

NORDIC
ARCHITECTURE
NORDIC WOMEN

ROW HOUSE

INGRID WALLBERG

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INGRID WALLBERG

Ingrid Wallberg was one of the pioneers of functionalism in Gothenburg. She was the first woman to have an internship in le Corbusiers ateliér and one of the first female architect to pursue a career in the profession in Sweden..

In 1931 she became the first female architect to have her own office in Sweden.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

1890 a woman by the name Ingrid Wallberg is born into a large, wealthy family in Halmstad. Early in her life she decided to become an architect but as women of this time were not allowed to study architecture in the universities until 1921, her way into the field of practice was a bit crooked.

When Ingrid was 17 years old, she met the young architect Albert Lillienberg whom she married in 1909. Shortly after the wedding, the couple moved to Stora Gårda in Örgryte, Gothenburg. Albert was working as first city planning engineer of Gothenburg. As married women of this time did not have the same possibilities to pursue professional careers alone, Ingrid soon started working as Alberts assistant, learning and practicing alongside him. In 1917 they had a son named Björn and the couple worked together for several years until their divorce in 1926.

After the separation, Ingrid and Björn moves to her sister in Paris.

Her sister was at this time married to the brother of the modernistic architect Le Corbusier and through this, Ingrid got to be the first female intern at his firm. Her time with Le Corbusier woke her interest for the functionality of houses and the aesthetics of materials which has come to shape her professional work.

She was also driven by the will to create better and healthier living situations for workers and women. She valued the connection to nature and wanted to bring green structures into the cityscape. During her time with Le Corbusier, Ingrid meets the swiss architect Alfred Roth who follows her back home to Gothenburg in 1928. They started a firm together called R&W and worked closely with HSB designing villas and residential houses in a functionalistic style.

Ingrid and Alfred ran their firm together until 1931 when Alfred moved back to switzerland and Ingrid took over the buisness alone as the first female architect to have her own office in Sweden.

CONTEXT

FUNCTIONALISM

Functionalism was a radical architectural style which had its breakthrough in Sweden during the 1920s and 1930s. It was one of the manifestations of modernism and a rejection of the historical styles and traditional thinking.

The style was based on the building's function and clean geometric shapes. All types of decoration and ornaments were rejected and the buildings function was what shaped the design. The functionalist thinking was based on the idea that through logic and rational thinking one could create better living conditions for people.

The modernistic way of planning cities divided the functions into zones.

Housing, industry, workplaces and recreational areas were located separately instead of mixed within the city. This came as a reaction to the current ways of city planning with large crowded cities with cramped, impractical and dark apartments, creating unhealthy living environments.

A new way of planning cities arose. Instead of building along the street, it became popular with separated lamellas that left areas between the building volumes to enable good daylight conditions in each home. The lamellas were to be located with good proximity to recreational areas to create equal housing conditions for everyone with good access to daylight and fresh air.

ÖRGRYTE BÖ

In 1933 Ingrid was given the task by the city planning engineer Uno Åhrén to draw a master plan for Örgryte. The area was to become the first functionalistic residential area in Gothenburg. The functionalistic values are present in the areas layout. The lamellas are placed with distance from each other, creating semi-private courtyards between the volumes and allowing the sunlight to reach all apartments.

The rowhouse on Bångejordsgatan were the first drawings to be realized in 1934–1935.



