



A GREEN SETTLEMENT - outside the wall

INTRO

The Hanseatic city of Visby is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is regarded as a unique example of a northern European medieval walled trading town. Visby stands out with its highly preserved inner medieval townscape and the surrounding city wall. Historically the wall would define the city boundaries - outside the city wall, a green agricultural landscape would begin. Twentieth-century urban planning took a Garden City approach to development beyond the wall. The 1934 town plan by architect Sven Markelius manifests green "wedges" as parkland with lines of sight towards the wall, furthermore leaving the wall clearly defined by an encircling green moat. Today the green wedge at Östercentrum is gone and in its place lies a vast parking area.

VISION

We believe that the future development of Visby is to be done in regards to the historical premises of the city and that

the development of Östercentrum is to be done in respect and consideration of the cultural and historical layers of the city. Furthermore, we believe that the transformation of Östercentrum is to be done in accordance with sustainable design principles. These being key elements to successfully connecting the historical urban settlements and the modern town - creating a green settlement in consideration of the cultural heritage.

PROPOSAL

In recollection of the historical context of the site as being part of a former agricultural landscape and inspired by the garden city town plan from 1934, we propose to reestablish central parts of the project site as a green "garden wedge" - turning the project site into a shared green garden area for the future inhabitants, with a clear relation and a line of sight towards the historical city wall. These gardens will host both recreational value for residents of the area as well as presenting the pos-

sibility of green productivity thus ensuring a sustainable approach to food production. Furthermore, we propose to establish Ithegatan as a productive maker-space, turning the present backside into a new urban frontside with productive activities as well as public functions in the ground floor.

Scale and typology

A new housing typology is proposed within the site. A morphology inspired by the green living qualities and the small scale of the adjacent garden city combined with the productive qualities of the neighbouring commercial area. Green productive gardens are established within the open courtyards of the proposed housing units and will serve as shared common spaces providing the future inhabitants a shared sense of community and social cohesion. A new way of living together as a green community.

On scale of the strategic site we propose to extend this approach by applying new housing units together with the

garden typology to the unused rooftops of existing buildings deemed suitable for building on top of.

Mobility, flow and parking

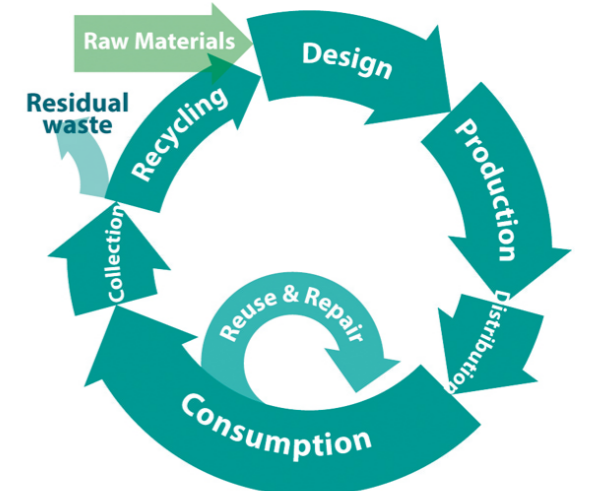
In regards to parking, we propose a new multifunctional public parking structure with 350 parking spaces situated close to Norra Hansegatan. The structure will have a recycling center located in the ground floor - functioning both as public parking zone and a place encouraging recycling and "green transition". The structure will be shielding the urban space and the future inhabitants from traffic noise generated at Norra Hansegatan. Furthermore this placement will, in turn, generate a natural flow of people having parked their car in the parking space, to be lead by the eastern part of Österväg, thereby rendering this part of the street more vigorous and attractive for shop owners and commercial activities. Private parking will be solved with semi underground parking facilities located beneath the open courtyards. By fol-

lowing the sloping terrain the courtyards will have direct access from their eastern and northern parts - and at the same time facilitate public sitting areas on the western and southern edges of each individual section.

Mixed use

In a future Östercentrum - giving space to a productive layer is essential for securing a vibrant and multifunctional city. The ground floor facing Ithegatan is dedicated as a productive and commercial space allowing the productive initiatives currently present in the area as well as future initiatives a foothold. The ground floor will facilitate anything from small businesses to design- and workshops. A new public Makerspace and FAB LAB with entrepreneur incubating facilities will function as a shared meeting- and workspace for local crafters and makers trying to start up businesses. The project will also facilitate a new public FOOD LAB with kitchen facilities. Offering the possibility of food refinement

and processing for local residents as well as visitors and tourists. Furthermore we propose to strengthen the connection between Östercentrum and the intramural part of Visby by establishing a new Public Market and Culture Hall - the hall will be located in close proximity to Österport and the green recreational moat and will bring new life and functions to the area. The hall will focus on sustainability and promote a green way of living. It will support a mix of activities including temporary food stalls, arts and crafts, vendor spaces and cultural events. The hall will also seek to promote local products as well as agricultural products from Gotland as a whole. The hall will be programmed with a flexible use and will be able to facilitate a shift of events according to seasonal change - supporting cultural life and tourism over the year. Finally, a Recycling Center is proposed in the ground floor of the parking structure to manage resource and waste recovery and to give guidance in waste management to the public.



Overall the project aims to encourage a green living with a sustainable production system as well as to promote food, design- and crafts oriented entrepreneurship. This is altogether achieved by a series of initiatives supporting a circular economy using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a screening tool.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

HISTORICAL CONDITIONS (approximate 1800)



- Green defensive moat surrounding the city wall.
- Historical agricultural landscape.
- Project site - Östercentrum.

TOWN PLAN (1934)



- Green moat area surrounding the city wall.
- Green "wedges".
- Project site - Östercentrum.

ÖSTERCENTRUM TODAY



- Green moat area surrounding the city wall.
- Parking lot
- Urban backside

ÖSTERCENTRUM PROPOSAL



- Green moat area surrounding the city wall.
- Green "garden wedge".
- Semi underground private parking.
- Public parking structure and recycling center - shielding the site from the traffic noise at Norra Hansegatan.
- New urban frontside



SECTION AA 1:750