and, most importantly, through offering an activity at the place on its own. It seemed that there are two main ways how the tools are approaching the space. On many occasions, the urban structure was too scattered to support the public life activity. As found in the theory, the complexity is what attracts people and can offer various options of using the space. To liven up the place, urban acupuncture often adds structure to intensify the already existing loose structure. Through that action, it provides a new meeting place, encourages movement or constructs a new activity place. Another possibility is to create a strong focus point that catches one's interest. It brings people there and makes this place their new target point. There may occur a chain reaction where people attract more people and engage also the surroundings. The most inspiring for me were Ecosistema Urbano projects, where they see it as an ongoing development. It was interesting to discover that the greenery has a great importance in their solutions. It is seen as an essential design element, because of its ecological nature and constantly changing characteristics. It appears that they think of it as a possibility to develop new public spaces. Thus, the trees, for example, are not seen as a focus point in the space, but rather the main backbone of it. Another inspiring aspect in their project was how they used urban acupuncture as a possibility to deal with the time gap in the built environments! Interpreting urban transformation as a possibility to try out a dynamic design approach. Thus, the design should not be static, but respond to changes in the environment and the needs of public life.

NORRA SORGENFRI

5. SITE OF FOCUS_NORRA SORGENFRI

WHAT? WHY?

WHAT IS NORRA SORGENFRI?

Norra Sorgenfri is located on the edge of the eastern part of the inner city. The once peripheral area has become a part of the city structure through different development periods. In 2006, the district became a vision-project area ('Vision Norra Sorgenfri') for the City Planning Office and Real Estate Office in Malmö Stad. There has been a broad dialogue about how to make a plan for mixed urban development and what could be the main principles of transforming an industrial area into a part of the city structure. It has become crucial because of its proximity to the center. It has an interesting rough industrial characteristic and a size that could be compared with the inner part of the city. Thus, it is seen as a place for development possibilities, that in the future could bridge the center and eastern part of Malmö (Malmö City Planning Office, 2008 Oct.).

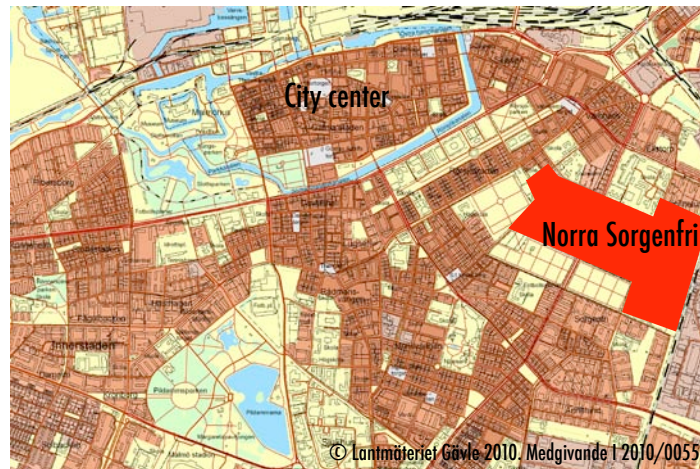
WHY NORRA SORGENFRI?

Norra Sorgenfri became the execution area for the project because of its importance in the city's development. It is one of the ongoing projects that deals with the question of urban transformation. It is not about starting from an empty field, because it has already a historical and physical connection with the city structure. It is more about the question how to deal with the decayed area. It has become a discussion topic, because of its good locality and potential to emerge as something new.

In order to become a part of the city, the simple industrial settlement has to go through structural changes. It has to be intensified to have more inner city characteristics. The question is if the structural shift will bring the people there and serves as an energy creator for the public life, or not?

As mentioned in the introduction, the idea is to establish the public use of the area before the building structure is ready. The structure will be developed through the discussion process through the years. How to start up the public life when there is nothing around? This was one of the interesting aspects why I chose to work with this area and asked the question about the public space. What kind of urban design tool could respond to this dynamic step-by-step planning idea? I found it a challenging area where I could try out the urban acupuncture injection method that could have a quick effect and arouse knowledge of the area.

Even though I have some knowledge of the area's vision, there is no final decision about the development. Malmö City plans are still open; how and when all the things should take place and what the structure will look like. This leaves a broad possibility for different approaches and discussions what could be the energy trigger to invite people there! Thus, I see that in my project at one point I am free from the city design requirements. At the same time, in order to discuss how to establish a space I will relate to my knowledge from readings, city acupuncture ideas and different approach attempts.



KAOS ELLER ORDNING: DEN BLANDADE STADEN ÄR INTE PERFECT...

'I projektet delar vi grundsynen att planering är något annat än att skapa den där perfekta staden', säger Gunilla Kronvall. En ide om rörlighet och broklighet och om lite mindre kontroll än i den storskaliga kontrollerbara staden

'Men det är också en fråga om tid... Och det är en anna sak som gör Norra Sorgenfri unikt i svenskt stadsbyggande. Den långa tidsplanen och det fläckvisa genomförandet...'

(Länsstyrelsen 2008, p 6)

'...Därmed bör planeringen garantera en god utveckling snarare än att eftersträva en perfect och färdig miljö att flytta in i''

(Länsstyrelsen 2008, p 7)

CHAOS OR ORDER: The mixed city is not perfect ...

'In this project, we share the basic view that planning is something more than just developing a perfect city ', says Gunilla Kronvall (author's comment: main architect for this project).

An idea is of mobility and variation with a little less control, than in the large-scale controlled city

'But it is also a matter of time ... And it is another thing that makes Norra Sorgenfri unique in the Swedish city building approach. The long schedule and the step-by-step development ... "

'... This planning should ensure a good development, rather than seeking a perfect and ready environment to move into' (author's personal translation)

LOCATION TRANSFORMATION

History of Norra Sorgenfri: how the former land with farms has turned into an industrial area in the city. It has preserved through the years its characteristic street network and land division but there has been a shift in the building density, position in the city and the importance of the performance.

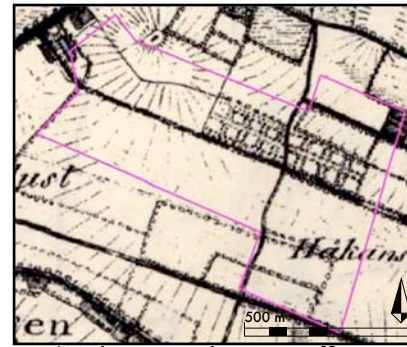
Information is taken from the Malmö city home page (Malmö City Planning Office, n.d.)

Norra Sorgenfri is currently known as an old industrial and service district in Malmö. The area has had an industrial focus since the end of the 1800s. Historical maps show the changes that have taken place both in its infrastructure and its role in the city.

It describes urban transformation: how open pasture land becomes part of a city structure, how it has transformed according to the city needs and development that has taken place in economic, social and urban planning level. Once being outside the city, then situated on the edge of it and eventually, the urban fabric has surrounded it.

While it has changed physically, it has also shifted in terms of usage. Once an open landscape that was turned into a 'closed' industrial area it is now waiting transformation.

1812



(Malmö City Planning Office, n.d)

- early 1800s it was the city's pasture land
- several farms
- groves of larch trees
- it was turned into plantation land later on
- The first road (now called Industrigatan) divided the land into two parts
- 1898 Kontinentalbanan (tram) was established and it was an important factor when industries were established later in Sorgenfri.

1903



(Malmö City Planning Office, n.d)

- on the edge of the city
- area is divided into seven sections (that have remained till today)
- road network was established
- important civic services were established for the tram lines
- Spårvägen was then planned for the housing

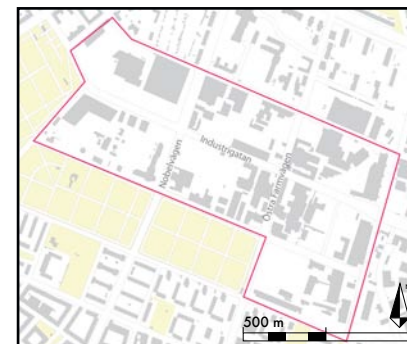
1989



(Malmö City Planning Office, n.d)

- situates in the city structure
- large number of companies
- large scale production
- large scale buildings
- most tightly build up and use of the space
- bus and tram depot

2010



(Malmö City Planning Office, n.d)

- part of the inner city
- a lot of companies have left or closed down
- buildings partly cleared out
- some big building and old brick structures remain
- small services, repair places
- creative and art people have moved to the buildings
- the street structure is still remaining

FORM TRANSFORMATION

What should happen at the place? How to make urban transformation and to guarantee the success of a vision for Norra Sorgenfri? Malmö city sees that there are a number of 'key' elements and ideas that could ensure coherent implementation of the program.

The main transformation takes place mostly in these big plots that are separated by the preserved structure of main streets. The vision's key elements define the important qualities that need to take place there. The 'keys' are (Malmö City Planning Office, 2008 Oct.):

- Small property sizes
- Well-designed street through Norra Sorgenfri (existing Industriegatan)
- Functional mix in blocks/properties
- Many builders, architects, property owners, forms of living, target groups, activities
- Integrated street grid
- Path between central and east Malmö (bridging the districts)
- Linked public spaces
- Public activities and attractions
- Public ground floor
- Broad planning process

AREA INNER STRUCTURE

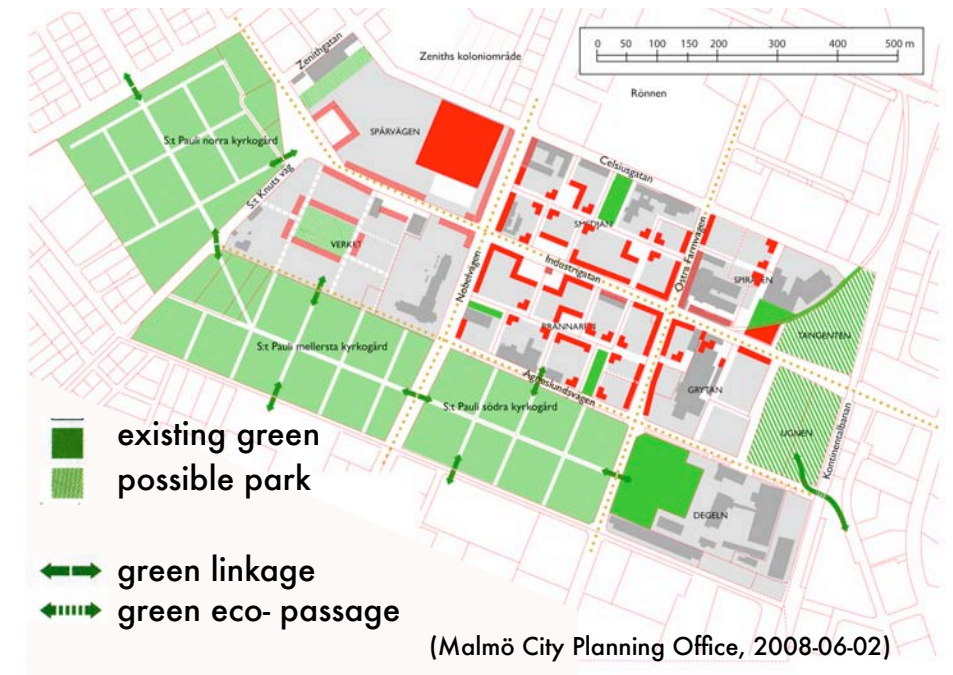


(Malmö City Planning Office, 2008-06-02)

According to the vision the area structure solution is vaguely decided (Malmö City Planning office, 2008-06-02):

- Industriegatan as main road in the area
- area for development
- area for building dialogue
- area for activity
- existing buildings
- street/common area
- park/green
- green and leisure area
- possible future park
- possible common area
- activated public space/floor
- possible future street
- possible light traffic street

GREENERY STRUCTURE



(Malmö City Planning Office, 2008-06-02)

Even though the area is buffered by the green churchyard (Östra kyrkokården), the district is poor in green structure. The vision sees that green streets, gardens, parks, inner courtyard help transform the industrial area into a healthy and good environment. It is seen that the green milieu (Malmö City Planning Office, 2007 Jan.)

- gives a character for the new development area
 - functions as an orientation element
 - turns it in to a beautiful and pleasant city place
 - supports the architectural appearance, micro-climate and recreational use of urban space
- All the vegetation structures should be connected to each other and also to the surroundings.

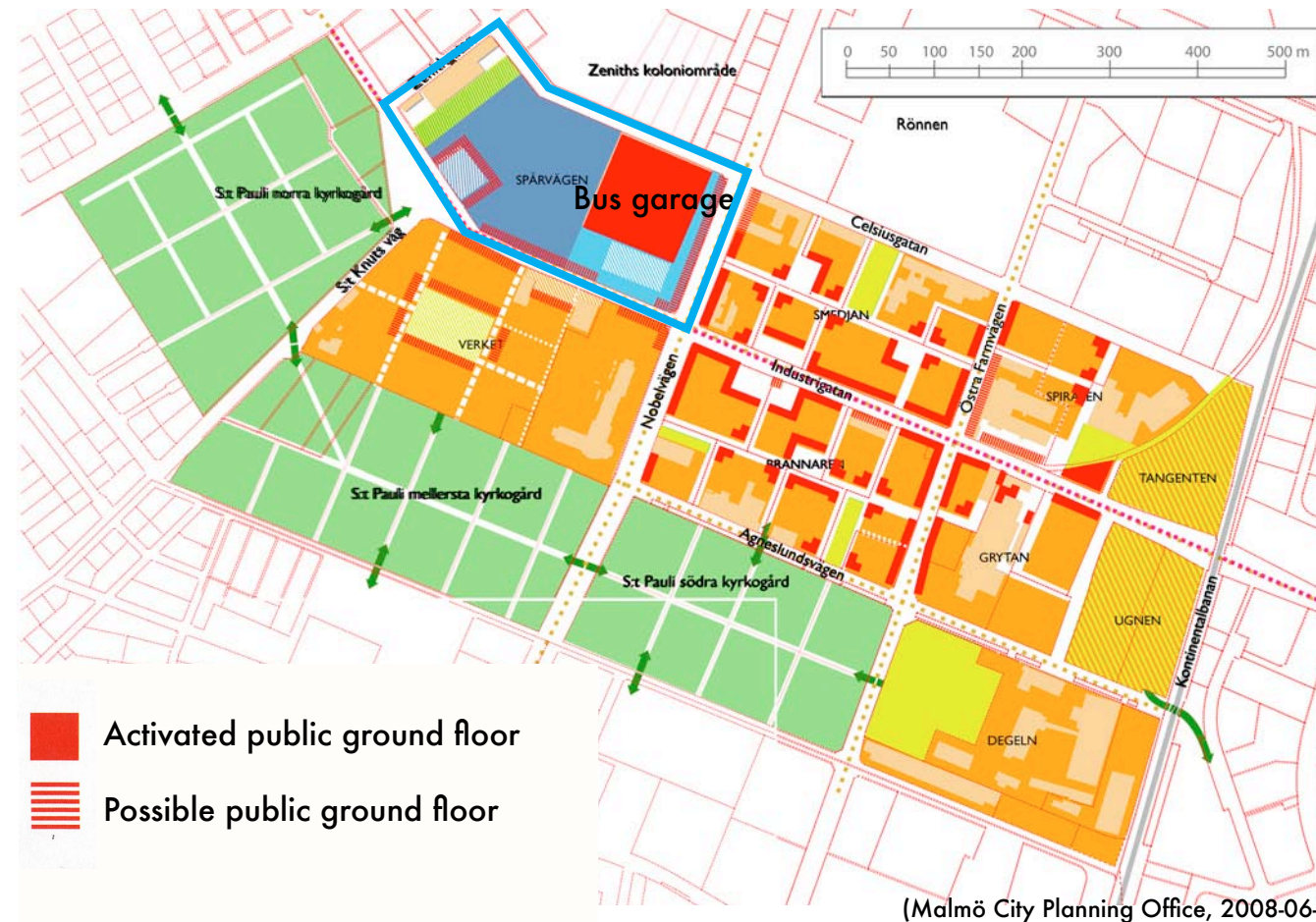
USE TRANSFORMATION

While changing the inner structure of Norra Sorgenfri, there will also be a transformation in terms of use. The new structure should support the public life and change the area into a meeting place for the citizens of all of Malmö.

After the urban transformation, Norra Sorgenfri should have a unique character (Malmö City Planning Office, 2007 Jan.):

- mix use district
- interesting industrial image
- diversity in building structure, size and appearance
- mixed materials: from raw steel to natural wood
- mixing of new and old structures
- use of industrial buildings
- different characteristics in physical form and usages
- active first floor, activity towards the streets
- urban green and spaces through the structure

AREA WITH GROUND FLOOR



A new structure for Norra Sorgenfri. There is combined diverse small scale inner structure, greenery and activated ground floor to encourage public life.

Spårvägen district

All these physical space transformation should contribute to create a lively public life. The activated public ground floor, street life (shops, business, galleries etc) should attract people to this area. The small-scale diverse building structure should offer different possibilities for different groups.

According to the city vision (Malmö City Planning Office, 2008 Oct.) one of the most important objectives is to turn the area to an integration place. That could develop a small-scale cosmopolitan in Malmö city.

One of the starting points to bring together different groups within Malmö is the transformation of the old bus garage in Spårvägen district. It is seen as a functional meeting place that could accommodate different leisure, sport, cultural and free time activities.

EXECUTION AREA

Spårvägen district is the only large area that is owned by the Malmö municipality. The old bus garage that will be turned into a multi-activity place is a strong remainder from the previous industrial period. It is seen as one of the catalyst for this area's urban transformation. It could accommodate different activities and become a meeting point for the users. (Malmö City Planning Office, 2008 Oct).

The very conceptual distribution of the district was proposed in the plan program in 2008 (Malmö City Planning Office, 2008 Oct.). According to this the only preserved buildings on the place are the old bus garage and the existing school.

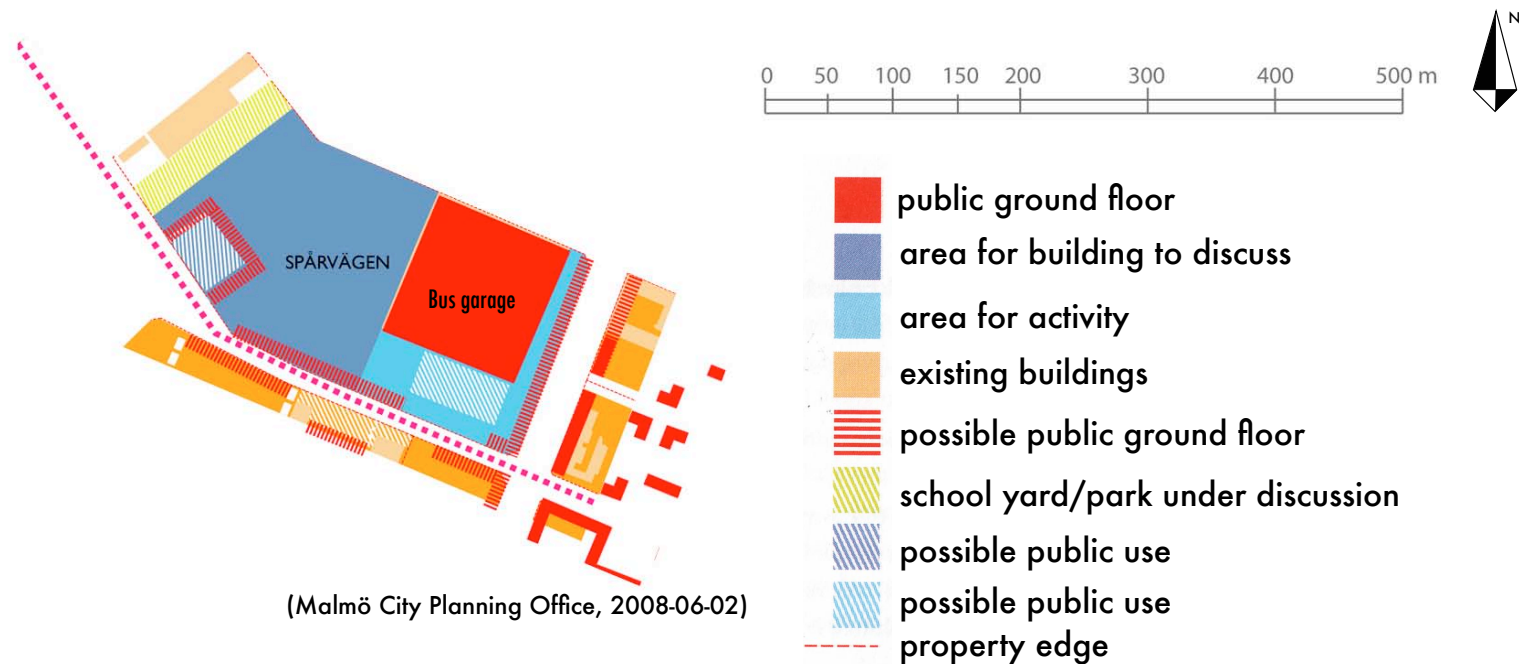
At the exhibition TALK CLIMATE, the first proposal plan was presented. The exhibition took place from the 13th of November 2009 til the 10th of January 2010 in Form/Design Center in Malmö. It showed a vision solution about the building structure conceptual public streets, - spaces and green structure.

