A Room of One's Own

A DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND A PROPOSAL OF A CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN IN NYHAMNEN

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Summary

Homelessness primarily signifies the lack of permanent shelter. It is a global phenomenon, but the word 'homeless' has different interpretations depending on the social and cultural context. Homelessness in Sweden has to be seen in relation to current trends of urban development which are signified by social and geographical polarization and the shift towards an ownership society. These trends raise the question on who has the right to the city. Increasing private influence on the development of the city tends to enhance segregation, but could be turned to something positive if the urban planning was guided by social responsibility. Housing and services for homeless are often presented as temporary solutions, despite research showing that homelessness is steadily increasing in Sweden. Poverty and lack of permanent housing characterize all members of the homeless population in Sweden, but others factors such as drug and alcohol abuse and psychiatric diagnoses add to the complexity of the problem.

This diploma project investigates homelessness, with the focus on spatial aspects and how we can act upon it as architects. I support the discussion with a design proposal of a center for homeless women in the district of Nyhamnen in the harbor close to central Malmö. As a target group I choose homeless women as today, most services for homeless people are based on the needs of men, whereas women's specific needs have not been sufficiently investigated and taken into consideration. My proposal has an institutional character as in Sweden any project for my target group would be realized within the context of the social welfare structure. My aim was to study how design may contribute to the making of temporary dwellings that reach beyond the notion of the simple shelter. Ideally it becomes a place that, in spite of its temporariness, gives a sense of dignity for its users.

Sammanfattning

Hemlöshet innebär i första hand att sakna tak över huvudet. Det är ett globalt fenomen men ordet "hemlös" tolkas olika beroende på den sociala och kulturella kontexten. Hemlöshet i Sverige måste ses i förhållande till rådande trender i stadsutvecklingen vilka utmärks av social och geografisk polarisering och skiftet mot ett ägandesamhälle. Dessa trender leder till frågan om vem som har rätt till staden. Ett ökat privat inflytande över stadens utveckling och på bostadsmarknaden tenderar att förstärka segregering, men skulle kunna vändas till något positivt om stadsplaneringen vägleddes av större socialt ansvarstagande. Bostäder och verksamheter för hemlösa presenteras ofta som tillfälliga lösningar, trots att undersökningar visar att hemlösheten ökar i Sverige. Fattigdom och bristen på permanent bostad är gemensamt för alla hemlösa i Sverige, men andra faktorer såsom drog- och alkoholberoende och psykiatriska sjukdomar förstärker problemets komplexitet.

Det här examensarbetet undersöker hemlöshet med fokus på dess rumsliga aspekter och hur man kan närma sig problemet som arkitekt. Jag stödjer diskussionen med ett förslag på ett center för hemlösa kvinnor i området Nyhamnen nära centrala Malmö. Jag valde kvinnor som målgrupp eftersom den mesta verksamheten för hemlösa idag är baserad på mäns behov, medan kvinnors specifika behov inte har undersökts och tagits hänsyn till i lika hög grad. Förslaget har en institutionell karaktär eftersom ett projekt för min målgrupp i Sverige skulle genomföras inom ramen för den sociala välfärdsstrukturen. Mitt mål var att studera hur design kan bidra till att skapa tillfälliga bostäder som är mer än tak över huvudet. I bästa fall så blir det en plats som, trots sin tillfällighet, ger en känsla av värdighet för sina användare.

Karin Lindgren 11 april 2007

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The presence of homelessness and homeless people in Malmö steadily increases, in the local newspapers as well as on the streets. According to the latest survey made by the municipality on 2 October 2006, the number of homeless people amounted to 849 individuals. This is the highest number counted in Malmö and implies an increase of 155 people from the year before, many of whom are children (Malmö stad, 2006a).

Everyone, from politicians and social workers to the residents of Malmö, seem to think that the situation is serious, and that we cannot allow members of the community to stay without permanent housing (Sydsvenska Dagbladet 2006b). However, the view of the causes and which are the adequate solutions of the upcoming situation varies widely between different interest groups.

The increase of homelessness takes place in a time of change and urban renewal that characterize many cities today. These processes involve economic and social development, but are also often followed by deepening social exclusion and segregation. In order to understand homelessness, one needs to take a look at the larger picture, which evokes crucial questions about who has, and controls, the right to the city.

Homeless people are not a homogenous group that could be treated with a single solution. Many are 'ordinary citizens' who have been put in debt and economic difficulties, ending up with eviction. Some have drug and alcohol addictions, or suffer from mental illnesses. Others are reluctant to seek help from authorities. The diversity of the homeless community should therefore be reflected in services and housing aimed at homeless people.

1.1 Why I chose the subject?

The academic year 2004-2005 I was an exchange student at College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley. There, I took classes in urban theory and housing design, notably a graduate seminar with Professor Sam Davis on affordable housing design. Together with two fellow students I conducted a case study on a newly built shelter for homeless adults in Sausalito, north of San Francisco.

After the end of the semester, I broadened this study to involve a number of homeless facilities in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. I focused on the architectural values of the buildings, and how they were examples of insightful design, not merely a response to basic needs. This is where I got the initial idea to design a homeless shelter in Malmö as a diploma work.

The question that has been guiding me is how I can use and translate the experiences I have gained abroad when I carry through a project in Sweden. In *Small Change*, the architect Nabeel Hamdi (2004) notes that being international does not necessarily mean to go as far away as possible. It could also mean to bring home experiences and knowledge from other contexts and ask what we can learn from them.

1.2 Purpose and field of research

The purpose of this diploma project is to investigate homelessness, with the focus on spatial aspects, its relation to urban development, and how we can act upon it as architects. I will support the discussion with a design proposal of a center for homeless women in the district of Nyhamnen in the harbor of central Malmö.

There are many critical opinions on 'category housing' arguing that it only enhances segregation, and that the source of homelessness is to be found in the unequal structure of the housing market (Sydsvenska Dagbladet 2006a). However, in my role as an architect I focus on how to create a spatial solution to a problem. The architect has to embrace reality, and the reality in Malmö is that a large number of people need temporary housing.

St Vincent de Paul Mission in San Diego

As a target group I choose homeless women as today, most services for homeless people are based on the needs of men, whereas women's specific needs have not been sufficiently investigated and taken into consideration (CATCH 2006). At an early point I decided that my proposal would be of institutional character as in Sweden, any project for my target group would be realized within the context of the social welfare structure. Looking at the existing options, I think that the most interesting approach is to study how design may contribute to the making of temporary dwellings that reach beyond the notion of the simple shelter. Ideally it becomes a place that, in spite of its temporariness, gives a sense of dignity for its users.

PART I takes departure in some important themes of contemporary urban debates – the global struggle for shelter, globalization and social separation of space, and the right to the city. Then follows of a discussion on homelessness and social exclusion in Sweden today, and how it is commonly defined and explained. It briefly deals with external factors such as socio-economic structures and housing policies, and internal factors such as drug abuse and private economy. Moreover, I will present some research on women and homelessness, which will be defining for the design. My research also covers the situation for homeless people in Malmö, and how the problem is dealt with by the municipality and other interest groups. Part I ends with a chapter on architecture for homeless, including a number of case studies of housing and services, from which I draw conclusions that will be guiding for my design.

PART II presents the design proposal. It starts with a presentation of the vision from the City Planning Office[1] about the redevelopment of this district, which defines the context of my project. The program of my building derives from the discussion around my case studies. In the design process I focus on the spatial planning, the relation to the public and issues of privacy and safety.

1.3 Method and process

The process can be divided into five phases:

I. STUDIES IN CALIFORNIA

As previously mentioned, the idea to do a diploma project on homelessness first came to me during my exchange studies in California. The affordable housing design seminar gave me a platform to conduct the field studies, as well as interesting discussion with my peers and professor. During the visits to different services for homeless people I talked to social workers and clients, conversations that gave me a deeper understanding for their needs and requirements. The urban studies classes with Professor Ananya Roy provided me with a broad introduction to urban theory, which has been invaluable for my discussion.

II. SEARCH FOR LITERATURE AND OTHER SOURCES

After deciding the theme for my research I performed a thorough search for sources of information, and used some of the extensive material from the urban theory classes as well as other literature. I also found material on homelessness in a global context on the websites of UN-Habitat[2], UNDP[3], UNHCR[4], and the European organization FEANTSA[5]. The information on homelessness in Sweden is based on newspaper articles as well as reports from the Swedish National Board on Health and Welfare[6]. In order to understand the situation in Malmö I have retrieved material from the website of the City of Malmö[7], and received some from people working with these issues. The information on the case studies comes from informal interviews on site, internet sources and Sam Davis' book *Designing for the homeless – Architecture that works*.

III. PRELIMINARY WRITINGS

In this stage I started to write, and made the disposition for Part I of the project. After discussions with my supervisor I decided to dedicate time on the initial chapters in order to look at homelessness from a wider perspective, before starting with the design.

IV. INTERVIEWS AND FIELD STUDIES IN MALMÖ

Thereafter I got in contact with key persons Sara Helmersson and Birgitta Hult who are running a project on homeless women with substance abuse in Malmö. They in turn suggested other possible contacts and gave me valuable feedback to my ideas. I also visited two different services for homeless people in Malmö to get an idea of how they are managed. The first was low-threshold housing for homeless men and women with substance abuse, where the manager Feriyal Sepehri showed the facilities and gave me her ideas on how to meet their clients. The other, *Rönnbacken*, is targeted to homeless women, many of whom with substance abuse. I was guided by social worker Lollo Dyson who told me about the specific needs and problems of this target group.

At this point I also started to investigate the site in Malmö. My choice of site derived from two criteria: it should be close to the center of the city and it should be in an early stage of urban renewal. Initially I had planned to locate my project in the district on Norra Sorgenfri, but I found out that the plans for this industrial district are still in a very early phase, and would not provide me with the context

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1   Stadsbyggnadskontoret

2   United Nations Human Settlements Programme
3   United Nations Development Programme
4   The UN Refugee Agency
5   European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless
6   Socialstyrelsen

7   Malmö stad

I needed. Therefore I choose to locate my project in the district of Nyhamnen, where the City Planning Office has come further in the planning process.

V. DESIGN

In the first phase of the design phase I spent a lot of time on the program of the building, which is based on my case studies as well as some other examples, but had to be adjusted to the Swedish context. Thereafter I started to make more concrete designs. I have used both physical models in different scales as well as computer based models.

1.4 Sources

My discussion is to a large extent based on literature on homelessness and social exclusion that is written in the Anglo-American academic tradition. Therefore some of the examples or analyses are not completely translatable to the Swedish context. I have tried to balance this by using examples from Sweden and Europe. Similarly, the case studies are mainly from the United States. They are the product of a liberal welfare structure where charity organizations and the private sector are responsible for a large share of social services, which influences the organization as well as how the buildings are planned and built.

To discuss homelessness in Sweden I generally relied on the reports from Swedish National Board on Health and Welfare, but some of the information comes from informal interviews. Most information on homelessness in Malmö is based on interviews with Feriyal Sepehri, manager of a low-threshold facility and articles from the local newspapers, and I take responsible for potential inaccuracies due to misunderstandings from my side. The part on women and homelessness is mainly based

on an anthology that presents research on this group in a number of European countries, as well as information from conversations with Sara Helmersson, Birgitta Hult and Lollo Dyson. The background on the urban renewal of Nyhamnen is found in documents from the City Planning Office in Malmö.
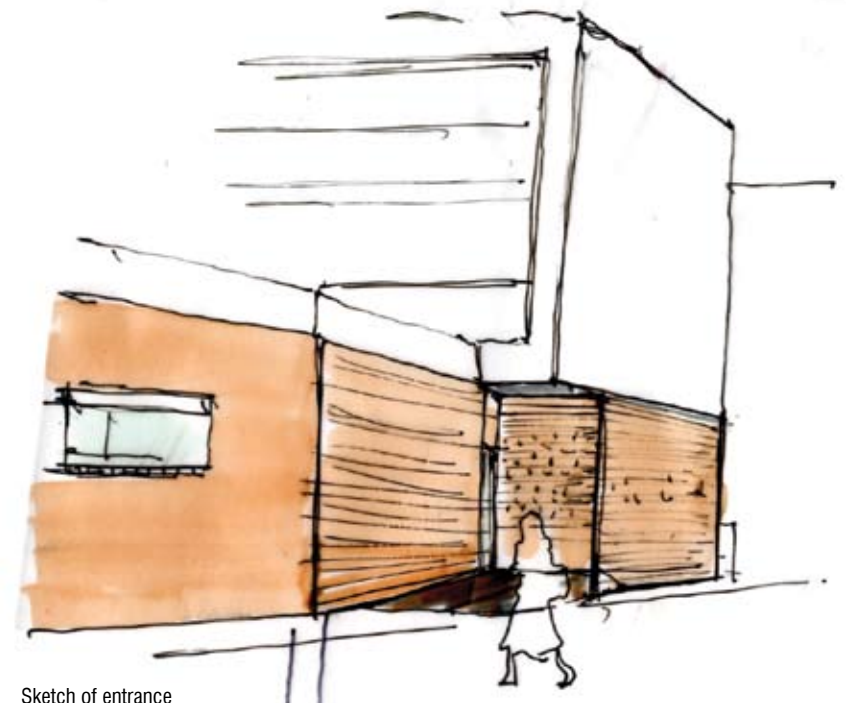
Sketch of entrance

2 Homelessness in the urban century

Homelessness primarily signifies the lack of permanent shelter. But the word 'homeless' has different interpretations depending on the social and cultural context. It also has different meanings in a rural than in an urban situation. The 21st century is an urban century where more than half of the world's population is living in urban settlements, the majority of whom in the global South. The question of improving people's living and housing conditions, therefore in crucial ways is linked to the development of socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable cities.

For some decades, the global city discourse has been making a clear distinction between the interconnected 'global' metropolises in high-income, industrialized countries and the cities of the developing world (Castells 1996; Sassen 2002). But these distinctions are now being blurred by the effects of globalization in terms of migration, working poor, and outsourcing of jobs, phenomena that involve new transnational networks outside the privileged global circuits. These phenomena have also rendered visible the emergence of 'Third world situations in First World contexts', where socially excluded groups in a rich, Western country may have more in common with urban poor in developing countries than with their middle-class neighbors (Roy 2003).

The case of homelessness in Sweden could be treated as a 'Third world situation' in the context of a high-income, industrial welfare society. It also has to be examined in relation to the processes of urban change that takes place in the contemporary city. In this chapter, I present the global dilemmas of the struggle for shelter, spaces of separation, and the right to the city. I use this discussion as a 'transnational lens' in order to understand the issues of homelessness and urban renewal in Malmö.

My discussion is normative in the sense that I consider housing to be a universal right. I focus on what I see as challenges to this right, and the potential ways in which urban planning and housing policy could be used to enable the right to housing for a larger number of people. Another aspect of my normative approach is that I have a vision of the city as a heterogeneous environment which allows a diversity of people, and provides a multitude of spaces for people to live and interact.

2.1 The global struggle for shelter

With this discussion on the global struggle for shelter my aim is to broaden the understanding of homelessness. Homelessness takes various forms over the world and it is a relative concept depending on the cultural and political contexts, as well as climatic conditions. Common for most countries is that poverty and poor housing conditions are interlinked.

HOMELESSNESS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES

'Home' may be defined as a place where a person is able to establish meaningful social relations with others through entertaining them in his/her own space, or where the person is able to choose not to relate to others if that choice is made. (Cooper, 1995 in UN-Habitat 2000, 15).

UN-Habitat describes homelessness as not having an acceptable level of housing provision, below an adequate level for the reference society, and that it is imperative to change this situation (2000, 37). Another way to view homelessness is as a process, rather than a permanent situation (Hult 2006).

The primary factor of homelessness in high-income, industrial countries is the lack of affordable housing. But the demographic structure of the homeless population looks very different from country to country. Another influencing factor is the difference in social security systems and public welfare. In the United States, more than three million people out of a population of almost 300 million are homeless, with an additional five million poor that spend over half of their income on housing (Homeless.org 2006). The expression 'a paycheck from homelessness' calls attention to the insecure economic situation for many of these individuals.

The fastest growing segment of the homeless population in America consists of single parents, usually young mothers, with their children. This means that about 40 percent of the homeless are families (Davis 2004). Another factor that complicates the situation for poor and homeless people in the US is health problems. Many persons do not have health insurances or cash to pay for medical care, but often suffer from serious health problems. The prevalence of illnesses like AIDS and tuberculosis is high, and there are also a large number of war veterans among the homeless population (Homeless.org 2006).

In Sweden the path to homelessness is generally longer than in the US. Social services and public housing agencies support individuals at risk, and try to help those who have fallen out. Substance abuse problems seem to be one of the major factors for people in Sweden to become homeless. Almost two thirds of the homeless population is drug or alcohol dependent (Socialstyrelsen 2005) compared to about one third of their American counterparts (Homeless.org 2006). The homeless population in Sweden may have more complex problems, even though their share of the total population is smaller than in the US (Helmersson, 2006).

HOUSING INFORMALITY VS. HOMELESSNESS

In a developing context, homelessness has a different meaning. According to UN-Habitat predictions, in 2007 the number of slum dwellers in the world will surpass one billion (UN-Habitat 2006). Many suffer from extreme levels of 'shelter deprivation'. Indicators used to describe their situation are lack of durable housing, lack of sufficient living area, lack of access to improved water, lack of access to improved sanitation, and lack of secure tenure (Ibid. p. x-xi).

The situations of the slum settlements, the majority of which are located in the global South, are described and interpreted very differently. In a negative description, they are sites of the reproduction of absolute poverty, and represent a threat to ecological sustainability when people are forced to build on 'unbuildable' and polluted terrains, and due to the lack of proper infrastructure and sanitation (Davis, M. 2004). Another, brighter view focuses on the capacities of the informal sector and pictures the inherent entrepreneurial spirits of the slum dwellers (De Soto, 2000).

My visit to the Republic of Congo during a month-long trip in October 2006 was my first encounter with a 'real' developing context. The civil war of 1997 forced a large number of residents of the capital Brazzaville to escape from their homes, many of which were dilapidated and burned by guerrilla groups and members of the army. Today, the neighborhood of Bacongo, which was completely devastated during the war, is reconstructed in terms of housing, but still has serious infrastructural problems, as most of the city. In the district of M'filou, in the southern parts of Brazzaville, many abandoned houses are still in ruins.

The families or individuals who own the lots cannot afford to rebuild their houses that were destroyed during the war. Thus, they have a property, but not a house or what we would consider a home. But interestingly, when I talked to a representative from Caritas, the catholic human aid organization, he told me that in Congo there are no homeless adults, in the sense of roof-less. As long as there is a funeral wake going on at night, or you know someone briefly, there is always a roof to sleep under at night. This example shows how homelessness may be interpreted very different in a post-war, developing context from how we generally think of homelessness in Sweden.

