



ALL IN!

DESIGNING INCLUSIVE MEETING SPACES

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Last but not least, we would like to thank the people that participated in interviews. Thank you for your time. You have inspired us and gave valuable information and insights for this thesis.

All In!
Designing Inclusive Meeting Spaces

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ABSTRACT

The current urban development in Gothenburg prioritises the needs and aesthetics of middle- and upper-class inhabitants (Thörn & Holgersson 2016, p.670, 681). This choice creates a city that excludes a big part of the population and denies them access to both housing and public spaces. Systematic gentrification and segregation lead on to ghettoisation and rising polarisation. A vicious circle starts that increases racism and conflicts in the society.

The research hypothesis is that cultural differences and friction can be mitigated through inclusive meeting spaces that encourage interaction and cultural exchange.

The thesis is an investigation about the development processes, design and impact of inclusive meeting spaces. The research is based on qualitative research methods such as interviews, site visits and literature studies. Urban theories, knowledge from practices and reference projects are combined into a design toolbox. Placemaking and Commoning are discussed as two possible approaches to achieve inclusive spaces. These ideas and the toolbox are illustrated on two sites in Brämaregården, Gothenburg.

The main take-out of the research is that inclusive meeting spaces require both inclusive design elements and an inclusive process. Basic conditions for functional spaces are that they are safe, accessible and provide a reason to go there. Inclusive meeting spaces that include design elements that are appealing for diverse cultures and promote interaction are the foundation for cultural exchange. The more people are included in the development process, the more likely they develop a sense of ownership and feel like they belong to the space. Placemaking is a tool to create inclusive public spaces; however, the initiator uses the community to get input but does not share the responsibility. Commoning is hard to kick-start, but the approach stands for equal power distribution and is an alternative to the current state of urban planning.

Developing inclusive meeting spaces is an essential part of achieving an inclusive city.

Keywords:
common space
public space
meeting space
social sustainability
inclusive design

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Generally spoken, Germans and Swedes are very like-minded. They live in a similar political and social system, they share many values and even their language descends from the same origin.

However, during our friendship we have encountered that there are as many differences between our cultural identities as there are similarities. Discussing these differences has always enriched our friendship and we laugh about the everyday culture shocks that we still experience.

During our Master Studies at Chalmers we took part in the *Reality Studio 2019* and went to Kenya together. Our experience there and what we learned during the *Design for Social Inclusion* studio in Hammarkullen has strongly influenced us and inspired us to focus on social sustainability in our work.

We wanted to take the opportunity of writing a thesis together in order to discuss cultural diversity and inclusion in a Swedish context. During this time we were confronted with our own preconceptions about people, cultures and spaces and learned one more time that there are always multiple perspectives to consider.

We aspire to give a norm-critical and reflective view on gentrification and innovative urban development and to discuss what types of spaces encourage social inclusion and cultural exchange.

For us, building for everyone on equal terms and raising the voice of the neglected is an essential part of being an architect.

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READING INSTRUCTIONS

Thesis Framework	1	... states the main research question and explains the aim and delimitations of the work along with methods and the manifesto.
Gothenburg: A City for Everyone?	2	... introduces the social challenge, the thesis is based on. Discusses systematic segregation, gentrification and exclusive meeting spaces in Gothenburg.
The Inclusive City	3	... proposes the Inclusive City as a solution to the stated problem. Shows how an inclusive urban development could look like and explains the concepts behind this utopia.
Design Strategies for Inclusive Meeting Spaces	4	... elaborates strategies for achieving inclusive public and common spaces and develops a toolbox of design criteria.
Introducing the Site: Brämaregården	5	... introduces the chosen context: Brämaregården in Hisingen. The analysis focuses on the cultural backgrounds of the inhabitants and the existence and use of public spaces.
Designing Inclusive Meeting Spaces	6	... shows in an exemplary way how two spaces in Brämaregården could be developed into inclusive meeting spaces.
Conclusion and Reflection	7	... summarizes the work and discusses possible effects of the interventions on the neighbourhood and future urban development. Reflects on the research process, the contribution and shows possible ways for continuation.

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1

THESIS FRAMEWORK

This chapter explains the aim and delimitations of the research along with methods and the manifesto.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Which are the processes and design criteria necessary for developing inclusive meeting spaces in an urban neighbourhood?

AIM OF THE THESIS

The thesis aims to investigate how inclusive meeting spaces can increase the diversity and social inclusion in a neighbourhood. We believe that designing attractive common and public spaces are a way to encourage cultural exchange and achieve social sustainability and active social life.

The thesis strives to be an inspiration and an example of how such spaces can be designed and implemented in the social context and the climate conditions of Gothenburg. Maybe even more importantly, we want to investigate hindering and promoting forces of an inclusive design approach and the effects of inclusive meeting spaces on the local community.

RELEVANCE

To be an architect, we believe there is a responsibility: A responsibility to assure high quality regarding sustainability and inclusion and to create cities for people. Architecture is not only a matter of form and material but also a political discourse in which the architecture affects how the cities are perceived and developed.

We both believe the architect must play a vital role in the social discussion of multi-cultural coexistence in urban contexts. Living in inclusive community spaces strengthens the human rights of the residents to feel safe and express themselves. However, we tend to focus more on integration than on inclusion which means that we value conformity over diversity.

For the development of a resilient urban society, we have to design spaces for a multiplicity of users and create meeting places for diverse groups of people. We need spaces to experience cultural exchange in the city; inclusive spaces that are disconnected from consumption and serve a community purpose.

Creating safe spaces for cultural exchange is fundamental in an inclusive society where people meet to enjoy their similarities, not to fight their differences.

DELIMITATION

IT IS ABOUT

creating **SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSION**

establishing **NON-COMMERCIAL MEETING SPACES**

PLACEMAKING IN PUBLIC SPACES

EXPLORING COMMONING PRACTICES

encouraging **CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

lifting a **DISCUSSION ABOUT WHO OWNS THE CITY**

promoting an active public life of local residents throughout the year

working in a local neighbourhood

IT IS SOMEWHAT ABOUT

enhancing the **POTENTIAL OF CONNECTING EXISTING SPACES**

proposing a **NETWORK OF INTERVENTIONS** in indoor and outdoor spaces

HINDERING AND PROMOTING FORCES in conducting an inclusive approach

understanding economical and cultural sustainability

emphasizing the memory and identity of the neighbourhood

co-designing with the local community

IT IS NOT ABOUT

SOLVING INTEGRATION

CREATING A DESIGN MANUAL

sharing private spaces or creating commercial spaces

discussing policies for affordable housing

proposing a global solution

METHODOLOGY

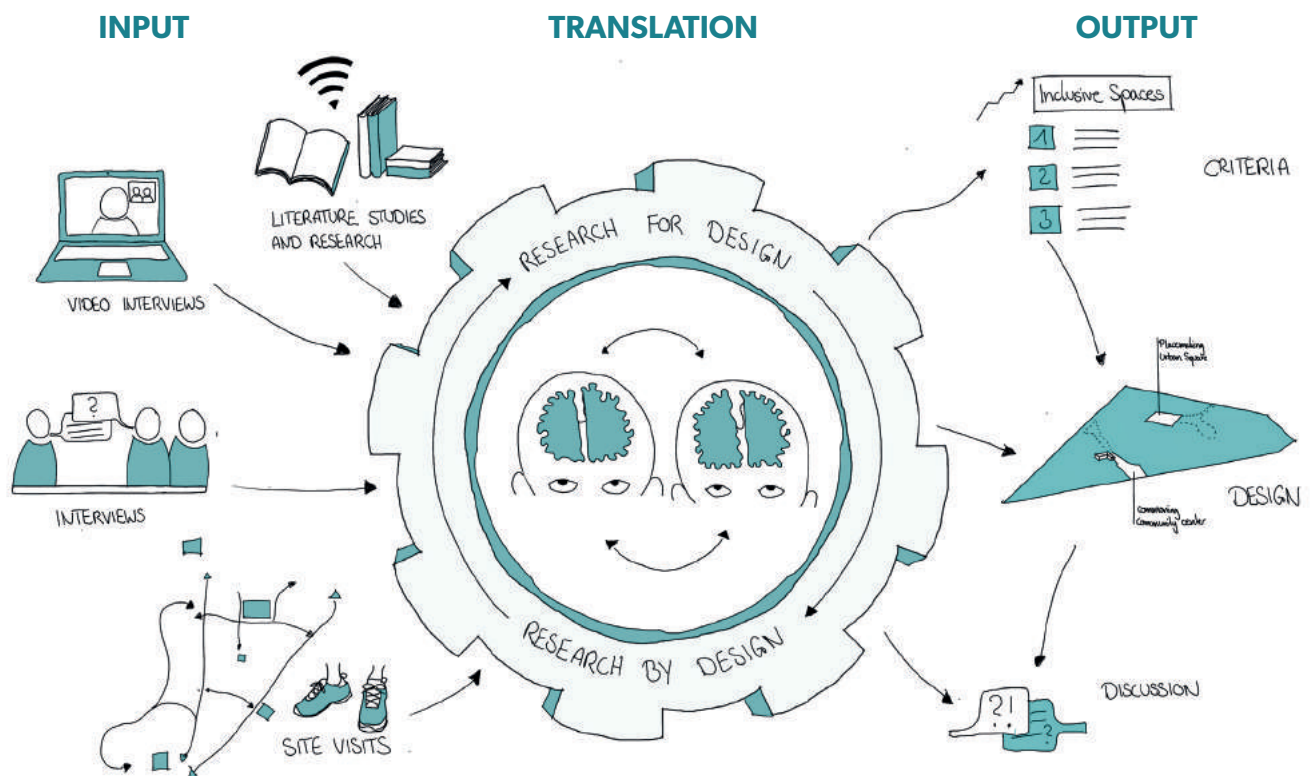


Figure 1.1 Method Diagram

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

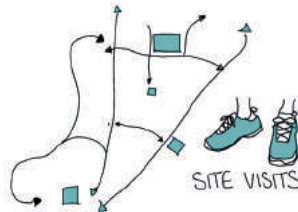
The thesis follows a *research for design* approach. The focus was on qualitative research through literature studies, site visits and interviews. Two co-design workshops with residents of the chosen area were prepared to get deeper insights into the needs and views of the local community.

Due to the rapid spread of Covid-19, these workshops had to be cancelled. The information about existing issues and possible sites in the neighbourhood came from online interviews with residents.



LITERATURE STUDIES

The literature research included newspapers and scientific papers on social injustices like systematic gentrification and segregation in Sweden. A combination of theories about inclusive urban planning and reports from practices formed the foundation for the development of the criteria.



SITE VISITS

Several site visits in different daytimes and days of the week gave a deeper understanding of the neighbourhood. Who lives here? Which streets are active? Which public spaces are used even in bad weather? Where do people meet? What are the connections with the extended local context?



INTERVIEWS

Semi-structured interviews with representatives of Gothenburg City and Lundby District Administration helped to understand the strategies of the municipality to counteract segregation and work for social inclusion. An interview with a social science researcher gave insight into the importance of a mixed-use ground floor.

An individual set of questions was prepared beforehand, and the answers were recorded.



PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Discussing inclusive spaces always requires to hear the voices of the community. From the very beginning, the objective was to organize a participatory process with multiple workshops to convene local perspectives and inputs from residents.

The objective of the first workshop was to discuss the definition of inclusive spaces and to discover possible project sites in the neighbourhood. The second workshop should be a co-design and discussion about design elements in the chosen space.

! A few days before the first workshop was meant to take place, the rapid spread of Covid-19 suddenly stopped all possibilities to meet. The workshops were cancelled, and it required creativity to come up with a new way to approach the inhabitants in the remaining time.



VIDEO INTERVIEWS

One-to-one semi-structured video-interviews replaced the workshop. In this case, a single set of questions was used for all interviews to get comparable answers. The questions were related to the weaknesses and opportunities of particular spaces in the neighbourhood. Do people feel safe and welcome? Is the space used frequently? What is missing?

Due to the late change to this method, it was only possible to interview two people. The answers helped to understand the situation better, but they do not represent the needs or perspectives of the entire community.

GRAPHICAL MANIFESTO

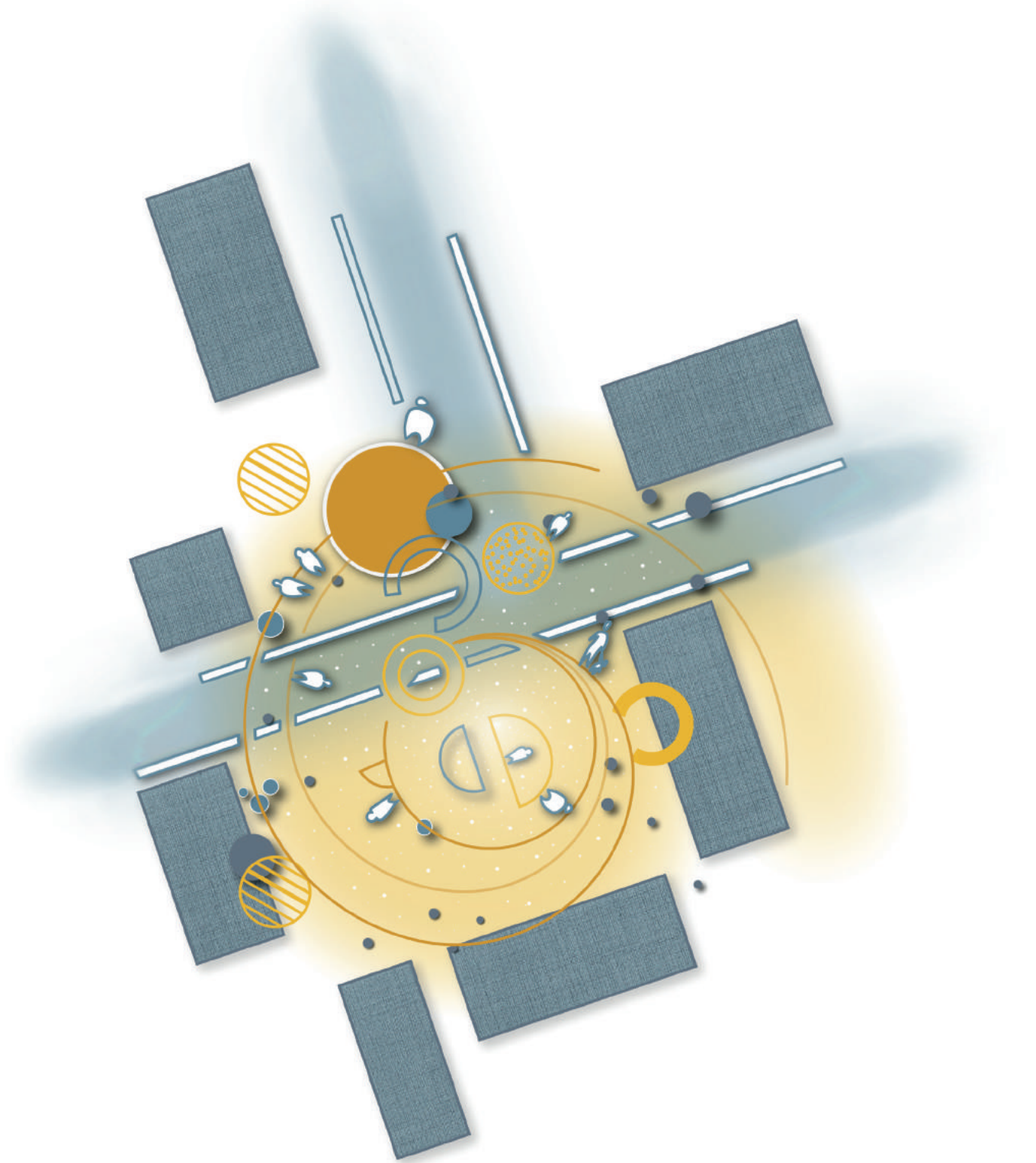


Figure 1.7 Graphical Manifesto

The manifesto illustrates in top view of how small interventions can influence urban space and people in a greater extent.

WRITTEN MANIFESTO

INCLUSION IS A HUMAN RIGHT.
EVERYONE HAS THE SAME RIGHT TO THE CITY.
EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
SHAPE THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

WE LIVE IN A MULTI-CULTURAL SOCIETY THAT IS
CONSTANTLY CHANGING.
INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE
BACKGROUNDS BUILDS TOLERANCE.
IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND, YOU MUST MEET.
MEETING SPACES SHOULD BE
ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE.

INCLUSIVE SPACES CAN ONLY
BE DEVELOPED THROUGH
AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS.
WORKING TOGETHER BUILDS TRUST.
ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO A
SENSE OF BELONGING AND OWNERSHIP.

CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS CAN INFLUENCE YOUR
DEFINITION OF AN INCLUSIVE SPACE.
EQUALITY DOES NOT
NATURALLY RESULT IN EQUITY.
INCLUSION CAN INVOLVE EXCLUSION.

SOCIAL INCLUSION IS AN ONGOING DISCUSSION.
THAT HAS TO BE EXPLORED
FROM DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES.
ONLY LONG TERM SOLUTIONS CAN
SOLVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS SUSTAINABLY.
COMBINING SHORT TERM INTERVENTIONS CAN LEAD
TO A LONG-TERM CHANGE.

THERE IS NO UNIVERSAL SOLUTION.
THIS IS COMPLEX.



2

GOTHENBURG: A CITY FOR EVERYONE?

This chapter analyses why Gothenburg is a city that prioritises certain people over others, and that excludes a big part of the population from the inner city.

Unaffordable housing and the lack of inclusive meeting places both play a part in this, but cultural segregation has its roots in racism and polarisation. The Swedish population is becoming more culturally diverse, but the cities struggle with providing spaces that are equally attractive for all inhabitants and that encourage interaction across the cultural groups.

EXCLUSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

exclusion (noun)

- 1 The process of excluding or the state of being excluded.

segregation (noun)

- 1 The action or state of setting someone or something apart from others.
- 2 The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community or establishment.

gentrification (noun)

- 1 The process of renovating and improving housing or a district so that it conforms to middle-class taste.
- 2 The process of making someone or something more refined, polite, or respectable.

(Lexico, 2020a; Lexico, 2020b; Lexico, 2020c)

“In the longer term, the continuation of the Älvstaden project in Gothenburg will result in the gradual homogenisation of the central city and in poverty being transferred to the city’s outskirts, a development that completely disregards the municipality’s official goal to reduce the segregation in Gothenburg and create ‘a city for all’.”

- Catharina Thörn and Helena Holgersson, Revisiting the urban frontier through the case of New Kvillebäcken, Gothenburg, (p. 681-682)

The Exclusive Society - A Reality

The Swedish society is becoming more culturally diverse than ever, with a population of 19,6% in Sweden having a foreign background (Statistiska Centralbyrån, 2020). One might think this leads to diversity in the society where people with different experiences, cultural heritage and history are mixed. However, Thörn and Thörn (2017, p.294) explain that people in Gothenburg with foreign background and/or low income are systematically placed in the outskirts of the city. Why? The authors argue that Swedish cities are now amongst the most segregated ones in Europe, where expensive rents make the inner city solely accessible for the middle- and upper class (2017, p.293). This leads to ethnic and economic segregation that hinders the integration of marginalised groups into the Swedish society (United Nations Association of Sweden, 2018, p.44-45).

The River City Development in Gothenburg

The problem of segregation is not only a current problem, but also a future one. The RiverCity Development (Älvstaden Project) is an initiative by Gothenburg City and private commercial developers to develop 45,000 workplaces and 25,000 new dwellings along the south and the north side of the river (Business Region Göteborg, 2019). Industrial sites that were part of the historic harbour will be developed into centrally located mixed-use neighbourhoods. Thörn and Holgersson (2016, p.681-682) explain that the River City Development will contribute to homogenisation of the inner city where only a particular group of people can live. They point out that the exclusive development will directly neglect the municipality’s official vision about counteracting segregation and create “a city for all”. What kind of cities are we creating and in whose interest?

The Importance of Meeting Spaces

The consequences of segregation are that people in the periphery of the city are not able to take part in the city of Gothenburg on the same terms as the middle- and upper class (Börjeson, 2018, p. 3). Because these diverse groups rarely meet, prejudices about one another increase, and further tensions arise. How can we make these diverse groups meet? Since Gothenburg is currently a city of segregation, it needs platforms where people from diverse backgrounds can meet and where preconceptions can be broken down. Due to the local climate conditions it is especially important to develop a combination of indoor and outdoor spaces for year-round meeting opportunities.

The focus of the thesis is how to create inclusive meeting spaces. Is it possible to still make the RiverCity Development areas accessible for everyone in Gothenburg? Even though the housing itself will not be accessible, the public spaces and meeting spaces can be. How can we create meeting spaces for everyone? To answer this, we need to discuss inclusive meeting spaces and how they can tackle the rising polarisation in Gothenburg.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN GOTHENBURG

The spatial and ethnic segregation in Gothenburg becomes visible in this map. Areas in Hisingen have a higher percentage of inhabitants with a foreign background. This creates a higher diversity compared with the inner city. (Hyresgästföreningen, n.d.) An exception is Lindholmen, which is a newly developed area (part of the RiverCity Development) that shows a similar cultural diversity as the inner city. (SDN Statistics, 2019a, p.5, 13, 17; SDN Statistics, 2019b, p.17, 21; SDN Statistics, 2019c, p.9; SDN Statistics, 2019d, p.17).

- Neighbourhood District
- Urban Districts
- High Diversity
- Moderate Diversity
- Low Diversity
- Percentage of Foreign Background

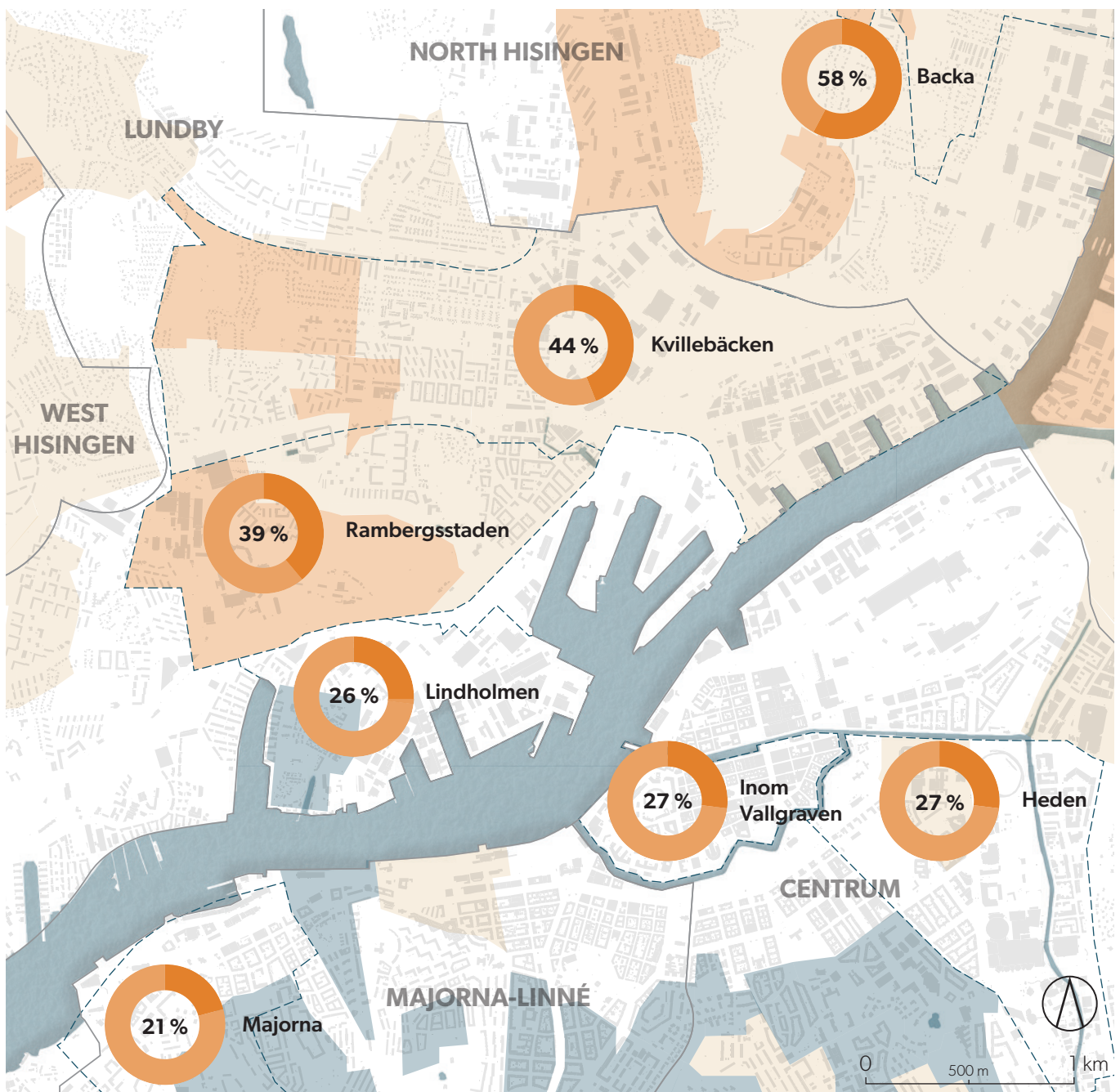






Figure 2.1 Map of Diversity and percentage of people with foreign background

THE RIVER CITY DEVELOPMENT

As mentioned before, the RiverCity Development has the potential to increase the problem of segregation in Gothenburg. Through this urban development, significant parts of the culturally diverse areas in Lundby will be rebuilt. Fast and slow gentrification processes will push many of today's inhabitants further out of the city. Kvillebäcken (the green part of the Backaplan+Kvillebäcken development area) is an example how the municipality strategically stigmatised an area to push down land prices and get the society to support the rebuilding of the neighbourhood (Thörn and Holgersson, 2016, p. 668, 671).