According to this proposal, the bus garage is partly pulled down, to give space for public life and buildings.

The plan in the exhibition was a proposal for starting a discussion and not determining the solution for final buildings!

The presented proposal plan was given to me personally by Gunnilla Kronvall, the main architect for the project. There was a short discussion about the area and what could be the possible places for new squares. The meeting took place on the 3rd of December 2009 at the Malmö City Planning Hall.

SPÅRVÄGEN DISTRICT



(Malmö City Planning Office, 2008-06-02)

PROPOSAL VISION



(Meeting, 2009-12-03)

As a first concept, then according to G. Kronvall, there is possibility for three different squares around the new activity center

The idea for the building structure is courtyard houses. They should vary in height, creating different street dynamics. She mentioned that the green structure has an important part in the development process. One of the thoughts were the living green walls in the public space.

One of the questions was also how to approach the time gap, while the process is taking place?

REFLECTION

In an approach process I think there are two important aspects that makes the Spårvägen district special in design solutions. These are the emptiness and the way of handling the time gap. How to make a square that functions on its own, despite the surroundings?

As I want to use urban acupuncture in the proposal, I have unfolded the Malmö City vision plan as I did for the sample projects.

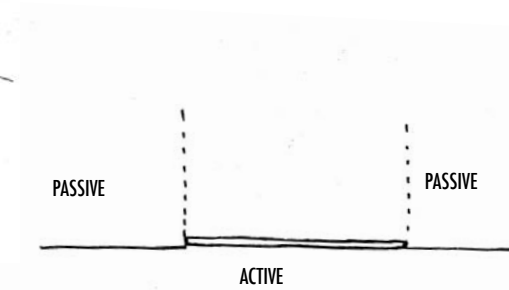
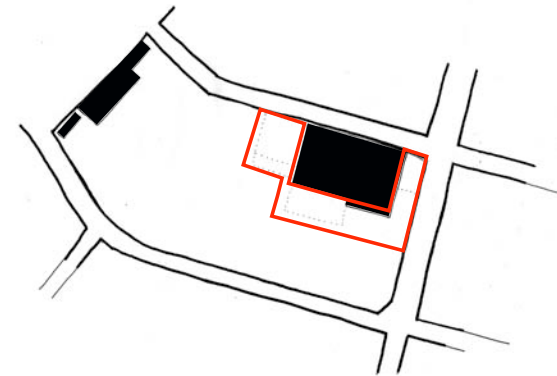
Unfolded Norra Sorgenfri vision plan. Asking what could be the acupuncture tools for that area?

OUTSET

- loose structure, emptiness
- not connected to the city life
- decay area
- how to make an urban transformation?
- how to bring people to the place
- how to deal with the time gaps while building up the whole area?
- how to activate the district?
- triggers to create an interest?

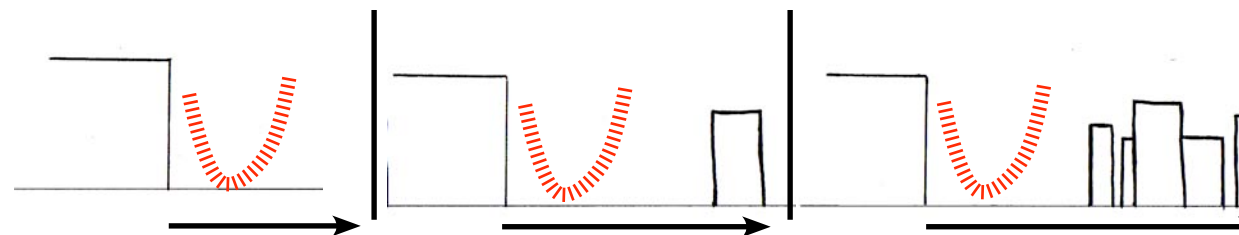
START ABOUT

TIME GAP



To create a possibilities in an area, where the building structure and activity is yet to come.

How to make an activity spot in between the passive surrounding? Do the square(s) be connected to the coming activity center? How could the square function on its own, because there is no certain vision what will happen in the indoor public space?



Secondly how to deal with the time gap when the area is developing. How the existing structure should be integrated to the coming one?

VISION

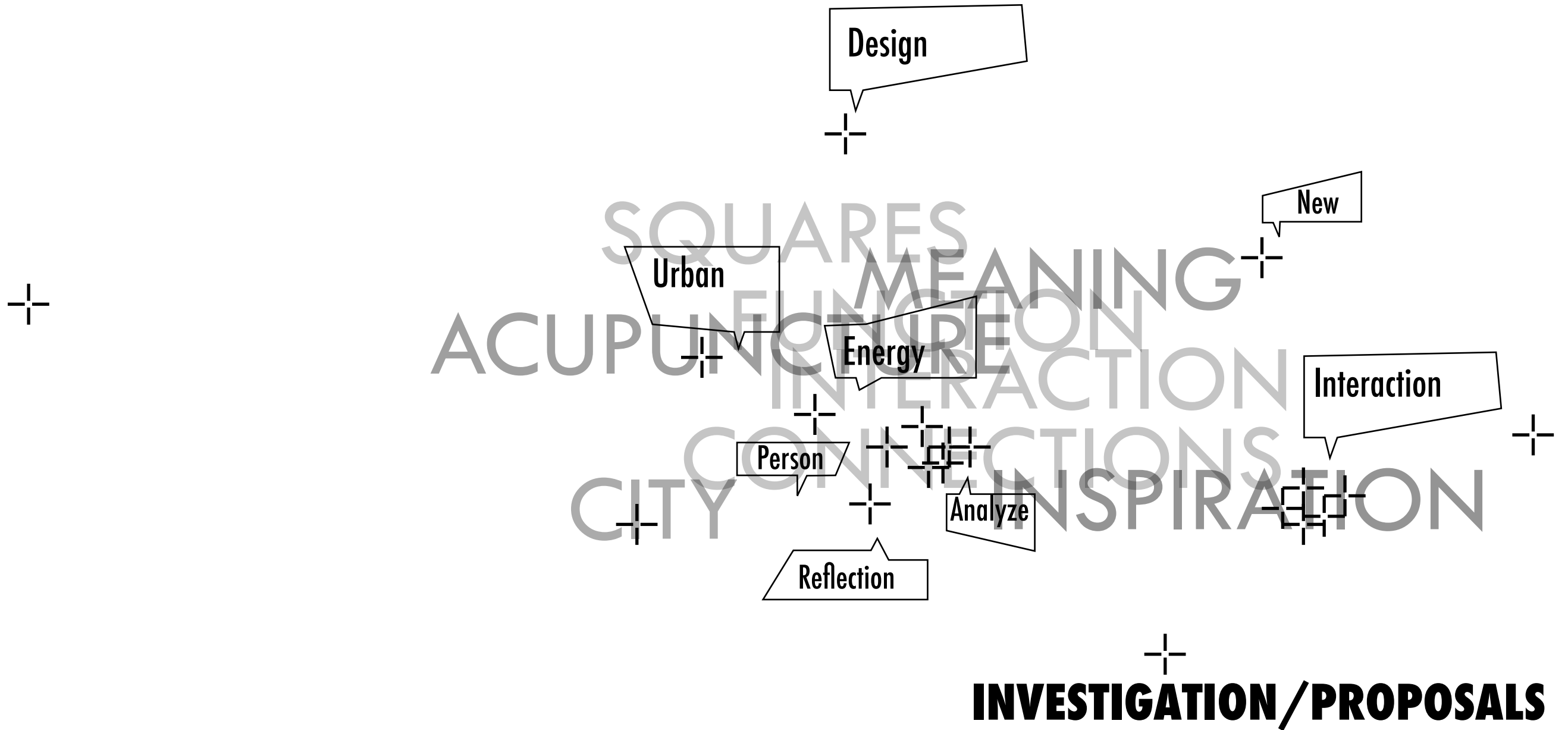
TOOL (ACUPUNCTURE)

TRANSFORMATION

- diverse structure, shrinking scale
- bridge between the center and east Malmö
- to transfer into a city structure
- diverse and attractive new city part
- a new meeting point for all citizens
- public life is the base for the further development
- green network and dynamic development

?

- cosmopolitan place in Malmö
- a new popular place for public interaction
- strong linkage both physical, mental cultural
- dynamic development
- changes taking place through the discussions
- springing up green structure in the whole area



INTRODUCTION

6. THREE SQUARES + A NEW SQUARE

INTRODUCTION

LILLA TORG, VÄRNHEMSTORGET, FRIDHEMSTORGET + NORRA SORGENFRI

In the coming chapter, I will look at how to approach the idea of making a new urban square. The new spot will always be related to the already existing structure and networks. Therefore, I have combined the already existing squares with the coming one. The present Malmö squares are investigated in a relation to the focus area, Norra Sorgenfri. To handle this issue, I will look at it from different perspectives.

First of all, where these four squares are situated in the city structure and what kind of different characteristics they have. In order to get a direction how to approach, I will look at the execution area through the place observations and theoretical knowledge. I juxtapose them in specific aspects that could indicate what could be good, bad or interesting to consider in the next step. To approach the possibilities for the proposal, I will include my knowledge and inspiration from the urban acupuncture studies. By adding my own interpretation and visual creativity, I will make a design illustrations what Norra Sorgenfri could be turned into.



INTRODUCTION

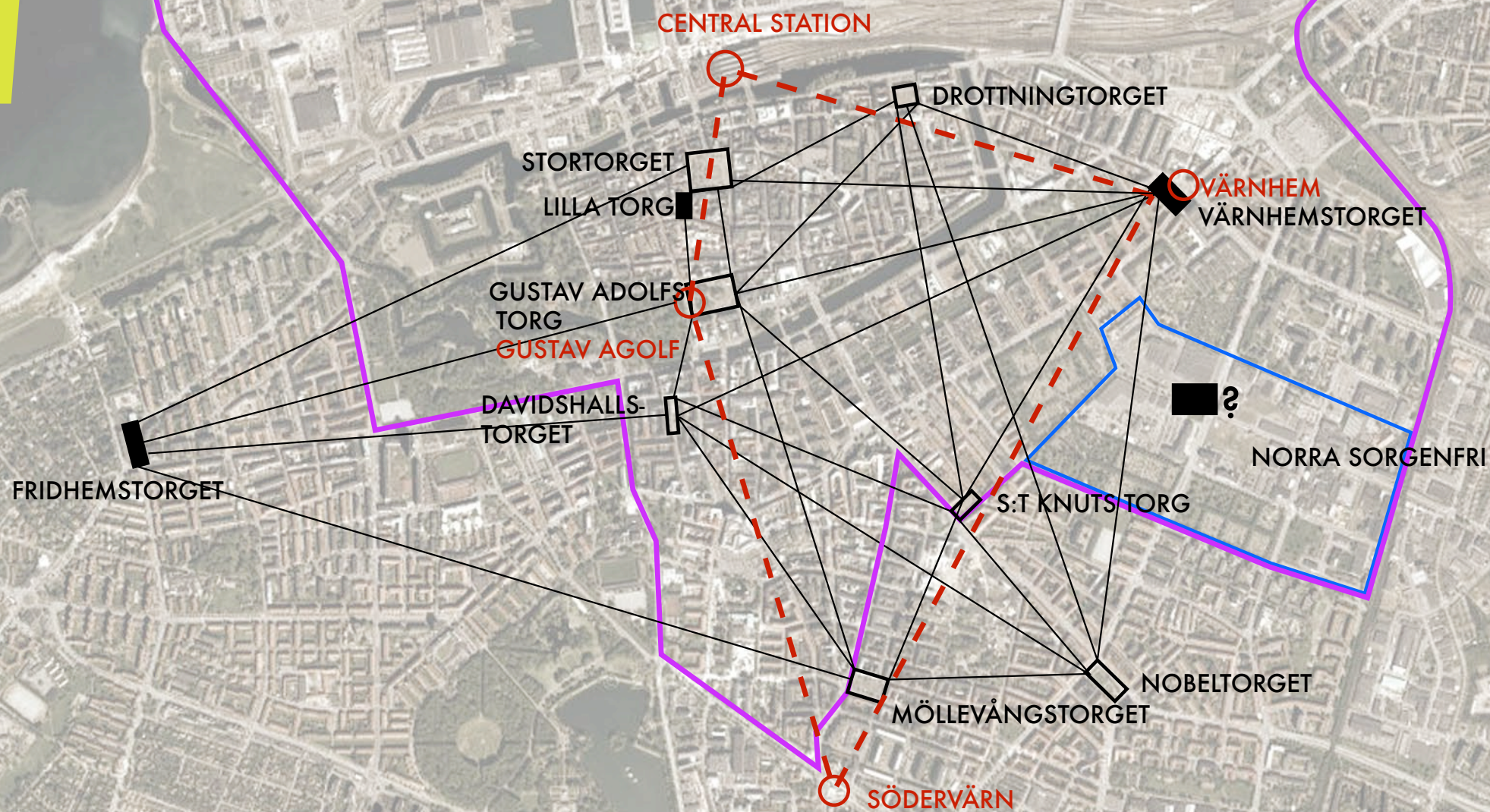
_LOCATION

Every square has its own position in the city structure. The location of the place defines what kind of characteristic it has: is it situated in the center or on the edge, can one designate the usage frequency. Who are the different users and their possibility to come across to the area?

The map shows the interconnections of the squares and the continuation in the square network in the center part of the city.

- Existing squares
- Research squares (existing)
- Bus change stops
- Connection/network possibilities between different squares
- City 'center' border line
- Main bus circulation's abstract line
- New development area
- Is there going to be a new square in the area? Where it will be situating. How it connects to existing network?

Norra Sorgenfri is located on the edge of the eastern part of the inner city. How it will be connected to the exiting city structure? What kind of characteristics will it have? Will it become a merged part of the center or will it turn into a neighborhood district?

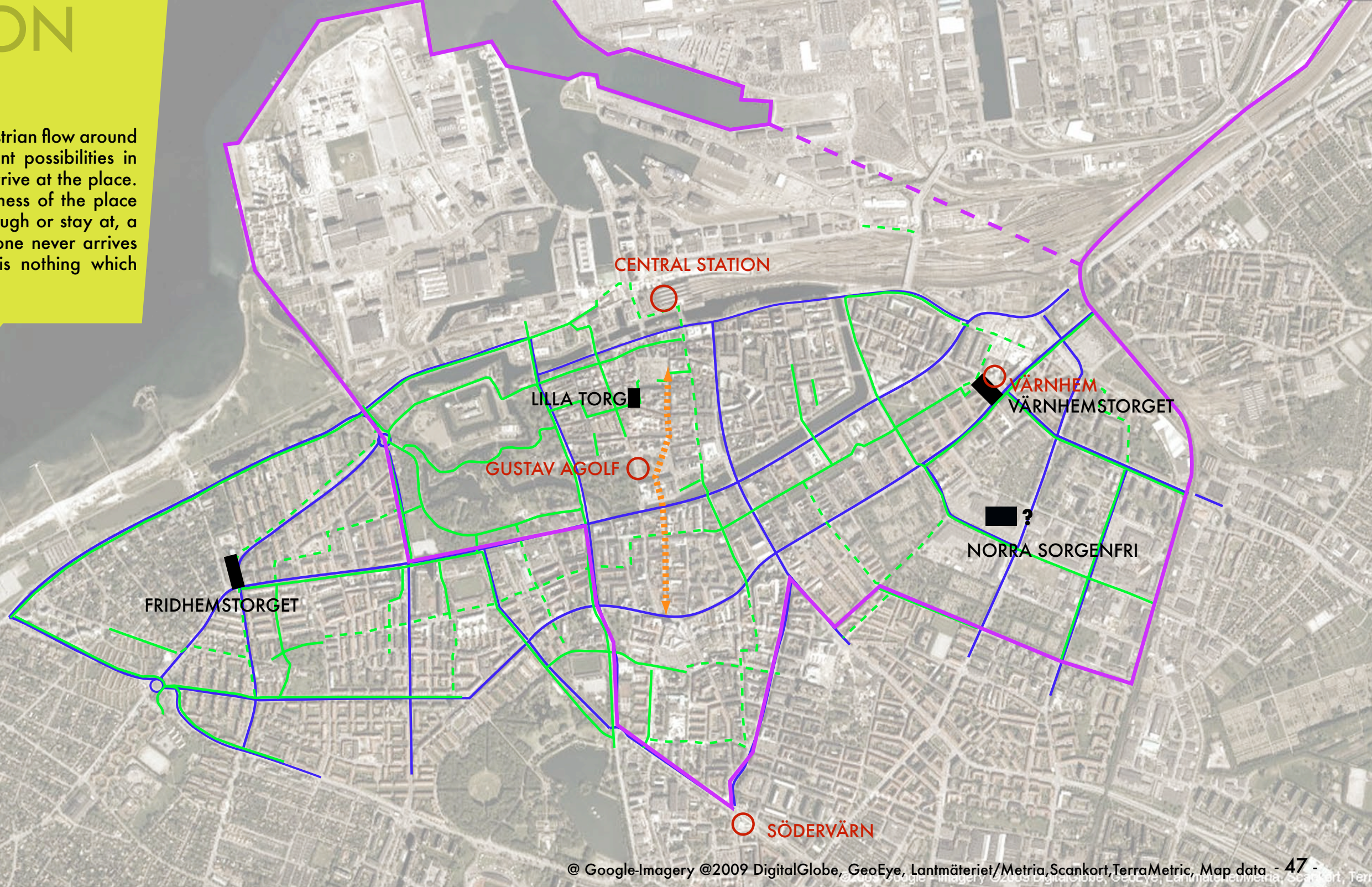


INTRODUCTION

_CONNECTION

The map shows the main bike, car and pedestrian flow around the researched squares. Different movement possibilities in the city, defines how one could probably arrive at the place. It could have an effect on how the awareness of the place emerges. Is the square a node to pass through or stay at, a traffic point or target on its own? Maybe one never arrives there because poor connection or there is nothing which would invite them!

