

FATIMA KHAVARI

RAIN OF LIGHT

- A public space acknowledging rain as the author of architecture



Gothenburg is known as one of the rainiest cities in Sweden. The rain is a part of everyday life here. It rains approximately every third day in Gothenburg. With climate change, the rainfall is going to increase in the future. The municipality wants to see rain as a resource and be better at managing rainfall, they want to be the best rain city in the world. The city wants to create a more positive perception of rain through architectural, social, cultural and climate related efforts.

The way we perceive rain affects our conception of the city. In Gothenburg where it rains frequently, rain is often perceived as dark, gloomy and cold, unlike bright, sunny weather. People tend to avoid rain and seek shelter from it or stay inside. Walls and roofs are built up in response to the weather and our connection to the outside world is lost. During the rainy days the use of public space is reduced.

This thesis explores how to increase the use of public space by using rain as an element of design. This proposal allows to embrace the rain and the discomfort of it to create a better connection to nature in an urban context. It aims to highlight the different aspects of rain and encourages the sensation of the weather

to contradict the negative perception of it. This is best presented through a public pavilion where people can take shelter and experience the rainfall at the same time. To accentuate the connection to surroundings the pavilion can be adapted to the context by a flexible structure.

The methods used in this proposal are mainly practical. The design is developed by studying and experimenting with different materials and physical models. The qualities of rain are explored through literature studies, reference studies and by experiencing the rain in the city. By constructing a pavilion that is responsive to the weather the resulting architecture can embody the site fully and create a closer relationship to the nature in an urban context.

Keywords :
Rain, public, pavilion