NATURAL DISASTERS AND HOMELESSNESS

If slum settlements are mainly to be found in Third World countries, natural disasters strike indiscriminately over the world, but their foremost victims are the poor, living in hazardous areas, often in inadequate housing. In August 2005, the hurricane Katrina made more than one million people homeless in southern parts of the United States. The city of New Orleans in Louisiana suffered the greatest impacts. The most damaged areas were located below sea level, only protected by banks (UN-Habitat 2006, 141).

Similarly, in many cities of the developing world,

the urban poor live on sites that are not suitable for construction. Furthermore, the houses of the poor rarely follow building codes, if they even exist, and run an even larger risk of being destroyed in case of natural disaster (Ibid.). In October 2005, a massive 7.6 earthquake shook northern Pakistan, leaving three million people homeless and about 200,000 people injured (UNHCR 2006). The difference between the two countries was that Pakistan already suffered from poverty and war, and had little chance to assist the victims, whereas the US had the necessary structure of emergency help. But due to the scale of the catastrophe the aid was insufficient in both cases.

Abandoned house in M'filou, Congo-Brazzaville

The effects of natural disasters have to be considered in the short term and the long term. The moment it strikes all are equal, but the long term consequences depend very much on the socio-economic structures of society. For society as a whole, it is imperative to take into account the natural forces in the planning of cities, and avoid construction on potentially hazardous sites. In New Orleans, the most damaged areas were located below sea level, only protected by banks (UN-Habitat 2006). In the aftermaths of the hurricane Katrina, much of the debate focused on the unequal housing conditions in the United States that became visible after the disaster. Due to the lack of insurances, more than one year after Katrina, many former residents are still left without a home (Ibid.).

HOUSING AS A RIGHT

As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, everyone —
has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself [sic] and of his [sic] family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, ... (UN 2007)

Today, a large part of the world's population live a far cry from the standard set by the United Nations. In developing countries and in high-income, industrialized countries alike, poor and marginalized groups run a daily struggle for housing. Poor people are more exposed to crises, whether they come in the form of war, natural disasters or economic change. For most, the struggle for shelter concern a basic roof over the head, but it may also take political form as the claims from the Swedish *jagvillhabostad.nu*[8] on the government to produce more affordable rental apartments (jagvillhabostad.nu 2007).

8 Jagvillhabostad.nu = 'I want housing', a lobby organization run by young Swedes whose aim is to raise the awareness of the housing shortage, and to demand the construction of more affordable housing.

'Housing' does not only refer to a place to live, but could be seen as an investment, an industry, a commodity or as arena for social politics. Housing has to do with the "entire process involving people's dwelling in space" (Alsayyad 2005).

2.2 Globalization and social separation of space

Globalization is considered to enhance the competition between cities and regions in their attempts to establish a position within the global circuit of capital and ideas. The creation of attractive urban environments is a major component, and politicians and representatives from the financial sector work side by side to boost their own city with an attractive image (Book 2006). The plans for the district of Nyhamnen, where I have located my project, follow a trend of waterfront development seen in many changing industrial port cities, and could be seen as an example of urban planning as a consequence of globalization. Malmö wants to strengthen its new identity as a creative city within the Öresund region. The vision presented by the City Planning Office is to create one of the most attractive areas for living in Malmö (Malmö stadsbyggnadskontor 2006a).

The area has a prime location close to the railway station with connections to Copenhagen, the downtown area of Malmö and the sea. Today, the area is mainly used for industry, harbor related activities and some service and commerce. The plan for the future is to offer a mix of housing for a varied population along with services and public places that will attract tourists, aside with the residents of Malmö.

POLARIZATION OF URBAN SOCIAL LANDSCAPES

The effects of globalization on urban development also raise concerns as the social, economical and spatial gaps seem to widen. Two phenomena that characterize this process are the polarization of urban social landscapes and the commodification of housing.

The dominating vision for the future is a 'creative city' inhabited by a well-educated and productive middle-class. The competition between cities results in a reconfiguring of the urban landscape, where edifice buildings[9] and spaces of entertainment are two major components, whereas low status areas are lagging behind since they are not considered attractive or worth investments (Book 2006). Questions on how to provide affordable housing and how to deal with poverty and social exclusion therefore risk being overlooked. The increasing polarization is often related to the dualization of the labor market into a the professional-managerial class, and the low-skilled or 'superfluous' labor force (Smith 1996). This is being strengthened by geographical means, which leads to further segregation when different social groups live and interact separate from each other (Graham and Marvin 2001, 222).

Construction of new city terminal in Malmö

9 Turning Torso is a typical local example in Malmö

One feature of the reconfigured urban landscape is that privatization creates unequal access to infrastructure, a phenomenon described by Graham and Marvin (2001) as 'splintering urbanism'.

This development might be more apparent in the American than the Swedish context, but it could indicate a possible direction. The authors describe how suppliers of services such as internet, electricity and banking are promoting 'power users' in wealthy districts, whereas others are ignored by investment in infrastructure as well as urban design and security practices (p.233). This segmentation of the market creates 'network ghettoes' and tends to petrify social inequalities (p.287). The new social landscapes of the global city are by Graham and Marvin described as 'spaces of seduction'. Within their limits CCTV[10] surveillance and corporate guards make sure that 'undesirables' are kept away. These techniques may create a sense of security, but also contribute to the making of "the poor and marginalized people and spaces of the metropolis less and less visible (and threatening) to its interlinked constellation of premium networked spaces." (p. 302).

HOUSING AS COMMODITY

The examples above show how social polarization is enhanced by processes such as gentrification, the unbalanced investment in urban districts, and the by the spatial gaps created by urban infrastructure. What also affects the social separation of space is the turn of housing into a commodity.

For decades, the Swedish construction sector has been dominated by a small number of very large and powerful consulting companies. They have had a close collaboration with the state and participated in the (in)famous 'million

program' during the 1960s and 70s. Today, they are perhaps more powerful than ever, when their focus has shifted from providing affordable rental apartments on commission by the state to the planning of attractive environments for specific target groups of the middle-class. But their definition of groups such as 'dinkies'[11], 'business class' and 'good neighbors' is paired with the specification of groups that are not considered potential customers, for instance students and people living on subsidies (Bradley 2005, 175-176). According to the logic of the market, the companies are obviously not to blame for wanting to maximize their profit. They also have a considerable influence on city planning as they own and develop large land areas in urban regions. Karin Bradley (2005) investigates the ideals behind the planning and what these companies' visions look like, and draws the conclusion that they are very traditional and far from innovative (p.180). But the real dilemma is that when the municipalities hand over more and more of their planning monopoly to the private consultants, there is no one to take responsibility for the planning of environments and provision of housing for people who do not fit in the target groups defined by the companies.

The commodification of housing is also enhanced by processes of gentrification or "the upgrading of housing and retail businesses in a neighborhood with an influx generally of private investment" (Smith, 1996, 30). The potential gentrifiers are young, urban professionals without very large savings, but who knows to plan financially. By clustering in parts of the city they establish an area as desirable and thus heat up the housing market (Beauregard 1986, 45). Their opposites are the people being gentrified, or displaced. They live in inexpensive but architecturally desirable housing in the city center. Many are marginal to the labor market or outside it, and therefore are characterized by the lack of choice on where

and how to live. With the increase of property value and rents, they are persuaded or forced to move out, and cannot benefit from the potential financial gains (Ibid.).

When housing becomes a commodity, the gap tends to widen between those who can afford and have the ability to participate on the housing market, and those who live on the economic margins.

'Splintering' highways in Suzhou in China

Gentrified latino neighborhood Mission in San Francisco

10   CCTV= closed-circuit television, i.e. surveillance camera

11   Dinkies= Double Income No Kids

2.3 The right to the city

The right to the city implies the right to the uses of city spaces, the right to inhabit. In turn […] the right to inhabit implies the right to housing: a place to sleep, a place to urinate and defecate without asking someone else's permission, a place to relax, a place from which to venture forth. (Mitchell 2003, 19)

In 1974 the French philosopher Henri Lefèbvre wrote *The Production of Space[12]*, where he argued that "the city is an oeuvre – a work in which all its citizens participate" (in Mitchell 2003, 37). The claiming for a 'space for representation', where groups and individuals can make themselves visible is a crucial part of this process. The problem with the bourgeois city, according to Lefèbvre, is that it has turned from being a site of participation to a site of expropriation of the dominant class. Spaces are becoming more and more produced for us, rather than by us.

The discussion in this chapter calls attention to how tendencies of urbanization today, more than 30 year after Lefèbvre's observations, point in the direction of further privatization and increasing social separation of space. What are the consequences of this development in terms of people's possibilities to appropriate a 'space for representation'?

PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC SPACE

The enabling of meetings in the city is the subject of one of the vision documents from the local Planning Bureau in Malmö (Malmö stadsbyggnadskontor 2006). The authors emphasize the need for public places where to encounter 'the Other'. They are concerned with the shift towards excluding spaces that prevent people from different social groups, ethnicities and ages to interact. The creation of

12   *La production de l'éspace*

more diverse public places is said to be the solution to, or at least to counteract these tendencies (p.3).

Public places are where these meetings should happen. However, public space today is also affected by the changes discussed above. Traditional public meeting places such as the square is now paired with shopping malls and urban entertainment centers. This indicates that private actors are successful to find out what 'people want' and to create meeting places that attract a diversity of people. If we apply this to other scenarios, the fact that private consultants take over tasks previously managed by the state or municipalities could be seen as a positive factor of the future of cities.

The objection would be that despite the fact that a lot of people consider these spaces attractive meeting places, they represent 'spaces of seduction' in Graham's and Marvin's terminology. As such, there are always 'undesirable' groups of people who will be kept outside or to a larger extent than others are traced and surveilled within the space. But the control of space relies as much on norms and the public opinion as on gates and guards. Marginalized groups such as homeless people may choose to stay outside to avoid the gaze and disapproval from others, and by a sense of being undeserving and not to belong to the rest of society (Sepehri 2007).

Whereas homeless people sleeping rough may want to avoid public space, for them the use of public space is often a matter of survival. Mitchell describes how this survival technique by others is seen as a clear affront to public order and civility that needs to be controlled (2003, 15). In the American debate, rather than regarding it a housing problem, homelessness is often viewed as a symptom of the 'pathology of poverty' that needs to be managed either through criminalization or institutionalization (Roy

2003, 471). Anti-homeless laws, quality-of-life tickets[13] and anti-homeless design[14] are only some ways in which authorities have chosen to deal with the problem. But, in Mitchell's words, to deny people, whose entire life takes place in the public realm, to eat, sleep and relax is to deny them to be (Mitchell 2003, 28).

THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

With the increasing influence of the private sector on the planning of the future cities, there has been a shift towards an 'ownership society'. Housing is no longer a social right, but has been turned into a commodity. In Sweden today, the idea of home ownership as a way of independence, the good life and not the least investment is promoted everywhere, from the political debate in the daily media to home decoration programs. In the urban growth regions of Sweden, particularly in Stockholm and Malmö, there is a general sense of nervousness of 'missing the race' of the heated real estate market. The primary goal of owning one's home is no longer to have a pleasant place to live, but to make a profit when selling it.

But what happens to those who cannot or do not want to participate in the housing race? And what about the people outside the desired target groups of the real estate developers or those who will not be able to make an economic or intellectual contribution to the development of 'creative cities'? The hierarchy of the housing market very much reflects the hierarchy of society, where homeless people constitute the bottom.

Ananya Roy (2003) in her discussion on homelessness in the US, calls this situation 'the paradigm of the propertied citizenship' where the "homeless body is the 'constitutive

13   A fine given to a homeless person loitering in a public place, thus said to decrease the quality of life for 'ordinary, decent citizens'.
14   For instance a bench that is impossible to sleep on, irregular irrigation in public parks and music in bus booths.

outside' […], the alien figure that at once violates and thereby reinforces the norms of citizenship" (p.464). In a comparison of the situation for homeless house occupants' in the US to informal housing settlements in Calcutta in India, her conclusion is that "it becomes apparent that in a rationalized urban landscape of housing regulations and codes, there is little room for informality" (p.474). The situation is similar in Sweden, where the private initiative to housing, encouraged by the government, always has to take place within the limits of formality, whereas tent camps or other kind of informal settlements are not permitted for breaking building codes. This situation leaves society's outsiders few other options than to be dependent on the benevolence of others or to sleep rough. In Roy's words, the "right to safe and sanitary shelter paradoxically supersedes the right to shelter" (Ibid.).

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PLANNING

The discussion in this chapter leads to two conclusions: that where we live matters and that the development of socially sustainable cities should be guided by an increasing social responsibility from planning authorities as well as private agents. Private influences on the planning process, in terms of an increasing number of agents that are involved in the development of our cities, in best case imply a diversity of the outcome. However, the ideal of the 'creative city' cannot be achieved merely by the making of exclusive attractions, but more than anything else must allow heterogeneous environments that include 'spaces for representation'.

Which tools then could be used in the planning process that would stimulate the development of socially mixed cities without too much affecting the developers' need for profit? Karin Bradley (2005) discusses how CSR – corporate social responsibility – is expected from all multinational companies acting on the global arena today,

and how this in the long term is a favorable approach also in economic terms (p.181). On the national level, there is not the same demand for an articulated CSR, but all urban development projects have to be preceded by an environmental impact analysis. Bradley suggests that similarly, companies in the construction and real estate sector should have to present an analysis of the social impacts – the consequences on socio-economic structures, access to public places, ethnic segregation etc. (p.182).

In the former derelict district of East London, the authorities have tried other ways to make developers build for a mix of social groups (Mann 2005). The idea of increasing density and the need for affordable housing to a large extent guide the planning. Affordable housing in this case include privately owned low-cost housing and subsidized apartments for people working in the public sector, who would otherwise not be able to live in the city, but whose presence is necessary for it to function (p.196). There is a political demand that between 30 and 50 percent of the new housing stock should be 'affordable'. The companies choose to deal with this in different ways, but in general, there is an attempt to mix affordable and market-rate housing. Mann notes that it is not enough, but that the companies has to build for a diversity of households, and not the least to take into consideration the overall planning of the new environments, including the creation of public places, places of work and services for the residents (p.198).

Translated to Malmö, where the scarcity of affordable housing is high, the development of new urban districts could be interesting cases to try out new ways of planning, including the demand for a diversity of housing options. Ideally, this should involve a wider range of agents, from the municipality to small design practices, and not the least, the residents of Malmö. The result could be the

creation of more dynamic, socially mixed environments.
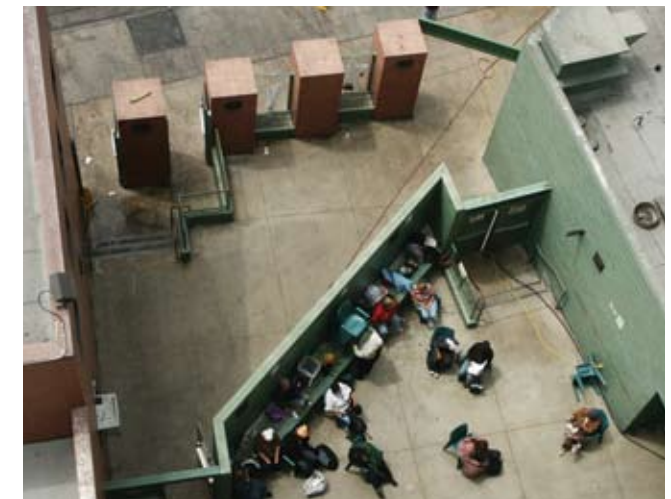
Homeless women waiting in the courtyard of Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles

Sweden was placed at an honorable fifth place in the latest Human Development Index (UNDP 2006). How come that in a country with a long and strong reputation of being a welfare society, more than 17800 individuals of a population of nine million are homeless, not included all who live in the gray scale outside official statistics?

3.1 Who is homeless?

Sweden has ratified the declaration of human rights, and has also enshrined the right to housing in the constitution[15]. But in spite of declarations and policies a growing number of people are deprived of this right. The report Hemlöshet i Sverige 2005[16] by the Swedish National Board on Health and Welfare, is the latest large survey conducted on homelessness in Sweden. The report describes four situations that characterize homeless persons[17]:

1) A person is reduced to emergency housing, shelter, or is a rough sleeper.
2) A person is an inmate or registered either at a
- penitentiary or other criminal institution
- treatment facility
or
- supported housing ,
and who will be signed out within three months, but still has no housing planned for the day of moving out.
3) A person is an registered either at a
- treatment facility
or
- supportive housing

15   Bostaden är en social rättighet – housing is a social right
16   *Homelessness in Sweden*
17   I include abridged descriptions in my own translation.

4) A person lives temporarily and without a contract with friends, acquaintances, family, relatives, or has a shorter (less than three months) lodger or sub-rent contract, and because of this situation has been seeking help from the social welfare or a human services organization

These definitions are based on the degree of access to three domains which are here considered to constitute a home:

• Physical domain – having a decent dwelling (or space) adequate to meet the needs of the person and his/her family

• Social domain – being able to maintain privacy and enjoy social relations

• Legal domain – having exclusive possession, security of occupation and legal title (Socialstyrelsen 2006, 21)
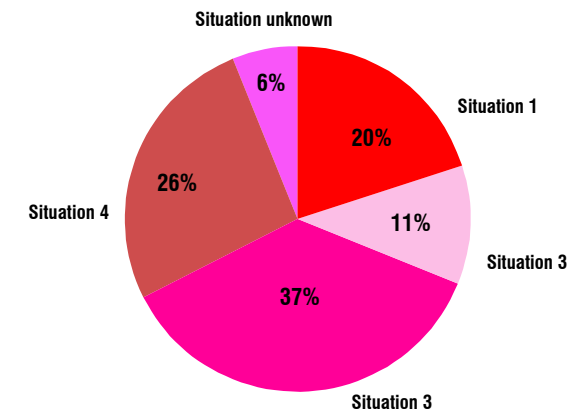
The distribution of homeless people in the different living situations (Socialstyrelsen 2006)

Percentage of homeless people in different subgroups (Socialstyrelsen 2006)

Men - 13100

Women - 4500

Born in Sweden - 12400

Born outside Sweden - 4300

Received housing assistance during the last year

Have psychiatric problems

Have alcohol or substance abuse problems

Received rehabilitation for alcohol or substance abuse

Received psychiatric treatment

Had been subject to non-voluntary treatment (substance abuse treatment, psychiatric treatment, treatment of offenders)

DIFFICULTIES OF STATISTICS

The classification of different categories of homeless people is a tool for authorities and researchers to conduct surveys and for policy making purposes. It is a help to identify specific needs of a vulnerable group in society in order to find out efficient solutions to how to help them (FEANTSA 2005). The method used by the Swedish National Board on Health and Welfare was to make a survey among different authorities, social services, penitentiaries and other institutions during one week in April 2005. This method is known as a period prevalence count. The point-in-time method identifies the number on a specific day (Davis, S. 2004).