- Research squares
- Bus change stops
- Main car lines
- Bike lines
- Bikes on the car lines
- Pedestrian street
- City 'center' border line
- A new square (s)?



INTRODUCTION

_NEARBY CONTEXT

The squares' location also often determine the nearby context. The use of the surrounding buildings also determines what kind of daily life style is led in this area. It also can give a hint who are the main users that come to the area, like are they office workers, residents, tourists, youngsters, families, some ethnic groups etc. Residents and facilities distribution can direct the use of public space.

(Gehl & Gemzøe, 2004,p.36-39; Jacobs, 2003,p.209)

Both Jane Jacobs in her book 'The Death and Life of Great American Cities' (2003) and Jan Gehl with Lars Gemzøe in their books 'Public Spaces- Public Life, Copenhagen 1996' (2004) and 'New City Spaces' (2006) reflect that lively and well used public spaces have a diversity in the spatial, as well as in the resident structure.

Gehl and Gemzøe emphasize that people are the main key factor that creates the liveliness in the city. They have illustrated this how the residential students in Copenhagen have an influence on the city vitality. Their life style is a reason for a constant flow and use of facilities in all season and time (2004, p.38).

Jane Jacobs discusses this in the chapter 'The need for mixed primary uses' (2003, p.198-233) more from the architectural settlement point of view. She talks about the vacuums that are generated by the solitary function of the buildings. She mentions that through the observation it is easy to notice how intensely the area is used: is there a deathlike stillness for hours or continuous activity (2003, p.202). She points out that there is a need for balance, because well established and prestigious intensely populated areas are not the solution. If it is established for one purpose, then it can hardly offer the activity for different groups. To generate the diversity there is need of various users. At the same time, it is necessary to give a possibility to use the space throughout the day.

These distribution maps show the main characteristics areas around the squares. Illustrating if there are more commercial and entertainment facilities or one-sided function, like living or industry? The latter could be associated with the result why some of the squares are more used by different groups and serve different needs. The others have a more local or neighborhood importance. Thus, when thinking of a new place for public life, the important fact is who will be the potential close users. In addition what can be the aspects that catch the other citizens interest and invite there?



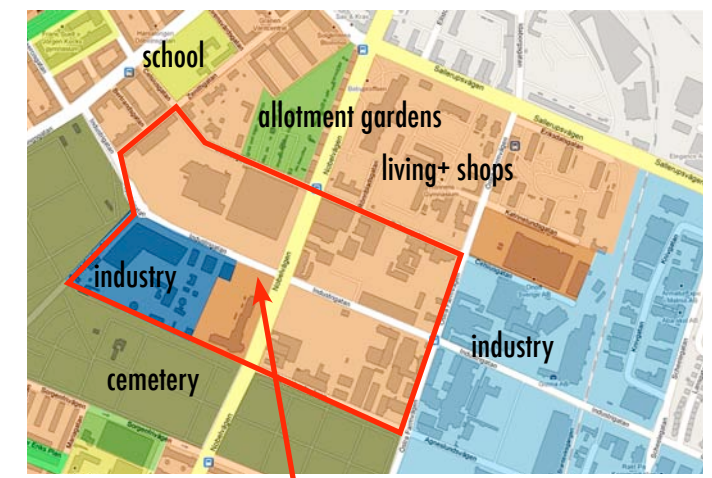
LILLA TORG



VÄRNHEMSTORGET



FRIDHEMSTORGET



NORRA SORGENFRI

INTRODUCTION

_DEFINING SQUARES

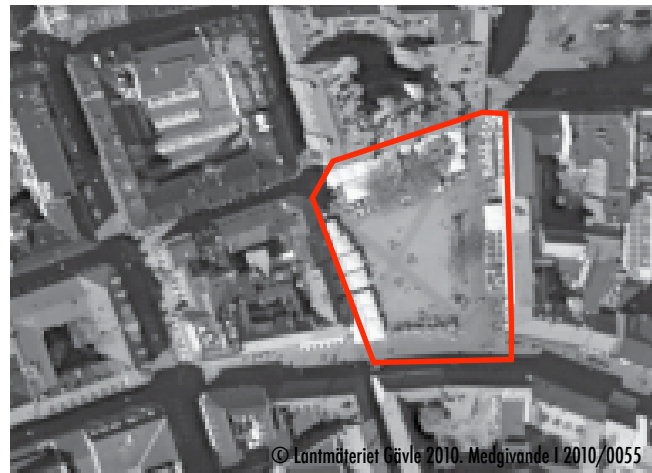
How easy is it to realize in a real life how the square is defined in a urban structure? Is it easy to recognize where one spatial dimension starts and another ends.

After selecting and mapping the investigation square, the first question was how to define the borders/edges for the square? As seen from the pictures, the transformation from the square area to a street or to other building can be sometimes hard to define. This reflects the concept of enclosure and how the space shift is realized. Is it an open space in a tight building structure to arrive or just a widened pass through point?

As for Värnhemstorget and Fridhemstorget both seems to be smoothly blending with the surrounding, thus, creating no visual or physical feeling in the change of spatial means. As a result, it makes it harder to see them as a strong open spaces what could be a stopping point for the square visitors. Lilla Torg on the contrary is very compact because of the strong borders. The tightly situated houses emphasize the openness in the urban fabric.

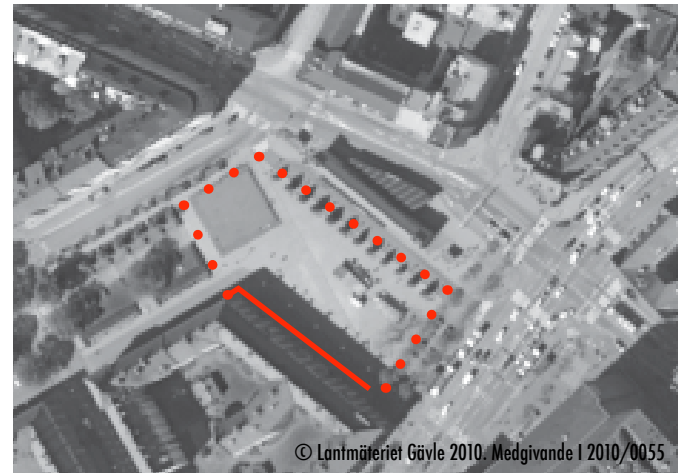
What could be the borders for the new square (s) in Norra Sorgenfri? How to define them if there is no building structure that could do it in the beginning?

LILLA TORG



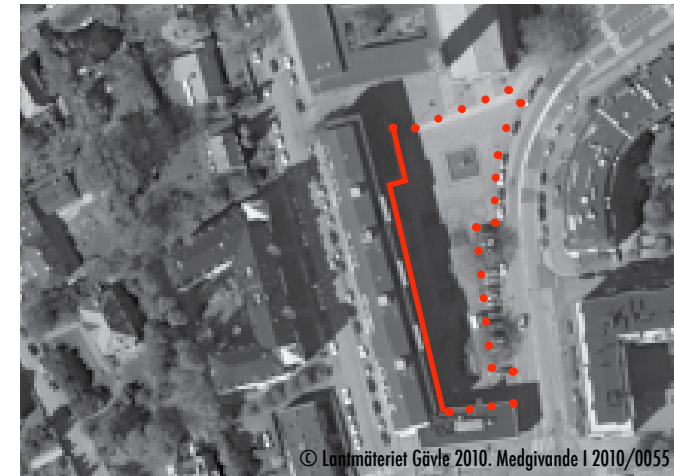
Area: 3813 m²

VÄRNHEMSTORGET



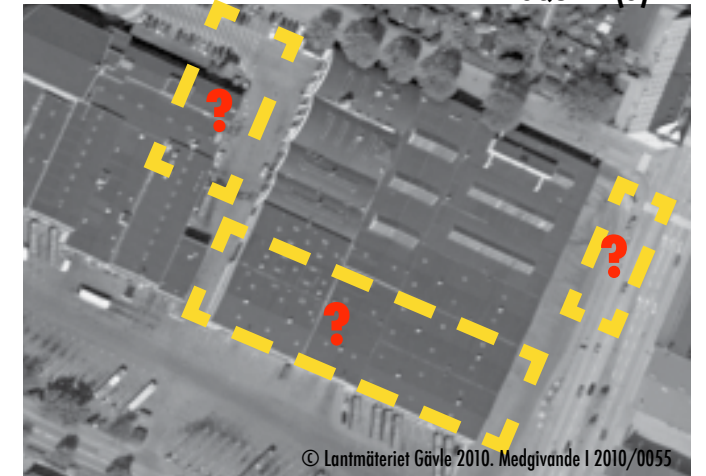
Area: 4632 m²

FRIDHEMSTORGET



Area: 3176m²

NEW SQUARE(S) ?



Area: ? m²



INTRODUCTION

_SQUARES' NATURE

It seems that the location, the linkage to the surrounding activity and physical characteristics with the history, influence the essence of the squares. From my observations, I have provided the squares with keywords. It describes how I perceived the atmosphere and what is the main reason why the squares are used.

'ENJOY'



(Talviste, 2009)

'SPEED'



(Talviste, 2009)

'QUALITY'



(Talviste, 2009)

'?'



(Talviste, 2009)

CITY SQUARE: 'ENJOY'

Lilla Torg is one of the oldest squares in Malmö, dating back to the 17th century ('Lilla Torget', 2009-10-06). It has preserved its essential medieval shape and strong distinctive layout. It has always been a place for citizens to gather, whether going to the market or nowadays to the restaurants.

Because it is situated in the center of the city it has a lot of different users. Lilla Torg has a reputation as being one of the most beautiful squares in Malmö where to spend time. Especially in summer times when a lot of people are circulating: dining, taking a break outdoors, there are city visitors, tourists etc. The busy first floor with cafes and restaurants invites people to ENJOY the city life in a nice atmosphere.

LOCAL SQUARE: 'SPEED'

Värnhemstorget has been a circulation point since the 19th century when the horse tram depot was established ('Värnhemstorget', 2009-05-26). By its appearance, the square could be described as a TRAFFIC NODE. There are different roads that meet there: cars, city and regional buses, bikes and pedestrians. In connection with traffic, it means mostly arriving at and leaving for somewhere! The square itself is mostly used as a circulation point without stopping, because the target node is more important.

The public transportation brings different people there. At the same, it does not have the same importance as the central station. Värnhemstorget serves more the nearby residents.

NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE: 'QUALITY'

Fridhemstorget is situated in one of the most expensive living areas of Malmö ('Fridhem', 2009-03-21). The square was established in the 1970s. It is situated just on the border where a block building area gives way to the villa area. In the beginning, it was viewed as a gathering place of the neighborhood. Nowadays, all the initial facilities are gone and it has become a passage through area.

The only social activity that takes place on the square is a daily market. Some special goods and high QUALITY creates interest to go there. The Mac computer service is also a reason why people know the square and visit it.

NEW SQUARE: '?'

The old industrial area on the border of the city center is waiting for an image change. It is still open what future structure will look like. What could characterize the new square? Should it be something that will last for ages or change according to the needs? What could be the keywords in this transformation?

INTRODUCTION

_PHOTO RECORDING

Abstract from the photo recordings while being on the place three times. Through that I would like to give a small glimpse of what I think was characteristic of the square. What created an experience and sense of that place for me.

LILLA TORG



(Talviste, 2009)

VÄRNHEMSTORGET



(Talviste, 2009)

FRIDHEMSTORGET



(Talviste, 2009)

NEW SQUARE



(Talviste, 2009)

6. THREE SQUARES + A NEW SQUARE

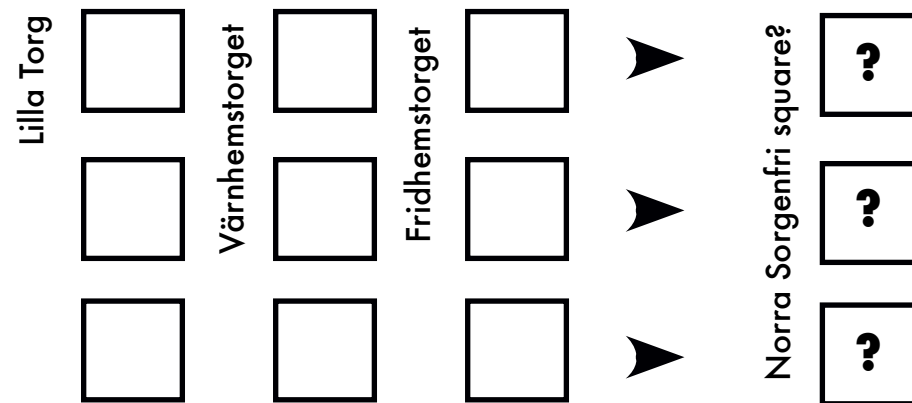
APPROACH AND DIRECTION

To get a **DIRECTION** of how the space could be approached I have made an observation on three squares in Malmö. I visited the places three times and looked at different specific physical conditions and the activity there. The focus subjects crystallized from the theory reading and are reflected through my sketches (page 27-29). I saw them as one of the important basic things that are the basis for understanding the square's different positions and functions in the city.

In the following chapter, I will sum up my analyses, observations and knowledge from the theory. I will look at the execution area, Norra Sorgenfri, through these gathered different inputs. I will present a juxtaposition of four of them on different topics and asking how the present situation could be applied in a further design process. It is about starting to see what is good or bad, what functions or don't function on existing squares and even what could be done differently. It is as a synthesis that combines different aspect to form a ground for further discussion. The approach to get the direction is about starting to ask questions 'What happens on the place?' and 'How does it function?'. From that starts a discussion when thinking 'What if the same situation will be applied to a new square?'. Will it have the same or different impact? Maybe there should be some other way of dealing with the same topics? It is about building up small scenarios, discussing 'What could happen, if...'!

This is at the same time an attempt to reflect what I have seen and experienced while making the observations. While being on the place, I did not concentrate only on people or spatial elements, but I also tried to understand the read theory in a reality. I found it useful in order to start thinking about the space and place and trying to understand why it functions as it does. It could be argued that there are many books that are describing in detail good design solution for public places, as a guarantee for a success. I find that knowledge also is important, but at the same time I find it necessary to try to develop a critical mind just by being at the place. From the experience beginning to reflect how the already built up squares are in their nature!

Through looking for various directions, I wanted to develop a better understanding of how the built structure can have an impact on the square's character and use of it. It is also a way of becoming aware of what I have or do not have on the space that could affect public life there. Starting to question how to 'land' and what I could use from the existing study situations is a preface in order to provide a conceptual proposals for new space.



DIRECTION

_LOCATION

Gehl has pointed out that the various locations influence the squares usage patterns and how intensively they are visited. Is it passed every day because it is necessary or it is shortest cross path to home or one goes there rarely to have a Sunday coffee etc. The location can be seen as an obstacle where is hard to reach. It could be seen also a possibility to go somewhere else from the everyday routine places.

Lilla Torg with its historical structure and houses is a special place in the city center. The compact and varied architectural layout is rather unique in Malmö, that is admired by the visitors. It is located in the center of the city and makes it is easy to come there. At the same time, it is the most active part of the town and used by many, both because it is needed and optional.

Even though Värnhemstorget is a busy traffic point, it has a local meaning. It is one of the city's circulation points, together with Södervärn, that serves close by districts. The square is on the edge of the center, that is outside the most intensive pedestrian circulation area. Poor possibilities for site activities on the square do not create an interest to come to the place and spend time there. One exception is the close by Entrè shopping mall that makes it an important consuming node point in the city and attracts people.

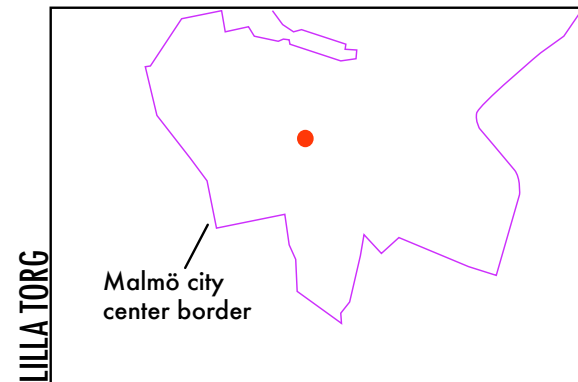
Fridhemstorget is buffered by the living area houses. When the square was built it was regarded as an addition to the facilities in the city center. It does not have any essential circulation points that could direct other citizens there. Usually, the passersby are nearby residents. It seems that the square can not compete with the active city center part that is only five minutes away. It could be argued that the locals do not depend on the neighborhood service any more because of the mobility!



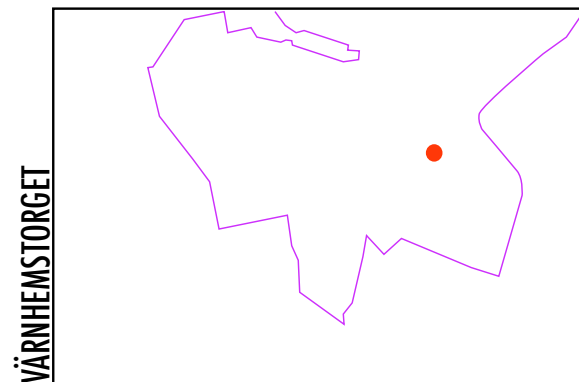
Norra Sorgenfri is located on the edge of the city center. At the moment, the industrial area does not have an activity layer that could attract visitors. The area has different possibilities to develop because of the closeness to the active center. It could be influenced in terms of what kind of circulation and node points are going to be settled in the neighbourhood. Provoking through that the need to pass through and stop in the area.

The overall location formation can establish different scenarios for the square usage. It could become a public place for the nearby districts and offer a service for the local residents. If there arises a need to pass it, the square might be used by different people. The location could become a target on its own by offering something special that is not available anywhere else.

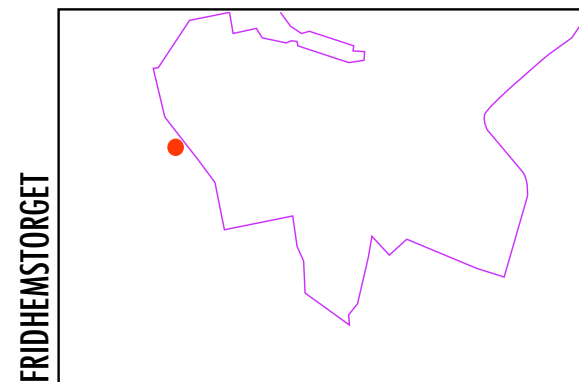
If the city decides to develop a important traffic flow through Norra Sorgenfri, then passing and stopping in the area could become more as a natural coincidence. Additional interesting public life and activity possibilities can encourage people to stay over and contribute to the emergence of the square as new interaction place



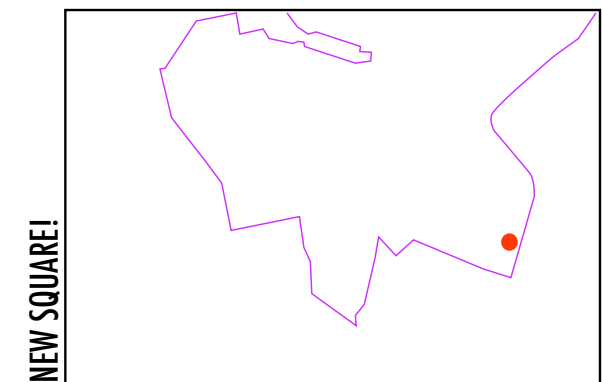
- In the city center
- Market to public square
- Old part of the city



- On the edge of city center
- From tram to bus circulation
- Meeting point for big roads



- Outside the center
- From a neighborhood commercial center to an unoccupied place
- Living area neighborhood



- > Needed or optional use?
- > A new living area or part of the center?
- > A new meeting point in the city?
- > Bridging different city districts?

