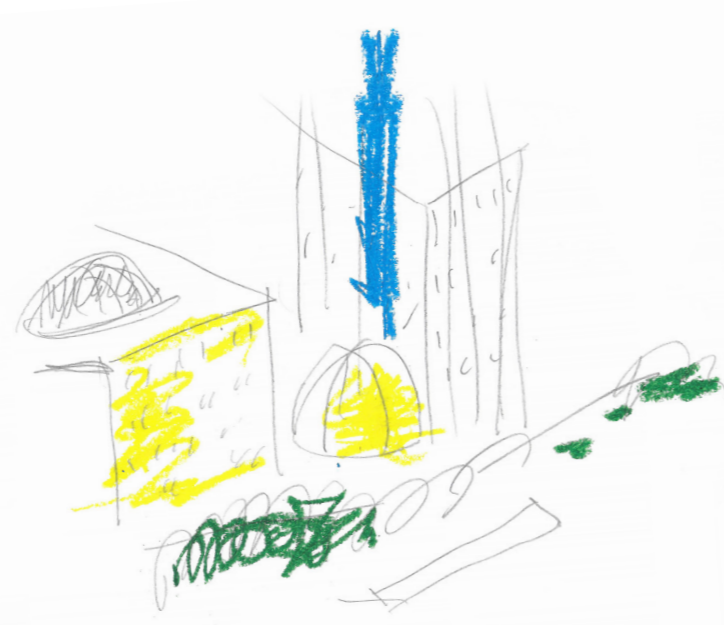


View from Växjösjön

The former hospital area is incorporated into Växjö's urban fabric by cleaning up the introverted infrastructure of the hospital, in favor of an extroverted urban life. New paths balance the specific conditions of the site with the existing city grid. Most of the larger buildings of the area are preserved, but are clad with new facades that reflect Växjö's ambition to be an innovative and sustainable wooden city in the middle of the glass kingdom.

VÄGSJÖSTADEN

The Central Hospital in Växjö is beautifully embedded between green recreational areas, the train station, and the city's central neighborhoods. As Växjö's population increases, the transformation of the current hospital area into an identity-creating place for culture and community is a crucial part of the city's development. The location by the northern shore of Växjösjön has a strong historical connection to Växjö's early development, as it was here that five roads crossed and formed the place for trade and residence that later became Växjö city. This is reflected not least in the name, where a combination of the Old Swedish Vaegar - road, and Sjö - lake, together form Växjö. To reconnect with the local history of the site, we propose that the new cultural quarter that is emerging in the premises of the central hospital is to be named Vägsjöstaden, a cultural neighborhood and the heart of future Växjö.



The transformation of the central hospital is part of a larger ongoing postmodern urban development that is taking place globally in line with worldwide urbanization. As industry and infrastructure move to the outskirts in favor of a vibrant city, the former functional zones are being transformed into blocks of housing and urban life. A common approach is to consider these places as a tabula rasa, a blank sheet to be filled with ideas of the good city. An attempt that often results in an urban fabric characterized by apparent small-scale, only vaguely linked to academic theories of urbanity, sometimes adorned with fetishized objects linked to the site's former function. We propose instead that the transformation of the Central Hospital should be treated as a palimpsest, where new programs and functions fit into the existing framework and are then adapted to their new function, thus even the spatialities bear clear traces of history, forming an urban fabric of superimposition and reuse. If we allow ourselves to be poets, we can compare the existing hospital to the material from which the sculptor chisels out her work. By removing material and working on the surface of the existing structure, Vägsjöstaden is gradually chiseled into existence.