Both methods have their problems. A count made during the warmer season probably results in a lower number than one conducted in winter time. Some homeless persons choose not to contact any authority or organization, or decline to participate in the survey. Others are not reported homeless by the information provider, or simply avoid having contact with any authorities or organizations. All homeless people are therefore not included in the count, and the figures should be considered as a minimum number (Socialstyrelsen 2005).

The use of categories may also be stigmatizing. A homeless person is mostly seen as an outsider with certain characteristics. To be placed into this category may reinforce the homeless person's feeling of not really being an equal member of society. One individual who according to statistics is homeless may object to being classified as such (Thörn 2001). There is also a large heterogeneity in needs and causes for the individuals to be homeless within different subcategories, based on gender, age, or ethnic background.

3.2 The housing stair[18]

Services for homeless in Sweden are usually based on the idea of the 'housing stair', where the client advances through a system of different types of housing until a permanent contract is achieved (see table next page). Due to the fact that a majority of the reported homeless individuals have a substance abuse, the advancement in the housing stair, to a large extent, is related to the client's ability to become drug-free, something which has caused debate, since this condition implies that some clients never reach the top of the stair (Helmersson 2006).

3.3 Women and homelessness

There are large differences between the men and women who are reported homeless in the survey conducted by Swedish National Board on Health and Welfare in 2005. Men constitute the large majority, about ¾ of the homeless population, but the number of homeless women is growing faster. In general, they are younger and have been homeless for a shorter period than the men. Women are more often reported to be parents of children less than 18 years old and more frequently live together with their children. Many suffer from psychological problems, whereas men more often have a substance abuse. Women more often stay in transitional/supportive housing than a shared living, and also work or study to a larger extent, even if this number is low, compared to other groups of women (Socialstyrelsen 2006, 8). Homeless women are not only vulnerable but also relatively invisible, in statistics as well as in the public (Thörn 2001, 219). They do not seek help as often as men and stay with relatives, friends or male acquaintans to a larger extent. This dependency exposes the woman to the risk of being physically or sexually abused.

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18   Boendetrappan

COMMON CAUSES

A distinction could be drawn between long-term and short-term causes for women to become homeless. The former ones often relate to a history of family-related problems during the childhood and adolescence such as persistent poverty, violence and/or sexual abuse, antisocial or criminal behavior. The short-term causes may occur at a break-up from of a relationship, divorce or separation (Novak and Schoibl 2001, 129-130). Economic factors are also of importance. Traditionally, women are dependent on male breadwinners and a separation may leave them without financial support. Even if this is less apparent in Sweden and other Nordic countries, women in general are financially weaker than men due to the unequal structure of the labor market.

TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES

Society and social workers tend to see homeless women as 'victims' rather than 'agents' and therefore offer them protection, especially women with children. Catharina Thörn discusses how the view of homeless women as vulnerable affects the activities and services targeted to them (2001, 220). A homeless woman often meets a protective attitude focusing on helping her to gain independence from a male partner. But if her behavior challenges gender stereotypes by violence and substance abuse, she might meet disapproval and a moralizing attitude. The activities offered are traditional 'female' such as baking, applying cosmetics and sewing (Ibid.) Examples from France show how women are excluded from job related services that are mainly targeted to men (Mina-Coull and Tartinville 2001, 146).

LACK OF SERVICES FOR WOMEN

The fact that homelessness is mostly treated from a male perspective affects the policies and services. Most services for homeless people are targeted to single men,

THE HOUSING STAIR

Low-threshold service	Tolerance to substance abuse outside the institution, but no tolerance within. The goal with the housing is to support and motivate the client to diminish the abuse, or to quit if this is realistic.
Drug-free service	No drug use within or outside the institution. In case of relapse, the room is kept while the client is submitted to detoxication, but if this is repeated he or she looses the place after contact with the responsible city district administration.
Emergency shelter	Either night shelter which includes breakfast or one day-and-night stay which includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dormitories for 2-4 people occur. Provided by direct contact from client or after decision of aid from social services. The client has to fulfil the criteria for the 'roof-above-head guarantee'**: they have to seek shelter before midnight, not be violent, disturbing or be a risk of fire safety.
Short-time housing	The client has access to the place twenty-four hours, and there is mostly staff night-time. Usually single rooms, but shared rooms occur. Some meals are provided for. Planning for detoxication, care/treatment and more long-term housing shall take place during the placement, which should not be longer than six months. Can both be low threshold and drug-free. Decision of aid from social services necessary.
Supported housing	Support activities/services according to a made up plan are given to the client. The clients live in shared housing or an own apartment. Some are drug-free, others low-threshold. Meals are usually included in the communal living, but the clients in an own apartments cook themselves. Decision of aid from social services necessary.
Transitional housing	Apartments for clients who for economic or social reasons need temporary housing. Each apartment is intended to one client. The duration of stay may last up to three years or more permanent supported housing for clients with social problems. Decision of aid from social services is not necessary, but the client has to be registered at the local housing authority***.
Social contract	The city sublets an apartment to a person under certain conditions. The client has no legal tenure.

Table based on Fall, Mörman Aldunge, Ström 2006

* The Swedish terms in the same order as above: lågtröskelverksamhet, drogfri verksamhet, akutboende/härbärge, korttidsboende, stödboende, övergångsboende och socialt kontrakt

** Tak-över-huvudet-garantin (TÖG)

***This describes the situation in Stockholm, but may be different in other cities.

but a homeless woman who is the victim of violence and/or sexual abuse may have a fear of men and wants to avoid mixed services. There is a need to further investigate the specific needs of women that have not been sufficiently taken into consideration.

Some barriers for women to seek help are the lack of information or that a facility has a bad reputation, but shame is perhaps the most important factor. The woman has difficulties with admitting her problem or is afraid of an intervention from the social services, especially for mothers with children (Novak and Schoibl 2001, 137).

Safety and security are some crucial aspects in services for homeless women, including that the staff should be all-female. There should also be guarantees of privacy in single rooms and an own door to close in order to make women seek help. In case of substance abuse, low-threshold housing is a starting point, followed by treatment and transitional housing (Kärkkäinen 2001, 190). A holistic approach in comprehensive services (night and day time) that offer emotional as well as practical support – supported housing, day centers and peer support – have also proved to be valuable (Ibid.).

3.4 Homelessness in Malmö

By looking at the specific situation of Malmö, we can see how homelessness is dealt with by policy makers and other interest groups in Sweden. In the latest count made by the municipality on 2 October 2006, there are 849 homeless individuals. This is the highest number counted in Malmö and implies an increase of 155 people from the year before, many of whom are children (Malmö stad, 2006a).

PROCESS TO GET HOUSING

Malmö is divided into ten different City District Departments[19], each of which rent a number of beds at the housing services provided by the city, depending on the estimated need in the specific district (Sepehri 2007). The housing services run by a company or an organization do only get paid for the number of beds that are occupied. In order to get access to a place, the homeless person has to contact the social welfare administration in his/her district[20]. A social counselor contacts the services and helps to arrange the accommodation. Despite the fact that the total number of beds is too low, there are beds empty each night, since the districts keep 'their' beds even if no one is occupying it on the specific night. There is also a large difference between the districts in how much financial aid they provide to their clients (Ibid. 2007). For example, some districts give money to furniture if they live in an apartment, whereas others do not. Neighboring apartments may vary in standard and equipment depending on the district (Knutagård 2007). Clients who are retired on a pension generally pay a rent, but some districts subsidize the fee for all clients. Many choose not to contact the social welfare, but go directly to services that provide emergency night shelter, the most important of which is Stadsmissionen[21] located in central Malmö.

HOMELESS WOMEN IN MALMÖ

In Malmö, at least 200 women have contact with services for homeless (Helmersson & Hult 2007). As discussed earlier, the exact numbers are hard to estimate and vary according to the season. A large part has alcohol and substance abuse problems and, compared to the national survey, more than half suffer from psychiatric problems (Socialstyrelsen 2006). There are also other groups such as

19   Stadsdelsförvaltning = SDF
20   Where he or she was last registered as resident.
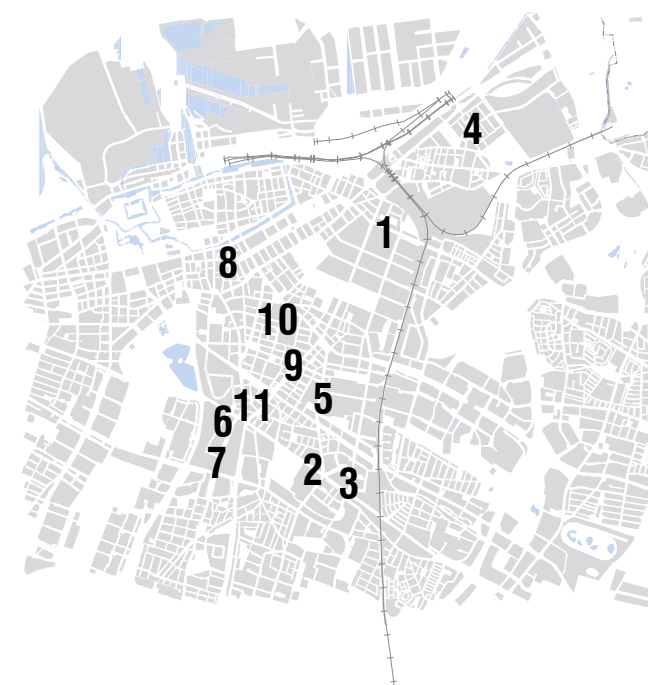21   The City Mission

young women with foreign background who temporarily escape an over-crowded home to study, or retired women who have been evicted for not paying the rent (Dyson 2007).

There are more than 60 beds or rooms for homeless women at different services around Malmö. Some of them are run by organizations, some by human services companies and some by the municipality. According to the bureaucratic procedures and the need of the clients, there is a biased demand for different kind of housing options. Some of these places are therefore distributed to men instead (Helmersson 2007).

In the beginning of 2006, a project was initiated by the municipality to investigate the housing needs of physically abused homeless women with substance abuse[22]. Today there is a lack of emergency housing for this group of women, and there also seem to be a need for more supported housing. The women are asking for a place where to escape and which should be open day and night for drop-in clients (Ibid.). Social workers, voluntary organizations and the police identify the same need.

COMPASSION AND NIMBYISM – HOMELESSNESS IN THE MEDIA

Homelessness reached the headlines in 2006, in local as well as national media. There is a concern over the growing numbers, and an ongoing debate about housing policy and different strategies to combat the problem. During the course of the fall 2006, the regional newspaper *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* presented a series of articles on the neighbourhood *Mosippan*. It consists of temporary apartments in barracks inhabited by families who have been evicted, and by newly arrived immigrants. For most of the residents, the 'temporary' solution has almost

become permanent, since the lack of affordable apartments is ever-present in Malmö. These articles led to further attention from national media about the terrible housing conditions and poor situation for the residents, many of whom are children. In March 2008 the lease will terminate and the barracks will be torn down. The municipality is now trying to find other places where to house the residents, but the final decision on where and how is not taken yet. Proposals have been made about location, but they have met immediate objections from the residents of the neighborhood (Sydsvenska Dagbladet 2006a). These reactions are typical – everyone think it is necessary to find a good housing solution for the homeless, but no one wants it where they live, a reaction often referred to as NIMBYism – 'Not In My Back Yard'.

In 2001, the homeless community of Malmö gained a forum in Aluma, a monthly magazine focusing on issues related to housing and social exclusion. This has contributed to an increasing awareness among the residents of Malmö about homelessness. The magazine is sold by homeless people in the streets, and thus helps to bridge the gap between the sellers and the buyers who are usually 'ordinary citizens' (Aluma 2007).

HOMELESSNESS SOLUTION OR HOUSING SOLUTION?

A common view in media is that what is needed is not a homeless policy, but a building policy (Sydsvenska Dagbladet 2006b). The influx of people to Malmö in recent years has caused a scarcity of affordable apartments, and the new housing that being built does not meet the demand. This situation has reinforced the power of the landlords on the housing market, who can now hand-pick their tenants, a competitive situation where poor and socially excluded people have small chances to succeed.

The question is whether the provision of more affordable housing would solve the situation for the homeless in Malmö? My research shows how homelessness, although primarily signifying the lack of housing, is a very complex issue. Drug and alcohol abuse, psychiatric diagnoses and other problems are only some factors that need to be dealt with along with the housing situation.

Category housing for specific groups of people are said to be stigmatizing and to enhance segregation. But there is an obvious need for temporary housing that includes support services and the contact with staff to help people in a difficult situation. Looking at the options today, I prefer to take a pragmatic position and make a proposal that answer to this need. I do not see this as a general 'solution' to the homelessness in Malmö, but an example of how to deal with a specific program as an architect. At least, well-designed category housing is far better than a supposedly temporary solution that becomes permanent.

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22   *Bättre boende för hemlösa missbrukande kvinnor i Malmö*

4 Designing for the homeless

In *Designing for the Homeless*, Sam Davis emphasizes that 'profound insights' or "the ability to understand, and to be attuned to, the client's needs", are very important when designing for the vulnerable group of homeless people (2004, 81). It implies a loaded program where the building should have many different qualities – that of being a sanctuary, a natural part of the neighborhood, a home (but not too much), and most important to show a way out of homelessness.

Architects and builders are only involved in a part of the housing options for homeless people. Some homeless arrange shelter for themselves or stay in temporary housing provided for by authorities. The type of shelter ranges from the very temporary, individual solution to large-scale permanent structures. In this chapter I will discuss some aspects of the planning and design of facilities for homeless people, where I refer to the case studies that are found in the appendix of the diploma work. Throughout this chapter I use the American term 'homeless facility'[23] to describe the buildings, since most of my case studies are from the US.

4.1 The spatial program

The case-studies are examples of different kinds of shelters. In this section I will highlight some elements that are common for several of the projects, and others that are more specific, to show how design is being used

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23   Facility = "something created to serve a particular function" (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language 2007)

in a thoughtful way to improve the life and the experience of the users of these facilities. The presentation is based on Sam Davis' discussion, which I think captures many important aspects an architect has to consider during the design process.

THE ENTRANCE

The entrance defines the transition between the street and the facility. In best case it gives the impression of being a refuge from the outside world, the weather and the community. It should clearly attract potential guests and visitors, and communicate "an impression that it was designed specifically for them" (Davis, S. 2004, 81).

Qualities

- Overview and information for the guest
- Supervision by the staff
- Buffer zone from the community to minimize the visual impacts for the neighbors who might otherwise be complaining

Functions

- Waiting area
- Reception counter with staff give sense of security and good management
- A check in-function gives security from unwanted visitors, particularly in facilities for women
- In mixed facilities separate entrances for men and women
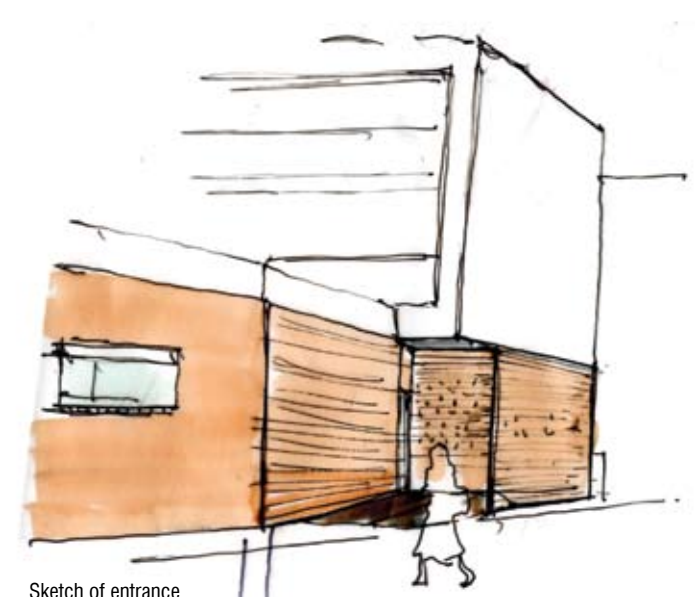
Sketch of entrance

PUBLIC AREAS

The public areas are where residents and temporary visitors meet for common activities. The latter group may be reluctant to stay in a shelter, but needs a place where to wash their clothes, and to use as an address. An open and allowing atmosphere in the public areas may be one step closer to getting out of homelessness.

Day room

- Relax, socialize, watch TV
- Meal services from soup kitchen to larger canteens or cafés

Service spaces

- Showers and bathrooms
- Laundry
- Post boxes

Courtyard

- Ideally adjacent to entrance
- Connection to private spaces
- Make large facilities seem small
- Provide light and fresh air, green space, smoking area and play ground

Playground in St Vincent de Paul Village in San Diego

Gym in Midnight Mission in Los Angeles

Chapel 'Corbusier style' in Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles

SUPPORT SERVICES

Many facilities for homeless provide support services for the residents and others seeking help. These services could be related to the housing situation, but also to aim at improving the physical and mental condition the clients. In the US it is common to offer medical services. Medical and psychological services, if located in a comprehensive facility, could have a separate entrance to allow the clients privacy.

Health services

- Small medical clinic
- Dental clinic
- HIV prevention and/or AIDS treatment
- Psychological counseling
- Alcohol/substance abuse treatment

Education and job training

- Class rooms for 'life-skills learning'
- Job training facility
- Computer rooms

Other

- Gym
- Workshop/hobby room

EMERGENCY AND SHORT-TIME HOUSING

A homeless facility has many different functions, but the primary is a place to sleep. As the term of duration for varies, so does the level of privacy and other aspects related to the sleeping areas. The personal belongings may be even more important for a homeless person than for others, since they represent his or her life. Davis emphasize that "[d]ealing with the stuff, therefore, is a necessary part of designing for the homeless" (Ibid. p.98).

Sleeping area

- Emergency shelter (in the US) usually has bunk beds in a dormitory
- In Sweden usually single rooms or two-bedrooms.
- The lack of privacy is the main problem

Belongings

- Separate lockers or storage space by the bed
- Harmful objects, such as weapons for protection in a rough street environment or alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia may be locked up in a secure space by the staff

TRANSITIONAL/SUPPORTED HOUSING

If a dormitory is considered an acceptable solution in an emergency situation, a private space is very important for a person who needs to stay for several months, or even years, in a facility. An apartment within a facility is a place where the resident can 'readjust' to how to live on his/her own with the support from staff and neighbors.