DIRECTION

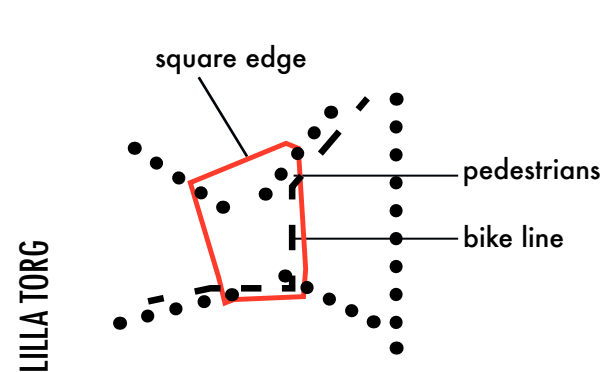
_CONNECTION

Different connection possibilities have an impact on how one can arrive at the place. Is it more as a natural flow that can take there or is it more a planned going? Gehl has highlighted Copenhagen as an excellent example how through foot traffic can liven up the public use of the city. The study observations revealed that all of the squares have their dominant traffic system, how most of the users are arriving to the place. It reflects how the squares are connected to the urban structure and at the same time how the place is experienced (on foot, from the car, from the bus, etc).

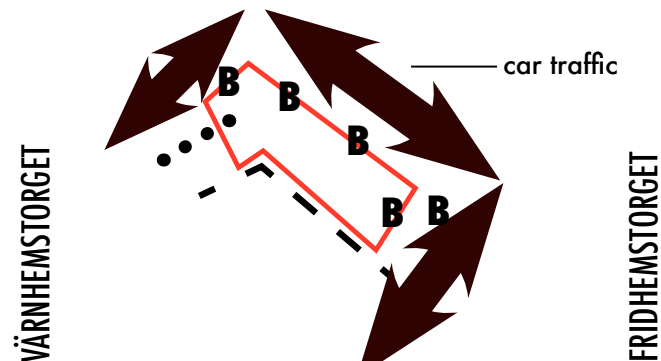
According to Gehl, the Lilla Torg is a good example how to encourage citizens to use the space through prioritizing light traffic. Around the square, there are only pedestrian streets, making it a part of the recreational use of the city. The easy access and possibility to stroll without worrying about car traffic invites many people to this square.

Värnhemstorget is about the traffic circulation. Most of the people are either going or arriving with the local or city transportation and use the square as a pass through point. The green pedestrian alley from the city center offers a nice walkway to the square and connects it to the pedestrian network system. Along the square, there is also the city main bike line that is used very actively. It directs probably many people through the square because of the linkage and makes it an important node point for bikers.

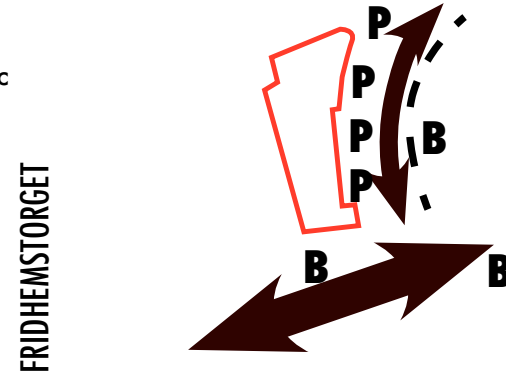
A lot of the Fridhemstorget users (Mac computer shop, cash machine, food market) came there by car. That is provided by the parking along the east side of the whole square that creates a dominant border there. For walking there are not any separate pedestrian paths to lead to the square. It is rather continues way along the car parking from the living area. Close by there are city bus stops, from one arrives to the square crossing the car street.



- Pedestrian streets
- Passing bike route
- Light traffic free flow from all the directions



- Local bus terminal
- Double car lines
- Main city bike route
- Local and city bus stops
- Green pedestrian link from the center of the city



- Parking along the square
- Double car lines
- City bus line stops
- Bike line

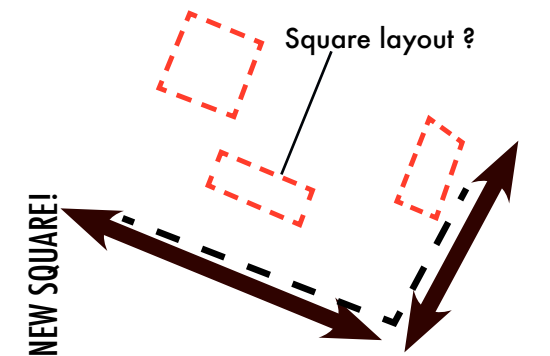


How one arrives at the square and how is it perceived? Is it seen from the street or is it buffered by the buildings? Is it easy to access or prevented by obstacles?

As seen from the existing squares, the movement possibility and traffic nature guides the different flows and most obvious visits to the square. This can be encouraging or not!

One way to provide visits to the new square(s) is the well functioning bus lines running through the area. The question would be how the new bus stops relate to the new squares. How will the connections to the squares be guided? Is the connection made because of the activity center, that attract to this area? When the construction process is finished, will there be a visual connection from the main street that indicates the place presence? Will this new public place be more part of the activity house (internal characteristic) or connected to the active street life?

At the same time, how to create the knowledge of the space through the recreational use. How to guide the pedestrians and bikes through the area? Deliberately situated paths through the square will more likely bring people there and generate the knowledge of it. The emphasized visual vistas can lead there to explore.



- > A new city bus line?
- > Traffic or inner squares?
- > New bus stops places?
- > Bike road through the squares?
- > Light traffic as priority?
- > Activity center as a connection creator

DIRECTION

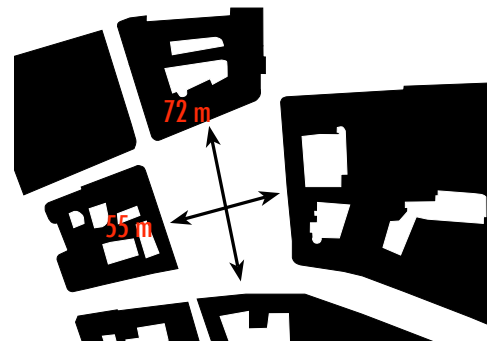
_SIZE, SENSE OF SPACE

Different distances in the space can influence the individuals in terms of interacting there. It could have a cozy or anonymous atmosphere. It is connected what are the different eye contact possibilities with the others and also space itself. The framework creators, such as buildings, streets, greenery, objects etc., play a big role in what kind of sense it will give forward.

Lilla Torg is a good example of a compact space that provides a strong feeling of the place. It has as a strong definition from the building facades that emphasize the space shift from the incoming streets. The squared shape allows having a visual control over the area and does not lead eyes to wander behind the square. It gives a feeling of being in this particular moment. The enclosure and human scale proportion makes it enjoyable and provide a good micro climate conditions. The windless atmosphere and sunshine almost all the day long make it pleasant to stay there.

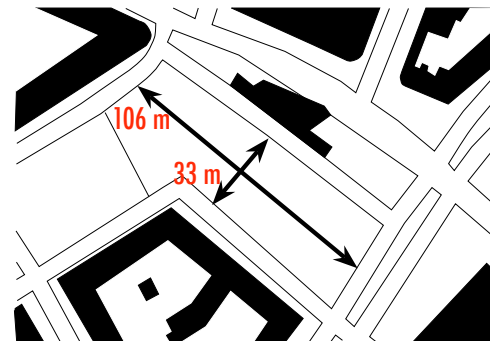
Värnhemstorget is defined mostly by the surrounding roads and only on one side by buildings. The elongated shape merges to the surroundings because of the openness. The simple layout and weak structural definition makes it harder to get a control over the space, feel comfortable and protected. The entering traffic noise is also one of the factors that could be an obstacle to one's willingness to stay over. It has morning and evening sun that could provide more pleasant spots while staying.

On Fridhemstorget, it was the most difficult to get the feeling of strong space characteristic and an overview of the area. It does not have any distinctive spatial shifts. There is no material change or binding element/design that could even mark that. The size of the square is elongated and it is diffused to the surroundings. The square is the most 'leaking' because of the weak sense of space. The high buildings around the square create large shady areas and the wind drafts. The openness and rather sparse layout do not form a comfortable space to stay.



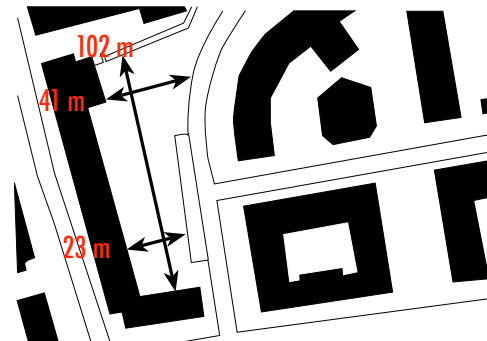
Area: 3813 m²

- Defined by the facades
- Enclosed, strong image
- Medieval image
- Human scale
- Visual overview of the area



Area: 4632 m²

- Defined mostly by the roads
- Openness, not compact
- Traffic hub
- Ground material defines the square
- Visual overview of the area



Area: 3176 m²

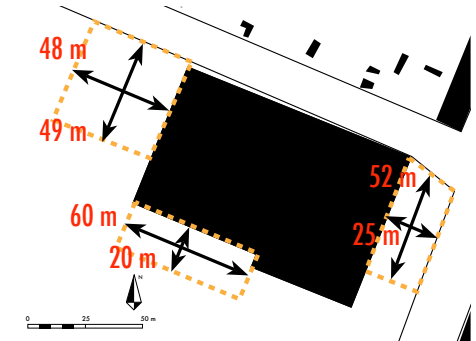
- Edged by parking cars and L-shaped high building
- Openness, not compact
- Hard to define the space shift
- Hard to get visual overview



According to project's main architect G.Kronvall (meeting 2009-12-03), three squares could be developed around the transformed bus garage. The suggestion for the sizes would be formed when the building area is completed. The first idea of the size could be seen in the first proposal plan (page 42). Thus, the space definition becomes important. How to define an open space in openness? According to the observations, a leaking space is mostly caused by a lack of enclosure, imperceptible shift in space and poor social interaction distances. How to prevent that?

Will they all function as a separate square or should they form a one with the sub-spaces? When it comes to the placement, two of them are facing big roads that makes them visually seen and maybe disturbed by the traffic. The smallest space on the south side of the building is probably the more enclosed one, when the buildings are settled. How the size of the old bus garage could influence the sense of the new square(s)?

Will the outdoor public spaces be a transition zone from the open field (in the future buildings) to a activity house? Maybe the squares have a strong structure and function as the bus garage has?



- > United or three squares?
- > What could define the open space in an openness?
- > Strong space or transition zones?
- > Characteristic of the square (s)
- > Space possibility for the use?

DIRECTION

_ENTRIES/ARRIVING

Both Moughtin and Gehl emphasize the entry to the place as one of the most important features of the square. It connects to the node, portal, arriving, departing effect and the squares visual image communication. Giving the cognitive feeling if the square has factors that invite to settle in or direct to go through. It seemed that the overly open squares did not hold people at the place because of the poor physical structure and lack of activity possibilities.

Lilla Torg has five defined arrival points where one enters to the square, defying the change in the urban fabric. The entering streets direct the main diagonal movement and emphasize the arrival at a new situation.

On the Värnhemstorget, the arrival is not directed by the streets, they are mostly defined by the crossing places over the roads. The surrounding wide roads leave the spatial situation rather open and take away the feeling of entering. The strongest feeling of arriving at the square is coming from the park alley.

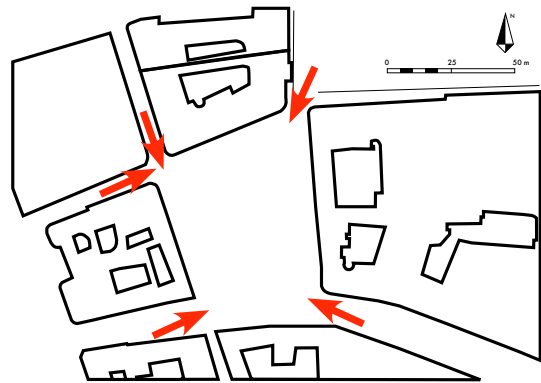
On the Fridhemstorget, the majority of entrances are made from the long parking area. The pedestrians are coming along the streets from different parts of living districts. There is not so much feeling of arriving because there is no defined transformation between the more tight building area to an open space. When being on the place, it felt that the square merges into the parking area and streets, giving no feeling that the place structure differs much from the surroundings.



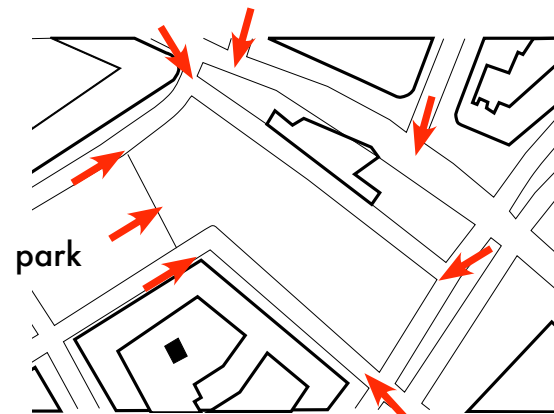
It seems that the way how one perceives the space is again influenced by the structure of the space. This means that the surrounding area is more compact and loosens up in some points. According to the existing examples, the feeling of arriving depends essentially on the borders and on how one experiences the entering.

From where do people arrive to the new square (s)? Should the entry placement be a reflection of the main important nodes that could be connected to the area? These could be new bus stops, other nearby public spaces, new public spaces, building accesses etc. . It is the point where people are most likely to arrive and depart. At the same time, it is also a way of directing the main pedestrian flows on the square or through it. From where people are going out/in to the activity center?

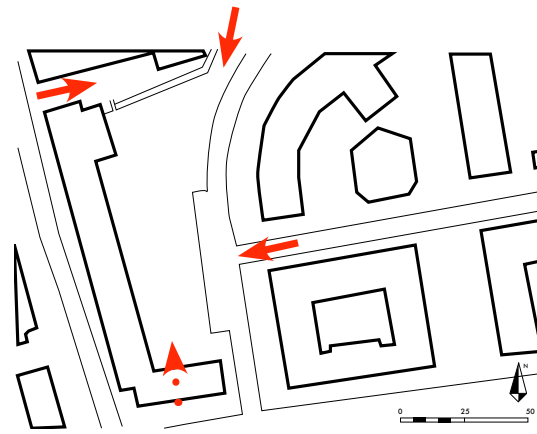
The entries to the space could be functioning also as a visual glimpse of area and create the interest to come there. Where should be the arriving point? While defining them in the first phase what happens when the building structure creates it own frame around these open areas? Will it be then a double framing and double entries? How to merge these?



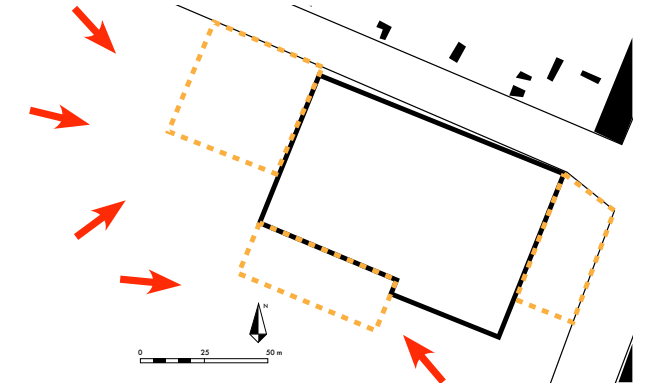
- 5 entry possibilities from the streets, directed spatially
- Directs diagonal movement
- Spatial change when entering



- Arriving mostly over the roads, not directed spatially
- Entries from the busses and park
- No strong spatial change



- Entering from the parking or leading paths from the districts
- Not directed spatially
- Square diffuses to the street
- No strong spatial change, sense of arriving



- > From where do people arrive to the square(s)?
- > Where to go from the area or
- > Circulation between the indoor and outdoor
- > Where will situate the activity center's entrances
- > The importance of borders in the sense of arriving?
- > How to define the space?

DIRECTION _MOVEMENT

As Jan Gehl has pointed, there are three main ways of how citizens are moving: either it is done because of the need between the nodes, optionally because the place provides that, or it is done by social means for interaction. Looking at the three existing squares, all of them have a directed movement, because of the more exact target point and goals. They are either situated outside or on the square itself.

Lilla Torg was the square where most strolling movement took place. It is probably influenced by the characteristic physical layout and the active first floor of the surrounding buildings. It was seen that people on the square had a slow walking pace, they were wondering around, taking pictures, looking at the restaurants menus and shop windows. In the mornings and the evenings there were more passersby who were heading to somewhere.

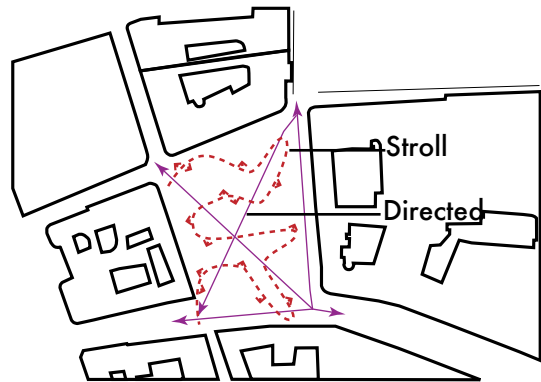
Värnhemstorget is, in contrast, used as a crossing place, where most people catch buses and engage in commercial activities. There was more intensive movement spot where different routes were crossing. It took place on the east side, where like those of travelers, bikers and shoppers met.

The dominant directed movement took place also on the Fridhemstorget. The main circulation was in between cash machine and the Mac computer shop. The only reason to stay longer on the square was the market. There people took their time to look at the goods and talk to the sellers. Thus, the activity possibility on the place can generate the optional use of the space and could develop further to social interaction.

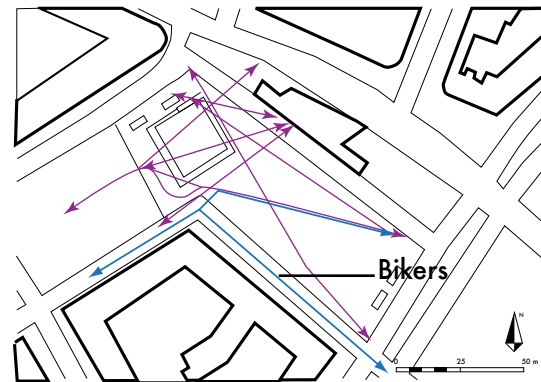


Thus, from the existing situation the active edges, happening on the site and the node points are the generators of different movements. City sees Norra Sorgenfri as a bridge between the east and west part of Malmö. Thus, it means that there should be strong nodes why people should find need to move between them. One possibility is that through the development process the area itself becomes a node in between! Will it become because there is need for that or it offers something extra that the existing places in the city does not have? Will it be the indoor activity or maybe a interesting square design solution?

When arriving to the square(s), what can generate the movement on the place? Will it be the culture center (as a node?!) or is there something on the square on itself that supports the movement? Which of the squares should function more as transfer area, which one as place to enjoy? Or should it be combined? In order to make the squares used places, there should occur a circulation between different activities. Before the building construction is ready, there are no commercial activity edges that could trigger the walking there. Could a possibility to sit, stand, climb, swing, play games, watch outdoor movies, etc. promote that kind of behaviour?



