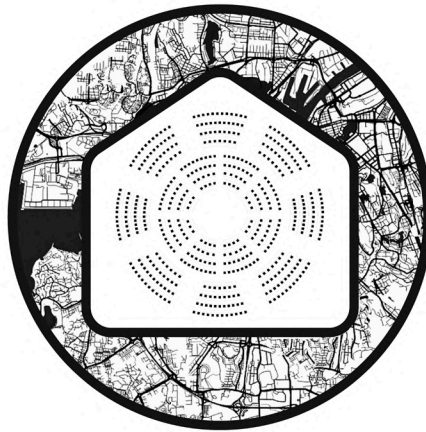




re-envisioning the community-hub

towards a systemic design framework for
participatory governance spaces



Master Thesis

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Examiner: Julia Fredriksson

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Chalmers School of Architecture
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2025



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I would like to initiate by thanking my mother, Ximena, who taught me from an early age that the greatest inheritance I could receive, was education.

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About the author:

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Chilean architect passionate about social concerns and the exploration of professional practice. He has applied these interests in design, construction, and teaching. This thesis seeks to expand that path, contributing along the way to those to whom this knowledge may be useful.

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Abstract

Humanity finds itself at a complex juncture between two crises: the social and the environmental. Environmentally, the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident, while socially, the crisis manifests itself in the rise of contemporary societies undergoing processes of social unrest. Personal experience working with communities in Chile, has revealed that low-income groups are often the most affected by these crises, while at the same time they demonstrate resilience through a great capacity for social cohesion and collective organisation. This collective organisation has in their “sedes-sociales”, or community-hubs, one of its spatial manifestations, being this one the main matter of architectural analysis of this thesis.

In this sense, and from the perspective of architecture and planning, this thesis aims to develop a systemic design framework for local participatory governance spaces (community-hubs), oriented by an interest in strengthening social cohesion and urban resilience. The work focuses on Sweden, and is based on the Theory of the architecture project in an organic/systemic logic (Fernández, 2011). This theory enables guidance on how to approach the territorial and the architectural project dimension, in correlation with other systems of analysis such as participatory governance.

The method used is primarily research through design, through a 4-stage process. This process involves an initial stage of contextual review (examining case studies of community-hubs, with a historical, contemporary and international focus), inputs which then are used in a second stage to develop the systemic design framework, a third stage of design application, in which the framework is tested, and a final reflective stage of synthesis.

The result is a systemic design framework for re-envisioned community-hubs, which is applied through a conceptual design application in the contemporary Swedish built environment of Tynnered, Gothenburg. This outcome will not only provide feedback for the systemic design framework itself, but also inspire potential stakeholders involved in the context of application. Likewise, the thesis allows for further reflections on the concepts of social cohesion and urban resilience, and their relationship with spaces for participatory governance, thus positioning itself as a contribution to a broader setting towards sustainable urban planning and development.

Keywords:

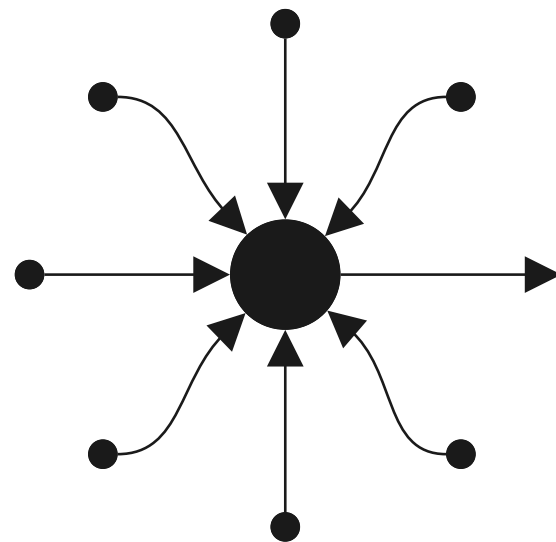
Community-hub, systemic design framework, social cohesion, urban resilience, Tynnered.

Table of Content

This thesis consists of six sections. The first one establishes the positioning and theoretical/methodological basis of the research. The next four sections correspond to the main material, consisting of a chapter on contextual research, one on conceptual development, following a design application, and finally a discussions and synthesis section. The interrelationship between these chapters is described in more detail in 1.3.- Method. Finally, there is a last section that includes the list of References and an Appendix of additional information.



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1.0.- Research foundations and orientation

This first section starts by an author's perspective of the current situation, following the problems that this thesis seeks to address (1.1.-); in order to establish the aim and the research questions (1.2.-) that will guide the work.

The background from which the thesis is constructed is then developed in greater depth (1.3.-), in order to contextualise the research. Likewise, the methodology to be used will be outlined (1.4.-), in close relation to the theory (1.5.-), both forming a procedural body that will accompany the development of this study.

Reference is then made to the delimitations that frame the work (1.6.-), concluding with a section specifically dedicated to the connection of this thesis with Sustainable Development (1.7.-), in line with the general objectives of the study programme within which this thesis is situated.

1.1.- Purpose of the exploration

This thesis starts from the perspective that humanity is facing a dual and simultaneous challenge, as the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly evident at a time of globally growing social unrest (fig. 1). While this dual crisis manifests differently across regions and cultural contexts, a common denominator is the role of the built environment as central player in shaping both the causes and the potential solutions to these intertwined crises.

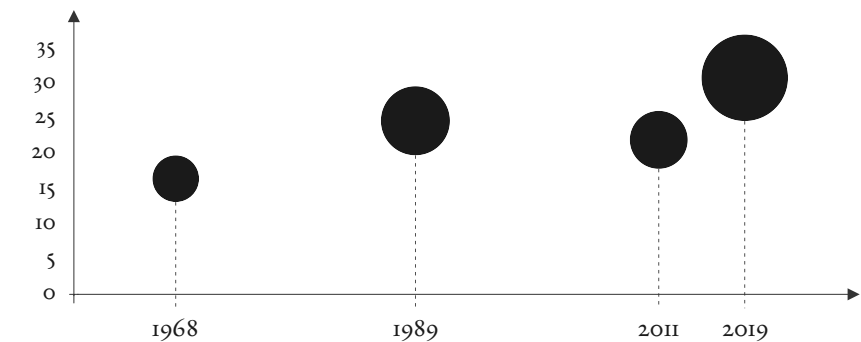


Figure 1

Figure 1.- Graphic reinterpretation from the analysis presented by Mayol (2022), expressing the rising percentage of countries experiencing major cycles of protests, from 1960 to 2022, according to UN's member countries hemerographic data.

As argued by Mayol (2022), global protest movements increase in proportion to social unrest processes. This concept is closely related to indicators of institutional legitimacy, civic participation and social cohesion, among others. It is suggested that these are relevant aspects when considering the need for cooperation towards climate action to achieve sustainable urban development.

In this regard, several international agendas and institutions have aimed to cope with this dual crisis when seeking for sustainable development. Among the various dimensions these global frameworks promote, one stands out as particularly relevant to this thesis: the encouragement of citizen participation, from a social and environmental sustainability perspective (to be developed in greater depth in point 1.3.a.-).

People's influence on the development of their built environments is widely recognised as a vehicle for promoting some of the key pillars of sustainable development, such as social cohesion and urban resilience. Literature does indeed show a very significant correlation between the concepts of social cohesion and urban resilience: the greater the social cohesion, the greater the public support for climate action, which in turn improves resilience to events related to climate change (Tamasiga et al., 2024).

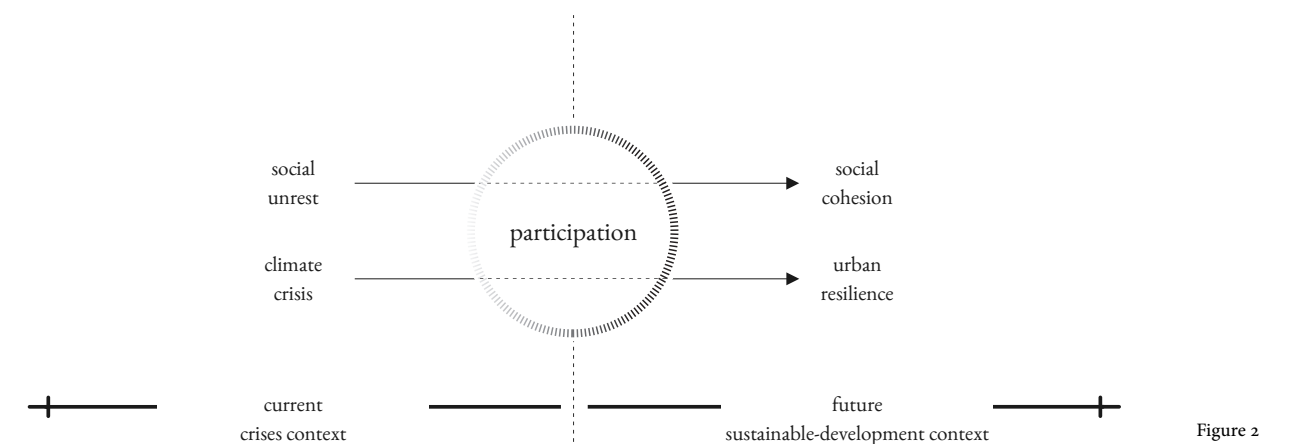


Figure 2

Figure 2.- Diagram of the current dual crisis situation, aiming for a context of sustainable development that responds to them. (Authors own figure)

These two concepts, if situated as the offset of the dual crisis outlined above (social unrest and the climate crisis, fig.2), invite to reflect on how we, as architects, can contribute to creating spaces that host and promote participation. Own professional practice suggests that responses architecture and urban planning can provide could go beyond temporary initiatives and programmes, if establishing the urban and spatial conditions for such participation to be structured and stable.

In fact, designing the spatial conditions where social-cohesion and urban-resilience can interact with community-participation, must be an increasingly

relevant practice for cities who are actively seeking for sustainable development. This is particularly pertinent in the Swedish context, where the environmental and social sustainability standards set by central and local governments are ambitious (further elaborated in point 1.3.b.-).

However, this purpose poses complex challenges, as the spatial and urban matters that the architectural profession is traditionally used to work with, should then be addressed with a view to the dimension of participation and civic engagement. This implies a multivariable task, which, in order to address it comprehensively, a “systemic” design framework that incorporates architecture and urban strategies in cooperation with governance agencies may be an optimum lens through which to examine the problem, and design solutions aimed at social cohesion and urban resilience.

Thus, it is within this context and exploratory purposes that this thesis takes off.

1.2.- Aim and Research Questions

1.2.a.- Aim

This thesis aims to develop a systemic design framework for local participatory governance spaces –hereinafter referred to as community-hubs– to strengthen social cohesion and urban resilience. Centred on Sweden and informed by international literature and case-studies, the framework adopts a multi-scale perspective that links the architectural and urban design scales, with the participatory governance dimension, within the scope of social cohesion and urban resilience.

1.2.b.- Thesis Questions

Main Research Question:

How can re-envisioning the community-hub through a systemic design approach (theory of “architectural project in organic-systemic logic”, by the Chilean theoretician architect Cristián Fernández Cox), be a means to strengthen social cohesion and urban resilience in contemporary Swedish built environments (with an illustrative design application in Tynnered, Gothenburg)?

Research Sub-questions:

The sub-questions posed below are related to the research’s methodological process, guiding stages 1, 2, 3, and 4, which will be further developed in the forthcoming section 1.4.-.

From historical to contemporary references - Sweden (stage 1)

How have evolved the references of community-hubs in Sweden, from a historical perspective to contemporary times, and from that perspective, are there spatial patterns that can foster participation?

Contemporary references - Chile (stage 1)

What insights emerge from analysing contemporary examples of community-hubs built in developing countries such as Chile -where social cohesion and urban resilience are constantly being tested- and how could this knowledge be transferred to developed contexts such as Sweden?

Framework development (stage 2)

What set of principles can be elaborated in the operative, urban, and building systems to inform design of community-hubs as agents of social cohesion and urban resilience?

Design application & evaluation (stage 3 and 4)

How can this framework be implemented in a contemporary Swedish context, in order to test its applicability and provide both constructive inputs for further discussion and refinement of the framework, as well as inspiration for local actors?

1.3.- Background

1.3.a.- The role of participation and local governance spaces in the contemporary era of urban environments

Collective action is one of the most important distinguishing features we have as human species; and from the perspective of the built environment, our cities are maybe one of the largest physical manifestation of that. The planning of these built environments, as a structured collective action, plays a fundamental role in guiding the course of society. Therefore, given the aforementioned crises facing the world today, international organisations have advanced a series of frameworks, conventions, and programmes to guide this collective action towards social and environmental sustainability. Perhaps the most globally influential is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations in 2015 (United Nations, 2015), and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) action-plan, which stands as a shared roadmap for transformation. More specifically in relation to the practice of urban planning, the New Urban Agenda (UN-Habitat, 2016) positions cities as central arenas for addressing comprehensively the environmental, social, and economic challenges of modern societies.

Within this social and environmental urban agenda, one recurring theme is the importance of active citizen participation. For instance, the World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action, underscores the need for robust local stewardship and strengthened multi-level governance as essential conditions for tackling the climate crisis in alignment with social sustainability (UN-Habitat, 2024). It further highlights how this approach reinforces social cohesion while simultaneously building urban resilience, concepts that, taken together, emerge as two essential attributes for navigating the urgent challenges of the contemporary era.

But how can the recommended multi-level governance be applied from the perspective of architecture and urban planning practice? McShane and Coffey’s (2022) article, “Rethinking community hubs: Community facilities as critical infrastructure” may shed light on this question. This article highlights the relevance of community-hubs in the urban and social fabric, recognising them as a multi-sectoral social infrastructure of great importance for promoting social cohesion and resilience in local neighbourhoods and communities. Furthermore, community-hubs are positioned horizontally in terms of local community participation, as well as vertically in relation to institutional bodies, having the potential to become critical social infrastructure when it comes to addressing the current environmental and social crisis (McShane & Coffey’s, 2022).

Given this contemporary context, and embracing the need to strengthen multi-level governance infrastructure in urban environments, is that this thesis focuses on the design of community-hubs to achieve these objectives.

1.3.b.- Urban challenges in today’s Sweden

Sweden, like many countries today, faces the dual challenge of addressing environmental threats related to climate change while responding to the social tensions of contemporary times.

In the environmental sphere, the country has taken important steps to institutionalise climate adaptation. An example of this can be seen in Sweden’s National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, which seeks to strengthen adaptation and multi-sectoral coordination around climate change and its effects (Krisinformation.se, 2023). In this mandate, the SMHI (Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute) acts as the expert authority (SMHI, 2025), coordinating joint action with other institutional bodies, which, in relation to urban planning, include the Planning and Building Act and the Environmental Code, the Swedish National Board of Housing, among others (Krisinformation.se, 2023). These measures enable reflection on Sweden’s political commitment to prepare its territory and society for climate change; a technical support ranging from the highest levels of power (central government) to those closest to citizens (municipalities) (SMHI, 2025), revealing the multi-sectoral nature of the strategy to address the issue.

Alongside these environmental concerns, Swedish cities are increasingly facing social challenges. Recent assessments by Statistics Sweden (SCB) and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) identify that approximately 710,000 people live in ‘exclusion areas’, defined by a high concentration of socio-economic disadvantages, limited access to opportunities and spatial segregation (SCB & Boverket, 2024, p. 133). These areas often suffer from stigmatisation, which in the long term can reinforce barriers to social mobility and contribute to a weakening of social cohesion over time. To this complex situation is added the phenomenon of migration, which is particularly relevant in Sweden. Various studies have already examined the difficulties faced by migrant communities with regard to participation in society. In fact, papers such as Bozena Guziana’s “Only for Citizens? Local Political Engagement in Sweden and Inclusiveness of Terms”, analyse this issue in the Swedish context, where the term ‘citizen’ in relation to participation processes can be a barrier for those who do not yet have that status in their migration process, replacing it with “participatory” or ‘community’ governance (Guziana, B. 2021), a view that is embraced by this thesis. Thus, one might suggest that the social issue is still an area of friction in Swedish cities.

Taken together, these environmental and social dynamics frame the Swedish urban context as one in which resilience and cohesion must be strengthened simultaneously. On the one hand, the state has developed regulatory instruments to anticipate and adapt to climate risks; on the other, persistent social tensions, especially in peripheral neighbourhoods, underscore the need for planning strategies that reinforce inclusion, trust and community capacity. It is at this intersection, between environmental resilience and social cohesion, that this thesis proposes to contribute.

1.3.c.- Personal learnings from being an architect in a context of crises

Coming from Chile, a country with a vast experience of natural disasters and social upheaval, has greatly influenced my approach to architecture and urban planning. Geographically located at the boundary between the Nazca and South American tectonic plates, Chile is a highly seismically active territory, where earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis have repeatedly tested the resilience of urban systems. This has required rapid reconstruction and adaptive planning, processes in which, as an architect in Chile, I have been able to participate. The major earthquakes of 1960 and 2010, among many others, have revealed how contemporary urban systems can recover when local capacities, civic organisation and state support converge in coordinated action. From this perspective, the Chilean experience can offer valuable lessons in terms of strategies and public policies for urban resilience.

Beyond these environmental challenges, Chile has also experienced profound social shocks. The civil-military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (1973–1990) and the more recent “Estallido Social” (social outburst) of 2019 generated and exposed severe traumas in society, while simultaneously demonstrating the capacity of citizens to seek solutions through democratic processes. Whether through the national plebiscite that restored democracy in 1988 or the constitutional reform initiatives that emerged in response to the recent uprisings, these episodes highlight the role of social cohesion and participatory governance as mechanisms of vital importance in society, towards managing conflicts and negotiate better futures together.

In this context, my own professional experience has been closely related to the design of architectural spaces that enable community participatory organisation. In Chile, the Sede-Social, or -community hub- functions as a vital node of community life, providing a space for civic engagement, mutual support, and neighbourhood governance. I have observed that especially in contexts marked by resource scarcity and recurring natural disasters, where these facilities not only provide physical infrastructure, but also reinforce a sense of belonging and community resilience. They act as a ‘third force’ alongside the state and the private sector, balancing institutional deficiencies with community-based self-management.

These experiences influence this thesis in two ways: first, they emphasise the importance of understanding how architecture can act not only as a passive container, but also as a potential facilitator of community activation and collective

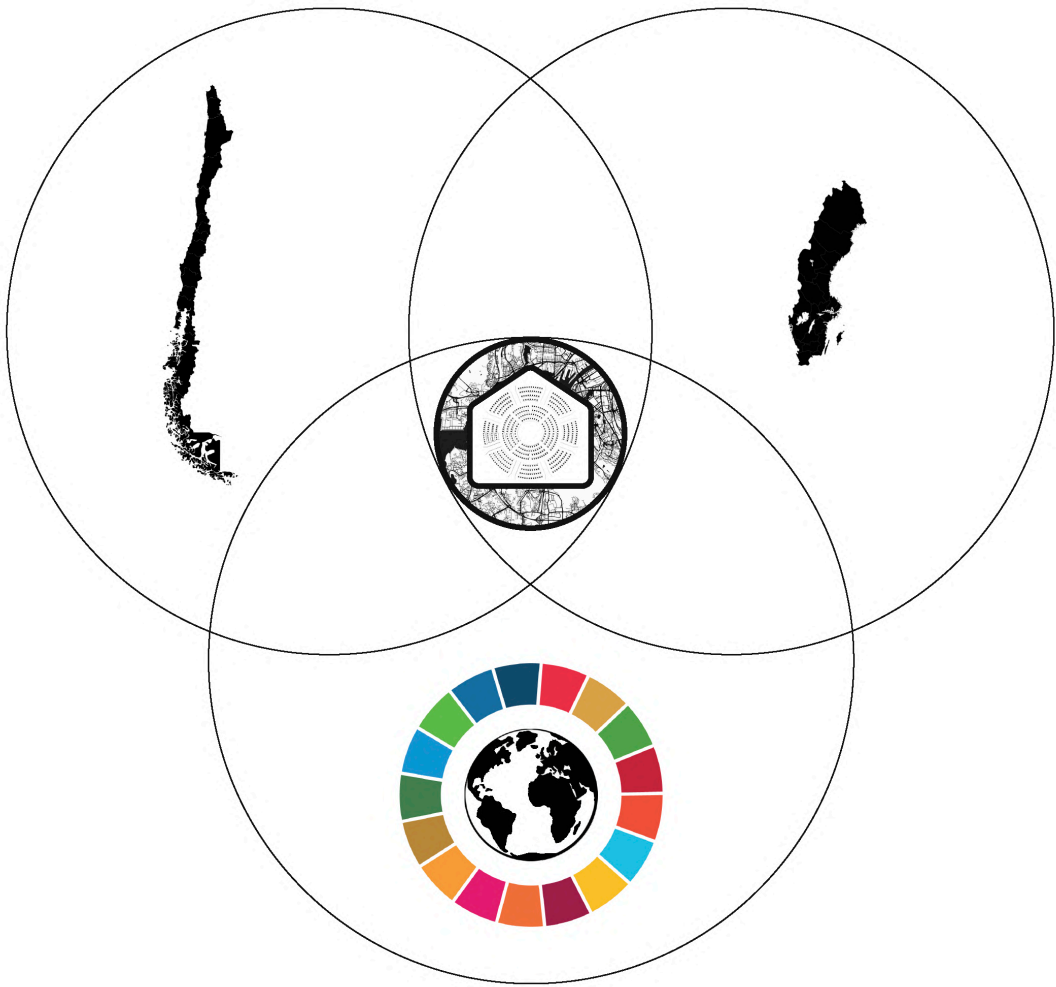


Figure 3

Figure 3.- Thesis background diagram.
(Authors own figure)

The development of this thesis lies at the intersection between the global crisis scenario and efforts to achieve sustainable development, the local Swedish setting, and the external Chilean experience.

agency. Secondly, they suggest that lessons learned in developing contexts -where cohesion and resilience are constantly tested- can provide valuable insights for more developed societies such as Sweden. In this setting, the thesis explores the contemporary relevance of community-hubs as systemic architectural responses to the presented urban challenges.

1.3.d.- Glossary relevant to the Thesis

Sustainable Development

Broadly defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (World Commission on Environment and Development [WCED], 1987, p. 24). This thesis sets sustainable development as a future to be achieved, in which social cohesion and urban resilience are key elements of it, and in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2015). This will be developed in greater depth in section “1.6.- Relevance for Sustainable Development”.

Social Cohesion

This thesis draws on two complementary definitions of social cohesion: one proposed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), relevant because both Sweden and Chile are member states, and another developed by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), which is relevant due to its universal approach to the definition.

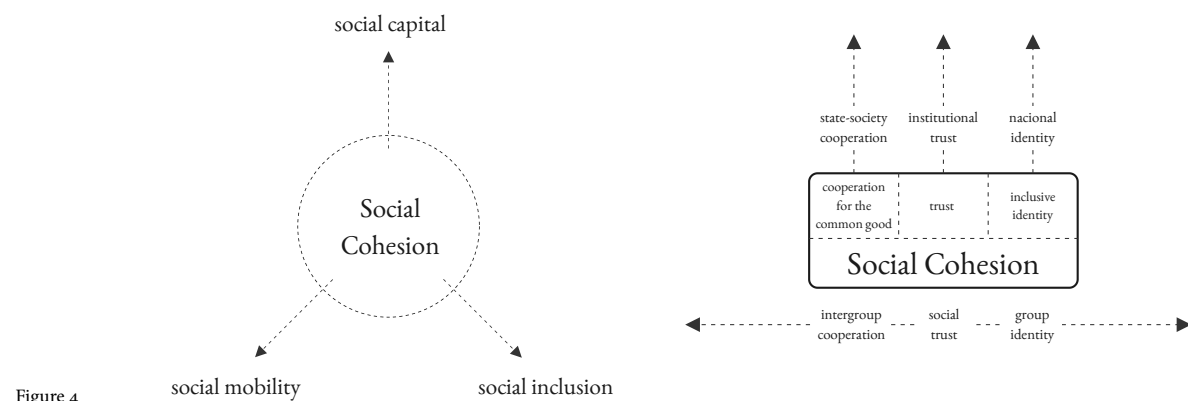


Figure 4

According to the OECD report Perspectives on Global Development 2012: Social Cohesion in a Shifting World, a cohesive society is “one where citizens feel they can trust their neighbours and state institutions; one where individuals can seize opportunities for improving their own well-being and the well-being of their children” (OECD, 2011, p. 15). The report further describes a cohesive society as one that “works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility” (OECD, 2011, p. 17). These goals are organised around three key dimensions (fig. 4):

Social inclusion: participation of all members of society in economic, political, and social life, regardless of background, income, or ethnicity.

Social capital: trust (interpersonal and in institutions) in networks, norms, and sense of belonging

Social mobility: the ability of individuals to improve their socio-economic position through equal opportunities (education, employment, policies).

On the other hand, Leininger et al. (2021) develops a definition based on the literature analysis of Chan et al. (2006), conceptualising the issue as: “Social cohesion refers to the vertical and horizontal relations among members of society and the state that hold society together. Social cohesion is characterised by a set of attitudes and behavioural manifestations that includes trust, an inclusive identity and cooperation for the common good” (Leininger et al., 2021, p. 3). This definition is particularly relevant, as it incorporates two interrelated dimensions of social cohesion: a horizontal dimension, which is the relationship between individuals/community within a society, and a vertical dimension, which is the relationship between individuals/community and the state/other public institutions (fig. 5).

Together, these definitions emphasise that social cohesion is the glue that holds a society together around trust, inclusion, cooperation, identity and social mobility. These conditions together will be considered for the upcoming analysis in this thesis.

Urban Resilience

Given that this is a widely discussed concept, this thesis adopts specifically the approach provided by UN-Habitat in its Guide to the City Resilience Profiling Tool, which states “UN-Habitat’s understanding of a resilient city is one that is able to absorb, adapt, and recover from the shocks and stresses that are likely to happen, transforming itself in a positive way toward sustainability” (UN-Habitat, 2021, p. 12). To achieve this, the guide recognises the relevant role of climate action, declaring “Urban Resilience becomes a hub between the areas of Risk Reduction and Sustainability, and also a link between Humanitarian and Development activity, articulating Climate Action”(UN-Habitat, 2021, p. 12).

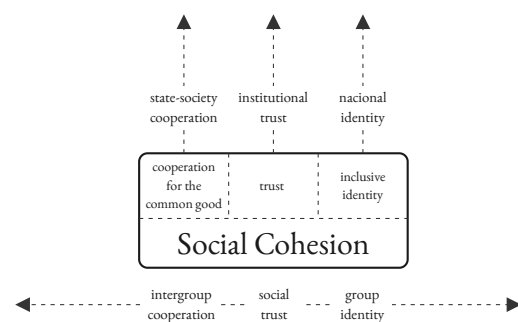


Figure 5

Figure 4.- Graphic reinterpretation of Components of social cohesion according to OECD (2011).

Figure 5.- Graphic reinterpretation of Constitutive elements of social cohesion according to Leininger et al. (2021)

*1 “Fostering a culture of participation: A shift from ad hoc participation processes to a culture of participation can be supported by embedding institutionalised participation mechanisms, multiplying opportunities for citizens to exercise their democratic “muscles” beyond participation, and protecting a vibrant civic space.” (OECD, 2022, p. 11)

On this matter, the report adds upon the need to empower and strengthen the capacities of local governments and the various stakeholders involved, among other matters, for the coordination and cooperation necessary to perform such climate action. Hence, a link is established between the social and governance dimensions with the climate action, and thus its contribution to urban resilience.

Participatory Governance

Following the theoretical basis of the previous definitions, Participatory Governance will be framed according to the approaches of UN Habitat and the OECD.

UN-Habitat addresses governance from an urban perspective as “the norms, values and rules of the game through which public affairs are managed in a manner that is transparent, participatory, inclusive and responsive” (UN-Habitat, n.d., para. 1). Governance also has a dimension related to power allocation and stakeholder involvement, described as “how power is distributed and shared, how policies are formulated, priorities set and stakeholders made accountable” (UN-Habitat, n.d., para. 1).

In turn, the OECD (2022) provides practical guidance through its Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes, outlining a series of key steps for designing and implementing participation initiatives. Particularly relevant to this thesis is the final step, Fostering a culture of participation (*1), which emphasises the creation of long-term civic strategies and institutional practices that enable sustained engagement beyond individual projects or consultations. It is within this long-term, systemic perspective on civic space that this thesis positions its understanding of participatory governance. It is worth mentioning that both this and much of the literature on the subject still use the concept of ‘citizen’ to refer to governance at the local level. However, as explained previously, this thesis detaches from this conceptualisation in order to address the diversity of residents in a territory, whether they are citizens, permanent residents or temporary residents of a community.

Community-Hub

The concept of community-hub is widely discussed in the literature and spans various models and built examples from all around the world. In line with the framing of the concept by an UN Habitat approach, its Compendium of Promising Practices defines a community-hub as a “public spaces that bring together community agencies and neighbourhood groups to offer a range of activities, programs and services”(UN-Habitat Youth, n.d.).

Building on this perspective, and drawing on the analysis and case studies that will be developed in later sections, this thesis defines the community-hub more broadly as a locally-situated, multifunctional public facility that integrates civic, social, and service-oriented functions. As shown in fig. 6, it is suggested that these spaces embody social cohesion and urban resilience, enhanced by participatory governance, in accordance with the definitions previously discussed. They operate at the intersection of civic engagement, social support, and local development, acting as instruments for sustainable urban planning. Finally, this definition is a starting point, through which the analysis to be developed hereafter can be framed.

Figure 6.- Equation diagram to define the theoretical concept of community hub. (Authors own figure)

The diagram summarise the relevant concepts to consider, drawn from the definitions visited in terms of social cohesion, urban resilience, and participatory governance, to more specifically define the attributes of the “community hub.”

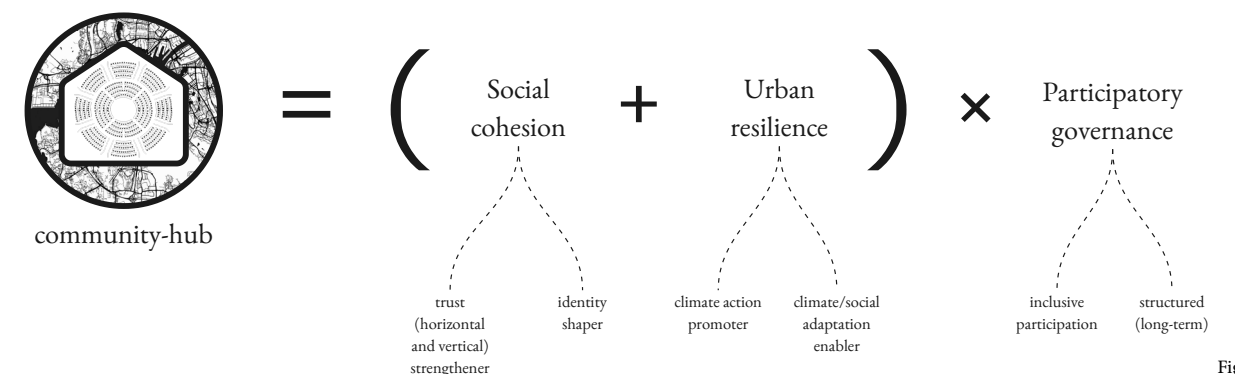


Figure 6

1.4.- Method

This thesis adopts a “research through design” as the main methodology, in which the design process is used as both an analytical tool and a generator of new knowledge. It is structured through four interconnected stages (fig. 7) that progressively move from a contextual research, an analytical synthesis, a landing into an application, which guides finally into a subsequent reflection and knowledge generation. This structure aligns with the stated research questions in order to fulfill the aim of the thesis.

It is also worth mentioning that although, according to Frayling’s (1993) notion of research and design, this thesis could also be associated with the type “research into design” (when informing the historical and international investigations of community-hubs in Sweden and Chile during the first stage), and also the type “research for design”, (since one its outcomes is a design framework during the second stage); the overall process described below justifies placing it mainly within the type “research through design”.

The analytical process for each section will be framed within Cristian Fernández Cox’s Theory of the Architecture Project in an Organic/Systemic Logic (Fernández, 2011), which is described in depth in section 1.4.-. Throughout the thesis, each stage begins with an opening segment that provides further information on specific parameters and how the theory will be applied methodologically across the section. Furthermore, the general methodological structure that guides the four stages is explained as follows.

Figure 7.- Thesis method diagram - 4 stages.
(Authors own figure)

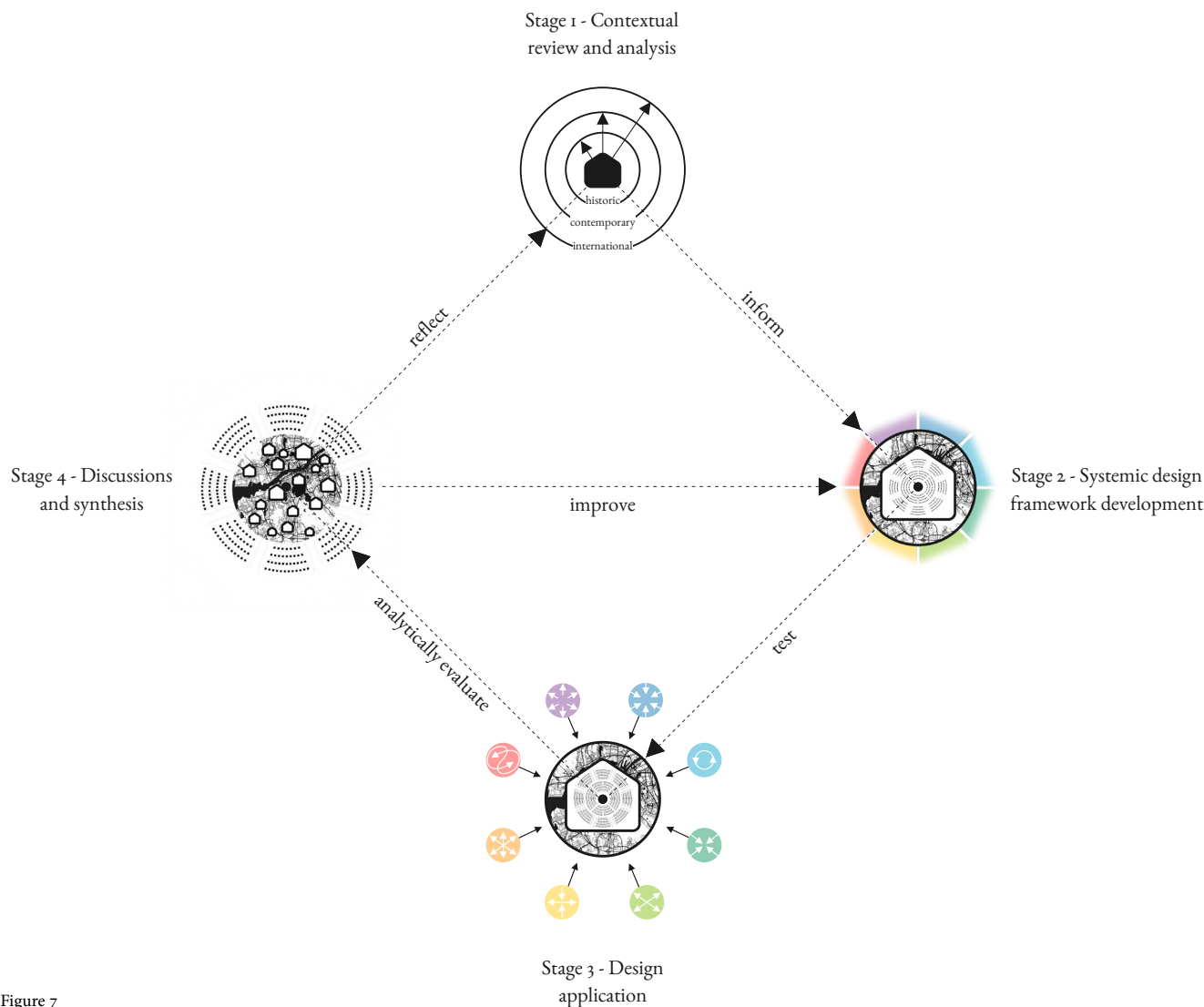


Figure 7

1.4.a.- The 4-stage methodological process

Stage 1 – Contextual review and analysis

Approached from the community-hub as a context to explore, this first stage sets the empirical basis of the thesis through a dual exploration of both historical and contemporary built references.

In terms of historical analysis, the Swedish tradition of community-oriented spaces is examined (such as Folkets Hus, Ordenhus, and Frikyrkor) through literature review and archival sources. This seeks to understand and identify participation and spatial patterns relevant to community-hubs from a historical point of view.