Equipment

- Usually single rooms equipped with a small kitchen and bathroom
- Sometimes mixed with other types of units

Privacy

- Important to have an own space with a door to close, where the resident decides whom to invite
- There is often rules that restrict the terms of visitors
- Privacy and ability for the residents to come and go as they please may conflict with the security of the facility

Dormitories in Union Rescue Mission in LA

SRO - single room occupancy - under construction in Midnight Mission in LA

SHARED SPACES

In a facility that provides housing services, either they are shared or private, common spaces for the residents are important for them to interact with others in a safe environment, which is an important part of being reintegrated in society for someone who has been an outsider for a long time. Ideally, community rooms and hallways should have views and easy access to other spaces, since "[f]acilitating freedom of movement and creating choices among several destinations are a recognition of the dignity of those who occupy the facility" (Davis, S. 2004, 87).

Indoor areas

- Larger kitchen and dining area as a complement to kitchenette in each unit
- A lounge or TV room
- Visitor's room

Private outdoor space

- Balconies/outdoor space in each unit
- Inner courtyard for the residents, on top of roof
- Staircases and communication areas should be designed to allow meetings

RELATION TO THE PUBLIC

A good relation to the surrounding community is very important for a homeless facility. Designing the building to make it a natural part of the neighborhood is one important factor, another is to incorporate public functions to give something to the community. This could help to avoid stigmatization, and be yet another way to mending the gap between the homeless

population and the rest of society.

Building design

- The scale of the building should fit into the scale of the street
- A small facility is better than a large
- The materials should be similar to the surrounding
- Put some extra effort on the façade – a nice appearance dignifies the users and enlivens the neighborhood

Public attraction

- A function in the building that is directed to another target group than the residents
- Activities that attracts the community and could be related to the job training of the residents

Staff in common kitchen in Larkin Street
Youth Services in San Francisco. Design by Sam Davis.

Organic grocery store located in affordable housing development in San Francisco. Design by David Baker Architects.

4.2 What to learn?

LOCATION

Locating a homeless facility is a challenging task. First of all, the location should meet the needs and demands of its users, which is not always the case. More often, society's opinion and the fear of complaints by future neighbors weigh more heavily, as we could see by the Swedish examples of NIMBYism.

Most cities develop over the years, and a neighborhood that have been peripheral or an area of urban blight might change quickly. Gentrification processes usually leads to increasing property value and rent, which may cause problems for the original residents, as in the case of Dome Village in Los Angeles, where the rent was raised by 700%.

But upgrading of a neighborhood where a homeless facility is located could also be seen as a positive factor, if the forms of tenure or ownership is somewhat fix. To locate a facility in an area during the early phase of urban renewal may increase its chances to blend in and become a natural part of the neighborhood, like something which was there 'from the beginning'.

TEMPORARY/PERMANENT

Most of us would probably like to see homelessness as a temporary problem that needs temporary solutions. However, reality and experience show that it is not likely to disappear in the near future. The housing solutions provided for the homeless population by society should therefore be characterized by durability and permanence.

Another factor that influences the need for more permanent dwellings is the climactic conditions. Obviously, there is a clear difference between being a rough sleeper in California, or in Southern Europe compared to Sweden, with our colder climate. Temporary structures that might work in Los Angeles, would not be a suitable solution here.

Nevertheless, it is crucial to make a distinction between what is permanent on the level of society or in the actual building, from what is permanent or temporary for the homeless individual. Regarding homelessness as a process, housing at a facility is a temporary condition for the individual, which will hopefully lead to a permanent tenure in the future. But during the stay, he or she should be able to feel safe and get a sense of belonging and dignity. A well-designed, permanent building is more likely to provide this feeling than a temporary structure.

SIZE

The smaller, the better could be the general statement here. For residents and staff a small facility will not give the same impression of an institution as a large. It is also more likely to blend into the neighborhood if it does not differ in size and scale from the surrounding buildings. But when building a new facility, cost efficiency is an important argument, which may be easier achieved in a larger scale. The program and services of the facility are other factors that influence the size.

SERVICES

The Swedish ideology on housing for the homeless inclines towards separating housing from other support functions. The main argument is that mixing housing with other services makes the residents dependent and used to having it close (Hult 2006). For this reason it could be better to locate the support functions elsewhere to facilitate for the homeless person to maintain the contact with these services after moving out.

Different strategies to locate a homeless facility

Location	Positive aspects	Negative aspects
Outside the city center	Far from 'dangers' and temptations Retreat and new start Easier to get building permit	Often lack of good transportation leads to expensive travels, Not so good for children when located far from school and friends, Separated from others, The problem made invisible
Central	More likely to be integrated in the city/ natural part of urban demographics and structure Close to functions Meet people where they are	Close to where the problems are (drugs, abusing husbands etc.) Risk of NIMBYism, therefore more difficult to get building permit
Cluster of facilities in the same district	The clients know where to find it 'Safe haven'	Separated from others Risk to stigmatize Risk giving bad reputation to neighborhood

Another argument is that the residents have the right to an own, private housing, without being guarded or having to comply with to many regulations. On the other hand, some residents may feel more secure with rules which make it easier to say no to unwanted visitors. This sense of security is particularly strong among women who have escaped abusing men (Ibid.).

Most of my case-studies, as well as other research I have done, support a more comprehensive view of homeless facilities. They emphasize the advantage of mixing housing and support services in a holistic attempt to deal with the problem, which makes it more similar to other kind of 'category housing', such as old people's homes. By having housing and support within the same facility, the residents will have time and help to adjust to the changing circumstances both in the beginning and the end of a stay.

PARTICIPATION

Referring to Lefèbvre in the discussion on the right to the city, I quoted that "the city is an *oeuvre* – a work in which all its citizens participate". Homeless people are one of the most marginalized groups in society, and thus a group that have few means to participate in this process of creation. One can argue that rough sleepers who raise tent camps inhabit space, but the terms of stay is usually short-sighted and insecure. Dignity Village in Portland is one case where the homeless, supported by parts of the community, have achieved to permanent the structures they have created, and where participation is the essence of the project.

There are other examples where authorities involve former homeless people in the redevelopment and construction of housing for themselves. Looking at the

homeless population in Sweden, and the structure of the welfare system, projects of participation like these are less likely to occur. But participation does not have to mean to literally build the housing. Inviting the future users to a discussion on their needs and wishes may be one way to involve them in the planning of the project.

CONCLUSION

There is not one single solution to what a homeless facility should look like or which services it should have. The different needs of specific target group make clear the necessity to provide a variety of facilities and housing options. These have to be investigated and developed further in collaboration with the potential users – the homeless people, staff and providers – to ensure the quality and adequacy of design and content.

The architect's role in this process is to be attentive to the client's experiences, but also to debate and question them, in order to find out new solutions. But in this kind of projects, design based on pragmatism rather than an experimental attitude to the task is more likely to be successful. Profound insights along with a strong sense of the spatial programming may help the architect to reach beyond what others have done.
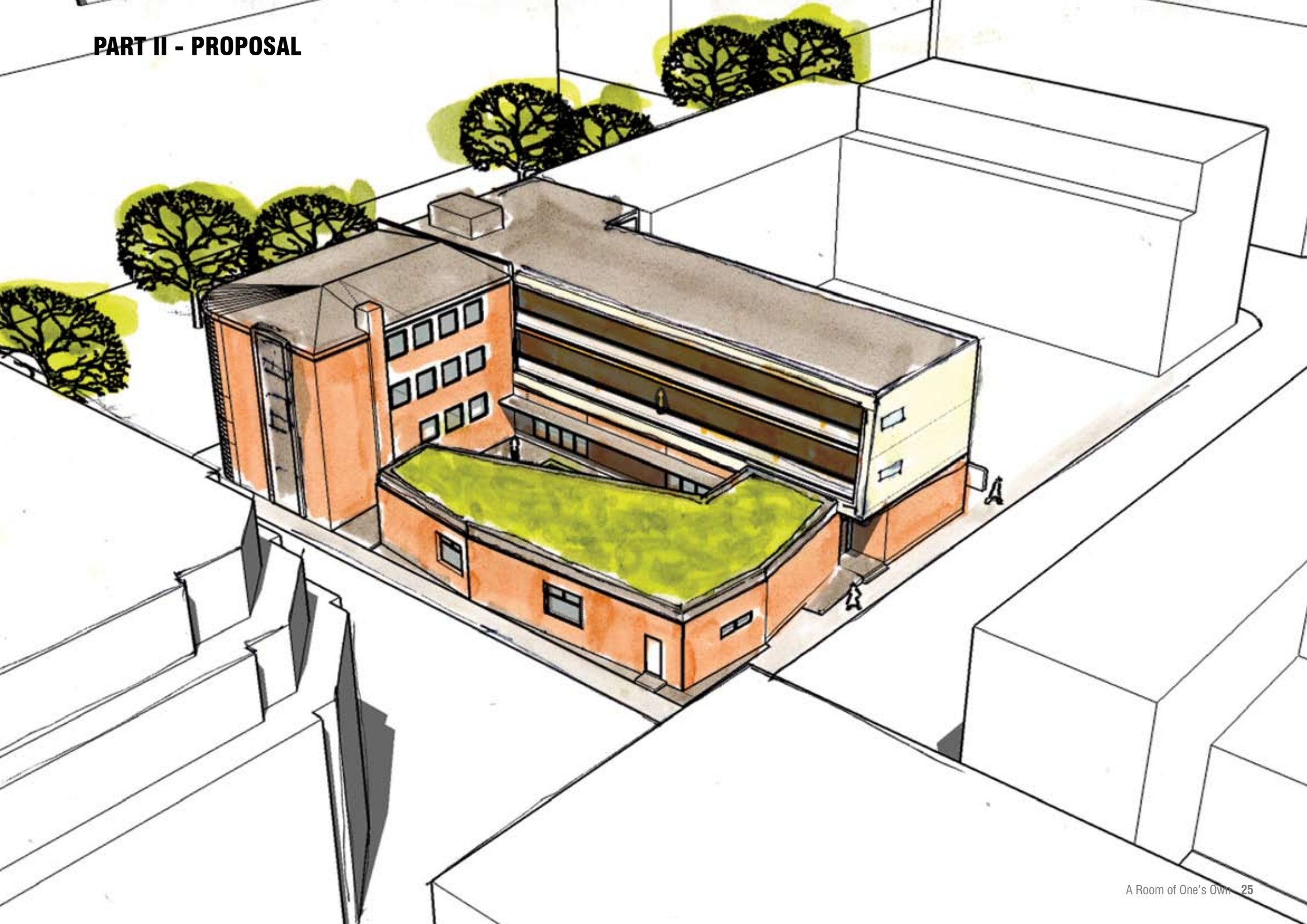
THE CITY'S PLANS

The plans for Nyhamnen follow the trend of waterfront redevelopment seen in many changing industrial port cities. Malmö wants to strengthen its new identity as a creative city within the Öresund region.

The vision from City Planning Bureau is to create one of the most attractive areas to live in Malmö. The area has a prime location close to central station with connections to Copenhagen and Kastrup Airport, the downtown area of Malmö and the sea. Today, the area is mainly used for industry, harbor related activities and some services/commerce. The future will offer a mix of housing for a varied population along with services and many public spaces, and there are plans to locate a larger culture institution by the waterfront along Skeppsbron.

HOMELESS WOMEN IN NYHAMNEN

On background of my previous discussion, and based on these plans, I propose to locate a facility for homeless women in the area. In the process of urban renewal, it is essential also to include marginalized groups, which is also stated as important by the City Planning Office in several of their documents.

Homeless women are even less visible than many others, and there is a lack of appropriate services for this specific group in Malmö. The same arguments that make Nyhamnen a potential attractive area for more affluent social groups could be used for these women – it is central, close to communications and has the potential to become a rich, mixed urban district.

5.1 The district

Legend:

- Intense public activity
- Moderate public activity
- Little public activity
- Buildings to be preserved

Jörgen Kockssgatan

Carlsgatan

0 25 50 75 100 m

1. Central railway station
2. Main post office
3. Future city tunnel terminal
4. Towards long distance bus station and ferries to Denmark
5. Slagthuset - offices and popular night club and events venue
6. Hotel
7. Office building
8. Sopstationen - cheap and popular second hand store
9. Vintergatan - designer flee market once a month

Carlsgatan

Slagthuset

City terminal construction

FUTURE ZONING

Terminal

Water
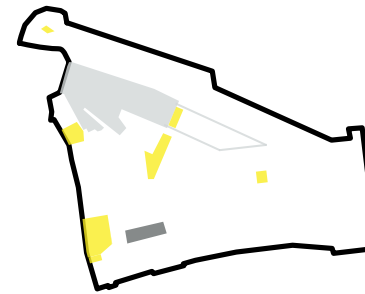
Public places and squares
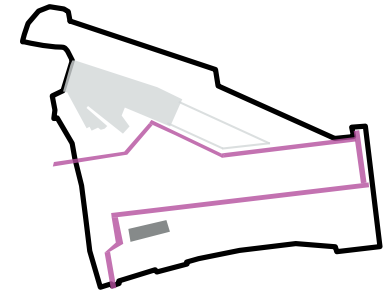
Main thoroughfares
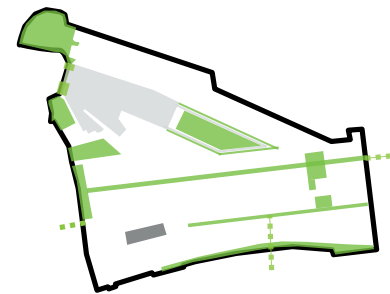
Parks, access routes and local streets
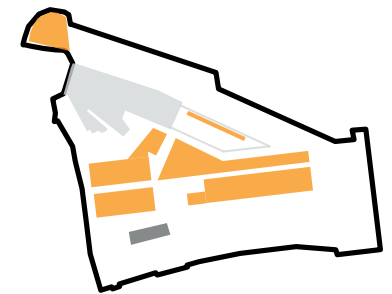
Residential, offices, service, education and commerce
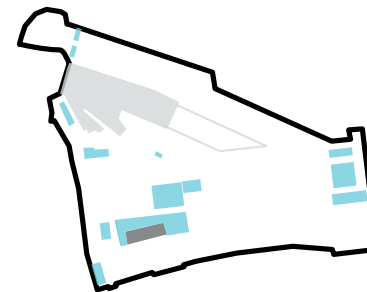
Offices, service, education and commerce
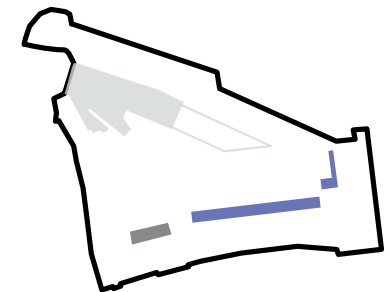
Offices, service, commerce and residential

3D VIEW OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

5.2 Local context

The neighborhood is planned to be a mix of housing and commercial activities. Jörgen Kocksgatan north of the site will be turned into local street where pedestrians have priority. Carlsgatan will be the main thoroughfare. Several of the existing buildings will be preserved, which will serve for a continuity of the neighborhood's development. The site is owned by the municipality but is one lease to a real estate company. The institutional character of the building create a bridge between the housing and other activity in the area.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Buildings to be preserved
Proposed new development
Local street/park
Main thoroughfare
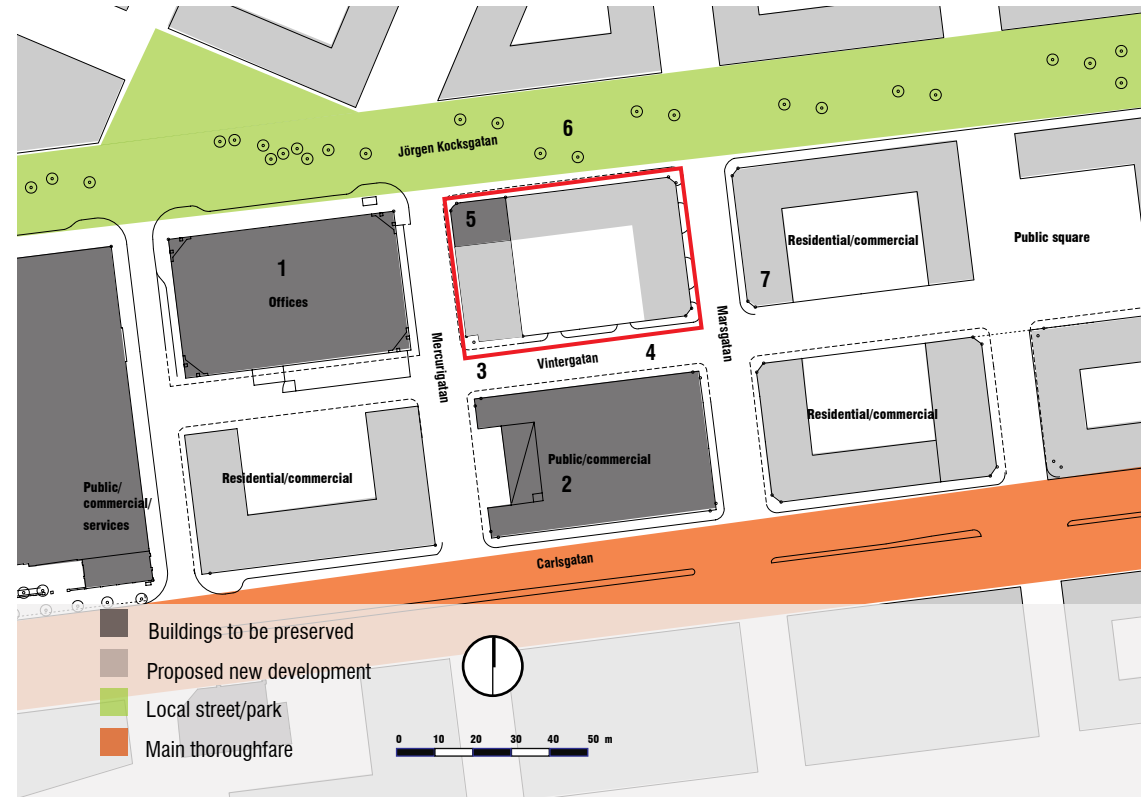
THE NEIGHBORHOOD TODAY