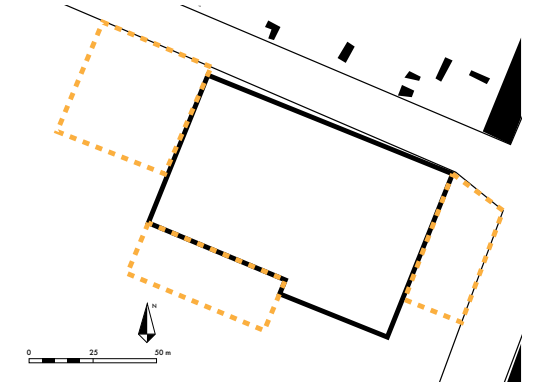
- Directed: by the nodes outside
- Strolling: activity on the edges
- Centrality: easy to get there
- 'To settle in' place to spend time
- Arrive and departure (enjoy)



- Goal directed
- Rushing to the bus and no stopping
- Crossing (shops-bus stops- city center)
- Not to settle in, go through
- Arrive and departure (traffic)



- Directed: between the districts, shop ,cash machine
- Strolling: when market
- Along the edges
- Go through square



- > Why to come here?
- > What should create the movement on the area?
- > Place(s) to settle in or go through?
- > Active edges, center, outdoor walls or...?

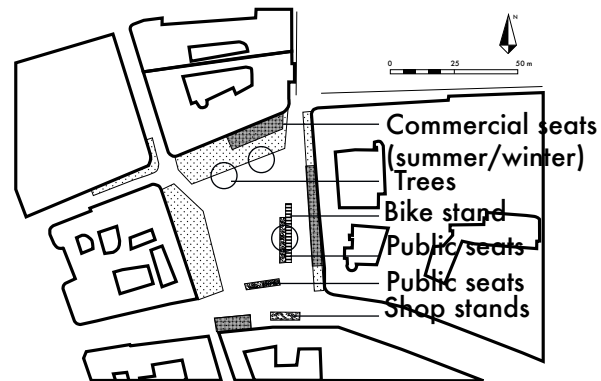
DIRECTION

USE OF SPACE

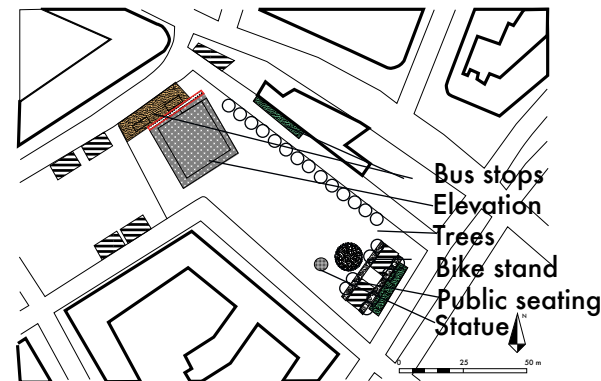
The use and activity takes place mostly if the square is designed to accommodate different functions. William Whyte has emphasized that the most attractive is another person. In order to invite different people to participate in the public life there also has to be a possibility to stay over. The seating availability on the place is one of the most important elements.

The space analyses show that the Lilla Torg has the greatest possibility for sitting. Even though it is mainly commercial ones (restaurants, cafes). On Lilla Torg the edges is rather extensively used especially during the summer, because of the outdoor eating possibility. The small over left center space is mostly used as a circulation area for tourist, passing through, storing bikes and meeting place. It has only two public benches that could be used by all.

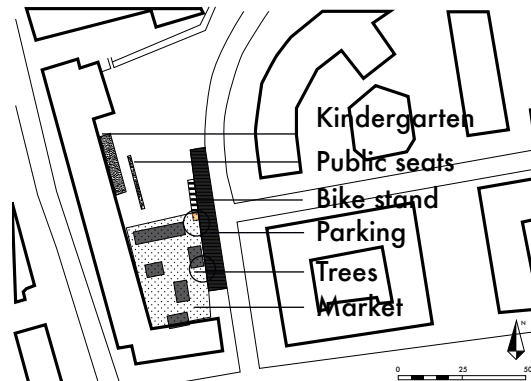
Värnhemstorget is used because of the transportation and circulation between the center and the commercial activity. There is not much of a stopping. There are a couple of seats on the east side of the square that are often occupied by vendors. The edges are used when waiting the buses on the stops. The elevated stage is not used in any specific means, just for crossing. Fridhemstorget is hardly occupied by people. The most used area was the narrower part where the daily market was situated. On the square, there are some benches that are never used. There is a kindergarten that has fenced area for outdoor play. On both of the last two squares, there is a large part in the middle that does not have any design feature that could encourage people to stay over. It makes the squares too transparent and does not promote the emergence of even spontaneous activity settings. All of them is lacking different kind of public use seating possibilities, like for groups, sitting on the stairs, edges or under a shelter.



- Outdoor service
- Few public seating, bike holds
- Dining and commercial activity
- Tourist's place (visit, pictures, stay)
- Meeting place
- Sunny, wind sheltered: stay over!



- Needed bus use (Go - wait - departure)
- Circulation corridor between the city center and entre
- Active bike line along the house
- Homeless people gathering



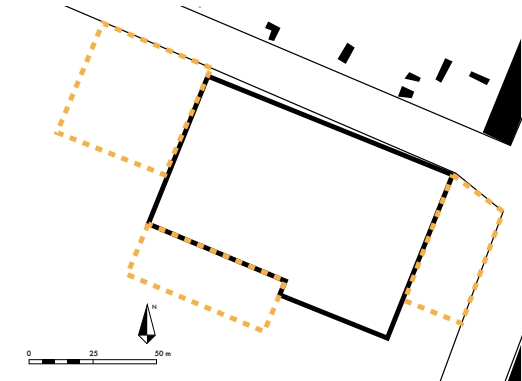
- Pass through space
- Stay over when market
- Windy and most of the day under the house shadow don't encourage the stay
- No activity takes place around the square to observe



From the observations it could be seen that there are not many possibilities to stay. There is a lack of public seating places, comfortable back zones to observe the passersby or diverse design that could allow secondary sitting and waiting on the edges. Mostly the stay over use is connected to the commercial activity.

How the new urban space should function? What kind of use and activity should take place there? How to combine the circulation: stay and movement on the place. To begin with, as it is situated outside the active city center, there should be something that could create a purpose for going there. Could it be something interesting to look at or do? As a thought of a new interaction place, what could be the possibilities to stay at the place with a group or alone?

How to make the square fun on its own? Should be there more dense furnishing, possibility to have a shelter from the sun, wind, and rain in order to 'stop' from moving? The large open space can be uncomfortable and does not give the possibility to explore and try out something new. Will the use depend on the activity house? Which one of them have the possibility to become on stage or back stage public space? How the structural layout influence the use of the space?



- > How the space will be used? On stage or back stage?
- > What kind of activities could take place? Why to go there?
- > How the spacial form support the activity on the place?
- > Square (s) connected to house activity
- > Circulation: movement and staying ?

DIRECTION

_DRIVING FORCE

Why the existing squares are used was one of the main interest for me while making the observations. I wanted to understand what is the driving force at the place that brings people to use it. As Gehl and Moungtin have mentioned, there are different squares in the city. The unlikeness can be due to the dominant functions, besides the other activities that could take place also there.

Thus, the Lilla Torg attracts mainly visitors and tourists with its active first floor that is mostly occupied by restaurants and cafes. Here it becomes apparent that the boundaries are important in directing the life at the place. Its special architectural layout that makes it different from the rest of the surrounding area could also be one of the triggers.

Värnhemstorget is about travelling and bringing people together while waiting at the bus stops. The big shopping malls are functioning often as indoor public spaces. Entrè could be one of the examples. It is attracting people from the city to this area and making this square to one of the crossing points. The city bike track that is disconnected from the car traffic is probably a reason why it is used actively for safety traveling between the target points. It connects center and east part of the city districts. Again, the square is an important node for different movements.

Fridhemstorget is attracting citizens with a more specific service, like Mac computers shop and custody. The market that sells high quality products (like fish from Gothenburg) is also one of the triggering features. The possibility to withdraw money is a reason to come by, as it is one of the few in the district.

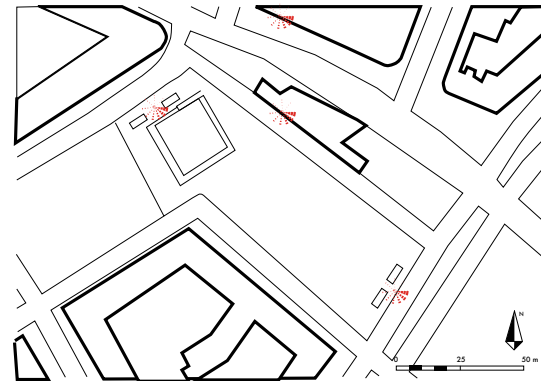
It seems that the driving force can be contemporary (commercial), temporal (market) or periodical (traffic) in the existing cases. They all have a connection at the moment to some kind of service.

I think that the triggering energy could be seen as something about curiosity, a wish to try something new, special or just to have some other kind of experience!

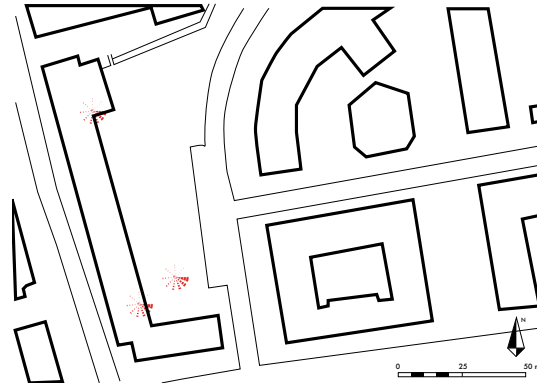
What could be the driving force for the new urban square where one could interact? Should it be something extra ordinary? Could it be a question of space quality or physical layout that could offer a spend time in a nice environment (choice of material, lighting, greenery etc.). Should it be some activity that could trigger there, like outdoor swimming pool, inside town peach, swinging area, outdoor gallery for free artists or a outdoor experimental labor? What could drive the wish to explore the new public space?



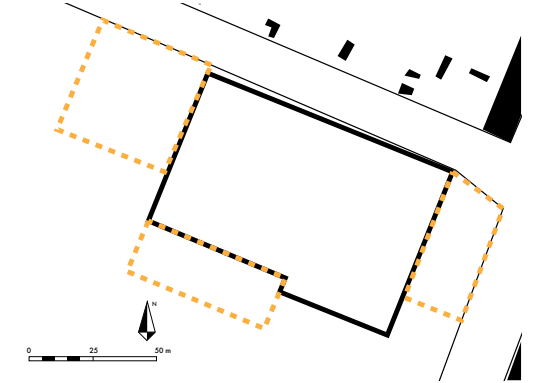
- Eating, drinking places
- Special spatial characteristics (colorful, old architecture, compactness)



- Traveling
- Commercial, buying



- Cash draw
- Specific service : Mac computers
- More exclusive market: higher quality and price



- > Why people should come on the place?
- > Physical qualities or activity as a driving force?
- > Speciality that don't exist in Malmö yet?

DIRECTION

_DAY RHYTHM

As Whyte claims, all the square have their daily rhythm, because of the shift in human activity, working time, free time possibilities, needs and wishes. Also, Gehl has reflected on how important it is not to shut down the city when it is the closing time for commercial activities! Thus, there should be an activity layer that functions on its own, despite of the commercial facilities.

Lilla Torg is 'open' for a rather long period every day, what switches from the morning, lunch and evening spirit, that can continue till the early morning hours. In the morning, it is mostly about short stops and setting up the space by the service groups of the restaurants. During the other half of the day, it is a place where groups are meeting, passing, staying and spending their free time. During the weekend it was also a popular place to come, either to stay over or just walk through.

Värnhemstorget is serving almost all day round because of the bus traffic. The busiest time is between the start and end of the working time on the week days. The other influence is the commercial activities that dictate the use intensity. It is about the circulation and people rushing through mostly one by one.

Fridhemstorget is mostly activated by the Mac computer shop and the market place. One of the few cash machines in the area brings people randomly to the place. The most active time is in the middle of the day when the residents are running their daily errands. From the last reflection about the use possibilities and driving forces, it becomes evident that the three existing squares really depend on the activity around the space. They do not facilitate much of usage possibilities on their own. Thus, the opening hours or, for example, the traffic schedule determines largely when there is possible to interact with the place on its own.



At the moment, there is no active commercial activity in the area or around that could create this kind of 'opening hours' day rhythm. in Norra Sorgenfri. The coming activity center could be the biggest influence in this area, providing service in a certain time.

The pathway system between the center is still weak and takes time to develop. Therefore, the possibility coming to the squares could be influenced a lot by the bus schedules. At the same time, it not so far away from the center that one could not reach on its own.

At the moment, there is no commercial entertainment that could support the lively use of the public space. In this case, it shows how important the square's independence is. It should not rely on so much what is happening around but should function on its own.

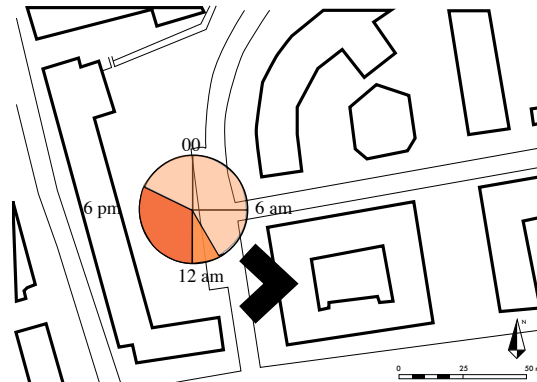
What could create this usage and keep it active for long hours? Could it be a special light program at the place? Could it be sheltered sitting areas with a heating facility? What about varieties of swinging possibilities, that could be used by all ages? Free movie shows, or some new special eating place? Like Whyte has said that new habits, like nowadays coffee culture or al fresco lunches cause a new paths to go to and a new places to pause. They evoke a new habits and needs in citizens' daily life (Whyte, 2009, p 105). Could Norra Sorgenfri new urban square(s) be one of them?



- Cafe/restaurant opening hours from 8 am to 2 am
- Morning: coffee to go, passing through
- Most people from lunch to dinner time
- Night life in the bars
- Mostly groups

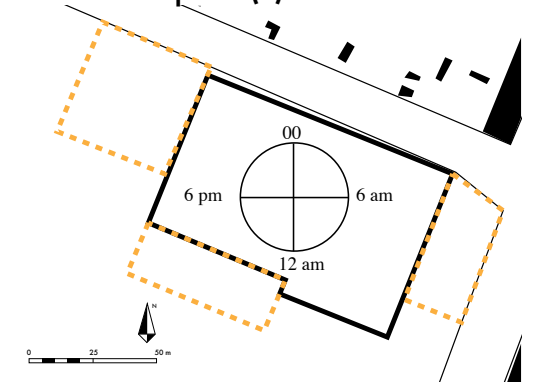


- Bus traffic almost 24 h
- When shops opened more people cross the space
- Most busiest travel hours in the morning and after work, mostly one by one
- Entré commercial center 10am- 8am
- Food stores 7am- 23am



- Cash automat 24 h
- Most movement when the mac computer service is opened 10 am- 6.30 Pm
- Market takes place monday to friday (not on the holiday season) 10 am to 4pm
- When nothing open mostly emptiness

- Most active
- Lower use
- Few user



- > How long the activity center is opened
- > How long do the buses run?
- > Should the square itself offer activity 24 h?
- > The place possibility for day and night use, possibility to stay?

DIRECTION

_STAY OVER

Like movement, staying can be described as needed or optional. It depends again on the structure of the square, its location and function for the users. The usage intensity depends also on whether there is good climate, furniture, different possibilities for sitting or, for example, number of cafes to have a lunch at. There could be many reasons why one place could be more or less a considerable meeting point.

According to the observation, Lilla Torg was most obviously used as a meeting point or a place to come to. There were continuously groups of people standing, waiting, talking on the square. The conversations mostly took place at the entry corners, where people most likely discussed which way to go or maybe where to sit down. Probably because of the square's central location in the city and different possibilities to go further, there were often people waiting companions.

Värnhemstorget was about a fluctuation that took place because of the arrival and departure of buses. The stay over took place in a rhythm: gathering- cluster- empty- new gathering. It did not seem to be a meeting point. Maybe the new stay over place is in the Entrè shopping mall where groups of people meet to spend time together?

On Fridhemstorget, there were hardly any people staying, except when withdrawing money or shopping at the market. The mostly mono functional living area does not attract just to come over and spend time there. The square itself does not have any active edge that could support public life on the place. The big shadow area, wind and lifeless surroundings do not invite to stay.



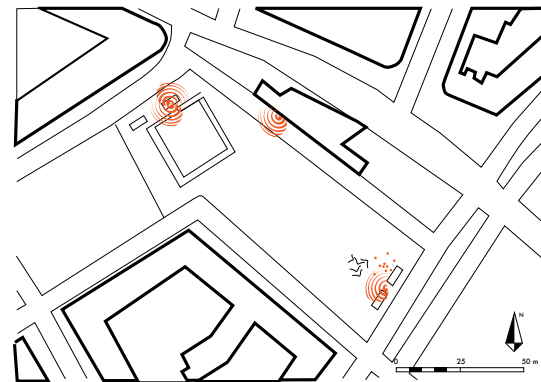
It could be seen that the activity, happening characteristics and physical structure (diverse or uninteresting, no elements to use) influence how the place is occupied by the visitors. On the existing squares, there are not actually public possibilities for groups of people to sit together, have lunch on the benches/stairs, or public shelter.

Thus, how the new urban space is going to be occupied depends on the program at the place. Are there various spaces that accommodate different functions? Are these functions temporary or permanent? A temporary activity makes the place more flexible, changeable. The permanent could function then as a basic structure that can accommodate momentary happenings!

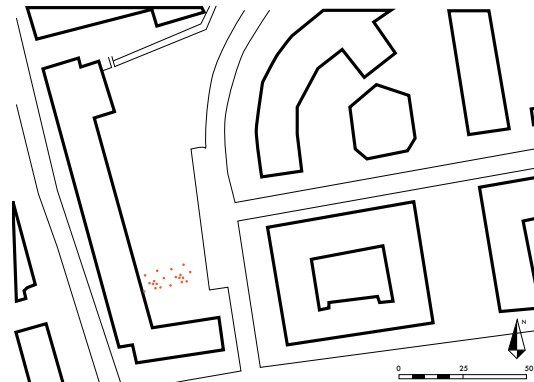
How to invite to settle in? Could it be done with a choice of materials, possibilities for sitting (differently orientated, for groups, individuals, secondary seating, lying possibility etc.)? Could the shelter, different subspaces, special lighting in the evening, warm sitting places when it is chilly, possibility to play, free stage performance possibilities be the option? Could it be an opportunity to do something together or put one to a challenge?