Then, as for contemporary references, case studies in Sweden and Chile are analysed using academic literature, policy reports, and study visits (in contemporary Swedish cases). The parameters for case selection will be explained in greater detail at the beginning of the chapter (2.1.- Criteria for case selection), as well as the lens through which the cases will be analysed (2.2.- Theory of the project in systemic logic applied to community-hub analysis). All this analysis as a whole is intended to inform the development of the next stage.

Stage 2 – Framework Development

Insights from Stage 1, combined with theoretical literature on community-hubs are transferred and synthesised into a systemic set of design principles. These principles address the three interrelated systems of the studied theory, which are:

- The operative, which enables and structures participatory governance related to a community-hub.
- The urban, which strategically positions it the community-hub within the urban network and local context.
- The building, which is the spatial manifestation of the community-hub, through specific subsystem then leading to the specific architectural project.

This work is organised graphically in a conceptual diagram of a systemic design framework, which will subsequently be positioned from the perspective of community-hub’s design towards social cohesion and urban resilience, as set out in the thesis sub-questions.

Stage 3 – Design Application

The proposed framework is tested through a site-specific design proposal for a community-hub in Tynnered, Gothenburg. This implementation serves as an conceptual design exercise of the framework’s applicability in a contemporary Swedish context. The context is analyzed from the perspective of urban planning instruments (“Programme for Tynnered”), in order to then generate a conceptual and illustrative architectural design proposal, based on each principle

To further reinforce the inspirational nature of the proposal (in line with the thesis sub-questions), the design was developed using freehand drawing as the main tool, partially drawn on site. This served to observe and capture the essence of the place, as an architectural exercise.

Stage 4 – Discussions and Synthesis

Finally, the outcomes of the design application is critically evaluated to identify strengths, limitations, and potential refinements of the framework. This reflexive stage informs the thesis discussion, future developments and conclusion, contributing to a broadening of the debate on how systemic design approaches can foster social cohesion and urban resilience.

In addition to those already described tools that accompany this 4-stage methodological process (literature review, case analysis from three systems perspectives, field visits, and freehand project design), it is also consider the use of AI, specifically as a collaborative tool for translation and editing texts in the English language.

1.5.- Theory

1.5.a.- Theoretical Foundations

Given that this thesis aims to develop a “systemic” design framework for community-hubs, it is consistent to ground the research in a theory that explicitly embraces systemic thinking from an architectural perspective. Therefore, the work is based primarily on the theoretical contributions of Chilean architect Cristián Fernández Cox, particularly those presented in his publication *Bienestancia: Breve teoría del proyecto de arquitectura en lógica orgánica/sistémica* [Well-being, brief theory of the architecture project in an organic/systemic logic] (Fernández, 2011). His proposal provides an architectural thinking that considers the design process not as a linear addition of decisions, but as the interaction of multiple interdependent systems.

Fernández’s approach unfolds upon the theoretical work of François Jacob in *The Logic of Life: A History of Heredity* (1970), by adopting a mind-set that understands reality through the inclusiveness and dynamics of partially open systems. He also draws from Chilean professor Oscar Johansen Bertoglio, with his *Introducción a la Teoría General de Sistemas* [Introduction to General Systems Theory] (1982), from which Fernández introduces General Systems Theory concepts into the process of designing architecture. Fernández establishes his theory based on the conceptualization of principles (*2), rather than procedures, from which he elaborates that an architectural project works as a constellation of systems: systems that interact, relate and influence each other (Fernández, 2011). This relationship between the systems that influence an architectural project, he develops them as follows:

Over-systems: Those who operate beyond the project itself, however, they are relevant in that they can greatly influence during the realisation and the long-lasting lifetime of the architectural project. These over-systems may be, for example, territorial, cultural, normative, among others.

Context-system: Among the possible over-systems, Fernández (2011) elaborates further on the territorial one (referring to it as context), considering this over-system to be inherent to the practice of architecture. The context, whether urban or rural, is the external space where the project is located, and depending on the scale, it influences the design.

*2 complementary reflection on the concept of ‘principles’.

Cristian Fernández Cox addresses this issue so that when drawing on his theory, one does not fall into, for example, the manualistic error. The manualistic error consists of interpreting manuals procedures or formal strategies, as theories. That is why he refers to the concept of ‘principles’ according to the definition of the Royal Spanish Academy, as the ‘first propositions or fundamental statements from which the study of science or the arts begins’ (p. 74). This is to distance this concept, which is inherently linked to theory, from what could be mere collections of formal configurations or styles. And in this sense, principles are starting points for thought, analysis and development, not guidelines.

*3 complementary definition of the sub-systems of the building system, according to Fernández (2011):

Technique: Defined as the set of means for the concrete existence of the form. These means cooperate in its determination, ranging from the material elements of construction, to the construction systems (process) through which it is carried out.

Use: It corresponds to the transformation of human needs expressed in rational and spatial terms. This transformation, by making it functional for the user intended to inhabit the building, adds value to its purpose, contributing to the development of form through its utilization.

Meaning: It also corresponds to human needs, but these are not entirely rationalisable as in the use subsystem. In this sense, these are meta-rational needs, which do not contradict rationality, but rather transcend it, since they belong to the realm of sensitivity, meaning, and feeling.

Form: It is the act of transforming the elements of the environment, determined by the other subsystems in the exercise of its formation. In this way, form is the shape that we ultimately design as architects, and inhabit as users.

*4 Fernández (2011) develops systemic integrity as the two-way causality between systems (over-systems, sub-systems), determined by their capacity to influence and be influenced by each other.

Building system: The architectural project (the designed and constructed building) as a system, influenced by four other sub-systems. The sub-systems are technique, use, meaning and form (*3).

Fernández (2011) explains the correlation and influence of these systems through “systemic integrity” (*4) on the architectural project using a flow-diagram (fig. 8). In it, he suggests an input–output scheme, where the input is the mandate (programmatic requirements and objectives of a project), and the output is the architectural project itself.

1.5.b.- Adaptation of the theory to the research method.

In relating the theory to the aim of this thesis, it is suggested that the concept of participatory governance should be treated as an over-system. Governance will then be worked on as the “operative system”, the immaterial one that influences the operation of the other two spatial dimensions; the territorial (urban context) and the spatial (building).

By doing so, it is possible to apply the flow diagram (fig. 8) proposed by the theory as a basis for the development of the systemic design framework. Following the theoretical elaboration proposed by Fernández, the other elements of the flow-diagram could be replaced to inform the systemic design framework. In that sense, as shown in Figure 9, the architectural commission or mandate could be declared as the need for community spaces for participatory governance. Spaces which in turn must strengthen social cohesion and urban resilience. This need will therefore be analysed, influenced and projected by the lens of each of the proposed systems, resulting in an architectural response. This response will be the test-design application: the illustrative re-envisioned community-hub for Tynnered.

Figure 8.- Diagram illustrating the theory of Fernández (2011). (Authors own figure)

Figure 9.- Diagram of the Fernandez (2011) Theory, applied to the aim of the Thesis. (Authors own figure)

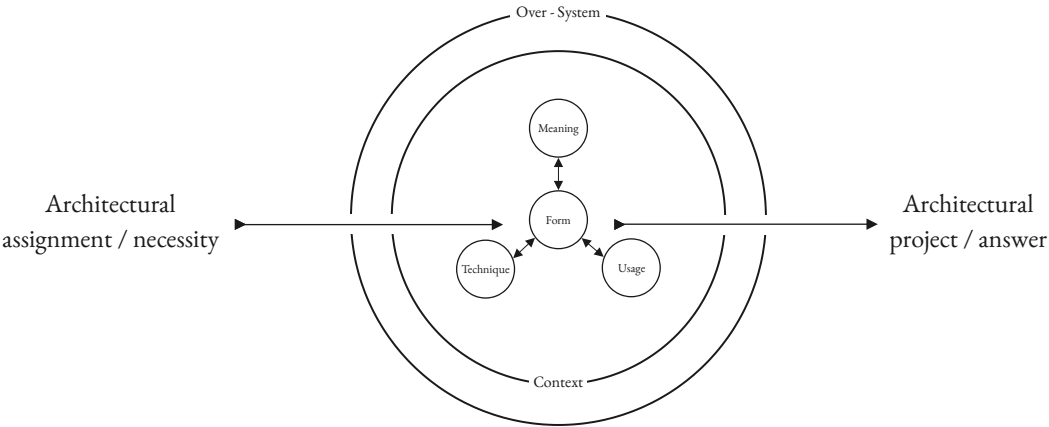


Figure 8

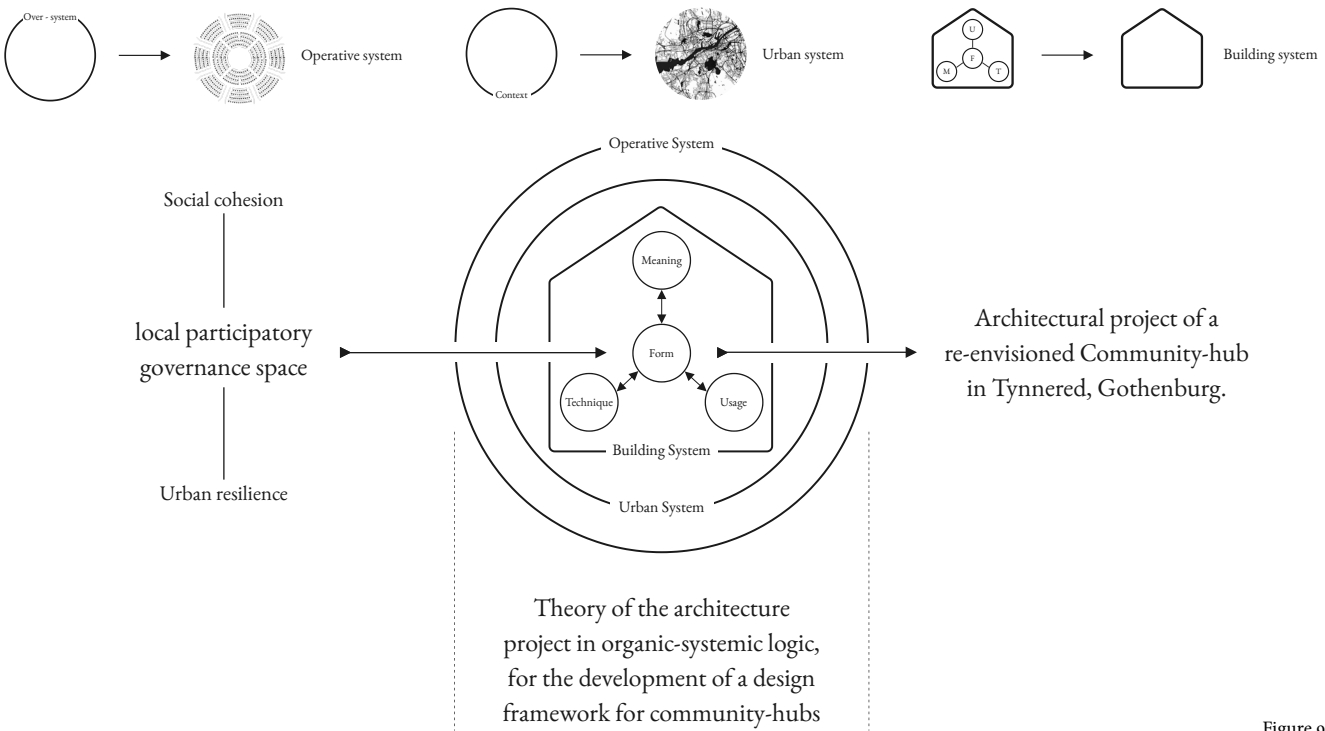


Figure 9

1.6.- Delimitations

This thesis establishes a series of boundaries to ensure precision in the methodological approach; these strategic choices frame the scope of the study in line with the aim and research questions, within the timeframe of a master’s thesis. By doing so, the research maintains depth in its analysis of community-hubs, while remaining feasible in terms of available resources, design exploration and further critical reflections. These delimitations are organised according to the corresponding areas they impact; these areas seek to define the what, when, how, and where of the work, and are described respectively below.

1.6.a.- Conceptual and Thematic Focus

The research is thematically centred on the community-hub as a multi-functional public space that supports participatory governance, social cohesion, and urban resilience. This thematic frame is approached and researched around three interrelated scales of analysis:

- The operative system that enables participatory governance.
- The urban system, related to where the community-hub is planned to be located.
- The building system of the community-hub architecture project itself.

In this sense, this thematic focus is structurally based on only one theory (developed in section 1.5.-). Other theoretical approaches discussed are secondary and serve to inform the execution of the aim of this thesis in their respective domains.

Conceptually, the implementation testing leaves technical specifications out of the scope, remaining its approach at a conceptual stage. Therefore topics such as detailed structural engineering, cost analysis, construction documentation, or quantitative measurement in terms of social cohesion and/or environmental resilience, are acknowledged as important but fall beyond the present investigation.

Similarly, urban infrastructure networks (transport system, road network, energy supply, etc.) are only analysed insofar as they influence the functioning of the conceptual community-hub proposal, and are studied on the basis of municipal plans and public policies that are available to the public through the channels of the City of Gothenburg at the date of this publication.

1.6.b.- Methodological Parameters

The thesis adopts a “research through design” approach, supported by elements of research “into” and “for” design. In that sense, the methodological tools are limited to literature review, built references analysis, and design experimentation; no large-scale field surveys or extensive community surveys are conducted. Likewise, only one design iteration will be presented. Although more design iterations were carried out, these were not considered necessary to be presented.

It is also important to note that during the first methodological stage of reviewing examples of built community-hubs, it was decided to examine only historical Swedish experiences, and not Chilean ones. The reason for this is that this historical review seeks to understand the tradition of participation and social cohesion related to community venues in the cultural context where the application will be implemented. For this reason, in the case of Chilean references, it is not relevant to review historical cases, as it is in the Swedish context where the application will be conducted.

1.6.c.- Geographical Setting

The main geographical focus is Sweden, with particular focus on the city of Gothenburg and, more specifically, the district of Tynnered, where the design

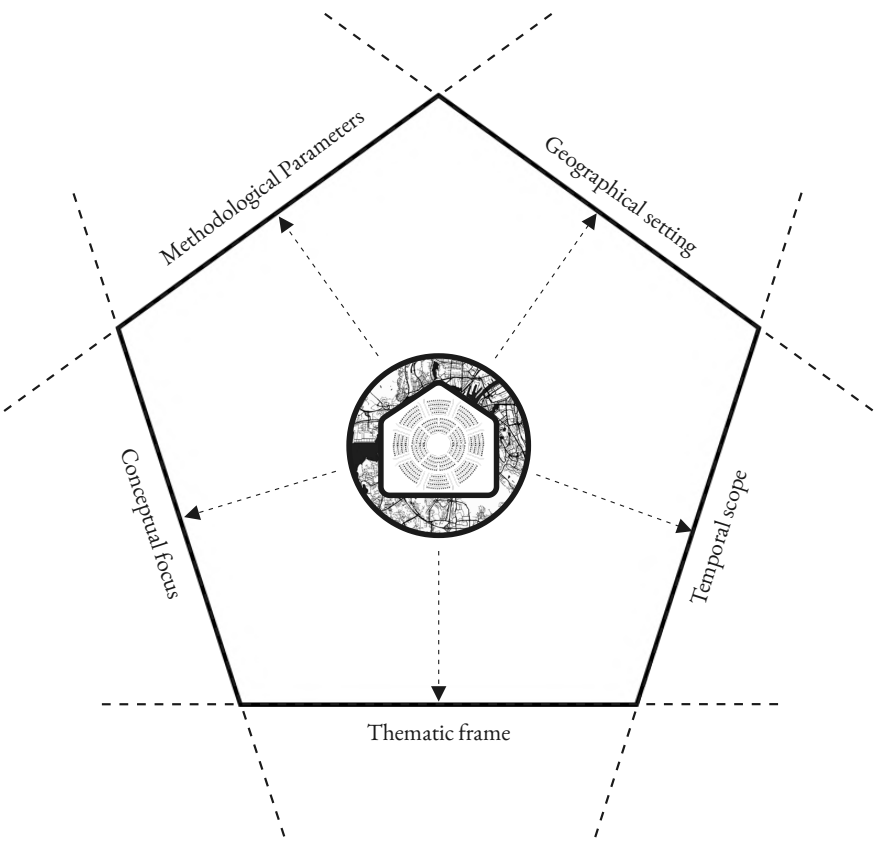


Figure 10

Figure 10.- Thesis delimitations Diagram.
(Authors own figure)

application is located. Sweden has been selected due to its advanced climate adaptation policies and emerging social challenges, which provide a relevant context for testing the proposed framework. It is also the context in which this thesis work is being carried out, enabling the possibility of generating virtuous dialogues where this material can serve as input or inspiration for local authorities.

As a secondary and comparative geographical context, the thesis also examines Chile, based on Chilean references of built community-hubs and their respective regulatory structures. These Chilean cases serve as analytical inspiration and seek to enrich internationally the conceptual understanding of the research. In this way, facilitating an expansion of the research to a more global perspective, in case a future continuation of the research allows it.

1.6.d.- Temporal Scope

The analysis is set in the contemporary period (2025), incorporating recent urban development policies, climate adaptation strategies and social dynamics in Sweden. Historical references, such as the evolution of Swedish community spaces, are approached as precedents that could inform current design principles, but not subjects for exhaustive historical quantitative research. Accordingly, the systemic design framework is conceived as a proposal for current and near-future application; however, the scope does not extend to monitoring long-term implementation or post-occupancy evaluation.

1.7.- Relevance for Sustainable Development

1.7.a.- Relevance to Global Agendas

This thesis is based on the vision of sustainable development outlined by the United Nations, in their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations, 2015). From this, when carrying out the aim of this thesis, it is contributing in different ways to five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), described below:

SDG 13 (Climate Action): Goal that seeks to combat climate change through integrated actions, with an emphasis on resilience and cross-sector initiatives (United Nations, 2015). Where this thesis is based on the development of social infrastructure (community-hubs) that are positioned in the cross-sectoral approach towards resilience and climate action.

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Goal that focuses, among a wider spectrum, on making cities and the built environment as a whole inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (United Nations, 2015). Directly related to the aim and discussions of this thesis, using the community-hub as a tool to achieve this.

SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions): This objective among other aspects, aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies by promoting effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (United Nations, 2015). The development of this thesis relates to this goal by working with the community-hub as a space that encourages civic participation (from the community) in encounter with institutional participation (from the governance structure).

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): This goal highlights the need for collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals to achieve the other 16 goals (United Nations, 2015). In this regard, the relationship to this thesis lies on the operative system analysis of thesis project, from its mediating role between the community level and the institutional level, as well as its involvement with other sectors, such as the private and educational ones, for example.

These goals span three of the four dimensions of sustainable development identified by the Stockholm Resilience Center's "wedding cake" model: biosphere, society and cross-cutting partnerships (fig. 11). In this model, goals related to the biosphere (e.g., SDG 13) form the foundation on which social goals (e.g., SDGs 11 and 16) are built, while SDG 17 provides the connective "glue" that enables collaboration across levels.

Figure 11.- Adapted from the Stockholm Resilience Center's "wedding cake" model. Image Credit: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University CC BY-ND 3.0.

The adaptation highlights the cross-sectoral nature of the four goals related to the thesis, as they are linked to different dimensions of the Stockholm Resilience Center's "wedding cake" model.

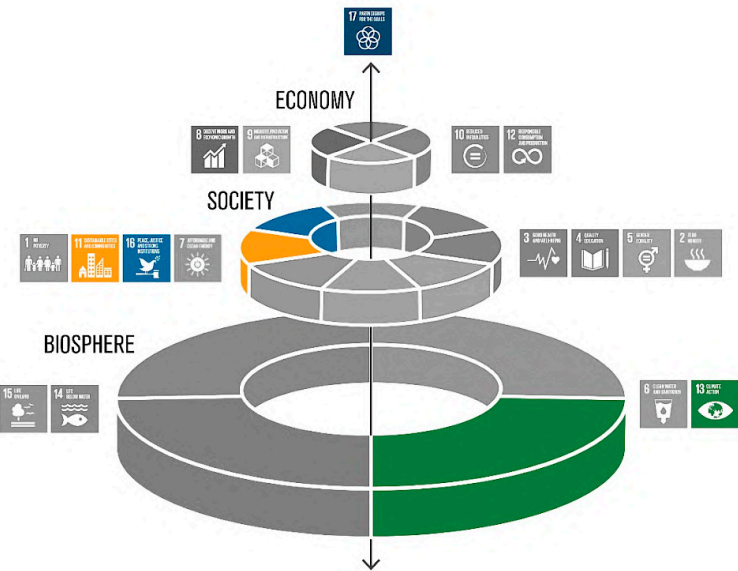


Figure 11

*5 Below is the transcript of the definition regarding each of the three pillars of the Översiktsplan, according to the city of Gothenburg:

Nearby city: "In Gothenburg, everything you need and want to do in everyday life should be close by. Like shopping for food, visiting the health center, having a coffee or exercising with friends. It should be so close that you can walk or cycle easily. Then we need to allow the inner city to expand and grow across the river. At the same time, it provides the opportunity for a more varied selection in more places in the city. This also includes more parks, green areas and public meeting places. Not least, children and young people should have safe places where they can hang out." (Göteborgs Stad, n.d., "En nära stad", para. 8)

A cohesive city: "In a cohesive city, there are opportunities for people of different backgrounds and ages to meet across district boundaries. It is important to counteract the barriers that may arise. Physical, mental and social. We must have an infrastructure with a well-functioning network of public transport, streets, pedestrian and cycle paths that makes the city more cohesive. Other important pieces of the puzzle are a greater variety of housing and housing types in more places. To preserve important meeting places and make them more easily accessible." (Göteborgs Stad, n.d., "En sammanhållen stad", para. 9)

A robust city: "Gothenburg will stand strong for at least another 400 years. In a future with climate challenges and crises, it is important to consider both resilience and flexibility in urban planning. We must contribute to limiting climate change, for example through sustainable management of natural resources and taking care of what has already been built. You as a resident should also feel the opportunity to influence the city's development. The same applies to business, traders, entrepreneurs and the cultural sector. Our city has its own soul that we will continue to build on – together." (Göteborgs Stad, n.d., "En robust stad", para. 10)

Figure 12.- Adapted from Göteborgs Stad (2022), "Översiktsplan för Göteborg"

Black-lines circle highlight the urban "centre of gravity" on which the proposal is based.

In this sense, this thesis, by developing a framework to design the spaces where urban resilience and social cohesion can interact with participatory governance, proposes a comprehensive way to approach sustainable development within built environments. Furthermore, its systemic approach, incorporating the operative system throughout the entire scope of analysis, aligns closely with the visited "wedding cake" structure, emphasizing the importance of considering Goal 17, "Partnership for the Goals," as a distinctive addition of this work.

1.7.b.- Local Relevance: Gothenburg and Sweden

At the local scale, the thesis engages directly with the Översiktsplan för Göteborg (Comprehensive Plan for Gothenburg), particularly its three key pillars: en nära stad (a nearby city), en sammanhållen stad (a cohesive city), en robust stad (a robust city) (*5).

As for the nearby city, the community-hub project is fully consistent with the promotion of public meeting spaces. Even more so when this pillar highlights the importance of providing these spaces for young people, as they are one of the target audiences that a re-envisioned community-hub could appeal to.

As for the cohesive city, this pillar highlights the need to break down barriers, both physical and social (Göteborgs Stad, n.d.). In this regard, promoting a meeting place of participatory governance nature, such as the re-envisioned community-hub, would link through governance structures, different social groups members of a community, which would in turn make a direct contribution to this pillar towards sustainable development in Gothenburg.

Finally, with regard to the robust city, this pillar emphasises resilience and flexibility in urban planning to cope with climate impacts and crisis situations. Furthermore, it highlights the need for citizens to have the opportunity to influence the sustainable development of their urban environments (Göteborgs Stad, n.d.). These points directly address the core of this research, as it is argued here that promoting participatory governance provides citizens with the necessary structures to precisely influence the development of their built environments.

In this way, the development of this thesis is anchored in the vision and planning towards sustainable development of its local context; Gothenburg, Sweden. Additionally, in section 4.1.-, during the application of the systemic design framework, this issue is revisited in greater depth, analysing this Översiktsplan för Göteborg directly within the local plans for Tynnered.

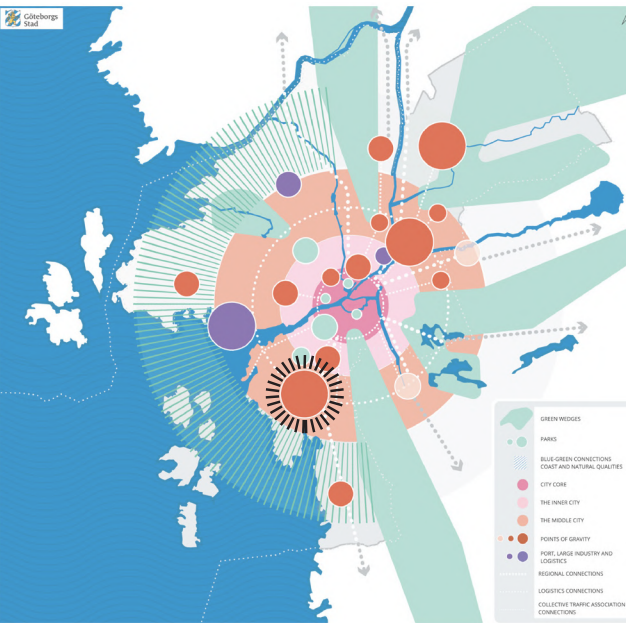
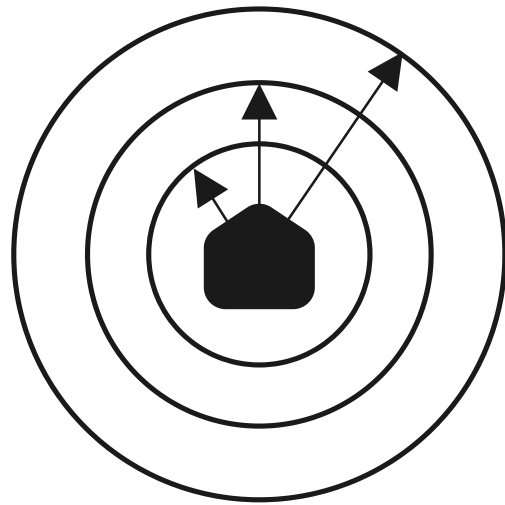


Figure 12



2.0.- Contextual review and analysis

This second section explores the community-hub as a context.

It begins by delving into the criteria for case selection and providing a brief presentation of each case (2.1.-). Subsequently, it is explained how these cases will be analysed from the stated theory perspective (2.2.-), to then move on to the analysis of historic cases (2.3.-), contemporary Swedish cases (2.4.-) and contemporary Chilean cases (2.5.-), respectively.

Finally, an analytical synthesis is developed (2.6.-), comparing the three groups of cases, organising the lessons learned from the analysis process.

2.1.- Criteria for case selection

The cases selected for this chapter are organized into three groups: Swedish historical experiences, Swedish contemporary experiences, and international contemporary experiences. Each group responds to specific criteria of selection, that ensure relevance to the research aim, and also help to answer the thesis questions posed. The following subsections present the number of cases selected, the criteria applied, and the rationale for their inclusion in the study.

2.1.a.- Parameters for each approach

The Swedish historical experience

For the historical review, three cases have been selected in order to allow for an in-depth analysis while maintaining a manageable scope. They corresponds to highly influential social movements in modern Swedish urban history and society: Folkets Hus, Ordenhus, and Frikyrkor (Almqvist et al., 1976).

The selection criterion privileges buildings that were architecturally designed as possible replicable prototypes (in the specific case of Folketshus and Ordenhus), since this quality presupposes a project design process, based on specific requirements, needs, and objectives (related to the aim of the thesis, which is framed within the development of a systemic design framework). In the case of the Frikyrkor, a work by architect Olof Johansson was chosen. Based on his development of various local-scale Frikyrkor, where he managed to establish a recognisable type of construction with similar architectural characteristics (Almqvist et al., 1976).

This criterion is also relevant as it allows for the availability of architectural documentation, especially original plans and drawings. Many historic community buildings in Sweden were the product of local self-management and informal or collaborative construction processes, which means that planimetric material is scarce (Almqvist et al., 1976). By focusing on documented cases, this thesis ensures a more rigorous architectural analysis. Additionally, large-scale or iconic Folkets Hus buildings in major cities were deliberately excluded, as their centralised and metropolitan character deviates from the neighbourhood scale that is consistent to the framework proposed here.

Swedish contemporary experience

For the contemporary Swedish context, three cases have been selected, to allows once again for deeper analysis while providing a broader geographical perspective, including Gothenburg and at least one additional city. Examples with different operative systems were also sought. In this way, the group of cases can offer diversity on how community-hubs can function as strengtheners of social cohesion, urban resilience and participatory governance concepts within the contemporary Swedish urban environment.

The international contemporary experience

For the international comparative perspective, three cases have been selected as well; all being contemporary examples of community-hubs in Chile. The choice of Chile as a comparative territory is justified in the introductory section of this thesis and later stated in the research sub-questions that guided this contextual review process.

The selection criterion focused on buildings constructed or rehabilitated as part of a public policy programme linked to social cohesion urban resilience: the “Quiero Mi Barrio” programme (PQMB), of the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urbanism (Reglamento Programa de Recuperación de Barrios, 2007), which considers a plan to upgrade community-hubs, among many other initiatives.

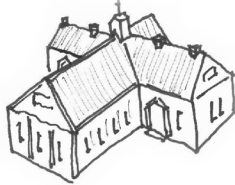
This selection also enables to observe the relationship of the community-hub with operative and normative structures, such as its relationship with government plans and policies, and the relation to its community spaces.

2.1.d.- Presentation of case studies

Based on the aforementioned parameters, the nine cases to be analysed are presented below:



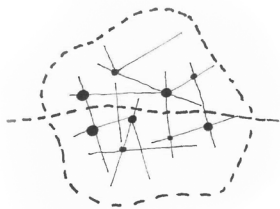
Folket hus (1915).-
Typographic proposal of Folkets Hus, by architect Sigfrid Ericsson, for 150 to 300 people. Drawings of this prototype were sent to various Folkets Hus associations, with the one in Vansbro being the only one built in 1918 (Almqvist et al., 1976).



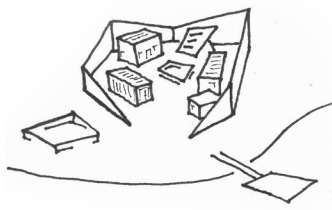
Ordenhus (1917).-
Proposal -type IV- for Ordenhus, is the result of an architectural competition organised by the Grand Lodge (storlogen). The building was never constructed, but it served as inspiration for venues constructed in subsequent years (Almqvist et al., 1976). The hall has a capacity for 400 people, with a Lodge room for 95 members.



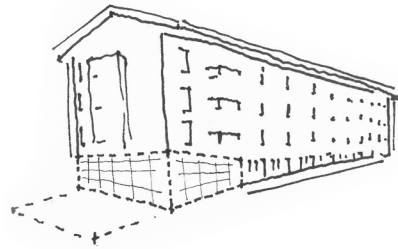
Frikyrka (1924)
Fågelsjö Chapel, built in 1924, designed by the architect Olof Johansson for the Ansgarie-förbundet i Hälsingland association. The building-design is based on the spaces proposed in an earlier standard model from 1903 designed by the same architect (Almqvist et al., 1976).



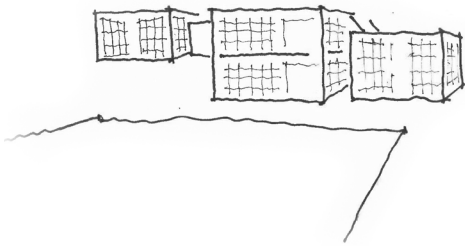
Vallastaden Felleshus.-
The Felleshus in Vallastaden, Linköping, Sweden, is a group of 10 community spaces spread across the district's 12 blocks, each one located on land owned by the municipality of Linköping, and managed by its respective community association (Vallastaden, n.d.). According to Vallastaden 2017 (n.d.) these gatherings spaces were designed focused on strengthening social ties among residents.



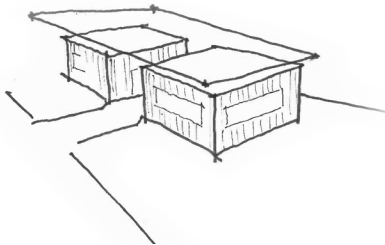
Omställningslabbet.-
Community space located in the Frihamnen area, driven by the City of Gothenburg in collaboration with private and community actors. Göteborgs Stad (n.d.) describes Omställningslabbet (the transition lab) as a physical prototype of the future and a meeting place, with a focus on sustainable transition.



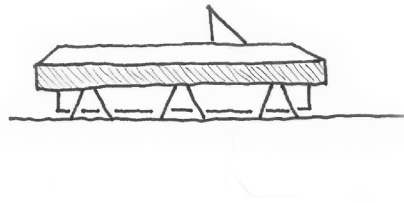
"Hubben i Tynnered" / Detination Tynnered.-
Community space located in the Tynnered area, south-west of Gothenburg. Located on the ground floor of a residential building, the space serves as a meeting place for community activities and listening, with the aim of influencing the needs of the district (Bostadsbolaget, 2022).



Sede-Social La Serena.-
Designed by 3arquitectos (Nelson Sepúlveda and Freddy Sepúlveda) on 2011. Community space located in La Serena, Chile. Building restored through the Quiero Mi Barrio Programme (PQMB), intended for community gatherings, with multifunctional features, and located on public land (Sepulveda & Sepulveda, 2015).



Sede-Social Lampa.-
Designed by DX Arquitectos on 2018, located in Lampa, Chile. Developed through the Quiero Mi Barrio programme (PQMB). A multipurpose meeting place for a vulnerable community, with access to sports and recreational facilities, designed with climatic considerations (sun exposure and ventilation), as well as landscaping (connection with the geography and public spaces). (DX Arquitectos, n.d.)



Sede-Social Mejillones.-
Designed by CAW Arquitectos (Rodrigo Werner Sánchez) on 2021, located in Mejillones, Chile. Developed through the Quiero Mi Barrio programme (PQMB). A multipurpose meeting place for a peripheral community, headquarters of the Neighbourhood Council, with environmental and symbolic considerations related to the desert climate of the area (Revista PLOT, n.d.).

2.2.- Theory of the project in systemic logic applied to community-hub analysis

This section explains the systemic logic of Fernández Cox's theory as the analytical structure guiding the study of community-hubs across the cases reviewed in Sections 2.3 to 2.5. The theory is applied as a multi-layered lens, enabling the assessment of each case through three interconnected systems: the operative system, the urban system, and the building system. The analysis angle for each of the systems discussed is described below:

Operative system analysis

The operative system analysis is directly related here to the concept of local participatory governance. The focus lies on identifying the stakeholders involved in the management/governance of both the building and the community, followed by an examination of the distribution of power and responsibilities among them. Exploring these relationships allows for the comparison of governance structures and strategies across different contexts (both historic and territorial). Furthermore, this analysis highlights how particular governance arrangements can either foster or constrain the other two key concepts of this thesis: social cohesion and urban resilience.

Urban system analysis

The urban system is examined at two complementary scales. At a macro-scale, the analysis observes the relationship of each community-hub to the wider urban territory. At a micro-scale, the study observes the community-hub's integration with its immediate surroundings, focusing on how the design and location of the infrastructure support interaction with its neighbourhood. Together, these perspectives could eventually inform in which ways the territorial perspective contributes to the promotion of social cohesion and urban resilience within local communities.

Building system analysis

The building system is assessed through the four sub-systems proposed by Fernández Cox's theory: technique, use, meaning and form. This approach facilitates a holistic architectural analysis of each community-hub, considering the process by which the project is constructed, how it is subsequently used, what does it mean for the community that occupies it, and how does all this affect the spatial dimension (form) of the architectural project. As with the operative and urban systems, this approach intends to propose relationships between the community-hub building with the guiding concepts of social cohesion and urban resilience.