Wallberg masterplan of Bö with the row houses marked

ROW HOUSE

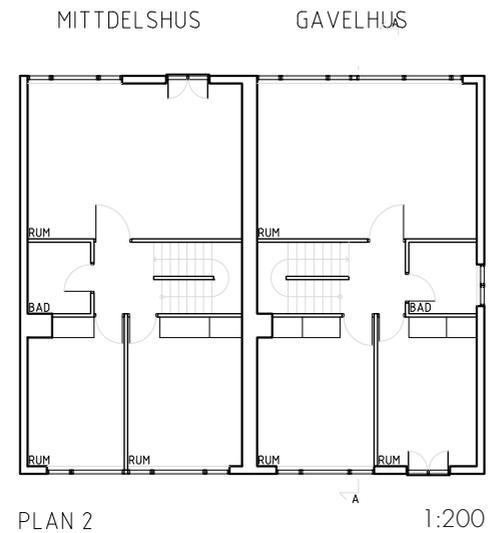
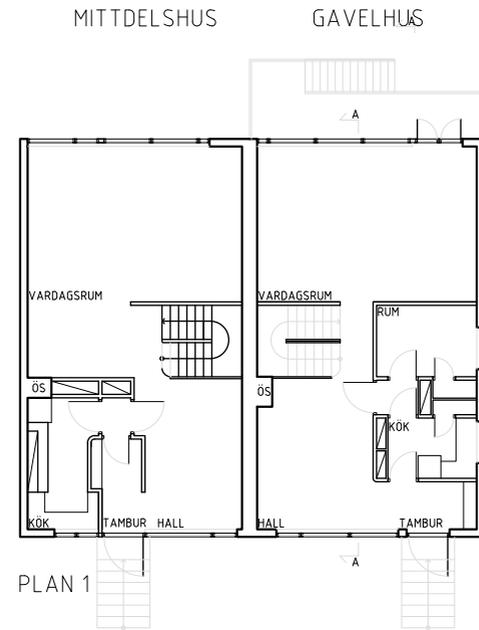
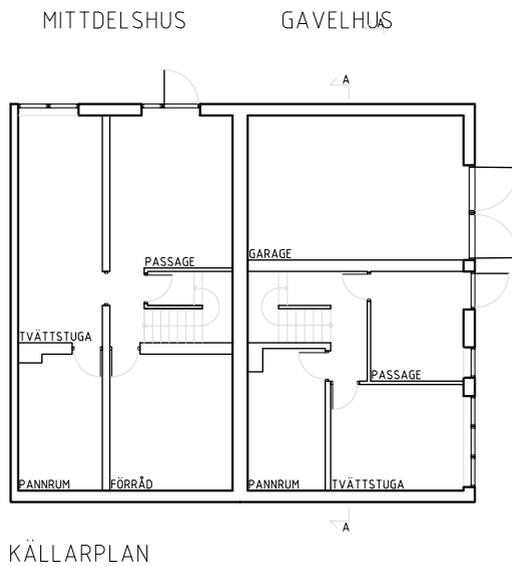
The rowhouses on Bångejordsgatan by Ingrid Wallberg were the first drawings within the area plan to be realized in 1934-1935. The buildings are designed with characteristic white plastered exterior large window sills. The volumes are sparsely decorated with very minimalistic railings and balconies in painted metal. Each home has their own garden and a small staircase in front of the entrance.

The building row stretches upwards along the sloping terrain creating a subterranean building with 2-3 stories towards the backside.