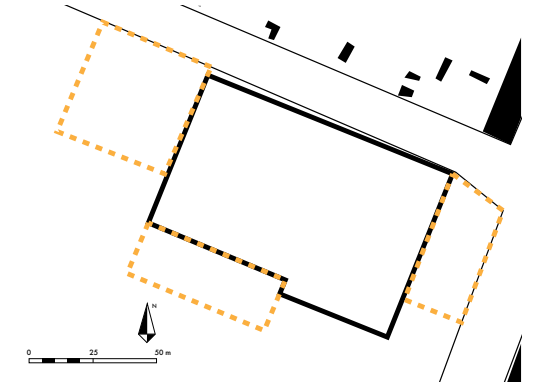
- Meeting point (on the entry corners)
- People in groups (talk, stand)
- Looking the menus, display windows



- Fluctuated gathering (around the bus waiting stops)
- From-to buses or shopping places
- No stay over, people go one by one



- Staying in the cash draw line
- Stay over when market
- Fluctuation from the mac shop
- One by one movements



- > Space quality
- > Activity variation
- > Possibilities for groups, person?
- > Contemporary/time activity?

DIRECTION

ADDITIONS

Things that are added to the square could be seen as small acts of acupuncture! Through this invention, it is possible to change either the use or the image of the space, or even both.

During the observations, there was a big lamp installed on the Lilla Torg. Its special nature was eye-catching and became a new focal point on the square. It made it a meeting point, place to climb on or take a photo at. In the darkness, it popped out even more, because of the bright lighting. To make the square even more inviting in the evening, restaurants put out candles, and heating lamps for outdoor service. Already at the lunch time, one could smell different food aromas, listen to some music and the buzz of conversations, that lived up the space. Thus, small things create a feeling of a busy place.

On Värnhemstorget, there were two short product presentations during the observations. Even though it was possible to have the products for free and to try them out, the passersby were not eager to stop for the purpose. For example, the introducers of Wasa bread went to the bus stops instead, because it was hard to catch people's interested on this open square. The target seemed more important for the travellers!

Fridhemstorget has a different spirit when there is a market. People gather there to buy and sell and have small conversations. This happening turns one part of the square into an interaction place. Chancing the empty space to a active place! The Christmas trees added during the observation period could be described as something to fill the area as they did not add any special characteristics to the square.



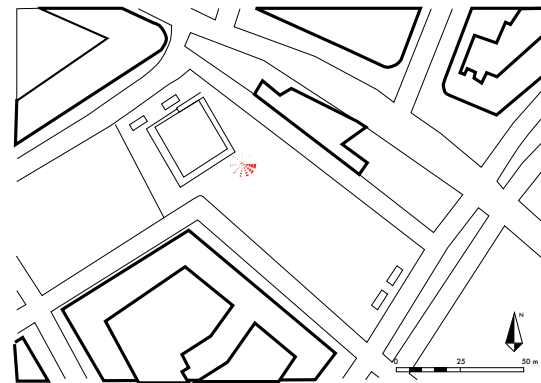
Thus, small changes at a place can have a great effect or sometimes no effect at all. It could create an additional meaning, activity or impression of the place. Like the example with the lamp, that somehow created a wow effect on this compact square. It was photographed by different visitors as something special.

What should be added to Norra Sorgenfri that could make it a place where interesting things happen? Would people come there if the same lamp was installed on the new square? Could it be a big pink elephant instead? Maybe a sound installation or art performance could evoke curiosity? Maybe a special lighting solution at the place could turn it into a popular place in the evenings?

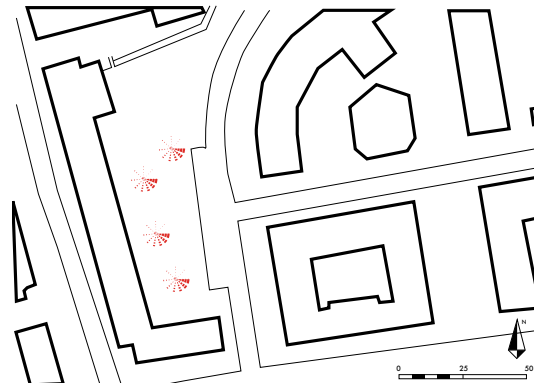
The possibility to have different adds on the square reflects the flexibility! Thus, how to approach this changeability question? How to revise the space and make it different in functions or usable through different time periods/seasons?



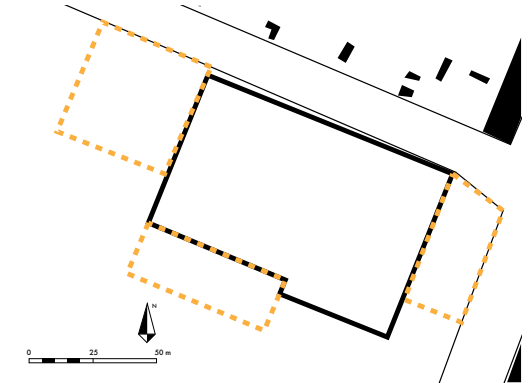
- Huge lamp installation
- Christmas lights
- Outdoor candles (in the evening)
- Outdoor service seats/shades
- Heat lamps in the outdoor service area
- Food aromas, music, buzz



- Product presentation occasionally



- Market
- Christmas trees



- > Could the same adds functions here?
- > A pink elephant?
- > Temporal/ permanent installations?
- > Periodical happenings on the place?
- > Day/ seasonal activity shifts?

APPROACH

7. APPROACH AND PROPOSALS

CONCEPTS

What is space, what forms that and what lays in it?

The third possible approach for the new urban square is to see it through the design concepts. It is a visual expression and creative interpretation space and place.

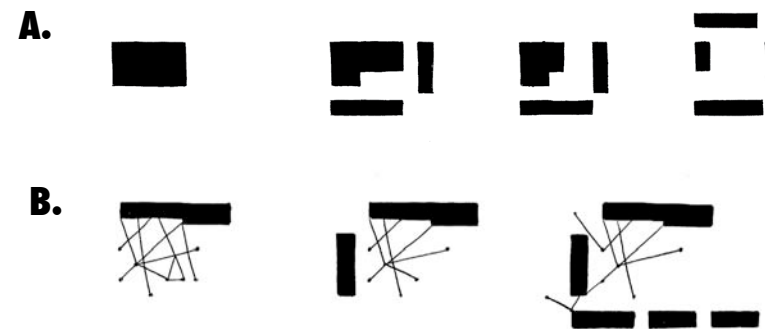
The first two parts were more about looking at the new urban interaction space through analytical methods and specific factors which could direct the formation process. To approach the square through proposal I have included a design tool/method to my ahead reflections and questions. It is a combination of small direction scenarios from my theory knowledge and inspiration from the urban acupuncture studies. To all of these I have also added my own creative interpretation. To work with an idea of starting a public space in a loose structure could be seen as a possibility and challenge. Since the built structure has not yet managed to settle a context and direct square's form and use! It means that there are various possibilities to start thinking about the space: what it means, how to define it, how it could be used.

The decision to favor **PROPOSALS** than exact design solution is a response to the city open ended vision planning process. The proposals are in the same way open to the final design solution. I see these different options as a good ground for discussion about the possibilities of approaching the coming space. It is not about finding a perfect solution but seeing the options. It is the start of the design process where there are different perspectives about the objective!

As a reflection from my studies, different direction scenarios, use of urban acupuncture and my interpretation I will present different proposals. These are possible, not final, space solutions for a new urban square for public interaction. They will illustrate the idea of the three concept: **1. FILLED UP**, **2. FROM THE MIDDLE** and **3. THE EDGES**

1. A FILLED UP public space, that is defined by emptiness around!

As it was seen in the sample projects of urban acupuncture, one of the goals was to intensify the urban structure. The looseness could support neither the public life nor the use of the space. Inspired by this, I would like to approach the new urban square as a filled up space. It is a condensation that is emphasized by the emptiness that surrounds it. The missing structure around the square means that the square should function on its own. It should offer on its own a structure in order to embody different activities and use. It is also an opposite approach to the traditional planning process where the building defines the open space. Filling up the space is the other way round! In this new case, it could function as a possibility to have a 'shelter' from the emptiness and possibility to transform through the dynamic development into a more loosened up place.



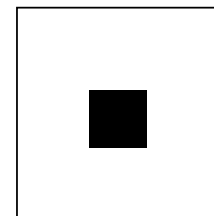
A. Conceptual drawings how the space could be developed through the urban transformation. In the first phase, the area is a filled up focus point and then loosens up when a tighter urban structure develops.

B. Conceptual drawings how the space could be developed through the urban transformation. Where the first set up area spreads to the coming development and binds it together.

2. FROM THE MIDDLE of the area starts the development, acting as a trigger point. As seen from the existing squares, the activity

often depends what happens around the squares. The centers that could be the space's focus points are mostly empty or used for the circulation. The idea of urban acupuncture is to focus on the area's centre point and give an energy injection. The invention is a catalyst that spreads the positive impact to the surroundings. As seen from the sample projects, these were often simple construction solutions that had a special image, function, use or symbolic meaning.

In this case, the focus area is a square! The starting point will be the activated middle point that is mostly empty on the existing squares.



APPROACH

CONCEPTS

What is space,
what forms that and
what lays in it?



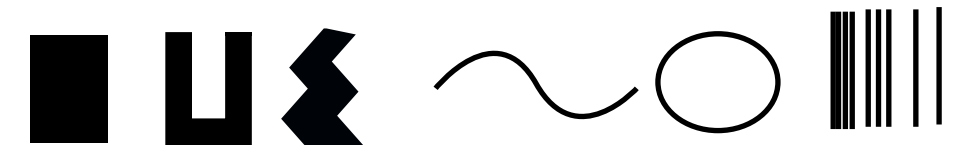
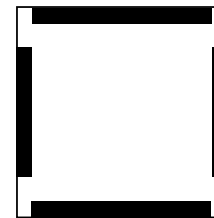
Thus, the development starting from the middle could spread towards the coming edges.

Referring back to the Gehl, then square serves city functions that need space. From the existing situation, the whole Spånvägen district could be seen as one open space, having a possibility to fit in itself what ever in the beginning. The first injection point on the square could be the trigger point for the process and impact for further discussions.

3. To form a square defining **THE EDGES** that could determine the openness in the middle and create borders from the surrounding openness.

In this proposal concept, the approach is more connected to the traditional idea of the square as an open space. From the existing study examples, the borders were the basis for defining changes in urban fabrics and emphasizing the spatial change. They played also an important role in supporting the activity at the place and directed the usage possibilities. What is the edge and how to define that? I think it is not only the straight building facades that can outline the space. It could be interpreted as some material's occupational ending. Thus, the objects, elements, materials, structures, etc. can create different edgings. Therefore, the experience and characteristics are different. As it enables to create different images, it allows to approach space in a complex way. They could function as: see-through facades, sitting and lying edges, vegetation borders, solid walls, climbing walls, green walls or generate different subspaces, etc.

In this case, the question arises how to create edges, what material to use, how it looks from the outside or from inside. It also allows defining how one can enter the inside space and what are the dimensions there. There could be also an interesting interplay how much the edge creating elements occupy the space itself.



Example of different possibilities to create an edge and their space occupation.

PROPOSAL

THE NET SWING

- **FILLED UP** concept
- Net and wire light constructions
- Different transparency through the screenings
- Sub spaces
- Flexible structure
- Open versus dense
- Hanging, swinging, climbing, balancing, sitting, laying, etc
- Wind, light installations
- Colors, different materials
- Green walls, screens, floor, dynamic development

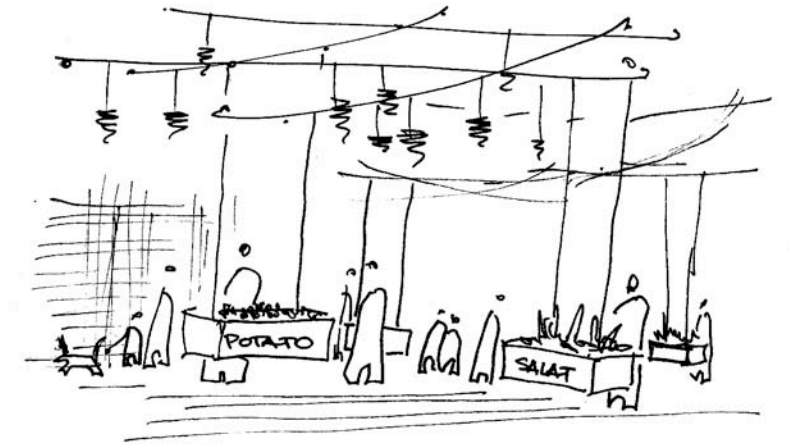
'The net swing' proposal is about occupying the space, filling up the openness. The idea is not to make it impassable but how the whole is combined together with the structure, activity and the use of material. Within the wholeness, it will have a different intensity in the structure. It will distribute the functionality of the space, giving a possibility to create different levels of enclosures and define the leading entries. The structure variation allows making different screening that can generate subspaces for different occupations.

Inspired by urban acupuncture quick and flexible approach, I have supplied the nets and wires, as an innovative material for the public space. The airy structure is flexible and can be changed by adding or taking off strings, according to the need of space transformation. This grid framework can be constructed in a different density to create different characteristics. There will be a possibility to use it differently, both as a structure and function. The thought of netting the space could embody different characteristics and usages, like:

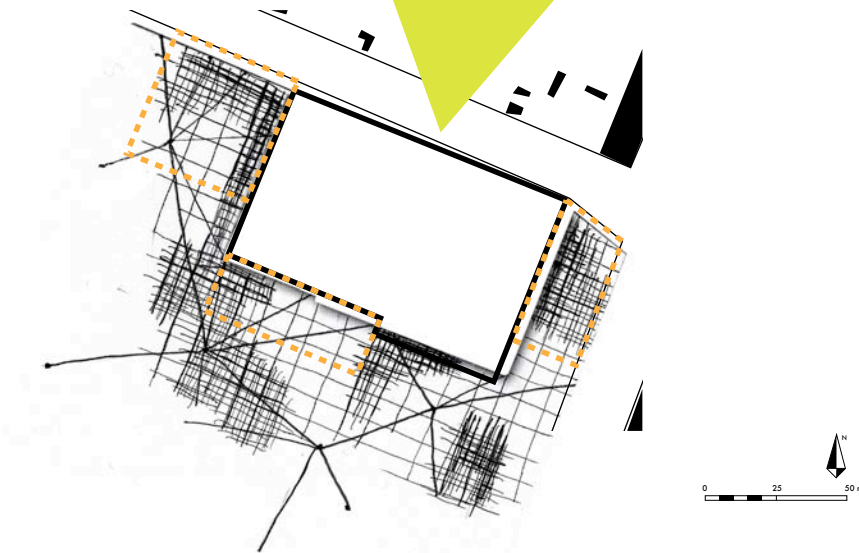
- wire nets are used as screening (more see through or denser)
- creating a subspaces in the space
- as a roofing
- hanging lighting, wind socks, market baskets
- bottom layer to fix the shelter canvas for wind, rain, sun, snow
- supporting the climbing plants for green structure development
- climbing
- net seating
- different possibilities to construct the swings

The net and wire structures allow to approach the space in many ways. Thus it creates a possibility to invite there different users to come and experience something new!

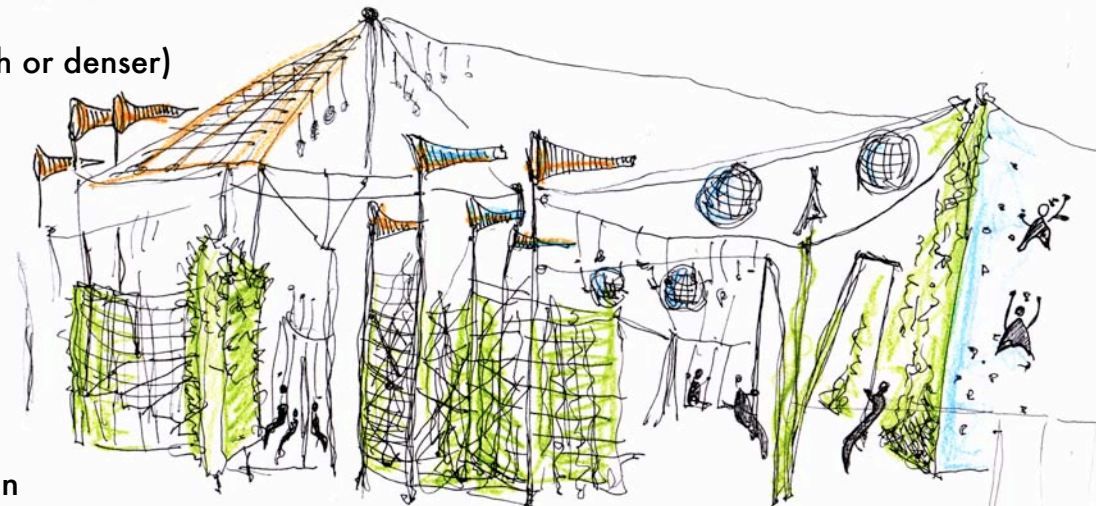
Because of the airy structure, it is as an open space. On the other hand, the screening has its extends of different level of enclosure and sense of place. Thus, the wire and net material gives a different possibilities how to transform the space to interactive place. One of the triggering activities could be the swinging! There are a lot of fun opportunities how to do that. Swings can be as benches, just ropes, baskets, hanging tires, hanging chairs etc. The possibility to use the public space like that, makes it probably special and different from the rest of the city. Everybody has an opportunity to feel the wind breeze and joy being up in the air! Swinging could be seen as a social activity, that could be performed in groups, alone, with the loved one, with one's children, family or offering a pleasant stay for old people.



Hanging market place



Play with the varying intensity in the structure and activation concentration points in a whole. Flexible net system that can spread to the surroundings and connect the coming structure to existing one.



Net, wire usage possibilities



THE NET SWING

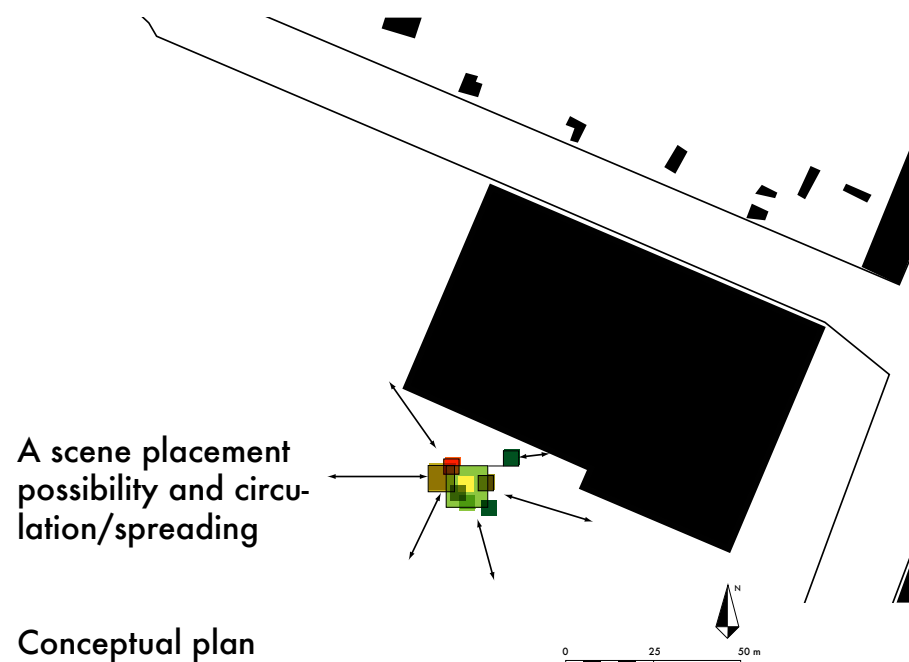


THE NET SWING

PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL * THE SCENE *

- **FROM THE MIDDLE** concept
- A 'stage' for activity
- Different possibilities to set up the seen
- On stage , off stage circulation
- Flexibility
- Point: meeting, arriving, departing, spreading
- ahaa effect: 'bottomless' hole, pink porcelain statue etc
- Seatings, roofing, containers, industrial features
- Greenery, light, sound



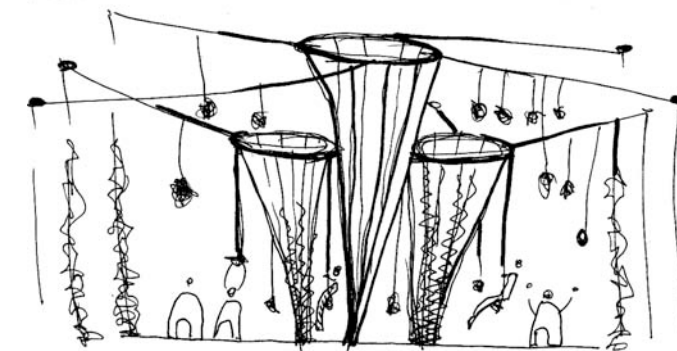
The concept of 'the scene' is about creating a stage for activity. The size and the shape at the middle point could be varying. It is about defining the area and inviting a different 'participants' to build up the seen. The scene could be set up by cafe, market, various sitting chairs, vegetation, ramps etc.