Figure 13.- Descriptive diagram outlining the elements to be analysed for each system: operational, urban, and building. (Authors own figure)

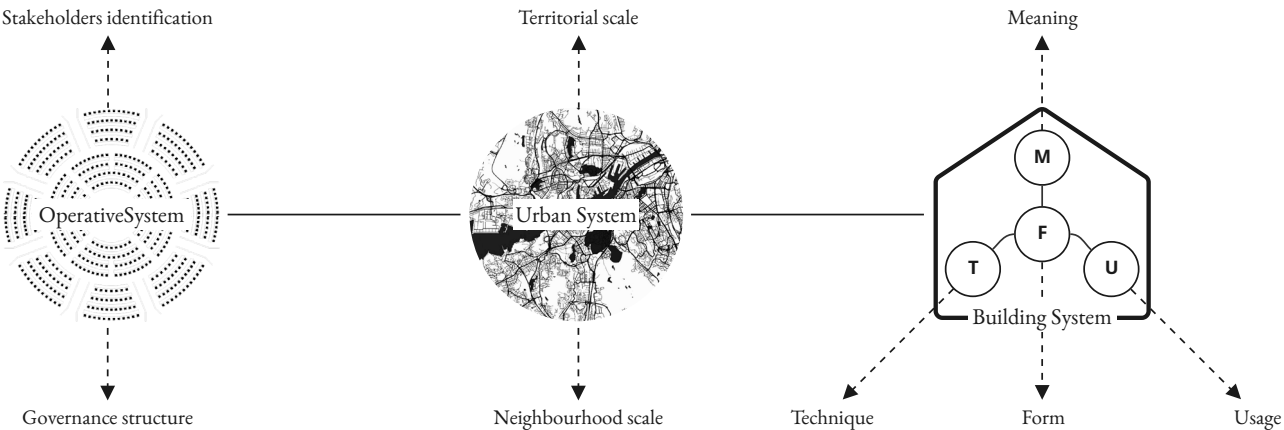


Figure 13

2.3.- Review of the Swedish historical approach

2.3.a.- Historical Context and Documentation

The primary source of information and architectural documentation for this section is the book Vad Folkets Byggde (What the People Built) by Torbjörn Almqvist, Hjärdís Johansson, and Lena Simonsson (Almqvist et al., 1976). This book provides an overview of social movements in Sweden, throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, from the perspective of their buildings, a factor that makes it particularly valuable for this contextual review.

In this sense, according to Almqvist et al. (1976), these three building types are closely intertwined with the social development of Sweden, emerging in the context of industrialization, urbanization, and struggles for religious freedom, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression. Each building type served as a physical manifestation of the social ideals promoted by the movements that created them. Despite the time and the transformations they have undergone, their cultural legacy endures, as they played a key role in mobilising and shaping Swedish culture (Almqvist et al., 1976).

2.3.b.- Operative system analysis of historic Swedish references

The central actors across all three building types were the citizens themselves, with venues designed to be open to the public, encouraging community participation in activities and social encounters (Almqvist et al., 1976). Then, depending on whether it was Folkets Hus, Ordenhus or Frikyrkor, their specific stakeholders and participation mechanisms varied as explained below:

Folkets Hus

Folkets Hus administrative stakeholders were the Folketshusrörelsen -People’s House Movement- and the Folkparksrörelsen -People’s Park Movement-, associations that grouped together the local organizations responsible for constructing, maintaining, and coordinating the network of Folkets Hus across Sweden (Almqvist et al., 1976). Initially funded and built through collective fundraising and volunteer labor, Folkets Hus provided infrastructure for political mobilization, cultural events, labor union democracy, among other uses (Kulturarv Stockholm, n.d.), highlighting the role of citizens as grassroots actors. From the upper sphere, the movement was closely associated with larger political actors such as the Sveriges Socialdemokratiska Arbetareparti -SAP- (Social Democratic Party) and Landsorganisationen -LO- (the national trade union confederation) (Almqvist et al., 1976), linking it also to upper spheres of influence.

Participation mechanisms included membership shares (andelar) in local associations (förening) which administered each Folkets Hus with a democratically elected board (styrelse), annual general meetings (årsmöte), and formal rules governing building usage, events, and finances (Almqvist et al., 1976). An internal democratic structure that, in terms of social culture, would encourage participation in the collective construction of identity (Agdalen, 2022), the latter (identity) being one of the pillars of social cohesion sought by this thesis

Ordenhus

Ordenhus, according to Almqvist et al. (1976), the community-stakeholder is the mobilised people in relation to temperance and fraternal orders, providing also mutual aid, including health support, family assistance, and social networking. In terms of their governance structure, they had in the upper spheres of influence the IOGT-NTO and Blåbandsrörelsen organisations (whose objectives were moral improvement, social stability and, primarily, to achieve a sober society), controlling general decision-making from a centralised body (Almqvist et al., 1976). In this regard, although participation mechanisms such as memberships and voluntary activities still existed, it could be suggested that the structure of the lodge is more hierarchical than in Folkets Hus for example.

Figure 14.- Conceptual diagram of participatory structures linked to Folkets Hus, Ordenhus and Frikyrkor. (Authors own figure)

Folkets Hus: The infrastructure (central symbol) connects bottom-up powers (individuals and organised groups in Förening) with top-down powers (Socialdemokratiska Arbetareparti and Landsorganisationen, with their respective Folketshusrörelsen and Folkparksrörelsen). The closed outer circle represents the ideological link to the labour movement and its respective political parties, which could suggest a barrier to inclusivity.

Ordenhus: The infrastructure (central symbol) connects bottom-up powers (individuals and local lodge members) with top-down powers (upper organisation as Sveriges nykterhetsorganisation and Blåbandsrörelsen). The closed outer circle represents the commitment to the ideals of the specific lodge, which could suggest a barrier to inclusivity.

Frikyrkor: The infrastructure (central symbol) connects bottom-up powers (individuals, the parish minister and the organised församlingar) with top-down powers (upper organisation as Baptistsamfundet, Evangeliska Fosterlandsstiftelsen, among others). The closed outer circle represents the commitment to the religious concepts of the specific frikyrka, which could suggest a barrier to inclusivity.

Frikyrkor

Key stakeholders included by Almqvist et al. (1976) were the Baptistsamfundet, Evangeliska Fosterlandsstiftelsen, Metodistkyrkan, Pingströrelsen, Svenska Alliansmissionen, Svenska Missionsförbundet, and Frälsningsarmén. Emerging in response to the Lutheran State Church monopoly, these movements promoted popular religious awakenings (väckelserörelsen) during the 19th century (Almqvist et al., 1976). In terms of their governance structure, congregations (församlingar) functioned as autonomous entities with elected leadership and regular meetings (församlingsmöten), where members discussed budgets, mission activities, and building maintenance, and with the parish minister also interacting in a role of symbolichierarchy (Almqvist et al., 1976). In this regard, reflecting on in participation mechanisms, such as community service, voluntary contributions (including tithes -kollekt-), and property ownership of their churches, could reinforce empowerment and sense of belonging among members.

Reflecting on the operating system of these three cases presented, common patterns can be seen. All these social infrastructures had clear mechanisms for participation but not entirely inclusive (it required sharing the vision promoted by the movement), with specific internal governance structures. In some cases, they strongly promoted democratic practice (as in the case of the Folkets Hus). This structure and democratic promotion specifically positions the Folkets Hus movement, according to Agdalen (2023), ‘as an actor in Swedish civil society, contributing to social capital and democracy’ (p. 52), which again links the operative system of this type of social infrastructure to the concept of social cohesion. These three structures and their main actors are conceptually illustrated in Figure 14.

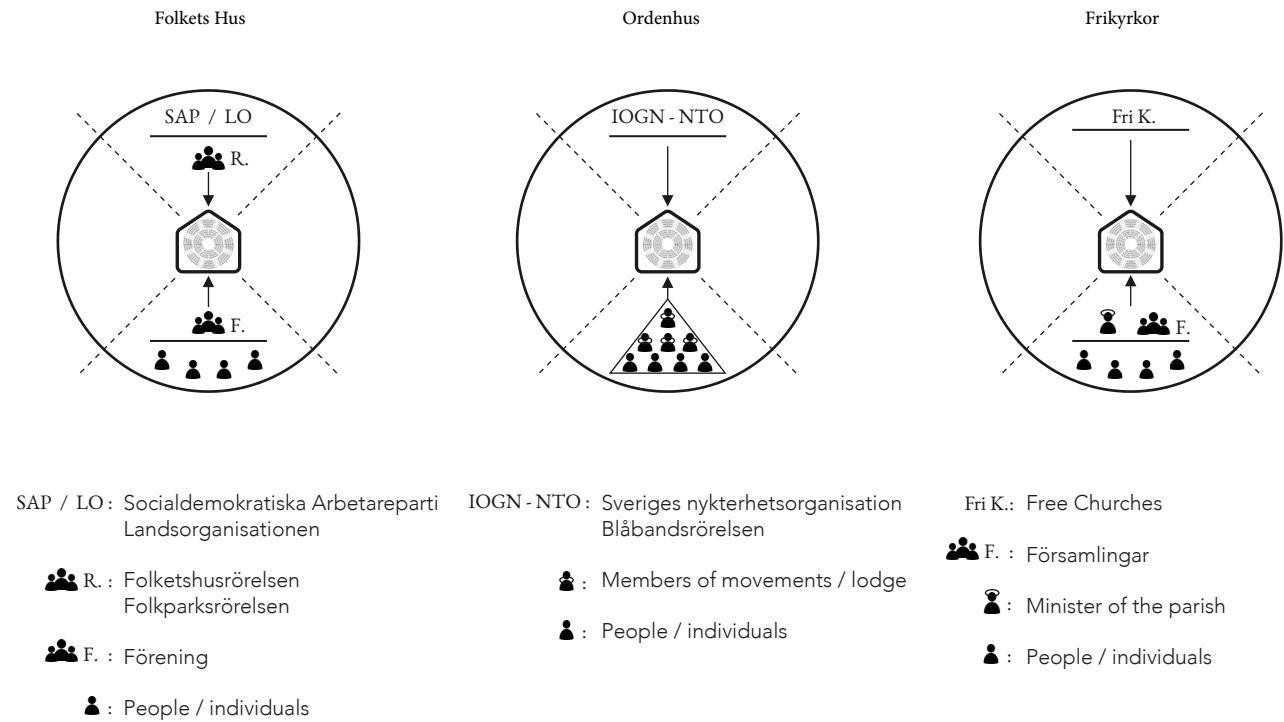


Figure 14

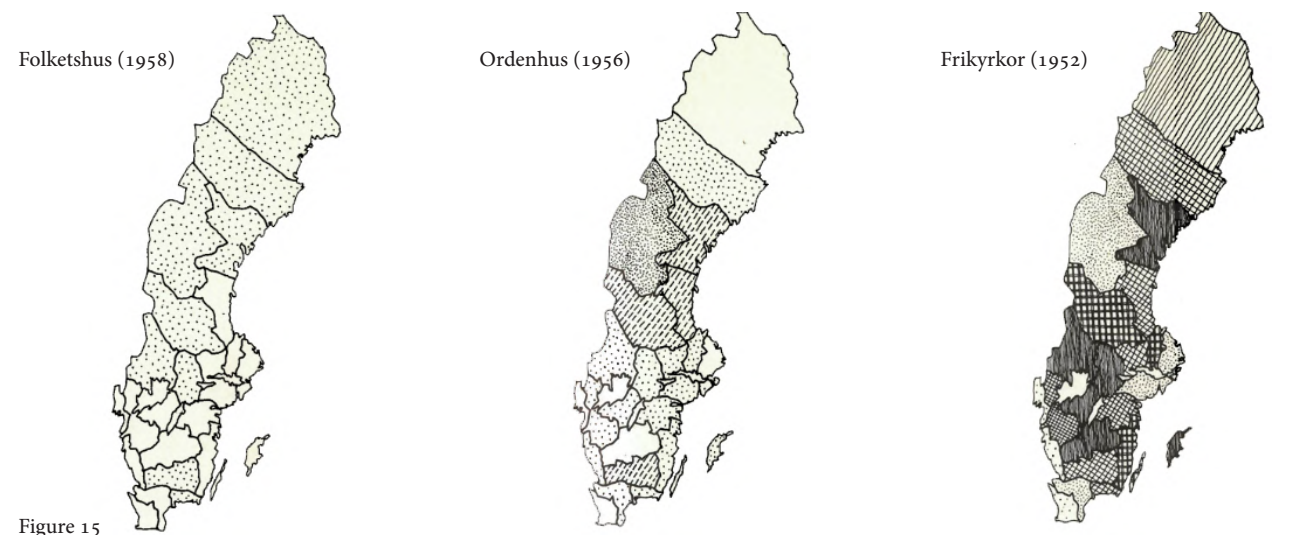


Figure 15

2.3.c.- Urban system analysis of historic Swedish references

According to Almqvist et al. (1976), the construction and spatial positioning of the Folkets Hus, Ordenhus, and Frikyrkor evolved through several stages across the 19th and 20th centuries. Their origins were often modest, relying on donated land and grassroots initiatives, for instance, the establishment of a Frikyrka usually started with a group of believers who wished to form an independent congregation, making location decisions dependent on property availability, local community support, and the will to establish themselves in a given area (Almqvist et al., 1976). Over time, however, these institutions reached a stage of consolidation, with larger facilities financed, planned, and strengthened by central organizations, as exemplified by the major Folkets Hus in Normalm, Stockholm (Kulturarv Stockholm, n.d.). This trajectory led to significant variation in the scale and size of buildings, as well as in their distribution, with nearly 8,000 such facilities established throughout Sweden (Almqvist et al., 1976). Despite this diversity, certain recurrent patterns can be observed from their territorial and neighborhood-level perspectives, to be developed below.

Territorial scale

At a larger scale, these social infrastructures achieved wide national coverage (fig. 15), as they tended to be established in working-class both in urban and suburban neighbourhoods, as well as in rural areas (Almqvist et al., 1976). In its process of territorial coverage, trends can be observed that marked different stages; with initial periods of revival (1850 to 1890), a following stage of intensification (1890 to 1915), a stage of consolidation (1915 to 1942), a subsequent of institutionalisation (1942 to 1955), and a final stage of decline (1955 onwards), with many closures and property sales (Almqvist et al., 1976). This process, lasting almost 100 years, although ultimately declining, demonstrates the long-term impact of movements in territorial terms.

Neighbourhood scale

At the local scale, location varied greatly from case to case and depending on each stage; however, especially the Folketshus, the building's integration to the neighbourhood showed a pattern by incorporating facilities that opened onto public spaces, such as event areas, outdoor stages or open courtyards, (Almqvist et al., 1976). A more developed manifestation of this logic was the Folkpark

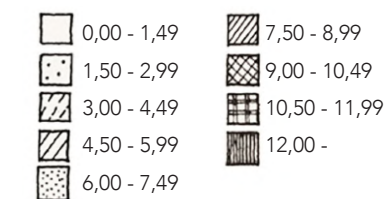


Figure 15.- Maps of number of meeting places in relation to population. (Almqvist et al., 1976. p. 30)

Graphical information obtained from Almqvist et al. (1976), showing the number of buildings (Folketshus, Ordenhus or Frikyrkor) per 10,000 inhabitants by county in Sweden, in the years indicated (between the periods of institutionalisation and the beginning of the period of decline).

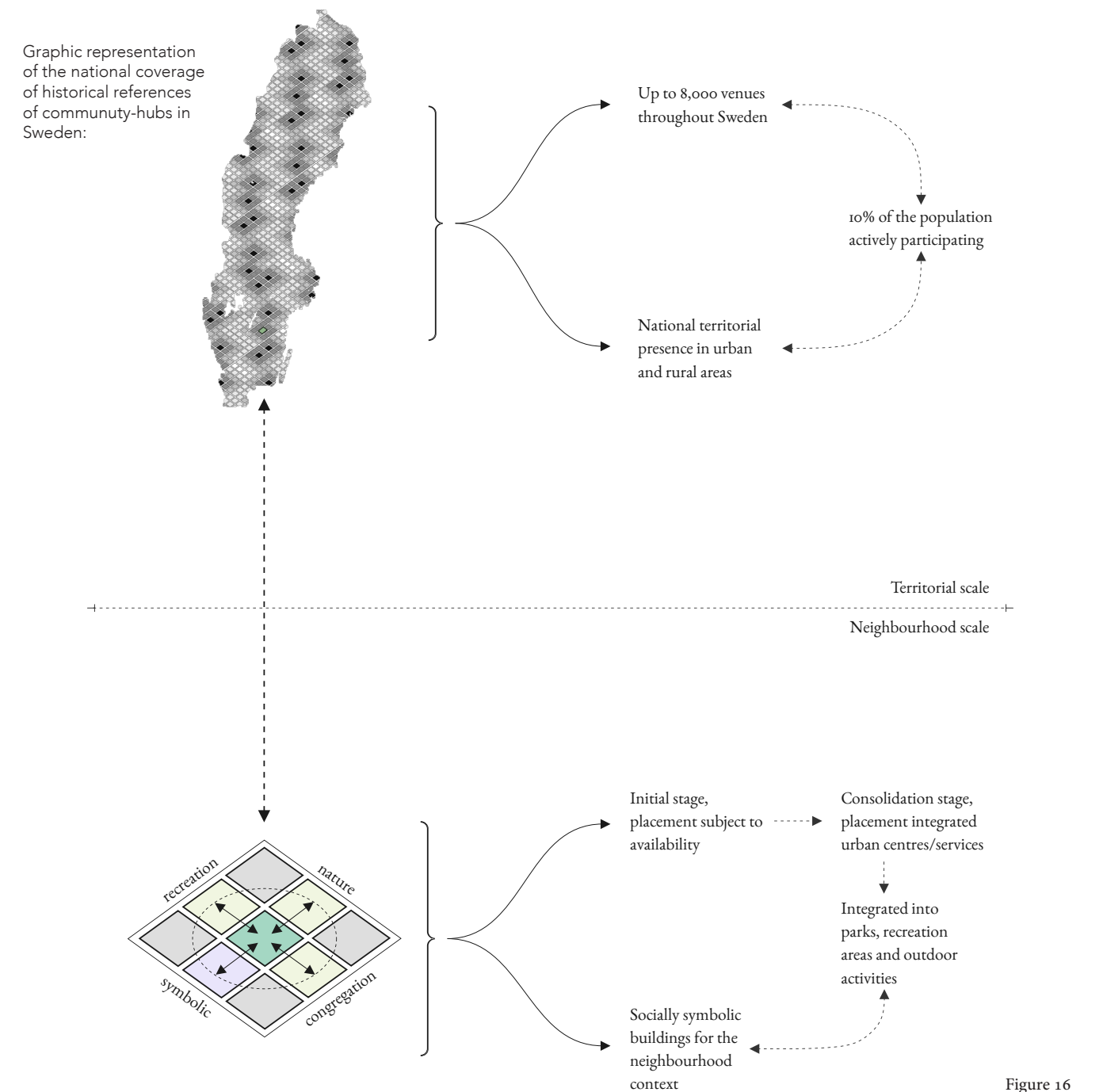


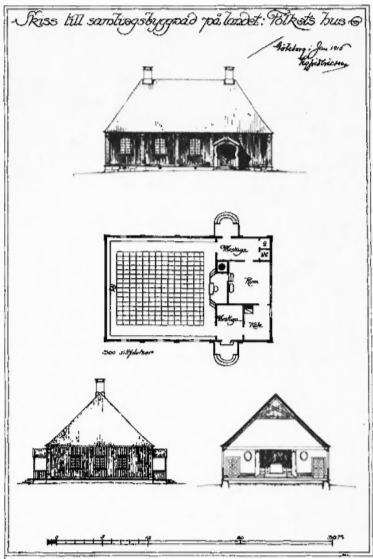
Figure 16.- Conceptual diagram of Territorial and Neighbourhood scales highlights. (Authors own figure)

The diagram illustrates the main components of the analysis at the territorial and neighbourhood scales. From national coverage adapted to urban and rural contexts to the direct relationship with the surrounding areas where these infrastructures were located, linking them to natural elements (green areas), recreational elements (parks and public spaces), and gathering places (political and cultural events), which together suggest their symbolic character for the neighbourhood.

(People's Park), which extended beyond the building itself to offer a leisure and recreation area with open-air theatres, cafés and spaces for political or cultural rallies, reinforcing the integration of collective life into the physical and social network of the city (Almqvist et al., 1976).

Overall, although this research did not find explicit planning documents specifying the parameters that guided the urban positioning of Folkets Hus, Ordenhus, and Frikyrkor, the empirical evidence of the buildings constructed suggests a relation between its extensive coverage and their territorial adaptability (ability to position itself in different types of territories). These buildings also illustrate the importance of strategic placemaking, where the activation of neighbourhood life generated by the building could foster social interactions, local identity and participation.

Figure 17.a.- Skiss till samlingsbyggnad på landet: Folkets Hus (Almqvist et al., 1976. p. 39)



Folkets Hus:

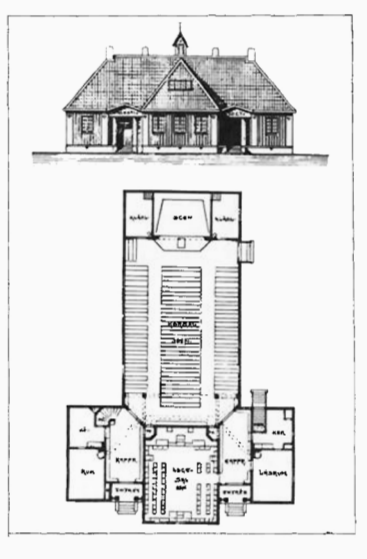
- Wood materiality
- Collaborative construction / carpentry

- Uses/premises:
- Large assembly space with a stage/ theatre
 - Kitchen
 - Toilet facilities
 - Secondary rooms/ offices

Symbolic, in the labour and civic dimension

Integration of previous characteristics

Figure 17.b.- Typ IV Förslag No 2. (Almqvist et al., 1976. p. 39)



Ordenhus

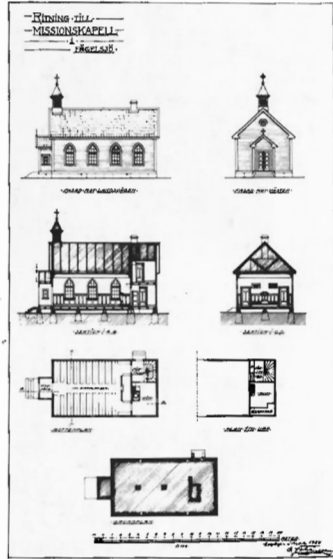
- Wood materiality
- Collaborative construction / carpentry

- Uses/premises:
- Large common assembly space
 - Lodge assembly space
 - Kitchen
 - Toilet facilities
 - Secondary rooms / offices / reception

Symbolic, similar in image to the religious, although secular

Integration of previous characteristics

Figure 17.c.- Ritning till Missionkapell i Fågelsjö (Almqvist et al., 1976. p. 36)



Frikyrka

- Wood materiality
- Collaborative construction / carpentry

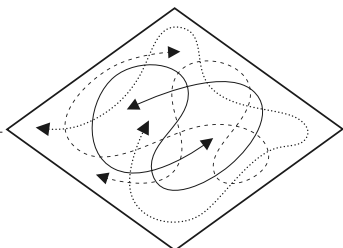
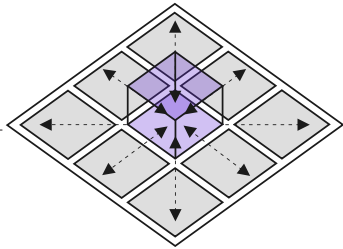
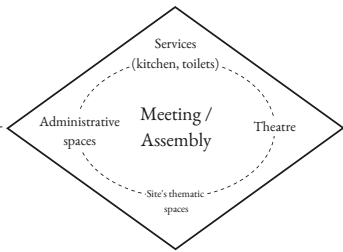
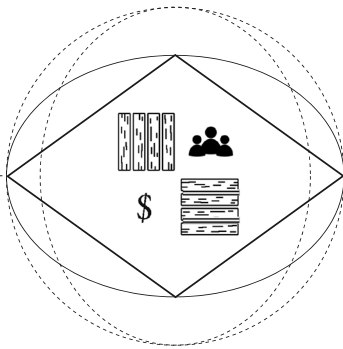
- Uses/premises:
- Large congregation space with altar
 - Kitchen
 - Toilet facilities
 - Secondary rooms/ offices
 - Bedroom (priest)

Symbolic, mostly with ornamentation and spatiality of a religious character

Integration of previous characteristics

Figure 17.- Comparative diagram-chart of building system in historic Swedish cases. (Authors own figure)

It presents a synthesis of the reviewed from the plans and literature consulted in relation to the three projects analysed. Each subsystem (technique, use, meaning, and form) is accompanied by a conceptual diamond that represents the analysis abstractly.



2.3.d.- Building system analysis of historic Swedish references

The architectural characteristics of Folkets Hus, Ordenhus and Frikyrkor are examined and deduced from the planimetry and literature consulted. This is done in a combined manner, through the four subsystems proposed by Fernández Cox's systemic theory: technique, use, meaning and form.

Technique

These buildings were predominantly constructed/designed in wood (Almqvist et al., 1976), a material deeply aligned with Sweden's geographic context in terms of its forest resources. It could be inferred that timber construction not only responded to material availability but also allowed for the technical construction of wide spans and double-height interiors, essential to accommodate large gatherings. Moreover, wood reflected the technical affordability and expertise of Swedish builders, artisans, and carpenters, many of whom contributed through processes of collective self-construction (Almqvist et al., 1976). Therefore the historical literature consulted allows to suggest that the choice of technique was practical to local knowledge and community participation, and in relation to the resources of the place.

Use

Their primary purpose was to host large assemblies (political, ceremonial, or religious depending on the movement), with large central halls, which could also be adapted for cultural, educational, or social events (Almqvist et al., 1976). The architectural plans examined (fig. 17) show complementary facilities to enable these, such as kitchens, bathrooms, offices, or lodging spaces, reinforcing their multifunctional nature. In particular, Folkets Hus example distinguished themselves by adding new programs, incorporating cinemas, restaurants, and other uses that expanded their community role (Almqvist et al., 1976). It may be considered that this aggregation of uses suggests an architectural response to evolving social needs, positioning these buildings as example of adaptability and flexibility in addition to multifunctionality.

Meaning

In the examples visited, the meaning of each building type embodies -from its spatial and aesthetic language- the symbolic values of its respective movement (Almqvist et al., 1976). In the architectural plans examined, it can be seen that the Frikyrkor was the most literal in their symbolism, adopting the appearance of modest chapels enriched with Christian ornamentation. In the plans examined of the Ordenhus, considering also that they were the result of a competition, it can be seen that, although secular, they reproduced spatial arrangements reminiscent of churches or fraternity houses, consistent with the ceremonial nature of its movement as reviewed. The same in the Folkets Hus example, although the plans show it more austere than previous one (in size and ornamentation), literature also suggested represented the ideals if it's movement connected to labour (Almqvist et al., 1976). Additionally to this observations, beyond the symbolism linked to its specific movement, in many cases their scale and volumetric presence became symbolic elements of community identity within their neighborhoods (Almqvist et al., 1976). Together, it is established that meaning lies in their symbolic nature, related both to the content of its movement and the place (land and people) where it is based.

Form

Based on the plans reviewed (fig. 17), it can be suggested that the formal expression of these buildings can be seen as a synthesis that runs through the three previously analysed subsystems. The techniques of timber construction in building processes handled by people, the multifunctional programming, and the symbolic values of each movement and place, were integrated into architectural form.

Figure 17

2.4.- Review of the Swedish contemporary context

2.4.a.- Contextual Overview

The three examples are contemporary in the sense that, at the time of publication of this thesis, they are actively operating. They are located in the municipalities of Gothenburg and Linköping. The examples in Gothenburg were examined by a study visit on 14 July 2025 (Omställningslabbet, Hubben from Detination Tynnered). In addition, there was a study visit to the official closing event of Destination Tynnered’s The Summer Space 2025, held at Opalkyrka (Opaltorget, Tynnered) on 12 August 2025.

2.4.b.- Operative system analysis of Swedish contemporary references

In terms of the actors involved and governance structures, the three cases present similarities. Unlike historical cases, here the municipality is a recurring actor in the upper sphere of influence. The community is always present, although with different mechanisms of participation. Housing companies (public or private) and academia are added as related stakeholders, to varying degrees depending on each example. Below is the analysis by case:

Felleshus Vallastaden

The main actors involved are the building associations of each neighbourhood (managers of each hub), together with the building residents, who use and activate them (Vallastaden, n.d.). This is in line with the objectives set out for this type of association as stipulated by Lantmäteriet (the National Land Survey of Sweden) which defines them as legal entity, composed of property owners that have a share in the community, and that have the purpose of managing and maintaining common areas and facilities (Lantmäteriet, n.d.).

Participation is primarily regulated and provided through internal association rules: the spaces operate as shared common venues whose use is reserved for residents, who can book them for events or meetings (Vallastaden, n.d.). Although this structure limits participation to a relatively closed community, it could be suggested that the felleshus, at least for this community, effectively fosters two of the three pillars of social cohesion defined by the literature Perspectives on Global Development 2012: Social Cohesion in a Shifting World (OECD, 2011): inclusion and social capital. Through shared use of common spaces among different buildings, residents could engage in more social interactions and reinforce a sense of identity and belonging, factors that could promote horizontal community trust, and hence strengthen neighborhood-level social cohesion.

Omställningslabbet, Gothenburg

Omställningslabbet is a prototype project led by the City of Gothenburg, in collaboration with NGOs (Kollaborativ Ekonomi), local universities, and the community itself. It is aimed at promoting societal transition toward sustainability while testing new approaches to urban development in the Frihamnen area (as a larger plan to revitalize the former port district, transforming it into a vibrant and sustainable urban quarter) (Göteborgs Stad, n.d.).

Through the study visit to the site, it was possible to gather information on the governance structure of the space. In this regard, and in dialogue with Cecilia Helsing (personal communication, July 14, 2025), she being an architect for the City of Gothenburg and contributor to the publication Prototypa! (Göteborgs Stad, 2023) , the hub is managed by the municipality in partnership with the NGO Kollaborativ Ekonomi, on a basis of monthly community meetings that are open to the public. She also points out that citizens (individuals or organised groups from all around the city) may apply to develop initiatives within the facility, which are evaluated by Kollaborativ Ekonomi for inclusion in the program. From this dialogue, it can be reflected that, despite this openness, community autonomy remains partially limited; due to municipal or external private management.

Also, it was possible to observe that the project intends to be a contribution to urban resilience by enabling and hosting initiatives towards climate action, as

outlined by the City Resilience Profiling Tool Guide (UN-Habitat, 2021). In relation to its contribution to resilience, it is also noteworthy that its governance structure enables implementation through the prototype methodology, as explained in the publication Prototypa! bygga platser tillsammans (Göteborgs Stad, 2023), focusing on the adaptability of the processes through which it is built and operated. At the site, it is also possible to observe partnership projects with Chalmers University and University of Gothenburg for experimental interventions (community co-construction initiatives in public spaces) and activities towards environmental sustainability (Marin Kolonilott project, for marine algae and mussel colony research).

Hubben from Detination Tynnered, Gothenburg

The main involved actors of Hubben i Tynnered (from Destination Tynnered initiative) are the public housing company Familjebostäder, the private housing company Stena Fastigheter, the private company Volvo Cars, and the local community of residents (Familjebostäder, n.d.).

During the study visit to the site, it was possible to gather information on the governance structure of the space. In this regard, and in dialogue with Louise Rickardsson, from Familjebostäder (personal communication, July 9, 2025), she explains that the place is owned by Framtiden, which is therefore the dominant actor in decision-making. She also explains that the space is activated in collaboration with other organisations, such as the hyresgästföreningen (tenants’ association), as well as with other individual or organised neighbourhood groups. It can be drawn from this conversation that these interactions complement the strategic collaboration of Destination Tynnered with other actors facilitating community participation, such as the activities of ‘The summer space’ facilitated by the organisation ‘first to know’ (Kittervik et al., 2024).

In synthesis, taken together these three cases reviewed, they illustrate a variety of community-hubs governance typologies in contemporary Sweden. Municipalities, housing companies and neighbourhood associations are recurring actors. Added to these are the private sector and academia as strategic partners (relationships are illustrated conceptually in Figure 18). The reports and sources consulted also highlight the interest in promoting social sustainability (e.g. Hubben i Tynnered and Felleshus in Vallastaden) and environmental sustainability (especially through climate action and social transition towards sustainability in Omställningslabbet) within these infrastructures. However, from the study visits, it can be concluded that there is a predominance of top-down dynamics in infrastructure management, which in some cases limits the extent of social engagement (personal communication, closing event of Destination Tynnered’s The Summer Space 2025 August 12, 2025).

Figure 18.- Conceptual diagram of participatory structures linked to Felleshus Vallastaden, Omställningslabbet, Hubben from Detination Tynnered. (Authors own figure)

Felleshus Vallastaden: The infrastructure (central symbol) is managed by a community association. The local residents, individuals or organised (bottom-up powers) interact with the infrastructure, through the community association, therefore it is located inside the infrastructure. In this sense, although related, (LG) and (HC) have fewer interactions with the infrastructure, as represented in the diagram.

Omställningslabbet: The infrastructure (central symbol) is managed by the top-down power, (LG). The local and urban residents, individuals or organised (bottom-up powers) interact with the infrastructure, but control it to a lesser extent. In cooperation and partnership, actors from the private sector and academia are added. The infrastructure is not framed within a local or ideological setting, therefore no-circle circumscribes the actors with this characteristic in the diagram.

Hubben i Tynnered: The infrastructure (central symbol) is managed by the top-down power, (LG) and (HC). The local residents (bottom-up powers) interact with the infrastructure, but control it to a lesser extent. In cooperation, actors from the private sector and academia are added. The infrastructure is framed within a local setting, but open to external cooperation, symbolised by the segmented line circle that circumscribes the actors with this characteristic in the diagram.

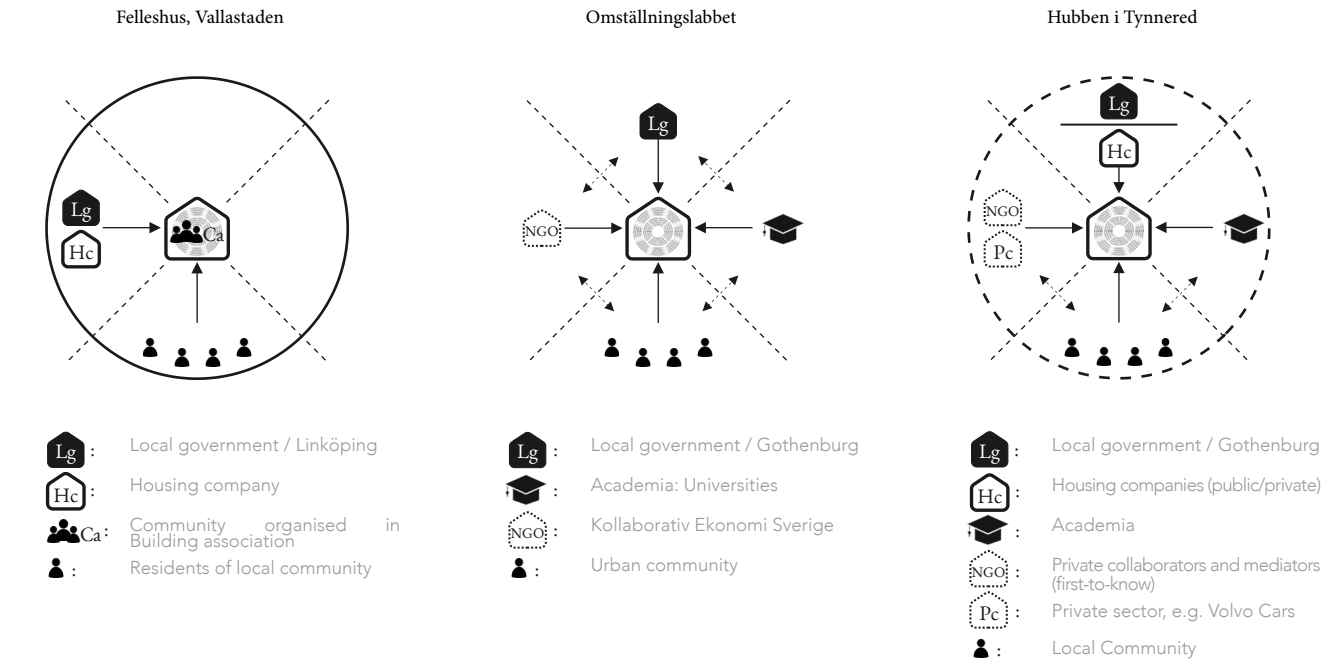
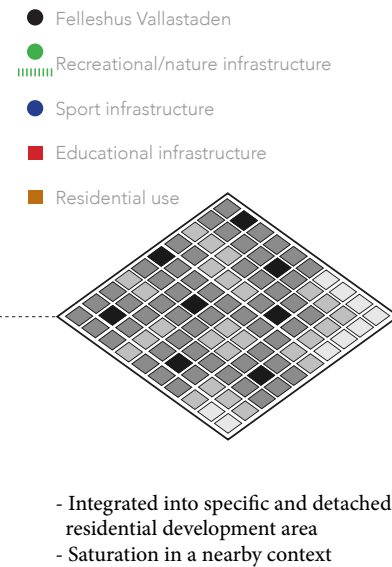


Figure 18

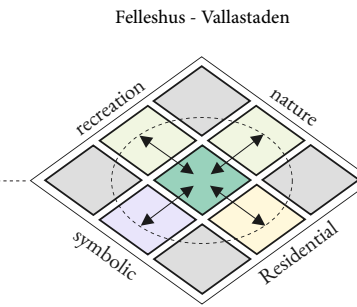


Figure 19.a.- Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024) - Location and analysis map of Felleshus, Vallastaden



- Integrated into specific and detached residential development area
- Saturation in a nearby context

Figure 19.- Comparative diagram-chart of the urban system in contemporary Swedish cases. (Authors own figure)



- Recreation and nature in relation to adjacent public spaces
- Integrated to residential areas from development stage
- Locally symbolic character from its development stage

2.4.c.- Urban system analysis of Swedish contemporary references

The three contemporary Swedish examples examined differ markedly in their urban characteristics and spatial relationships to their surroundings, reflecting the different roles and visions with which they were implemented, as analysed in the operative system. These differences are compared below, considering both the territorial scale and the neighbourhood scale:

Territorial Scale

Figure 19.a.- shows how the felleshus of Vallastaden (black dots) concentrate a high number of social infrastructures in a relatively limited space. As can be seen, this residential development (brown area) is spatially disconnected from the denser central area of Linköping. One could therefore argue that its territorial condition responds more strongly to its district than to an urban territorial approach.