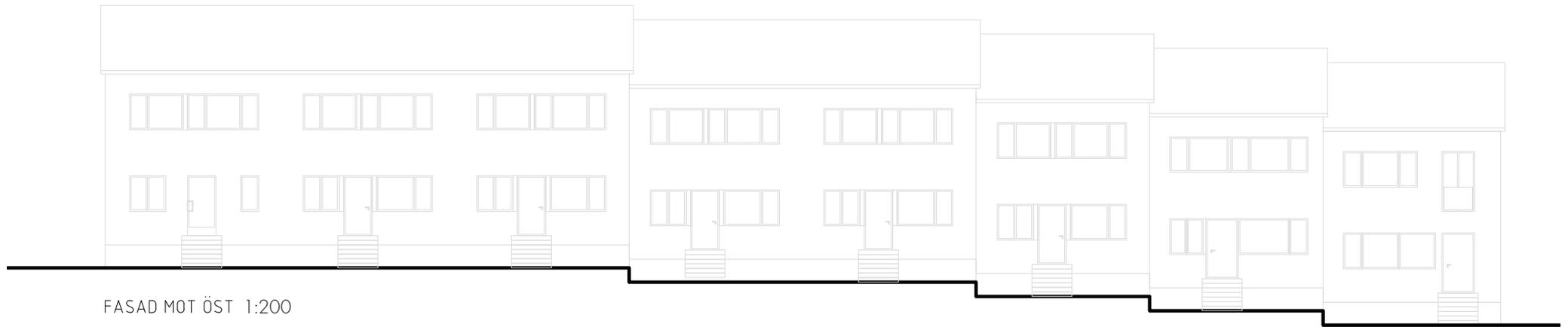


FLOORPLANS

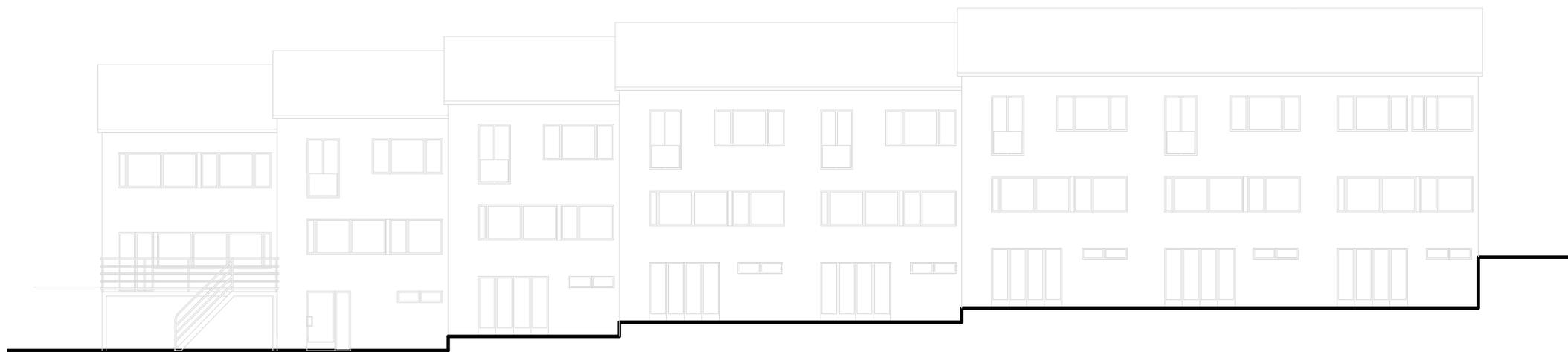
The floorplans have a functionalistic design with separate kitchen, evenly distributed rooms and large windows. The floors are connected through a centrally placed staircase in the darker core.



FACADES



FASAD MOT ÖST 1:200



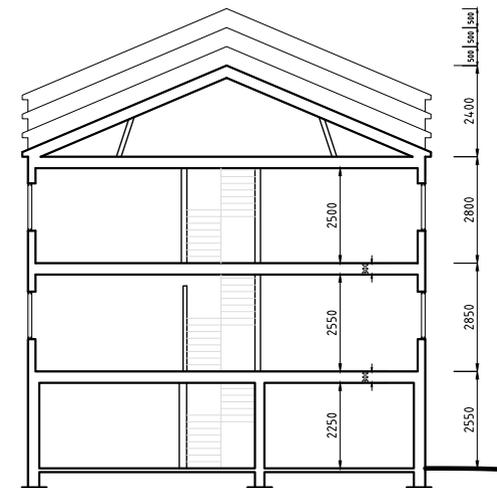
FASAD MOT VÄST 1:200

SECTIONS

As the site has a lot of terrain which allows a third suttterrain floor on most of the homes. The last house has a garage instead of a third floor and a stair connects the first floor to the garden on the back side.