It would function as a stage, where the play and the interaction is dictated who is occupying the place and what way. According to the set up, it can have more activated or stay over spots, denser or looser structures in the first defined area. When creating this kind of scene effect, I will refer to Mats Lieberg's explanation using the city as on stage or backstage (Lieberg, 1995, p.734). Where some points are more for an active use and the edges functions are for observation and getting ready to move towards the lively center. This kind of circulation possibility allows one to be in the focus if wanted and at the same time lay back and enjoy the scene. With this space possibility, it could be used by different people, because there will be unlike (more active or passive) spots for various needs.

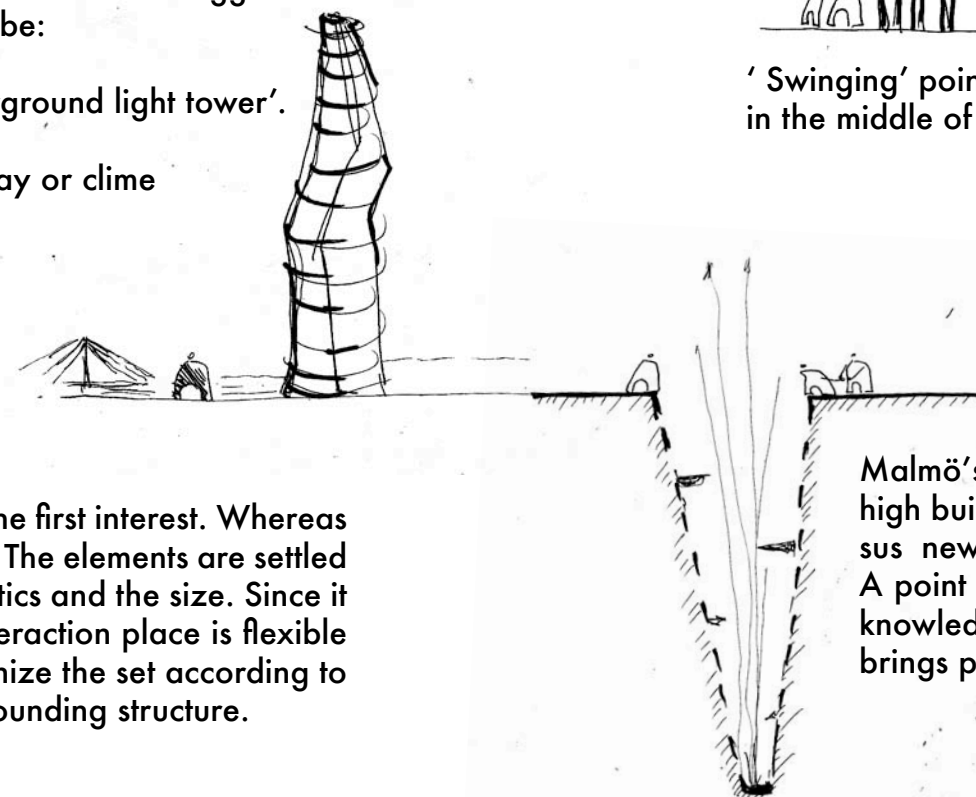
Thus, the activated point becomes a meeting point (arriving place), departure point and also a spreading point to the surroundings. The defined area could embody different activities and elements. These could trigger one to act or being curious. To create interest, there can be:

- a deep whole, that could be 'underground light tower'.
- a roofed meeting place
- different heights of platform to sit, lay or clime
- 50 different possibility to sit
- movable tree containers
- pink porcelain elephant statues
- reconstructed tram depot
- cafe stand
- special food selling stand
- open air movie circle

The scene is an injection point that creates the first interest. Whereas it is like a stage, the scene is quick to set up. The elements are settled according to the pinpoint space characteristics and the size. Since it is more as a temporal solution, then the interaction place is flexible to change. The movability allows to reorganize the set according to the development of public activity and surrounding structure.



'Swinging' point. or 'Mysterious' grove in the middle of the emptiness



Malmö's one of the symbols, high building, Turning Torso versus new hole, 'Lighted Infinity'. A point element that evokes the knowledge of the place and brings people to discover.

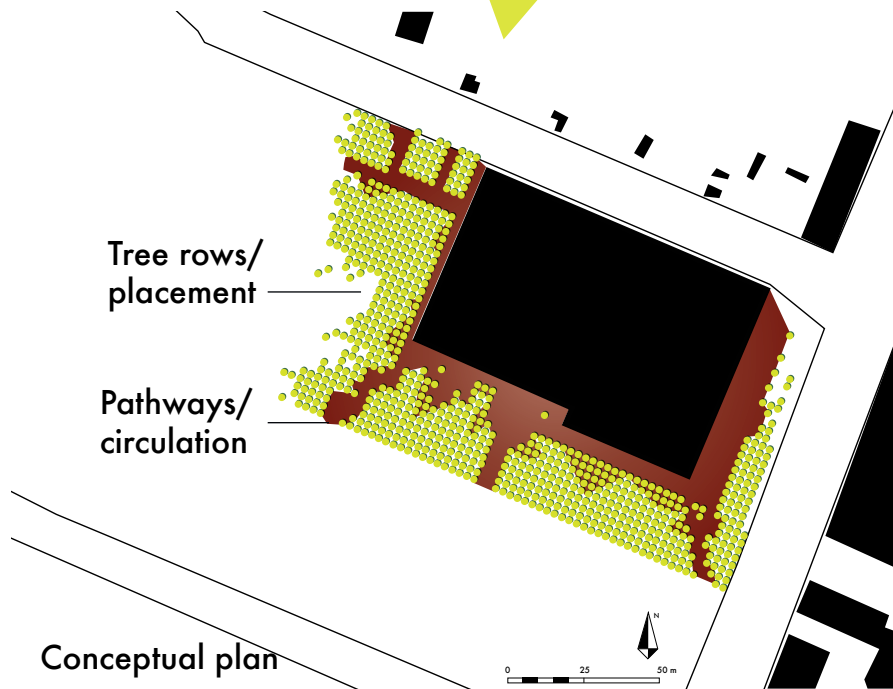


THE SCENE

PROPOSAL

THE TREES

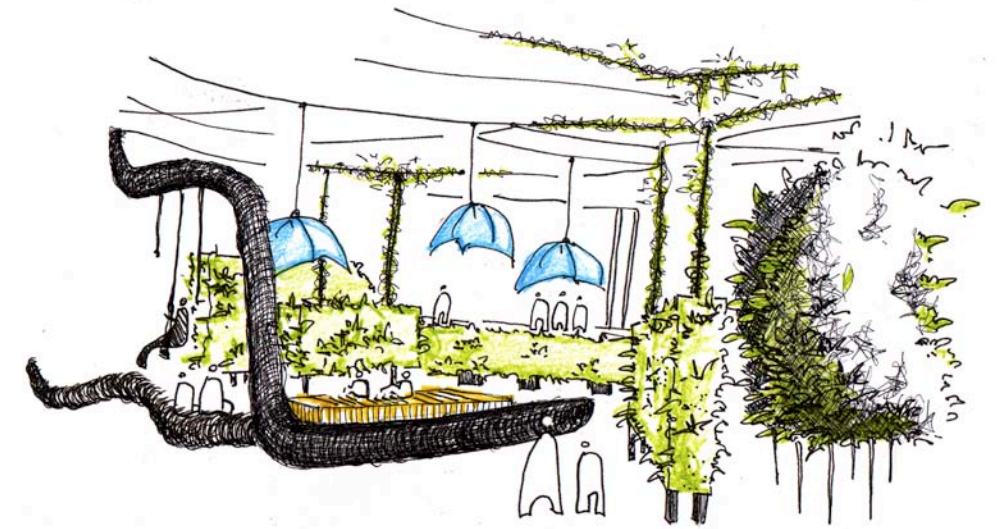
- **THE EDGES** concept
- Pot trees/green walls
- Edges, subspaces, corridors, openings, entries
- Experience of forest, greenery, light, smell
- Dynamic vegetation development with the space
- Open versus close
- Hanging, swinging, sitting, laying, etc
- Warm seating, green climbing
- Meet, stay over, being a part of a green city



'The trees' is a proposal how to define inner space through different edging possibilities. Defining the space itself and borders from the outside looseness. This idea could be solved with the use of great volume of vegetation. The quick effect will be achieved through placing pot trees on the area. With its green structure and the layout, it can form different subspaces inside the space to explore. The various levels of density have a great effect on how one can experience the green structure. The inspiration came from the Alnarp's forest laboratory that has used different tree plantation methods to try out unlikely space effects with the vegetation. The pot trees could be used the same way, placing them in changing structures. It gives an opportunity to define the borders, spaces, entries with various plant combinations. They also have their peculiar characteristic structure according to the species, that allows to play with different texture combinations. Such a living material can turn the space to a square, where can be:

- different experience of density
- various experience of greenery
- green walls (building walls)
- green screening walls (self-sufficient)
- special effect of aligned pot trees
- the combined seating possibilities
- hanging seating on the artificial trees allowing one to experience the forest while 'hanging in the canopy'.
- Offering shelter from the wind, rain, sun

The greenery has a lot of dynamics that is in change all the time. It enables one to experience: different green colour schemes of leaves, stem structure, flowering times, autumn colours, smell of leaves after rain or a play of light through the canopies. The created subspaces can have different characteristics and accommodate unlike activities and various users. The space as a green oasis can be an experience of a dense city forest to explore, to meet and stay over.



'Warm Spot' , where the self-sufficient green walls are creating a subspaces that could accommodate different activities and good micro climate. Making subspaces, where one can come to sit under the heat lamps and enjoy the public activity.

As a reflection of the urban acupuncture projects, the use of vegetation is a sustainable and ecological way to approach urban fabric transformation. With its dynamic characteristics, it changes the space as it grows and matures. In a concern of the city micro-climate (sun, wind, temperature, moisture, smog etc), support for city flora and fauna the greenery has a key role.

The use of pot trees here is a possibility to get a quick spatial solution and at the same time create a dense green spot in the empty industrial area. As they are movable, it is possible to arrange the layout according to the needs. As a further development, some part of them could be planted as temporal groves. The other parts could be arranged when the activity or spatial needs change according to the area's development.

THE TREES





THE TREES

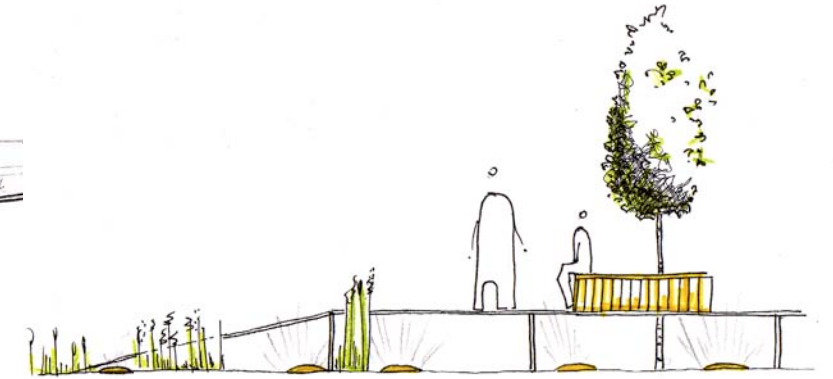
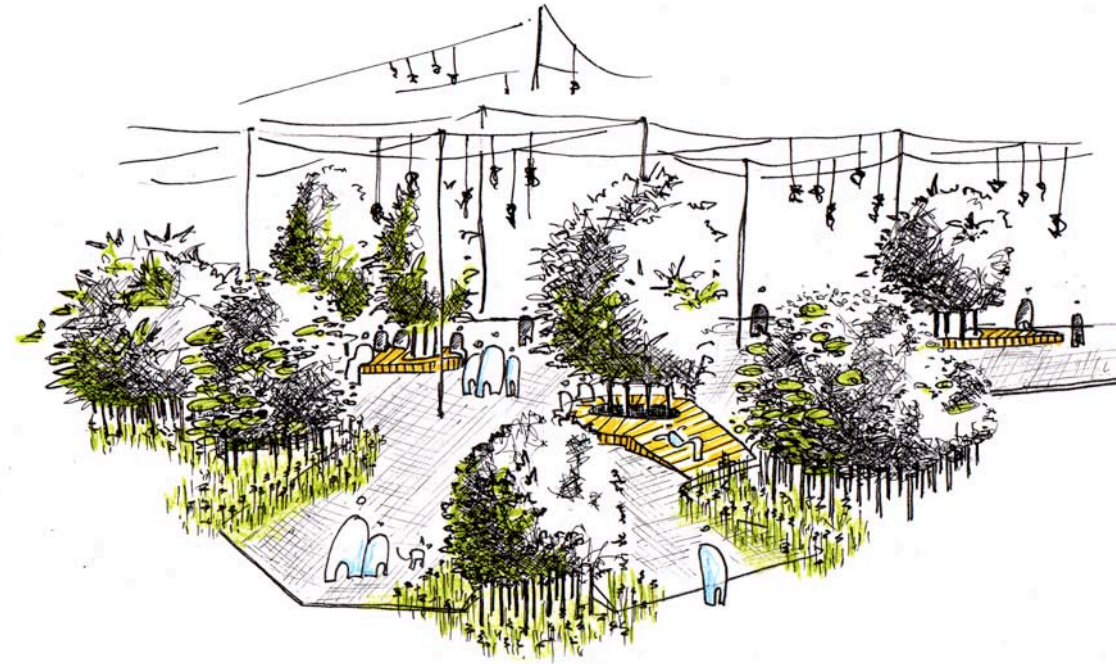
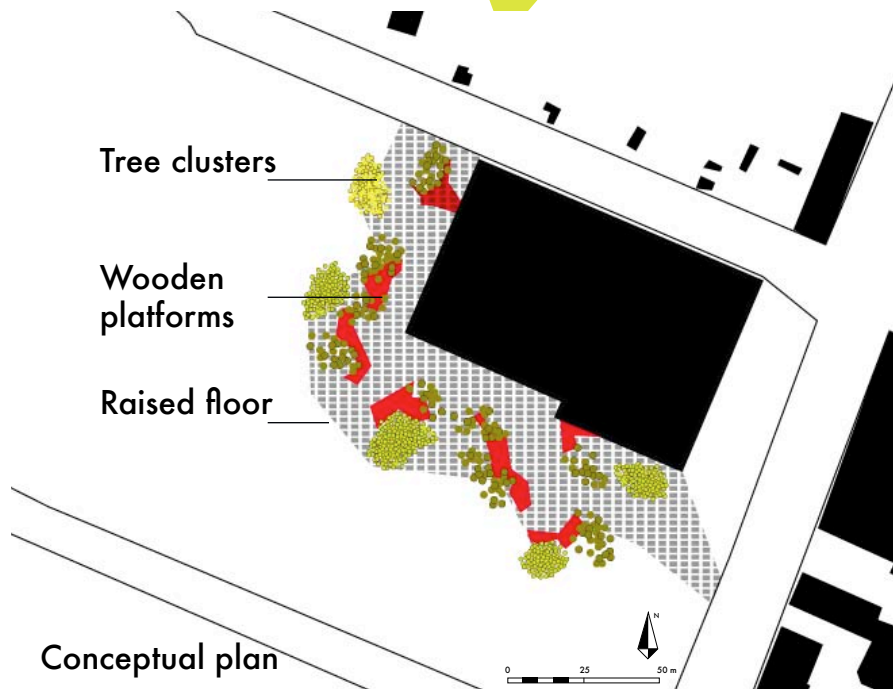


*THE TREES

PROPOSAL

TREE GROVES

- **THE EDGE** concept
- Raised floor
- Grass carpet/tracking green
- Tree clusters/thickets
- Dynamic vegetation development
- Different age/pieces trees
- Wooden platforms to stay over
- Lighted floor in the evenings
- Meet, stay over, being a hart of a green city



Raised square floor, that allow the greenery grow through. The combined seating platforms and lighted ground allows the visitors stay there to late evening hours.

One of the possibilities is visualized through the conceptual plan and sketches. The idea is to use different tree grove clusters to set up the space. To define the space, the ground is covered by the small holed metal construction that is raised up. The net surface allows using it any time of the year. The light structure lets the grass grow through and create a green carpet where no walking will take place.

The combination of different tree clusters generate various dynamics. It could be because of the planting densities, species and growth speed. With their volumes and characteristics they create unlike edges to form the space to subspaces. It will be achieved by using different size, age and species combinations. Some of them will be more mature that allow forming see-through groves, other clusters are thickets. The latter can form groves through natural vegetation dynamics. Thus, the green development takes place at different upgrowth levels and would make the area varied through seasons and years. The tree groves occupy the space to a different extent, allowing one to explore and find a spot to stay alone, have a picnic, have conversation or just observe the passersby.

The wire net in the 'sky' provides a see-through roofing that could be complimented with a cloth for sheltering or movie screening in the evenings. The place to sit and lay down is merged in between the tree clusters. These wide wooden platforms allow one to sit, lay or use it as a picnic table with a group. The vegetation and staying over furniture combination offers to enjoy the weather or hide under the canopies.

The additional trigger why one would like to come to the square could be a lighted up ground floor in the evenings. The mounted light fixtures spread the glow through the net. It brightens up the public space where everybody is welcome to enjoy the late hours of the day.

DISCUSSION

7. APPROACH AND PROPOSALS

CONCLUDING REFLECTION

Looking at the new urban square through three different perspectives has been a complex attempt to discover possibilities how to approach the space. It has been an eye-opening process. A start to see space's different layers in connection with an existing public space network. It was a good possibility to apply the previous theory knowledge and investigation in relation to the focus area. Trying to present an objective in an overall context, through specific aspects and combining it all together through visual solutions.

Juxtaposing the squares and adding the potential coming one gave me a good starting-point for thinking about positions of the city squares in the urban network. All the three studied squares have their own peculiarities, influenced by how they are situated, how the built structure guides the function and on-site public life. Through questioning how one situation could be

reflected on another place, I became aware of the different possibilities of how I could 'land' at a new place. While I was looking for different directions how to approach, many questions and discussion points came up. Observing the differences, similarities, good and bad examples gave different thoughts as to how this knowledge could be applied in a new situation. Looking at the study objects in an existing settled urban fabric shows how many different possibilities the emptiness can offer. Leaving open ends that could be developed in different directions. As the juxtaposition is rather compact and I tried to sum up the observations, I am aware that the questions could be handled in a broader perspective. In connection with my posed three questions, I tried to focus on the main aspects that could be discussed to begin with a new space. Through the approach of focusing on one specific aspect separately at a time, made me understand different facets of these different characteristics. Making the approach even more challenging.