Figure 19.b.- shows how Omställningslabbet, although located near other religious and recreational infrastructure (Smyrna Frihamnskyrkan church, and Jubileumsparken), is visibly disconnected from residential neighbourhoods (brown areas) in its immediate surroundings. During the study visit, associated problems were observed, such as a lack of nearby services for those who intend to occupy the space continuously.

Finally, it can be seen that Hubben i Tynnered (fig. 19.c.-) is located in a residential area (brown areas). Its location suggests a potential ecosystem of public infrastructure, as it is close to areas designated for educational infrastructure and public spaces, as well as recreational and sports facilities.

Neighbourhood Scale

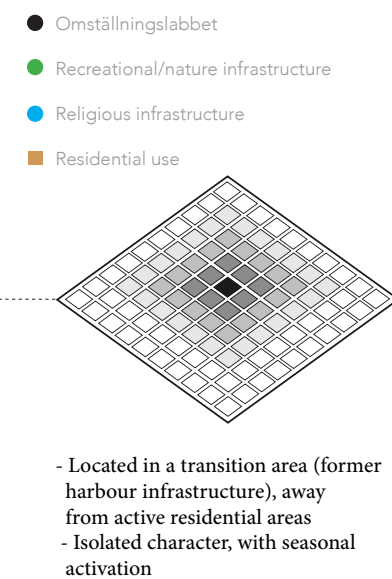
The felleshus in Vallastaden (images in appendix) show a connection with their surroundings through landscape design. This feature is particularly evident in the Felleshus facing the street Hugo Theorells Gata, which in addition to their residential surroundings, provide close proximity to public spaces dedicated to nature (storm water management area) and a recreation park (ArcGIS StoryMaps, n.d.), a spatial condition that could be argued to be in line with the symbolic interest that Felleshus have towards each of their respective blocks.

In the case of Omställningslabbet (images in appendix), one can reflect on how its immediate surroundings, isolated from buildings and road infrastructure, allow it to be more experimental in its interventions in public spaces. In this sense, citizen intervention has been allowed (as explained above in co-built installations and ecological marine-cultivation project), which is symbolically in line with the sustainable transition that the project claims to pursue in its official portal (Göteborgs Stad, n.d.). Thus, observation suggests that the immediate surroundings could then provide a flexible boundary that encourages participation and climate action.

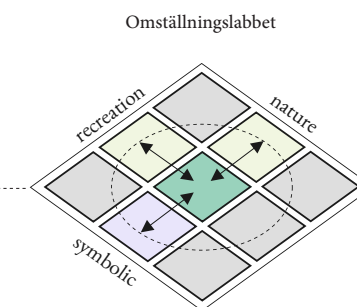
Finally, in the case of Hubben i Tynnered (images in appendix), a more austere condition can be observed, where interaction with the environment is physically given by a terrace and the printing of local people's faces on its façade (graphic image related to the Destination Tynnered initiative). However, from the study visits, it can be observed that these interventions, although austere, are symbolic and effective. Symbolic in the sense of belonging by visually connecting with the faces of the community itself (face-printings present in other areas of the district as well), and effective in the sense that the terrace is open to spontaneous encounters, as well as small cultural events, such as concerts by local bands (one of them developed during the field visit, images in appendix). This is favoured by its location too, with direct access to public space and nourished by a pedestrian boulevard such as Kastanjeallén, pathway that the Programme for Tynnered recognises as strategic from the point of view of social infrastructure and green areas (Göteborgs Stad, 2022).



Figure 19.b.- Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024) - Location and analysis map of Omställningslabbet



- Located in a transition area (former harbour infrastructure), away from active residential areas
- Isolated character, with seasonal activation



- Recreation and nature in relation to adjacent co-built and ecological research public spaces projects
- Sustainability symbolic character from its development stage

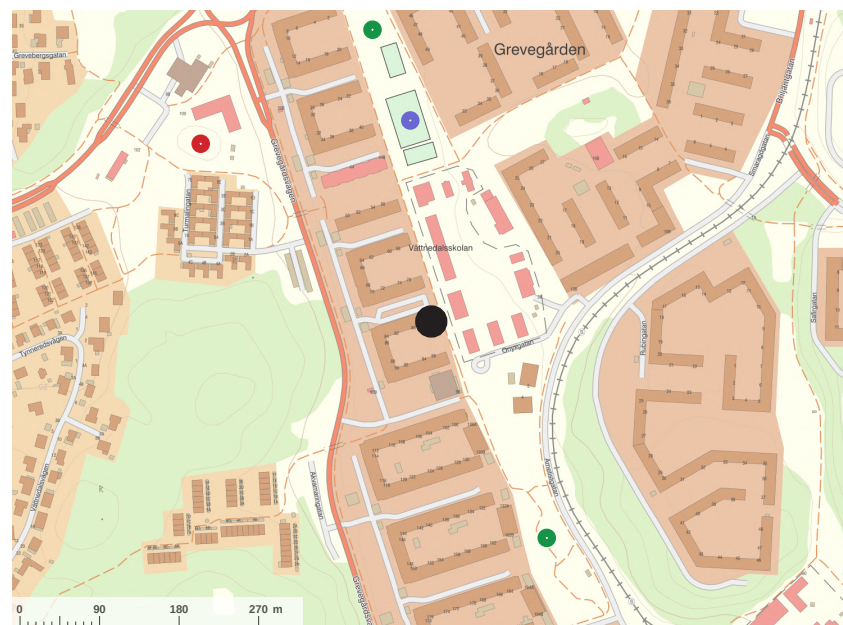
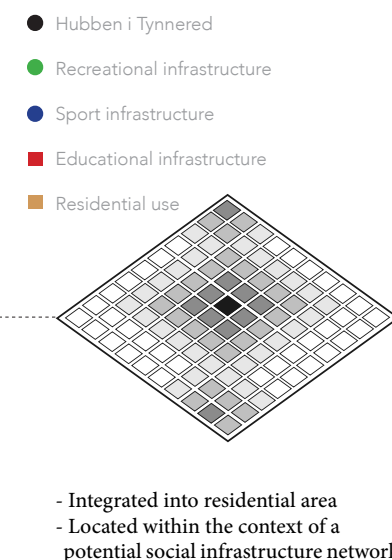
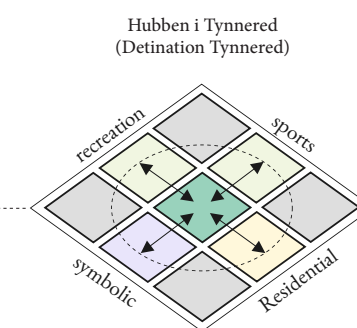


Figure 19.c.- Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024) - Location and analysis map of Hubben i Tynnered



- Integrated into residential area
- Located within the context of a potential social infrastructure network



- Recreation and sports in relation to adjacent public spaces
- Integrated into the residential areas from later incorporation
- Locally social symbolic character

2.4.d. Building system analysis of Swedish contemporary references

Vallastaden felleshus, Omställningslabbet, and Hubben i Tynnered are compared hereafter through the four analytical subsystems proposed by Fernández Cox: technique, use, meaning, and form:

Technique

It can be observed that felleshus of Vallastaden -built as part of its development project- use construction methods aligned with the architectural language of the district, like diverse contemporary materials creating a visual identity through transparency, colour and shape.

While at Omställningslabbet it can be seen that its temporary and experimental nature is expressed through the adaptive reuse of shipping containers, scaffolding, and lightweight wooden structures—many of which were co-built with the community (personal communication, July 14, 2025). From this technical characteristic, it is possible to reflect that changes and expansions that has undergone over time reinforces its prototypical and adaptable nature.

Finally, Hubben i Tynnered adopts the technical setting of the residential building that hosts it, in that sense, it can be observed that it technically operates through minimal adaptations to existing infrastructure.

Use

The analysis of planimetric documentation in the Felleshus case (Witte Sundell, n.d.) and site visits in the case of Omställningslabbet and Hubben i Tynnered allows to identify multifunctional character, prioritizing spaces for collective gathering, complemented by kitchens and toilet type facilities. Vallastaden adds guest rooms for short-term stays, which refers to the characteristic shared facilities in buildings within building-associations.

Omställningslabbet distinguishes itself with a wider range of functions, as a maker-space and outdoor experimentation areas that host educational and urban interventions (such as previously mentioned co-built installations and ecological projects).

Hubben i Tynnered, though smaller, provides essential community infrastructure for meetings, activities and events. Its spatial limitations justify the local community's call for more spaces like this in the area (Sharmin, 2024).

Meaning.

Analysing the meaning of these buildings offers a reflection on their purpose and how the community perceives them. In this sense, the Vallastaden Felloshus were designed in a central location within each block and given names suggestive of each sub-neighbourhood, such as "innovation", "integration", "identity", etc. (Vallastaden, n.d.). Thus, it could be argued that from their conception, they sought to be a symbol of the district, from the planning stage of it.

Regarding Omställningslabbet, by visiting it, it is possible to suggest that it seeks to represent experimentation, lightness, and collective construction; an architectural manifestation of transition and sustainability, as the municipality seeks to promote. Based on the study visits to Tynnered, supplemented by what is stated on its official website (iTynnered, n.d.), it can be reflected on the meaning of Hubben i Tynnered as a symbol originating from the associated companies, to show physical dialogue with the community.

Thus, based on the observation of the three cases, it could be argued that they all share a symbolic role, although mainly from a top-down perspective.

Form

Analysing the different architectural manifestations of each community hub, it is possible to reflect that: while Vallastaden's Felleshus follow a contemporary typology in line with what was planned for its district; Omställningslabbet adopts a deliberately irregular, flexible and open-ended form, mirroring its provisional and adaptive purpose. Hubben, on the other hand, constrained by its pre-existing host structure (residential building), demonstrates that even minimal formal interventions can generate symbolic value.

Figure 20.- Comparative diagram-chart of the building system in contemporary Swedish cases. (Authors own figure)

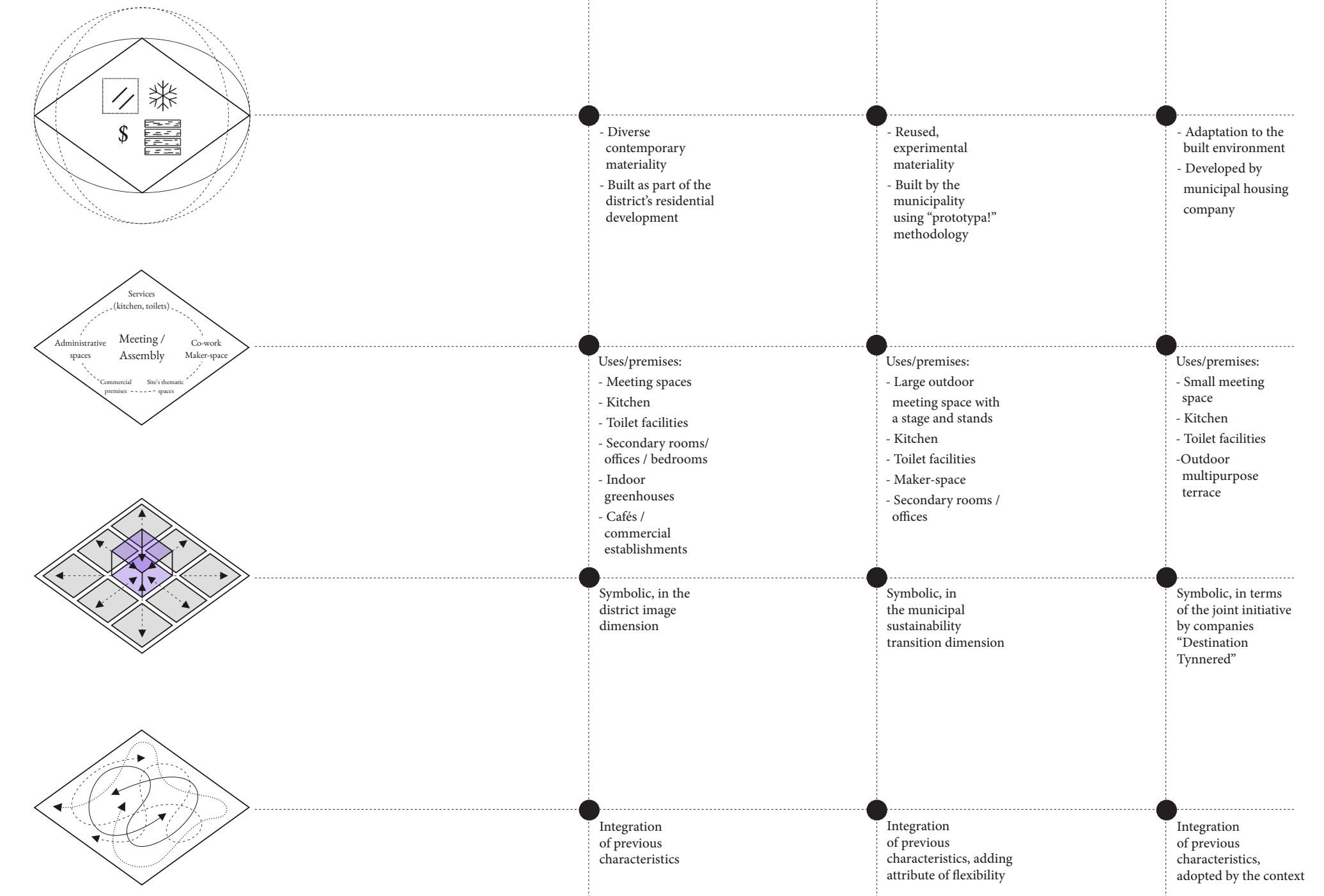


Figure 20.a.- Felleshus Vallastaden (authorised for use picture)



Figure 20.a.- Omställningslabbet (authors own picture)



Figure 20.a.- Hubben i Tynnered (authors own picture)



2.5.- Review of the international contemporary experience

2.5.a.- Normative and Social Context of the Chilean Experience

As discussed in section 2.1.c.-, the Chilean community-hubs represent a relevant experience for examining their normative and institutional structures that promote their development and use, as potential agents for strengthening social cohesion and urban resilience. In this regard, the Programa Quiero Mi Barrio (PQMB) [I Love My Neighbourhood Programme] provides a significant example of a state-led initiative combining social participation, governance innovation, and spatial transformation at the neighbourhood scale (Reglamento Programa de Recuperación de Barrios. 2007).

The PQMB is an intersectoral program led by the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU), aimed at the physical and social recovery of neighbourhoods affected by urban deterioration and social vulnerability (Reglamento Programa de Recuperación de Barrios. 2007). According to the official decree establishing the program, its goal is to “contribute to improving the quality of life of inhabitants in neighbourhoods facing urban decay, segregation, and social vulnerability through a participatory process of recovery of public spaces and the urban environment of families” (Reglamento Programa de Recuperación de Barrios. 2007, Art.1). It is a national public policy to which neighbourhoods, through their organised communities, can apply directly online (Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, n.d.) to qualify for funding and development of projects in their territories.

Its implementation is structured through two main components: the Physical Management Plan and the Social Management Plan; the first one encompassing physical interventions such as the construction or rehabilitation of community-hubs, public spaces, among other social infrastructure, while the latter focuses on strengthening neighbourhood organizations and promoting social integration (Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2007).

Analysing the literature that has evaluated the programme, specifically Sustentabilidad a Escala de Barrio. Re- visitando el Programa “Quiero mi Barrio” (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019) it can be understood how the programme operates through a multi-scalar governance model, linking national, regional, and municipal levels, and fostering collaboration with civil society. This last is via two types of community organizations: the Neighbourhood Development Councils (CVDs), created within the framework of the programme, and the Neighbourhood Councils (Juntas de Vecinos), an organization democratically elected and historically embedded in Chilean social fabric. The process is formalized through the drafting of a Social Contract, jointly developed by residents and public institutions, which consolidates diagnosis, priorities, and intervention plan for each neighbourhood (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019).

This latter evaluation report (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019) by evaluating the program’s performance across social, environmental, economic, and governance dimensions, using mixed methodologies including statistical data, intersectoral interviews, and detailed case studies, show improvement in results regarding community empowerment and social cohesion. For instance, five years after program implementation, 80% of residents in formerly stigmatized neighbourhoods reported feeling proud to live there, and 60% stated they would choose to remain even if relocation were possible (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019 p. 101). Governance-wise, the assessment emphasizes the key role of the CVDs and Neighbourhood Councils as mediators of coordination between communities and the State, enhancing both the legitimacy and the sustainability of interventions. This partly explains the high approval rating for the projects implemented, for example, 77% of interviewees reported that the social infrastructure developed through the program are in active and frequent

use, while 90% believe that these spaces are being used as originally intended (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019).

As community leaders note, “residents have appropriated the works of the program, maintaining and caring for them precisely because they are highly valued” (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019, p. 101). Among the physical outcomes, many neighbourhoods incorporated the construction or rehabilitation of community-hubs. One could argue then that these spaces embody the tangible expression of state–citizen collaboration, illustrating how participatory governance can translate into socially cohesive neighbourhood infrastructures.

Within this background, three examples of community-hubs that were implemented as part of this programme will be analysed below.

2.5.b.- Operative system analysis of international contemporary references

Unlike the previous cases analyzed in sections 2.3 and 2.4, in which the operating systems of each community-hub had slightly different governance structures, the Chilean examples can be examined collectively due to its identical structure. This is because they all operate under a common regulatory framework that has governed the administration of “sede sociales” (community-hubs) since the enactment of the National Law on Neighbourhood Councils and Other Community Organisations in 1969 (Ministerio del Interior. 1969), subsequently expanded through complementary decrees and administrative guidelines.

From a stakeholder perspective, Chilean community-hubs serve as the formal headquarters of the Neighbourhood Council, which in turn represents the central organizational actor. This Council is a democratically elected body composed of a president, secretary, and treasurer (Ministerio del Interior. 1969); serving as the legitimate voice of the neighbourhood’s “Unidad Vecinal” (Neighbourhood Unit). From personal experience working in Chile, I could also identify the community-hub operates accommodating activities led by internal Committees that address thematic interests of the community; the latter being formed by individual members or other forms of organisation within the local community. From this experience, it is also possible to identify stakeholders at the institutional

Figure 21.- Conceptual diagram of participatory structures linked to Chilean Sedes Sociales (community-hubs). (Authors own figure)

Sede Social: The infrastructure (central symbol) is managed by a Neighbourhood Council. The local residents, individuals or organised (bottom-up powers) interact with the infrastructure, through this Neighbourhood Council, and also through Committees, and/or other informal organisations. Among them, the Neighbourhood Council has a hierarchical position, acting as a central mediator. The lateral position corresponds mainly to the private sector (generally non-profit organisations), which through public policies, such as the PQMB, collaborate in the development of projects. At the upper level are the public institutions, represented by local government (municipalities) and central government (both top-down powers). Municipalities are the closest collaborators, while central government provides funding and public policies, such as the aforementioned PQMB. The distribution of power is related to the middle-out structure format, explained in Fig. 22. The surrounding solid line circle represents the direct link to a specific territory, defined by regulations.

Figure 22.- Schematic diagram of the governance structure in middle-out logic. (Authors own figure)

This diagram illustrates the middle-out governance structure, which according to Johnstone et al. (2016) shares common features with top-down and bottom-up models, but with an institutional centre that engages in dialogue with both worlds. The Chilean headquarters model is related to this vision, as its Neighbourhood Councils have an institutionalised centre governed by legislation, but which remains closely linked to citizen activation and management.

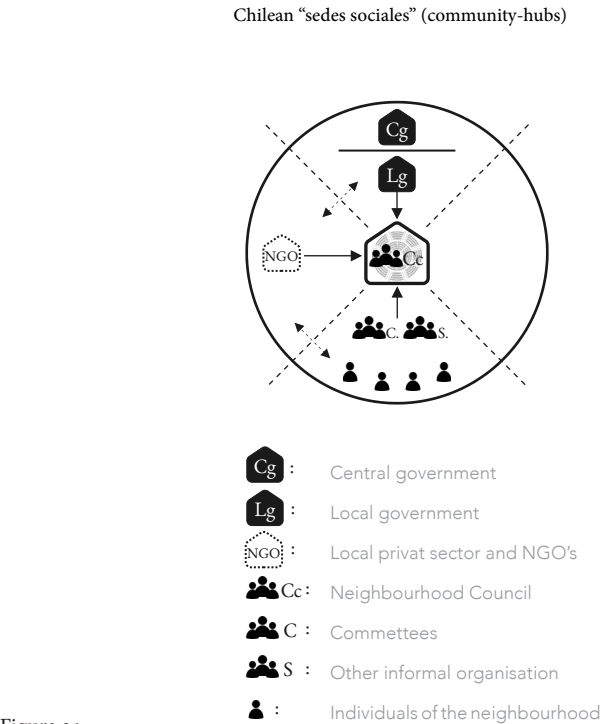


Figure 21

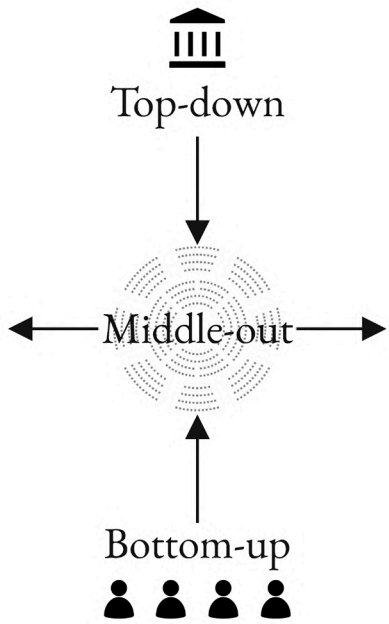


Figure 22

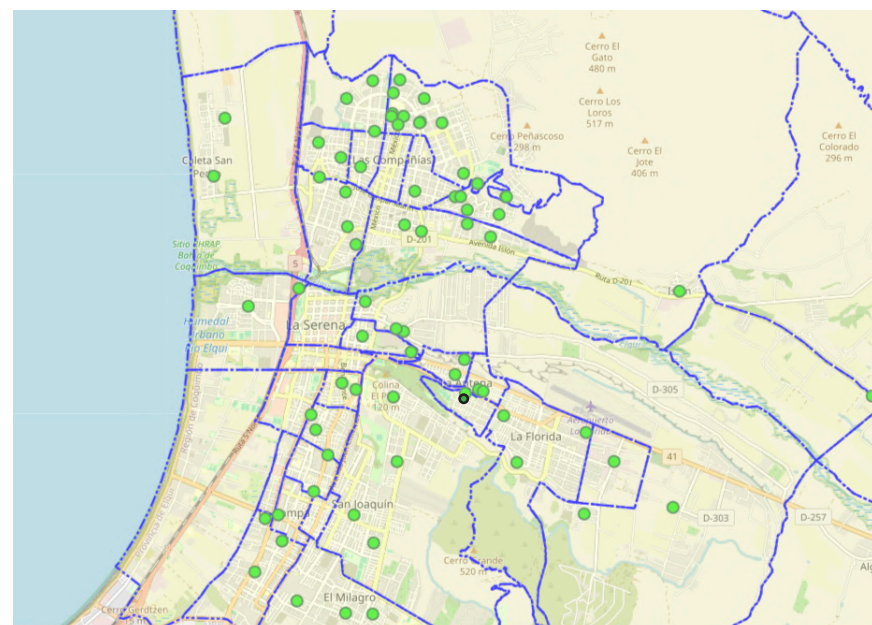


Figure 23.a.- Base map © OpenStreetMap Contributors CC-BY-SA - Location and analysis map Sede Social La Serena

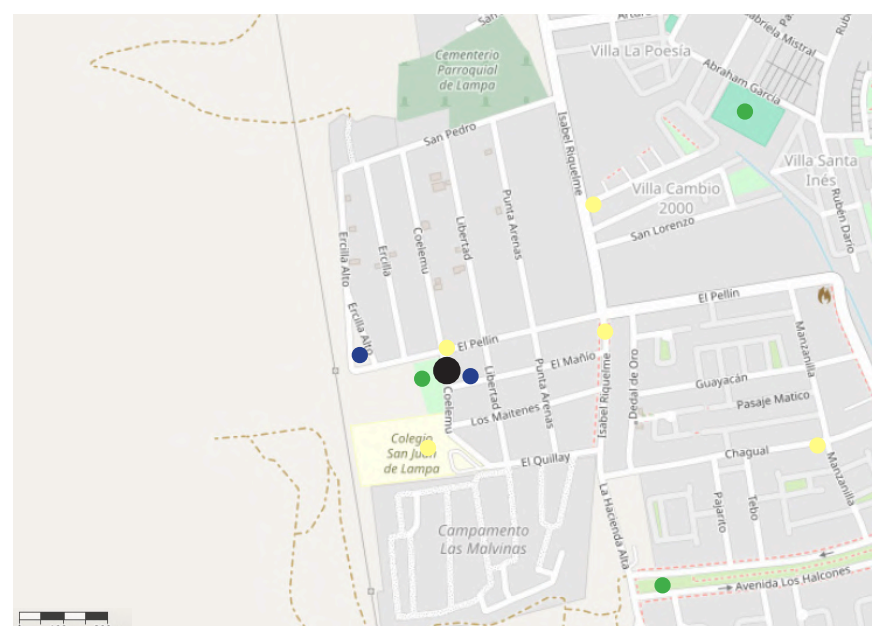


Figure 23.b.- Base map © OpenStreetMap Contributors - Location and analysis map Sede Social Lampa

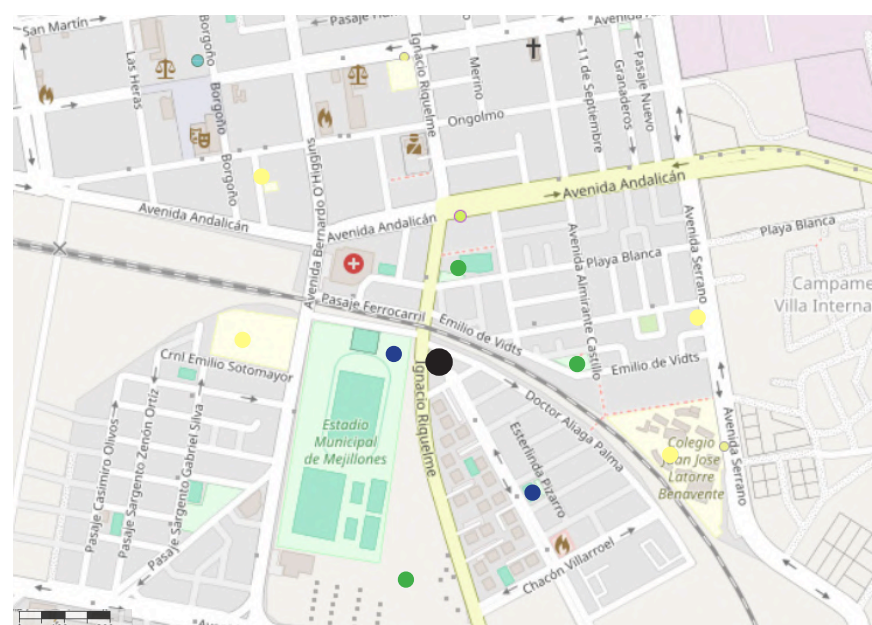
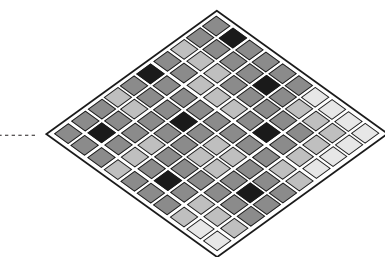


Figure 23.c.- Base map © OpenStreetMap Contributors - Location and analysis map Sede Social Mejillones

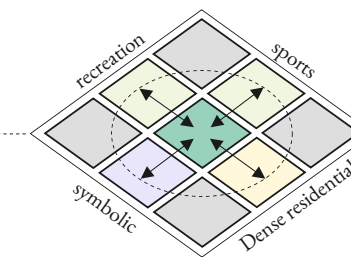
- Community-Hub (sede social) La Serena
- Active Neighbourhood Council in La Serena



- Extended coverage is observed on a macro territorial urban scale.

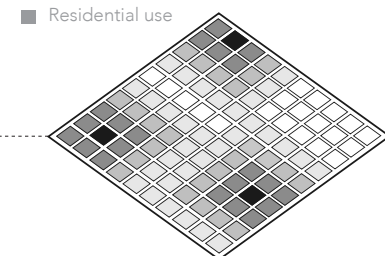
Figure 23.- Comparative diagram-chart of the urban system in contemporary international cases (Chile). (Authors own figure)

Sede Social La Serena



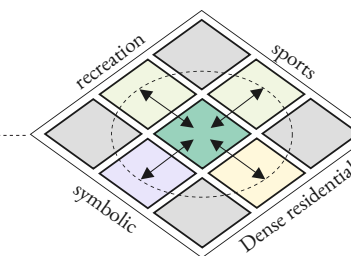
- Recreation and sports in relation to adjacent public spaces
- Integrated to residential areas from a regulatory basis
- Locally symbolic character from the community perception

- Community-Hub (sede social) Lampa
- Recreational infrastructure
- Sport infrastructure
- Educational infrastructure
- Residential use



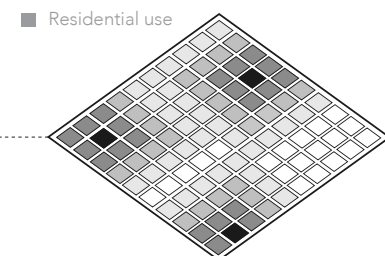
- Strategic proximity among local social infrastructure at the local territorial scale

Sede Social Lampa



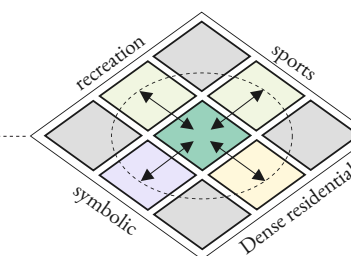
- Recreation and sports in relation to adjacent public spaces
- Integrated to residential areas from a regulatory basis
- Locally symbolic character from the community perception

- Community-Hub (sede social) Mejillones
- Recreational infrastructure
- Sport infrastructure
- Educational infrastructure
- Residential use



- Strategic proximity among local social infrastructure at the local territorial scale

Sede Social Mejillones



- Recreation and sports in relation to adjacent public spaces
- Integrated to residential areas from a regulatory basis
- Locally symbolic character from the community perception

level were the municipality plays a key coordinating role. Through the Department of Community Development (DIDECO), it maintains ongoing support and communication with Neighbourhood Councils, while the Municipal Planning Secretariat (SECPLA) oversees the physical maintenance and improvement of these public facilities. Regional and national agencies are also involved, mainly through funding programmes (like PQMB) or joint initiatives aimed at improving or expanding community infrastructure. Together, these actors form a multi-level network linking community governance with public administration.

The governance system embodied in these structures closely aligns with what Johnstone et al. (2016) describe as a “middle-out” configuration, a hybrid model that bridges top-down and bottom-up approaches, emphasizing the mediating capacity of intermediary institutions in the management and transformation of the space (fig. 22). This dynamic is clearly observed in Chilean community-hubs, where Neighbourhood Councils function as intermediary organizations connecting citizens with local governments (fig. 21).

In this regard, reflecting on the analysed, it could be suggested that the participation regulated by the legislation, and binding in terms of decision-making regarding the community-hub, could imply a higher level of commitment and legitimacy in community participation than in contemporary Swedish cases. The literature analysed (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019) also links this structure with the strengthening of communities' identity and social capital, relating this directly to the strengthening of social cohesion.

2.5.c.- Urban system analysis of international contemporary references

As in the previous case studies, the Chilean examples are analyzed at both the territorial and neighbourhood scales:

Territorial scale

At the macro level, looking at the location plans presented, a common pattern emerges: Chilean community-hubs are predominantly located within residential neighbourhoods. This spatial distribution is directly linked to their operative system, since, as seen in the previous analysis, each community-hub serves as the official headquarters of a Neighbourhood Council, formed by residents of a Neighbourhood Unit (Unidad Vecinal).

In the case of La Serena (fig. 23.a.-), there is information available from the Municipality (La Serena Municipio, n.d.) that shows the number of active Neighbourhood Council as of 2025: 102 units. Considering the number of inhabitants in the municipality (250,141 according to the 2024 census) (Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile, 2025), this gives an average of approximately one community-hub for every 2,452 inhabitants. Although specific, this case exemplifies the argument made at a wider territorial level, where Chilean community-hubs are part of the urban and social landscape of cities.

In municipalities where this information is not available (referents from Lampa and Mejillones), the territorial scale is analysed at a smaller level, finding other patterns, such as strategic proximity to sports, recreational and educational facilities, promoted by the PQMB.

Neighbourhood scale

At the neighbourhood level, it is possible to see in the published material on the three referents, La Serena, Lampa and Mejillones -(3 Arquitectos, 2011), (DX Arquitectos, 2022) and (CAW Arquitectos, 2022) respectively- a series of common characteristics: All these community-hubs constitute a symbolic element at the neighbourhood level, linking their residential environments with sports and recreational facilities that reinforce this characteristic. This situation also gives the opportunity to be more frequently active, which is relevant due to the attributes of perceived safety that these community-hubs and their related equipment generate by its use and activation (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019). In this sense, it also strengthens people's feelings of trust in their neighborhood, a key element in facilitating identity and, ultimately, social cohesion.

2.5.d. Building system analysis of international contemporary references

The building system analysis and reflection on community-hubs of La Serena, Lampa, and Mejillones is drawn from the documentation on these projects available on the ArchDaily platform -(3 Arquitectos, 2011), (DX Arquitectos, 2022) and (CAW Arquitectos, 2022) respectively-, which publishes the technical specifications and detailed information provided by the architects of each project.

Technique

Technically, all these examples were built with the support of the PQMB public policy. This programme encourages participatory design, but construction is carried out by an external company through a public tender process (Reglamento Programa de Recuperación de Barrios. 2007). From the published planimetric and photographic material, it can be deduced that the materiality is consistent with each area of the country, in relation to economic constraints, social conditions and material resources (3 Arquitectos, 2011). In La Serena for example, the predominant use of concrete blocks ensures durability in a temperate coastal environment (3 Arquitectos, 2011). In Lampa, timber structures clad with corrugated zinc sheets respond to both budgetary efficiency and local building expertise (DX Arquitectos, 2022). While in Mejillones, a combination of reinforced concrete, steel, and timber addresses the desert climate and strong winds of the Atacama coast, together with a reinterpretation of the symbolic characteristics of the area’s historic buildings (CAW Arquitectos, 2022). In summary, then, the analysis highlights the relationship between the choice of materials and the context, as well as the participatory design.

Use

When reviewing the published planimetric material, it can be observed that all three buildings pursue multifunctionality, as they typically include a large central meeting hall, secondary rooms or offices, a communal kitchen, toilets, and storage spaces for local organizations. The main hall serves as a flexible civic space, hosting community assemblies, cultural events, political meetings, and private celebrations (CAW Arquitectos, 2022). Secondary rooms support smaller gatherings and administrative functions, while storage facilities enable collective use by various neighbourhood groups. These configurations reflect the inclusive and adaptable usage character of Chilean community-hubs examples.