FASAD MOT NORD 1:200



SEKTION A - A 1:200

CONCEPT MODEL

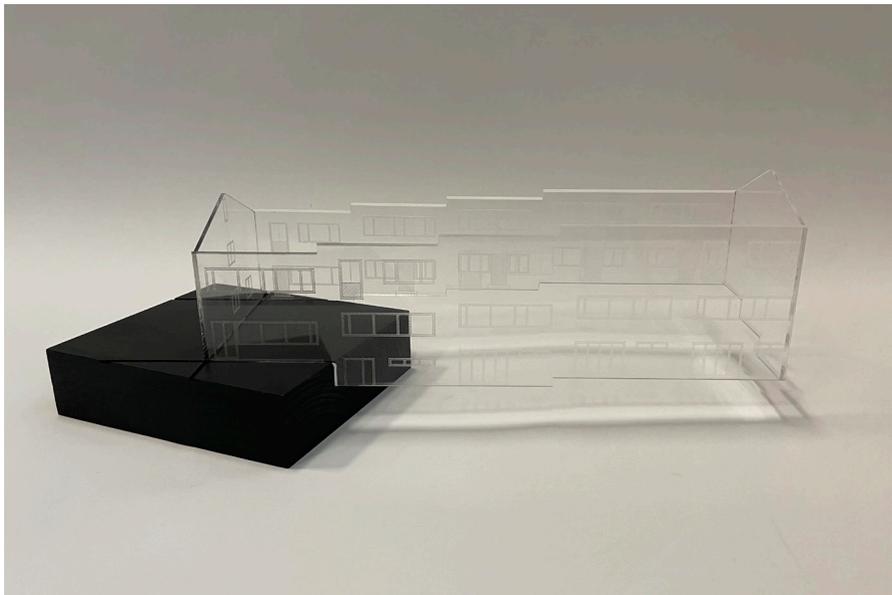
In the concept model we wanted to reflect the functionalistic values that were important for Wallbergs work. The light, spacious homes with their simplified, clean geometrical shapes is something we find very characteristic for this project.

We want to emphasise the feeling of light and fresh air passing freely through the building and chose to work a lot with transparency in different ways in two different concept models. One of the models emphasise the lightness of the building and its very long stretched body. The other concept model captures the transparency and how the light travels through the volume.

Scale: 1:100

Material: Plexi glass, Linden wood, Spray paint, Epoxy

Tecniqe/tools: Laser cut, Saw, Sanding paper, Epoxy casting



MAIN MODEL

The main model, we choose to make in scale 1:40, zooming in to 2 of the apartments in the building. Here we want to portay the functionalistic expression of both interior and exterior of the building. In this scale we are able to showcase important details while still keeping the modell at a reasonable size.

The second apartment is cut to create a 3D section showing the floorplans and their connections. Here you will also be able to see how the large windows work to create a bright indoor climate with a strong connection to the nature outside.

The model is made in layers of MDF and Cardboard with detailing in linden wood and metal. The facade is painted in white to mimic plaster and the window frames and doors are painted in a green color as the original building.

Scale: 1:40

Material: MDF + Cardboard + Linden wood

Technique/tools: Laser cut, Saw, Sanding machine, Paint, Glue



LANDSCAPE MODEL

As Wallberg made large parts of the city plan of Örgryte, we wanted to use the opportunity to zoom out and emphasise the functionalistic layout of the entire area. We decided to make a model in 1:250 where the buildings are put into context showcasing the neighbouring volumes and the in-between spaces they generate.

The lanscape is made in CNC-milled MDF with building volumes represented as linden blocks. In this model you clearly see how the buildings cuts through the rising terrain, creating a suterrain floor. Our building stands out from the rest through the facade detailing and small front staircases.

Scale: 1:250

Material: MDF + Linden wood

Technique/tools: CNC-milling, Laser cut, Saw, Sanding machine