-  Future Development
-  Existing New Development
-  Site of this Thesis
-  Urban Districts

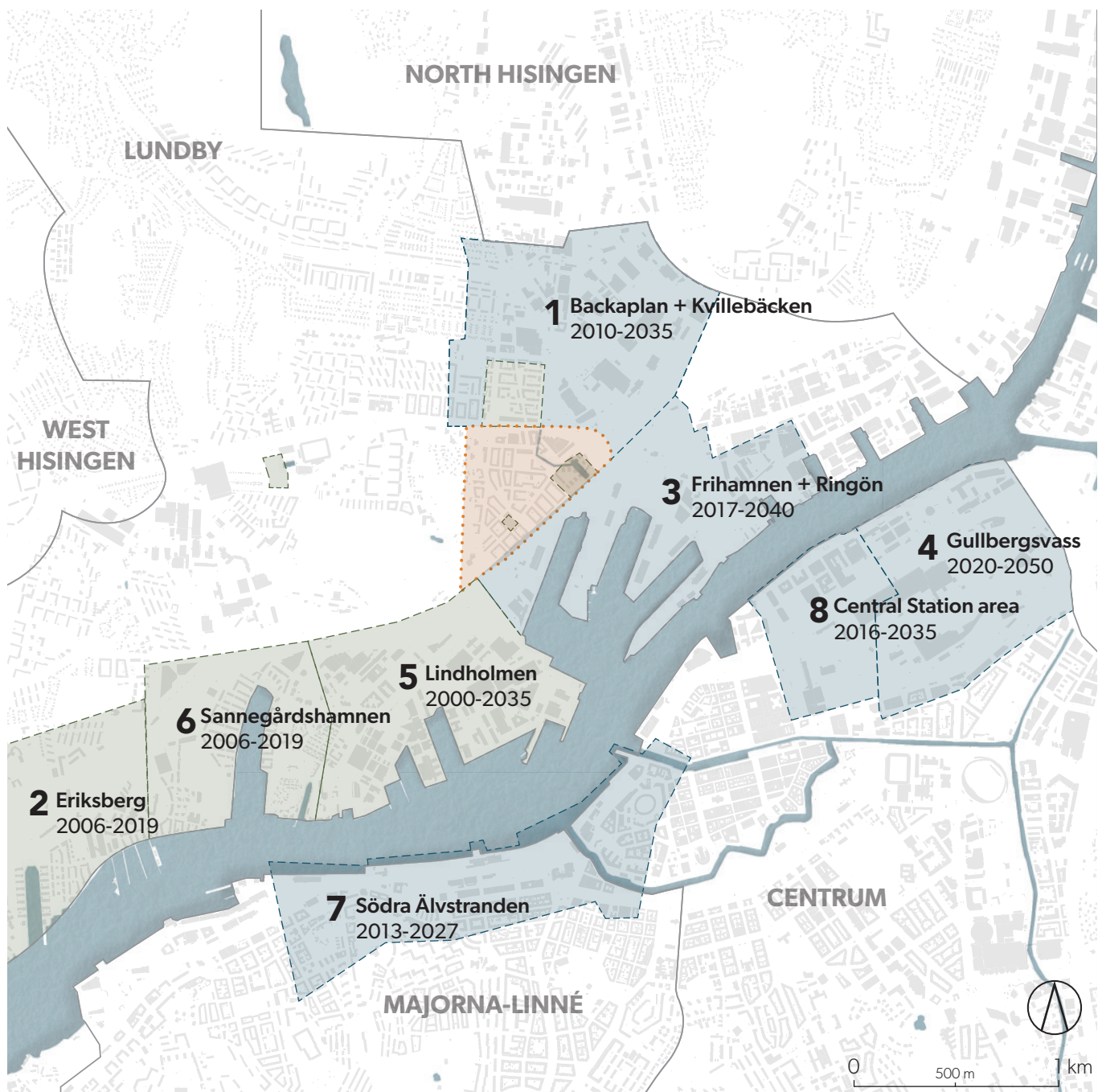


Figure 2.2 River City Development

EXCLUSIVE MEETING SPACES IN GOTHENBURG

The design of public meeting spaces in areas of the RiverCity Development will play an essential role in making the riverside accessible for all. Yet the visualisations of the future neighbourhoods show a development that focuses on consumption, rather than community (see figure 2.3). Each area of the RiverCity Development has its own character, but what they all have in common is a lack of non-commercial meeting spaces. This will not create the inclusive city centre the municipality is officially working for, but rather support the ongoing gentrification process.

The lack of meeting spaces is not only a problem of future development but already exists in Gothenburg. During the summer, people can meet in the various parks and forests in and around the city. Yet, there are no spaces where different cultures actively come together and interaction and exchange could happen.

But what about the long winter season and the many rainy days? The shopping mall Nordstan in the city centre is one of the most popular meeting spaces today. As there are no benches to sit, consumption is the only choice for visitors. This is not affordable and therefore not inclusive for everyone.

It is crucial that people can use and enjoy the public space without being pushed to consume. Thinking about the needs of different cultures and age-groups can lead to a higher diversity in the streets, even if the housing itself is not affordable for all. Planning for all-income households and respecting the needs of different cultures creates an automatic “All In” for everyone.

A City for All?



Figure 2.3 Analysis of rendering from Backplan (Gothenburg Municipality, 2020)

INCLUSIVE MEETING SPACES IN GOTHENBURG

There are different initiatives in Gothenburg that work actively for sustainability - meeting spaces, reuse and repairs shops, or libraries for different kinds of services or items. The problem is, that they are not truly incorporated into the urban life, but seen as “alternative” or “hipster” places that attract only a certain kind of customers. Hence, these spaces fail to be places for inter-cultural meeting and exchange. As most of these places are located in inner city districts (like Majorna-Linné), where mainly people from the middle- and upper class live, they do not include the people, that would profit the most from them. Further information about shared spaces in Gothenburg can be found in Appendix 3, p. 84-85.

Today, the number and quality of public spaces and meeting spaces in Hisingen is still low, compared with the ones on the South Bank. As mentioned before, meeting spaces like that are not part of the RiverCity Development and will continue to be perceived as the “alternative”.

The map illustrates the distribution of different shared spaces in Gothenburg. Where can people meet when the sun is not out? Where do they interact with each other and exchange ideas?

How can these spaces inspire us to create meeting spaces that are equally attractive for all?

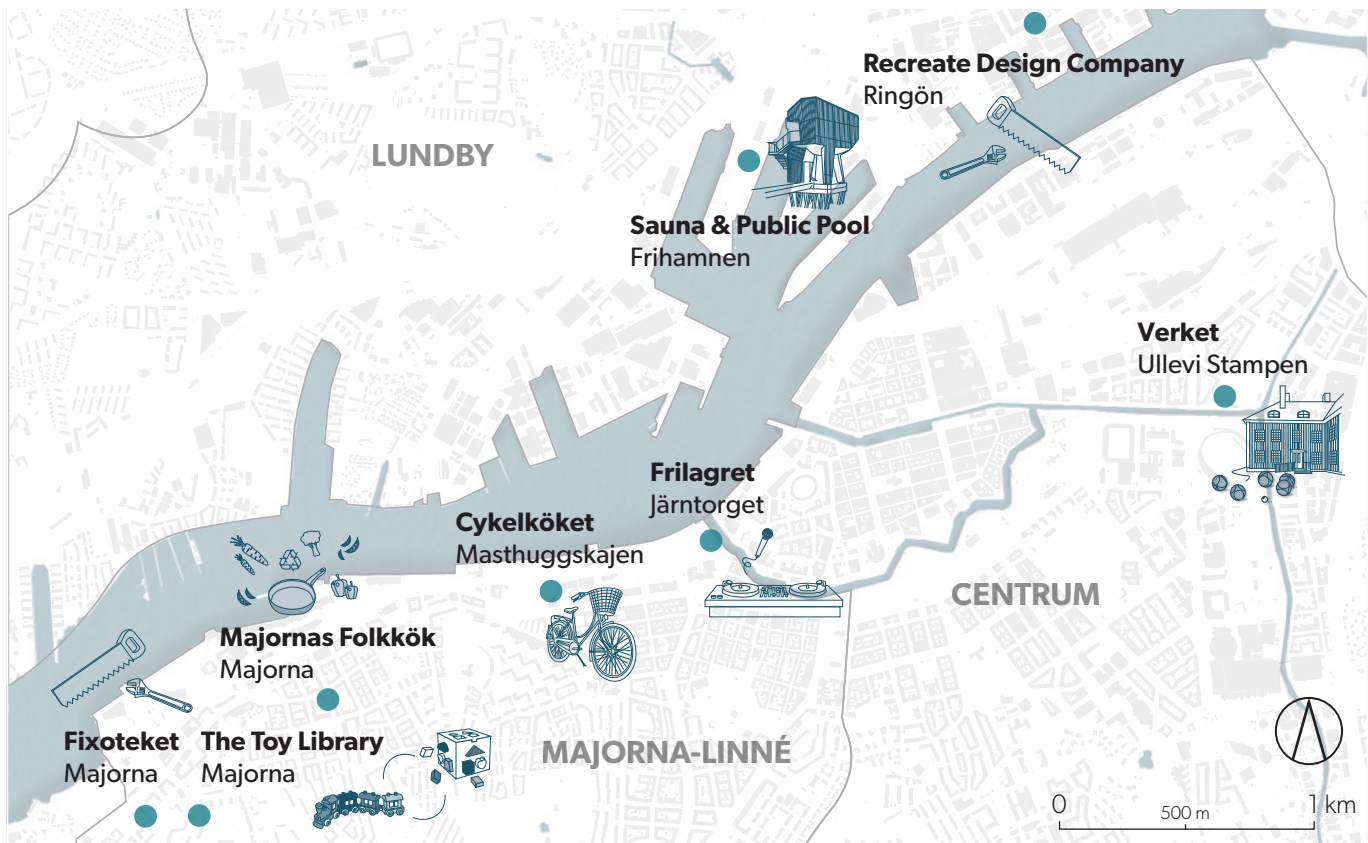


Figure 2.4 Inclusive Meeting Spaces in Gothenburg



3

THE INCLUSIVE CITY

The Inclusive City is a utopia of an urban environment where everyone has the same access and opportunities, regardless of their ethnic or economic backgrounds. In this chapter, we explain this theory and discuss different concepts to put it into practice - with a focus on inclusive meeting spaces.

THE VISION OF THE INCLUSIVE CITY

inclusion (noun)

- 1 The action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure.
- 2 The practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalised, such as those who have physical or mental disabilities and members of other minority groups.

diversity (noun)

- 1 The state of being diverse; variety.
- 2 The practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.

(Lexico, 2020d; Lexico, 2020e)

"[...] diversity and inclusion are not the same. One is a demographic reality, the other is a process that leads to equity and equality of opportunity, regardless of when and where you came from. Diversity is a demographic accident, inclusion is what you do with it."

- Ratna Omidvar, C.M., O.Ont.,
Senator for Ontario, The Senate of Canada

The Inclusive City - A Utopia

In the ongoing discussion of how to plan for a multi-cultural society, the terms of (cultural) diversity and inclusion are often used interchangeably. As Ratna Omidvar states above, diversity can happen by accident, while inclusion can only be achieved through a joint effort (Omidvar, n.d.).

An inclusive city is first and foremost one that provides equal access to spaces and opportunities for all citizens: it is an accessible and open city. Richard Sennett explains, that such a city consists of two things: The concept and reality of the urban life and social fabric - *cité* - and the built environment - *ville* - which is the (often only) object of traditional urban planning (Sennett, 2018, p. 1).

Diversity can occur by accident when the focus is on designing attractive public space (*ville*). However, inclusion is deeply influenced by the connection between people and the informality that happens on the active streets (*cité*). Good relations between neighbours are essential to increase safety in the area and experience tolerance and peaceful co-existence (Jacobs, 1961, p.56).

Kees Christiaanse explains that the Inclusive City is a utopia and, even in theory, impossible to achieve. He argues that the inclusive city is not a static goal but rather a condition, just like a common space (Christiaanse & Levinson, 2009).

Inclusive Urban Development

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the current urban development in Gothenburg prioritizes a particular group of people over others. This leads to higher gentrification and segregation and to a city that is inaccessible for many people.

Working towards an open city can help to react to such development or counteract it. Giving people equal access is based on three columns: affordable housing, inclusive meeting spaces and participation (Sennett, 2018). There is not one solution to create inclusion, rather a set of top-down and bottom-up approaches that has to be combined. Furthermore, initiators and communities must have a strong internal motivation to achieve the Inclusive City.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A city must set a political framework and binding policies to ensure affordable housing in all neighbourhoods and hence, higher diversity in all parts of the city, especially the inner city.

INCLUSIVE MEETING SPACES

Inclusive and non-commercial meeting spaces encourage people to meet and interact. It is crucial to pay special attention to the needs of neglected groups, like women, children or immigrants (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

PARTICIPATION

Enabling participation gives citizens the power to decide in which environment and what society they want to live. Through inclusive processes, people take ownership of common goods, like urban space (Stavrides, 2018).

INCREASING INCLUSION AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Working towards social inclusion is a complex task. This research map explains how public and common spaces can play a part in creating a culturally diverse and inclusive city. The suggested design solutions and processes are further explained in the following pages.

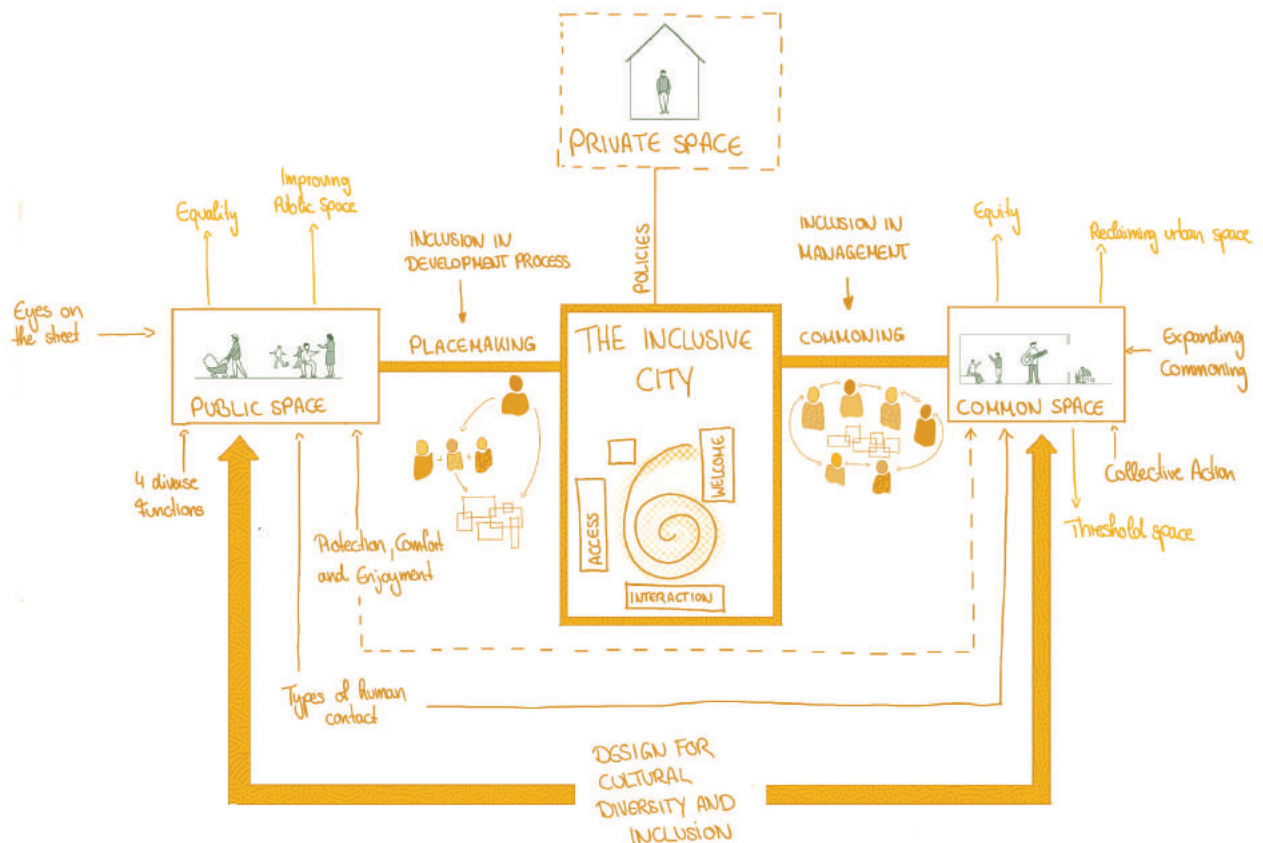


Figure 3.1 Research Map

WHO CONTROLS THE URBAN SPACES?

Spaces in the city can be divided into three groups: Private, public and common spaces. The person or instance that has power over a space can control who is invited and what happens. This decision limits the level of inclusion and prioritises certain groups over others.

PRIVATE SPACE

Private space belongs to and is controlled by an individual or an economic entity (company) which has the right to set up the conditions under which others may use the space and choose who is invited (Stavrides, 2015, p. 11).

Not further investigated,
change happens through policies

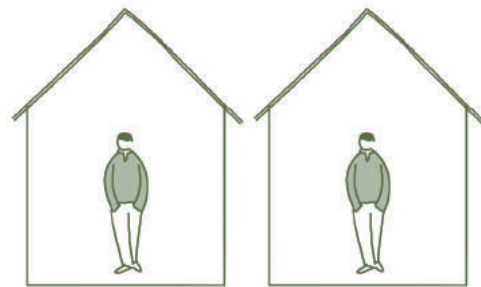


Figure 3.2 Private Space

PUBLIC SPACE

Public space is created and controlled by an authority, such as a municipality. An example of a public space can be, for instance, a park or a square that is open to all citizens (Stavrides, 2015, p. 11).

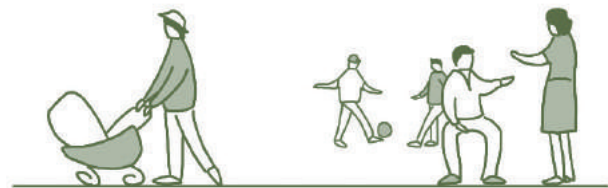


Figure 3.3 Public Space

COMMON SPACE

Common spaces happen through collective action. Their processual character is what distinguishes them from the private and public spaces. Self-defined social groups create common spaces through commoning practices. These communities can inhabit and appropriate the space and decide the terms of use together. Common spaces are threshold spaces that are constantly in the making. (Stavrides, 2016, p. 83).



Figure 3.4 Common Space

CONCEPTS FOR MEETING SPACES IN THE INCLUSIVE CITY



Figure 3.5 Eyes on the Street

Eyes on the Street

Active Facades and neighbours who have their “eyes on the street” create safer urban spaces and can help to prevent crimes. This does not mean that neighbours observe each other, but rather that they recognise if something unusual happens (Jacobs, 1961, p. 35).



Figure 3.7 Four Functions

Four Functions

Richard Sennett argues that a public space should contain four primary functions to be active and attractive for visitors. He emphasises the importance that the functions are distinct from each other to make a space interesting for diverse groups of people. He also explains that it is essential that the space invites people to mix, not force them (Sennett, 2018, p.210-211).



Figure 3.6 Human Contact

Types of Human Contact

The Gehl Institute argues, that the design of public spaces influence which types of human contacts occur. The spectrum of human contacts reaches from *no contact* (being alone) over *passive* and *chance contact* to *familiar stranger* (recognise someone) to *friends*.

People are attracted by other people and spaces that encourage meeting and interaction are perceived as inviting (Gehl Institute, 2016, p.8).

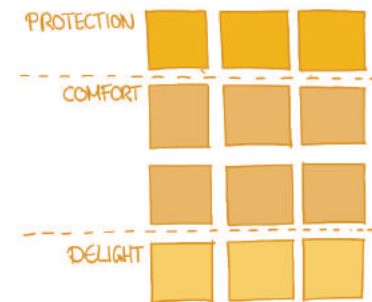


Figure 3.8 Protection, Comfort, Enjoyment

Protection, Comfort and Enjoyment

Jan Gehl and the Gehl Institute has created the *12 Criteria for Public Spaces* that can be used to both analyse current sites and develop a design proposal. The criteria can be divided into three primary themes, Protection, Comfort and Enjoyment. Protection from traffic, crime and weather are the basic conditions for a place to be used. Comfortable spaces provide a variety of activities and flexible seating. They are attractive to many people. Enjoyment means that the space has a human scale, a good connection to nature and high-quality design (Gehl, 2010, p. 239; Gehl Institute, 2016, p.26).

CONCEPTS FOR MEETING SPACES IN THE INCLUSIVE CITY

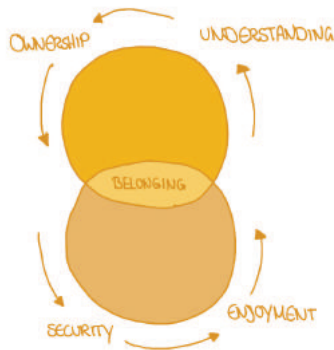


Figure 3.9 Design for Diversity

Design for Diversity

The *Design for Diversity Toolkit* is a report from OpenCity Projects in Toronto where they have combined research with their own experiences. They focus on cultural diversity and thrive to create welcoming and socially inclusive public spaces. Their ideas include principles for physical and social accessibility of spaces and ways to make people from different cultural backgrounds feel at home and interact with other communities (OpenCity Projects, n.d., p.1-2).

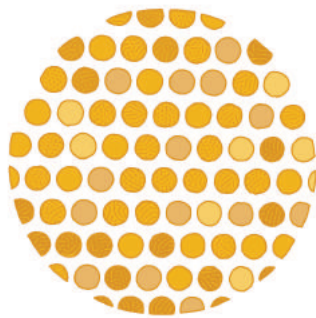


Figure 3.10 Cultural Inclusion

Cultural Inclusion

People from different cultural backgrounds can have distinct or even contrasting ideas of attractive meeting spaces. Cultural inclusion means to create spaces that invite people to come as they are without pushing them to conform. Therefore, it is essential to understand the views of the end-users and their expectations for the space. Combining elements and programs that suit a variety of cultures create welcoming spaces (OpenCity Projects, n.d., p.12). Flexibility allows using the space for different occasions and rituals (OpenCity Projects, n.d., p.8).



Figure 3.11 Placemaking

Placemaking

Placemaking means that the development of an inclusive (public) space is initiated and moderated by an authority and follows a given process. Participatory methods like workshops include residents along the way. The responsibility and power remain with the planner. There is a risk that people are only included for political reasons, and the initiator is not aiming for an open-ended process. Placemaking is an attempt to design with the community for the community and improve public space (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

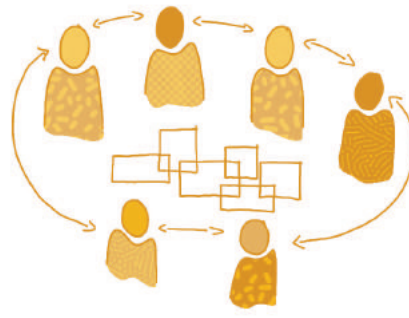


Figure 3.12 Commoning

Commoning

Commoning describes a bottom-up approach of collectively creating common spaces. It is an open-ended process, in which the space and the community develop at the same time. Decisions are made together, and the power is distributed within the community (Stavrides, 2018, p. 15). Design solutions can inform and influence the commoning practices, yet it is more important how a space is defined and used than how it looks like. Expanding commoning emphasises the protection of the threshold or in-between character of common spaces and focusses on continually including newcomers (Stavrides, 2015, p. 16).



4

DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE MEETING SPACES

This chapter elaborates design strategies for inclusive meeting spaces.

A toolbox is developed on how to transfer the theories into practice. The criteria are based on qualitative research methods and are connected to reference projects that act as examples.

The strategies include design decisions as well as processes of participation and social inclusion. The criteria apply for common and public spaces.

A HIERARCHY OF NEEDS?

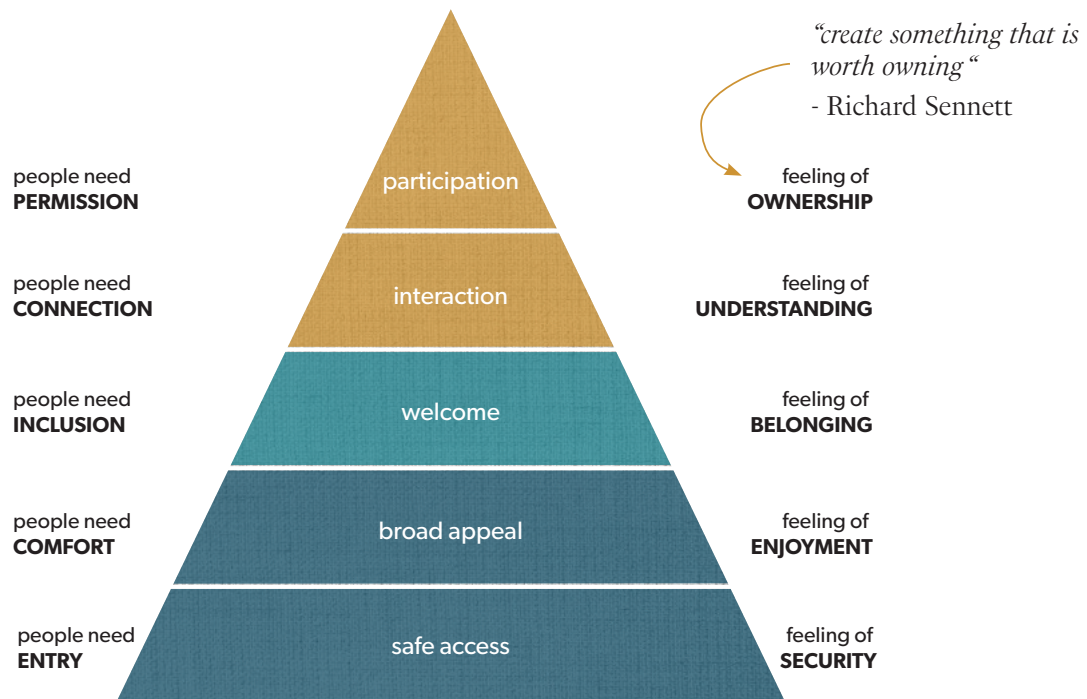


Figure 4.1 Hierarchy of Needs, based on "Design for Diversity Toolkit" from OpenCity Projects

Designing inclusive spaces is a complex task, and in order to work out the fundamental criteria for such spaces, it is essential to first take a look into the needs of people. Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a well-established concept in social-psychological sciences. He explains that the fulfilment of basic needs (including comfort and safety) is the foundation to achieve belonging and esteem (psychological needs) and that self-fulfilment needs like creative action are the ultimate steps in this hierarchy (McLeod, 2020).