1. Large office building west of site
2. Sopstationen viewed from Carlsgatan
3-4. Vintergatan viewed from west and east
5. The corner building on the site
6. Jörgen Kocksgatan
7. Boblebe-e bag designer
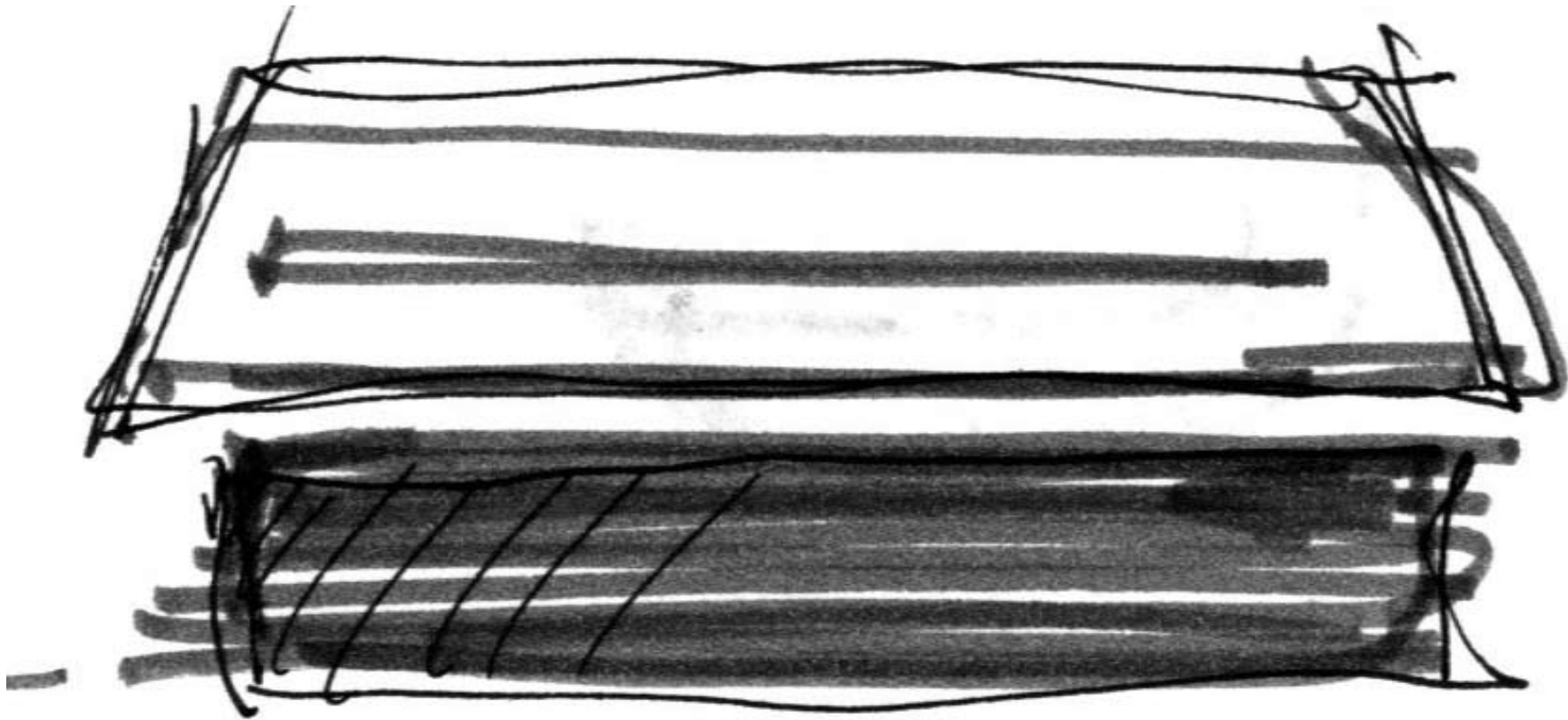
6.1 Architectural program

The center is a low-threshold facility for homeless women with substance abuse as well as other homeless women in need. The program includes a day center, support services and 28 sleeping and housing places[1].

Programs of activity:

• The home offers 28 single rooms, which gives women in crisis an immediate solution to their homeless situation. This is seen to be more appropriate than dormitories, where women would not have sufficient space and privacy.

• The day center welcomes all women and is a place of protection and communication for women as well as for satisfying their basic needs.

• The staff offers psychological emotional and practical support to the clients.

• Vocational training is offered to improve the economical situation for the women.

• Basic supplies are provided, including food, washing facilities etc.

• The center is built by and owned by the municipality, but may be run by a human services organization.

The sleeping and housing places are divided into three different areas and standards of housing:

1.   Emergency beds:

Five single rooms which are allocated to women in urgent need. For one night only.

2.   Short-time housing:

Nine single rooms for physically assaulted women with a substance abuse. Neither drug abstinence nor compliance is a precondition. Primarily it is a short-term solution (2 weeks – 2 months), but some residents may stay for a longer period of time until more long-term housing is arranged.

3.   Supported housing:

Fourteen small training apartments for women who are recovering from substance abuse treatment and who want the support of a social worker to reach the next goal which is a contract on the regular housing market. They can stay up to two years or until permanent housing is arranged.

---

1   The program is based on FrauenWohnZentrum, a low-threshold facility for women in Vienna, Austria. It is used as a model project by CATCH – *Creative Approach to Combating Homelessness*, collaboration between several EU countries (CATCH 2006).

View of northern entrance

VISION

Safe haven

- offer protection and rest in a women-only environment
- the idea of a monastery: enclosed space that opens up to the inside
- public functions (day center and support services) as a visual and ideal solid base for the housing
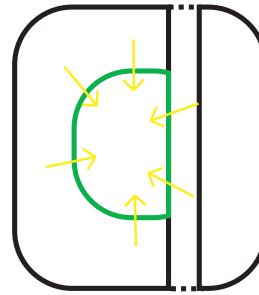
Concept of monastery

Solid base

Holistic approach

- day center + support services + housing
- the homeless women needs housing, but also emotional and practical support
- temporary guest can see beyond their present situation by meeting others and with the aid of the staff
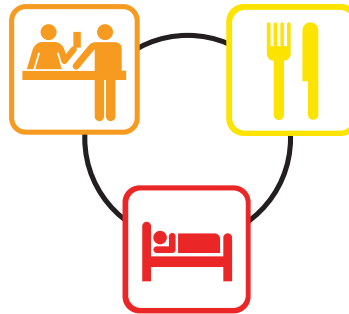
Day center + support services + housing

Part of the neighborhood

- to locate the center in a district under development facilitates to make it a natural part of the neighborhood as well as limits the risk of complaints in the planning process
- scale, material and quality of design should be equal to surrounding buildings

Equal in scale

Permanent building

- the problem is temporary for the individual but long-term for society
- intentional planning and sturdy materials should be used in the building

Temporary stay in permanent building

SPATIAL RELATIONS

Space	Quality
Lobby	Buffer zone Transition space Safety/security Visual access to the outside Overview of facility
Staff area	Access to outside/separate entry Private rooms for staff
Support services	Safety Privacy in smaller rooms
Day center	Social space Resting place Open to courtyard Protected from unwanted visitors
Public courtyard	Buffer zone Resting place Partly under roof Accessible from lobby
Residents' outdoor space	Only for residents and staff Calm
Emergency housing	Close to support center and staff area
Short-time housing	Some level of privacy Tolerance
Supported housing	Relative privacy Separate entrances Private outdoor space/balconies
Other/staff outdoor area	Separate from other entries

Main entry

Delivery

Staff and residents' entry

──── Direct connection

– – – – Indirect and/or visual connection
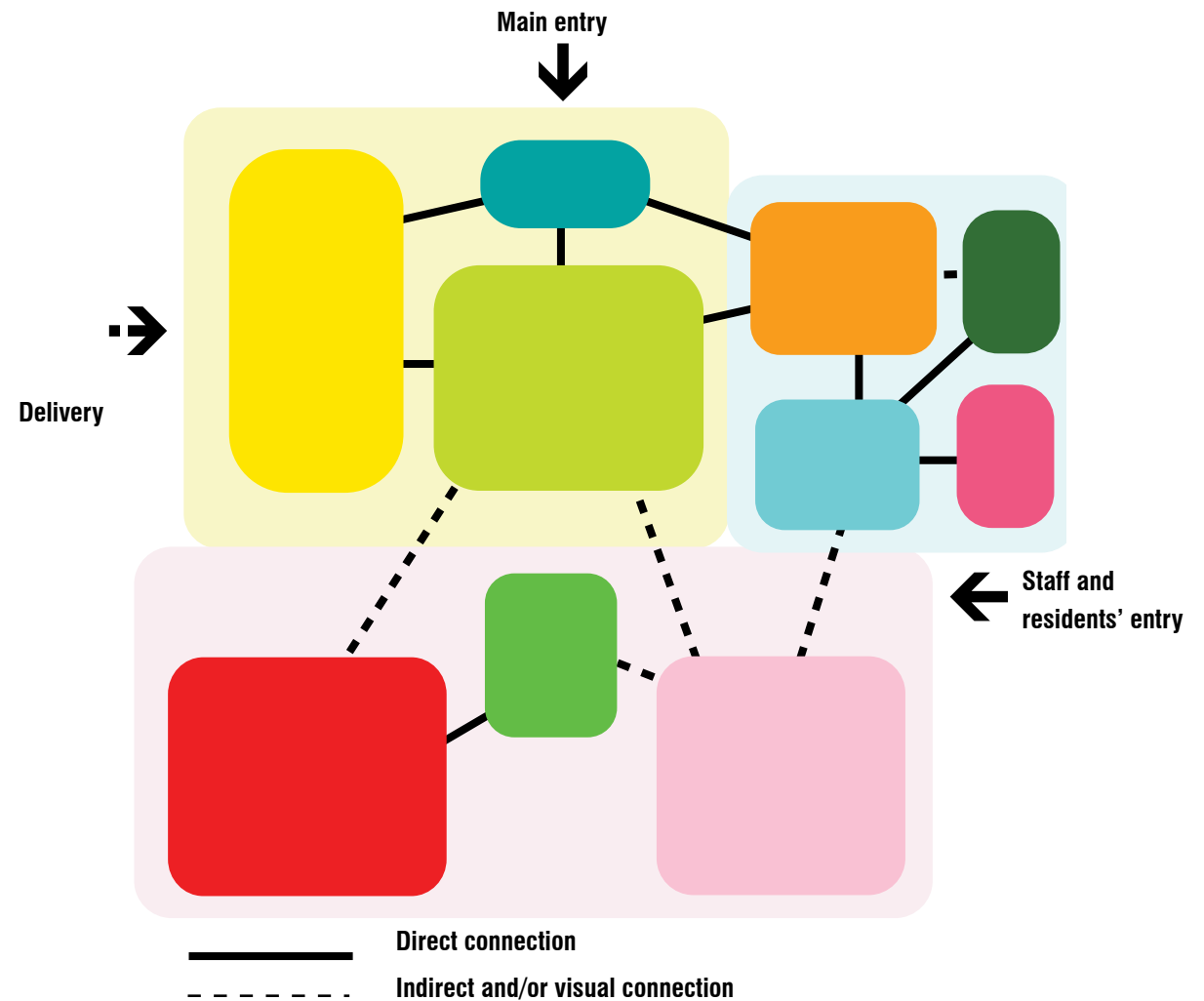
FACILITY PROGRAM IN SQ M

LOBBY 80 M2

Reception 16 m2
Office 25 m2
Waiting area 6 m2
2 WC, 1 HWC 12 m2
Communication area 30%
Information

DAY CENTER 205 M2

Canteen 95 m2
Kitchen with storage space 50 m2
Community/ TV-room 20 m2
Bathroom/showers for visitors 15 m2
Laundry 25 m2

SUPPORT CENTER 134 M2

2 Psychological counseling rooms 12 m2*2
1 Group session room 16 m2
Gym/sports (e.g. yoga, mini-gym) 40 m2
Waiting area 7 m2
Communication area 47 m2

EMERGENCY HOUSING 120 M2

5 single rooms with bathroom * 16 m2
Communication area 40 m2

LOW-THRESHOLD HOUSING 246 M2

9 Single rooms with bath/toilet *16 m2
1 Shared kitchen/community spaces 22 m2
Communication area 80 m2

SUPPORTED HOUSING 517 M2

14 single room apartments with bathroom and small kitchen *
24 m2
2 Shared kitchens/community spaces * 28 m2
Storage space 25 m2
Communication area 100 m2

OTHER/STAFF 121 M2

1 Administration office 21 m2
Staff kitchen/relax area 16 m2
Toilets, showers, restroom 10 m2
Bedroom for night-shift work 8 m2
Bicycle shed 16 m2
Communication area 50 m2

PUBLIC COURTYARD 140 M2

RESIDENTS' OUTDOOR AREA 120 M2

STAFF OUTDOOR AREA 60 M2

INDOOR AREA 1353 M2
OUTDOOR AREA 320 M2

TOTAL AREA 1673 M2

Ground floor

1st floor

2nd floor
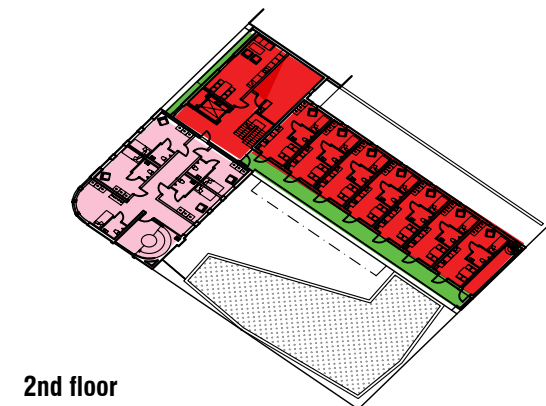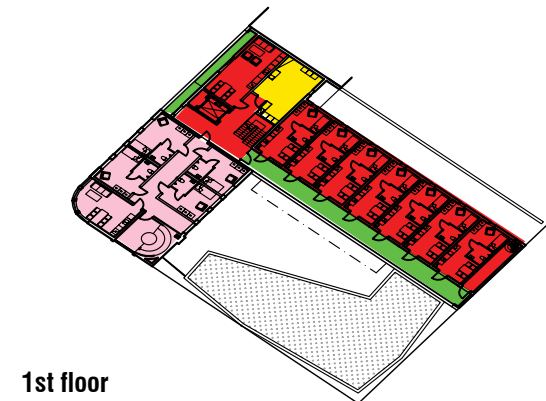
SKETCHES & MODELS
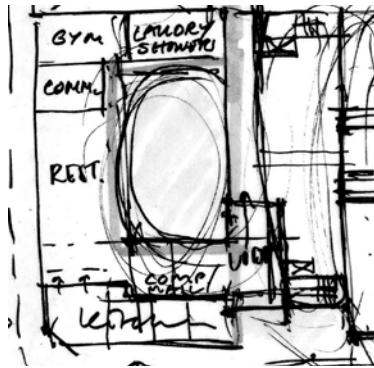
Layout of plan.
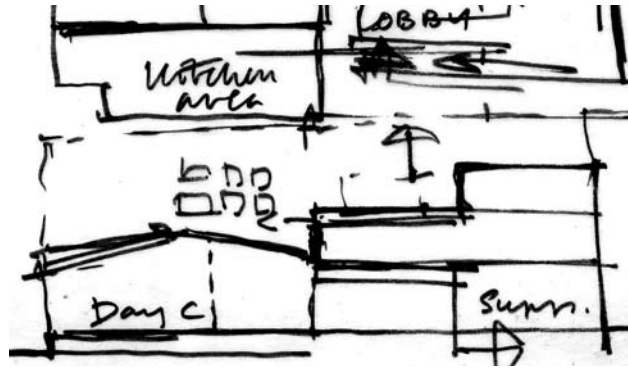
Separation of activities in section
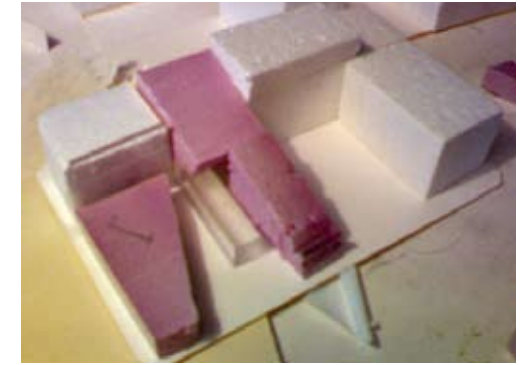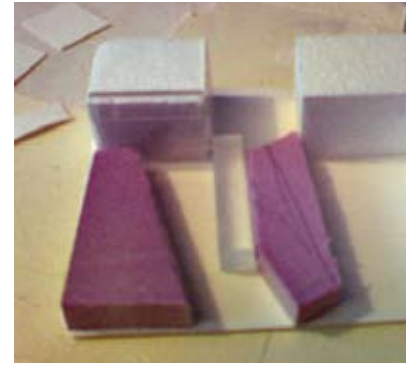
The first volume studies. The slit through the block and the communication axis is there.
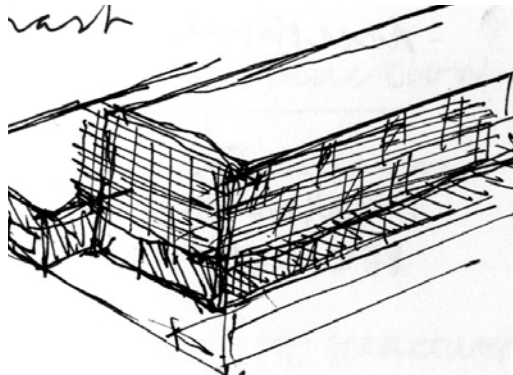
Volumes and idea of facade.

Surrounding wall and movement around elliptical courtyard - to little dynamism in shape. Semi-transparent wall on the north facade.   "Lighthouse" to attract visitors.
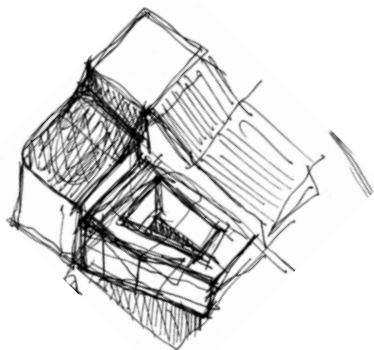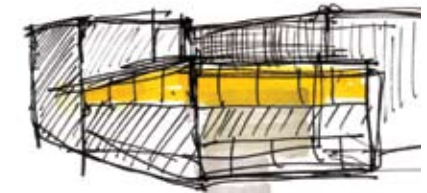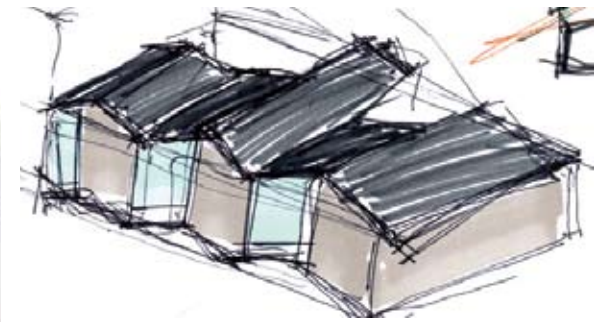

Step back from street and entrance from Mercurigatan.
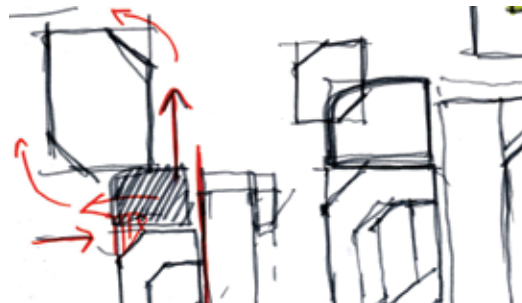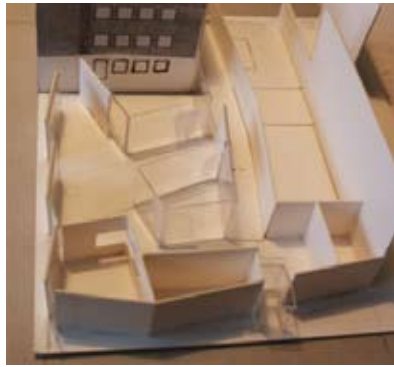

Concept of the angles/steps back.