Meaning

Based on what has been published by their architects, surveys evaluating the references reviewed (CEDEUS & Oficina Secretaría Ejecutiva del Programa Recuperación de Barrios, Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, 2019), and the own work experience with similar community-hub’s infrastructure, one could reflect that these buildings represent both a meeting place (between society and its actors, both bottom-up and top-down) and a space for action (around issues such as sport, security, culture, among others). Based also on the published images, it can be observed that the external expression of this meaning often seeks visibility within the neighbourhood; through vibrant colours, distinctive forms, and generous openings. In these Chilean experiences, a recurring design element they share is the use of zenithal light in the main hall. Overall, this reflection once again highlights the symbolic nature of the meaning, along with the relevance of its application from the other analysed sub-systems and over-systems.

Form

The above analysis suggests that their building shape is the formal synthesis of previous subsystems, when responding to their social and environmental challenges. From contextual insecurity situations, climate adaptation features, need for community meeting spaces, up to regulatory requirements, the form takes different approaches to enable a response. Then, although they can be diverse in form, they still share a common objective of it.

Figure 24.- Comparative diagram-chart of the building system in contemporary international cases (Chile). (Authors own figure)

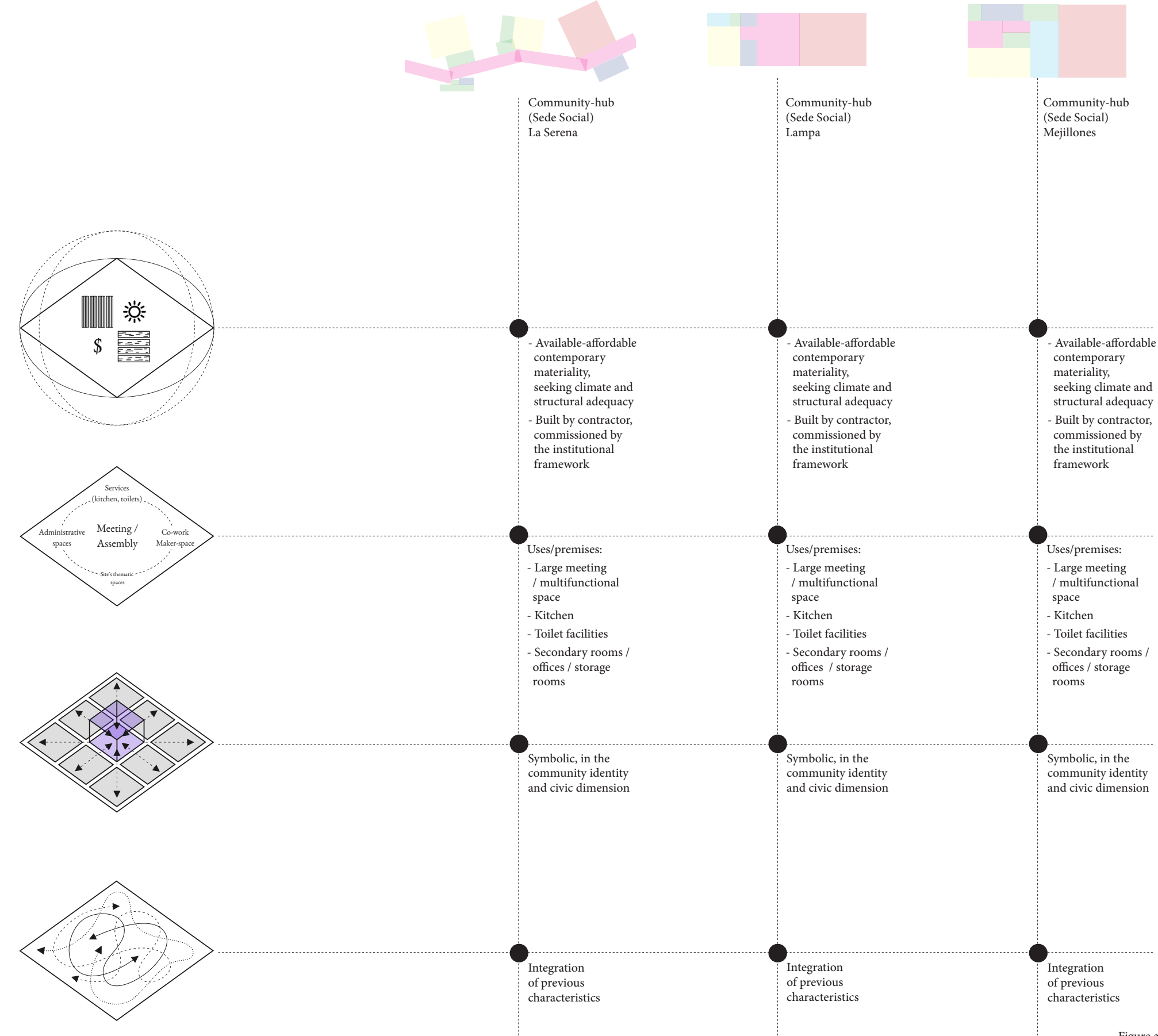


Figure 24

2.6.- Analysis reflections and lessons learned

The analysis in this chapter enables a reflective comparison on the three groups of references: Swedish historical, Swedish contemporary, and international contemporary examples. This is synthesised in a multi-variable diagram (fig. 25), organised to illustrate this compared analysis along with the guiding concepts of this thesis: social cohesion, urban resilience and participatory governance, and in this way, help guide learnings for the upcoming development of the systemic design framework. The comparison from the perspective of each system is described below:

At the operative level, participation in which the community has a concrete influence, based on a sense of identity and trust, is reflected upon as strengthening social cohesion. In this sense, the analysis of historical cases in comparison with contemporary ones suggests that influence by binding democratic deliberation shows decrease in the governance structures. In this regard, Chilean example showcase a contemporary way in which to enable a democratic middle-out governance structure, that manages to exert a binding influence on its territory and people, which can be a lesson learned from the analysis towards the framework. In this same regard, it is observed in the review that, in contemporary cases, there has been an improvement in integrating a greater diversity of actors into the system. Reflection on this matter is that, the greater the number of actors, the more resilient the system is likely to be to social, cultural or political changes in the context (as occurred in historical references, which relied on only one dominant actor in addition to the citizenry, eventually making their system more vulnerable). From this reflection, it can be learned that the greater the diversity of actors linked to the community hub, the greater its resilience.

At the urban level, the territorial scale approach allowed us to observe how coverage and adaptability are important factors to consider when it comes to mobilising social change (as in the historical Swedish examples). As seen in Chapter 1, in contemporary societies that require cohesion to implement climate actions that lead to more resilient cities, it would be relevant to think on re-envisioned community-hubs at the territorial scale rather than in terms of isolated local initiatives. For this purpose, Chile’s experience and its territorial regulations may also be an interesting reference point as well. At the neighbourhood scale, as seen transversally in all cases, adjacency to public, green, recreational, or educational spaces strengthens everyday interaction and belonging (identity), as well as opportunities to implement climate action interventions in the surrounding area (such as at Omställningslabbet). This suggest that the cohesive and resilience effectiveness of community-hubs relies also on their embedding within active social and physical environments.

At the building level, the four subsystems of Fernández Cox -technique, use, meaning, and form- confirm recurring patterns across contexts. Technically, the experiences show coherence to collective construction methods, to local resources (even materials sourced from circularity), climates, and economic affordability. In this sense, the technical subsystem stands out as a tool for making the building contribute to urban resilience from a technical perspective of adaptation and action. Functionally, flexibility and multi-functionality in community-hubs seem essential, enabling spaces to meet, to dialogue, to celebrate and to make a community thrive into cohesion. These features are also related to those observed in the Meaning subsystem, where a symbolic character becomes key to generate an architectural expression of collective identity (through openness, light, or local iconography). Finally, in its subsystem Form, it can be observed the importance of ensuring that the design is consistent with the technical, usage and meaning considerations defined above in order to contribute comprehensively to social cohesion and the resilience of it’s built environment.

Following the theoretical framing of the thesis, these ideas could provide a proper guidance for a justified framework in which governance, urban and building design converge. In this sense, comparative analysis shows that, beyond cultural or geographical differences, the vitality of community-hubs should be strengthened with these three systems working intertwined. Therefore, the following chapter builds upon these findings to formulate a systemic design framework for community-hubs.

Figure 25.- Comparative multi-variable diagram of systems, cases and guiding concepts on the reviewed cases. (Authors own figure)

The diagram extends from the three systems analysed, passing through each of the cases studied. At that meeting point, it is assigned a magnitude of lessons learned from the analysis (represented graphically by black circles of three sizes, corresponding to low, medium and high levels), which are taken for the subsequent development of the systemic design framework.

Finally, each of these is linked to the concepts of social cohesion, urban resilience and participatory governance, suggesting a greater or lesser degree of influence of this analysis on the strengthening of these.

Furthermore, as discussed in section 1.3.d., social cohesion in these community hubs can be observed in the way they promote trust (horizontal and vertical) and in their ability to shape identity. Urban resilience is based on attributes related to adaptability and climate action, while participatory governance is linked to the inclusive and structured participation offered by community-hubs.

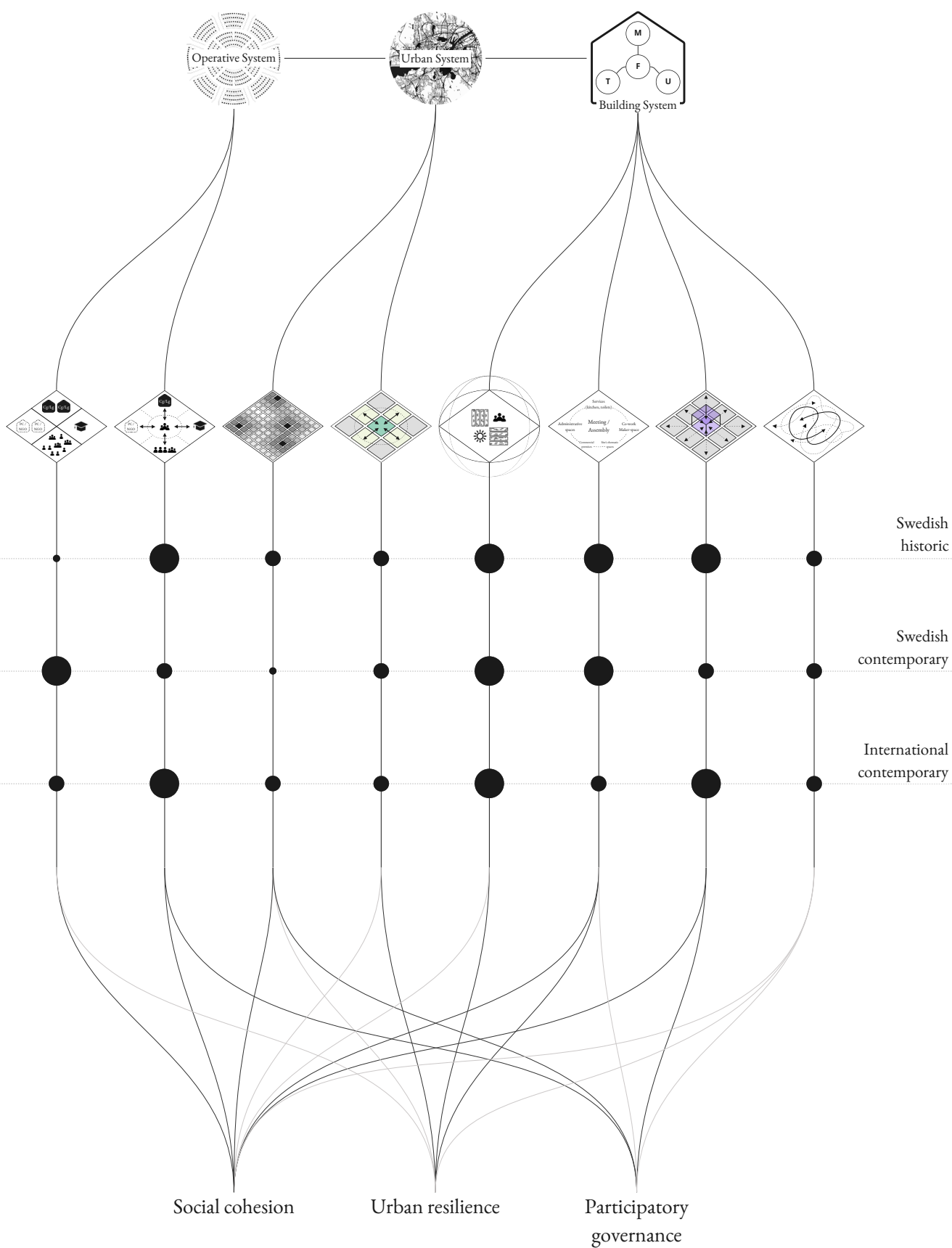


Figure 25



3.0.- Systemic design framework for re-envisioned Community-hubs

This third section focuses on the development of the systemic design framework for community-hubs. To this end, it begins by explaining how the systemic analysis developed in the previous stage is transformed into the architectural design principles of the framework (3.1.-).

This is then developed individually for each system: operational (3.2.-), urban (3.3.-) and building (3.4.-). With this information, a conceptual diagram of the Systemic Design Framework is presented (3.5.-), which summarises the three systems and their respective subsystems in relation to the design of community-hubs.

Finally, an integrative reflection is developed (3.6.-), which addresses the framework and its principles regarding the concepts of social cohesion and urban resilience, ultimately preparing for its application in the next stage.

3.1.- From systemic analysis to framework design

This section faces the challenge of transforming the analysis carried out in the previous chapter, into a design code. To do this, the work is based upon the development of principles, a concept previously elaborated in the theory section (1.5.-).

As shown in Figure 26, the synthesis of the analysis previously developed for all systems and subsystems, is positioned concentrically. Thus, the principles are conceived as a result of analysis, allowing the lessons learned from community-hubs already built, to inform the development of community-hubs to be built. This figure also seeks to illustrate the idea of combining all the analyses and their respective principles into a systemically integrated concept for community-hub design. This approach will also allow the concepts of social cohesion and urban resilience to be addressed as an assignment (or input) to the integrated systems (section 3.6.-), thus, the principles have a guiding thread to follow.

This process enables the thesis sub-question that guides the development of this section, to be addressed. In this way, eight principles that combine operative, urban and building systems, will be developed one by one in the following points.

Figure 26.- Systemic synthesis of analyses for framework development. (Authors own figure)

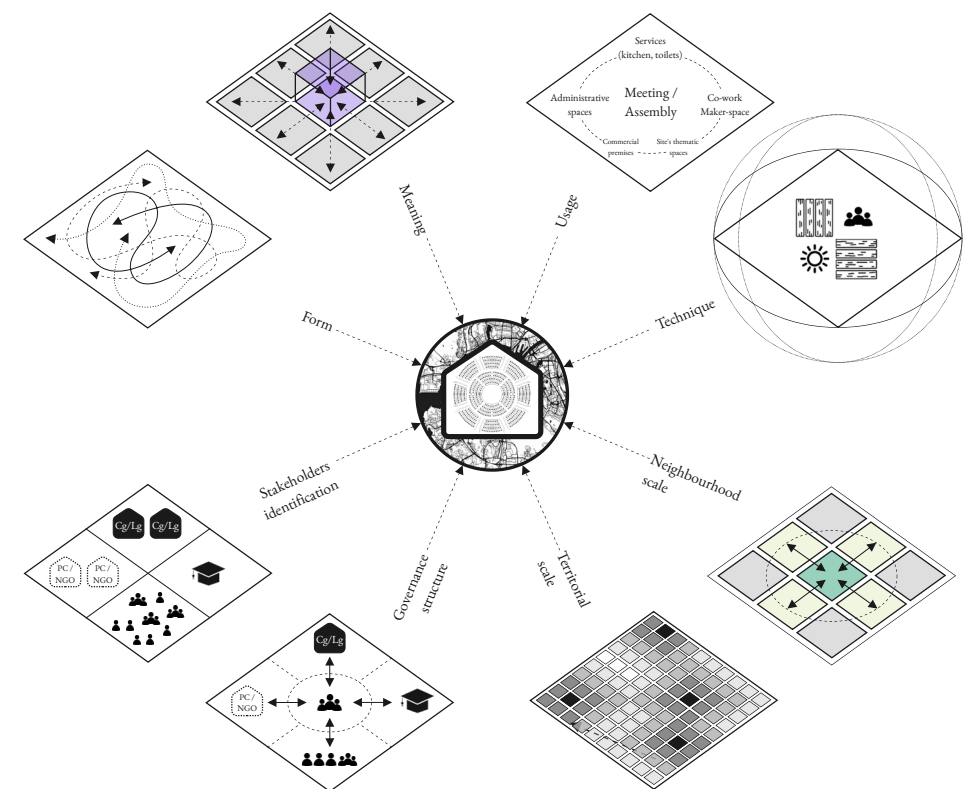


Figure 26

3.2.- Operative System Principles development

From stakeholders identification to diversity

The analysis highlighted the importance of having a diverse range of actors interacting with a community-hub in order to promote social cohesion (by increasing the need to interact cooperatively, generating ties of trust that integrate society as a whole, and strengthening collective identity along the way). Additionally, the review carried out suggests that the greater number and diversity of actors leads to positive redundancy, meaning that the system becomes less vulnerable to cultural, political, or social shifts in general; which is suggested could have a positive impact on the urban resilience objective.

In this way, the analysis drawn from identifying the actors involved, becomes the principle of promoting and incorporating a multi-stakeholder perspective into the design and implementation of the community-hub's operative system. This principle seeks to ensure plurality and legitimacy of the system by including all perspectives related to the community-hub.

Also, as learned from the contemporary Swedish cases reviewed, it is important that multiplicity goes along side with diversity, in order to promote a model that combines different types of actors, such as institutional stakeholders (local and/or central government), community-based stakeholders (neighbours, organised groups and independent individuals), private sector participants in general (from private companies to NGOs) and the academic world (from cooperation with local schools or kindergartens to links with universities and technical colleges).

From governance structure to a Middle-out approach

Reviewing the different governance structures of the various cases analysed allows reflection on which mechanism could have the greatest influence in promoting social and urban cohesion and resilience, respectively. In this regard, the middle-out approach (Johnstone et al. 2016) stands out, which combines top-down stability with bottom-up activation and engagement. In this regard, the Chilean case proposes a model of participatory democracy ('Neighbourhood Councils') which, in addition to providing legitimacy to the system of governance, acts as an intermediary between the community and institutional power, while articulating the diversity of actors promoted by the previous principle.

This principle also implies a balance between institutional support and local autonomy. In analysing the Chilean experience, it is important to recognise the importance of these central bodies being binding and having a certain degree of management and executive power, so that cooperation between neighbours is not undermined by the impossibility of carrying out their initiatives. Such a situation could damage trust both horizontally and vertically, which are all key elements for the consolidation of social cohesion.

3.3.- Urban System Principles elaboration

From territorial scale analysis to network-thinking and integration

The analysis revealed that the values promoted by community-hubs had the greatest influence on society in the Swedish historical contexts, where this type of infrastructure had extensive coverage throughout the territory. In fact, it could be suggested that community-hubs have the potential to bridge social and natural barriers, as promoted by the Översiktsplan för Göteborg (Göteborgs Stad, 2022). For this reason, it is proposed that community-hubs should be considered not as isolated initiatives, but as a network of social infrastructure.

To this end, there are tools available today that can inform this larger-scale coverage. For example, one possibility would be to use Bill Hillier's theory of Space Syntax (Hillier, B. 1996), which could be used to analyse the pedestrian network to find areas with high centrality and betweenness (within an analysis range of 1 or 2 km, for example, considering the neighbourhood nature of these infrastructures), in order to provide greater flow, presence and activity to the community-hub. Conducting this type of analysis is beyond the scope of this thesis; however, it will be explored as a possible future development in the Discussions section (5.3.-).

The neighbourhood scale as an interactive interface

The case review demonstrated a successful spatial pattern, which is the occupation of outdoor spaces open to the community directly linked to the community-hub. Cultural, sporting and recreational uses and green areas are often present. These not only increase the community-hub's social connection to the neighbourhood, but also reinforce its symbolic image from an urban and social perspective (relevant elements for social cohesion).

Examples such as Omställningslabbet go further, assigning a role towards sustainable transition, opening up an environmental and urban resilience dimension to the interface of the public space surrounding the community-hub.

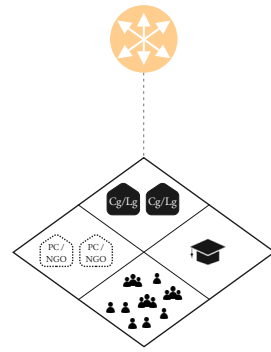


Figure 27.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). Radial arrows pointing outwards symbolise the encompass of all actors potentially related, in terms of multiplicity and diversity, among the four groups.

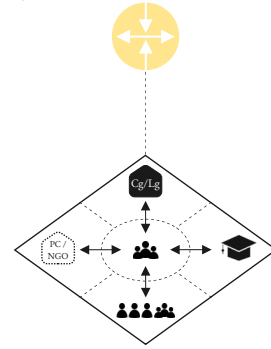


Figure 28.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). The top-down and bottom-up arrows meet in the centre, emitting horizontal forces, representing the democratic mediating community-based organisation in a middle-out type structure.

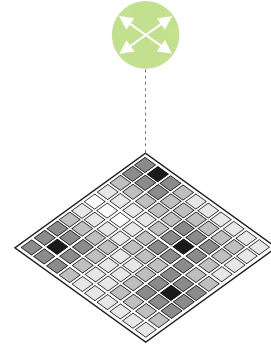


Figure 29.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). The arrows in perspective, expanding outwards, represent the ambition for an interconnected territorial scale (network) of community-hubs.

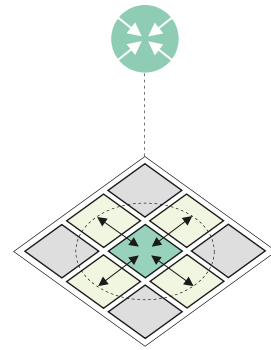


Figure 30.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). Zooming-in arrows in represent the aspiration to connect virtuously the immediate surroundings.

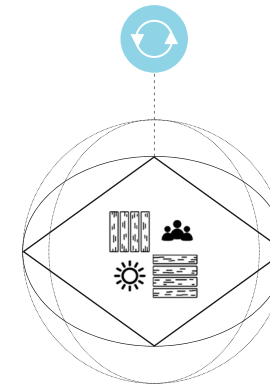


Figure 31.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). The materiality and construction system determined by the different dimensions of the context, circularly representing sustainability.

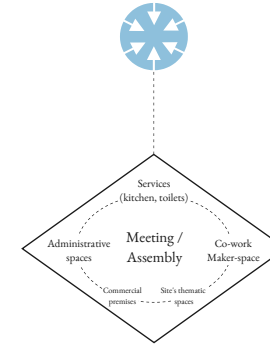


Figure 32.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). A multitude of arrows (functions and spaces) based on encounters and dialogue between people.

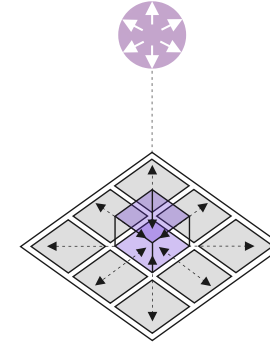


Figure 33.- Principle graphic-approach (authors own figure). Arrows standing out, graphic representation of meaning the symbolic.

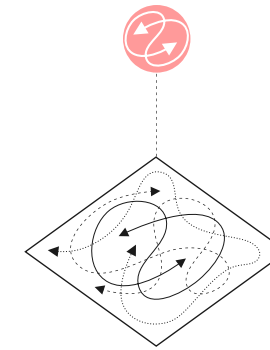


Figure 34.- Principle graphic-approach. Intertwined arrows, simultaneously covering all principles towards the form.

3.4.-Building System Principles

Technique as a means for cohesion and sustainability transition

The cases analysed demonstrated, from different perspectives, the importance of the technique sub-system, in relation to the contextual objectives and needs of the community-hub. Not only in terms of choosing materials consistent with the environment or adapting to economic constraints (as in the Chilean cases), but even beyond that, in the possibility of adapting to existing infrastructure (as in the case of 'Hubben i Tynnered'), supporting collaborative construction processes (as in the historical Swedish cases) or even prototyping methodologies from a sustainable transition approach (as in the case of Omställningslabbet).

In this way, a principle that reinforces the use of the technique as a means to sustainability is proposed: materials and construction systems selection consistent with the community-hub's local needs, as well as with the guiding concepts of social cohesion and climate action towards urban resilience promoted by the thesis. Likewise, it should be consistent with the operative and urban features fostered by the principles previously proposed.

Usage as a driver for encounters and multifunctionality

A common feature in all the cases reviewed was the importance of a large space dedicated to meetings, assemblies or social events. With this as its primary use, the multifunctional nature of the community-hubs also stands out. Usage as a subsystem must therefore be flexible, allowing for multifunctionality while ensuring the possibility of hosting different types of large gatherings.

Furthermore, this multifunctionality is generally addressed in different spaces, allowing for overlapping usage times and promoting diversity among stakeholders (by including administrative spaces for the Council, common-use spaces such as bathrooms and kitchens, thematic spaces such as makerspaces or co-works, and spaces available for rent by private or community initiatives, strengthening the local and circular economy around the community hub).

The analysis of meaning towards symbolic character

The analysis of the meaning subsystem revealed the symbolic pattern of the community-hubs, in its operative, urban and built dimensions (a building that represents local and participatory governance, that is an image of identity for a neighbourhood, and that reflects these roles in its spatiality as a building, respectively). This feature is complemented by the symbolic dimension of urban and environmental resilience, as in Omställningslabbet, for example, through environmental interventions co-created or co-managed by the community.

It could also be argued that it is essential for such symbolism to be place-based, so that the local community effectively feels a sense of belonging, fostering social cohesion through shared identity. Thus, generating a local symbol for participatory governance, a symbol in terms of the urban/neighbourhood identity, and a symbol of the interaction between technique and usage sub-systems.

The form as the spatial dimension of systems integration and flexibility

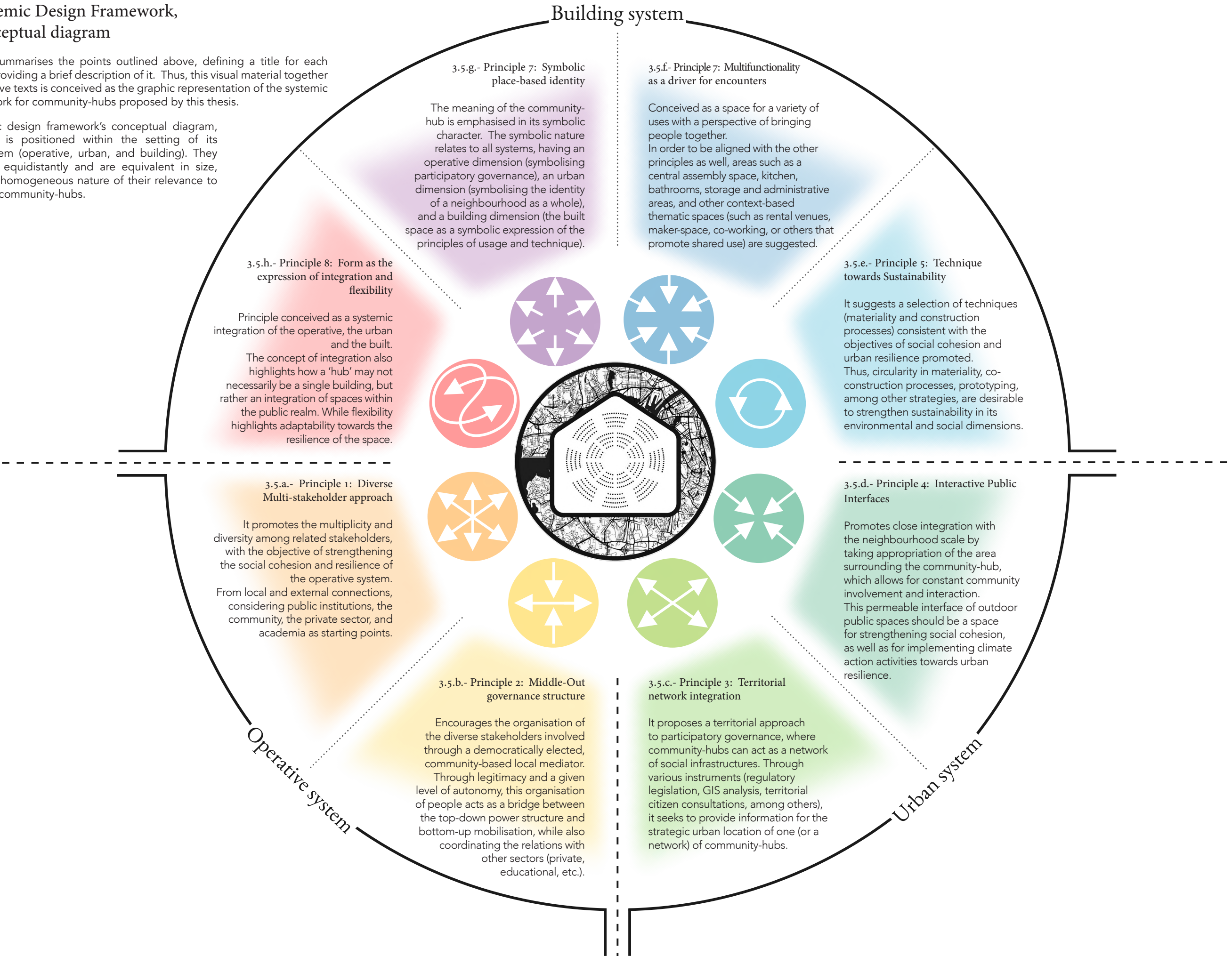
The cases analysed are examples of how form mostly follows function. Function in terms of its technique, use and meaning. However, as a reflection of this thesis, it is proposed that this principle should go further. Considering that for the community-hub to also formally represent the other principles (the operative and the urban), the spatial configuration of a single building could fall short. It would therefore be appropriate to consider the form of the 'hub' concept not as a single building, but as an ecosystem of spaces open to the community. Transitioning from a space for public use (with opening and closing hours) to a public space (open, accessible, and integrated with the urban fabric).

Likewise, a flexible design would presuppose a higher resilience of the space to possible future changes and/or adaptability to new needs. In this sense, this principle should reinforce the integrative and flexible nature of the form with regard to other subsystems, as well as strengthening the concept of the 'hub' in the community-hub.

3.5.- Systemic Design Framework, conceptual diagram

This diagram summarises the points outlined above, defining a title for each principle and providing a brief description of it. Thus, this visual material together with its respective texts is conceived as the graphic representation of the systemic design framework for community-hubs proposed by this thesis.

In the systemic design framework's conceptual diagram, each principle is positioned within the setting of its respective system (operative, urban, and building). They are positioned equidistantly and are equivalent in size, reinforcing the homogeneous nature of their relevance to the concept of community-hubs.



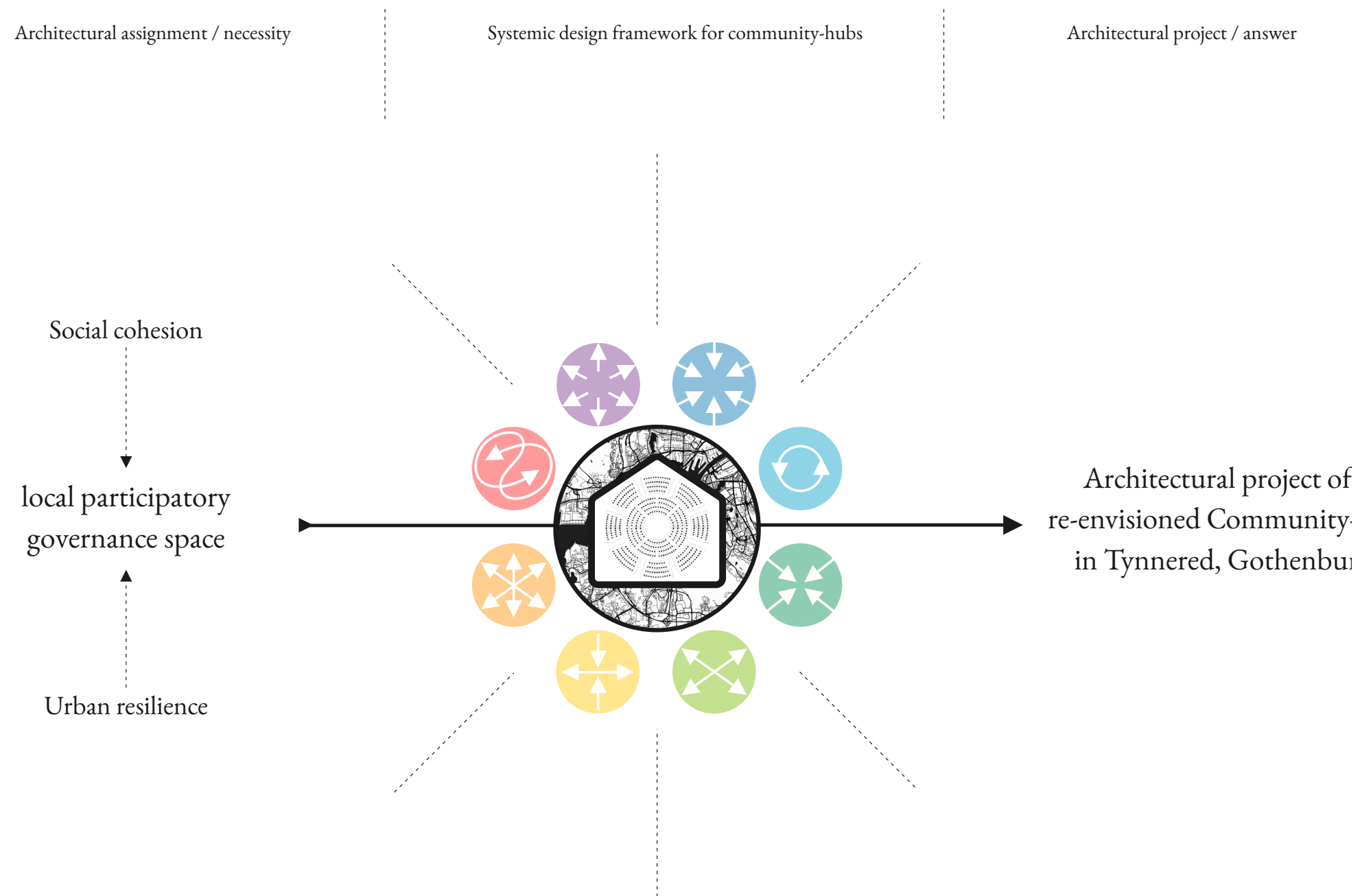


Figure 35

3.6.- Integrative Reflection

Once the systemic design framework has been developed, it can be positioned within the diagram presented earlier in the theory section (1.5.-), framing it within a flow-chart where, on one side, there is the architectural assignment (the need for spaces for participatory governance that promote social cohesion and urban resilience), and on the other, as a result, the specific architectural project (in this case, the re-envisioned community-hub for Tynnered).

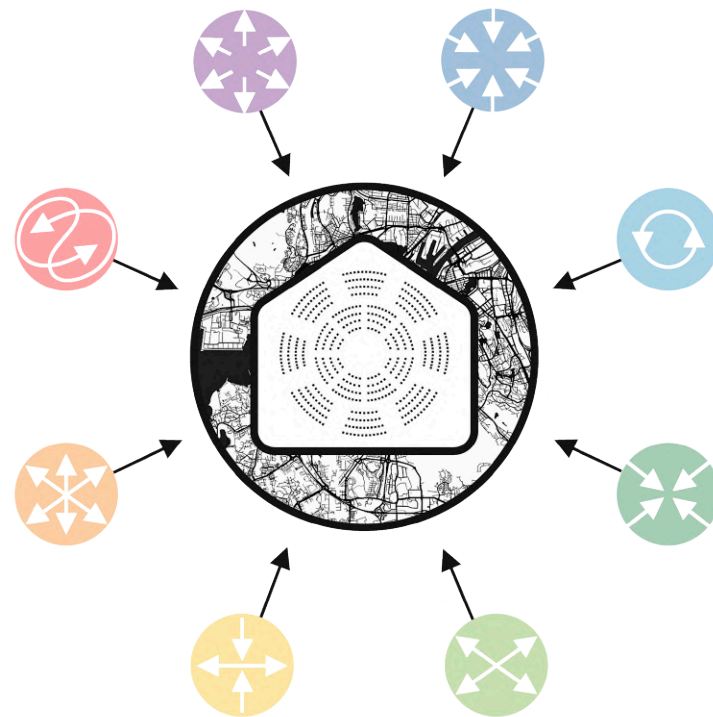
It is argued that by translating the analysed systems into design code, the capabilities of the community-hub are enhanced. Furthermore, by complementing this with possible related strategies, methodologies and approaches, the attributes of social cohesion and urban resilience that are sought to be achieved would be strengthened in a differentiated manner, relative to each context where this framework is to be implemented.