I found it helpful to reflect on what could happen if to switch the existing squares with each other. Locating, for example, Fridhemstorget instead of Lilla Torg. Will it be as empty as it is now or used intensively? I do not know the right answer to it, but from the observations, it could be concluded that the use will be different, because of the busy surrounding city life. The popularity and the use intensity would be questionable. This could reflect that the meaning or the function of the space and place is rather flexible. Still leaving open the question, how the square in its own essence could trigger more people to use that!

The existing squares have already their location, connections and context, but what happens if to locate them to Norra Sorgenfri. Taking away the surrounding enclosure and place them there with their plain layout? Could they function there as a square, even the busy Lilla Torg? Would people go there only because of their nature? How these existing squares will relate to the surrounding emptiness and could they trigger public life there on its own? It seems rather unreal. I think it could be argued that mostly they depend on the surrounding structure and public life, either in connection to the distance nodes or active first floor on the site. Thus, the new place of interaction should have a new approach to think of the square as an open space! I think that the most important in Norra Sorgenfri is the structure of the space and the possibility for people to use it! The new square (s) has to have the characteristics on its own to trigger people and create energy on the place.

Even though in the direction part I looked at the questions connected to the location and accessibility issues, then in the final scenarios, I was concentrating on the place on its own. These questions were important in order to understand the space position in the urban network at the present moment. I think it was necessary, when starting a discussion what are the possible directions for development. The city decisions in the process will have an impact on urban life!

Through the visual proposal solution I have tried to approach the area through different concepts and bring forward the images how the space could be transformed. The quick ideas are connected mostly to the use of materials. The principle was not to choose just any thing. My attempt was to find some things that are flexible in their nature, fun to work with and what is not very often used in the public space. I was also considering if they are easy to handle, whether I can achieve a quick effect or how I could play with the volumes and the material's own characteristics. The material had to be able to give forward the basic concepts for space approach. I found it challenging to try to imagine 'out of the box' and find different design solutions that are maybe not so common in public space or to create a wow effect and arouse interest! Even though inspired by urban acupuncture, I found knowledge from spatial observations and theory as a basis, in order to supply an instant design proposals. From my study process I found for myself the primary basic things that influence the space transformation to a public space and that could support the usage of it!

1. When I was looking at the existing squares, then it seemed that the sense of the space is an important factor. It is achieved through the structural design. It has a strong connection to Cliff Moughting's different argumentations, how the physical surrounding affects per-

DISCUSSION

CONCLUDING REFLECTION

son's perception of the city. From the example squares, it was mostly achieved through the edges. As seen from the proposals, then the edges and the framing could be executed differently. They could have different functions, characteristics or forms. Through the proposals, I realized myself that the edging is not only about forming a space, but it can be part of the space. Playing there a rather active role in creating different space situations.

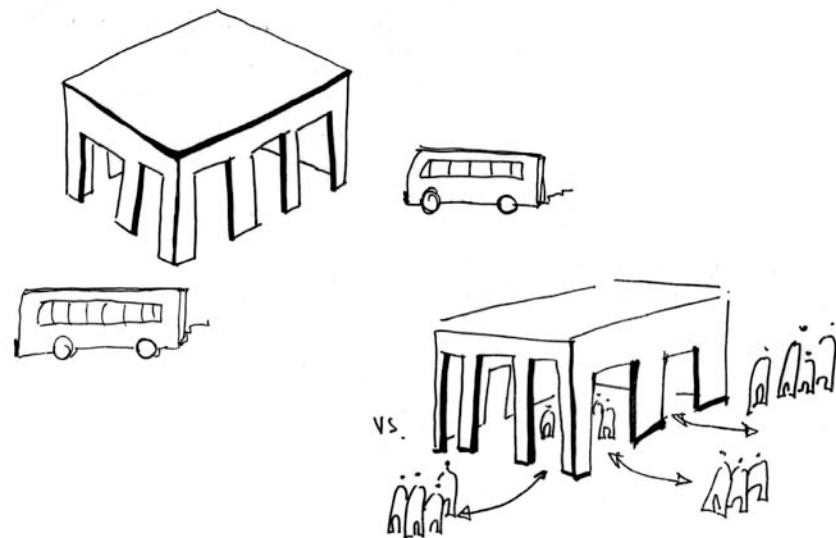
2. From the observations, it became obvious why Gehl and Whyte have emphasized space's different conditions in order to stop people for staying there. If there are hardly any good sitting, climate or staying possibilities then it does not invite one to stay over. If there is nothing happening or to see, there will be no interest to spend time there. The initial conditions on Norra Sorgenfri are currently just like that. The possibility to make a square independent of the surrounding activity is to make it focus point on its own! I found that the intensifying the space is one good solution. It allowed approaching the square as a system of different subspaces where it is possible to find a place for more active and passive activities. At the same they can accommodate various sitting, laying, climbing, swinging and standing opportunities. The try to use strings or plants with different dimensions, densities allowed imagining how the space could be come as an exploration area, where behind the corner could confront something unexpected. I found that there are more advantages if to use one materials as a basic tool for the proposal solutions. It does not only connect the structural characteristics, but it also combines the functionality. It triggers to think how the material can embody also an activity! Thus, they are as one, like swings on the trees, strings for climbing or supporting the plants, vegetation for shelter, etc. Many time mentioned swinging activity could be something that will attract as a new stay over possibility in public space. There is few possibilities were swings are found for all age use. At the same time adults, children and youth will use it if there is a possibility for that (personal experiences and opinion).

3. The square is described by theorists as a place for activities that need space in the city. Thus the open space should be flexible to accommodate different events. How the flexibility should look like on the new urban square? It does not have the same conditions as in the existing city structure. In this case the square is more densely occupied than the surrounding. The proposals aroused me a question about the city dynamic planning idea, filling up with the buildings step by step.

Why not think instead how the houses should be adapted to the squares and public spaces? Maybe the becoming development should adapt to the already existing plazas. It is a try not to look at a new urban square as an ordinary open space, that should fit in between the buildings! How to fit the buildings to the public space instead? I think that there is a possibility to look at the existing situation in Norra Sorgenfri in this perspective. How the energy injection could influence the future development?! The one of the example is already existing in Malmö. It is the actively used Skateboard area (Stapelbäddsparken), what is situating at the moment undeveloped area. In a few years the surrounding living area new building has to take into account the existing public space and its use!

The present proposals are trying to create a place in it own essence and are not trying to accommodate outer needs. In the area, the square could be functioning first as a focal point on it is own and later on there is a possibility to build a connection with the surrounding structures, other public activities and nodes outside. Thus I see it as a flexible dynamic development through the urban transformation of the area.

4. The last thing that I would like to reflect on is the green structure that has been one of the main elements in the proposals. Referring to the EcoUrbano ideas, I agree that vegetation can offer various possibilities. On the existing squares, the trees and shrubs were hardly used or if they were used, then more as elements not as a space creator. I think the minimalist use of vegetation does not stem only from the contemporary design trend. I dare to believe it is also connected to the complexity of controlling and maintaining them. Greenery is a living material that calls for a lot of patience and knowledge. One of the obstacles could be also the time before the trees grow up. The sparse small trees have hardly any effect in a big open space and therefore often left out. It is much easier to



Urban transformation: Spånvägen district from the bus to people arriving and departing node

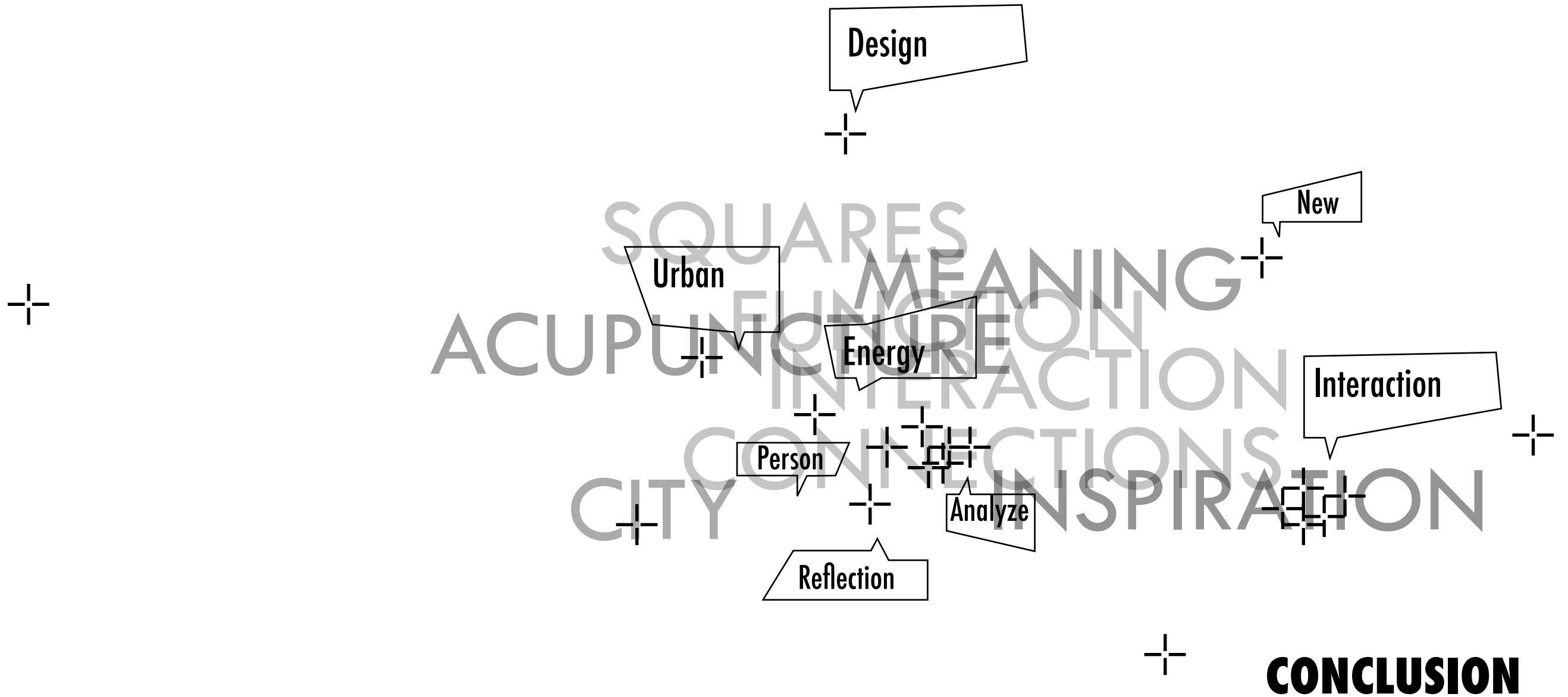
replace them with permanent materials and the spatial effect is immediate! In a proposal, I have tried illustrate that it is also possible to achieve an effect with trees. As reflected in the proposal, the trees have a very dynamic characteristics and different qualities that makes it interesting material to use. Through the growth and development it also changes the space that it occupies. Thus, making it exciting to experience, because their nature is never stable. In this proposal, the critical moment is the amount of the trees and the size of them. It involves plenty of technical and economic questions, like how to transport them, how to place them, how to water or how much will it cost. The idea was more to emphasize and illustrate that the greenery can play a big role in a public space. It is a flexible material to work with and at the same time it can have a different functions how to make the space user friendly and interesting. It is not only the forest where one should experience the vegetation space. It could be also felt on the square!

As from the urban acupuncture theory, the area's healing or new start can be activated from one injection in a specific point. This was the reason why I approached the square as a focus point and disconnected from the future long perspective possibilities that could effect the solutions. The one main idea was that the public life on the place should function irrespective of what happens in the surroundings. The square had to function on its own. As reflection to the dynamic planning concept, the proposal had to be changeable according to the needs. The traditional idea of the square is an open space in between the built structure. It has usually its open hard surfaced layout that has a static image and presents something permanent in the city structure. The new urban square has through the proposals a structure in itself and gives an opportunity to interact for many user groups.

Urban acupuncture as a means of providing quick solutions for public life and public space is inspiring. It does not have any design direction concepts, rules, tools or limits. I see it as a response to the modern public realm temper. The processes in the society, various public needs, globalization, the freedom of expression, different groupings etc. make the urban life very multi-layered that needs constant changes. It seems that it is the speed and time that often govern cities and human lives. In connection to the fast approach of urban acupuncture, it could be asked what time means? What is quick? Is the time or the design effect important? I think both of them have their own impact and relevance with a regard to the outcome. Still, in my point of view, the most important is the solutions contribution to the public life and its functionality. The space needs interaction and occupation to become a place that can complement urban fabric and add new reasons to act. Thus, time could be handled subjectively.

I think the approach should be perceivable and experienced through the spatial transformations. Grasp an attention, like: 'This is something new', 'It used to be different!', 'What is that?' or 'Wow!'. I found that the urban acupuncture is a lot about structuring the space itself. In the sample projects, they were all supplied when the surrounding framework already existed. At the same time, the action took place because of the weak surroundings, that were not able to support the public life in there. Thus, it indicates and it was also revealed by the observations, that the buildings around are not always a helping factor. Through the design images, I wanted to illustrate my ideas, how the space's complexity can embody unlike functions and can therefore be independent from the inoperative surrounding. I see that the ground meaning is about support between different structures, not depending on them.

These approach proposals are options how one space could be turned into a new place to interact. There is of course a lot of other possibilities how it could be approached. It could be reflect the amount of questions that aroused up during the study process. As all the design ideas are visual ideas, then I have not gone deep in the technical solutions. Even though the realistic building possibilities has been notional consideration. The visual proposals are illustrating how the quick design could establish a new square. The different images show the options that could invite people to come by, stay, be curios, try out and explore the new place.



CONCLUSION

8. CONCLUSION



My simple interest what are the triggers for active life on the square and how one could start up a new interaction spot has formed into a multifaceted process. The formulating time of the whole work from beginning till end has raised plenty of questions that I did not expect in the beginning.

The process through the thesis writing has had different twists and changes in the point of views. It has been due to the aspect that the square as a public space intertwines itself more questions that I have raised. Urban fabric is a complex structure where different layers are linked together. It makes it harder to look at some aspects out of this whole package. At the same time, considering the time I had for working with the set up problems, I think that the scope could not have been wider. I realized that the wish to understand the internal energy triggers in the public space would have demanded more time. I suppose interviews would have been necessary to learn about different personal opinions as to what people like and miss on the existing squares. At the same time, being an outside viewer gave me a possibility to disconnect and not being stuck in the demands. It gave me more freedom to think of different possible solutions. I felt a wish to offer something new that people maybe would not imagine themselves for a new public space. As a reflection, it could be interesting to know what citizens would think of the proposals. Would such solutions be something to attract people to Norra Sorgenfri.

My analysis and observation studies together with the theory have directed me to see different facets of how one could approach the new space for public life. The research squares have showed that not all of the spaces are functioning as they have been thought to be or why some of them have emerged as hot spots in the city. It also made me realize that there is a kind of hierarchy in the importance of using public spaces. Is it influenced by the location, accessibility, space function, changes in the surrounding structure or maybe changes in the social behavior. Being at the place has been one of the most exciting parts of the study. The observation happened in a present and reflected how the things are on the site actually. It was not about how things should work according to theory. The reading gave me parallel knowledge, directing my attention to what could be important to observe. It helped me create a framework in order to get the directions, where I could start adding my own interpretations. In the working period, I discovered more different books and authors that discuss various points of view why public life occurs and how to support it. Unfortunately, there was no time to go into them and get more a complex approach to the topic. At the same time, I feel that my selection of different theorists gave me diverse perspectives of the subject and created an interest to explore the topic further.

In order to execute the theory and investigation in Norra Sorgenfri, I decided to try out the urban acupuncture method, signifying the place transformation through energy injection in order to activate public interaction. Since the concept does not have a fixed methodology, the tools are free to pick. Though the goal is to make big changes through small intervention, there are no actual guarantees of success. Nevertheless, it could be argued that even if the effect does not yield the exact outcome as expected, each change will have a positive impact on the immediate surroundings. In the Norra Sorgenfri area, the change will be noticed, because it will happen in openness. Even through this knowledge of change has created and added a new place in the urban fabric. I find that the use of acupuncture in this thesis was an interesting and challenging choice, because of the idea's flexibility and instantaneous nature. As the goal was to produce an effect on the specific place, it allowed disconnecting from the surrounding circumstances and respond to the present need. It was about how to create a new place on its own essence! It gave also more possibilities to play with the design ideas because the permanence was not decisive. The areas transformation could change everything in short period. The proposals flexibility had a goal to give possibilities to continue to evolve. Either it will disappear and will be place with the contemporary design, or it will be modified through spatial needs and public interaction on the place.

CONCLUSION

8. CONCLUSION



The basic problem of 'how to land?' and arouse interest (energy) has been now related to different proposals. It could be questioned if they completely to my proposition approaching a space and place and creating a energy through the urban acupuncture.

I think that these final proposals presented have started a great process in myself, through questioning, what are the possibilities to approach the problem and my selected execution area are. The main conclusions from the study process have found visual expressions how these concepts could look like and what they could embody. I find that the visual proposals were good solutions to show the possibilities how the new public space could be experienced. It gave me the possibility to illustrate the main aspects that I thought were important for Norra Sorgenfri (or any other one) new urban square, like: space structure, possible to stay in the place, flexibility and the use of urban greenery. It also allowed me to use many impressions that I gained in the working process. All the readings, space observations and sample studies created a variety of possible ideas of how to solve the design. For me personally, the initial images in my head are the most important in order to go further with the vision. They create a strong feeling and sense how the space could be perceived and how it should function. It is like a wish that something could happen. The next step is how to make it reality. Of course, it could be argued whether there are more possibilities or whether these are the right proposals. I see my visual proposal as the start of a discourse about the square as a public space. Looking how one could approach the space and how to make it to a place to interact. I think that there are possibilities of developing my proposals further on, as an idea of a future public place for Norra Sorgenfri.

Because of the time limit it was not possible to think of the building details. This was one of the steps that I would liked to do and take my project to the next level. It would have given me a chance to explore different materials, their characteristics, technical qualities and opportunities. I would have liked to learn more about the different technical possibilities that could lead to realization.

Since the proposals are made as school work for the area, I have disconnected myself from many questions that could affect the realization of the ideas. These could be economics, technical conditions of the site or, for example, availability of materials. I have also approached the area only based on the limited material that was presented to the public and I did not have any real cooperation with the municipality. Therefore, the solutions have come from my personal perception, understanding of the present situation and limited theoretical studies. This fact has clearly formed my position and values regarding the question how to start up a new interaction place in Norra Sorgenfri. If it would be transformed into a real project, there would definitely be changes in some parts of the design visions.

As the thesis is a compact result of the work, there is a lot of material that was left out. These were important intermediate stages where various thoughts and ideas came up. Though some steps seemed unessential, I still found crucial steps that took me to my final production. For me, it was a good experience of trying to free myself from the built structures that often dictate how one can work with the space. It also showed different relations what the physical space could combine in itself. This thesis has given me a lot to reflect upon. I have started to realize that the public life and its nature will appear in its real vitality if there place itself has the ability to function. This will great the energy on the place and gives more possibility to interact the place on its own. This is probably the biggest reasons why the users are willing to come to the place and spend time there. My proposals for 'A thought of a new place to interact' are intended for breathing life into Norra Sorgenfri through strong visual moments that could be developed into a real experience.

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