This hierarchy of needs can be adapted to the context of inclusive meeting spaces:

The primary condition for a successful inclusive space is to provide safe access and a broad appeal for a variety of users. Feeling comfortable and welcome in a place is necessary for people to develop a sense of belonging. This feeling is the turning point where people start to actively appropriate the space to their needs. It is the start of interaction and mutual understanding. Eventually, people develop a sense of ownership for the place and will take care of it.

The more the people are involved in the development and use of the space, the more they become open to new people and concepts. This can lead to a more tolerant society which is essential for a multicultural co-existence in the city (OpenCity Projects, 2008, p. 2).

Ultimately, democracy within a design process is more important than the design itself. Therefore the following criteria and design strategies don't propose definite design decisions but should be used to create a flexible framework of how to develop a space that the community can appropriate to their needs - over and over again.

The Design Criteria:

SAFE ACCESS

The space is protected from traffic and provides safety for its users.

BROAD APPEAL

The space provides comfort and allows a variety of activities to take place.

WELCOME

The space invites different cultures and communities and doesn't push them to conform.

INTERACTION

The space's program encourages interaction and promotes inter-cultural understanding.

PARTICIPATION

The space is developed through a democratic and transparent planning process that constantly includes newcomers.

THE GLOBAL PICTURE OF INCLUSIVE DESIGN STRATEGIES

This overview shows, how the theories and concepts presented in the previous chapter are connected to the criteria. The line colours represents the “level” of the criteria in the pyramid (see p. 27). In this chapter the criteria are explained from the bottom to the top: starting with the most basic one and working towards complexity.

THEORY

EYES ON THE STREET

JANE JACOBS

Active facades and neighbours who have their “Eyes on the Street” create safer urban spaces (Jacobs, 1961, p. 35)

FOUR FUNCTIONS

RICHARD SENNETT

4 distinct functions in a public space create a broad appeal for a variety of people (Sennett, 2018, p.210-211)

EXPANDING COMMONING

STAVROS STAVRIDES

Creating common spaces through collective action while continually including newcomers (Stavrides, 2015, p. 16)

PRACTICE

12 CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC SPACES

JAN GEHL

A toolbox to create spaces that are protected, comfortable and enjoyable (Gehl, 2010, p. 239; Gehl Institute, 2016, p.26)

DESIGN FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

OPENCITY PROJECTS

Creating spaces that are not only physically accessible but socially welcoming for all cultures (OpenCity Projects, n.d., p.1-2)

PLACEMAKING

PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES

Improving public spaces and including the community in the process (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a)

TYPES OF HUMAN CONTACT

JAN GEHL

Design decisions can influence if people meet and interact with each other (Gehl Institute, 2016, p.8)

CRITERIA

PARTICIPATION

DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

Enable Participation
Rotate Roles

INTERACTION

INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE AND INTERACTION

Design
Program

WELCOME

APPEALING TO DIFFERENT CULTURES

Design Elements
Program

OPEN COMMUNITY

Transparent and Inviting
Multiplicity instead of Homogeneity

BROAD APPEAL

MULTIFUNCTIONAL FLEXIBLE SPACE

Variety of Activities
Allowing Appropriation

GOOD CLIMATE CONDITIONS

Sheltered Space
Natural Elements

SAFE ACCESS

PROTECTED SPACE

Safe Traffic
Prevent Crimes

ACCESSIBLE SPACE

Easy Access
Clear Orientation
Good Connection

WE START AT THE BASE

Figure 4.2 Connection between Theoretical Concepts and Design Criteria

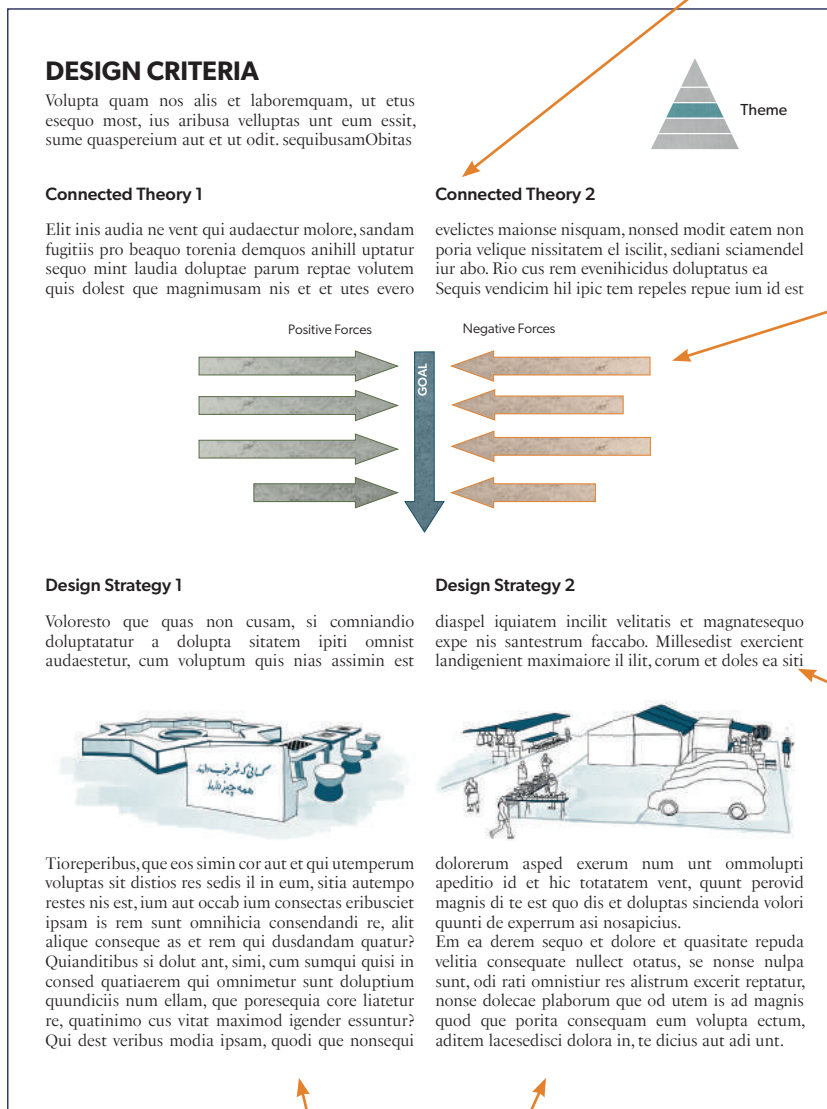
The whole diagram can be found in Appendix 1, p.80-81

READING INSTRUCTION

WHAT DO WE WANT?

CONNECTED THEORIES

The criteria are developed from the combined research results of different readings. The main theoretical concepts are presented here.



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

FORCE FIELD DIAGRAM

Promoting (positive) and hindering (negative) forces have an influence on the design process. The length of the arrows represents the degree of influence that the individual force has on the goal.

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

DESIGN STRATEGIES

There are different ways to achieve a goal, and the design strategies show some possibilities to transfer the intangible goal into a physical reality.

BE INSPIRED

REFERENCE PROJECTS

We are not reinventing the wheel. All design strategies are connected to reference projects that have created inclusive spaces in an inspirational way.

PROTECTED SPACE

The basis of a well-functioning meeting space is the protection of its users. All people should be able to use the space without feeling afraid of traffic or being concerned about their safety.

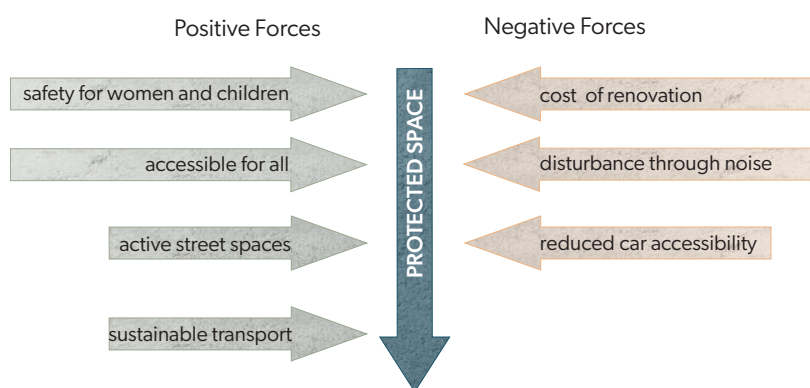


"Eyes on the Street"

Jane Jacobs argues how active facades and good relations between neighbours can create a safe social climate and help to prevent crimes. Residents who are overlooking the streets see their neighbours and can report strange activity (Jacobs, 1961 p.35).

Safety through Design

Prioritizing pedestrian needs in the traffic concept leads to higher traffic safety. People usually feel safer in the presence of others. Active street life caused by a variety of ground floor uses, and well-lit spaces can help to prevent crimes in the area (Gehl, 2010, p. 239; Gehl Institute, 2016, p.26).



SA 1 - Safe Traffic

Traffic separation prevents accidents. In mixed-traffic situations, pedestrian needs should be prioritized.

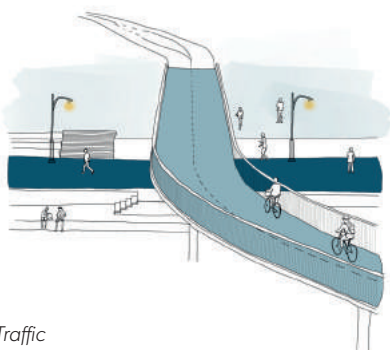


Figure 4.3 Safe Traffic

The *Bicycle Snake* in Copenhagen is an example of complete traffic separation. Conflicting needs of user groups - passing vs lingering - are solved by building a bridge for the cyclists. They can pass comfortably through the area without disturbing the flow of pedestrians that enjoy the waterside (Archdaily, 2014).

Speed limits and safe, well-lit crossings are other ways to increase traffic safety for pedestrians.

SA 2 - Prevent Crimes

Evening activities and a strong lighting concept can help to make spaces (feel) safer.

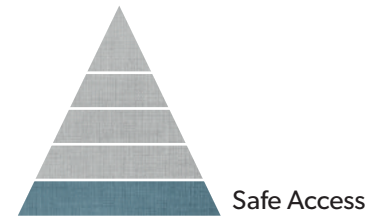


Figure 4.4 Prevent Crimes

Luminothérapie - a light festival in Montréal - shows a playful way to activate public spaces in the long, dark winters. During December and January, people can come and play with art installations that change light and sound when moved. They are invited to use the space until late at night, which increases the safety in the area. The free access makes the space inviting for all inhabitants (Quartier Des Spectacles Montréal, n.d.).

ACCESSIBLE SPACE

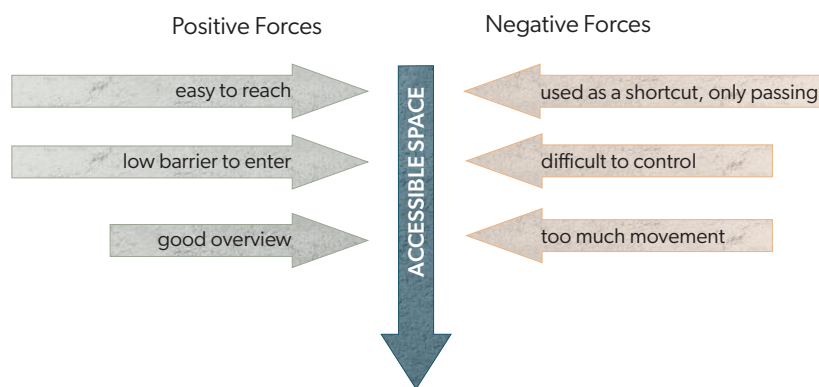
For active meeting spaces, it is crucial that people can comfortably reach the area. The space should be well connected to different means of traffic. Clear orientation and inviting entrances can lower the barrier to enter it.



Theory Concept

Jan Gehl explains that an accessible space provides different options for mobility. Being able to move by various means is essential for the routes to the area and the paths within the space (Gehl, 2010, p. 239; Gehl Institute, 2016, p.26).

Multiple entry points shorten ways and include people from all sides. Free sightlines and clear orientation give people an overview of what is happening in the space and invite them in (OpenCity Project, 2008, p. 4).



SA 3 - Easy Access + Clear Orientation

The space has multiple points of entry and clear sightlines. Signage can help to give a good overview.

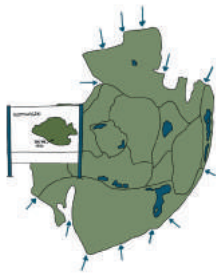


Figure 4.5 Easy Access + Clear Orientation

Slottsskogen is one of the most visited public spaces in Gothenburg. Visitors can enter the park at all sides. The major routes through the park are sealed and accessible for prams and wheelchairs. Together with the unpaved and steep paths up the hills, the park has attractive walkways for a wide variety of people. Signs at major crossings provide clear orientation and show the location of playgrounds, viewing points and fireplaces.

SA 4 - Good Connection

The space is comfortably accessible by different means of transport.

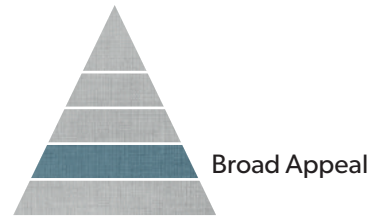


Figure 4.6 Good Connection

Centrally located, the park is well connected to the tram and bus network and the city's bicycle paths. Car parking is available, but the majority of people come here by public transport. Visitors can comfortably walk from one attraction to another - like restaurants, animal compounds and playgrounds - and combine different activities during their stay. The great natural features of the park create a joyful public space on sunny days.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL & FLEXIBLE SPACE

A space becomes attractive if people can use it for multiple things. Functions can be organized sequentially or simultaneously. Flexibility means that the space can adapt to host special events or react to the changing needs of its users.

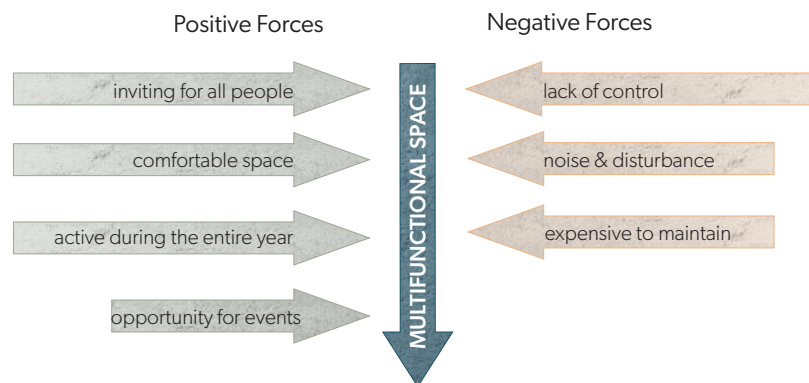


The Rule of 4 (or 10)

Richard Sennett argues that an active public space needs no more than four things to do. However, the proposed activities should be completely diverse to attract a diverse group of people (Sennett 2018, p.210-211). The Project for Public Spaces (2017b) advocates even more than ten different activities in a space.

One After the Other or All at Same

Functions should address the needs of people to sit, walk, exercise and play (Jan Gehl, 2010, p. 239). If activities are designed to happen simultaneously, it creates more chaos but also a more lively and spontaneous urban space, that most people would feel comfortable in (Project for Public Spaces, 2017b).



BA1 - Variety of Activities

The space needs a range of functions - from quiet to active - that enable usage during the entire year.

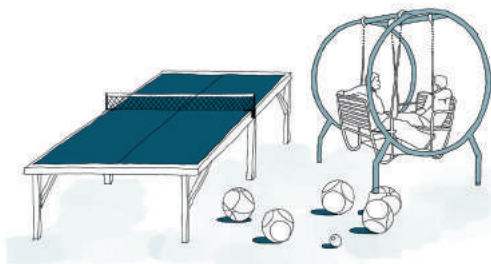


Figure 4.7 Variety of Activities

Superkilen in Copenhagen attracts people because they can do almost everything in this space. Comfortable furniture allows sitting together on benches, swings and tables. This creates talkscapes and meeting places. The space lays focus on sports and exercise and provides a variety of elements for that purpose. Most of them are suitable for children to play with. Open space is kept for flexible use and special occasions. The size of the area allows things to happen simultaneously without physically overlapping (Archdaily, 2012).

BA2 - Allowing Appropriation

The space is flexible and allows the users to appropriate it to their needs.

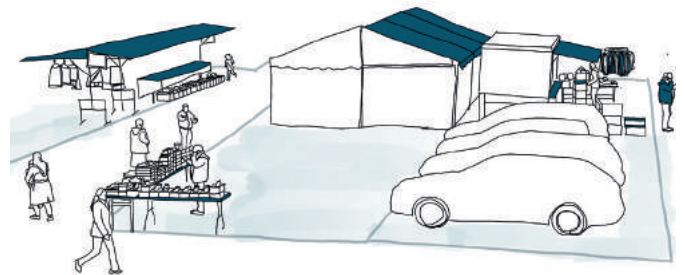
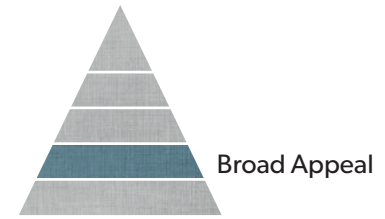


Figure 4.8 Allowing Appropriation

Kviberg Marknad is an example of how people can appropriate open space for their needs. The weekly market is placed in two parallel halls, and vending activity organically spreads into the open parking lot between the buildings. It serves as a meeting place for a community that is spread all over town (Kviberg Marknad, 2020). Traditional market spaces are not so rooted in the Swedish culture - but fleamarket is. For a loppis people temporarily transform their garages or hallways into public vendor spaces. In summer the markets take place in urban streets and parks and attract a diversity of people.

GOOD CLIMATE CONDITIONS

Especially in cold climates, it is essential to shelter parts of a meeting space to make it usable during the entire year. A strong connection to nature and the use of natural material is appealing to most people.

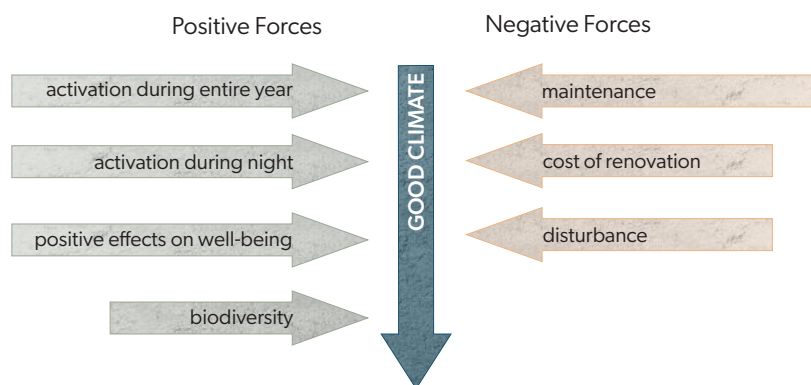


Balance Exposure and Shelter

Jan Gehl's 12 Quality Criteria for Great Public Spaces includes two aspects of climate conditions.

On the one hand, the space should be protected and sheltered from unpleasant weather like wind, rain or intense sun.

On the other hand, users should be able to enjoy the positive aspects of the climate. Placing seating towards the sun, providing shelter and adapting the program to the seasons lead to year-round usage of the space (Gehl, 2010, p. 239; Gehl Institute, 2016, p.26).



BA3 - Sheltered Space

A space that is sheltered from unpleasant weather can be used year-round.

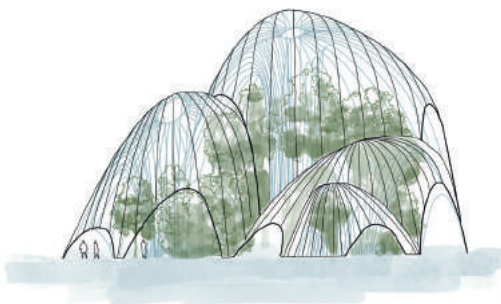


Figure 4.9 Sheltered Space

The utopian design for the *S:t Erik Indoor Park* in Stockholm is an attempt to create a sheltered non-commercial public space with the green qualities of a park. The transparency of the building makes it inviting for visitors. The glass roof protects the area from rain and snow and will create the climate conditions of a winter garden. The design hosts various cultural and educational activities that shall attract visitors year-round (Zilliacus, 2017).

BA4 - Natural Elements

Spaces with a strong connection to nature change with the seasons and attract people year-round.

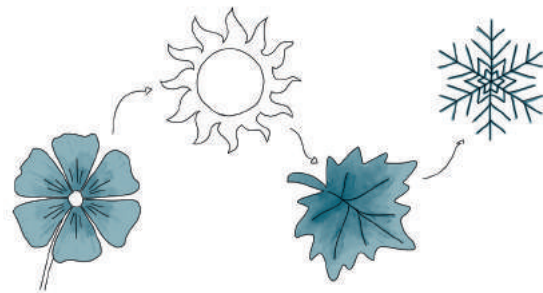


Figure 4.10 Natural Elements

The Botanical Garden in Göteborg is worth a visit during all seasons. Flowers bloom in all shades during the spring. In summer, groups of friends and families enjoy the green areas for picnics. The autumn leaves give the park a new set of colours. Even in sunny winter days, the park attracts visitors who enjoy the fresh air and the calm natural surrounding.

In dense urban environments, the connection to nature is even more important. Parks, gardens and urban farming attract people and planting on squares benefits urban micro-climates and biodiversity.

APPEALING TO DIFFERENT CULTURES

People from different cultural backgrounds can have distinct or even contrasting ideas of an attractive meeting space. An inclusive space invites people to come as they are without pushing them to conform. Flexibility allows using the space for different occasions and rituals.

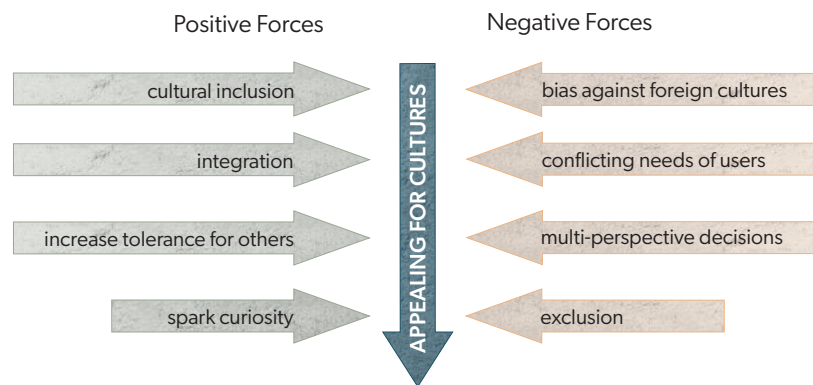


It Feels like Home

Including symbols and colours from various cultures and providing signage in multiple languages makes a space inclusive for people from different backgrounds. If staff and visitors come from diverse communities, people feel welcome and develop a deeper sense of belonging. (OpenCity Projects, 2008, p. 12)

Cultural Sensitive Program

An inclusive space accommodates a program that celebrates culture and diversity, and that reacts sensitively to distinct or contrasting needs of user groups. In order to include everyone, special groups may have to be excluded temporarily (OpenCity Projects, 2008, p. 12).



W1 - Elements from Different Cultures

If people recognize languages and cultural elements that they know, they feel accepted and included.

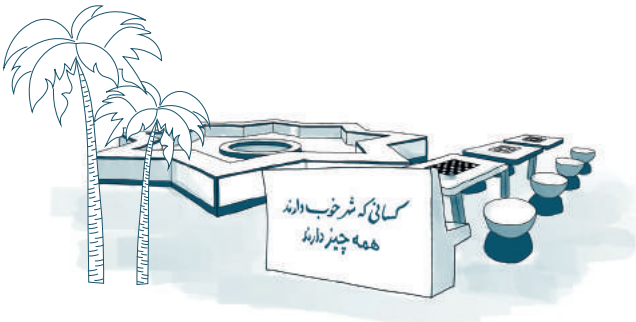


Figure 4.11 Elements from Different Cultures

The *Superkilen Park* in Copenhagen shows an assortment of elements from over 60 different countries. The items were picked in a participatory process with the residents of the area. Signs to describe the elements are written in Danish and the language of its origin. That ensures that people from different cultural backgrounds feel included in the public space. Special amenities like tables, barbecue facilities and chess tables are meant to create the feeling of an urban living room and promote interaction and exchange (Archdaily, 2012).

W2 - Program that suits a Variety of Cultures

Inclusive spaces correspond to the needs and meeting rituals of people from diverse backgrounds.

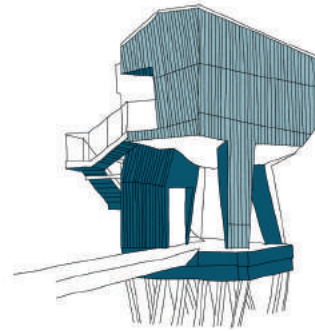


Figure 4.12 Program that suits a Variety of Cultures

Bathing is a ritual that exists in most cultures. The free pool and sauna in Frihamnen is an excellent example of an inclusive public space in Gothenburg. While a lot of Swedes leave the town during summer, immigrants and low-income groups remain in the city and enjoy the pool. The sauna has a calendar that reserves timeslots for mixed-gender and women/men only to assure everyone can use the space comfortably (Göteborg & Co, 2020).

OPEN COMMUNITY

Accessibility is not only measured by physical parameters. An ideal scenario is an expanding community that repeatedly includes newcomers. People tend to feel more welcome to enter if they see that the users of a space are diverse in age and culture.