Visual connection to the outside

Folded wall

SKETCHES & MODELS

The directions of the wall are broken up and slits are opened up to the street. Attempts with two courtyards, but too narrow. Folded roof in different versions. Roof in two levels to avoid the meeting with the housing volume.

More folded roof in different versions. Roof in two levels to avoid the meeting with the housing volume. Entrance as glass box.

Roof simplified and flat.
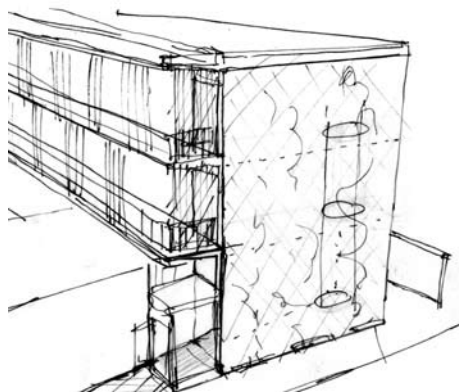
South wall pulled down to distinguish the entrance.
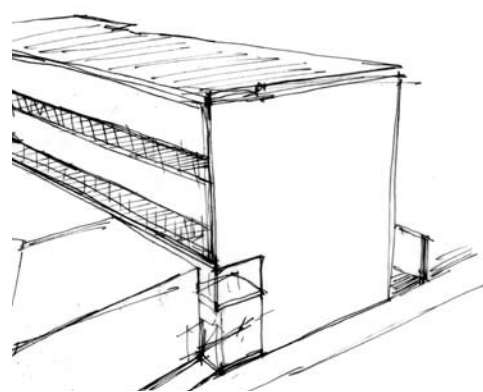
Hallways framed and more protected.

Entrance as lantern.
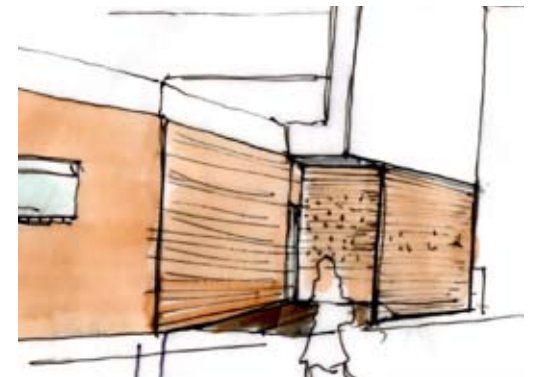
More discrete entrance through which to sneak in .

7.1 Drawings

GROUND FLOOR

1. Lobby
2. Canteen
3. TV-room
4. Kitchen
5. Staff area
6. Group conseling room
7. Counseling room
8. Gym
9. Showers for guests
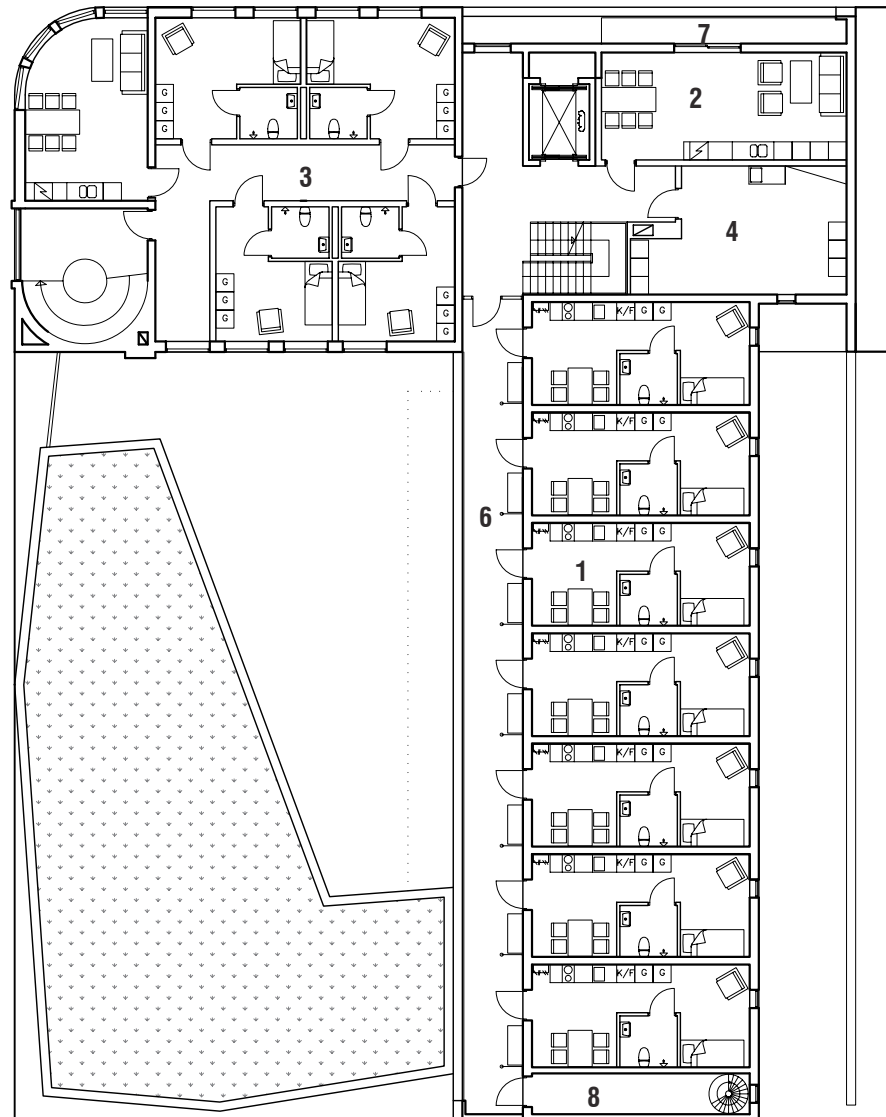10. Staff area
11. Emergency housing
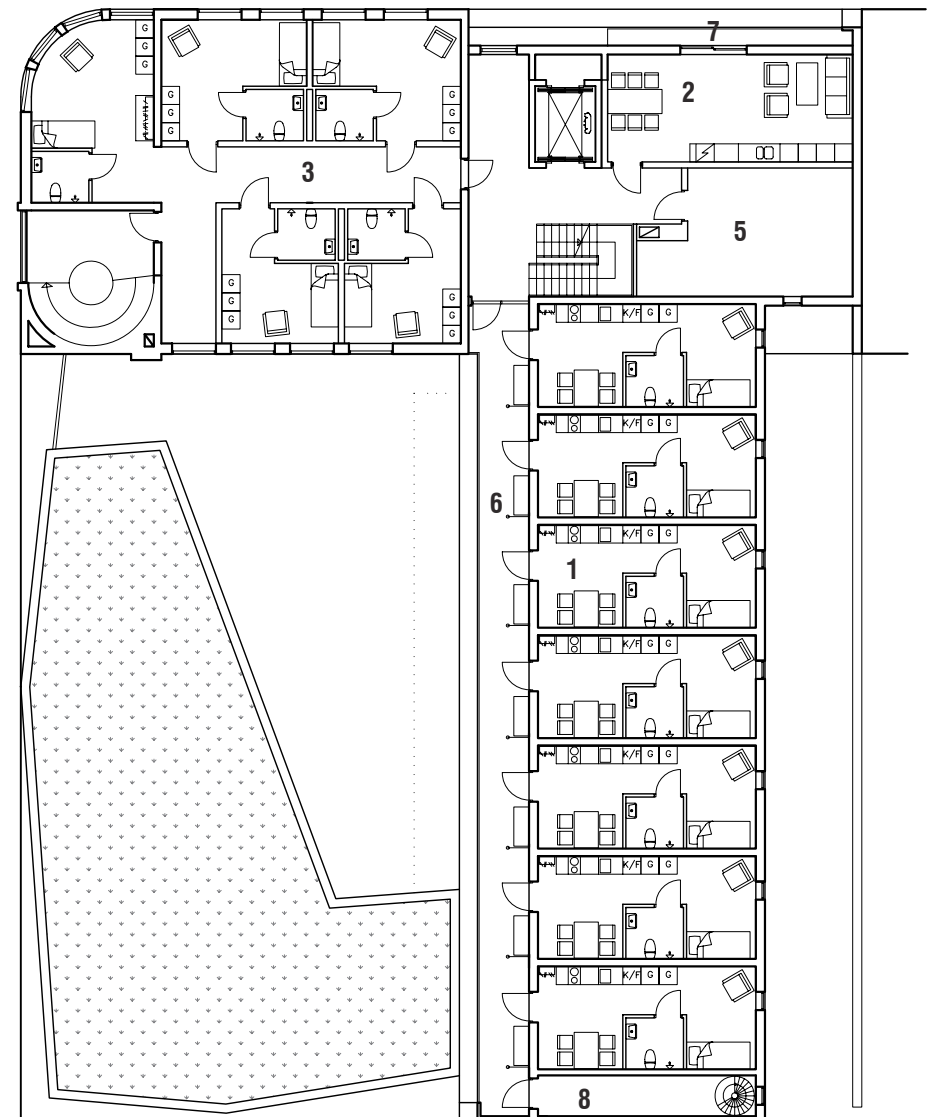12. Bicycle shed
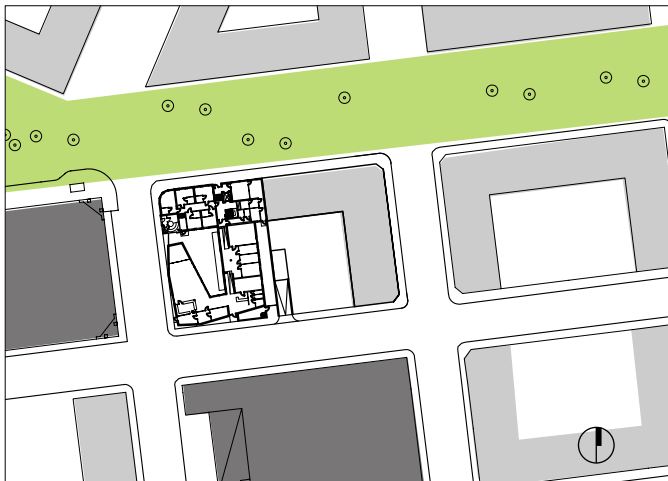
SCALE 1:2000
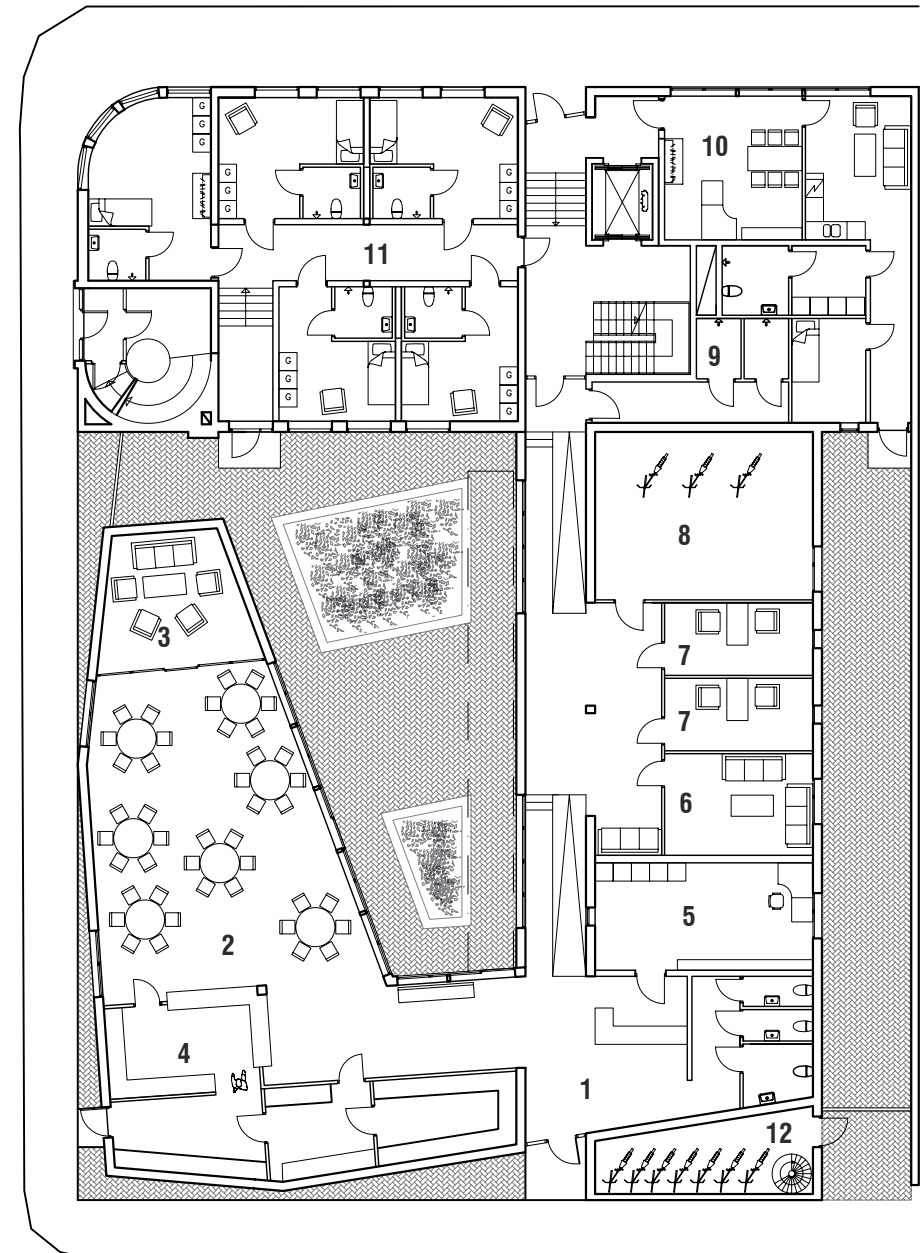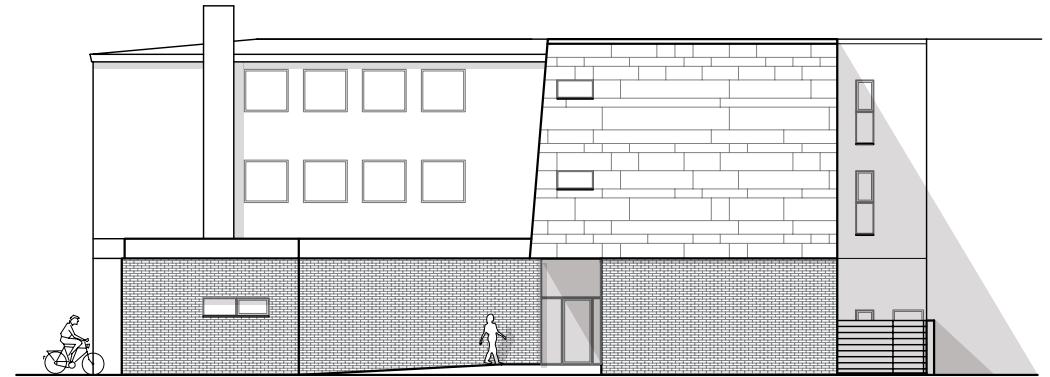

SCALE 1:250

1ST & 2ND FLOORS

1. Supported housing
2. Kitchen belonging to supported housing
3. Short-time housing
4. Laundry
5. Storage
6. External hallway
7. Balcony
8. Emergency exit
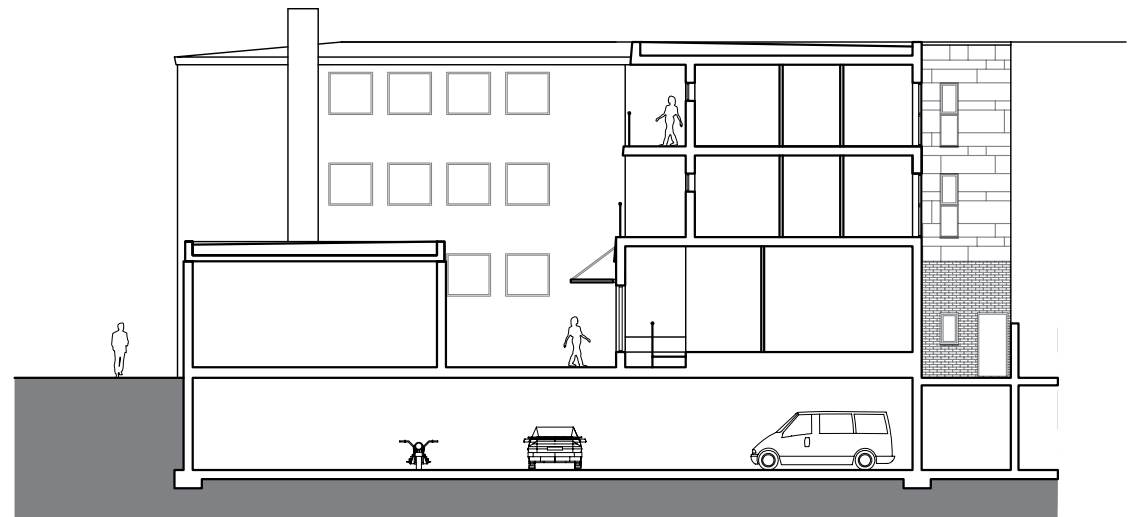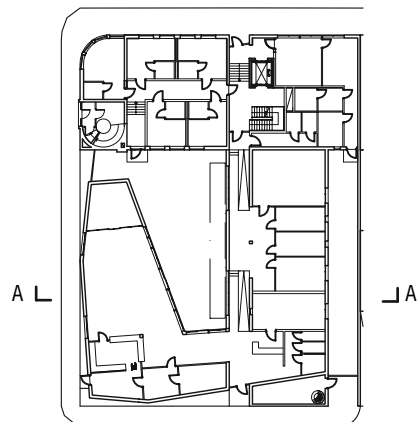

