

MATILDA EMGÅRD

EQUAL EQUINE

- A New Equestrian Center in Mölndal



BUILDING DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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The relationship between horses and humans has for thousands of years been one of the most significant bonds between a human and an animal. Ever since the domestication of the horse it has played a major part in the development of our societies. As transport, for hunting, in war, in agriculture as well as in sport and leisure.

However, the relationship is not on equal terms. Horses are wild animals and were never meant for captivity. Stables and other equestrian facilities where horses are being kept, are often designed from a human perspective and less from what the animal needs. Captivity in cramped isolated spaces causes great stress in horses, which in the long run will lead to poor health and diseases. In order for horses to be mentally and physically healthy, it is crucial that they can exhibit the same behaviours as they would in the wild.

This master thesis takes a post humanistic stance to architecture and explore how we can design equestrian buildings and facilities to adapt to the natural behavioural patterns of horses while at the same time meeting the needs of the human users. It raises the questions of how humans and

animals can live side by side without one being favoured over the other, creating a mutually beneficial relationship.

The design task is to design Askim Fältrittklubb (AFRK) new riding school facilities in Balltorp in Mölndal. Threatened by heavy expansion of housing in the municipality of Göteborg, the riding school, which is located in the northern part of Askim today, has decided that it is time to move their school and also to expand, going from 20 big horses today to 60-80 horses of all sizes in the new facilities.

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