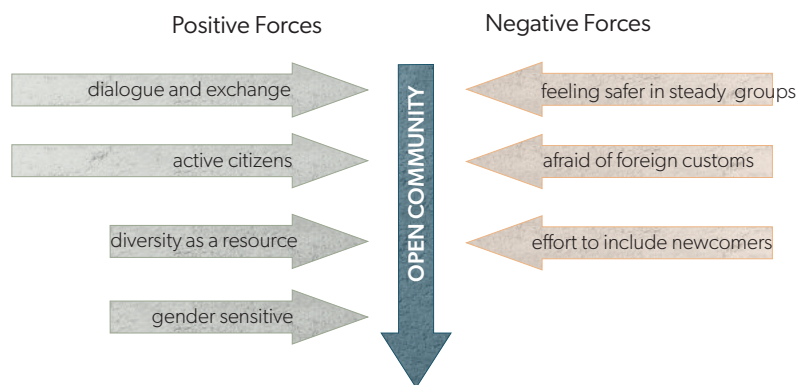


Expanding Commoning

Stavros Stavrides explains that attempts for inclusive common spaces fail if the community turns into something exclusive. Expanding Commoning means to emancipate from social borders and create meeting places with porous social limits that are truly inclusive for all (Stavrides, 2015, p. 14).

Celebrate Diversity

Spaces that acknowledge and emphasise cultural diversity make people aware of and curious about other cultures. Neglected groups should be specially invited and welcomed through an open community and design and program that suits their needs (OpenCity Project, 2008, p. 12).



W3 - Transparent and Inviting

Newcomers feel allowed to enter and are welcomed by the community.



Figure 4.13 Transparent and Inviting

The *Folkkök* in Majorna is a meeting space for people to cook food together from rescued groceries. There is no membership required, and everyone is invited to participate. It does not require any prior knowledge to join. The *Folkkök* explains that people that are new in Sweden are welcome to come and practice Swedish. Also, it is an activity that can be done no matter the culture or country of origin or the level of Swedish (Majornas Samverkansförening, 2020).

W4 - Multiplicity instead of Homogeneity

A space is attractive and can be read from various backgrounds and in multiple languages.

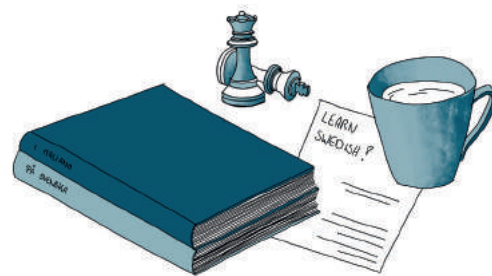
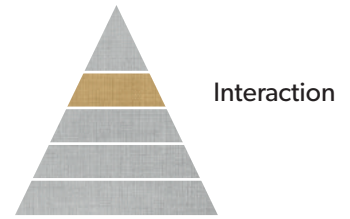


Figure 4.14 Multiplicity instead of Homogeneity

The city library is open to everyone. Free membership cards and content in multiple languages makes it appealing to a large variety of people. It's not just the books: people come here to meet in the little café, play a round of chess or use one of the computers. Reading rooms and a comfortable climate makes it a place to linger year-round. The books can be borrowed and returned in any of the many branches in town, which guarantees equal access to all citizens - no matter how far they live from the city centre.

INTER-CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Special design and programs in meeting spaces can encourage interaction among strangers and promote cultural exchange. Chosen themes should be equally appealing to different cultures. A combination of comfortable seating (talkscapes) and playful activities is often successful.

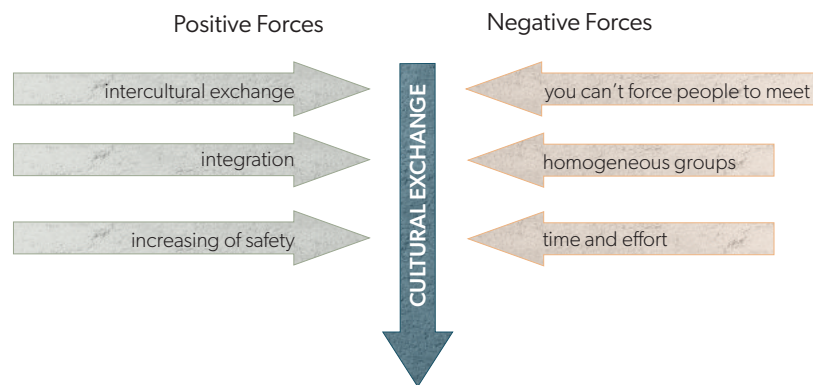


Design for Interaction

Public furniture and special facilities like barbecue spots, cooking ovens or sports grounds are design elements that can promote interaction. The furniture should be moveable or able to accommodate different group sizes and diverse activities (OpenCity Projects, 2008, p. 16).

Program for Cultural Exchange

Various programs promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Activities connected to food, music, art or sports are attractive for most cultures and easy to participate. Singing together or learning how to cook can bring people from different backgrounds together (OpenCity Projects, 2008, p. 16).



I1 - Design Encourages Interaction

Design elements and special amenities can promote interaction and exchange.

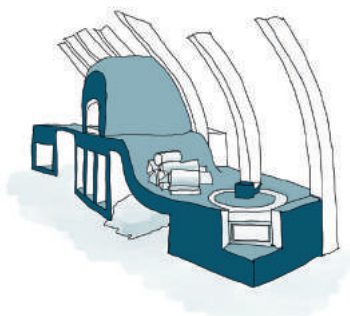


Figure 4.15 Design Encourages Interaction

The *Flatbread Society Bakehouse* in Oslo acts as a place for various communities to gather and co-produce. Three different baking ovens enable to bake bread in big variety and number. Comfortable indoor seating makes the space usable during the entire year and the outstanding architecture attracts many visitors. The bake house is part of an area for urban farming and successfully ties together Norwegian bread culture with baking rituals of immigrant groups. The space stands for cultural exchange and enrichment (Flatbread Society, 2016.).

I2 - Program Encourages Interaction

Specific programs can help to kickstart interaction and exchange between strangers.

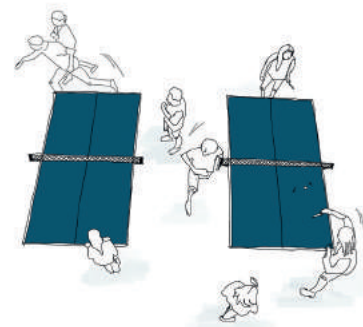
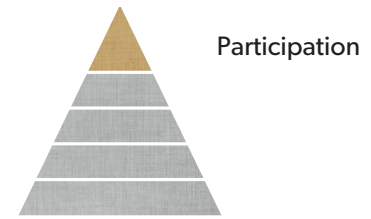


Figure 4.16 Program Encourages Interaction

The Community Centre *Absalon* in Copenhagen serves communal dinners every day of the week. Visitors can book dinner tickets but cannot reserve specific tables. The staff of *Absalon* is in charge of seating the people along the long tables. Through the random seating, people end up dining together, who would not have met otherwise. This creates a homely feeling where everyone feels welcome and included and promotes cultural exchange. During daytimes the space is used for yoga, dance or art classes, as a theatre or for table tennis tournaments (Folkehuset Absalon, 2020).

DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

Sharing the power to decide is both the precondition and the objective of an egalitarian sharing. Through participatory processes newcomers can be included in developing and administrating meeting spaces. Accumulation of power should be discouraged at all times.

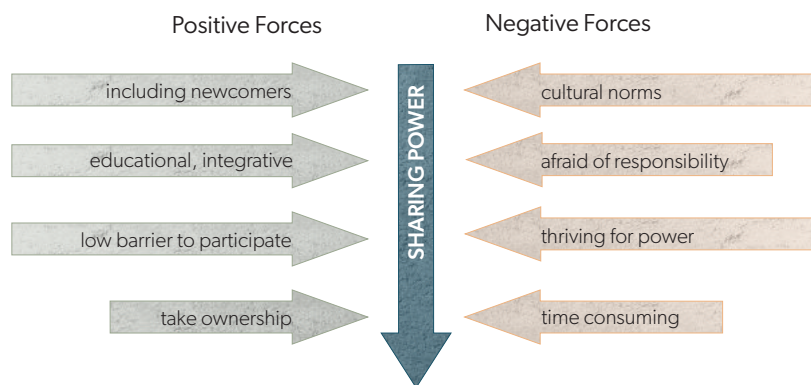


Participatory Processes

Workshops are the most common way to include people. Co-Design and Co-Creation does not only gather the voice of the participants, but invite them to act creatively. It is crucial to reach out to a diversity of people and include the ones that don't speak up for themselves (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a)

Commoning Processes

The idea of commoning is to create both the vision of a space and the development process in a collaborative way. Sharing roles and responsibilities prevents power accumulations and guarantees democratic decisions. To keep commoning practices alive it is essential to constantly include newcomers (Stavrides, 2015, p. 15).



P1 - Enable Participation

If people are encouraged to participate, they develop a sense of ownership and care for the space.

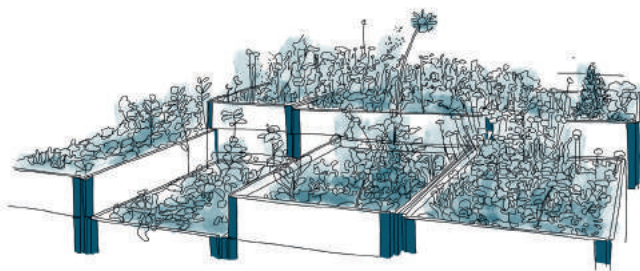


Figure 4.17 Enable Participation

The common space *Prinzessinnengarten* in Berlin occupies wasteland in the city and transforms it into a garden for urban farming, meetings and education. Co-working days are organised on a regular basis, where newcomers can get to know the community and help taking care of the garden. They have the chance to learn about farming and are included into decisions. Scheduling those events lowers the barrier for new people to come and helps to keep the community alive (Prinzessinnengarten, n.d.).

P2 - Rotate Roles

Taking responsibility attach people closer to the common space. Everyone is an expert in something.

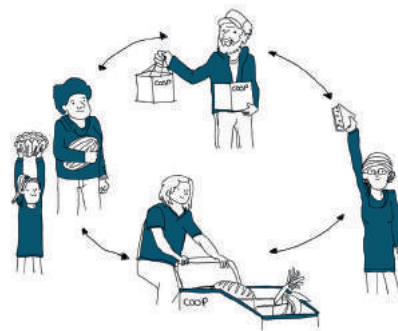


Figure 4.18 Rotate Roles

Park Slope Food Coop in New York City is a cooperative supermarket that is owned by its members. Membership is open to all but it comes with responsibilities. Every member has to work a few hours per month in the supermarket. Low prices for the offered goods make this concept attractive for all kinds of people in the city. During shifts, members can easily get to know each other as they usually work together in teams. They are encouraged to actively participate in the decision-making and take on responsibilities (Park Slope Food Coop, n.d.).



5

INTRODUCING THE SITE: BRÄMAREGÅRDEN

This chapter introduces the chosen context: Brämaregården in Lundby, Gothenburg. The site analysis includes ground floor uses, public spaces, history and demographics. Furthermore, the chapter illustrates accessibility to public spaces, movement and images of the neighbourhood.

BRÄMAREGÅRDEN

Since the 1850s, Hisingen has been an important harbour and hub for the transportation of goods and large factories and dwellings were established in Brämaregården (Gothenburg City Museum, n.d., p.400). The two most significant industrial buildings in the neighbourhood are the bolt and nail factory and the Gothenburg Porcelain factory. The old brick building of Bultfabriken is still partly intact and used for multiple commercial activities. A memorial outside the building remembers the 63 youths that died during a disco fire in year 1998 (Verdicchio, 2018).

In year 2013, a new residential building complex was constructed on the area of the former Gothenburg Porcelain factory. Kvilleorget, which is the main square in Brämaregården, was built at the beginning of the 1900s. The square is designed with trees and plantings and has a small fountain (Gothenburg City Museum, n.d., p. 404). The main attraction today is a playground. The residential buildings in the area show the characteristic style of the 1920s architecture. They are a particular type of high governorate houses (landshövdingehus), which have two ground floors built of stone, two floors of timber and a

developed attic (Gothenburg City Museum, n.d., p.402). Today, Brämaregården is a mixed area with both new and old dwellings, with some commercial spaces and communal facilities such as a church, a mosque and a preschool. Connected to the west part of Brämaregården the hilly Keillers park (Ramberget) provides a spectacular view towards Gothenburg inner city. In the East, the highway Lundbyleden cuts off Brämaregården from the riverside. In the North part of Brämaregården, two tram stops connect the area to the rest of Gothenburg. It takes only 8 minutes to go to the Central Station, yet the area feels and is considered distant from the inner city.

Choosing a Site

The requirements for choosing a site were that the area would be centrally located but disconnected from the inner city, be close to the river city development, has empty commercial spaces and would most likely be affected by gentrification caused by future urban development. Brämaregården in Lundby was chosen as the site for further investigation.



Figure 5.1 View from Keillers Park. Photo taken by the authors.

KEY FUNCTIONS & NEW DEVELOPMENT



Figure 5.2 Map of Brämregården with key functions

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Site Area | | Religious Buildings |
| | Public Transport & Stop | | Commercial Space |
| | New Existing Development | | Public Services |
| | Future Development | | Empty Commercial Space |

WHO IS LIVING IN BRÄMAREGÅRDEN?

Culturally Diverse Brämaregården

Rambergsshtaden is an urban district that includes Brämaregården and Ramberget. The total population in Rambergsshtaden is 9,600 inhabitants (SDN Gothenburg, 2019, p. 13). During interviews with locals, it has been mentioned that Brämaregården is a friendly environment where people recognize each other. Spatial barriers like Lundbyleden, Hjalmar Brantingsgata and Keillers Park isolate the area from its surrounding. Low building heights and quiet streets give the neighbourhood a village-like character.

Brämaregården is a culturally diverse neighbourhood with an over-average mix of inhabitants with a foreign background (see figure 5.6) (SDN Statistics, 2019a, p.13; SDN Statistics, 2019b, p.17). The commercial activities in the area reflect this cultural mix, as one can find many local restaurants and shops with international backgrounds. Many of the shops are connected to East European, Middle Eastern, Asian or African cultures, which represent the main immigrant groups in the area.

The Gothenburg Mosque, which is located in south Brämaregården, attracts Muslims from all over the city. It is one of only three mosques in Gothenburg and serves not only as a religious but also as a social meeting place for the Muslim community and offers various cultural events during the year.

During site visits, it became apparent that most people visiting the mosque take the shortest connection (Myntgatan) and do not visit the rest of the neighbourhood. Today, the cultural diversity of residents and visitors in Brämaregården only becomes visible through commercial and religious spaces.

What if this cultural diversity could be celebrated in the public spaces of the neighbourhood as well?

River City Development & Brämaregården

The RiverCity Development is argued earlier in the thesis to influence the surrounding areas and create further segregation and gentrification. Brämaregården is already today influenced by new urban development (marked green in the map on p. 40) such as Porslinsfabriken in the northeast and Kvillebäcken in the north. This slow gentrification does not only affect the housing prices but also the rents for commercial spaces. Already today, little stores struggle to survive financially - especially in streets with low activity. This leads to an increase of empty commercial spaces that will later be taken over by restaurants and chains that can afford the new prices. The change of both residents and shop-owners will strongly affect the character of the neighbourhood.

Percentage of People with a Foreign Background

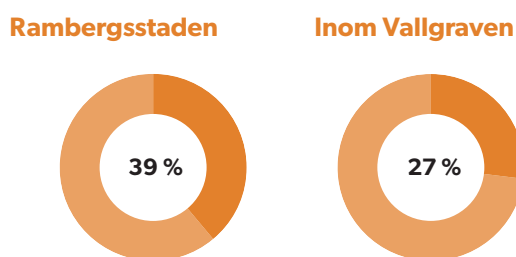


Figure 5.3 Percentage of people with a foreign background in Rambergsshtaden and Inom Vallgraven
Source: (SDN Statistics, 2019a, p.13; SDN Statistics, 2019b, p.17)

Most Common Country of Origin

	Rambergsshtaden	Inom Vallgraven	Gothenburg
Iran	2,6 %	3,2 %	2,2 %
Syria	2,6 %	0,5 %	1,2 %
Finland	1,5 %	1,0 %	1,1 %
Iraq	1,3 %	0,4 %	2,2 %
Jugoslavia	1,3 %	0,5 %	1,1 %

Source: (SDN Statistics, 2019a, p.13; SDN Statistics, 2019b, p.17)

GROUND FLOORS USAGE

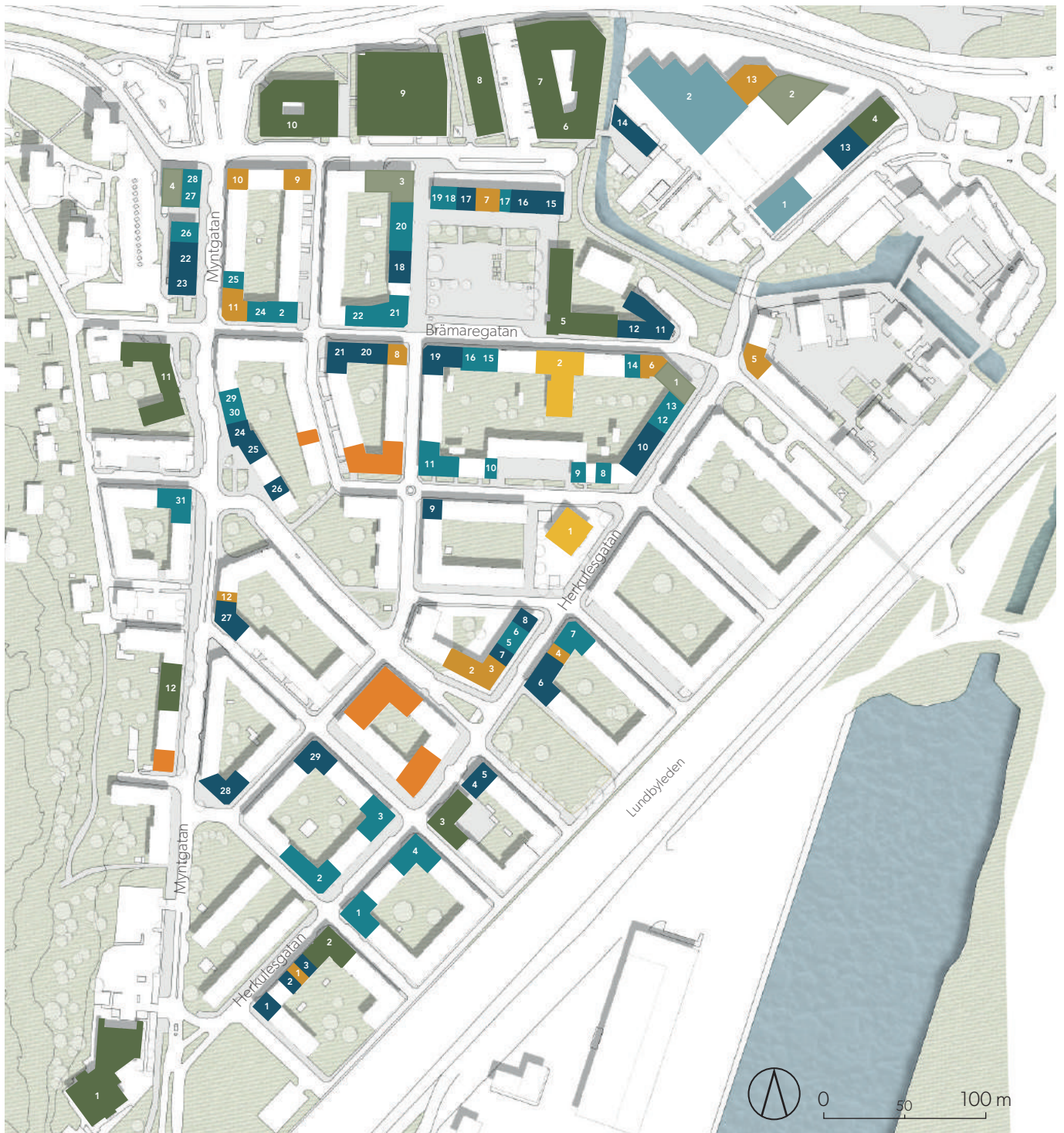


Figure 5.4 Map of Brämregården with ground floor usage

GROUND FLOORS USAGE

Restaurants

- 1 MIM Vegan Street Food
- 2 Jaffa Middle Eastern Food
- 3 Yamall Alsham Pizzeria & Middle Eastern
- 4 Leilas Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Bakery
- 5 Herkules Pizzeria
- 6 Silverdraken Chinese Restaurant
- 7 Terrace Al Sham Middle Eastern Sweets
- 8 Café Amadeus
- 9 Llama Lloyd Café
- 10 Tildas Restaurant
- 11 Mr Tomato Italian Restaurant
- 12 Thai Family Kitchen
- 13 Indian Food House
- 14 Ölstugan Tullen
- 15 Barley's Food Factory
- 16 Duy-Tan Vietnamese Restaurant
- 17 East Africa
- 18 Kville Pool Bar & Kitchen
- 19 Go Sushi
- 20 Kvilles Pizzeria
- 21 Kvilles Pastahouse
- 22 Sultan Grill (Turkish)
- 23 Lundgrens Café
- 24 Tawan Thai Kitchen
- 25 Restaurant Bosna
- 26 Aladdin Pizzeria & Mixed Food
- 27 El Mariachi TexMex
- 28 T&W Sushi Restaurant
- 29 Kville Café

 Empty Commercial Space

Education

- 1 Hisingens Culture School
- 2 Brämaregatans Preschool

Shops

- 1 Herkules Zoo
- 2 Socotra Livs
- 3 Eastern Harmony Store
- 4 MKM Tools
- 5 Ateljé Tailor
- 6 Polish Delicacy
- 7 Bema Livs
- 8 Bicycle Repair Shop
- 9 Sajo Nera Shop
- 10 Art Atelje
- 11 Gottepåsen Kiosk
- 12 Funeral Service
- 13 Interior Design Store
- 14 Fabric Store
- 15 Monteriva Coffee Sweden
- 16 Kville City Kiosk

Beauty

- 1 Salong Royal Sultan
- 2 Ergoline Solarium
- 3 Borg Sax Barber Shop
- 4 Refine Skin Care
- 5 Medi's Ladies Ancupuncture
- 6 Kville Salon
- 7 Salong Black & White
- 8 Kvilletogets Beauty Salon
- 9 Gentlemen's Barber Shop
- 10 Luu Nails & Lashes
- 11 African Beauty Salon Center
- 12 Barber Shop
- 13 Elit Barber Shop

Entertainment

- 1 Escape Room Gothenburg
- 2 Megafun Playland

- 17 Gymgrossisten Gym Supplement
- 18 Kvillehyllan Second Hand
- 19 Hanna's Flower Corner
- 20 Willys Supermarket
- 21 Frälsningsarmén Second Hand
- 22 Embra Clothing Design
- 23 Upholstery Furniture Shop
- 24 Travel Agency
- 25 Computer Service Shop
- 26 Time Kiosk
- 27 MoneyGram Tranfer
- 28 Light Your Fire Vaporizer Shop
- 29 Fjällman Funeral Service
- 30 Mobile Tech Shop
- 31 Crazy Color Tattoo

Public Services

- 1 Gothenburg Mosque
- 2 Team Assistans i Göteborg AB
- 3 S:t Matteus Church
- 4 SafeTeam Office
- 5 Hotel Snoozemore
- 6 Gothenburg City Office
- 7 Skatteverket Tax Office
- 8 Youth Sex & Medical Center
- 9 Parkinghouse
- 10 Police Station
- 11 Brämaregården Church
- 12 Gothenburg City - Children Care

Health

- 1 Health Desk Hisingen
- 2 Totus Fitness
- 3 Fitness24Seven
- 4 Brämaregården Dentist

QUALITY OF STREETS & PUBLIC SPACE

In general, Brämaregården is a quiet area. Most of the streets are safe for pedestrians as they have very low traffic volume. In Myntgatan, the main road, zebra crossings and speed limits increase the safety in the street. The sidewalks are narrow and outdoor seating is rare, which has a bad influence on the entrance situation of the stores. Kvilletorget can be seen as the heart of the area. Many people pass the square to run errands, go to restaurants or

reach the tram stops. The square itself does not live up to its potential: The playground is the main attractor, and the square is only used in sunny and warm days. The river Kvillebäcken, than runs through the area, and the paths to Keillers park connect the neighbourhood with nature. It is remarkable that the public spaces give no hint on the cultural diversity that characterises the area.



Figure 5.5 Most streets have low traffic volumes, pedestrians walk on the streets



Figure 5.6 Shops at Myntgatan



Figure 5.7 Along Herkulesgatan one can find diverse shops and restaurants



Figure 5.8 The playground is the main attraction on Kvilletorget



Figure 5.9 Small playgrounds in other spaces



Figure 5.10 The park around Kvillebäcken is not used

ACTIVE USE & ACCESSIBILITY

Building Structure

The area shows a low density and a village character. The new development, such as Porslinsfabriken (to the right) is raising the density and the building height in the neighbourhood.



Figure 5.11 View showing building volumes in Bråmaregården

Activity Level on the Streets

Kvilletorget is surrounded by streets that are actively used by pedestrians. Myntgatan is highly trafficked because it is the shortest connection between the tram and the mosque. The other streets are rather quiet.

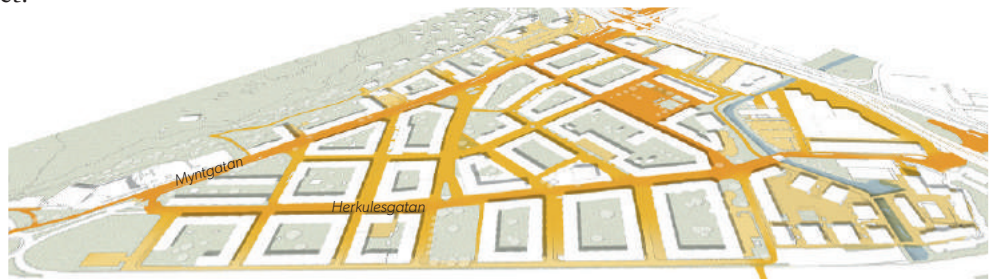
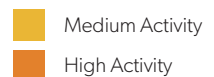


Figure 5.12 View showing activity level on streets in Bråmaregården

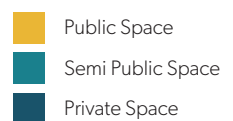


Accessibility

The building structure dedicates a lot of the urban space for private in courtyards. There are only few spaces that have the potential to transform into non-commercial meeting spaces for the community (yellow).



