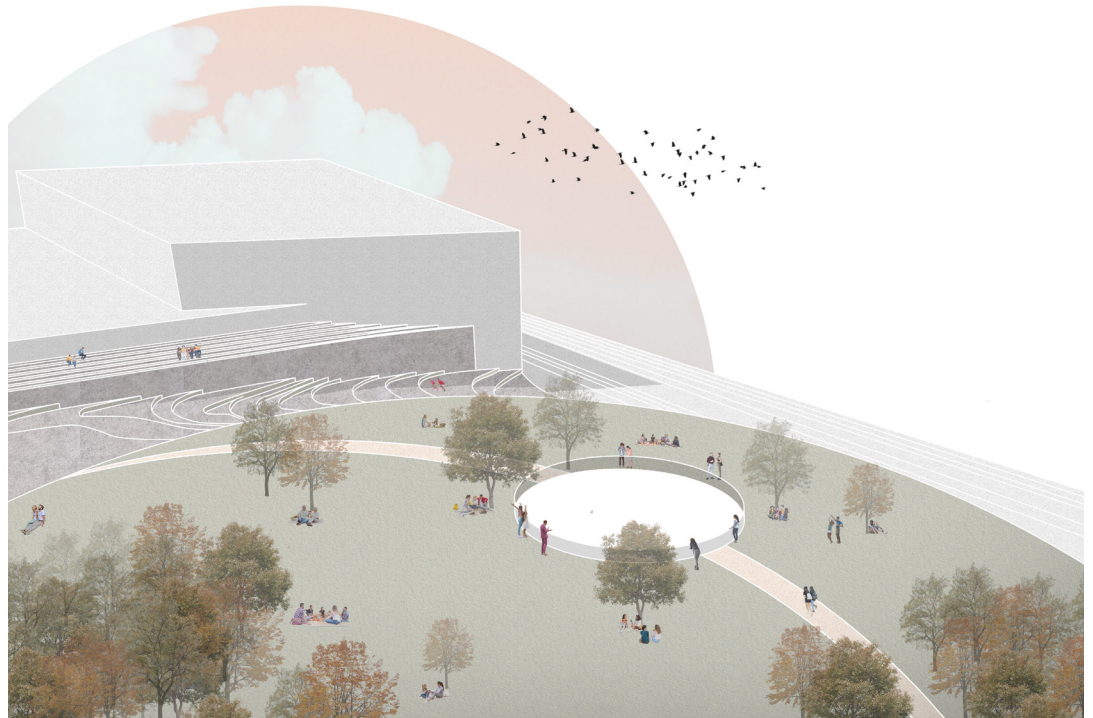


SEAT NI CHIU
AGORENA



CRITICAL SPATIAL PERSPECTIVES

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This thesis analyzes and discusses the exclusion problems that occur with contemporary arenas. Further on, this thesis will present a toolbox and design suggestions for what the inclusive arena construction of the future may look like.

During the 2000s, Sweden built a record number of arenas that demanded billions from taxpayers (Elvung & Öksuz, 2016, p. 55), which has aroused strong criticism. Despite this criticism, the planning and construction of future arenas continues, although almost all arenas have also proved unprofitable (Sveriges Radio 2014). There are many reasons why these constructions continue, but the motive that is often used is that an arena creates value for the residents (Elvung & Öksuz, 2016, p. 66).

A new arena means a greater range and access to experiences and community, which contributes to well-being. But who is the arena for? Who have access to the arena?

The research hypothesis is that the arena is in several ways an excluding environment and to motivate the arena construction, there should be a more inclusive design

where more target groups are allowed to benefit from the arena.

Agora is the ancient Athens answer to the prevailing trend arena-block. A public square where different events could take place at the same time (Camp II, 2015, p. 10). With the help of well-defined zones and the lack of visual barriers, visitors to the Agora were able to participate in various events in an inclusive way (Sennett, 2016, p. 2). Contemporary arenas' motives for continued construction reinforce the arguments for resuming the ancient athenian way of designing public spaces.

With the help of a toolbox, analysis of Gothenburg's new arena proposals and the athenian Agora, this thesis results in design proposals that invite more of the city's residents to the arena.

Keywords: Arena, inclusive design, safe access