Figure 35.- Incorporation of the systemic design framework into the theory conceptual flow-chart. (Authors own figure)

Taken from Fernandez Cox's Theory, applied to the systemic design framework developed in this chapter.

Precisely in relation to its implementation, the thesis offers an application exercise for this framework to illustrate how to employ it. As indicated in Figure 35, this re-envisioning of the community-hub will be conducted in Tynnered, Gothenburg, where a conceptual project will be proposed as the architectural response to the need for spaces for citizen governance that promote social cohesion and urban resilience.

It should be noted that this application will be understood as part of the systemic design framework development process, as it may provide new insights and considerations, which will be addressed and incorporated into the final section of discussions (5.0.-).



4.0.- Framework's design application

In this third section, the Systemic Design Framework is applied, generating a specific community hub project for Tynnered, Gothenburg.

It starts by developing the general arguments for choosing the social and territorial context, and the approach to execute the implementation of the framework (4.1.-). Subsequently, each system and principle is addressed on its own merits (4.2.-), being used to analyse, reflect and design the architectural response (4.3.-).

In this way, the proposal that will be the main material for discussion is developed, which will be analysed in the next stage.

4.1.- Selection criteria in relation to the implementation process

4.1.a.- Context selection: Tynnered

For this implementation process, it has been decided to work with an area of the city of Gothenburg which, as outlined in point 1.3.b.- of this thesis, must present needs or some type of social tension that needs to be improved. It is also intended to identify an area with an active presence of various stakeholders in order to facilitate the Framework's operating principles implementation.

In this sense, the City, together with the Police, has identified a number of vulnerable districts with low socioeconomic status where crime has an impact on the local community (Göteborgs Stad, n.d.) (fig. 36). In this regard, since 2021, the City of Gothenburg Annual Report has highlighted Tynnered as one of this vulnerable areas with positive trends, which is moving from being a particularly "vulnerable" to becoming an area at "risk" (City Management Office, City of Gothenburg, 2021), which, within its classification, denotes a lower intensity of the phenomenon. This improvement highlights the cooperative work between different actors, including the city housing group Framtiden, together with other actors from the private and community sectors (City Management Office, City of Gothenburg, 2021). It is also relevant to note that this area is one of the most densely populated (fig. 37) within the city's socio-demographic context. This site is also part of an area of priority interest for the Översiktsplan för Göteborg (Göteborgs Stad, 2022), as part of the planned development in Mellanstaden Högsbo-Frölunda, with its south-western urban "centre of gravity".

Taken together, all these factors justify, from the point of view of this thesis, working specifically with the Tynnered area in south-west Gothenburg to develop the implementation of the Systemic Design Framework.

Neighbourhood identification (fig. 36):

- 1.- Bergsjön
- 2.- Lövgärdet
- 3.- Hammarkullen
- 4.- Hjällbo
- 5.- Biskopsgården
- 6.- Tynnered/Grevégården/Opalatorget
- 7.- Gårdsten
- 8.- Hisings Backa

Population density per quadrant of sq. km (fig. 37):

No population	200 - 499
1 - 4	500 - 4999
5 - 19	>=5000
20 - 199	

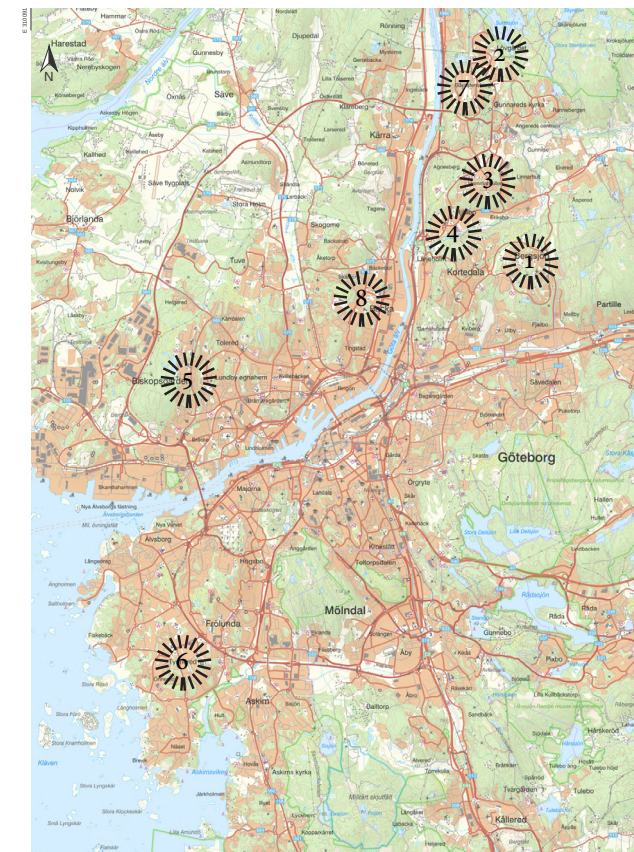


Figure 36.- Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024) - Relative area of neighbourhoods classified as vulnerable (1, 2, 3, 4), at risk (5, 6), and exposed (7, 8), according to the definition of the police authority.

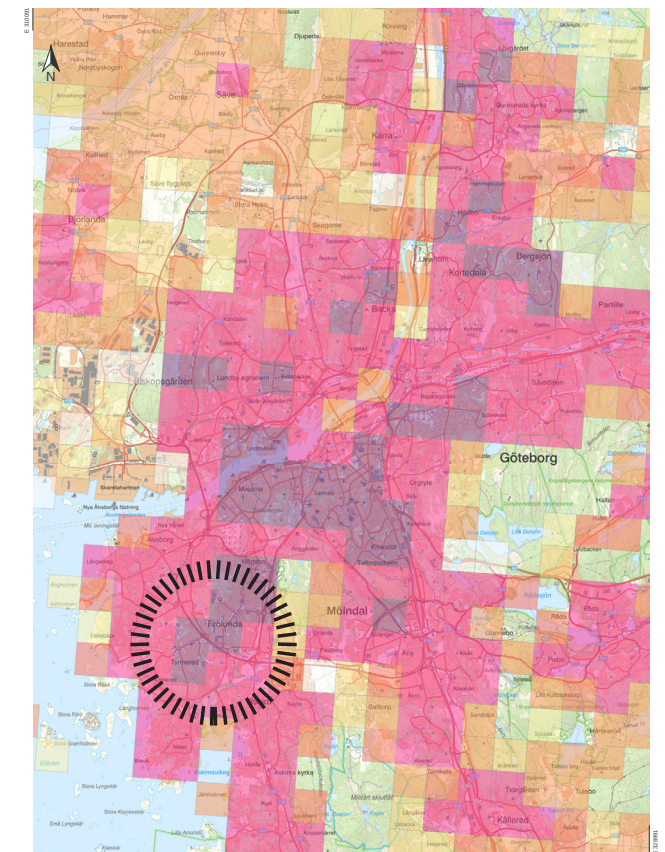


Figure 37.- Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024) Population density map of the city of Gothenburg, based on data from Statistics Sweden (SCB). Marked within the lines-circle the Tynnered area.

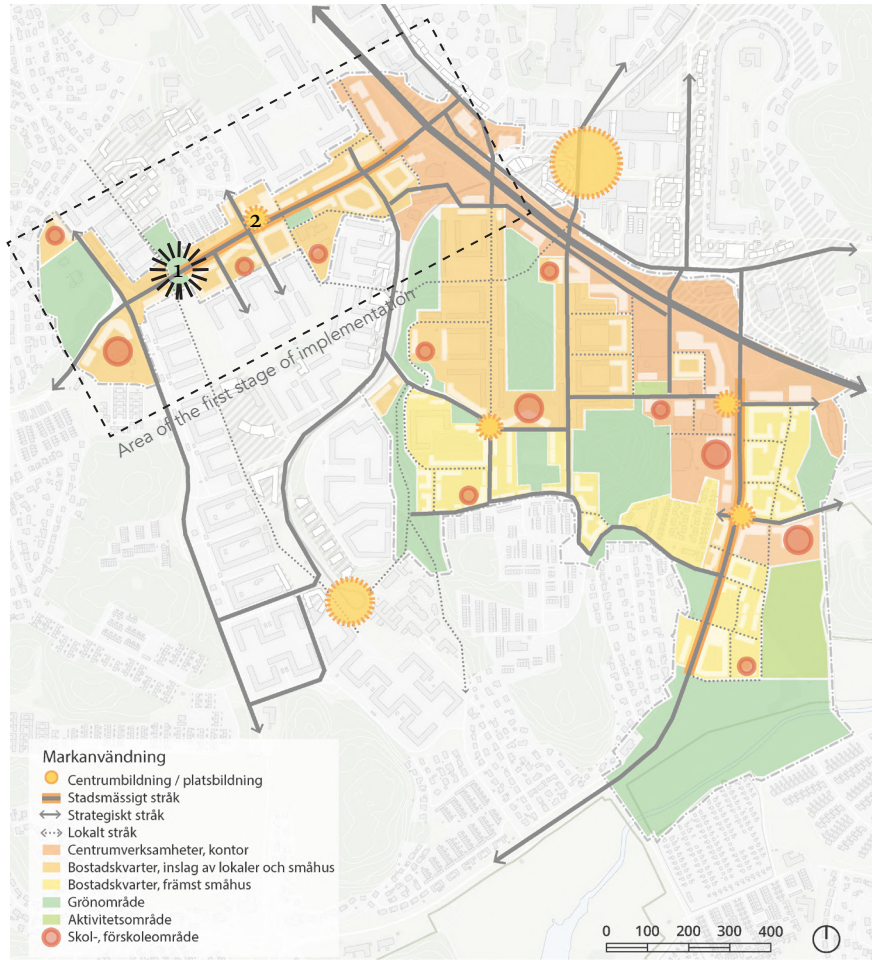


Figure 38.-



Figure 39.-



Figure 41.-

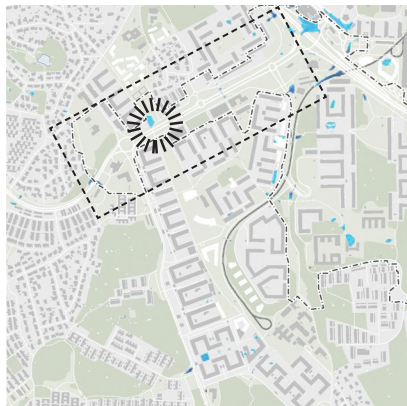


Figure 40.-

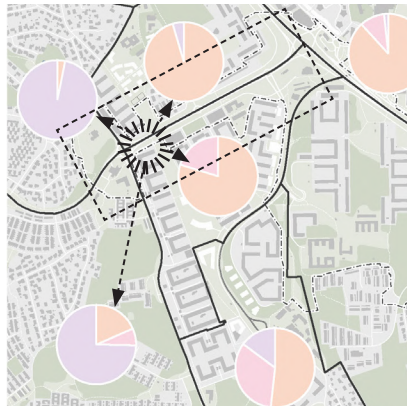


Figure 42.-

Figure 38.- Adapted from Göteborgs Stad (2022), *Program för Tynnered* (p. 05). © Göteborgs Stad & © Lantmäteriet. Adapted and reproduced under academic use.

The Programme is structured around the formation of centres (Centrumbildning / platsbildning), connected to each other by urban streets (Stadsmässigt stråk), strategic roads (Strategiskt stråk) and local roads (Lokalt stråk). The programme also defines areas designated for commercial activities and offices (Centrumverksamheter, kontor), residential neighbourhoods with commercial premises and single-family homes (Bostadskvarter, inslag av lokaler och småhus), green areas (Grönområde), activity areas (Aktivitetsområde) and educational infrastructure (school and preschool areas).

Segmented rectangle: Area of the first stage of implementation - Skattegårdsvägen axis

- 1.- Proposed site for this thesis re-envisioned community-hub
- 2.- Future urban-centre proposed by the Programme for Tynnered

Figure 39.- Adapted from Göteborgs Stad (2022), *Program för Tynnered* (p. 25). © Göteborgs Stad & © Lantmäteriet. Adapted and reproduced under academic use.

Programme's first implementation area is marked -segmented rectangle-, and the point where it intersects with the green area of Grevegårdsparken is highlighted in lines-circle.

Figure 40.- Adapted from Göteborgs Stad (2022), *Program för Tynnered* (p. 36). © Göteborgs Stad & © Lantmäteriet. Adapted and reproduced under academic use.

Programme's first implementation area is marked -segmented rectangle-, and the meeting point with the storm-water management area (in light blue) of Grevegårdsparken is highlighted in lines-circle.

Figure 41.- Adapted from Göteborgs Stad (2022), *Program för Tynnered* (p. 64). © Göteborgs Stad & © Lantmäteriet. Adapted and reproduced under academic use.

Programme's first implementation area is marked -segmented rectangle-, and the meeting point intersecting the route for storm-waters (in blue) parallel to Grevegårdsparken is highlighted in lines-circle.

Figure 42.- Adapted from Göteborgs Stad (2022), *Program för Tynnered* (p. 22). © Göteborgs Stad & © Lantmäteriet. Adapted and reproduced under academic use.

Programme's first implementation area is marked -segmented rectangle-, and the suggested location in relation to the types of property system is highlighted in lines-circle.

Form of ownership (fig. 42)

- Tenancy rights
- Tenant-owned flat
- Property rights

Specifically in the local context of Tynnered, the municipality has developed an urban planning programme for the area, the Programme for Tynnered. The aim of this programme is to enable the urban development between the areas of Frölunda Torg and Opaltorget, with a coherent urban environment, new residential areas, businesses, and social services (Göteborgs Stad, 2022, p. 04). The programme also states that it seeks to “promote social integration and urban qualities that are important for equitable living conditions, which is why a holistic approach to the area is necessary” (Göteborgs Stad, 2022, p. 08). In this regard, and derived from the joint objectives of this thesis with those of the aforementioned programme, the Systemic Design Framework for a re-envisioned community-hub is sought to be implemented in a location covered by the cited programme. Here, the programme provides some insights that will be considered and described below:

Relationship with the Programme's stage-implementation

The programme defines an implementation in stages, the first being that of axis Skattegårdsvägen (fig. 38). This thesis will focus on this first stage in order to place itself in a nearby temporal context. For this development axis, in addition to promoting mixed densification along the edges of the street, the programme proposes a location for the future formation of urban centres (point 2 in Fig. 38). However, this thesis proposes another location (point 1 in Fig. 38) based on social and geographical considerations described hereafter.

Site selection - Skattegårdsvägen with Grevegårdsparken intersection

At the intersection of Skattegårdsvägen and Grevegårdsparken, there are conditions that may favour the implementation of the Framework. In addition to being (Grevegårdsparken) a strategic green area for the sector (fig. 39) by offering a recreational, sporting and even educational activities, it is also a location that offers opportunities from an environmental and hydrological perspective (figs. 40 and 41). At this intersection, a space has been secured for storm-water management (marked in blue on the map in Fig. 40) (Göteborgs Stad, 2022, p.36). In addition, a designated route for storm water runs parallel to Grevegårdsparken (Göteborgs Stad, 2022, p.64), which together provides a public space design opportunity (as in the Omställningslabbet reference for example) to develop landscaping with a

Figure 43.- Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024) - Location map of the proposed re-envisioned community hub.

Position in relation to other social infrastructure, forming a potential route of community spaces from Frölunda Torg to Opaltorget, with the re-envisioned community-hub as the articulating node.

Potentially connectable community-hub type social infrastructure spaces in the area from Frölunda Torg to Opaltorget:

- 1.- Proposed site for this thesis re-envisioned community-hub
- 2.- Future urban-centre proposed by the Programme for Tynnered
- 3.- Current location of “Hubben i Tynnered” from ‘Destination Tynnered’
- 4.- Opalkyrkan (church)
- 5.- Opaltorget's Barnbibliotek (Children's public library)
- 6.- Frölunda kulturhus
- 7.- Public sports/recreation facilities
- 8.- Adjacent open space green-areas
- 9.- Near educational infrastructure

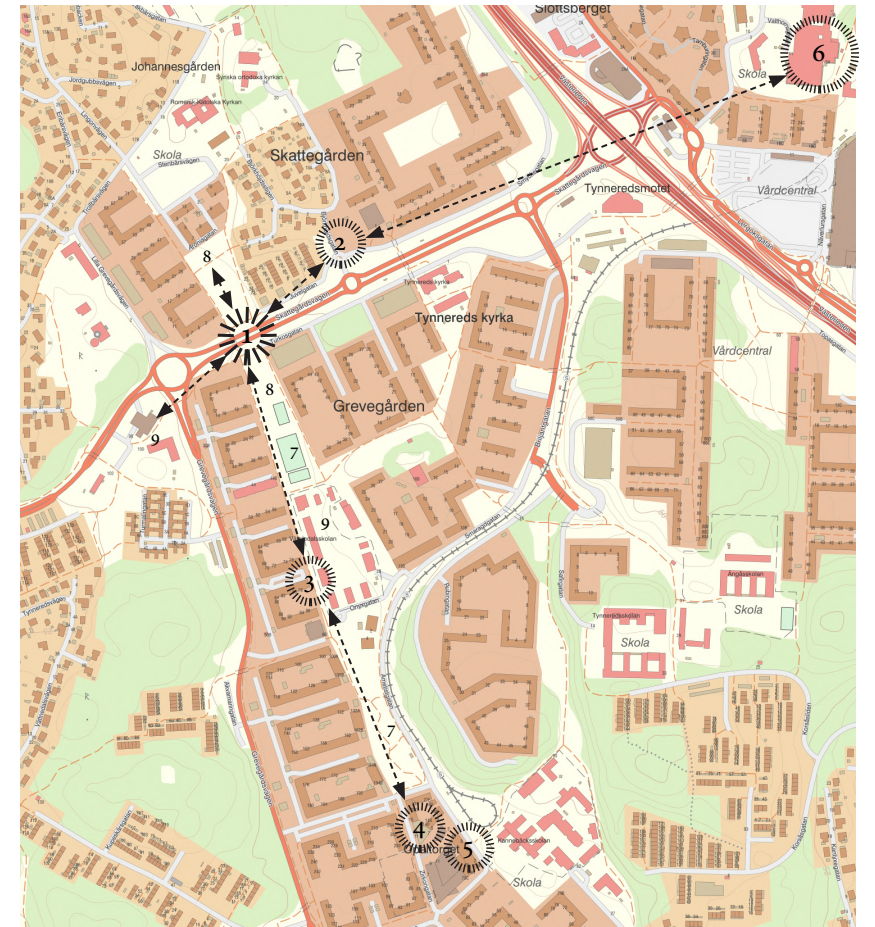




Figure 44.- (Authors own picture)



Figure 45.- (Authors own picture)



Figure 46.- (Authors own picture)



Figure 47.- (Authors own picture)



Figure 48.- (Authors own picture)



Figure 49.- (Authors own picture)

Figure 44.- Photograph from north-side Grevegårdsparken, looking to the south, towards ground depression intended for storm-water management.

Figure 45.- Photograph from the connecting path between Skattegårdsvägen (south side) towards Grevegårdsparken

Figure 46.- Photograph from inside the underpass beneath Skattegårdsvägen street.

Figure 47.- Photograph showing the relationship between the interior and exterior of the underpass, south side.

Figure 48.- Panoramic photograph of the interior of the underpass beneath Skattegårdsvägen street, viewing in a north-east direction.

Figure 49.- Panoramic photograph showing the space beneath Skattegårdsvägen street, taken from Grevegårdsparken on the south side looking north.

Figure 50.- Systemic Design Framework implementation process diagram. (Authors own figure).

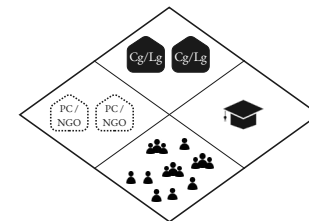


Figure 51.- Diagram of the four basic types of stakeholders (authors own figure).

Public institutions (top): Municipality of Gothenburg, in cooperation with its housing company Familjebostäder

Private sector (side): Stena Fastigheter, Volvo Cars (already participants in the Destination Tynnered initiative)

Academia (side): The universities of Gothenburg are proposed through their courses, thesis work, etc. Chalmers University and Gothenburg University are proposed, however other academic institutions wishing to collaborate may be included.

Community (bottom): Residents of Tynnered, neighbours or those who identify with the area around the intersection of Skattegårdsvägen and Grevegårdsparken

social ecological approach.

Additionally, this location would allow for a possible diversity of social actors, as it is closer to the areas of the district with the highest property ownership (fig. 42). In this sense, this point would be closer to bringing together diverse social groups, thus encouraging the objective of cohesion between neighbourhoods by connecting across social barriers, as promoted by the Översiktsplan för Göteborg (Göteborgs Stad, 2022).

Furthermore, this site has previously been identified in academic studies (Cronsell & Nyholm, 2024), as well as by the Tynnered community itself in participatory processes recently (2025) developed as part of Summer-Space, the collaborative project already discussed in chapter 2, within the framework of the Destination Tynnered initiative (iTynnered, n.d.).

Finally, by positioning the re-envisioned community-hub in this location, the area's social infrastructure ecosystem is also strengthened (fig. 43), establishing a potential route between current and future community centres and helping to connect Frölunda Torg and Opalorget, as initially established in the Programme for Tynnered.

4.1.b.- Framework implementation process

The implementation process will follow the same sequential order that has been used both in the analysis of references and in the development of principles: starting with the operative system, continuing with the urban system, and ending with the building system (fig. 50). In this way, implementation is carried out from largest to smallest on the scale of systems. This will eventually reveal that approaching the assignment from an operative perspective can frame the implementation process for the other systems and their respective principles.

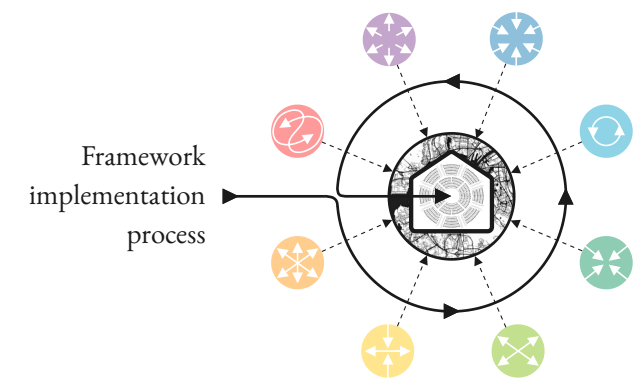


Figure 50

4.2.- Implementation of the systemic design framework

4.2.a.- Tynnered and the Principle of diverse multi-stakeholder approach

Dialogue processes of various types, including Master's theses by students at Chalmers University, suggest that residents of the Tynnered area, despite having access to Hubben i Tynnered (a project analysed in Chapter 2), ask for more shared indoor spaces for gatherings and meetings (Sharmin, 2024). Since an implementation project would be in a near by area of the project Hubben i Tynnered, reference is made to the same stakeholders already visited, although this time they are organised into the four groups proposed as a starting point by the principle: the public institutions, private sector, academia, and the community (fig. 51).

4.2.b.- Tynnered and the Principle of middle-out governance structure

Currently, there is no popularly elected civic organisation in the area that serves as an intermediary between the different groups of stakeholders. As this principle states, it is acknowledged that such a governance body is important for achieving a middle-out structure. For this reason, this implementation proposes the establishment of a Community Council, which is hosted by the present re-envisioned community-hub project.

Reflecting on this, a connection could be made between the 'Prototypa!' methodology (Göteborgs Stad, 2023), known to the City of Gothenburg from its previous use in the Omställningslabbet project analysed previously, and Chile's experience with long-term semi-autonomous Neighbourhood Councils. This deepening of the social dimension of the project is illustrated in the diagram formerly used to analyse existing community-hubs (fig. 52), this time presented in proposal code. Next, a conceptualisation of this principle linked to the selected urban context is shown in Figure 55.

4.2.c.- Tynnered and the Principle of Territorial network integration

The idea is to view community-hubs as a network of social infrastructure. In this context, there is an opportunity to find a strategic location and start a network (or inform and complement Gothenburg's Programme for Tynnered network) of community hub-type social infrastructure.

Based on these considerations, this principle has the prerogative to propose the location for implementation, this being the underpass located at the intersection of Skattegårdsvägen and the pedestrian paths of Grevegårdsparken (fig. 55). The choice of this location, as raised in section 4.1.a.-, enables the social infrastructure in the north-west of the area (towards new urban-centre proposed by the Programme for Tynnered and further Frölunda Torg) to be linked to that in the south-west of the area (Hubben from Destination Tynnered and the Opaltorget sector). This is illustrated conceptually in Fig. 53. It should be noted also that the community dialogue process developed by the Summer-Space initiative, in partnership with Destination Tynnered, have proposed urban activation and intervention initiatives for this same area (personal communication, August 12, 2025). Additionally, it should be noted that in other dialogue processes such as Dialog Tynnered (Hyresgästföreningen, 2023), highlights the perceived insecurity of the youth community regarding the underpasses between streets and parks. In this regard, intervening in this area would also have a powerful additional symbolic justification.

4.2.d.- Tynnered and the Principle of Interactive Public Interfaces

The proposed location is strategically positioned to enable occupation and activation of the surrounding area, as promoted by this principle. Being centrally located in a space between green areas in Grevegårdsparken provides the necessary space for cultural, environmental, educational and social interventions. The proximity to the storm-water management area, as shown above (fig.40), allows for landscape design linked to recreation and environmental sustainability. To locate a community-hub at the intersection of a main street for the district with a longitudinal park of vertical residential borders, and close to public transport stations, could ensure varied pedestrian activity and flow in the area, increasing the possibility of the community-hub and its surroundings being used and activated continuously. The strategy of revitalising an underpass provides a symbolic opportunity as well (due to the dialogue processes discussed above) in its interactive interface with the adjacent public space. Elements as a whole considered when establishing the design strategy to be formally proposed later.

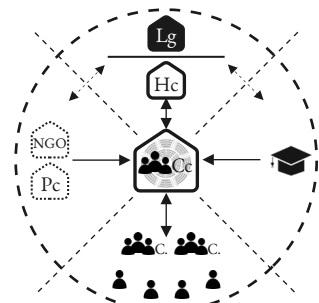


Figure 52.- Conceptual diagram of governance structure, for the re-envisioned community hub in Tynnered. (Authors own figure)

- Lg : Local government, Gothenburg City
- Hc : Housing company Familjebostäder
- NGO : Collaborating NGOs
- Pc : Partner companies (e.g., Volvo Cars)
- Cc : Community Council (democratic process)
- C : Thematic committees
- I : Individuals, community

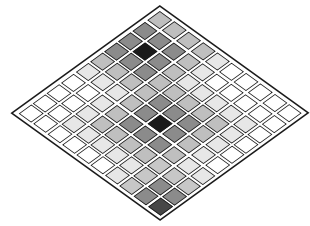


Figure 53.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the possibility proposed to be achieved with the positioning of the re-envisioned community hub, by establishing a route of community hub-type social infrastructure, as also developed in Figure 43 earlier. (Authors own figure)

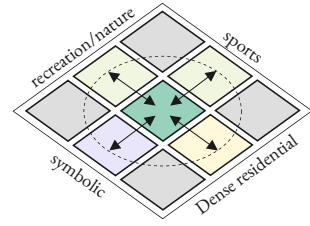


Figure 54.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the relationship between the site and a recreational, symbolic, sporting and densely populated environment, which allows for diverse opportunities to establish an interactive interface with the public space. (Authors own figure)

Figure 55.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the experimental Community Council proposal. (Authors own figure).

The diagram illustrate the Community Council emerged through a democratic process: inviting participation from the local community, along with groups that identify with the area. As in the Chilean experience, the proposal is to elect local leaders who, through voting, will form a council to preside over the space. Additionally, thematic committees (e.g., sports, culture, recreation, childhood, etc.) can be established to collaborate with the Community Council and coordinate the thematic activation of the space. This central body is proposed as a mediator between top-down institutionalism, bottom-up mobilisation, and coordination with other actors such as the private sector and academia.

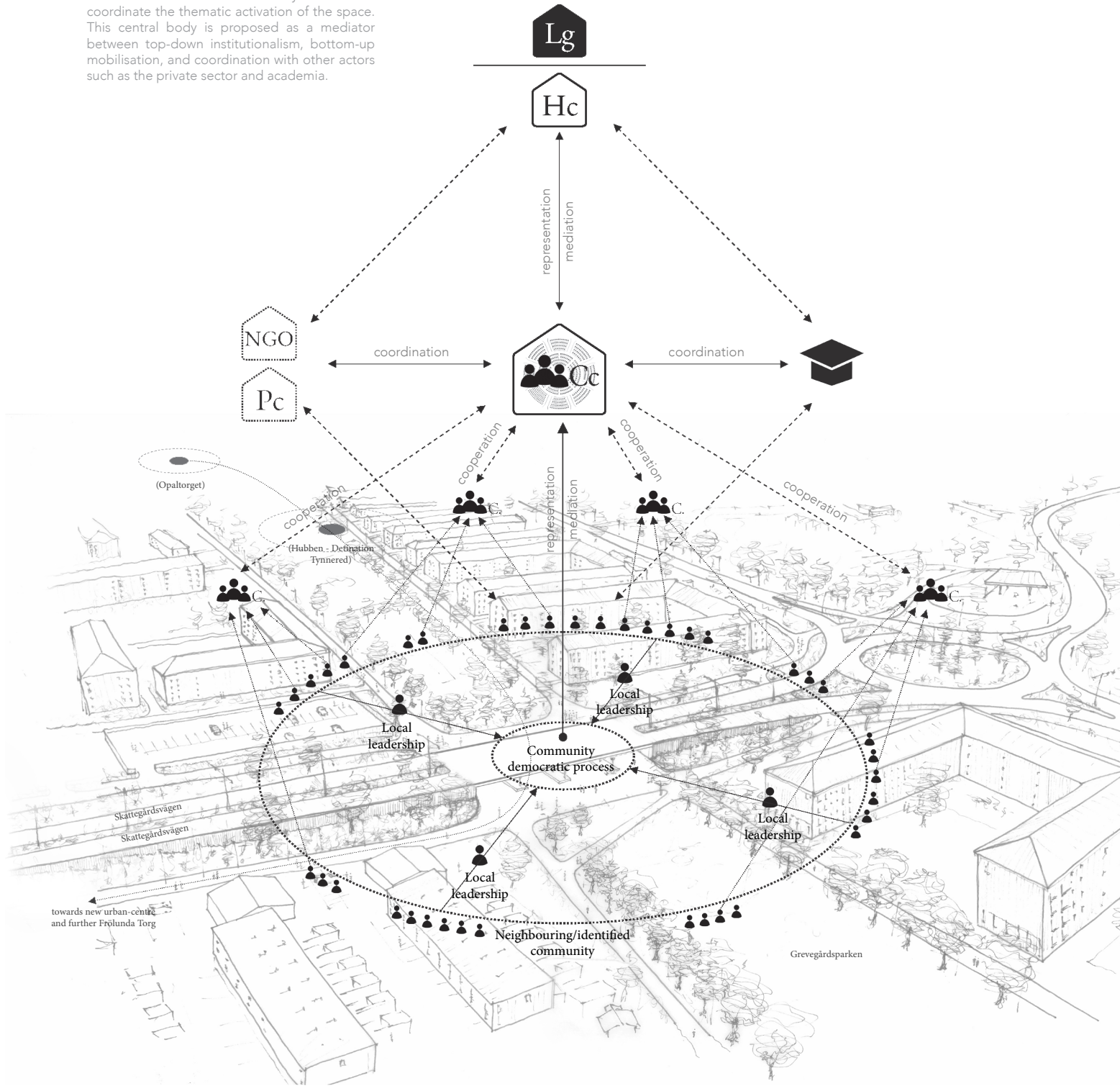


Figure 55

4.2.e.- Tynnered and the Principle of Technique towards Sustainability

In line with this principle, the implementation proposal suggests working with materials associated with the local environment -such as wood for Sweden- in combination with materials from circular processes -such as container structures-. In fact, a similar combination of dominant materiality has already been implemented by the municipality of Gothenburg in its Omställningslabbet project. This case study also informs the construction process for this proposal, establishing the methodology prototypa! (Göteborgs Stad, 2023), applied in Omställningslabbet and its surroundings for this implementation .

Due to the limitations stated in the thesis, although it is highly recommended to develop a binding participatory process for the design of the intervention, this thesis proposes a tentative draft project in order to illustrate the rest of the principles based on it. In this way, it is proposed a project technically conceived as a set of wooden surfaces on which to plan and work (fig. 60.c.-), maintaining adequate mobility flow in the area (fig. 60.d.-). On top of it, several container structures that host interior spaces, along with a symbolic wooden structure (fig.60 b.- and fig. 60.a.-) that will be further elaborated upon in the description of the following principles.

4.2.f.- Tynnered and the Principle of Multifunctionality as a driver for encounters

The principle invites one to think of a multifunctional space designed for encounters. Therefore, as promoted by this principle, a main central space is being suggested to allow for encounter, assembly and social interactions. This space is proposed to be a translucent interior space, open to the public, as a covered public square (fig. 60.b.-). The space is articulated around a large meeting and assembly area, with a central structure resembling a community-parliamentary seating space (fig.60.a.-). A wooden structure that would symbolise and spatially accommodate participatory governance when required, while also allowing for everyday use and spontaneous encounters, among other activities. Additionally, this structure could be disassembled into four mobile sections, allowing the space to be transformed while reinforcing its multifunctional nature.

Its multiplicity of functions extends to the side container structures, which are designed to accommodate different uses, such as administrative spaces, storage rooms, bathrooms, a community kitchen, spaces for commercial rental (e.g., a local café), and spaces for thematic activities such as maker-space.

4.2.g.- Tynnered and the Principle of Symbolic place-based identity

This principle recognises the symbolic component of the community-hub. Therefore, in this implementation proposal, the functional, technical, urban and operational features contribute to this symbolism. The sense of place-based belonging promoted by the principle is built on community mobilisation, which is why co-design and co-construction processes are symbolically advisable. In addition, maintenance and intervention activities also promote a sense of belonging and collective identity, for which the side containers provide medium for intervention. Containers also provide the administrative accommodation of a Community Council proposed earlier.

4.2.h.- Tynnered and the Principle of Form as the expression of integration and flexibility

As stated by the principle, form is implemented as a product of the spatial proposal of all the previous principles. Attention was paid to incorporating flexibility strategies, such as the implementation of separate sub-projects for the construction of platforms and the upper positioning of container structures. This is intended to enable the exchange, increase or reduction of the number of containers, allowing for different configurations within the platforms. Likewise, its symbolic central structure (community parliament), which is mobile, can also adapt to different forms according to the changing needs.