Figure 5.13 View showing accessible public spaces in Bråmaregården





6

DESIGNING INCLUSIVE MEETING SPACES

This chapter illustrates the development of inclusive meeting spaces at two sites in Brämaregården. The proposed development consists of a placemaking process and a commoning process to achieve active and inclusive public and common spaces.

COMBINING A SITE WITH THE RIGHT PROCESS

Placemaking - Kvilletorget

Kvilletorget is located in the north part of Brämaregården. The square is closely connected to two tram stations and easy to reach. Today, it is extensively used by children who play on the playground. In good weather parents and seniors sit on the benches and enjoy the sun.

Kvillebäcken is a small river next to the square, that connects Brämaregården with Backaplan and Frihamnen. Together, Kvilletorget and Kvillebäcken have the potential to become a dynamic and inclusive space with activation throughout the year.

In the process of design, Kvilletorget has been developed following a Placemaking approach. More information about Placemaking can be found in Appendix 4, p.86-87.

Commoning - Telephone House

The site for the community centre is a combination of an empty commercial building and a little park next to Lundbyleden. The park has a playground, seating and greenery but is considered to be rather empty and does not have much activity. The Telephone House was used by a telephone operator but has been empty for years.

In the process of design, the site has been developed following a Commoning approach. More information about Commoning can be found in Appendix 5, p.88-89.

Process of Placemaking

1. Define Place & Identify Stakeholders
2. Evaluate Space & Identify Issues
3. Place Vision
4. Short-Term Experiments
5. Ongoing Re-evaluation & Long-Term Improvements

Process of Commoning

1. Define the Resource & Set an Institution
2. Evaluate the Space
3. Develop an Incubator
4. Appropriation of Space
5. Reinventing the Space

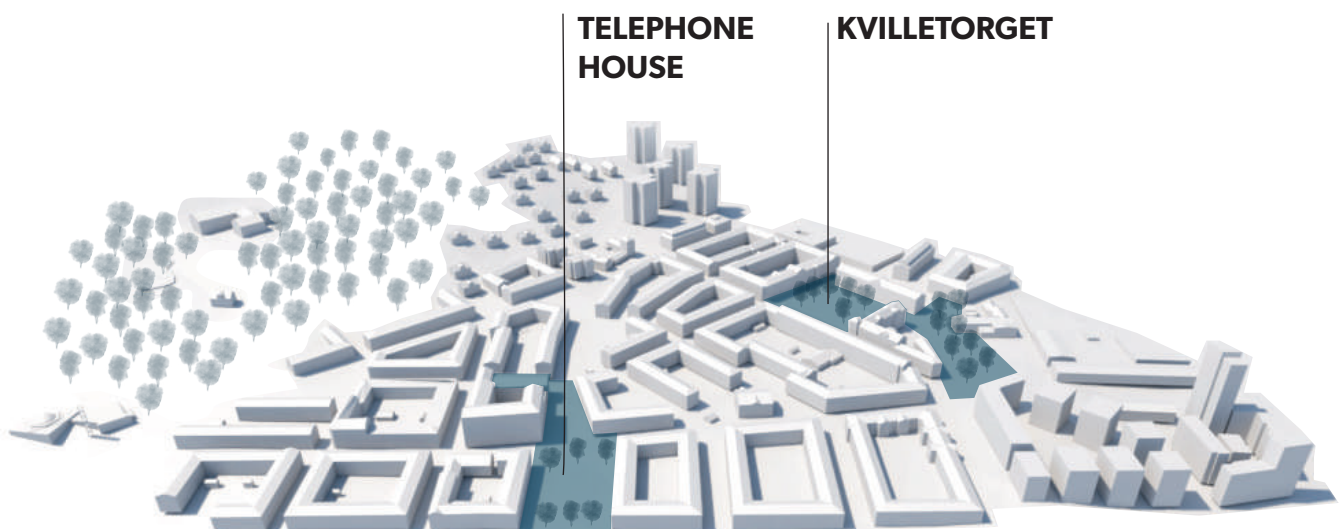


Figure 6.1 View showing Brämaregården and the two chosen sites

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5

DEFINE PLACE & IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS

The Initiator

The main initiator is responsible to start the placemaking process. This can be for example the municipality. The first step is to select a site that corresponds to the needs of the community. The initiator needs to become visible and invite interested people and possible stakeholders (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

Identify Stakeholders

It is essential to build a relationship with key stakeholders that have a connection with the space to make the process successful in the long term.

Possible Stakeholders:

- Local Residents
- The Community
- Commercial Owners & Restaurants
- Cultural Associations (essential to make the space culturally diverse)

Make sure to include representatives of all social and cultural groups in the area!



Figure 6.2 A representative from the municipality is at Kvilletorget to collect ideas and perspectives from the inhabitants.

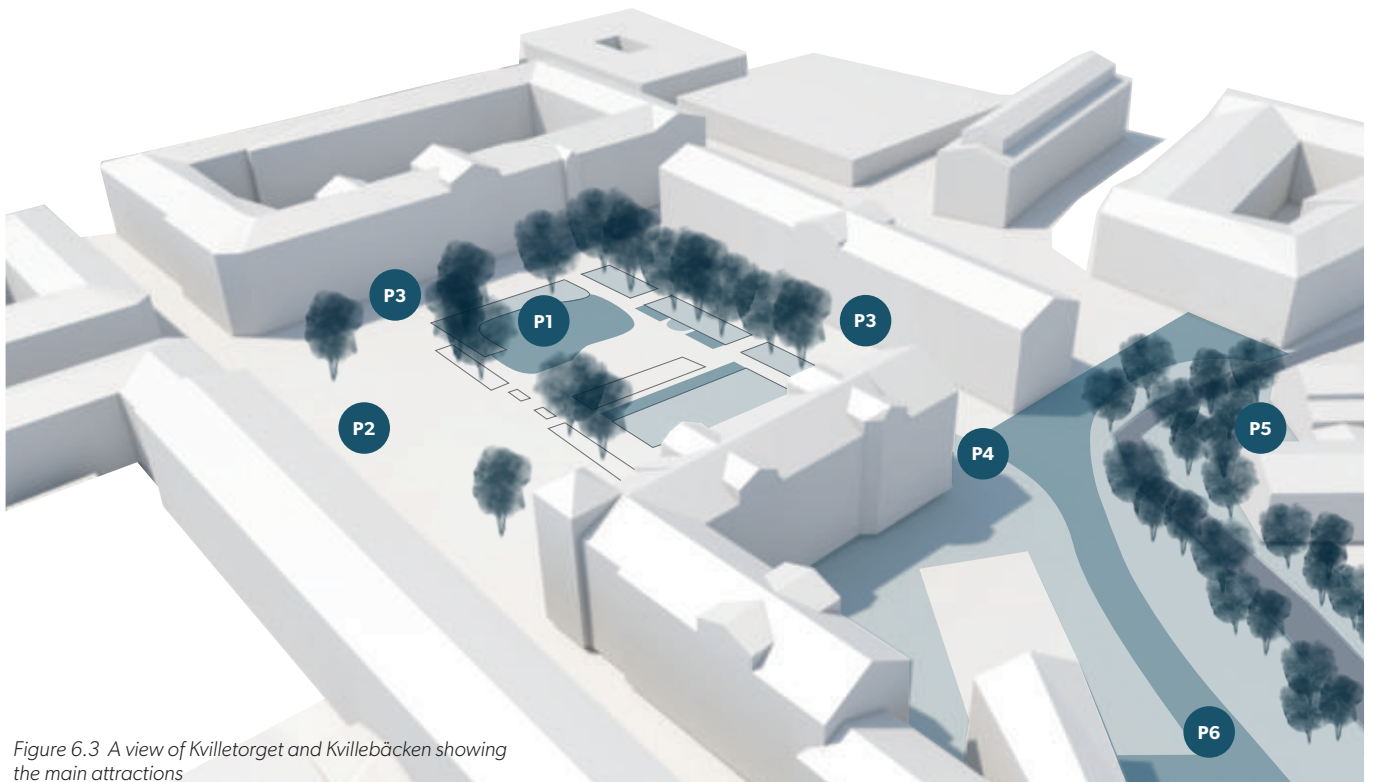


Figure 6.3 A view of Kvilletorget and Kvillebäcken showing the main attractions

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5

DEFINE PLACE & IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS

The site consists of **Kvilletorget**, which is a public square with a playground, seating and surrounding commercial spaces.

Moreover, the site also includes **Kvillebäcken** that is the river area and can be accessed through a pedestrian path.



Figure 6.4 Kvilletorget has a popular playground



Figure 6.5 A pedestrian path follows the river Kvillebäcken



Figure 6.6 Around half of Kvilletorget is an empty space



Figure 6.7 A restaurant is located next to Kvillebäcken



Figure 6.8 There are various types of stores around Kvilletorget



Figure 6.9 The river area has potential, but is unused today

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5

EVALUATE SPACE & IDENTIFY ISSUES

The initiator invites people to a workshop. The objective is to understand how the space is currently used and to find its potentials. For the continuing process, it is essential first to gather the knowledge and experiences of the residents (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

Main Potentials

- The playground is active and popular
- Diverse types of commercial activities
- Traffic Safety and good overview
- High nature qualities along Kvillebäcken (river)

Main Issues/Challenges

- Lack of activities for adults and seniors
- No cultural sensitive program or design
- Seating is not encouraging interaction
- Low safety along Kvillebäcken (river)
- No activities during winter or bad weather

Pay attention to the feedback from vulnerable groups like women and children

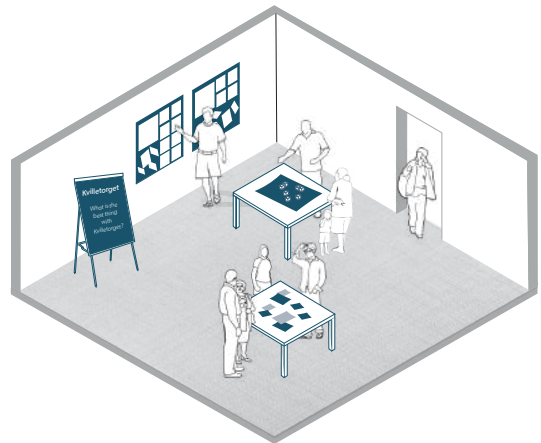


Figure 6.10 Co-evaluating the space through workshops.

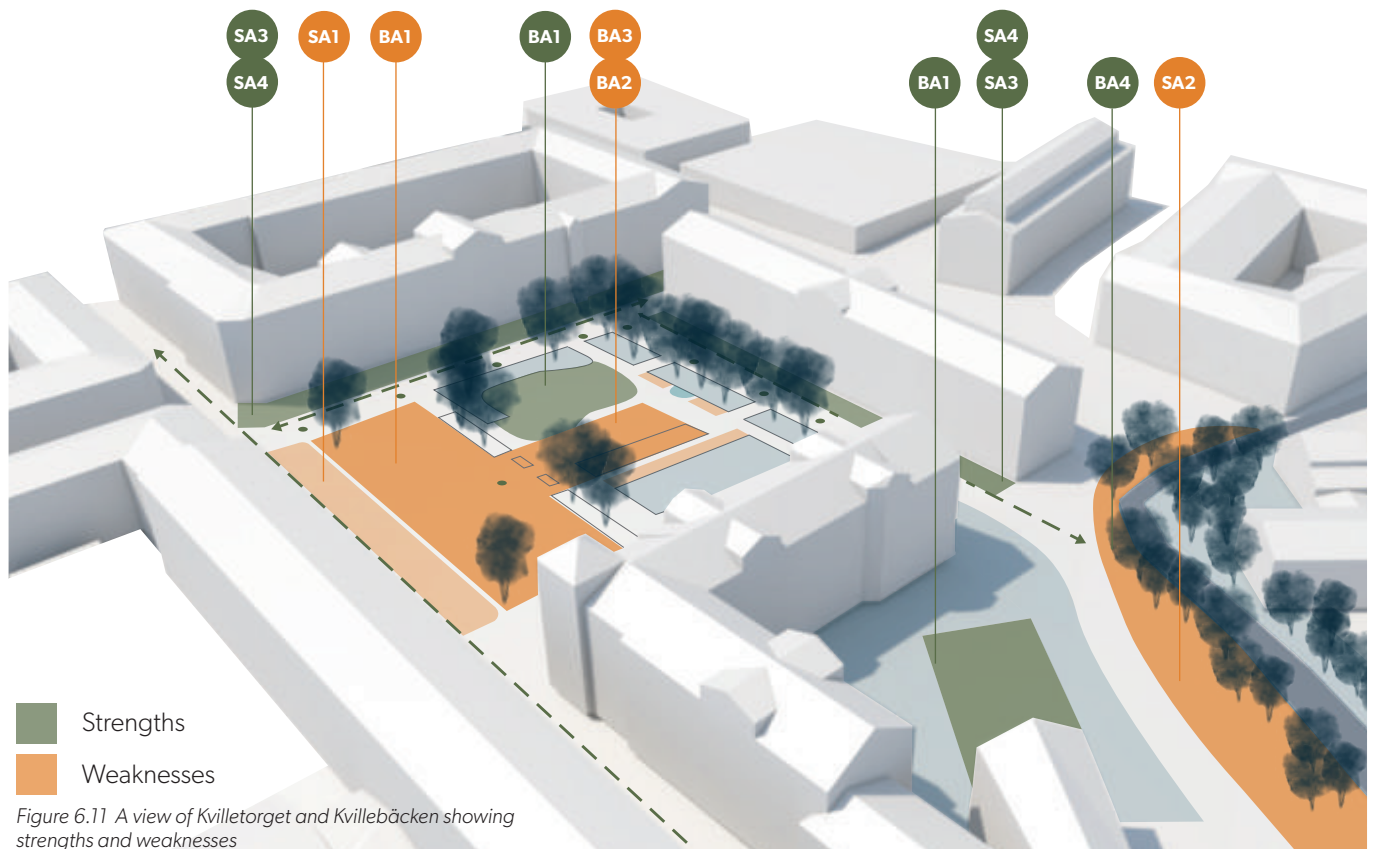


Figure 6.11 A view of Kvilletorget and Kvillebäcken showing strengths and weaknesses

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5

EVALUATE SPACE & IDENTIFY ISSUES

The site analysis is connected to the spatial conditions and the design of the area. It can be analysed through the design toolbox. The last step of the toolbox “Participation” is not part of the site analysis because it is a process, not a design element.

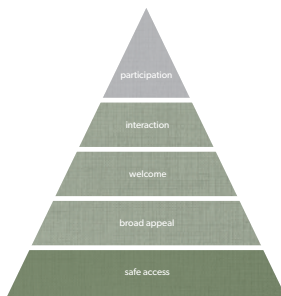


Figure 6.12 Design Toolbox Hierarchy - Strengths

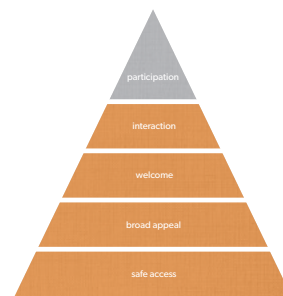


Figure 6.13 Design Toolbox Hierarchy - Weaknesses

Strengths

Safe Access

- SA1 Safe Traffic + Prevent Crimes**
Kvilletorget has traffic separation and is considered to be safe
- SA2**
- SA3 Easy Access + Good Connection**
Kvilletorget and Kvillebäcken has many entrances and is well connected to public transport
- SA4**

Broad Appeal

- BA1 Variety of Activities**
There is a well-used playground and a small soccer field
- BA2 Allowing Appropriation**
Space can be used for markets
- BA4 Natural Elements**
Plenty of trees on the square and river area

Welcome

- W3 Transparent and Inviting**
Open to everyone

Interaction

- I2 Program Encourages Interaction**
Playground enables interaction (children and parents)

Weaknesses

- SA1 Safe Traffic**
Parking along Kvilletorget which might be a safety risk
- SA2 Prevent Crimes**
River area is considered unsafe during evening/night

- BA1 Variety of Activities**
There is a lack of variety of activities
- BA2 Allowing Appropriation**
People don't feel allowed to adapt the space
- BA3 Sheltered Space + Natural Elements**
There is no shelter, which makes the space only be used in good weather
- BA4**

- W1 Elements/Program from/for Different Cultures**
No elements from cultures, universal program but not cultural-specific
- W2**
- W3 Transparent and Inviting**
The space does not encourage cultural diversity
- W4 Multiplicity instead of Homogeneity**
The space does not encourage cultural diversity

- I1 Design/Program Encourages Interaction**
Seating and Activities do not create interaction
- I2**

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5 DEVELOP PLACE VISION

Vision of Kvilletorget

From the insights of the previous workshop, the stakeholders and the initiator develop a vision for the place together. The Place Vision plan can include a statement of goals that is the foundation for the project, how the space will be used and by whom, description of the intended character of the space, successful reference examples and an action plan (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

Main Goals

- Activation during winter and rainy days
- Activities for all age groups
- Encourage cultural exchange

Ideas to Implement

- Lighting and public art
- Flexible seating
- Physical activities connected to seasons

Make sure that the place vision describes an inclusive space

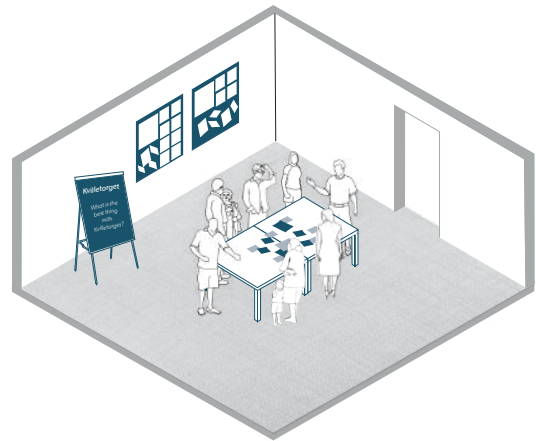


Figure 6.14 The participants are discussing what they want to achieve.

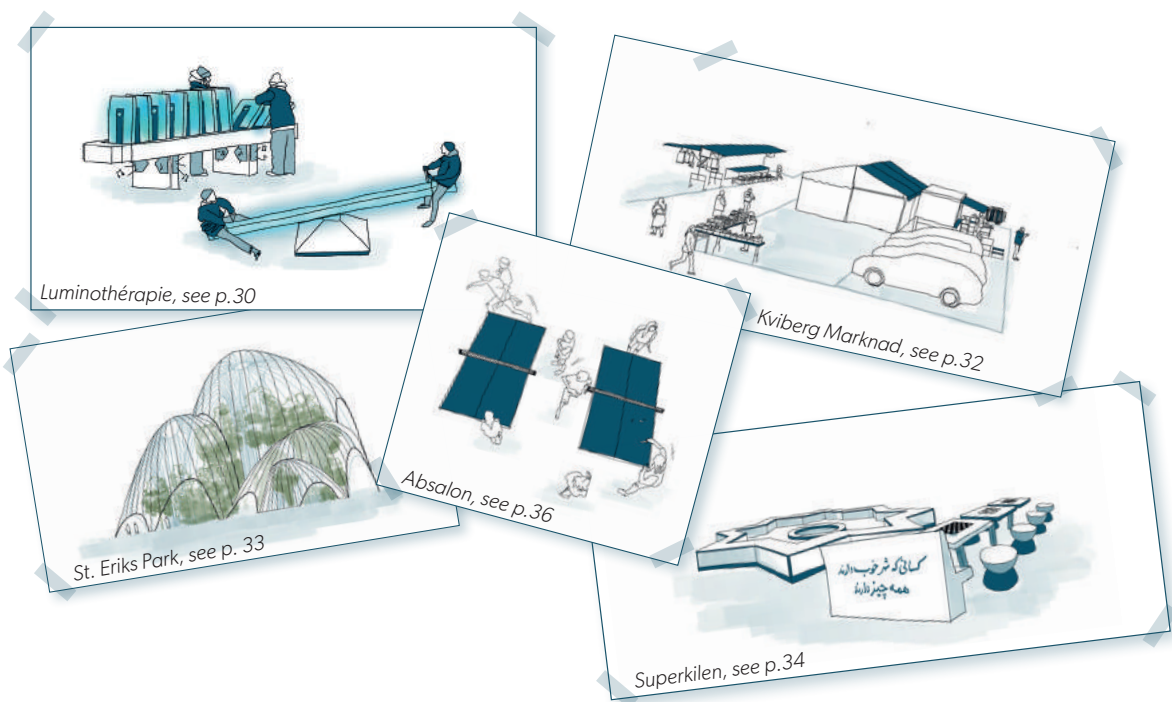


Figure 6.15 The participants are discussing what they want to achieve and are inspired by various reference projects

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET



Testing the Vision

In placemaking it is crucial to test the ideas the stakeholders have agreed upon during the place vision phase and the workshops. In order to test if the ideas work in the space, you have to build prototypes! The community can help building temporary furniture and see if the vision will be fulfilled. Later on, when the long-term improvement is going to be implemented, you know what is working, and what is not (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).



Figure 6.16 Ideas for events on Kvilletorget to activate the square the entire year

Work Force

From the workshops and the key stakeholders you can identify the work force that can help building the short-term experiments. The group can include everyone from the end-users, commercial owners to local associations. However, it is crucial that the work is organized by the municipality and that some group members know how to build and can support the individuals that want to help. This step of the process is essential for people to build and later on take ownership of the place (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

Make sure that everyone feels invited in the process. Everyone is an expert in something



Figure 6.17 Representatives help setting up the lights for the winter year. They have one professional helping out and a couple of volunteers.

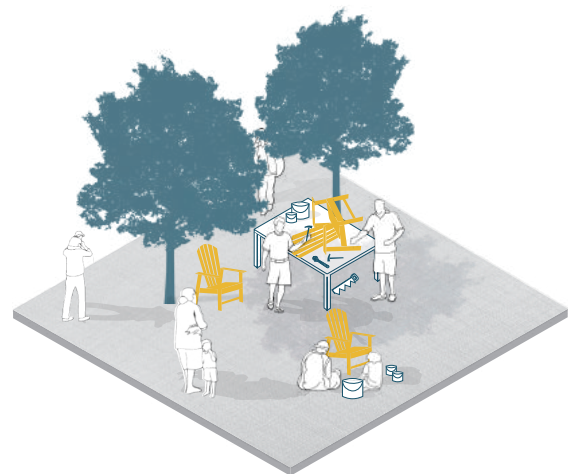
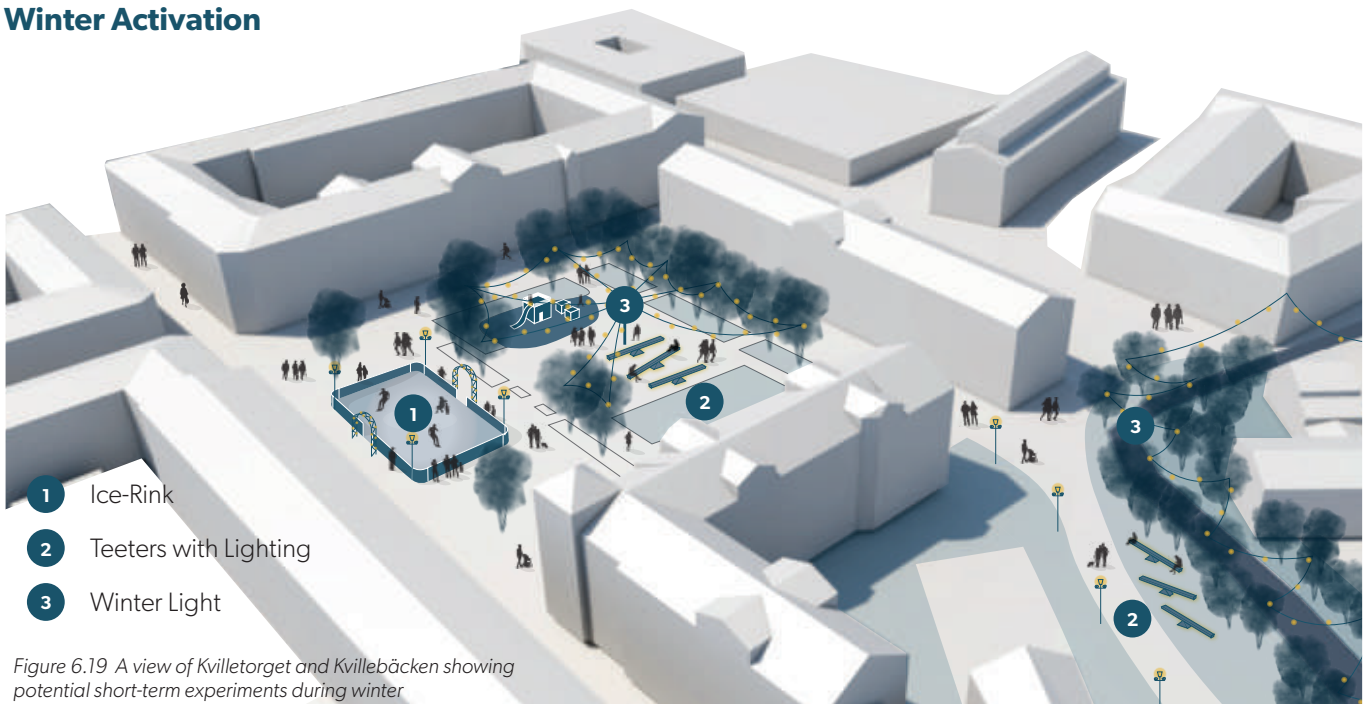


Figure 6.18 A building workshop with the community to build temporary summer furniture for the river and the square

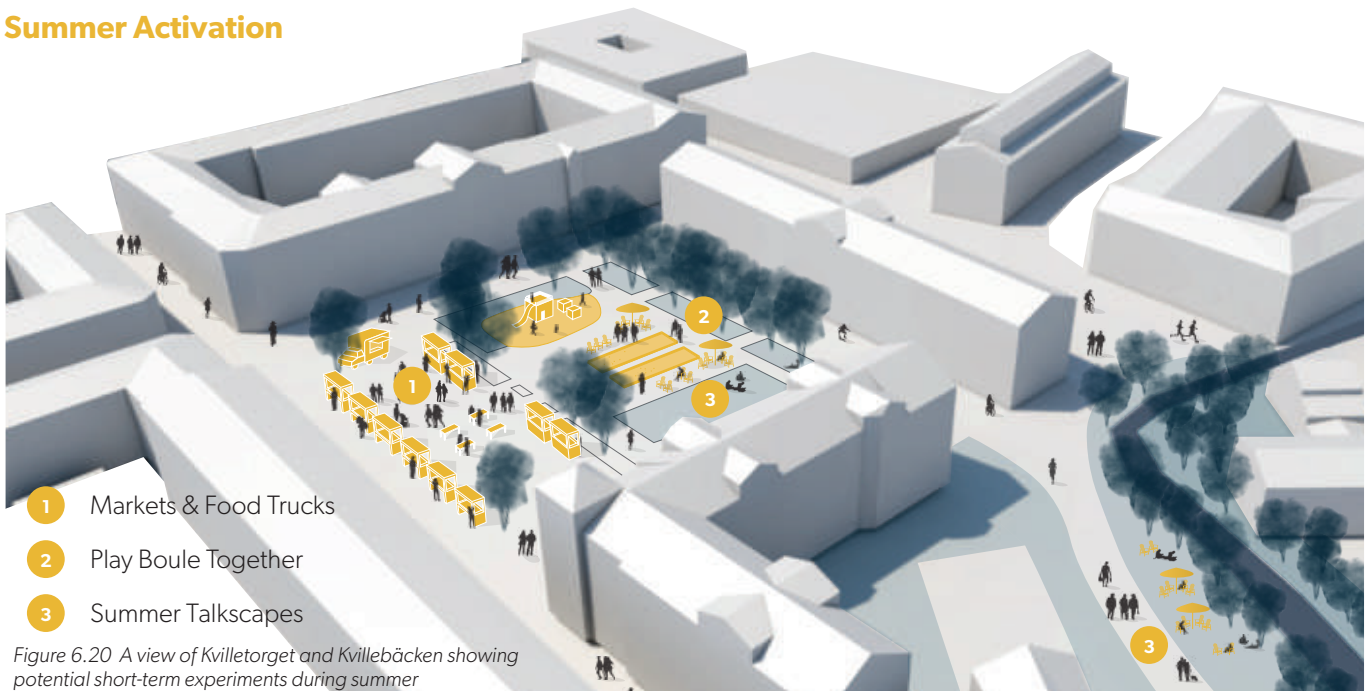
PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5
SHORT TERM EXPERIMENTS

Winter Activation



Summer Activation



PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5

SHORT TERM EXPERIMENTS

WINTER INTERVENTIONS

1 Ice-Rink to Activate Kvilletorget

A ice-rink can be installed on Kvilletorget to activate the square and attract people from all over Hisingen. Lighting can be installed to prolong the usage during day and evening.