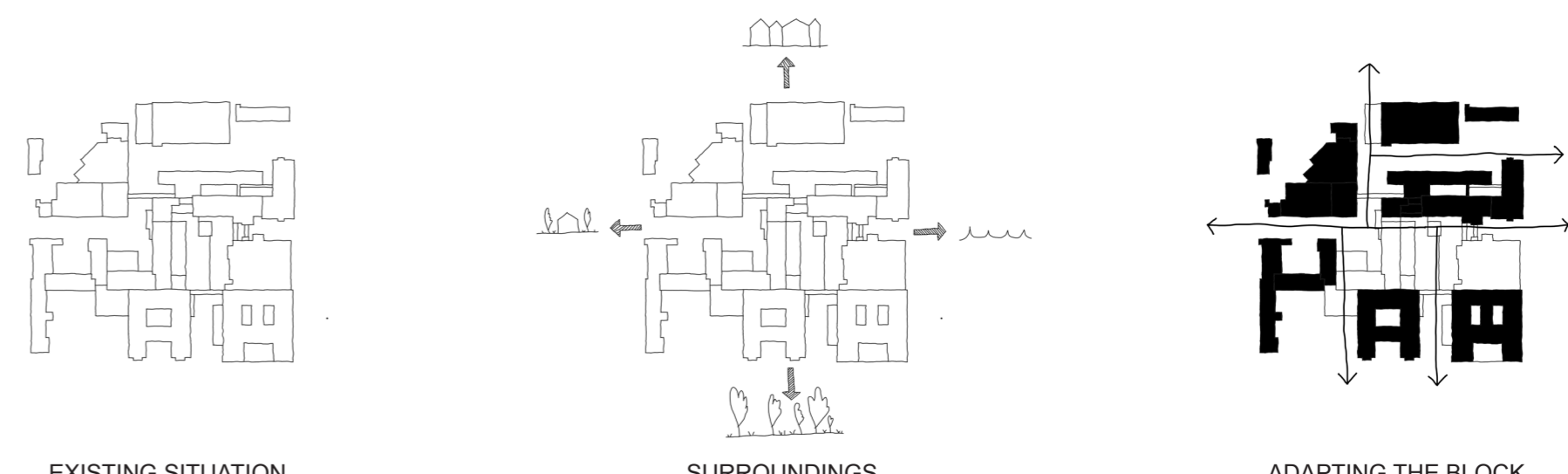
When the central hospital relocates to new premises, the block can be refined and the overall interconnected infrastructure that characterizes a modernist hospital can be loosened in favor of street life, spaces for recreation and enhanced accessibility. By removing unnecessary passageways, re-cladding the existing structures in more appropriately designed envelopes and adding some complementary elements, the neighborhood can be adapted to the future without losing historical roots or extensively wasting resources.

In line with Växjö's slogan The Greenest City in Europe, we propose the demolition of three buildings in the middle of the central hospital block, in favor of a larger park space that better connects to the surrounding nature and road network. The grid planting of linden trees that defines the promenade continues into the new public space, defining a lush green living room, effectively taking up the slope between Strandvägen and Värengsgatan. A restaurant pavilion and an outdoor stage/skating rink are placed in the park space.



Plan 1:4000

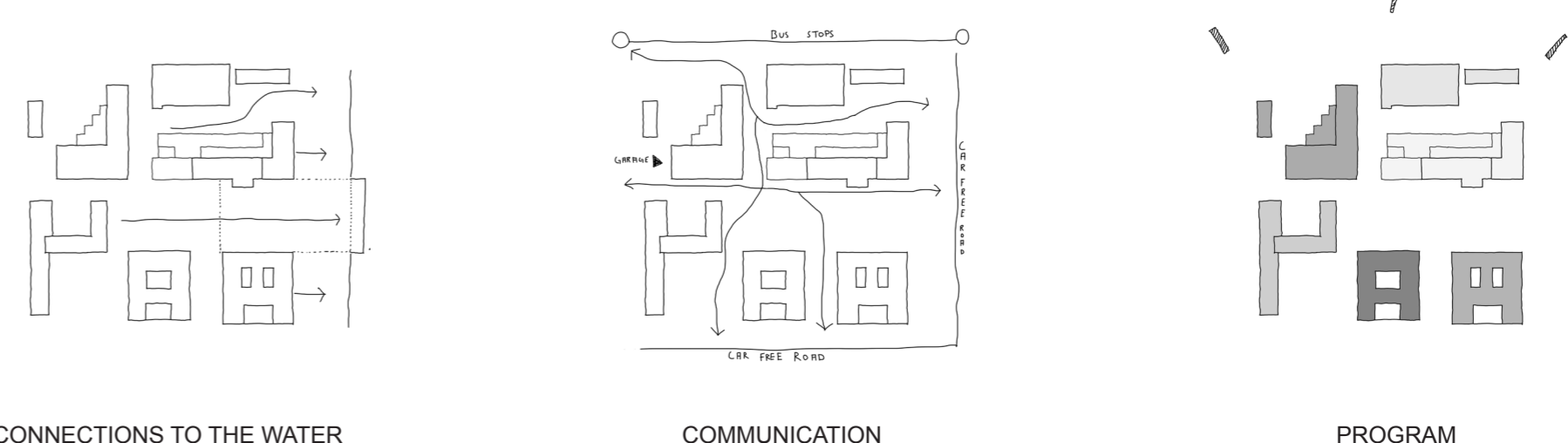
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|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 The Main Square | 8 Swedish Glass Museum | 15 Workshop / Maker-Space | 22 Innovation Center |
| 2 Östrabo City Farming | 9 House of Emigrants | 16 Atelier | 23 Cultural Center |
| 3 Railway Station | 10 Söder Garden City | 17 Hotel | 24 Strandbjörket Park |
| 4 The Cathedral | 11 Medical Center | 18 Market Hall | 25 Lake Växjösjön |
| 5 Linnéparken Park | 12 Infection Clinic | 19 Restaurant/Pavillion | 26 Public Indoor Swimming |
| 6 Öster | 13 Eco-housing | 20 Strandvägen | 27 Strandbjörkallens Sports Hall |
| 7 World Trade Center Växjö | 14 Health Center | 21 Södra Esplanaden | 28 Strandbjörkets Bathing Site |



EXISTING SITUATION
Today, the hospital area is large and compact. It is characterized by its many extensions and an inward-looking, complex infrastructure. The picturesque location by Lake Växjö contributes to the area's future potential, and the key is to rework the existing structure to give the area a new identity.