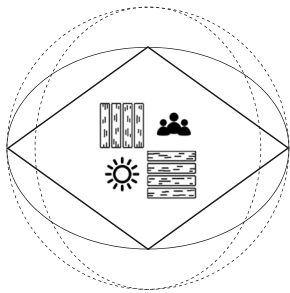


Figure 56.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the technical considerations of the proposal for implementation. Considering materiality and declaring importance for participatory processes. (Authors own figure)

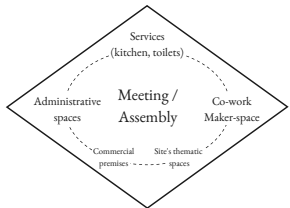


Figure 57.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the incorporation of a diversity of spaces and uses around the meeting place as the central theme. (Authors own figure)

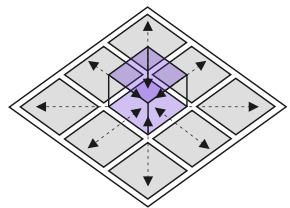


Figure 58.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the symbolic meaning, in coherence with the other systems. (Authors own figure)

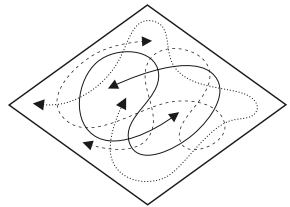


Figure 59.- Conceptual diagram illustrating the form application, in coherence with all the other systems. (Authors own figure)

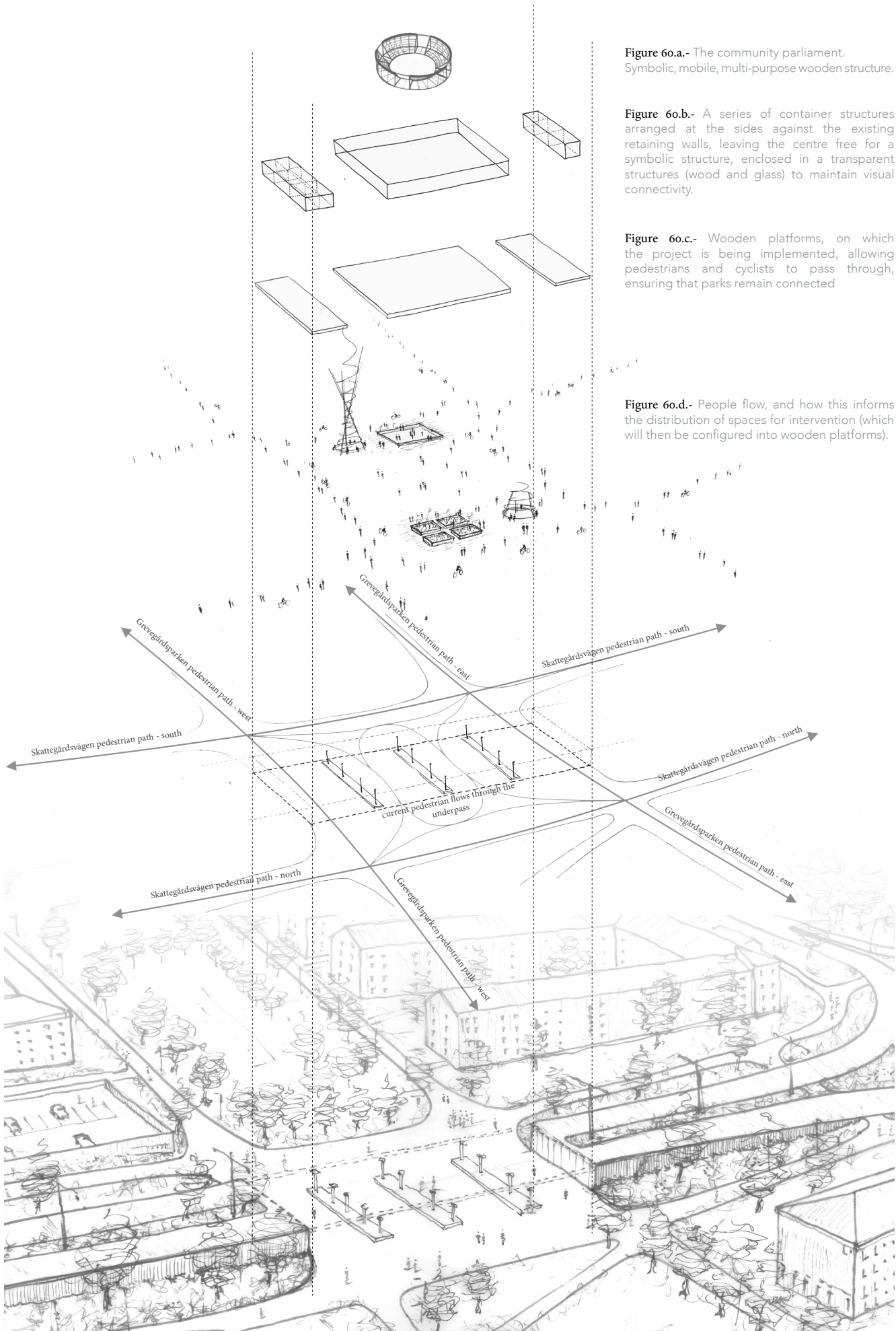


Figure 60.- Explanatory isometric diagram of implementation project. (Authors own figure)

Figure 60.a.- The community parliament. Symbolic, mobile, multi-purpose wooden structure.

Figure 60.b.- A series of container structures arranged at the sides against the existing retaining walls, leaving the centre free for a symbolic structure, enclosed in a transparent structures (wood and glass) to maintain visual connectivity.

Figure 60.c.- Wooden platforms, on which the project is being implemented, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to pass through, ensuring that parks remain connected

Figure 60.d.- People flow, and how this informs the distribution of spaces for intervention (which will then be configured into wooden platforms).

4.3.- Conceptual architecture project of a re-envisioned community-hub for Tynnered

Once all the principles have been developed in design code, the proposal for a re-envisioned community hub is presented. This is shown in an isometric layout in Figure 61, followed by a project floor plan and cross-section (Fig. 62), and finally a series of illustrative sketches of the project on site.

This proposal, although conceptual in nature, seeks to be realistic in technical and implementation terms. At the same time, the freehand representation intends to give the proposal an artistic character, and thus an inspiring one.

Figure 61.- Descriptive isometric.
Conceptual implementation of the re-envisioned community hub project, following the previous analysis and proposal for each principle.

- 1.- Community Parliament
- 2.- Indoor meeting square /
- 3.- Pedestrian and cycle path
- 4.- Space managed by the Neighbourhood Council
- 5.- Series of venues for the community, such as makerspaces, or for rent, or local cafés, etc.
- 6.- Outdoor spaces for intervention, for example, flea markets
- 7.- Outdoor spaces for intervention, for example, Recreation or planting areas
- 8.- Space for landscape intervention with an ecological approach to stormwater management.

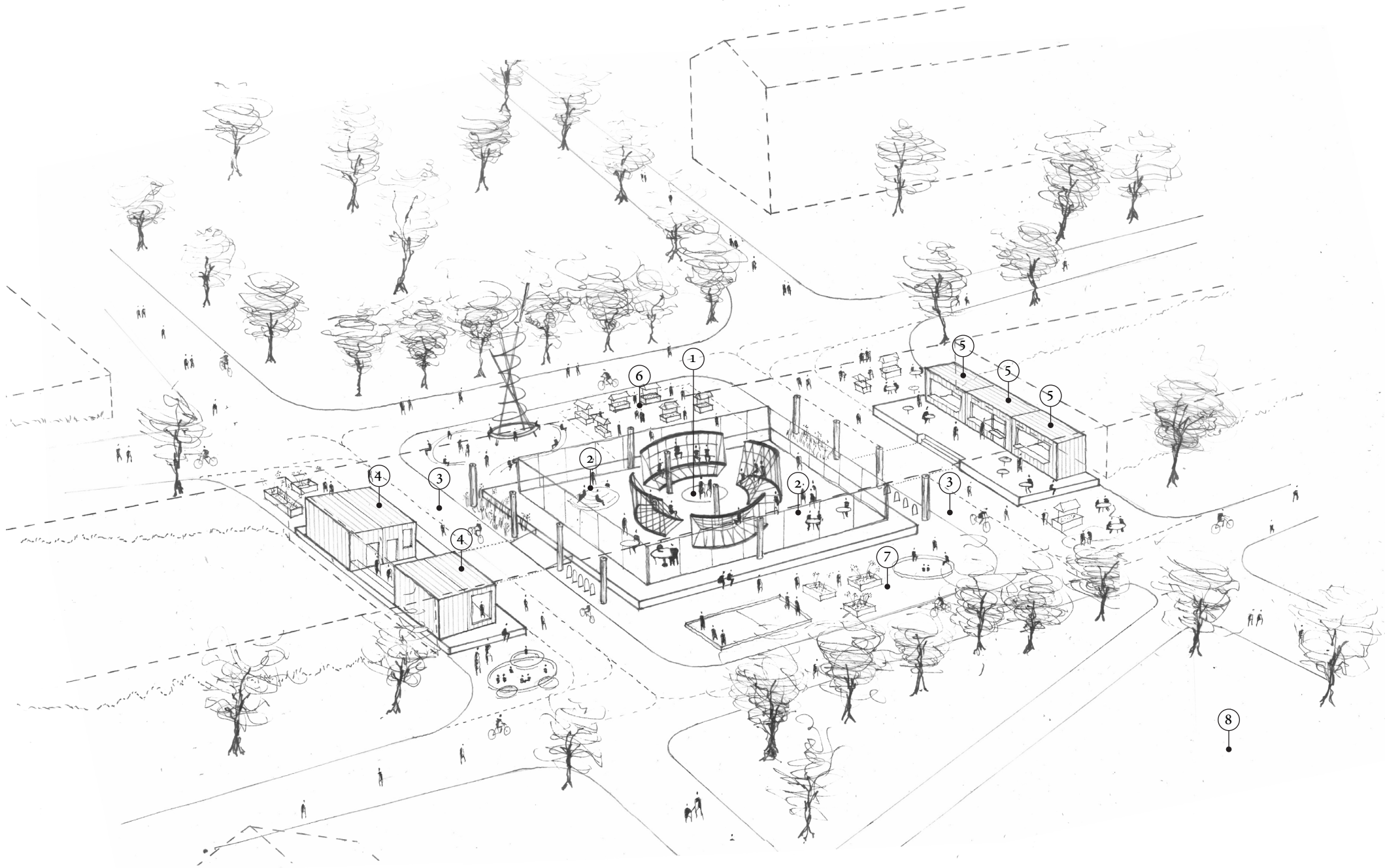


Figure 61

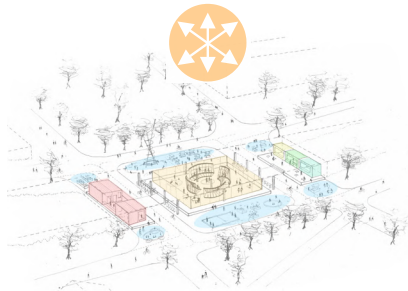


Figure 61.a.- Illustration Principle 1
Different colours represent spaces designated for its use by various actors, such as makerspaces, rental spaces, spaces open to the general public, administrative spaces for the Neighbourhood Council, etc.

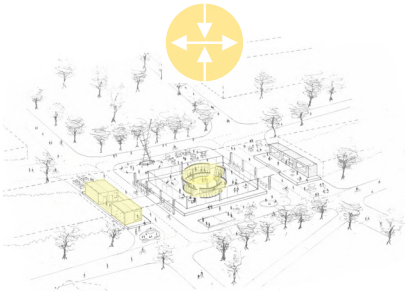


Figure 61.b.- Illustration Principle 2
In yellow, spaces designated for the use, sharing, and administration of the democratically elected Neighbourhood Council, the mediator middle-out community and space governance body.

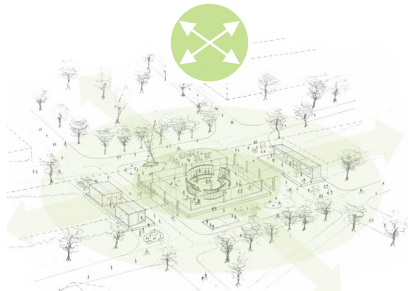


Figure 61.c.- Illustration Principle 3
In light green, the project's urban vocation to connect with other social infrastructures.

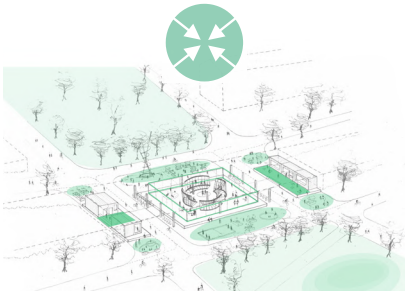


Figure 61.d.- Illustration Principle 4
In green, interactive interface space between the exteriors and the project. Not detailed in the isometric view, but in a technical project it is recommended to incorporate the exterior opportunities analysed, such as storm-water management space, for ecological interventions in public space.

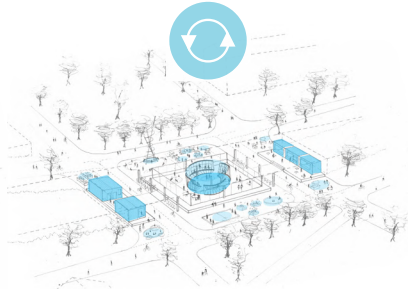


Figure 61.e.- Illustration Principle 5
In light blue, it highlights the proposed premises or constructions that can undergo co-design and subsequent co-construction processes.

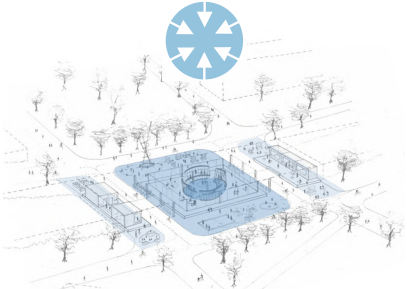


Figure 61.f.- Illustration Principle 6
In blue gradient, it is underlined all the project's spaces, which collaborate jointly to promote multiple uses, as well as creating meeting spaces and opportunities for action initiatives.

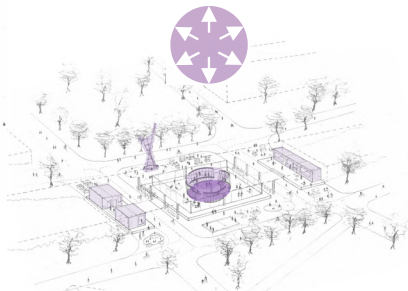


Figure 61.g.- Illustration Principle 7
In purple, the proposed symbolic elements. The central iconic feature is the community's parliamentary structure.

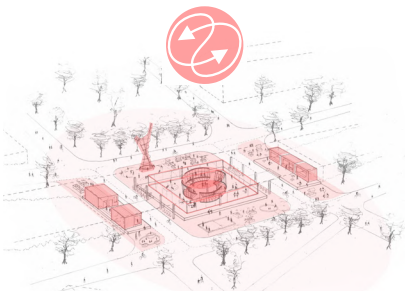


Figure 61.h.- Illustration Principle 8
All spatial expressions proposed by the above principles, grouped into a suggested form in red

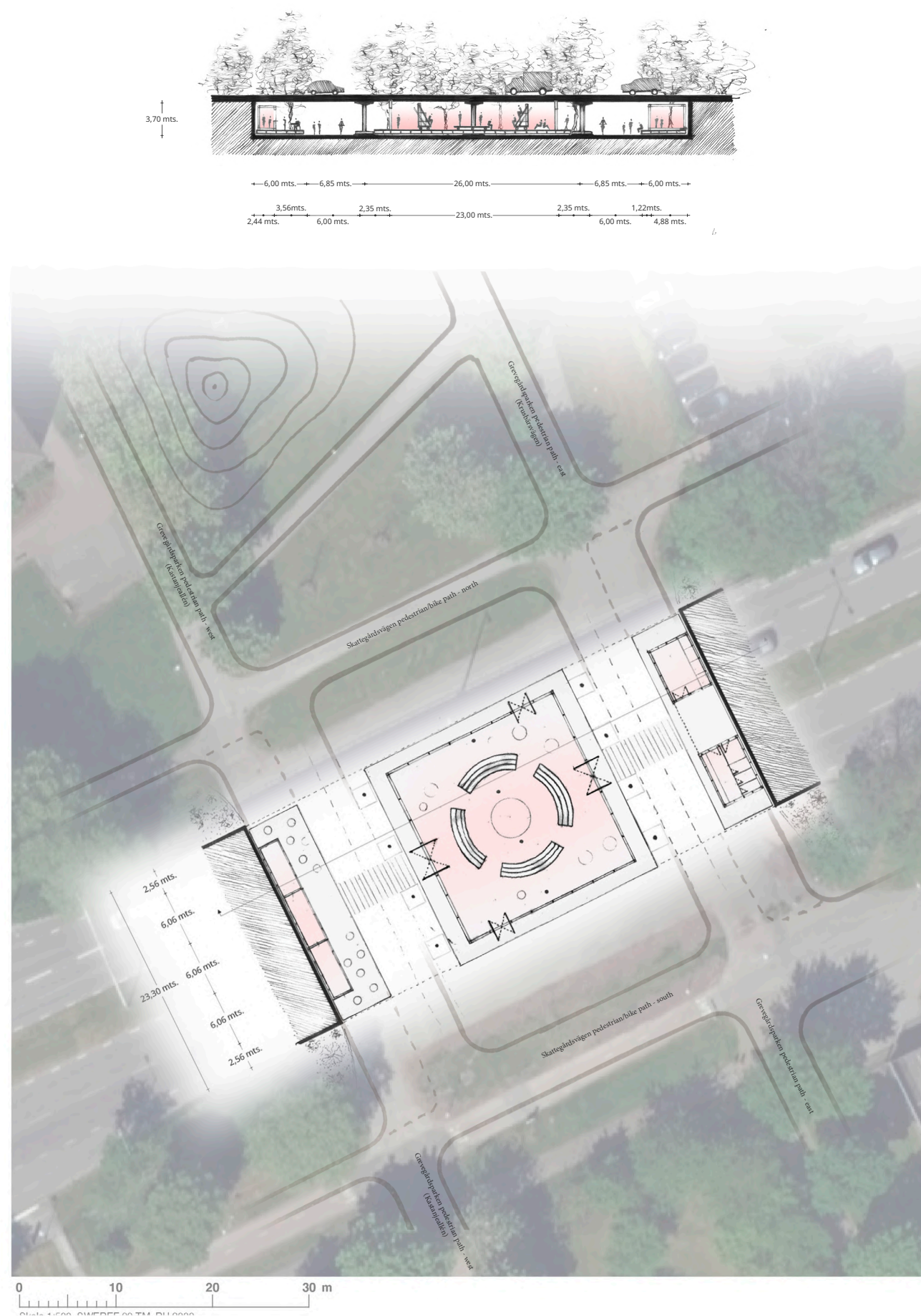


Figure 62.- Conceptual architectural plan and section.
Base intervention of the underpass space with the re-envisioned community hub, located in the current environment without mayor modification.
Base map © Lantmäteriet (2024)

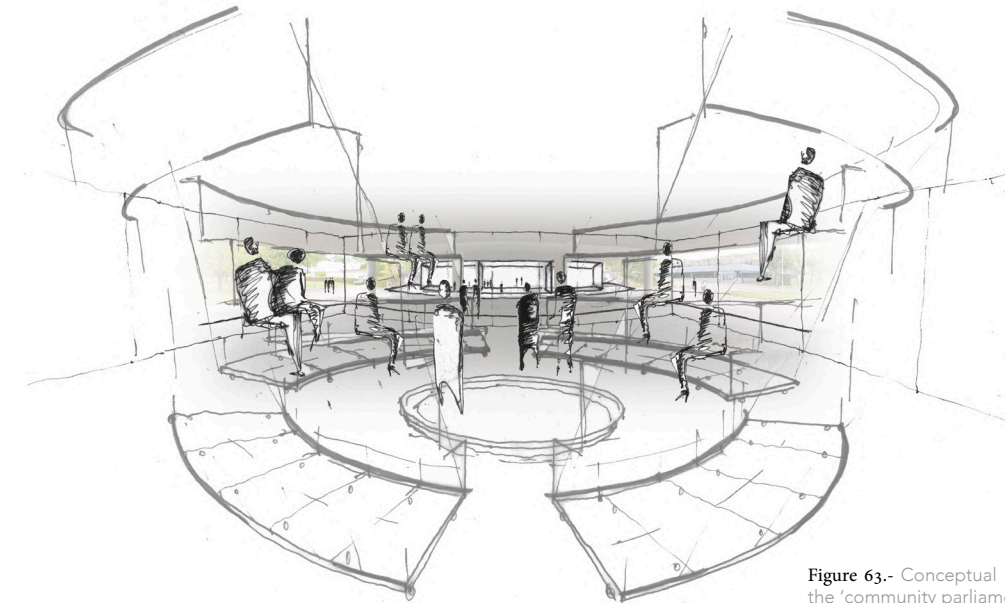


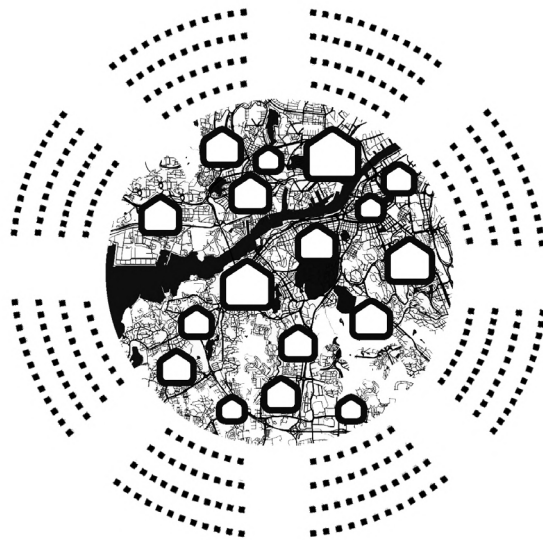
Figure 63.- Conceptual sketch, view from inside the 'community parliament' structure



Figure 64.- Conceptual sketch, exterior view (southern area of Grevegårdsparken).



Figure 65.- Conceptual sketch, exterior view from the connecting path between Skattegårdsvägen (south side) towards Grevegårdsparken



5.0.- Discussions and synthesis

This fifth chapter critically reflects on the work presented in the previous stages. It consists of an initial reflection on the thesis questions, covering the main question and the sub-questions (5.1.- and 5.2.-, respectively).

Based on that reflection, possibilities for future discussions are developed, which could inspire new research or applications of the material generated by this thesis (5.3.-).

The section closes with a conclusion (5.4.-), which brings the investigation to an end.

5.1.- Discussions based on the main thesis question

5.1.a.- Re-envisioning the community-hub through a systemic design approach, as a means to strengthen social cohesion and urban resilience in contemporary Swedish built environments

This thesis began by questioning how re-envisioning community-hubs could strengthen social cohesion and urban resilience in built environments, focusing on contemporary Sweden (specifically in the area of Tynnered, Gothenburg). This task, assuming its multisystemic nature, was structured based on the theory of the Chilean theoretician architect Cristian Fernández Cox, who proposes an organic-systemic approach to architectural design. Consequently, for a project with the characteristics of a community-hub, the focus was placed on three specific systems: the operative system, the urban system, and the building system, and for each of these, analysing their specific sub-systems.

In this regard, the method implemented contributed to reflect on potential characteristics that would promote social cohesion and urban resilience within a community-hub. Specifically, section 2.0 —by the observation and analysis of historical and contemporary cases in Sweden and Chile— helped to identify and organise these potential links, not only specifically within each case, but more broadly in relation to the three proposed systems.

This analysis was translated then into design principles, producing a diagram that proposed a starting point for the systemic design of community-hubs in relation to these guiding concepts (section 3.0.-). This material is already a contribution, if it were to be consulted by urban planners and policy makers in order to consider community-hubs in the elaboration of urban development plans. This potential contribution is based on the analysed Översiktsplan för Göteborg, and more specifically on the Programme for Tynnered (Göteborgs Stad, 2022), in terms of its social infrastructure provision (relying mainly on schools), when, considering the recent academic consultation processes (Sharmin, 2024), there is evidence of a lack of diversified alternatives of social infrastructure and indoor meeting places (such as community-hubs).

In response to this situation, section 4.0 develops an application proposal of the systemic design framework, generating a project design for a community-hub for Tynnered. This proposal, although conceptual rather than technical, illustrates how to apply the systemic design framework to a specific case. This application is related also to previous work developed jointly by Destination Tynnered, together with Volvo, Framtiden. The proposal highlights the importance of considering the operative system, through the incorporation of stakeholders and a proposed governance structure, so that the spatial dimension (urban system and building system) can effectively contribute to the desired social cohesion and urban resilience.

This project, drawn by hand to highlight its conceptual nature and inspirational character, seeks precisely to inspire and motivate current actors (and potential future actors, to be developed in section 5.3.-). This inspiration could be realistic, considering that the proposal uses a type of materials, scale and intervention very similar to a project already developed by the Municipality of Gothenburg (also analysed in this thesis), the Omställningslabbet in the Frihamnen area. What Omställningslabbet lacks is precisely what this location in Tynnered has: an organised, neighbouring and motivated local community that could breathe life constantly into a project like this. On the other hand, the community in Tynnered has demanded more multi-purpose community spaces with these characteristics, as evidenced by the community activities developed by Summer Space, presented publicly at the event held on 12 August at Opaltorget. With this thesis then, the city is challenged to prototype new formats of social infrastructure, based on familiar mechanisms for the municipality, but in other areas of need such as Tynnered.

In this way, it can be seen how the overall proposal of this thesis generates a set of approaches and answers to the main question, when proposing ways and suggestions to strengthen social cohesion and urban resilience in contemporary Swedish built environments

5.2.- Contributions and discussions on thesis sub-questions

5.2.a.- Analysis of Swedish historical to contemporary references in fostering participation

This sub-question served to guide the selection of references from Sweden, seeking to understand how community-hubs have evolved and how this evolution can be reflected in the culture of participation in Sweden. Interestingly, a correlation can be observed in this regard: in historical references, we saw broad participation by society, with almost 10% of the Swedish population participating in Folketshus, Ordenhus or Frikyrkor (Almqvist et al., 1976). The Folketshus movement, for example, linked to the labour movement, would come to power in subsequent decades through the organisation of its political party, the Socialdemokraterna, which is one of the key players in the current Swedish welfare state. One could therefore infer the relevance of civic participation and involvement of citizens in accompanying such large-scale transformation processes over time, with the community-hubs of the movement -the folketshus- being a significant element in understanding this social support.

Given this observation, and in pursuit of a cohesive and robust city as the municipality seeks to promote, it is important to re-envision community-hubs as a strategy to restore the culture of participation towards a cohesive and resilient society.

5.2.b.- Chilean contemporary references as experiences of transferable knowledge to the Swedish context.

The decision to examine in detail references from a context as distant and different as Chile was highly valuable in providing renewed perspectives for the analysis. In addition to the spatial dimension, analysed through the urban system and building system of the Chilean references, it was particularly relevant to study their operative system. This provided an updated and compatible example of a middle-out structure, incorporating the concept of local scale democracy into participatory governance, a relevant characteristic when it comes to providing legitimacy, trust, sense of belonging and long-term viability to participatory processes. Concepts and lessons that is suggested are transferable; both to the built environment, as well as to urban policy making in developed contexts such as Sweden.

5.2.c.- Set of principles for the development of a systemic design framework, leading to social cohesion and urban resilience.

Approaching the systemic design framework from the logic of principles was a strategy consistent with the theory guiding this research, in conjunction with the contextual analysis performed. The number of principles (eight), spread across the three systems examined, provides an accessible starting point for re-envisioning comprehensively a contemporary community-hub. These principles emerge from analytical reflection on the case studies (Swedish historical, contemporary Swedish and contemporary Chilean), which in turn were reviewed from the perspective of social cohesion and urban resilience. For this reason, the relationship between these principles and the guiding concepts of the thesis is made clear.

However, these principles may fall short when it comes to implementing a complete and feasible community-hub architecture project. From a critical perspective, incorporating other systems proposed by Cristián Fernández Cox's theory, such as the cultural system, could be a relevant addition considering the widely diverse immigration contexts of Swedish built environments. For example, in the case of Tynnered, communities from very diverse countries and cultures (Arabic, African, Latin American, to name a few) coexist, with different religions, different approaches to civic participation, and different levels of horizontal and vertical trust in society (personal communication, August 12, 2025). For this reason, incorporating the analysis of a system specifically linked to "culture" could be a significant contribution to comprehensively addressing social cohesion and the

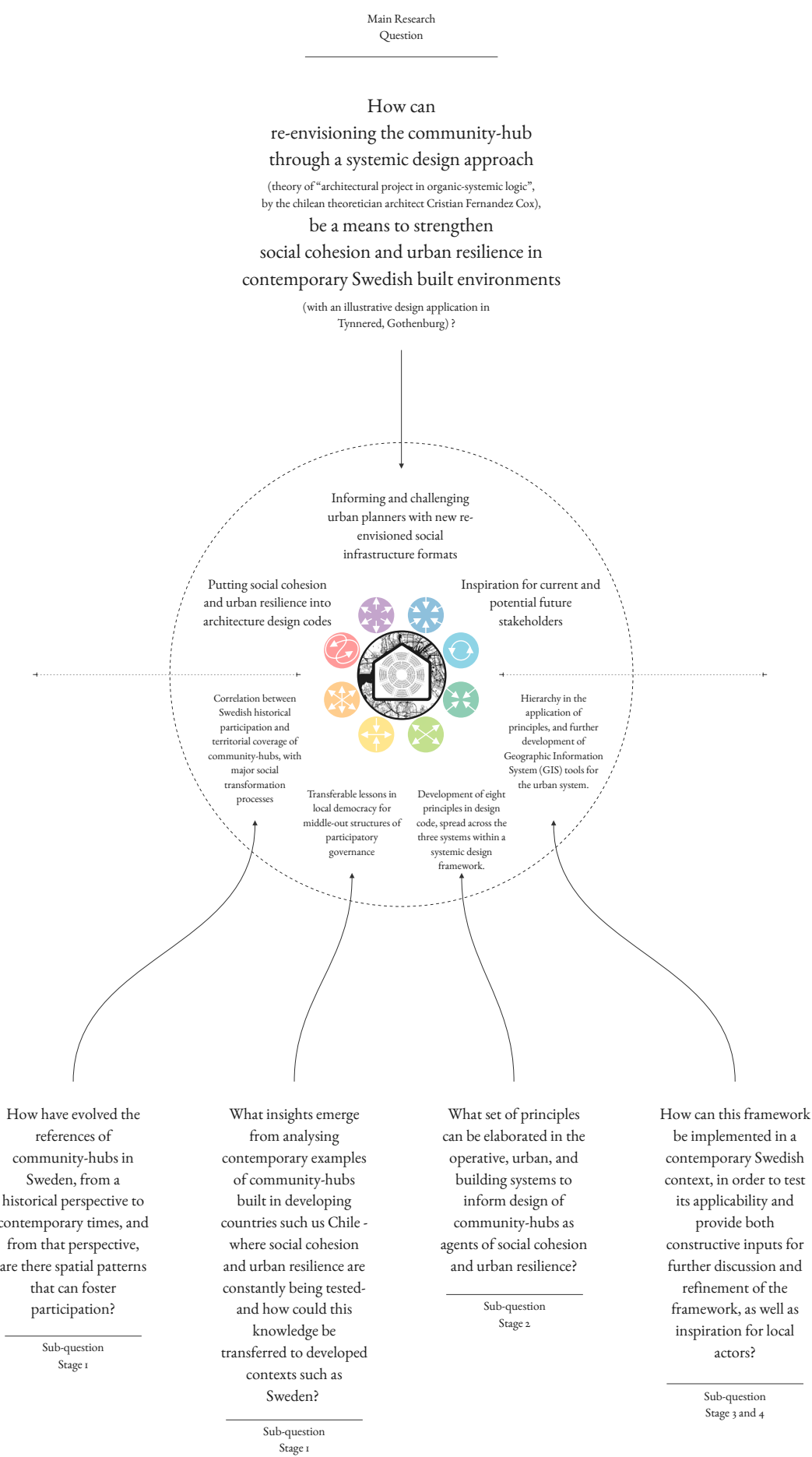


Figure 66.- Research questions discussions diagram (Authors own figure).

following urban resilience when improving the community-hub systemic design framework.

5.2.d.- Design application in order to test applicability and provide constructive inputs and inspiration

The application of the systemic design framework allowed to exemplify how to approach the principles as design codes; allowing theory to act as a design methodology potentially applicable to other contexts in Sweden. Additionally, putting oneself in the position of a designer requires establishing an order of application, which suggests a hierarchy within the principles. In that sense, this thesis understood the operative system as a key element in effectively articulating and activating the community-hub in the long-term. Thus, one possible input reflection could be to further analyse the community hub's capacity to achieve operative autonomy through its participatory governance over time. Assessments on the premise's utilisation, as well as external evaluations on the internal relations of democratically elected bodies, could be relevant to improve and adapt its operative system of the space in the course of time.

Additionally, in terms of the urban system, the incorporation of data analysis using GIS could be a relevant tool to apply concepts from Bill Hillier's Space Syntax theory. This could be used to analyse the centrality and betweenness of the urban fabric in order to establish key locations for community-hubs. Applying this analysis to pedestrian ranges, such as 1 or 2 kilometres for example, could strengthen the role of community-hubs in terms of physical social cohesion at the neighbourhood scale, and also in relation to the broader urban fabric. This input opens up a field of research for the framework itself, since an in-depth study into the urban design of the community-hubs as a network also allows for a deeper understanding of its governance characteristics (operating system) as well as its spatial conditions (building system). In this sense, the urban planning of community-hubs could be enriched by providing a gateway for future research, which will be developed in the following point (5.3.-).

Finally, another input that was reflected upon after the implementation, is how to further incorporate measurement instruments into the framework, to evaluate the results of the objectives initially set. With social cohesion and urban resilience as guiding objectives, it could be possible -for example- to consider instruments that assess the community's inclusiveness in the usage of space and the qualitative contribution of the site to strengthening the neighbourhood's identity (in terms of social cohesion), as well as follow-up of the community's engagement in sustainable transition and climate action (in relation to urban resilience). Although these tasks were outside of the research scope, if this framework is adopted -for example by a municipality- it would be recommended to consider exploring this aspect further.

5.3.- Future discussions and developments

5.3.a.- The urban scale as a future research initiative

The analysis carried out in this thesis identified an appealing relation between the operative and the urban system in promoting participatory governance. Accordingly, as previously discussed in this section, both from a technical point of

view (proposing GIS in conjunction with the application of Space Syntax theory) and from a regulatory point of view (criticising the recent loss of civic powers related to citizen governance within Swedish urban regulation), expanding the concept of community-hubs to an urban scale would be an insightful and relevant exploration. In this regard, correlations could be established between the current statistical territorial subdivision of Swedish regulations (Stadsområden, Mellanområden, Primärområden and Basområden) and possible articulations of democratically elected Community Councils. Participatory governance as one of the drivers of social cohesion, expanded to an urban scale to provide territorial cohesion.

Aware that an urban study of this kind involves a much greater magnitude, Tynnered could once again be established as a more limited object of analysis. Working specifically with this district, one could analyse in greater depth its pedestrian urban fabric, its statistical territorial divisions, and its current demographic-cultural distinctions, in order to propose civic councils operating in community-hubs distributed at strategic points throughout the district.

5.3.b.- Cooperation opportunities with future stakeholders

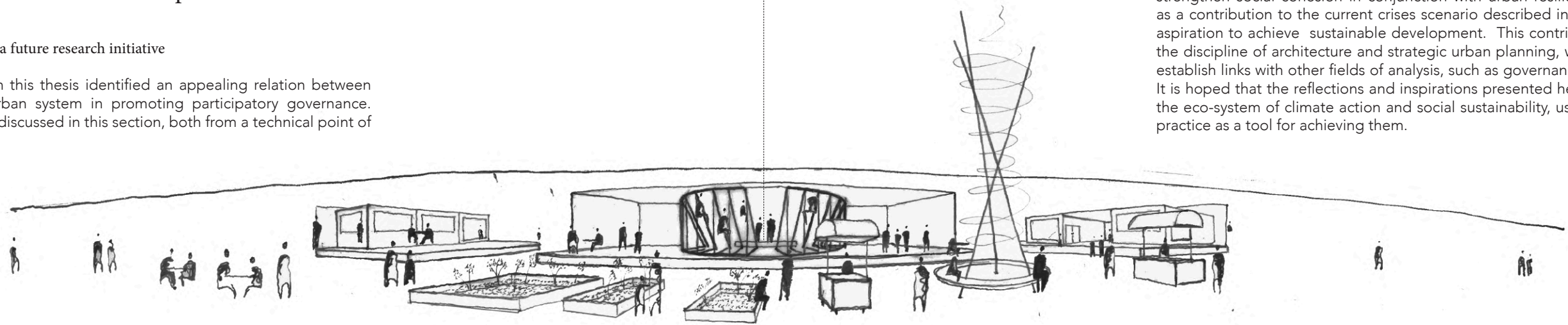
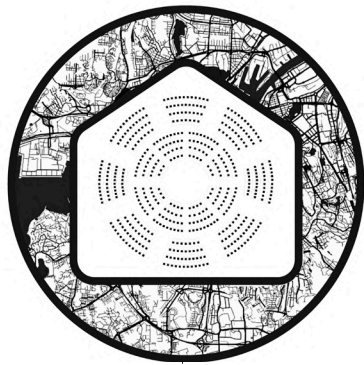
Taking the discussion of future developments to the scale of the building system, it would be pertinent to reflect on how the re-envisioning of a community-hub such as the one proposed in this thesis could be carried out. To this end, and taking into account the lessons learned from the operative system analysis, diversifying the matrix of related stakeholders can provide opportunities to do so.

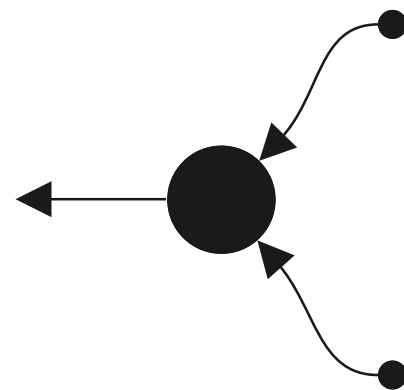
In this regard, the Dare To Build (D2B) programme of the Master's programmes in Architecture and Engineering at Chalmers University has experience in executing small-scale infrastructure and intervention projects, with co-design and co-construction strategies. This experience, which links architecture students with an organised community, having the municipality of Gothenburg as a strategic partner, could be an ideal ally for carrying out a project of this nature.