BA1 W2 W3 I1 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Winter Wonderplan, Cambridge
Public Sauna, Frihamnen

2 Teeters with Lighting

Teeters with lighting can be set up to create an attraction to Kvilletorget/Kvillebäcken. These interventions require two people which can create interaction between individuals.

SA2 BA1 W2 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Impulse Playground, Montreal
Winter Wonderplan, Cambridge
Boise Bicycle Trio, Boise

3 Winter Light

Winter lights can be installed to attract people and create a feeling of safety. The intervention in the trees can be set up by both the community and professionals.

SA2 BA1 W2

Reference Project Inspiration

Impulse Playground, Montreal

SUMMER INTERVENTIONS

1 Markets & Food Trucks

A food truck can be borrowed by local restaurants to reach out to more customers and offer affordable food. Also, there are market stands anyone can borrow for free if they want to organize a market or sell second hand, art, etc.

BA1 BA2 W1 W2 W3 I1 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Pocket Park & Pallis, Stockholm
Kviberg Market, Kviberg

2 Play Boule Together

Boule can be played by a wide range of participants, it works well over seasons, and it can make people interact. Balls can be unlocked through opening a box with digital mobile identification.

BA1 W2 I1 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Winter Wonderplan, Cambridge
Verket, Ullevi

3 Summer Talkscapes

Summer furniture can be built together with stakeholders and professionals. The furniture can be moved around to create flexible placements and talkscapes. Parasols can protect from rain.

BA2 BA3 W2 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Pocket Park & Pallis, Stockholm
Superkilen, Copenhagen
Recreate Design Co, Ringön

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5 RE-EVALUATION & LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

Re-Evaluation

After the short-term interventions have been applied, the stakeholders can evaluate whether the vision has been achieved or not. In this way, the stakeholders can amend the long-term interventions to make sure the vision is achieved (Project for Public Spaces, 2017a).

Long-Term Improvement

To create long-term improvement it is essential to make sure all the interventions are more durable and can last during long-term. However, only because the permanent intervention is put on place, the journey does not end. A public place will never be finished and can always be reviewed and improved.

Get feedback from the community and work on improvements.

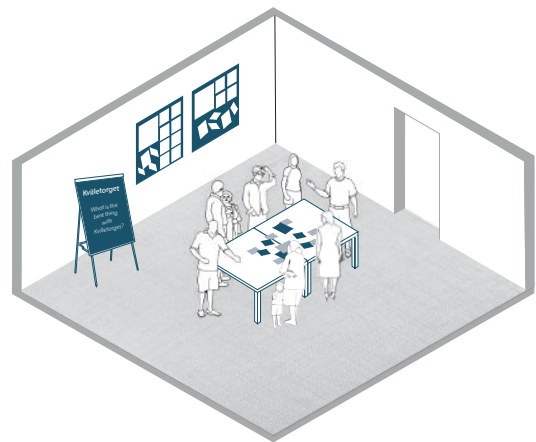


Figure 6.21 Evaluation session with the stakeholders to decide permanent interventions



Figure 6.22 Criteria the Winter experiments full-filled.

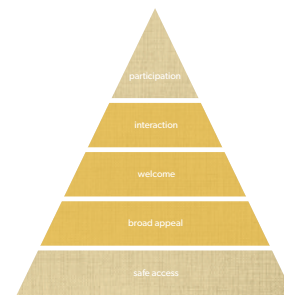


Figure 6.23 Criteria the Summer experiments full-filled.

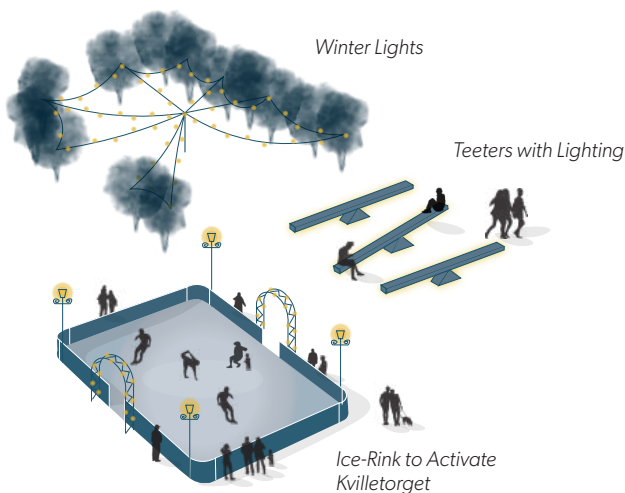


Figure 6.24 Winter experiments

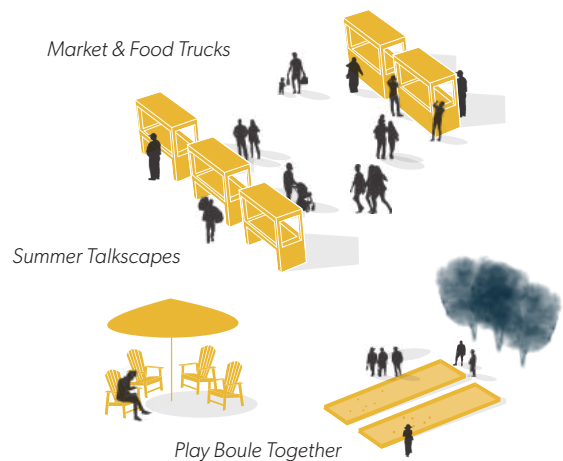


Figure 6.25 Summer experiments

PLACEMAKING - KVILLETORGET

1 2 3 4 5

RE-EVALUATION & LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

Safe Access

WINTER INTERVENTIONS

Winter Light

Lighting can increase a feeling of safety but it can also attract more people to increase actual safety.

Teeters with Lighting

The teeters can attract more people during dark evenings which increase safety and creates more movement in the area during evening time.

SUMMER INTERVENTIONS

Broad Appeal

Ice-Rink to Activate Kvilleorget

Ice-skating is a new intervention on the square that has not existed before, which increases the variety of activities.

Teeters with Lighting

Teeters can be used by both children and grown ups and can be a interesting attraction on the site.

Winter Light

Lighting is appealing to most people and it is an interventions that is appreciated universally.

Markets & Food Trucks

The market creates possibilities to appropriate the space and create your own or attend events such as markets or loppis (second hand market).

Play Boule Together

Boule courts creates new activities on Kvilleorget that can increase usage throughout the whole year.

Summer Talkscapes

The flexible furniture enables appropriation of space since the furniture is movable.

Welcome

Ice-Rink to Activate Kvilleorget

An ice-rink can be used by diverse people and can be appealing to many people no matter of their cultural background.

Markets & Food Trucks

Markets and food trucks are activities that suits a variety of cultures and market are also easy to enter.

Play Boule Together

Playing boule is a sport that is easy to understand and participate in, no matter of the cultural background or language.

Summer Talkscapes

The furniture can be adapted to individual needs which makes it feel welcome.

Interaction

Ice-Rink to Activate Kvilleorget

The ice-rink unite people with similar interest such as sports or children, which can create a platform for interaction.

Teeters with Lighting

The teeters require two participants which can create interaction between people.

Markets & Food Trucks

Food and markets are universal cultural elements that are easy to share and encourage interaction.

Play Boule Together

Playing sports together is a good way of making people interact with each other and find new friends.

Summer Talkscapes

Flexible furniture can create a great space for interaction between friends and family.

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5

DEFINE THE RESOURCE & SET AN INSTITUTION

The Resource

A common resource turns into a commons through the use of the community. Such resources can be of material or immaterial character (Avermaete, 2018, pp. 33-45). In this case the physical resource is public access to urban spaces (see p. 45) and the social resource is the existence of informal meeting spaces for inter-cultural exchange and interaction.

Set up an Institution

Commoning is a bottom-up approach. Initiatives start from within the community without an external agent. Institutions of Commoning ensure stability and reproduction of the community. A group of people acts as representatives and expresses the collective mindset of the community. It is important that this institution does not reproduce the status quo, but reinvents it, and that it does so while continually including newcomers (Stavrides, 2018, pp. 15-16).

Include a diversity of people into the initiating group helps to make multi-perspective decisions.

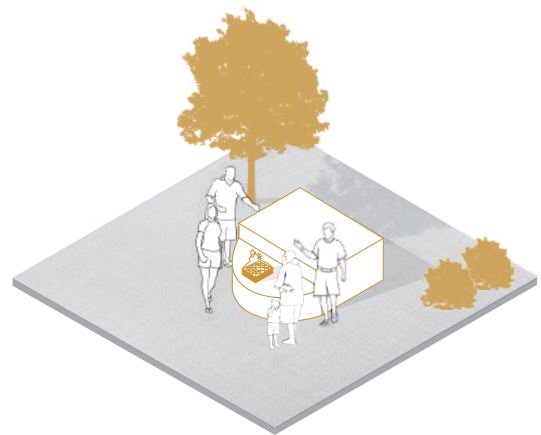


Figure 6.26 During a BBQ a group of friends discuss the lack of meeting spaces in the area

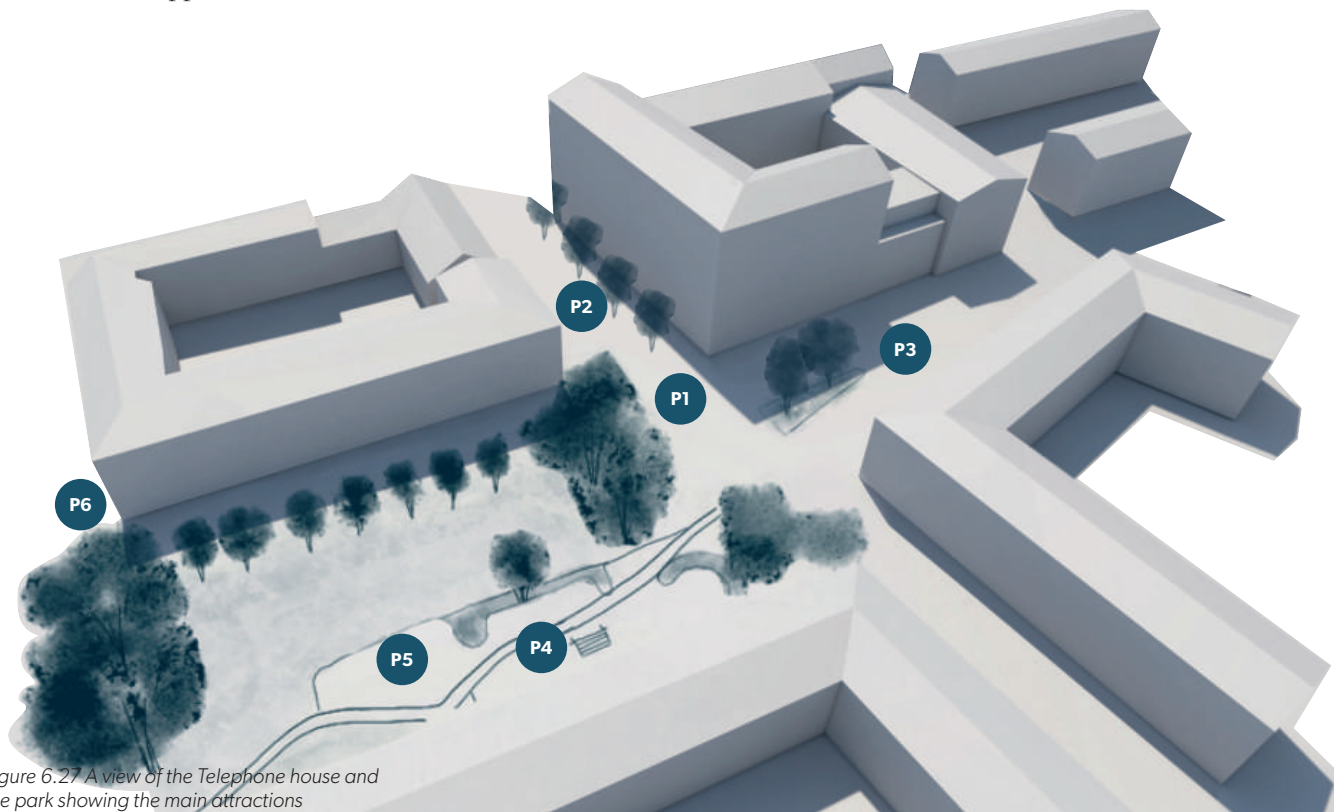


Figure 6.27 A view of the Telephone house and the park showing the main attractions

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5

DEFINE THE RESOURCE & SET AN INSTITUTION

The site consists of the **Telephone House**, which is an empty commercial building in the middle of Brämaregården.

Moreover, the site also includes a little **park** that has a playground, a BBQ spot and seating opportunities.



Figure 6.28 New residential building



Figure 6.29 Concrete block used as barbecue spot



Figure 6.30 Traffic situation on the site



Figure 6.31 Playground in the park



Figure 6.32 Telephone house to the left, yellow brick building



Figure 6.33 Street and wall along Lundbyleden

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5

EVALUATE THE SPACE

To achieve year-round activation a combination of indoor and outdoor spaces is needed. Therefore the Telephone House and the adjacent green space are transformed into community spaces together.

Main Potentials

- Good natural features, intimate size
- Central location in the neighbourhood
- Low barrier to initiate a common space, as people already appropriate the park space for barbecues

Main Issues/Challenges

- Herkulesgatan divides the Telephone House from the park, which affects traffic safety
- empty commercial building takes away space for the community
- no activities during winter or bad weather

Evaluate the space from diverse perspectives and listen to the needs of people.

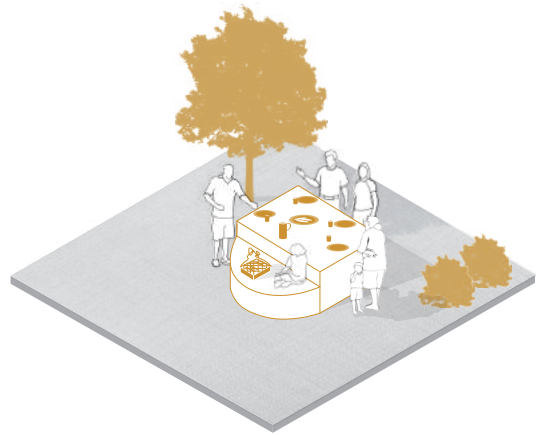


Figure 6.34 During the BBQ the friends come up with the idea of improving the site and build an outdoor oven

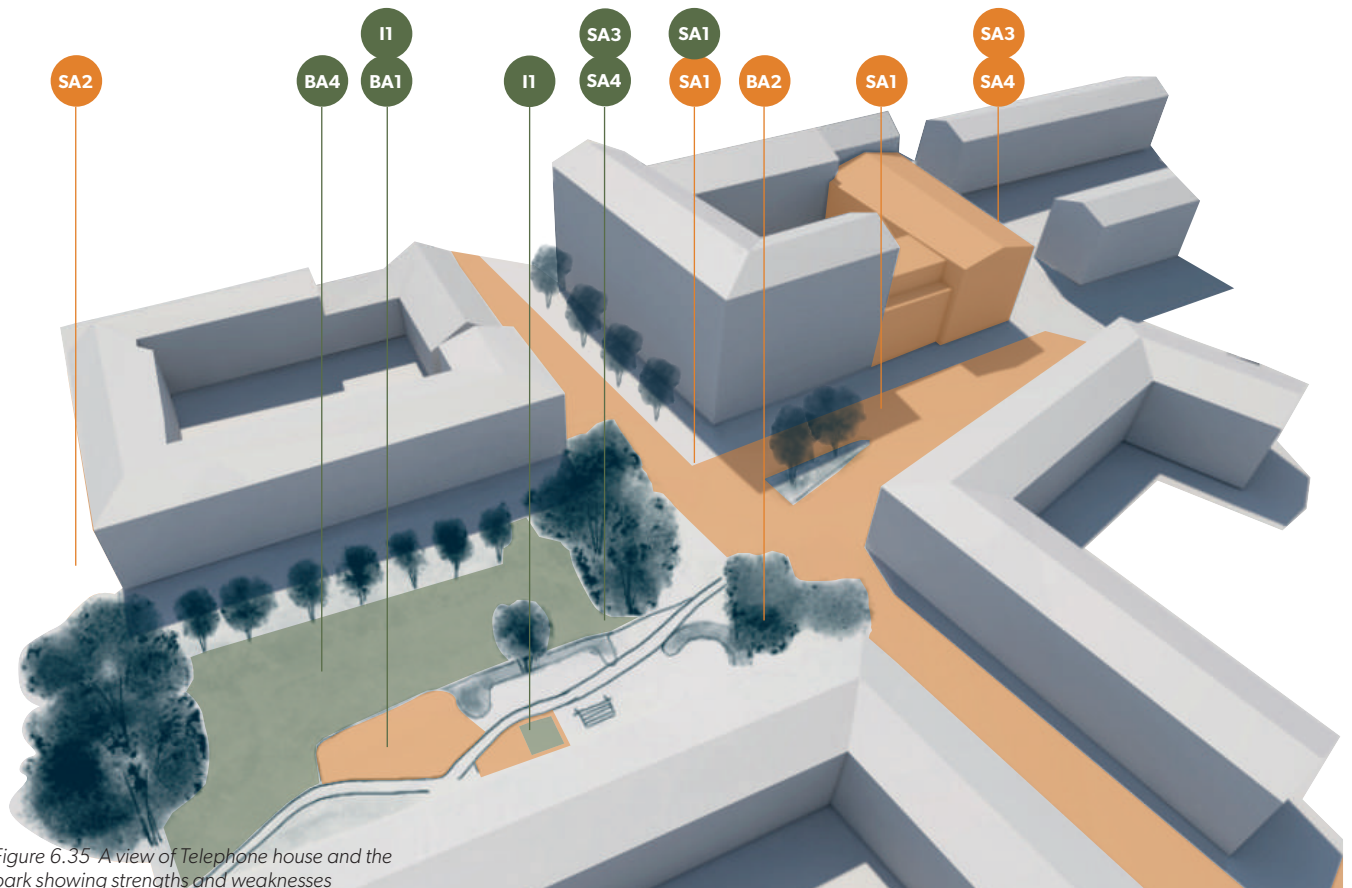


Figure 6.35 A view of Telephone house and the park showing strengths and weaknesses

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5 EVALUATE THE SPACE

The site analysis is connected to the spatial conditions and the design of the area. It can be analysed through the design toolbox. The last step of the toolbox “Participation” is not part of the site analysis because it is a process, not a design element.

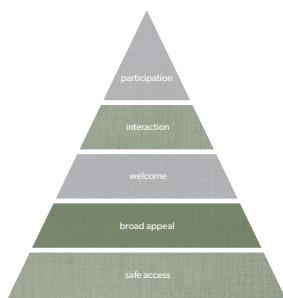


Figure 6.36 Design Toolbox Hierarchy - Strengths

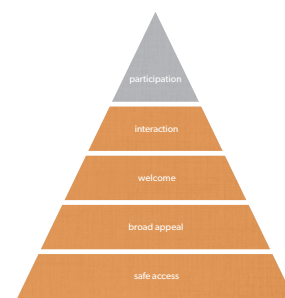


Figure 6.37 Design Toolbox Hierarchy - Weaknesses

Strengths

Safe Access

- SA1** **Safe Traffic + Prevent Crimes**
A traffic bump slows down the cars. The area along the street is considered to be safe
- SA2**
- SA3** **Easy Access + Good Connection**
Located in the heart of the neighbourhood, easy to access the park.
- SA4**

Broad Appeal

- BA1** **Variety of Activities**
Different types of seating, a playground and a BBQ area
- BA2** **Allowing Appropriation**
People appropriate the space for BBQ
- BA4** **Natural Elements**
Plenty of trees and greenery in the park

Welcome

Interaction

- I1** **Design/Program Encourages Interaction**
Playground and BBQ can encourage meeting and interaction
- I2**

Weaknesses

- SA1** **Safe Traffic**
A road crosses the site, which decreases traffic safety. The street next to Lundbyleden is considered to be unsafe
- SA2**
- SA3** **Easy Access + Good Connection**
Not possible to enter the telephone house
- SA4**

- BA1** **Variety of Activities**
There is a lack of activities for winter use
- BA2** **Allowing Appropriation**
People don't feel allowed to claim the space
- BA3** **Sheltered Space + Natural Elements**
There is no shelter, so the space can only be used in good weather
- BA4**

- W1** **Elements/Program from/for Different Cultures**
No elements from cultures, no cultural sensitive programming
- W2**
- W3** **Transparent and Inviting**
The Telephone house is neither inviting nor transparent
- W4** **Multiplicity instead of Homogeneity**
The space does not encourage cultural diversity

- I1** **Design/Program Encourages Interaction**
Seating and Activities do not create interaction
- I2**

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5

DEVELOP AN INCUBATOR

Develop an Incubator

The incubator for a common space is a small intervention that kick-starts further development and appropriation processes that are led by the community. To connect with the existing use of the space (Barbecuing) a baking oven in the little park is proposed. This could add value to the space for people from all kinds of backgrounds.

Further Appropriate the Space

The following pages are an example of how the space could potentially be developed. However, the primary idea is to create a space that responds to the needs of the community. A lot of other scenarios are possible as well.

Inspiration for this space are common spaces that are related to food (see figure 6.40 and p. 37-38) They are appealing to different cultures and create opportunities for cultural exchange.

Make decisions together and value views and actions from all people.



Figure 6.38 The baking oven as incubator of the common space

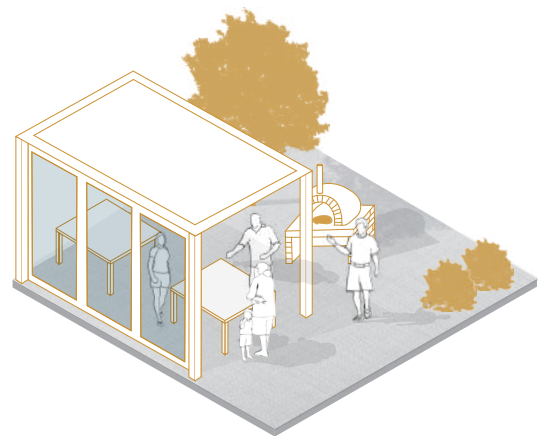


Figure 6.39 Building a shelter to prolong the using period and encourage meetings

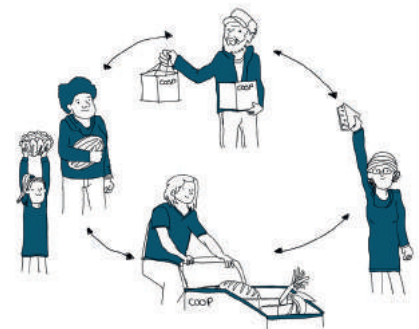
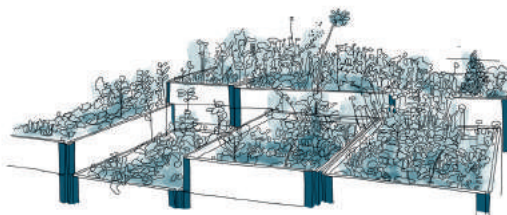
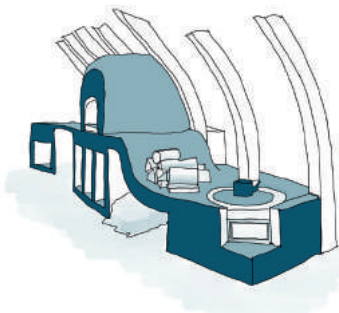


Figure 6.40 Inspirations for the development of the baking oven from l.t.r.: Bakeoven in Oslo (see p. 36), Prinzessinnengarten in Berlin (see p.37), FoodCoop in NewYork (see p.37)

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5
APPROPRIATION OF SPACE

Expanding Commoning

After installing the oven and a shelter, the community can appropriate the space further. Possible uses are urban farming and outdoor seating. The activation of the park space leads to general activation of streets in the neighbourhood. People do now have a new meeting space.