SURROUNDINGS
The surroundings of the hospital area offer good conditions for an attractive urban life. With Strandbjörket to the south, Växjösjön to the east, the garden city to the west and the city centre to the north, the district is surrounded by an attractive combination of nature and urban life, characterized by green paths and a clear grid plan.

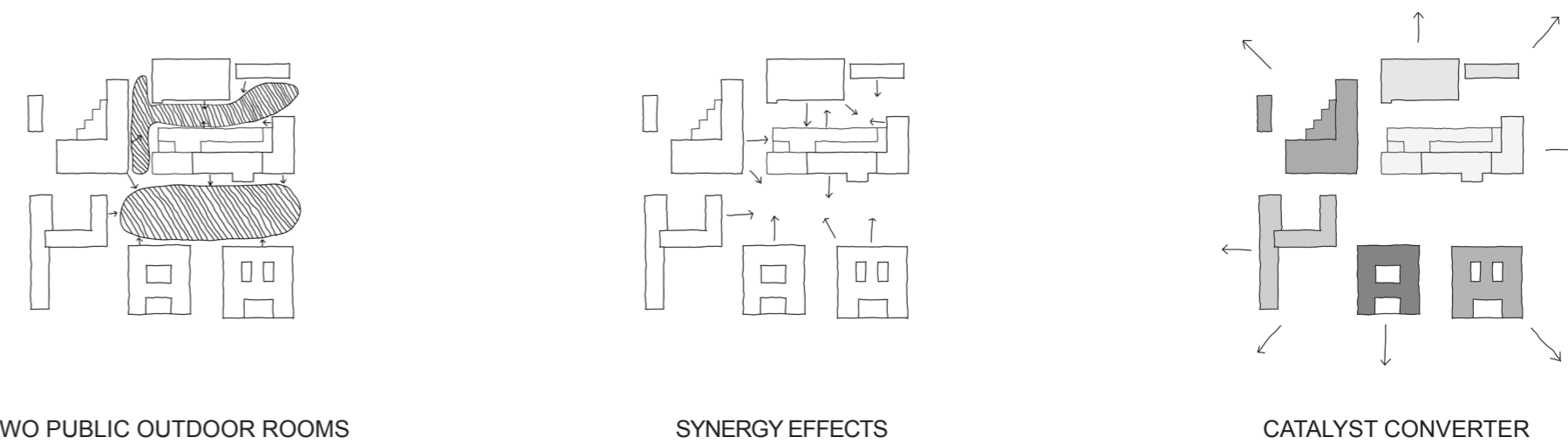
ADAPTING THE BLOCK
Once the strictly functional logic of the hospital area is no longer needed, the underlying structure of the existing building can be refined and adapted to its surroundings. The large block is broken down into smaller components and unnecessary barriers are removed to create a more open, accessible and welcoming setting.



CONNECTIONS TO THE WATER
To strengthen the connection between the city and Växjösjön, the existing structure is cleaned up for a more defined east-west direction through the block. New paths and sight lines are created between the water and the grid city, incorporating the former supergrid of the hospital district into the city network.

COMMUNICATION
New ways of moving through the area are created by opening previously closed passages, for an urban fabric with more obvious walking and cycling routes. Bus line 9 gets a new stop for a more integrated public transport solution. Existing culverts are used for underground parking, freeing the area from traffic.

PROGRAM
The programming of the neighborhood aims to reinforce positive and successful aspects associated with Växjö, such as culture, wood construction, entrepreneurship, nature and sustainability. The new functions are arranged with regards to the surroundings character and transform the hospital area into a vibrant and diverse place.



TWO PUBLIC OUTDOOR ROOMS
Two outdoor spaces with different characters are formed by the programs linked to them, creating a dynamic and varied outdoor environment. One space with a picturesque character filled with lush greenery, while the other space has more urban qualities, suitable for square activities.

SYNERGY EFFECTS
Vägsjöstaden is designed as a city of mixed-use, active around the clock. It strives for a new programming that balances the hospital's conditions with the immediate context. Public buildings face the water while creative spaces turn towards the city center. Housing connects to the garden city, while the hotel occupies the most central and prominent building.

CATALYST CONVERTER
Through Vägsjöstaden, Växjö is gaining a new cultural hub that makes available the park, the water and the former area of the hospital, and creates a new and exciting place in the city. By activating the surroundings and offering various activities and functions, Vägsjöstaden contributes to the continued growth of the city.