1ST FLOOR SCALE 1:250

2ND FLOOR SCALE 1:250
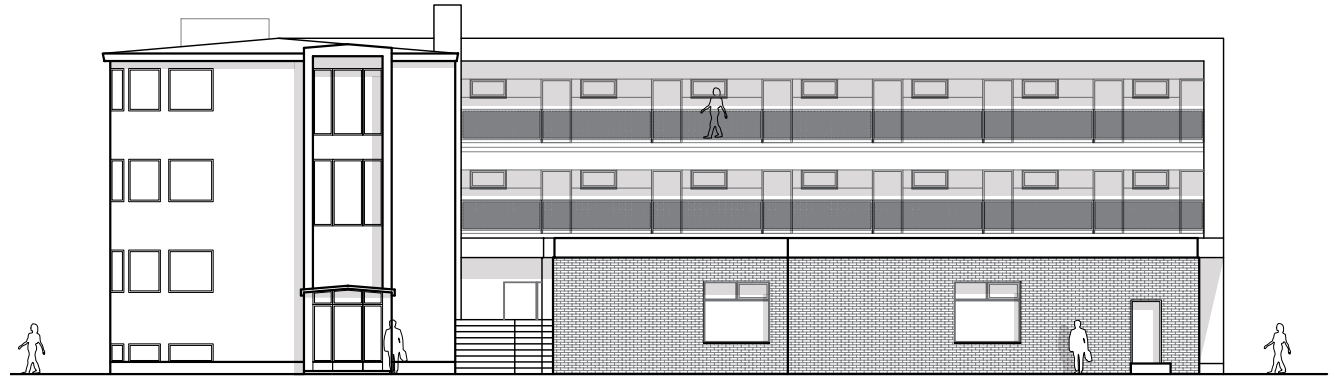
SOUTH ELEVATION AND SECTION AA

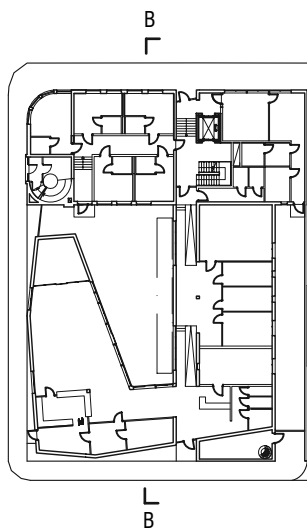SOUTH ELEVATION SCALE 1:250

SECTION AA SCALE 1:250

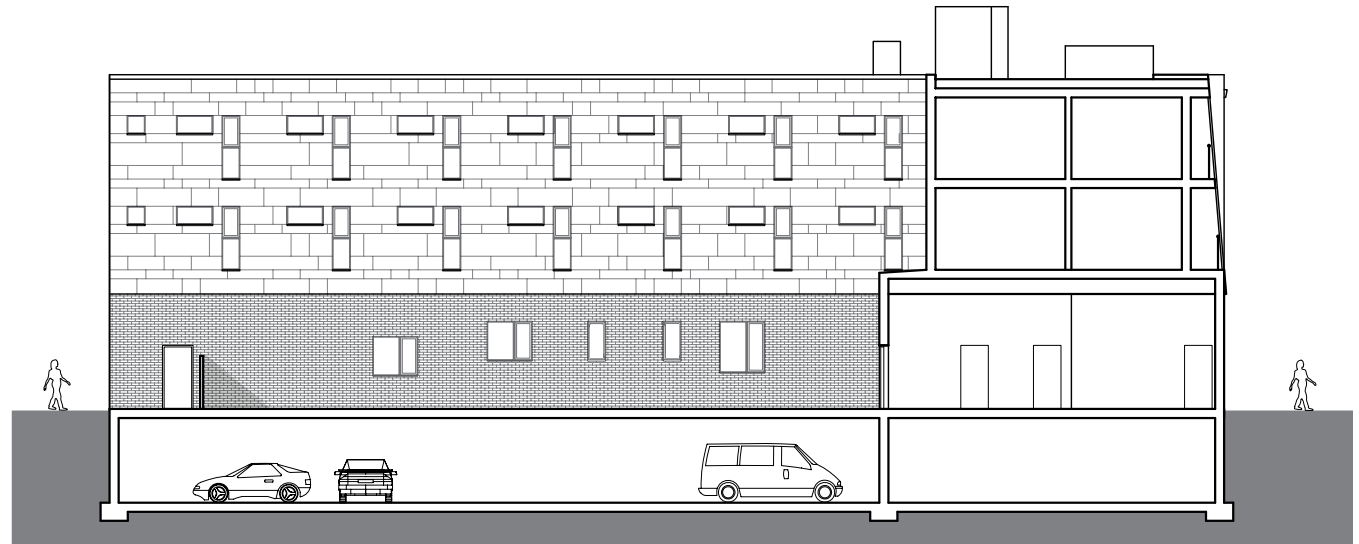# WEST ELEVATION AND SECTION BB
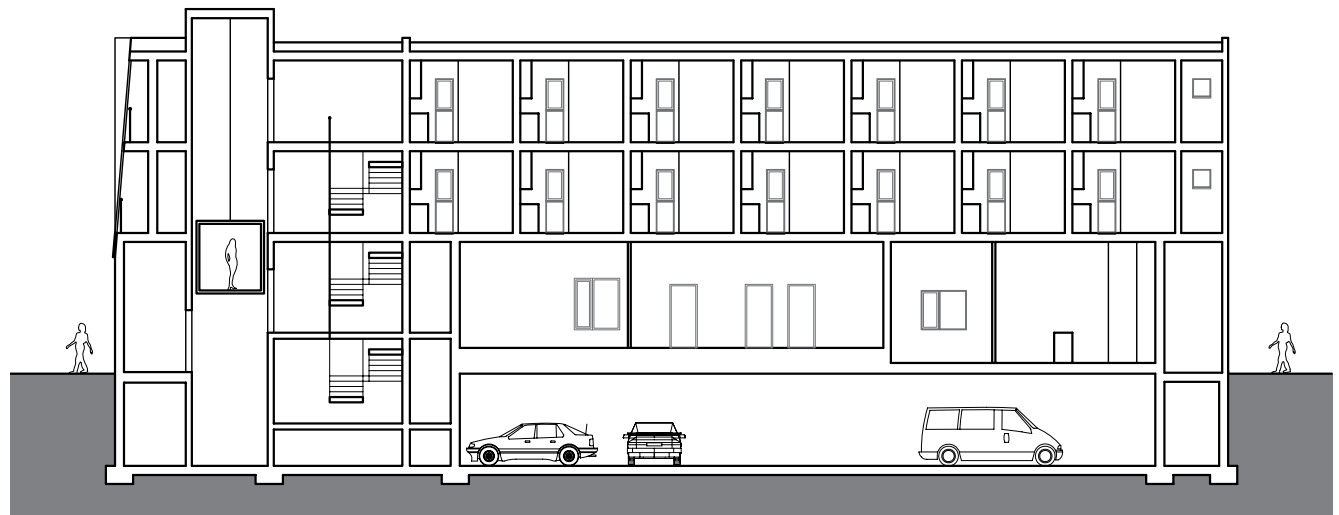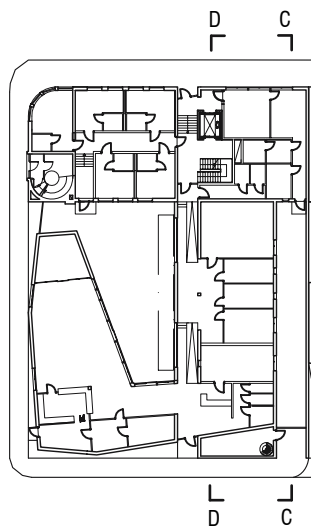
WEST ELEVATION SCALE 1:250

B

B

SECTION BB SCALE 1:250

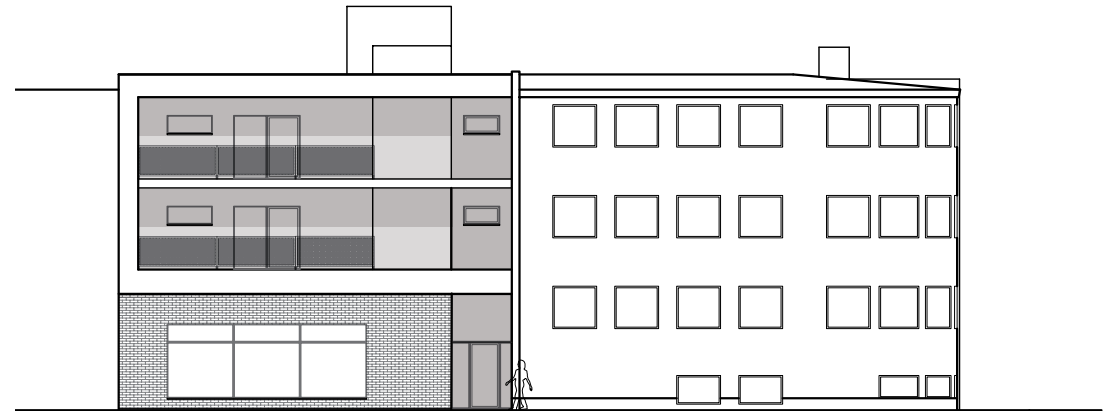# EAST ELEVATION/SECTION CC AND SECTION DD

EAST ELEVATION/SECTION CC SCALE 1:250

SECTION DD SCALE 1:250

NORTH ELEVATION AND SECTION EE

NORTH ELEVATION SCALE 1:250
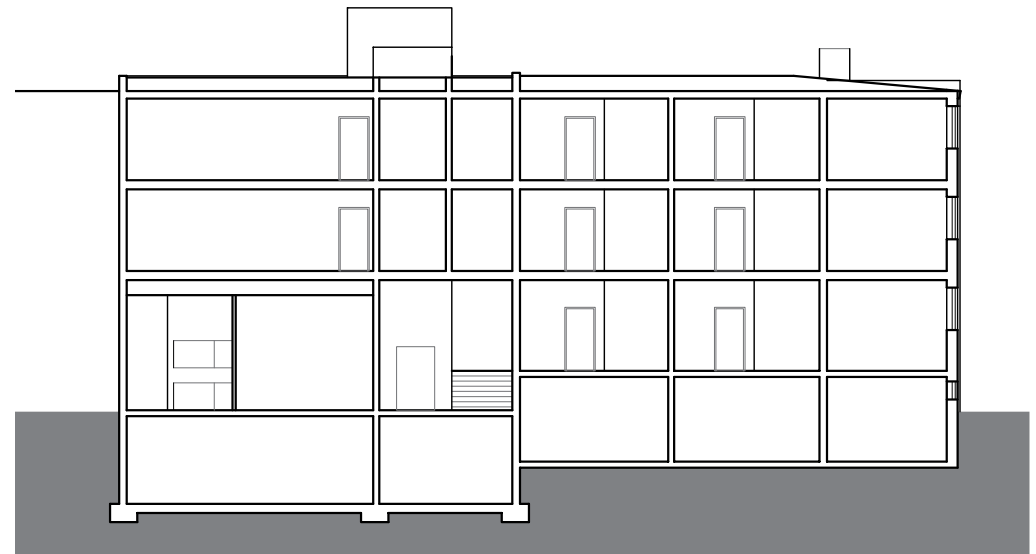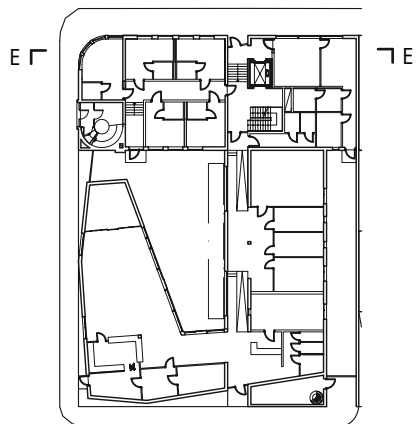
SECTION EE SCALE 1:250

7.2 Architectural considerations

LOCATION IN BLOCK

Scale

The use of the existing corner building limits the building height to 3,5 floors. The day center is equal in height as today's garage. The rest of the block will be 3,5- 4 floors.

Slit

The center creates a slit through the block with an axis of communication in north-south direction.

Geometry

The building is based on the rectilinear grid of the neighborhood, but the day center breaks up directions and sightlines and steps back from the street.

Giving to the neighborhood

The step back, the internal courtyard and the eastern courtyard provides buffer zones for residents and neighbors. An underground parking garage for residents sits under most of the block.

Retail

Retail

Housing

Housing

P
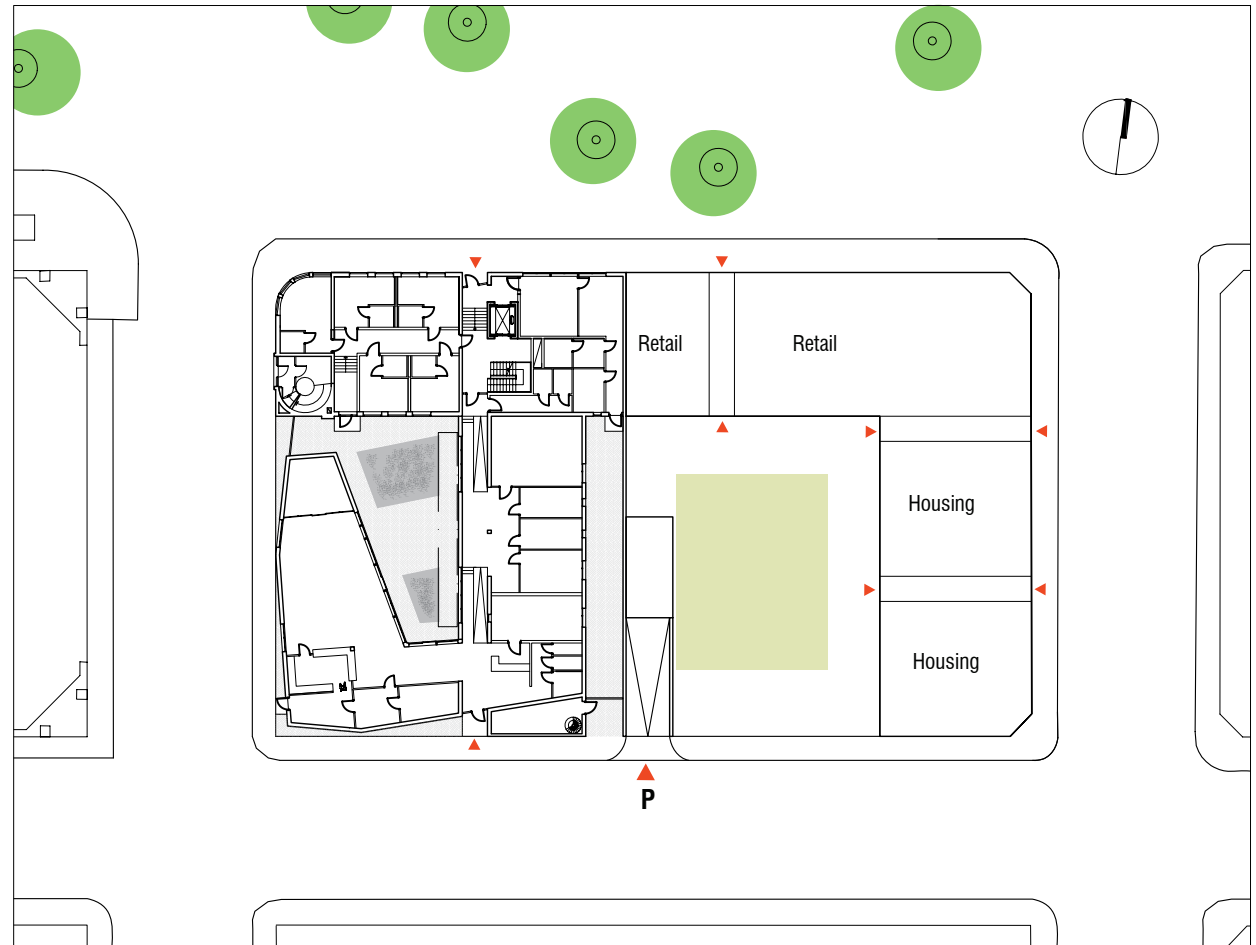
PLAN AND SECTION SCALE 1:600

TRANSITION FROM STREET

South entrance

The main entry is located on the south side of the center based on the assumption that most visitors will come from the direction of the railway station. The building steps back from the street and the entry allows the visitor to 'sneak in'.

Lobby

From the lobby, the visitor gets an immediate overview of the day center. There is a reception with staff, a waiting area and restrooms.

North entrance

Staff and residents mainly use the north entrance, which is also used for drop-in in evening and night time. The staff area is the most public part of the building, with large shop-windows to blend in with the rest of the block east of the center. It could be completely separated from the rest of the building and be converted to a retail space.
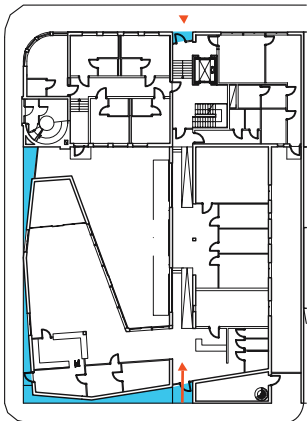
View from lobby

COURTYARD

Outdoor area

The courtyard is the heart of the center and provides a protected outdoor area for residents and visitors. It has small corners where to withdraw and a covered part for smokers. Together with the day center it constitutes a large open space. This allows the residents and overview of the facility and makes the ground floor seem larger.

Green roof

The day center is covered with a green roof which is favorable from ecological and social aspects. Seen from above by the residents of the center, the roof gives the impression of being an upper courtyard (however not accessible).
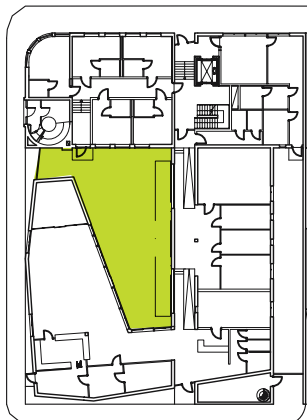
View of courtyard from hallway

PUBLIC AREAS

Day center

The day center is the most open and public area of the center. Temporary guests come here for a meal, to socialize or to relax. There are showers and possibility to wash clothes. Volunteers and non-profit organizations such as the Red Cross may organize activities in the canteen. There rear part of the canteen is separated by a glass wall to create a smaller TV-/ community room.

Support services

The support services have two counseling rooms where a woman can meet with a social workers or therapist, and there is one larger room for group sessions. These rooms could possibly be used by residents to have visitors. The waiting area outside is hidden behind a wall to ensure more privacy.

The canteen
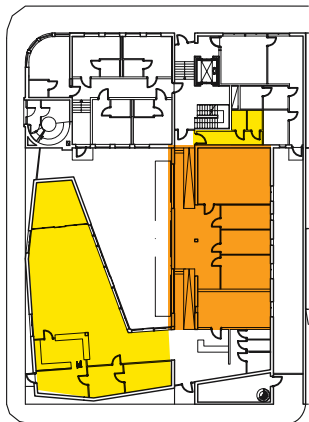
SAFETY

Idea of monastery

The concept is based on the idea of the safe haven. The brick wall surrounding day center and support functions in an actual and a figurative sense constitutes the solid base of the building. The wall embraces the people inside rather than rejects outsiders. Two larger windows in the canteen and the communication axis creates a visual connection between inside and outside.