Through collective decisions and distribution of power, the space remains a common resource that can be used by everyone.

Distribute power within the community. Rotate roles and responsibilities.

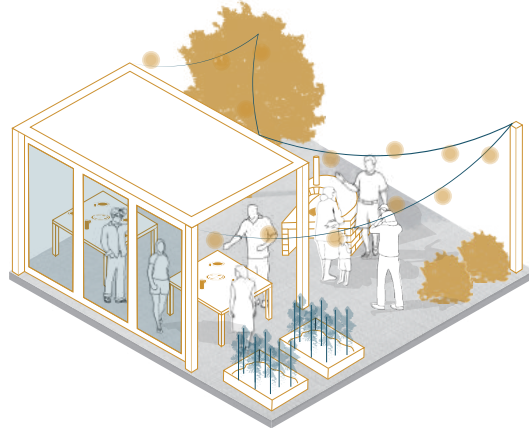


Figure 6.41 The common space with the oven and a shelter can be used for parties, events and meetings.

- 1 Community Center
- 2 Shelter to Baking Oven
- 1 Baking Oven
- 2 Flexible Talkscapes
- 3 Urban Farming



Figure 6.42 Proposed interventions illustrated in the park and outside the Telephone house

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5 APPROPRIATION OF SPACE

Claiming urban indoor spaces

The empty commercial space takes away an important resource for the urban society: access to indoor spaces that are not connected to consumption and that can be used for community purposes. Claiming the space and transform it into a community centre can create a new attractive meeting space, especially for winter days.

Flexibility and Testing

As explained before, common space develop through the decisions of the community. For the community centre, it is important to open up the space, but then let different uses happen and see what fits. Possible uses can be related to food, culture or indoor sports.

Inspiration for this development are Absalon (see p. 36), Majorna Folkök and the City Library (see p.35).

Be open for different scenarios of how to use the space and by whom.

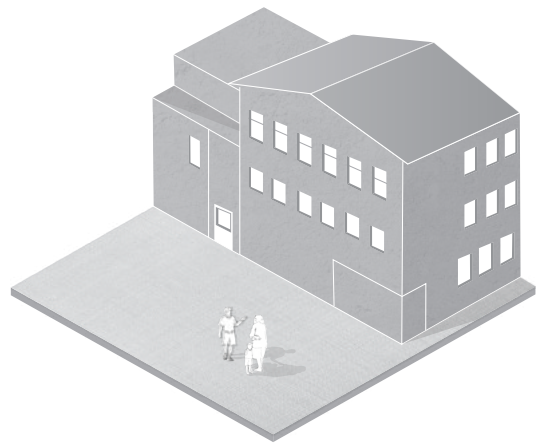


Figure 6.43 Why can't this central building not be used for meetings?



Figure 6.44 Building a new entrance together is the first step to create an attractive and inclusive community center.



Figure 6.45 Inspirations for the development of the community centre from l.t.r: Absalon in Copenhagen (see p. 36), Majorna Folkök (see p.35), City Library in Gothenburg (see p.35)

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5 APPROPRIATION OF SPACE

Possible uses of the Community Centre

The building has the potential to host several different activities at the same time. The idea is to unlock and develop the space in different steps, starting from the ground floor. Each floor can have an own character, yet the spaces should be kept open for flexible use.

The community centre is a space for the neighbourhood community to meet and interact. A space that is open, where there is always something happening no matter season, time of the day or weather. Additionally, the Telephone House can host spaces for associations.

Office for Associations

Associations in the neighbourhood can use the third floor of the Telephone House for meeting spaces and office spaces.

Culture Room

The second floor could be used for quieter activities like cinemas, discussions, reading and exhibitions. Flexible seating and moveable walls can be easily installed for this purpose.

Flexible and active Space

The ground floor with an welcoming entrance is the easiest to enter for newcomers. Here all type of inviting activities can take place: eating and cooking together, playing table tennis or board games, dance classes, language cafés or indoor markets: everything is possible.

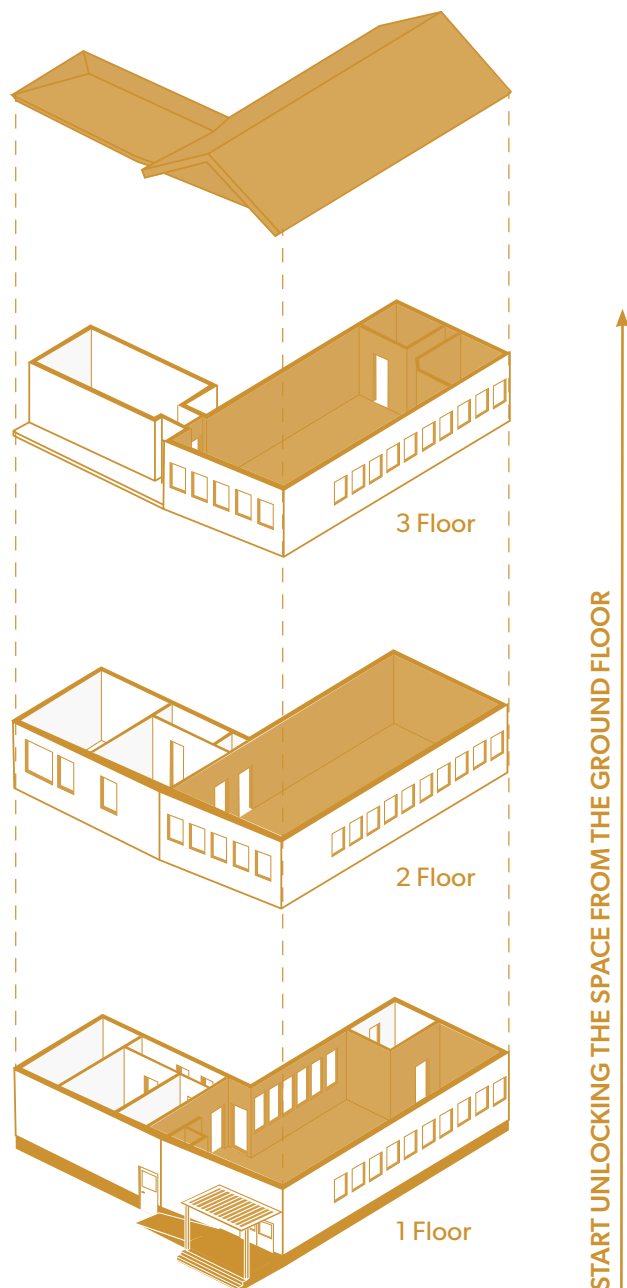


Figure 6.46 Illustration of potential usage inside the Telephone House

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5

REINVENTING THE SPACE

WINTER INTERVENTIONS

1 Community Centre

The community centre can be used by the neighbourhood/associations in order to organise various types of events and activities. Also, it could be a space for a neighbourhood cinema.

SA3 SA4 BA1 BA2 BA3 W2 I1 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Absalon, Copenhagen
KUBE, Frederiksberg
Verket, Gothenburg

2 Shelter to Baking Oven

To prolong the seasonal usage of the oven, a shelter can be built. The shelter would protect from bad weather, wind and rain and include space for different types of seating.

BA2 BA3

Reference Project Inspiration

S:t Eriks Indoor Park, Stockholm
Flatbread Society Bakehouse, Oslo

SUMMER INTERVENTIONS

1 Baking Oven

Cooking is a common activity for many cultures. To create a space that are equally attractive for people from diverse backgrounds, a baking oven can be built by the community. It is easy to use and can become an interesting meeting space.

BA1 W1 W2 I1 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Flatbread Society Bakehouse, Oslo
Majornas Folkök, Gothenburg

2 Flexible Talkscapes

To use the baking oven for meetings and eating, flexible seating is needed so it can be adapted to different group sizes or events. Also, there are parasols that can protect from light rain.

BA1 BA2 W2 I1 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Pocket Park & Pallis, Stockholm
Superkilen, Copenhagen

3 Urban Farming

Urban farming could be established in the neighbourhood park to grow herbs and vegetables. The farming can contribute to make people interact and to learn about growing food.

BA1 BA4 W2 I2

Reference Project Inspiration

Prinzessinnengarten, Berlin

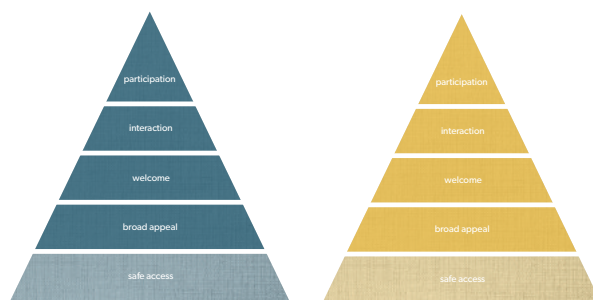


Figure 6.47 The criteria the interventions full-filled

COMMONING - TELEPHONE HOUSE + BAKING OVEN

1 2 3 4 5

REINVENTING THE SPACE

WINTER INTERVENTIONS

SUMMER INTERVENTIONS

Safe Access

Community Centre

The community centre can contribute to activate the nearby neighbourhood during evenings which can increase feeling of safety

Broad Appeal

Community Centre

The ambition is that the community centre offer a variety of activities that are appealing for diverse people (age, cultural group, interests).

Shelter to Baking Oven

A weather protection is essential to make the oven and the space comfortable to use and inviting throughout the year.

Baking Oven

Cooking food is a activity most people find fun and interesting. The baking oven can contribute with creating a new activity in the park.

Flexible Talkscapes

Comfortable seating is essential for a good meeting space that all people can use and adapt.

Urban Farming

Growing food is a new activity in the park that can create more activity during the summer.

Welcome

Community Centre

The ambition with the community centre is, that is has a welcoming atmosphere that always invites newcomers. The goal is to create low barriers to enter the building and participate in activities.

Baking Oven

The baking oven creates an activity that is appealing for many diverse cultural groups and is easy to use.

Flexible Talkscapes

Comfortable seating can contribute to create more meetings for people no matter cultural group or country of origin.

Interaction

Community Centre

The community centre is a platform for interaction between people within and outside Brämaregården. It is supposed to be a meeting space where people can do activities together and get to know each other.

Baking Oven

The baking oven creates a platform for interaction where people bake together and meet.

Flexible Talkscapes

The movable furniture can create talkscapes and further interaction.

Urban Farming

The urban farming can contribute to interaction since it is an activity that can be shared by many.



7

CONCLUSION AND REFLECTION

This chapter discusses how inclusive meeting spaces can influence the further development of Brämaregården and how it can be adapted for the River City Development. It gives a conclusion of the work and discusses possible continuation. Furthermore, we reflect on our methods and roles as architects.

CONCLUSION

Toolbox of Design

The developed design criteria for inclusive meeting spaces follow a hierarchy that represents increasing complexity. The basic conditions of Safe Access and Broad Appeal are of mainly spatial character and therefore easy to understand. How to make people feel welcome in a space, encourage them to interact with strangers and take over responsibility for the place is a social and hence complex task, which is really challenging to implement in architecture projects.

The toolbox combines sources from urban planning theory with reports from practices and is illustrated with reference projects. It is not supposed to give design solutions but is meant to be a tool for discussion, where the user has to come up with the concrete and correct implementations on their own. There are no right answers, and solutions to achieve certain parts of the criteria can look very different.

Also, creating inclusive meeting spaces means to connect the five different parts of the toolbox into a holistic concept. In other words, inclusive meeting spaces can only be achieved through a combination of inclusive design elements and an inclusive process.

Achieving inclusion is complex and requires profound understanding of the local context and the needs and challenges of the communities. A complex problem requires a complex solution. But that does not mean that the physical solution needs to be perfect or expensive. Sometimes even low-budget and short-term projects can open the way to long-term change.

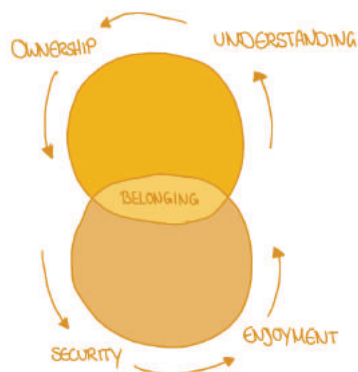


Figure 7.1 Working towards cultural inclusion

Placemaking and Commoning

These two approaches are examples for the Participation part of the toolbox: How to achieve inclusive meeting spaces?

We tested to apply **Placemaking** to Kvilletorget and were able to see that this is a good way to improve the space. Yet, it is not enough to redesign the square, if we want to achieve social inclusion and cultural diversity. Placemaking is a typical tool that municipalities use to create inclusion in the city. Public spaces can be easily transformed into attractive and inclusive spaces - but they hardly become meeting spaces. Special focus on activities and spaces for interaction and exchange can address that problem.

Commoning is discussed to be an alternative to the current urban planning. It represents the inclusive city, where people have equal opportunities. Resources and power is distributed evenly in the community. However, commoning is complex and difficult to implement in real life. Common spaces are dedicated to the community and function as meeting spaces. As those spaces can easily become exclusive, special attention to Expanding Commoning is needed to keep the space inclusive for newcomers.

Focusing on multiplicity of spaces and planning processes and a higher level of informality in the urban space can lead to more inclusive cities.

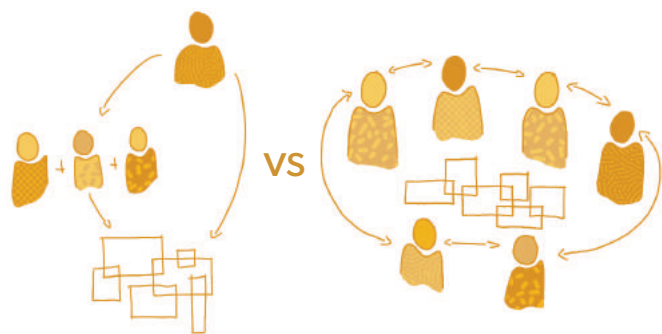


Figure 7.2 Placemaking and Commoning

SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH SPATIAL INTERVENTIONS

Inclusive Meeting Spaces in Brämaregården

Our ambition was to show how small and temporary interventions can create a significant change, and to explain the value of inclusive meeting spaces to create a city for all.

We used Brämaregården as an example of how the toolbox can be applied in a neighbourhood context. The proposed interventions themselves represent a small change which can lead to more profound change in the mentality of the community. In other words, spatial interventions can lead to social change. Through spaces that encourage cultural exchange and interaction, prejudices across communities are lowered. Being actively involved in such projects empowers the community so they can start future projects that corresponds with their needs by themselves. In the axonometry beneath, further sites with the potential to become inclusive meeting spaces are marked.

Creating meeting spaces with a strong and active community can motivate other communities or actors to become active even if they were not directly involved.

Possible effect of inclusive meeting spaces in new development

The proposed interventions directly affect the neighbourhood in Brämaregården, however, they have the potential to impact a larger surrounding. The municipality can learn from positive examples of inclusive meeting spaces and implement them in the RiverCity Development.

This would help to counteract injustice and segregation in the city and increase cultural diversity. A combination of short-term and long-term interventions create vibrant and interesting neighbourhoods. Inclusive meeting spaces in the new areas ensure that the river side is accessible for everyone, as it is a common resource of the city. A mix of indoor and outdoor spaces ensure activation during the entire year.

If creating open neighbourhoods is not the highest priority of the municipality, then for whom are we building the city for?

Planning new urban areas requires to find a balance between formal and informal spaces. Working with urban informality is something that is not naturally considered in architecture or urban planning practices, but that does not mean it is less important. Accepting and working with informal and flexible spaces can make a city more resilient and give the local community the power to form their environment. Working with the RiverCity Development means to work with a future scenario, not a local context. This makes it different from the examples in Brämaregården and requires to plan with a much higher level of uncertainty. The unpredictability of future life in the city and future needs of the community is both complex and difficult to overcome. The only way to address that is to accept it and pro-actively work with it.



Figure 7.3 Other potential sites in Brämaregården

REFLECTION

Reflection on Aim, Process and Continuation

From the very beginning, we had the aim to explore how meeting space can be achieved through participatory design. Due to the spread of the Covid-19, we had to discuss inclusive meeting spaces from a different perspective and through a different process. The process of the thesis has been continuously changing and had two primary events that affected the work. The first one was a change of scale, the second a change of process.

The initial idea of the thesis was to understand cultural diversity and meeting spaces in co-housing through a participatory approach. However, during the research we understood that a single building could not affect norms in society or create the change we anticipated. We were interested in the human scale and therefore decided to change the scope of the thesis to a neighbourhood scale. The second change in our process was the cancellation of participatory workshops due to Covid-19. We wanted to include the perspective of the inhabitants in Brämaregården to create a context-specific thesis. Because the workshops had to be cancelled last minute, the insight of residents is a missing part and could be included in further work.

In hindsight, we have learned the importance of planning for participation early on and to always have a backup plan. We could have pushed further to conduct participatory processes online, but we decided to rather work on a more conceptual level instead. This made us take decisions and find a balance between acting as designers and only showing the potential of spaces. However, during the thesis, we have always emphasised the importance of participation even though we were not able to work with it. We believe including people is the core of creating inclusive meeting spaces.

We aimed to create material that can be tested through participation in the future. Other ways of continuing the work would be to test the toolbox in other cultural conditions and to develop a way to use it for future urban development areas. Furthermore it could be interesting to test how multiple meeting spaces can create synergy effects and long term change. However, it would be crucial

to discuss the promoting and hindering forces of inclusive development with the municipality or other initiators.

Reflection on Our Role

Architects cannot create the inclusive city on their own. To achieve social inclusion there is a need for united forces from diverse professions and areas of expertise. We cannot wait for the community to happen or for social challenges to solve themselves. Architects should use their expertise and power to pro-actively design spaces that encourage interaction and are inclusive for everyone. Designing inclusive meeting spaces requires the planner or initiator to hand over power to the community, which is rarely happening today. We need to change our mindset and learn how to design cities together - experts and users united.

Being two white women from the middle class affects how we approached the topic of inclusion and diversity. Even if we have different countries of origin, we do not represent cultural diversity. However we have always tried to be open for new information and new perspectives, which has made us change our topic and opinions along the way. The thesis has grown organically around the social topics we discussed and we tried to work with an open-ended process. We have dedicated this semester to research and learn about cultural diversity and social inclusion. Stepping back from the idea of creating the perfect design for inclusive spaces reflects our personal values and integrity and made us become better architects.

Contribution to research

The thesis has contributed to the research field by concretizing and comparing Placemaking and Commoning as two diverse processes of creating inclusive spaces. The thesis is connected to a northern Europe perspective and the western lifestyle and needs to be adapted to the local context. However, it can open up a discussion about meeting spaces and lifting perspectives beyond design. The focus has been on affordability, acupuncture architecture, temporary interventions and long term change.



Figure 7.4 Co-design workshop

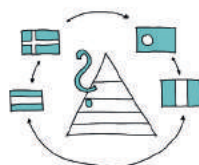


Figure 7.5 Adapt the toolbox for other cultural conditions

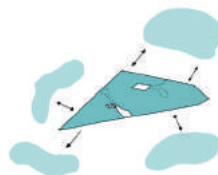


Figure 7.6 Test if the small interventions can create synergy



Figure 7.7 Test the toolbox for a more site-specific solution



8

REFERENCES

This chapter includes the references for figures and literature that were used in the booklet.

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9

APPENDICES

We show how the criteria are connected to theoretical concepts and reference projects. This chapter also includes more information about shared spaces in Gothenburg and about Placemaking and Commoning

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Appendix 1

Image - Creating a Design Toolbox

Appendix 2

Image - Process of Commoning/Placemaking

Appendix 3

Shared Spaces in Gothenburg

Appendix 4

Description about Placemaking and its process.

Appendix 5

Description about Commoning and its process.

APPENDIX 1 - CREATING A DESIGN TOOLBOX

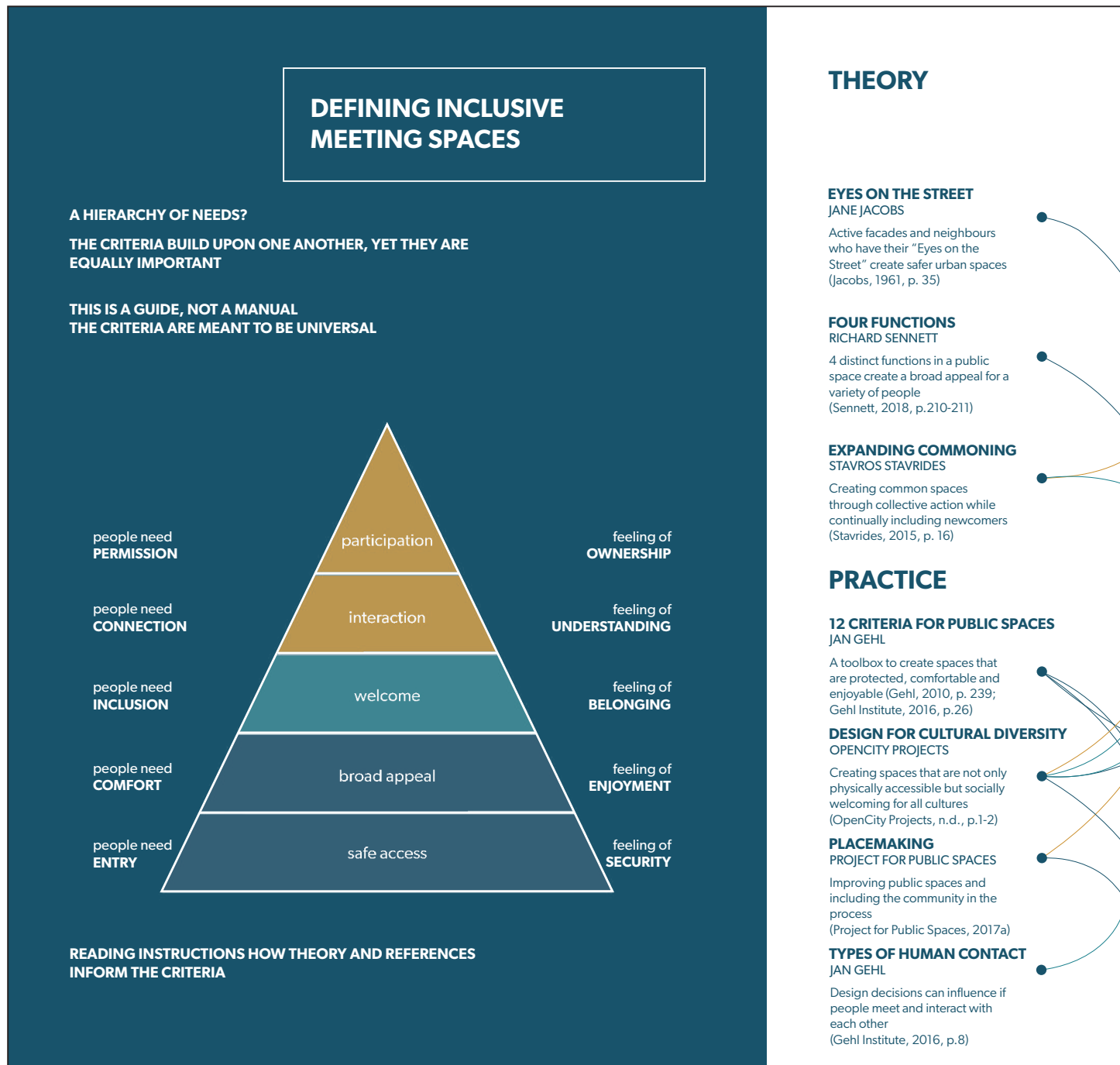
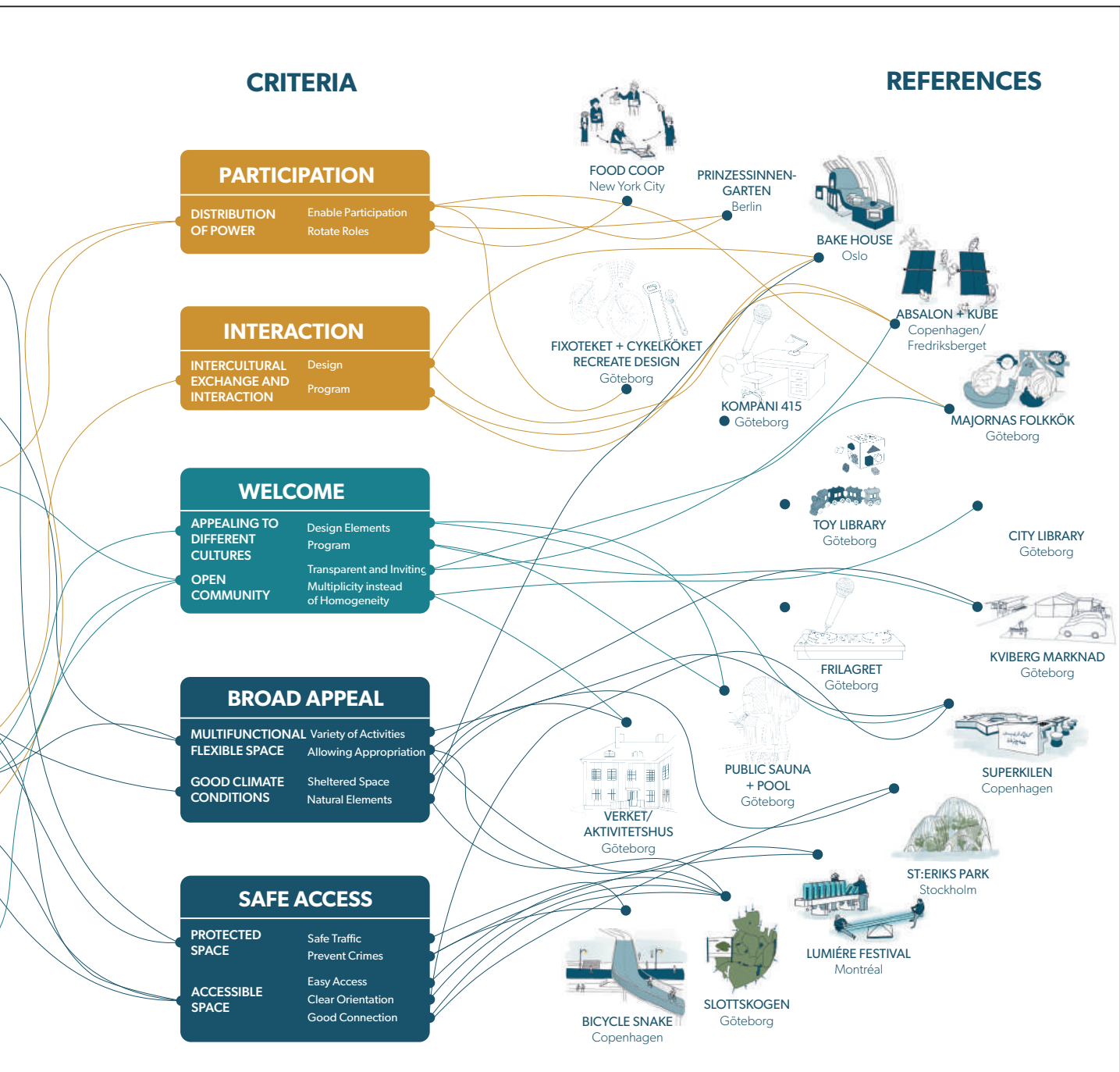


