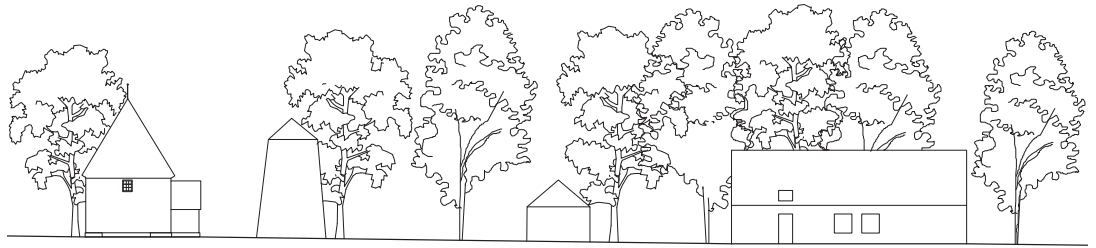


EBBA JOHANSSON

A PLACE TO BE

- an interpretation of the qualities found in Hedared and Hedared Stave Church, translated into a non-religious building



Elevation of Hedared Stave Church and the new venue building.

DESIGN FOR ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

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As Sweden becomes more and more secularized, more and more people leave *Svenska Kyrkan*, and as a result of that the church's revenue reduces, money which could have been used for care, operations and maintenance of existing church buildings. It's a threat to the Swedish religious cultural heritage when churches need to close and sometimes are demolished. There are fewer participants at the church services but visits for individual devotion, contemplation and cultural-historical interest on the other hand seems to increase. People who are not at all religious think that the church buildings themselves are important in the local environment.

The role of the church will change in the future and as it today is more than 30% of the Swedish population that belongs to a religion other than Christianity or no religion at all, a need arises for a new kind of room. Is it then possible to experience the same emotions in a non-religious room as you do in a church? Is it the religious connection or the design of the room that generates these emotions?

Hedared possesses the only preserved medieval stave church in Sweden and are frequently visited because of that. The small size of the church however prevents it from having larger ceremonies like weddings and funerals.

The purpose of this thesis is therefore to design a new venue building to Hedared Stave Church in relation to the increasing secularized society and future need of the church. With the methods of analyzing, investigating and interpreting how and why the church brings out the emotions it does and then transforming them into a design, this thesis forms a non-religious building with the same emotional qualities as the church, implemented in architecture of our own time. A design for everyone to experience in their own way and reason, religious or not.

Keywords : Hedared, stave church, religious cultural heritage, non-religious, venue building