Security

Another aspect of feeling safe is to feel secure. The two entrances are glazed to show who is waiting outside. Visitors of the day-center are let in by staff through the south entrance. The entrances are also surveilled by cameras to ensure the security of the women. The north entrance is always locked and may only be opened by staff or residents.
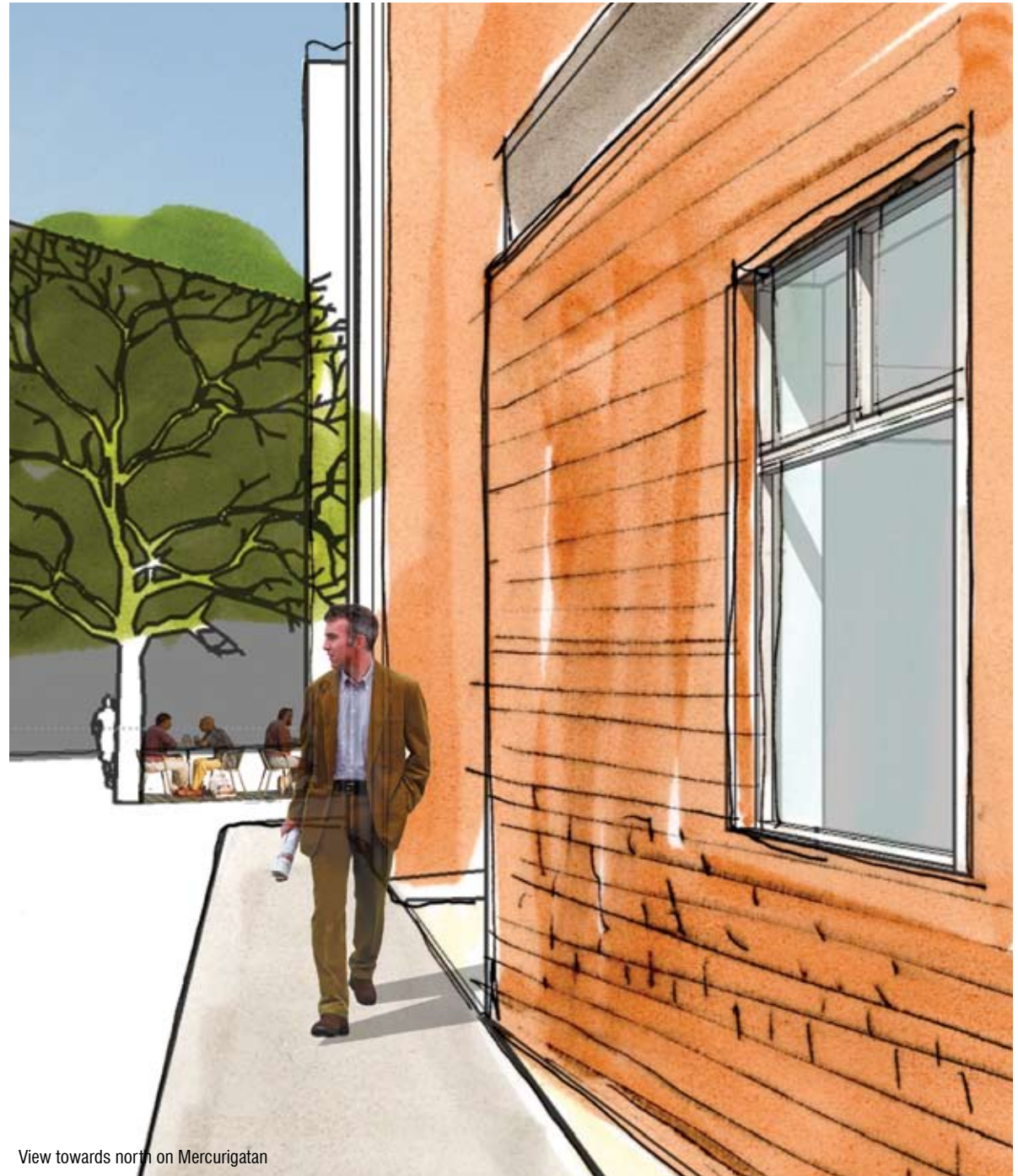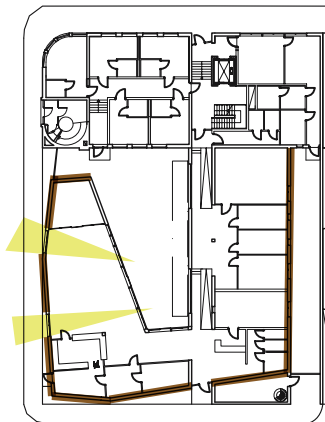
View towards north on Mercurigatan

PRIVACY

Single rooms

Each resident stays in a single room. An own space with a door to close is as important in an emergency situations as when the stay is for a longer period. Belongings are stored in a closet, but things of value may be locked up by staff in the room by the lobby.

Protection from views

Instead of being airy and full of light, the apartments are designed to be intimate and protected from views from outside. The horisontal windows sit on a distance of 1,5 meter from the floor and the vertical, french window to the east is only 60 centimeters wide. This intimacy is harder to achieve in the corner building, where the residents will have to use curtains and blinders.

Short-time housing

The residents of the short-time housing share a kitchen/community room but staff would probably assist them with cooking. Each room has a bathroom to ensure the woman privacy when taking care of her hygiene. The rooms are about 16 sq m each.

Supported housing

The apartments have private entrances facing the courtyard, each with an own bench outside and a screen to separate it from the neighbor. The room has a more public part by the entrance and a private sleeping are which is hidden behind the bathroom. The apartments are equipped with a small kitchen to allow a more individual living, but the residents also share a larger kitchen/community room. The apartments are about 24 sq m each.
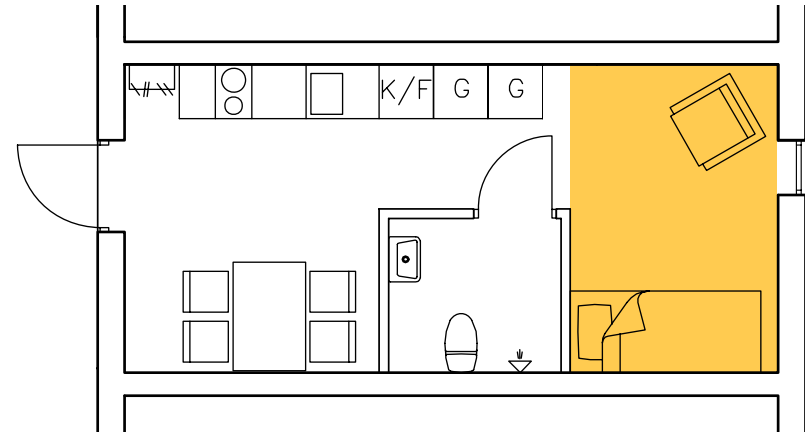
Intimate space in supported housing apartment
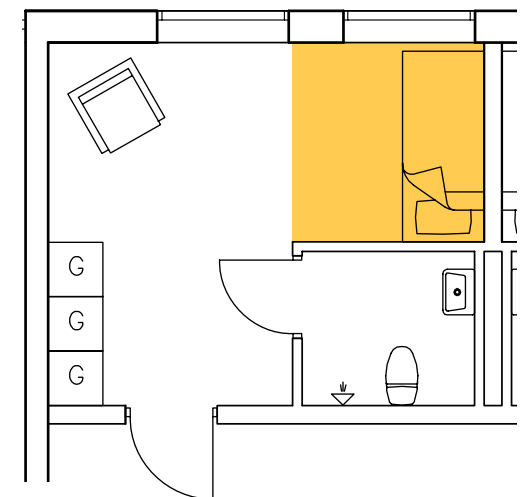
Intimate space in short-time housing room

MATERIALITY

Permanent building – sturdy materials

To strengthen the idea of the day center and support services as a solid base of the building I choose brick as material. This also refers to the existing corner building. There is no visual podium so that the wall is erected directly from the ground. The windows of the ground floor are holes that perforate the wall. The housing part should have a lighter appearance and is clad with fiber cement panels in an irregular pattern.

Economical construction

The economic aspects of the functions are seen in plans and construction. There are two basic room types and the plans are repeated on the two floors. Colors are used to enliven the spaces, and to give the residents a sense of individuality the separate entrances are framed with panels in different colors.

View from Vintergatan/Mercurigatan

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DIGNITY VILLAGE

http://www.dignityvillage.org/
Encampment
Portland, Oregon, USA

LOCATION: Since 2001 on a city-owned leaf-composting facility seven miles from downtown Portland Previously the village occupied five different otherwise unused public spaces near downtown Portland, from where they were forced away.
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: About 50, people about 80
SERVICES: hot showers, three Port-O-Lets, dumpster service and several heated common areas
DURATION OF STAY: No limit
PROVIDER: Set up by the residents and funded by donations
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Activist architect Mark Lakeman has helped the residents to create a building and physical-plan document (Davis, S. 2004).

Dignity Village was initiated in the year 2000, when a small group of homeless men and women occupied a piece of public land to set up a camp site. Since the start, they have changed sites several times, and the community has grown considerably along with an increasing interest from the public. Today, the village has developed from being a 'tent city' to comprise small houses built by the residents and their supporters. Their vision is to "create a green, sustainable urban village" built by and for themselves (Dignity village 2006). One challenge when the village becomes more permanent is compliance with conventional zoning and building codes. The community has set up rules that all members have to follow, including participation in maintenance and operation, and a no tolerance attitude to violence, drugs or other disruptive behavior.

DOME VILLAGE

http://www.domevillage.org/
Encampment /Activist Solution
Los Angeles, California, USA

LOCATION: Downtown LA – former undeveloped area, now gentrified neighborhood
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: 20 units for up to 34 individuals and family members
SERVICES: Shared kitchen, community room, office, bath facilities and laundry
DURATION OF STAY: Generally two years, maximum three years
PROVIDER: Homeless activist Ted Hayes, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and donations
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Craig Chamberlain

Dome Village, close to downtown LA, was founded by the minister and homeless activist Ted Hayes in 1993. It is said to be an "alternative for homeless people unable or even unwilling to live in traditional shelters or return to the 'mainstream' life style" (Dome village.org 2006)). The Omni-Sphere dome was designed by Craig Chamberlain, a student of Buckminster Fuller. The original architecture is seen both as a non-threatening alternative to institutional type buildings, as well as a way to draw the attention of the general public and government to the issue of homelessness. Now it seems as the relative success has come to an end. The website announces that:

After 13 years, Dome Village is shutting down. When the Village first became a reality, the surrounding land was an area of urban blight and decay. Now, we are in the midst of the Staples' Center and high-rise lofts and the property value has increased 20 fold. Our landlord has raised our rent in excess of 700% and we cannot afford it. We urgently need to raise $50,000 to carry us through.

MIDNIGHT MISSION

http://www.midnightmission.org/
Large-scale facility
Los Angeles, California, USA

LOCATION: Skid Row, an area five blocks from Grand Avenue, which has become a free-zone for homeless people in an otherwise very hostile city for this group. In the same district there are several other facilities for homeless and socially marginalized groups.
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: Night shelter, family housing and single room occupancy, unclear number but several hundreds
SERVICES: Emergency overnight lodging, single rooms, meal service, medical clinic, job training and educational center, drug and alcohol recovery program, day center, child care, sports center etc.
DURATION OF STAY: One night to approximately one year
PROVIDER: Midnight Mission human services organization, funded by donations
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: No information

The Midnight Mission is located in the Skid Row area of downtown LA. Founded in 1914, it is one of the oldest human services organizations in the city, and the largest non-religious private social service provider. Midnight Mission offers a wide range of facilities and services to poor and homeless men, women, and children. The statement of purpose includes the aims:

• To offer a bridge to self-sufficiency for homeless people through counselling, education, training and job placement.
• To offer the 12-step approach to recovery.

• To serve homeless people with empathy and respect, without sermonizing.

The new building that was inaugurated in 2004 could easily be taken for a fancy corporate building. Its elegant appearance and effort put on well-designed public spaces is a conscious attempt to enhance dignity to the guests and residents.

Midnight Mission

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VILLAGE

http://www.svdpv.org/
Comprehensive center
San Diego, California, USA

LOCATION: District of predominantly light industry close to downtown.
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: units for 315 family members, transitional housing for 150 single men and 47 low-cost apartments
SERVICES: emergency overnight lodging, single rooms, family services, meal service, medical and dental clinic, job training and educational center, day center, school and child care, gym, chapel etc.
**DURATION OF STAY:** from one night to several years
PROVIDER: donations
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Fred A. De Santo, Krommenhock, McKeown & Ass. (Now KMA Architecture and Engineering)

Established in 1987 by a catholic aid organization, the village has grown both in size and recognition over the years. Today, it comprises four centers and takes up two city blocks close to down-town San Diego, California. The Joan Kroc Center (JKC) is an 110,000 square-foot (10219 sq m) residential building for 315 family members. The 24,000 square-foot (2230 sq m) Bishop Maher Center provides long-term transitional housing for 150 single men. Village Place offers low-cost rent and support services for 'graduates' of St. Vincent de Paul Village. The building features 47 apartments, many with handicapped access, for single adults and families.

The most prominent part, Joan Kroc Center, was designed by KMA Architecture and Engineering (Davis, S. 2004). Its Spanish mission style is common in Southern California, and gives the impression of being a safe haven along with the religious associations.
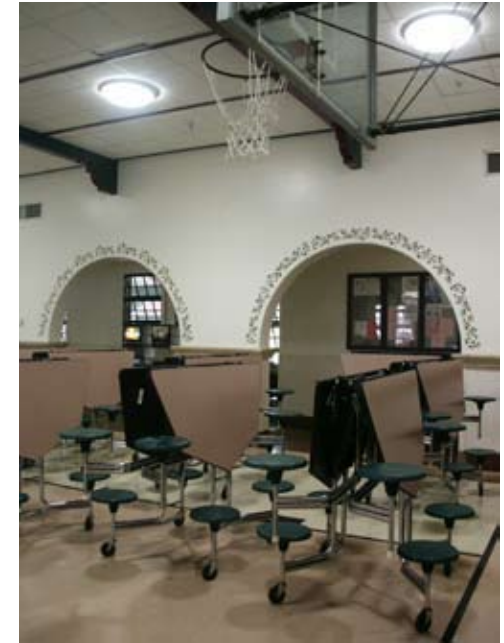
St Vincent de Paul Village

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER

www.homewardboundofmarin.org
Transitional/Supportive housing
Novato, California, USA

LOCATION: On the former Hamilton Air Force Base, approximately four miles away from the central business district in Novato, north of San Francisco.
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: 80 beds
SERVICES: temporary housing, meal services, psychological and medical support services, job training, computer classroom, library, garden, kennel etc.
DURATION OF STAY: 6 months
PROVIDER: Homeward Bound
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Morton Frank, San José

In one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, one may not immediately think that nearly 10% of the population is homeless or at-risk of being homeless each year. But Marin County, despite its wealth, is home to more than 20,000 homeless individuals annually. While social services have been available for Marin's homeless since the mid-1970s, a permanent, year-round shelter did not exist in the county until 2000 when the New Beginnings Center (NBC) was completed after decades in the works.

Bob Puett, director of the center, uses a campus metaphor when describing the facility (2005). This is materialized in the physical structure of the center, where the dormitories are separated from the public areas, all located around a central courtyard. This inwardly looking plan creates privacy for the residents and was also intended to decrease complaints from the neighbors by focusing much of the building's activity to the interior rather than exterior space. The NBC is a one-story building, which gives it a residential character and increased accessibility and allows it to fit in with the surrounding residential neighborhood as quietly as possible. Fire safety requirements were another reason for keeping the building to one story. The building measures 17,916 square feet, approximately 1665 m2, on a two-acre site (Ibid.).

New Beginnings Center

MARKET LANE

http://www.feildenclegg.com/
Transitional/Supportive housing
London, United Kingdom

LOCATION: Shepherd's Bush, a (at least former) socially derelict district in the outskirts of northern London. Mixed neighborhood close to underground station, market and surrounded by residential and commercial buildings.
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: a 15 bed hostel, and 12 one bed flats
SERVICES: day center including healthcare, meal service, counseling and training, provision of clothing, laundry and bathing facilities
DURATION OF STAY: two weeks for hostel guests, six months up to two years for flat residents
PROVIDER: the Housing Corporation, co-funded by various charitable trusts
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Feilden Clegg Bradley

The development at Market Lane in London was completed in 2001, and provides care and accommodation for single rough sleepers. The facility is located on a former light industrial site, adjacent to Shepherd's Bush market and residential and commercial premises. It was designed by Feilden Clegg Bradley Architects who took paid great regard to both "local residents and potential users to ensure that this potentially controversial development meets the needs and aspirations of its users and minimises disruption to its neighbours" (Feilden Clegg Bradley 2006).

The entrance to the day center with its curved copper roof marks the gateway to the site. The residents enter their dwellings from a more private garden on the back

of the site. Day center and four flats on ground level are fully accessible for disabled people. Materials used are brick, copper, timber and cedar and the building is highly insulated and designed to minimize energy use.

DWELLINGS FOR HOMELESS

http://www.code.no/
Low-cost apartments for homeless
Moss, Norway

LOCATION: Four different sites in the town of Moss.
NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS: 24 apartments
SERVICES: housing
SERVICES: kitchen, bathroom
DURATION OF STAY: no information
PROVIDER: The municipality of Moss and MK-Eiendom KE (a real estate company)
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: Code

In 2001 the Norwegian architecture practice Code won a competition to design 24 dwellings for homeless people in the municipality of Moss close to Oslo. Instead of making one large development, they choose to locate the apartments on four sites in a circle around the town center, allowing the residents to be integrated into the different neighborhoods as far as possible.

The ambition was to provide a maximum size of each unit within a fixed budget, and the result was apartments of 44 sq m. The residents' integrity and wish for privacy guided the design. Two dwellings share a courtyard enclosed by a wall that protects from the gaze of the passers-by.

'SHELTER IN A CART'

http://www.designboom.com
Designer solution
Internet

DESIGNER: Panagiotis Dramitinos, Karaolis Alkis and Alexandros Papageorgiou from Greece

As the number of homeless people in western cities increases, so does the interests from the design community to find creative solutions that may facilitate the life for this group. Proposals and competitions of this kind usually meet criticism on whether they are gimmicks for the professionals or could lead to any real improvements. The web forum designboom's social awareness award 2006 was themed 'shelter in a cart', and attracted more than 4200 entries from 95 countries. The general guideline of the competition was to design a cart that could provide shelter and storage, and that would be affordable for production.