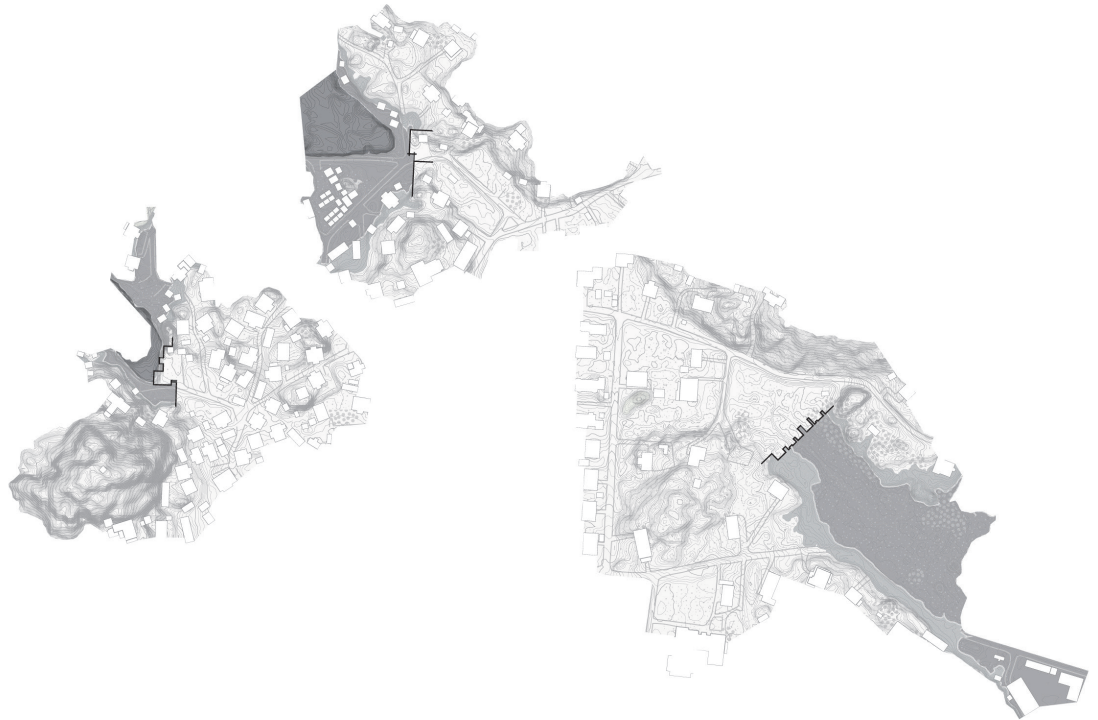


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TALES OF AN ISLE

- An approach for sustaining coastal identities in the flux of climate change



DESIGN FOR ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

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In a vast ocean landscape, islands present a dual nature of both isolation and connectivity. Today, the islands are linked to each other and to the mainland of Gothenburg, forming an overall whole related through both collective identification and through infrastructure and public transportation. Yet, islands are finite pieces of land that may share characteristics, but have in a zoomed in perspective individual local identities.

Hundred years from now the sea level rise will transmute the archipelagic landscape. The world will witness a loss of coastal communities and architectural heritage. Sea level adaptation has become a question for many Swedish municipalities. In Gothenburg, high water barriers located in the estuary of Göta älv, might save the urban river shores, but it will not protect the peripheral archipelago. These islands are, due to their location, particularly exposed to the forces of nature.

This thesis seeks one approach for sustaining the coastal identity of Vrångö in the flux of environmental change. The aim is to explore and discuss an approach to climate change adaptation,

beyond technological innovation: How can architects, in a local context, support a cultural and historical continuum endangered by sea level rise?

A brief description is made of Critical Regionalism, an architectural theory and practice which searches an equilibrium between the locally rooted and the universal modern. From there, a method is developed to approach the context of Vrångö island and its relationship to a rising sea. This method becomes fundamental for an analysis of three phases which principally results in a twofold solution. It is a proposal which on the one hand protects and communicates a determination to sustain today's island society while preserving its relationship with the sea. On the other hand, it gives space for a local community to flourish side by side with the fluctuating presence of island visitors. Finally, it is concluded that while linking theory, analysis and design, the method has been instrumental for the generation of initially unimagined results.

Keywords : Island community, Sea level rise, Locally rooted architecture, Coastal heritage, Critical regionalism