Another relevant external partner could be the current organisation Folketshus och Parker. This is a grassroots movement, that leads and manages Folkets Hus, its parks, cinemas and similar local organizers throughout the country (Folkets Hus och Parker, n.d.). The historical experience (seen in the study of historical references in this thesis) and the fostering of democracy promoted by this organisation could be relevant in driving forward projects that link the construction of community-hubs with related local participatory governance.

5.4.- Conclusion

In conclusion, this academic exercise, by systemically addressing the need to strengthen social cohesion in conjunction with urban resilience, positions itself as a contribution to the current crises scenario described in point 1.1.-, with the aspiration to achieve sustainable development. This contribution is made from the discipline of architecture and strategic urban planning, while also seeking to establish links with other fields of analysis, such as governance and participation. It is hoped that the reflections and inspirations presented here will contribute to the eco-system of climate action and social sustainability, using the architectural practice as a tool for achieving them.





6.o.- References and supplementary information

This last section includes the list of references used throughout the thesis (6.1.-), as well as an appendix segment (6.2.-), which presents supplementary information in the form of graphic material that complements the research presented.

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6.2.- Appendix

6.2.a.- Additional information about Swedish historical references

A sample from the book Vad Folkets Byggde, Ett utkast till folkrörelserna byggnadshistoria, by Torbjörn Almqvist, Hjärdís Johansson, and Lena Simonsson (Almqvist et al., 1976) is presented, along with additional visual analysis of the planimetric documentation that informed section 2.3.d.-.

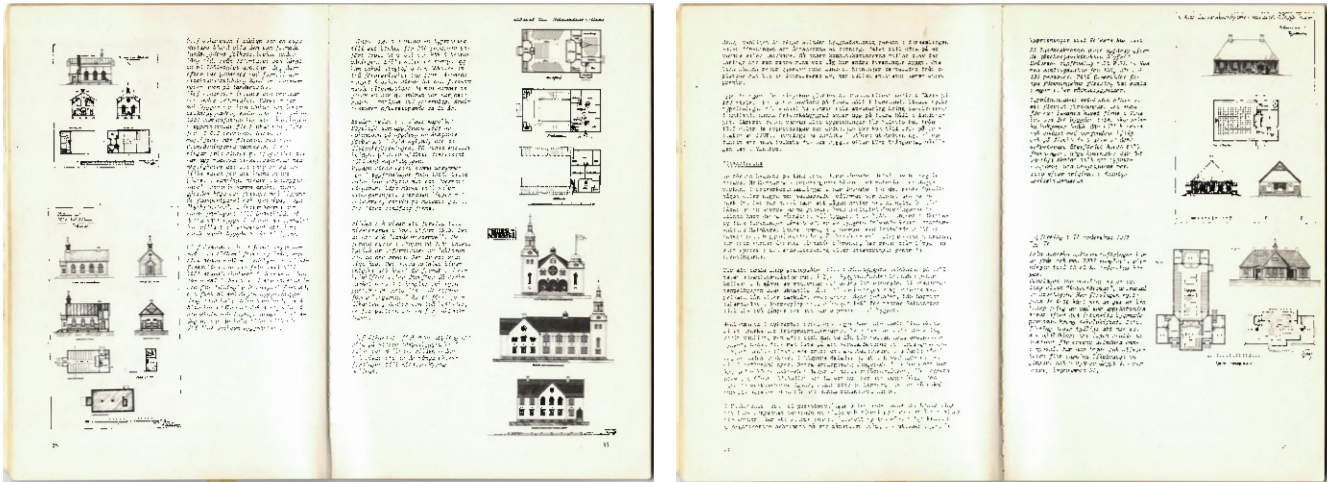
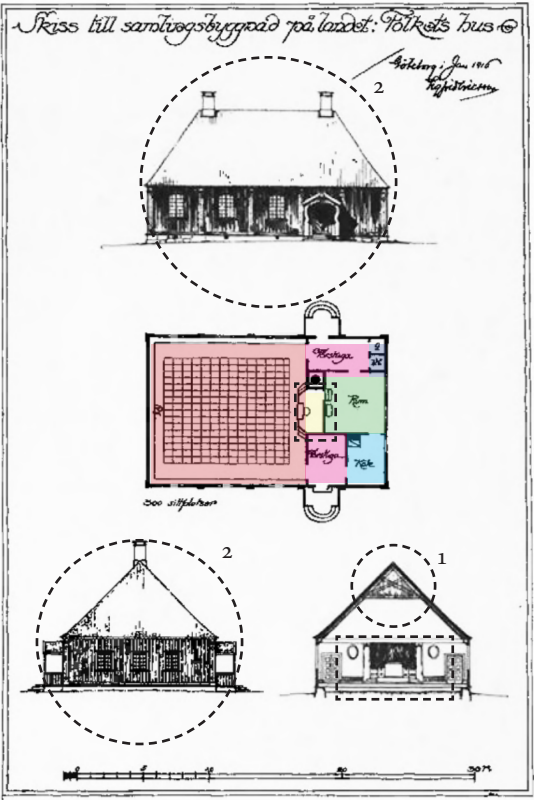


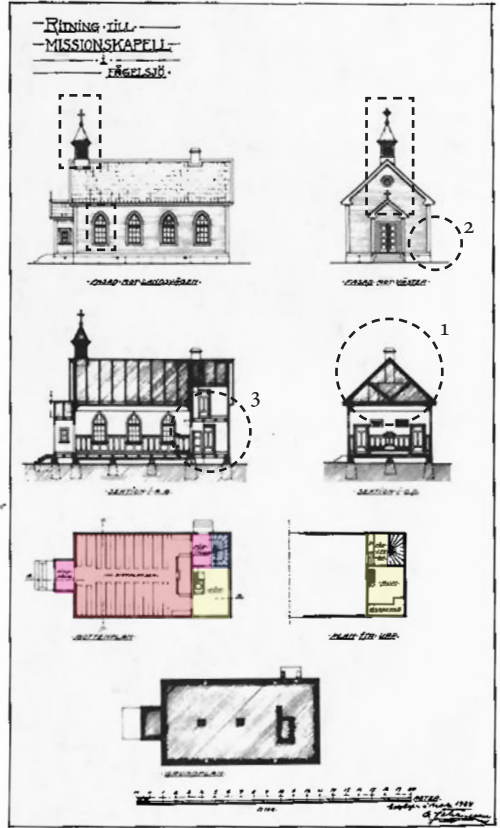
Figure 67.- Sample of pages 36 to 39- Vad Folkets Byggde, Ett utkast till folkrörelserna byggnadshistoria, by Torbjörn Almqvist, Hjärdís Johansson, and Lena Simonsson (Almqvist et al., 1976)

Figure 68.- Folkets Hus visual analysis of the planimetric documentation (Adapted from Almqvist et al., (1976) p. 39)



- Technical elements that highlight the use of wood, such as roof trusses for large spans (1), exterior cladding (2), possible to see in the plans.
- Symbolic element of a political and cultural nature, such as the central raised stage.

Figure 69.- Frikyrkor visual analysis of the planimetric documentation (Adapted from Almqvist et al., (1976) p. 36)



- Technical elements that highlight the use of wood, such as roof trusses for large spans (1), exterior cladding (2), and floor wooden-structure slabs (3) possible to see in the plans.
- Symbolic elements that highlight religious ornamentation.

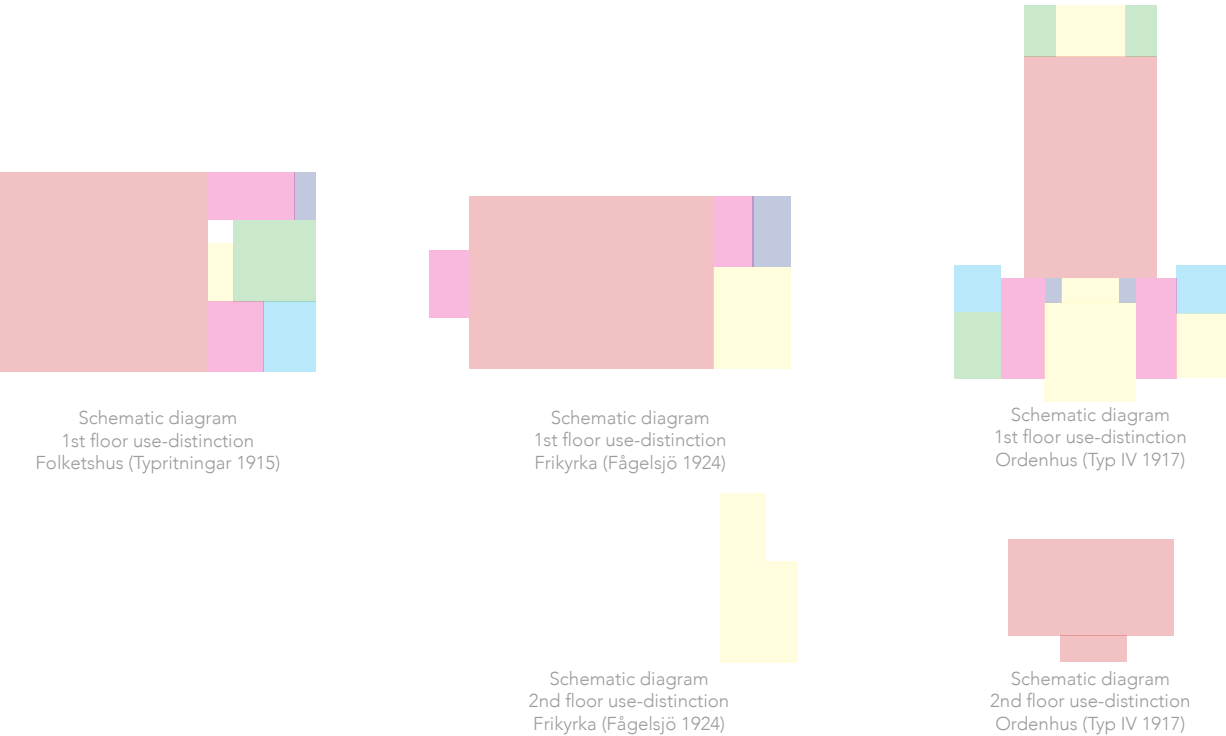
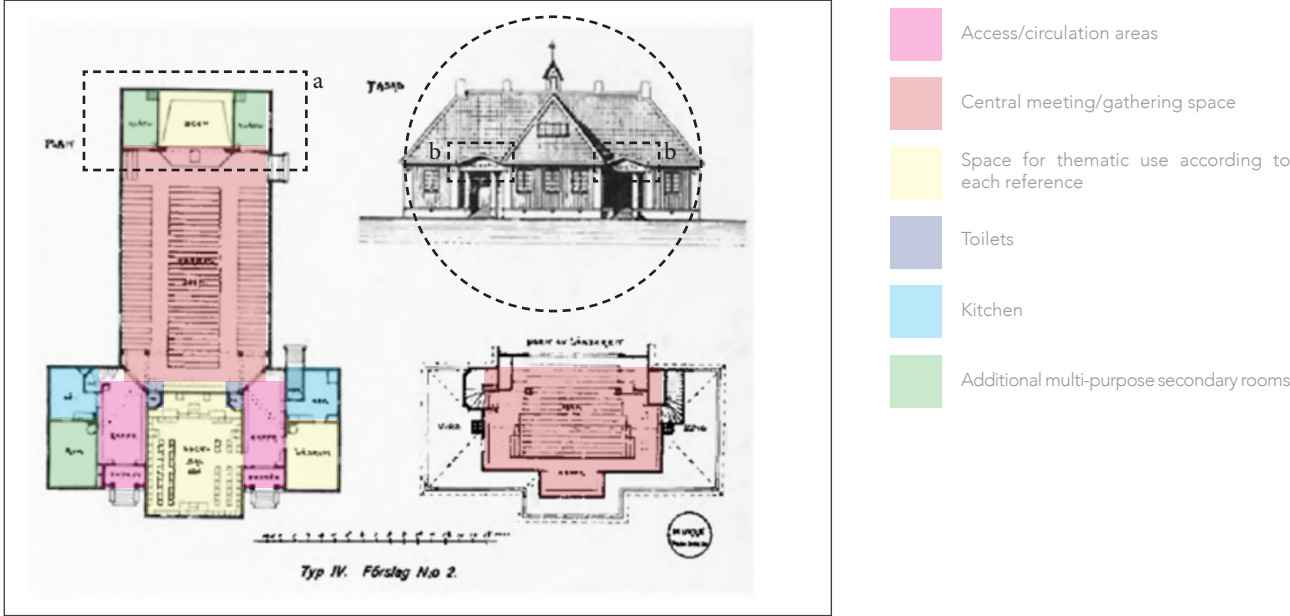


Figure 71.- Schematic diagram of use-distinction of Swedish historic references: Folkets Hus (left), Frikyrka (centre) and Odenhus (right)

Figure 70.- Ordenhus visual analysis of the planimetric documentation (Adapted from Almqvist et al., (1976) p. 39)



- Technical elements that highlight the use of wood, such as the exterior cladding, possible to see on the façade plan.
- Symbolic element related to each lodge such as the central raised stage (a) and Facade ornaments (b).

6.2.b.- Additional information about Swedish contemporary references

The photographic material from the field visits to contemporary Swedish references is presented, along with the published documentation/graphic analysis that informed section 2.4.d.

Study visit to Omställningslabbet, July 14, 2025:

(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



(Authors own picture)



Figure 72.- Photographic series (15) by the author, from a study visit to Omställningslabbet

14-07-2025

Illustrative selection of graphic material available from Felleshus Vallastaden:

Integralen Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Insikten och Intellectet Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Illustrationen Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Inspirationen Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Iterationen Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Initiativet Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Innovationen Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Intervall Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Identiteten Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Integrationen Felleshus (Reprinted with permission)



Figure 73.- Photographic series (10) of Vallastaden Felleshus (Vallastaden, n.d.). (Reprinted with permission)

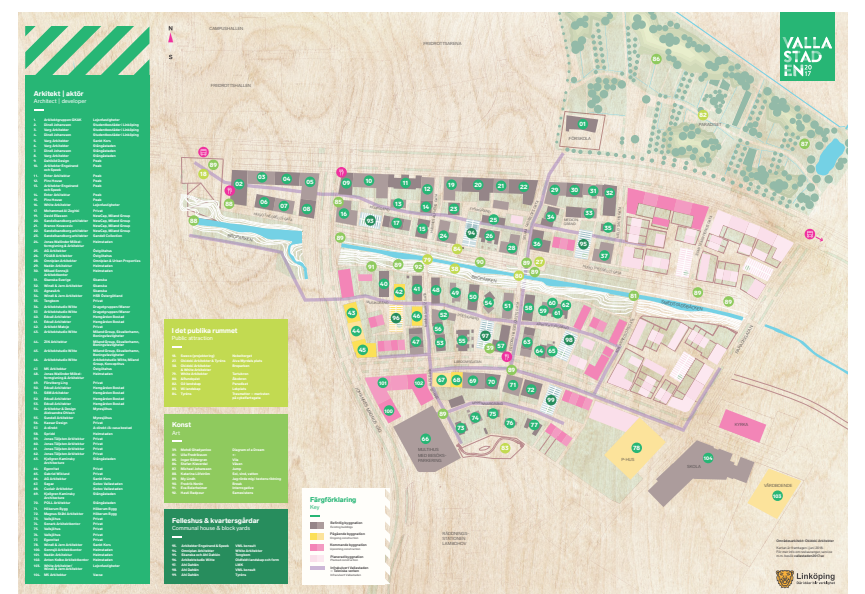


Figure 74.- Map with actors and architects (updated June 2018) (Vallastaden, 2017). Source: Linköpings Kommun. (Reprinted with permission)

(Authors own picture)



09-07-2025



12-08-2025

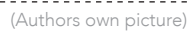
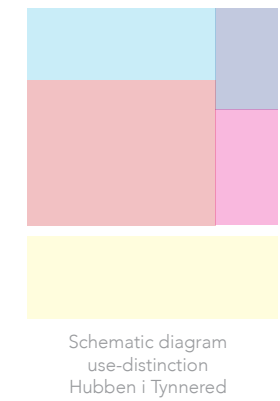


Figure 75.- Photographic series (15) by the author, from a study visits to Tynnered

27-08-2025



- | | |
|---|---|
|  | Access/circulation areas |
|  | Central meeting/gathering space |
|  | Space for thematic use, different according to each the reference |
|  | Additional multi-purpose secondary rooms |
|  | Kitchen |
|  | Toilets |

Figure 76.- Schematic diagram of use-distinction of Omställningslabbet (top), Felleshus - Integrationen (bottom left) and Hubben i Tynnered (bottom right)

6.2.c.- Additional information about international contemporary references (Chile)

The planimetric material, developed by the architecture teams of the international contemporary references is presented, along with the graphic analysis that informed section 2.5.d.

Sede Social La Serena:

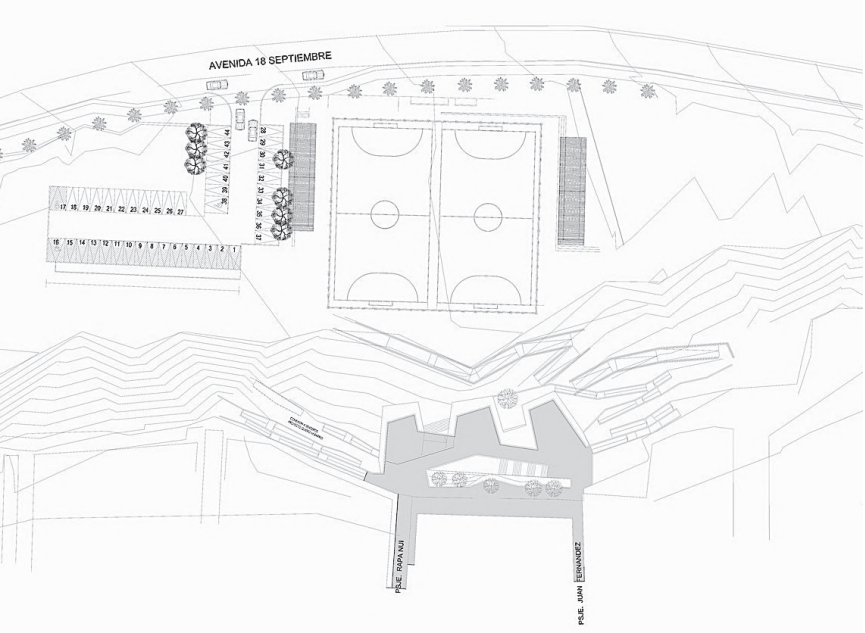
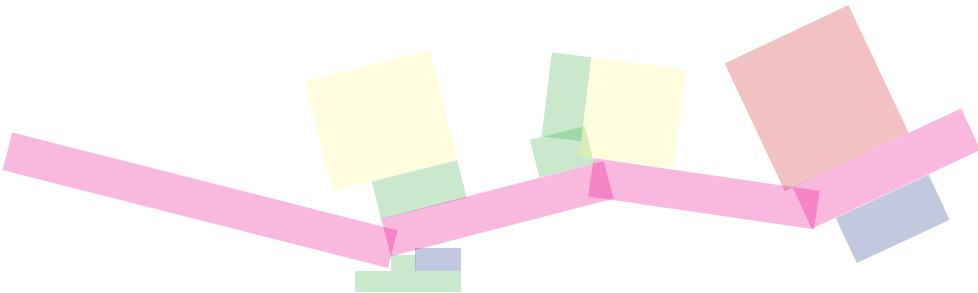
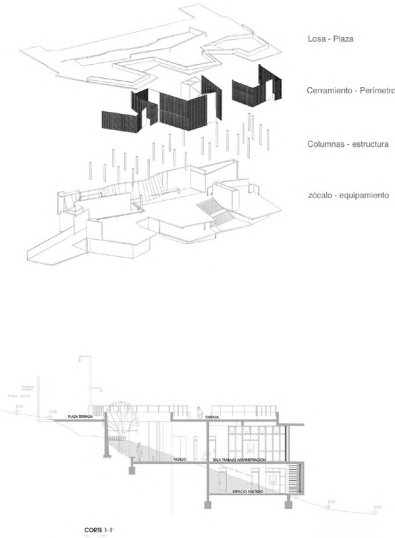
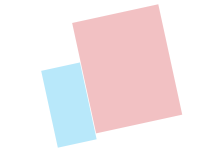


Figure 77.- Planimetric material from 3Arquitectos, Freddy Sepulveda and Nelson Sepulved (3Arquitectos, 2011). (Reprinted with permission)



Schematic diagram
1st floor, use-distinction
Sede Social La Serena



Schematic diagram
2nd floor, use-distinction
Sede Social La Serena

Sede Social Lampa:

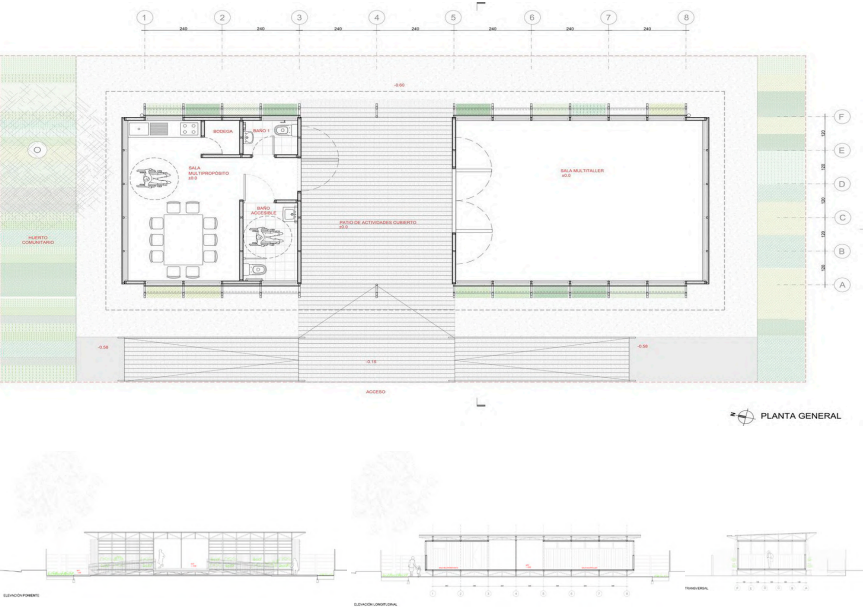
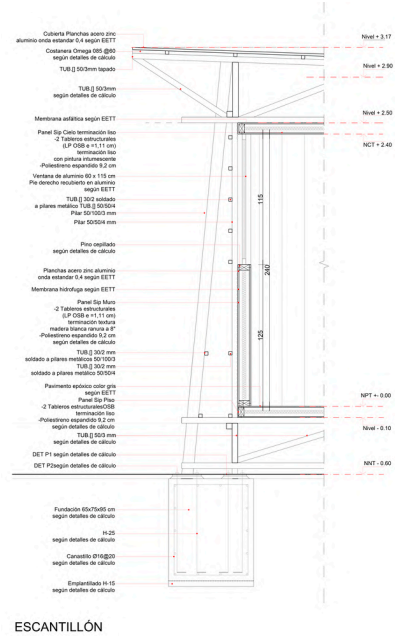
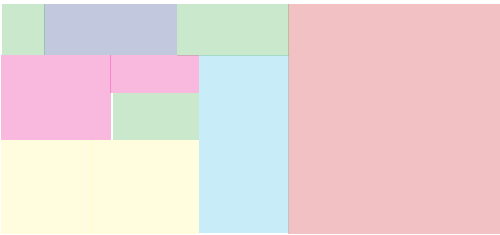


Figure 78.- Planimetric material from DX Arquitectos (DX Arquitectos, 2022). (Reprinted with permission)



Schematic diagram
use-distinction
Sede Social Lampa



Schematic diagram
use-distinction
Sede Social Mejillones



Sede Social Mejillones:

For this reference, it was not possible to contact the owners of the image rights of the published graphic material, in order to include them in this thesis. However, that material can be viewed through the sources indicated in the list of references.

Figure 79.- Schematic diagram of use-distinction of Sede Social La Serena (top), Sede Social Lampa (bottom left) and Sede Social Mejillones (bottom right)

6.2.d.- Authorisation for use of external graphic material

Written authorisation, graphic material from the Municipality of Gothenburg:

Outlook

Sv: Question - Authorisation to use graphic material for academic purposes (Master's Thesis in Architecture - Chalmers University)

Från: Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Skickat: den 2 december 2025 13:34
Till: Anders Dahlgren <anders.dahlgren@stadsbyggnad.goteborg.se>
Ämne: Question - Authorisation to use graphic material for academic purposes (Master's Thesis in Architecture - Chalmers University)

Hello Anders,

My name is Juan Pablo Puigredón, and I am a master's student at Chalmers University (studying the Master program Architecture and Planning Beyond Sustainability). I am writing to request permission to use some of the graphic content (plans detailed below) from the Program för Tynnered in my Master Thesis (all will be properly referenced according to APA 7 and the Chalmers guide).

-Master plan (p.5)
-Cirkeldiagram (p.22)
-Parker och parktillgång plan (p.25)
-Skyfall plan (p.36)
-Utpökad skyfallisied plan (p.64)

(I am using an older version of the Programme ([link](#)), so there may be differences between the pages in relation to the latest document updated on the website).

My thesis is about spaces for citizen participation, in connection with climate action (with an application proposal in Tynnered), which is why these plans of the Programme are very useful for my research.

I look forward to your response. Thank you very much.

Juan Pablo Puigredón.

Desde Anders Dahlgren <anders.dahlgren@stadsbyggnad.goteborg.se>
Fecha Jue 11/12/2025 8:00
Para Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>

Hej Juan Pablo,

Yes, it is OK for you to use these images in your thesis. Good luck with completing your thesis – it sounds very interesting!

Med vänliga hälsningar,

Anders Dahlgren
Planarkitekt

GÖTEBORGS STAD
Stadsbyggnadsförvaltningen
Detaljplan Sydväst

Telefon: 031-368 18 90
E-post: anders.dahlgren@stadsbyggnad.goteborg.se | stadsbyggnad@stadsbyggnad.goteborg.se

Postadress: Box 2554, 403 17 Göteborg
Besök: Postgatan 10
www.goteborg.se

[Så här behandlar stadsbyggnadsförvaltningen dina personuppgifter](#)

Written authorisations, international contemporary references (Chile):

Outlook

Pregunta - Permiso para utilizar material gráfico en investigación de Tesis de Maestría

Desde Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 19:33
Para buzon@dx.cl <buzon@dx.cl>

Estimados DX arquitectos:

Soy Juan Pablo Puigredón, arquitecto Chileno, cursando actualmente un Master en Arquitectura y Sustentabilidad Social en la universidad de Chalmers, en Suecia. Les escribo ya que en el marco de mi investigación de Tesis, en la cual estoy trabajando con el concepto de la gobernanza ciudadana, me gustaría incluir como referente investigado, su proyecto de Sede Social en Lampa (específicamente el material gráfico que utilizaron en la publicación en Plataforma Arquitectura [-link-](#)). Por supuesto, el material utilizado estará correctamente referenciado. Esta tesis se publicará próximamente (noviembre), por ese motivo solicito formalmente vuestra autorización.

Adicionalmente, y no menos importante, felicitarlos por el proyecto y por la propuesta de arquitectura que ustedes tienen. Es muy interesante su obra y metodología en general.

Quedo atento a sus comentarios, disponible también en caso que necesiten mayor información, y atento en caso que deba contactar a alguien más para la autorización requerida.

Saludos cordiales,

Juan Pablo Puigredón Pérez de Arce
Arquitecto - Chalmers University of Technology

De: Diego Pitters <diegopitters@dx.cl>
Enviado: jueves, 9 de octubre de 2025 15:04
Para: Juan Pablo Puigredón Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Cc: federico novoa tonia <fedtonovoa@dx.cl>
Asunto: Permiso para uso de material Gráfico

No sule recibir correo electrónico de diegopitters@dx.cl. [Por qué es esto importante](#)

Buen día Pablo.

En relación a tu consulta para uso de material gráfico de la Sede Social Lampa en el contexto del trabajo de investigación de tu tesis de magister, te comentamos que no hay problemas.

¡Éxito en tu trabajo!

Saludos cordiales

Outlook

Re: Pregunta - autorización para utilizar material gráfico en Tesis de Maestría (Sede Social La Serena)

El mié, 8 oct 2025 15:00, Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se> escribió:

Estimados Nelson y Freddy Sepulveda;

Soy Juan Pablo Puigredón, arquitecto Chileno, cursando actualmente un Master en Arquitectura y Sustentabilidad Social en la universidad de Chalmers, en Suecia. Junto con saludar, les escribo en el marco de mi investigación de Tesis, en la cual estoy trabajando con el concepto de la gobernanza ciudadana, desde la perspectiva de la arquitectura. En ella, me gustaría incluir como referente investigado, su proyecto de Sede Social en Lampa (específicamente el material gráfico que utilizaron en la publicación en Plataforma Arquitectura [-link-](#); y en la publicación de Scielo [-link-](#)). Por supuesto, el material utilizado estará correctamente referenciado. Esta tesis se publicará próximamente (noviembre), por ese motivo solicito formalmente vuestra autorización.

Adicionalmente, y no menos importante, felicitarlos por el proyecto y en general por vuestra propuesta de arquitectura.

Quedo atento a sus comentarios, disponible también en caso que necesiten mayor información, y atento en caso que deba contactar a alguien más para la autorización requerida.

Saludos cordiales,

Juan Pablo Puigredón Pérez de Arce
Arquitecto - Chalmers University of Technology

Desde Nelson Alberto Sepúlveda Moreira <nsepulvd@userena.cl>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 21:01
Para Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
CC Antonio Sepulveda Moreira <fsepulveda@userena.cl>

Estimado Juan Pablo.

No hay inconvenientes en publicar el material, avisanos si requieres información adicional o algo en específico.

En las publicaciones puedes ver los créditos de las fotografías.

Y cualquier duda nos escribes.

Por eso funcionó más rápido.

+569 XXXXXXXXXX

Saludos.

ns

Nelson Alberto Sepúlveda Moreira

Arquitecto Urbanista y Diseñador de Interiores
Académico Departamento de Arquitectura
Universidad de La Serena.

Written authorisations, Swedish contemporary reference (Vallastaden):

Outlook

Förfrågan om tillstånd att använda grafiskt material för masteruppsats

Desde Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 7:54
Para info@vallastaden.nu <info@vallastaden.nu>

Hej,

Jag heter Juan Pablo Puigredón och är student på masterprogrammet *Architecture and Planning Beyond Sustainability* vid Chalmers tekniska högskola.

Jag kontaktar er för att be om tillstånd att använda grafiskt material från Vallastaden-projektet, specifikt bilder på Community Hubs som finns på er webbplats www.vallastaden.nu.

Denna förfrågan görs inom ramen för mitt examensarbete, där jag undersöker sambandet mellan arkitektur och medborgarstyning. Jag anser att er stadsdel är ett mycket intressant samtida exempel på social hållbarhet, med vackra och väl utformade Community Hubs som representerar varje kvarter. Materialet kommer att användas i avsnittet "referensstudier", med korrekt källhänvisning.

Om ni behöver ytterligare information är ni varmt välkomna att kontakta mig.

Jag ser fram emot ert svar och hoppas få ert tillstånd att använda materialet. Tack på förhand för er tid och ert övervägande.

Vänliga hälsningar,
Juan Pablo Puigredón

Desde info@vallastaden.nu <info@vallastaden.nu>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 8:36
Para Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>

Hej, de flesta bilderna på hemsidan går bra att använda. Vi kan skicka originalen om du vet lite mer vad du behöver. Vi kommer ta nya bilder av flera utav husen då många bilder är gamla eller dåliga. När behöver du bilderna senast?

Vänligen,
Alexandra Tsigotsides
Vallastadens samfälligheter

Desde Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 17:51
Para info@vallastaden.nu <info@vallastaden.nu>

8 archivos adjuntos (5 MB)
Vallastaden_2.png; Vallastaden_3.png; Vallastaden_4.png; Vallastaden_5.png; Vallastaden_6.png; Vallastaden_7.png; Vallastaden_8.png; Vallastaden_9.png;

Hej Alexandra,

Stort tack för ditt snabba svar. Evenemanget i helgen låter verkligen intressant! Tyvärr har jag redan några aktiviteter planerade, även de relaterade till mitt examensarbete. Jag försökte idag se om jag kunde ändra mitt schema för att kunna göra en kort resa till Vallastaden under helgen, men tyvärr verkar det inte möjligt denna gång. Tack ändå så mycket för inbjudan, jag skulle gärna vilja delta i framtida aktiviteter om det blir fler tillfällen!

När det gäller fotografierna, jag bifogar de bilder som jag hittills har tänkt använda (det är i princip ett representativt foto av varje Felleshus), så att du kan bekräfta att det inte är något problem att använda dessa. Om du dessutom, som du nämnde, har möjlighet att skicka mig uppdaterade originalversioner, skulle jag uppskatta det mycket.

När det gäller din fråga om när jag behöver dem: jag ska lämna in min masteruppsats i mitten av november, så det finns fortfarande lite tid – men ju tidigare desto bättre.

Tack på förhand, vi håller kontakten.
Vänliga hälsningar,

Juan Pablo

Desde info@vallastaden.nu <info@vallastaden.nu>
Fecha Jue 09/10/2025 11:51
Para Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>

Hej, vi kan höras i början av nästa vecka igen så kan jag se vad vi har i form av nyare bilder. Annars så kommer det gå bra att använda de du har. Vill du bara ha exteriöra bilder eller även interiört?

Vänligen,
Alexandra Tsigotsides
Vallastadens samfälligheter

Desde Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Fecha Mié 15/10/2025 7:35
Para info@vallastaden.nu <info@vallastaden.nu>

Hej Alexandra,

Ursäkt att det dröjde lite med mitt svar. Stort tack för tillståndet att använda de fotografier jag skickade till dig.

Angående din fråga – min ursprungliga tanke var att använda ett representativt exteriörfoto per byggnad. Men om du även har interiörbilder att dela med mig, tar jag gärna emot dem.

Jag ser fram emot dina kommentarer, och tack så mycket på förhand.

Vänliga hälsningar,
Juan Pablo

Outlook

Förfrågan om tillstånd att använda grafiskt material för masteruppsats

Desde Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 7:43
Para vallastaden@linkoping.se <vallastaden@linkoping.se>
CC helena.norwald-thun@linkoping.se <helena.norwald-thun@linkoping.se>

Hej,

Jag heter Juan Pablo Puigredón och är student på masterprogrammet *Architecture and Planning Beyond Sustainability* vid Chalmers tekniska högskola.

Jag kontaktar er för att be om tillstånd att använda grafiskt material från Vallastaden-projektet – specifikt "Karta med aktörer och arkitekter" samt bilder som finns på webbplatsen www.vallastaden2017.se.

Denna förfrågan görs inom ramen för mitt examensarbete, där jag undersöker sambandet mellan arkitektur och medborgarstyning. Jag anser att ert projekt är ett mycket intressant samtida exempel på social hållbarhet kopplad till planering och arkitektonisk utveckling. Materialet kommer att användas i avsnittet "referensstudier", med korrekt källhänvisning.

Tack på förhand för er tid och ert övervägande. Jag ser fram emot ert svar.

Vänliga hälsningar,
Juan Pablo Puigredón
Masterstudent
Chalmers tekniska högskola

Desde MoS vallastaden-mex <vallastaden@linkoping.se>
Fecha Mié 08/10/2025 14:48
Para Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>

No sule recibir correo electrónico de vallastaden@linkoping.se. [Por qué es esto importante](#)

Hej!

Det gå bra att använda bilderna som finns på denna sida: <https://www.vallastaden2017.se/kunskap/material/>
Bildernas filnamn innehåller uppgifter om fotografen som bör framgå vid användande.

Även kartan går bra att använda.

Vänliga hälsningar
Elin Andersson
Enhetschef kommunikation

Hej Elin,

Stort tack för ditt snabba svar och för tillståndet att använda fotografierna.

Jag undrar om det finns några särskilda riktlinjer för hur man bör hänvisa till materialet i dokumentet "Karta med aktörer och arkitekter" (som finns under *Kartor och projektdokument* på samma sida), på liknande sätt som ni nämnde gällande fotografierna?

Jag ser fram emot ditt svar, och tack på förhand för hjälpen.

Vänliga hälsningar,
Juan Pablo Puigredón

Desde MoS vallastaden-mex <vallastaden@linkoping.se>
Fecha Mar 14/10/2025 18:09
Para Juan Pablo Puigredon Perez de Arce <juanpu@student.chalmers.se>

Hej igen!

Du får gärna uppgä Linköpings kommun som källa för kartan.



Master Thesis

Juan Pablo Puigrrredón Pérez de Arce

Chalmers School of Architecture
Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering

2025