Figure 9.1 Diagram showing the connection between theories, concepts and the criteria



APPENDIX 2 - PROCESS OF COMMONING/PLACEMAKING

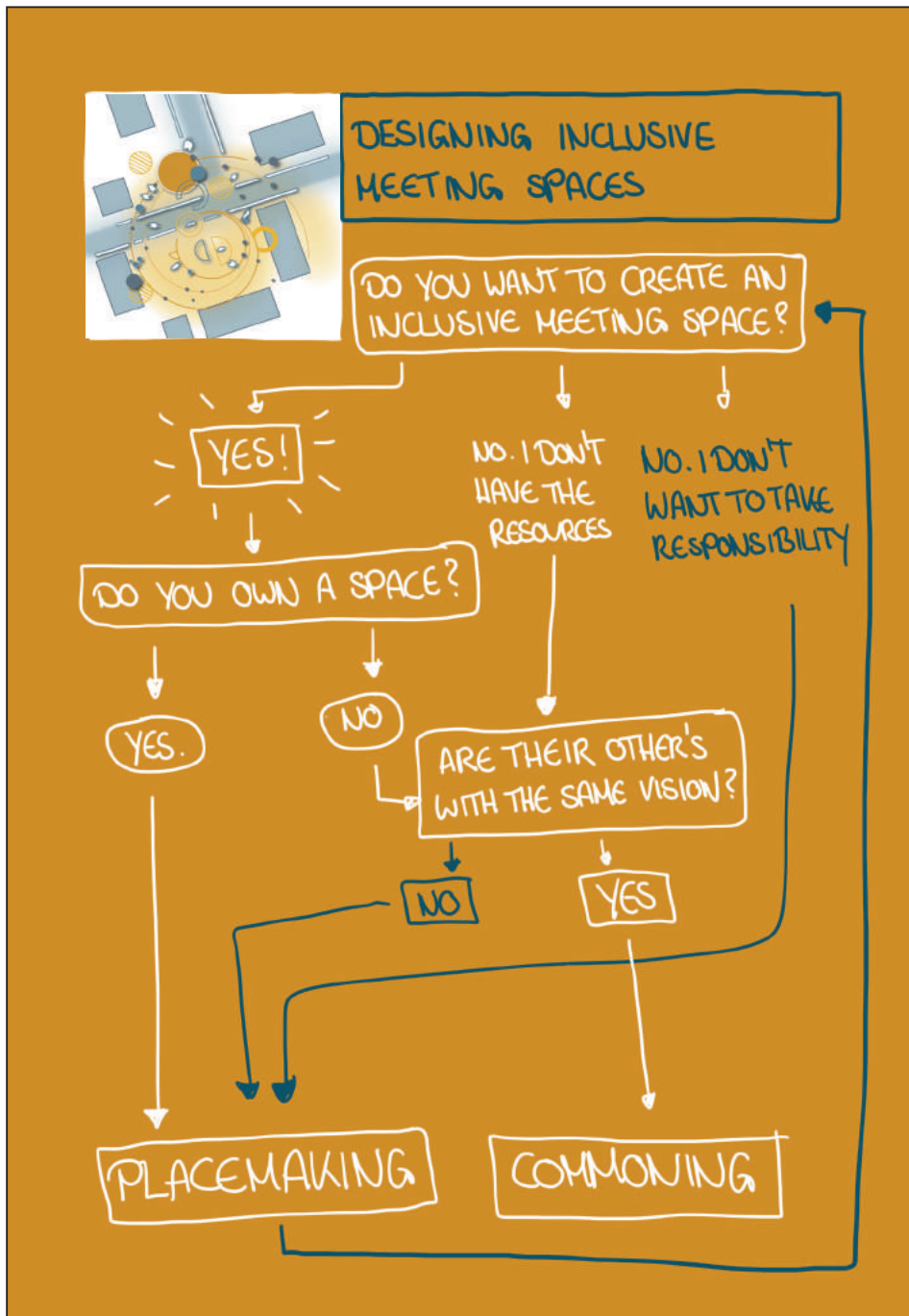
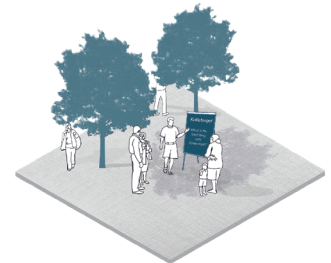


Figure 9.2 Diagram showing the process of Placemaking and Commoning

PLACEMAKING

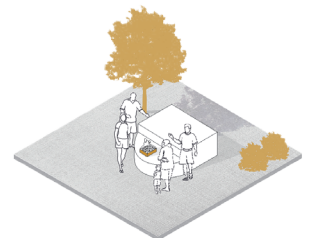


1

INITIATE PROCESS

AUTHORITY INITIATES,
MODERATES THE PROCESS
AND INVITES FOR PARTICIPATION

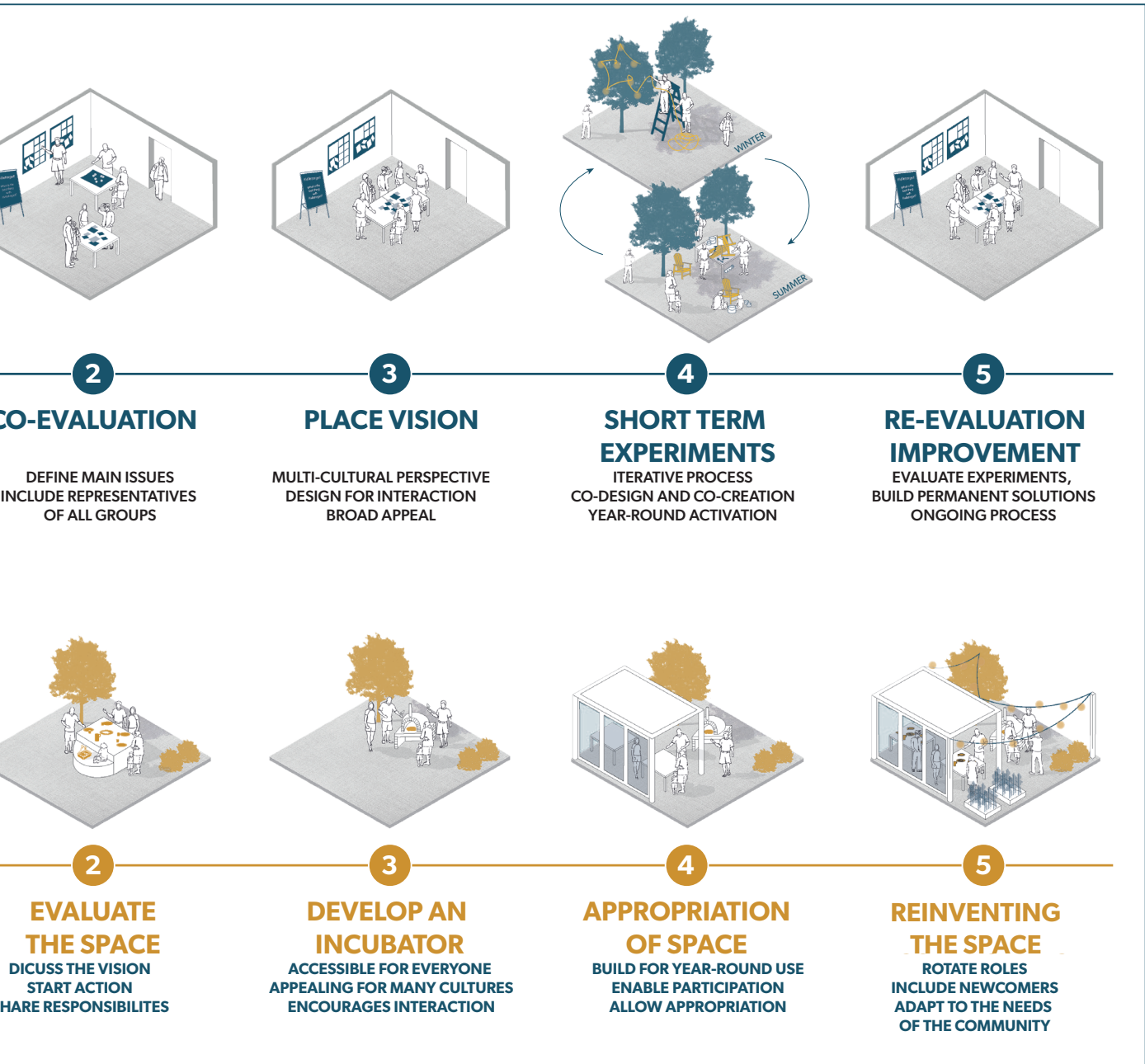
COMMONING



1

DEFINE THE RESOURCE & SET AN INSTITUTION

ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE
APPEALING FOR MANY CULTURES
ENCOURAGES INTERACTION



APPENDIX 3 - SHARED SPACES IN GOTHENBURG

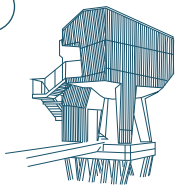
Neighbourhoods in Gothenburg all have their own identity and characteristic architecture and spaces. On the south bank, the city centre has historically been and is yet today a vibrant inner city with culture, restaurants, commercial spaces, beautiful parks and two universities.

Until the 1900s, Hisingen, on the other side of the river Göta Älv, has not been considered to be part of the city. Then the harbour was build in Hisingen, and new work opportunities and residential areas emerged (Gothenburg Municipality n.d., p.400). Today, the number and quality of public and shared spaces in Hisingen are still low compared with the ones in the city centre.

The map illustrates the distribution of different shared spaces in Gothenburg. Where can people meet when the sun is not out? Where do they interact with each other and exchange ideas?

The major takeout from this analysis is that there is a lack of high quality shared spaces in Hisingen that are equally attractive during both summer and winter and are not connected to consumption.

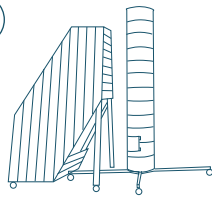
1



Sauna & Public Pool, Frihamnen

A free pool and sauna that is open for the public, free of charge. Creates activity in Frihamnen even before the new construction (Göteborg & co, 2020).

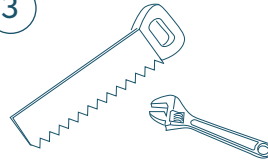
2



Rök N Roll, Frihamnen

Project that can be used as a smoker and for barbeques at the same time (ON/OFF, 2018).

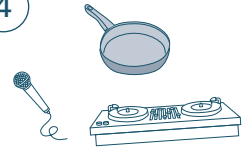
3



Recreate Design Company, Ringön

Opportunity for people to easily renovate their furniture and to borrow tools and get access to a working place (Recreate Design Company, 2020).

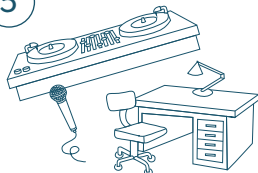
4



Aktivitetshus, Hammarkullen

A community house that everyone can rent to organize various kinds of activities (Bostadsbolaget, 2018).

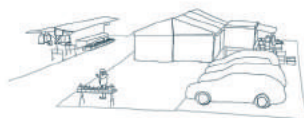
5



Kompani 415, Kviberg

A creative co-working area that also provides event spaces for concerts and can be rented by anyone (Kompani 415, 2020).

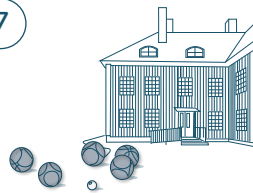
6



Kviberg Market, Kviberg

Weekly market with mainly middle-eastern background. Meeting space for this community but open for all (Kviberg Marknad, 2020).

7



Verket, Ullevi Stampen

A community house where youth and seniors can meet. Offers different types of clubs with diverse activities (Verket, 2020).

8



Frilagret, Järntorget

A culture house for youth (13-30 years). Frilagret can be used for concerts or exhibitions, and provided equipment for that (The Smart Map, 2019).

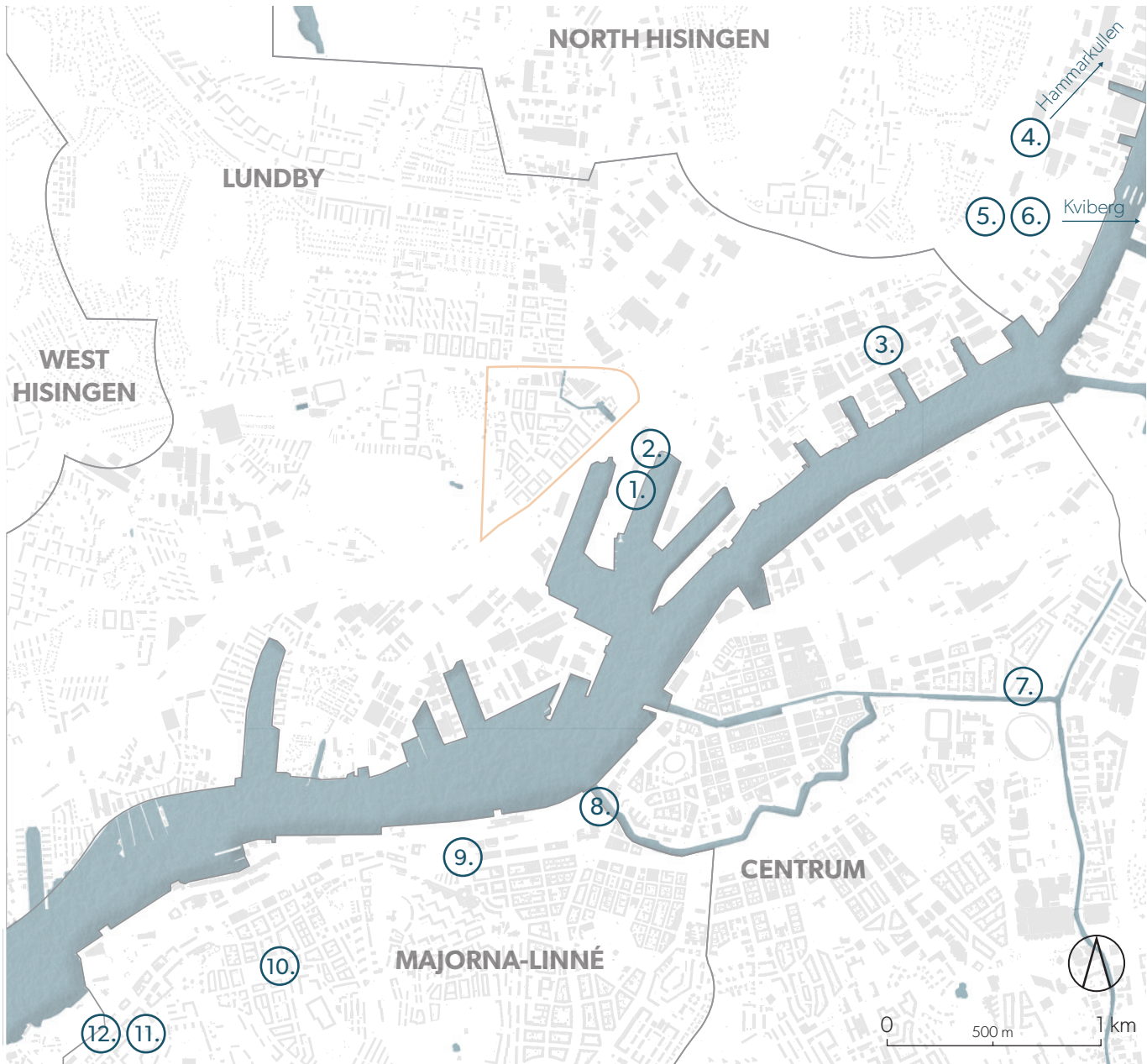


Figure 9.3 Shared Spaces in Gothenburg



Cykelköket, Masthuggskajen

A place that provides the space and the tools to fix bikes. The staff is there to help when needed (The Smart Map, 2019b).

Majornas Folkkök, Majorna

Initiative to minimize food waste and to create new meeting spaces. The association collects food waste from grocery stores and use it to cook together (Majornas Samverkansföreningen, 2020).

The Toy Library, Majorna

A place to rent toys. Requires a membership card and costs a yearly fee. Two toys per child each fourth week (The Smart Map, 2019c).

Fixoteket, Majorna

Recycling station and workspaces to repair things like furniture and bicycles. Possibility to rent tools (The Smart Map, 2020).

APPENDIX 4 - PLACEMAKING

The principle of Placemaking is to inspire people to work together and to take ownership of their neighbourhood. Jay Walljasper (2007, p.3-4) explains that Placemaking is both a philosophy and a process for communities to re-imagine their neighbourhood and shape their own public spaces according to their vision and needs. Instead of the planners, here, the residents act as the experts of the area. For a feeling of inclusion, the process of creating the space together is more important than the design itself. The Project for Public Spaces has created a guide that explains the Placemaking process. It can be divided into five steps and focuses on how to get the right stakeholders involved in order to create an inclusive public space (Project for Public Spaces, 2017).

Process

Placemaking comes with an arranged framework. The sequence of steps makes it easy to involve people because each part of the process has a method and a goal. In other words, people know what is expected of them. The process has a definite start and end. Most workshops do not require any prior knowledge or level of education from the participants - anyone can come. The citizens can freely choose how much time and effort they want to put into the project. In the end, they do not have any responsibilities for the project or their input. The authority (architect/planner/ municipality) will guarantee that the outcome has a certain quality (Project for Public Spaces, 2017).

Distribution of Power

Including people through workshops is a very typical way of how municipalities and offices work with participation. The power to decide and the responsibility for the project remains entirely with the planner. Often it happens that participatory processes are not part of an open-ended process that is directed by the needs of the community, but that the input of the participants is used to fine-tune an already set solution. This exclusive authority limits the level of inclusion in a process. In Placemaking, people can stand up for their needs in the workshops, but they cannot make decisions. For genuinely inclusive spaces, planners must invite representatives from all social groups and respect their input and perspectives in the design (Project for Public Spaces, 2017).

Outcome

The process of Placemaking is not entirely inclusive, yet the approach can lead to inclusive meeting spaces. Planners should focus on accessibility, a design that encourages interaction and flexible spaces. Then, people can appropriate the space to their needs. The approach works well in urban spaces that are passed by a high quantity and diversity of people already. With public space design, those people get a reason to linger and come into contact with each other. Placemaking makes public spaces better; it does not create the spaces itself (Project for Public Spaces, 2017).

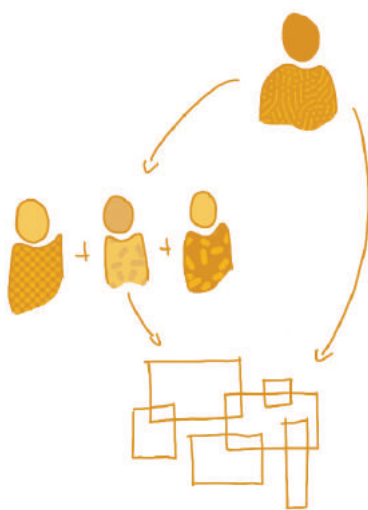


Figure 9.4 Placemaking hierarchy

APPENDIX 4 - THE PROCESS OF PLACEMAKING

DEFINE PLACE & IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS

The main initiator - for example the municipality - is responsible to start the process. The first step is to select a site that corresponds to the needs of the community. It is essential to build a relationship with key stakeholders that have a connection with the space to make the process successful in the long term. These can be residents, business associates and various types of organizations. Including them from the beginning, it is more likely that they develop a sense of ownership for the initiative and the place.

1.

EVALUATE SPACE & IDENTIFY ISSUES

To kick-start the placemaking process, the initiator invites people to a workshop. The objective is to understand how the space is currently used and to find its potentials. For the continuing process, it is essential first to gather the knowledge and experiences of the residents.

2.

PLACE VISION

From the insights of the previous workshop, the stakeholders and the initiator develop a vision for the place together. The Place Vision plan can include a statement of goals that is the foundation for the project, how the space will be used and by whom, description of the intended character of the space, successful reference examples and an action plan.

3.

SHORT-TERM EXPERIMENTS

The process of creating an inclusive public space does not happen at once, instead, it is rather an incremental process of growing and continuously evaluating. Building "light, quick and cheap" experiments is a method to test possibilities with the users in the space .

4.

ONGOING RE-EVALUATION & LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

The last step can seem to be the end of the placemaking process; however, a public space project will never be complete. A great public space is a constantly evolving process where evaluation is a crucial part of the process. Organizing evaluation of the space at different times of the day and year gives good feedback on how the space is used over time. Furthermore, it is fundamental to keep the stakeholders involved to make sure the project is sustainable in the long-term.

5.

APPENDIX 5 - COMMONING

Commoning

Commoning is a verb, it describes processes of action more than things. Design can inform and influence the commoning practices, yet it is more important how a space is defined and used than how it looks like. Commoning is an open ended process, in which the space and the community develops at the same time (Stavrides, 2018, p. 15). The commoning practice comes from the within the community without an external agent or authority.

Common Spaces

Common spaces are not meant to be meeting areas for existing groups to reinforce their identity. They are about sharing on different levels, communicating and negotiating differences. Common spaces exist as long as people keep actively rethinking and reproducing the space. Cultural differences define community, society and the individual differently. In the global West, and especially in the Swedish Society, there is a strong focus on the individual. Globally seen, this is not a common idea (Gruber, Ngo, 2018, p. 5).

Expanding Commoning

Expanding commoning leads to forms of sharing that confront enclosure and consider equality and sharing of power as a precondition for collaboration and an ultimate goal for a just society. Common spaces are a gesture towards social emancipation.

Through practices of comparing and translating, the space can encourage potential links between strangers and enables possibilities for cultural exchange and understanding (Stavrides, 2015, p. 16).

Expanding Commoning is a practice that ensures social porosity and constant inclusion of newcomers. There are three essential qualities to this: (Stavrides, 2015, p. 14-16)

1 Encourage Differences to Meet

A common spaces celebrates diversity. This means that inclusion of people is valued higher than integration and multiplicity is the goal, not homogenisation. Differences between people are relative and relational and should be discussed, compared and negotiated without trying to define a “right” or “wrong”.

2 Find a Tool to Translate Differences

The aim of common spaces is to find a shared language and negotiate conflicts between users. The vision is to establish a common ground that is not shaped by the ideas of the ruling elite and to find possible links and commons between strangers.

3 Prevent and Discourage Power Accumulation

Sharing of power is the beginning and end, the pre-condition and target of commoning. In Common Spaces, decisions are made together and people are included through different methods of participation. They are not only invited to give ideas, but to take responsibility for the space. Rotation of roles and flexible processes enable to continually include newcomers.

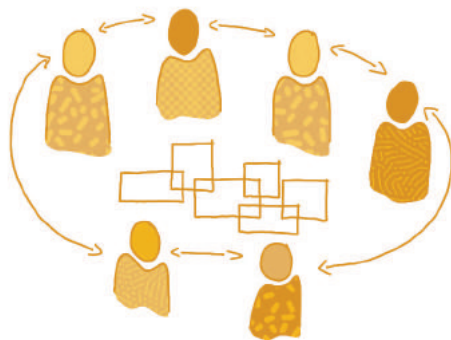


Figure 9.5 Commoning flat hierarchy

APPENDIX 5 - COMMONING

Commoning does not follow a set process, but it can be discussed as on three levels: the resource, the institution and the community.

1 THE RESOURCE

What is the resource that should be unlocked, expanded, used and maintained (physical and social)?
This is an ongoing discussion.

A common resource turns into a commons through the use of the community. There are three types of commons:

Inherited commons are natural resources of planet earth like water or forests.

Immaterial commons are i.e. cultural and intellectual knowledge or craft skills.

Material commons are man-made environments like cities, buildings or squares (Avermaete, 2018, pp. 33-34).

2 THE INSTITUTION

How to organise the development and administration for the production, use and maintenance of the common resource?

Institutions of Commoning ensure stability and reproduction of the community. A group of people acts as representatives and expresses the collective mindset of the community. Decisions are made together, including multiple perspectives and valuing views and actions of all people. It is of importance that this institution does not reproduce the status quo, but reinvents it, and that it does so while continually including newcomers. The institution is a product of the collective redefinition and reinvention of habits. (Stavrides, 2018, pp. 15-16)

3 THE COMMUNITY

Who is part of the community of commoners? Who is included in the process and is allowed to use the common resource?
How can newcomers be included?

The traditional definition of a community is a group that is unified by a collective identity and constituted by mechanisms of exclusion and demarcation. Common spaces can be created by an inhomogeneous group that is interested in cultural exchange with other communities and within its own group (Stavrides, 2015).

Common spaces are at risk to become extremely exclusive and only benefit a closed community, which means that they ultimately lose their character as a common space. Therefore commoning practices must be expanding (Stavrides, 2015, p. 16).

