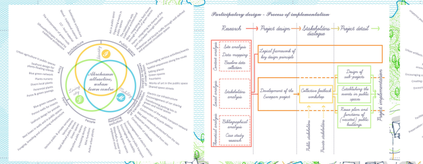
Akrehamn — Stitching together 1|3

Development strategy

Research questions form the basis of our approach: What makes an active centre? How can a fragmentation urban landscape dominated by cars, parking and asphalt be transformed into an attractive active centre? How can sustainable redevelopment be kickstarted through active co-creating of the public realm? How can the existing urban fabric be adapted to the changing climate? Our study of the local identity can be preserved while shifting mobility patterns, densifying the urban fabric, changing the way inhabitants interact with public space and emphasizing nature.

Based on our analysis of the existing urban fabric and its challenges and potentials we proposed a cluster of independent projects stitched together through a densified urban fabric and a network of civic and green galleries. Connecting the sea, city centre and its natural surroundings through high quality outdoor spaces and a densified urban environment with a mixed-use core. Strengthening the existing connections between the harbour and the main road. Public space thus becomes the logistic for complete transformation processes as well as a vital and functioning urban heart. Transforming spaces designed for cars into spaces designed for people. Shifting the focus from car-centric infrastructure to human-centric, a mediator between new interdependencies. Is formed, joining pedestrians and cyclists. While the goal might be to take Brentwem from a "village town" to a "real" town in as short of a time as possible, its charm and character must be protected. Combining leisure, residences, business. Wind the proposed urban infills create a new, more cohesive urban fisture, threaded together by the existing and new green and blue infrastructure. Densification and infill development in the existing structures is thus achieved while the network of connections between them ensures the spaces can be implemented at a pace set by the public private partnerships. Short term improvements can be set up so that the area can immediately start benefiting from improvements. Long term transformation processes transforms areas formerly dedicated to cars or suburban housing to mixed and urban squares, water bodies and ecological corridors more opportunities to expand the network arise and strengthen the overall connecting infrastructure.



Prototyping design - Process of implementation

Project implementation strategy

Harbour area

The North-South gallery forms a public transit mobility axis connecting the centre to the Aroll mall, improving accessibility, while the East-West one connects the harbour to the centre. The sea and green network thus create a net stitching together various urban elements and artefacts.

The harbour area is characterized by the Brentwem Cultural Museum and the Vestfoldmuseum and FSCC continuing to the Brentwem Coastal Museum and the Vestfoldmuseum.

A key feature in the harbour's redesign is access to water. The area was divided into a southern part, dedicated to leisure, culture, and tourism, and a northern part, focusing on commerce and industry, with a more natural design, with existing routes through green and blue areas, coastal vegetation, and shores. In the southern part we propose a redesign of the existing square, defining its southern and eastern edges with a new building that frames the square and provides a sheltered space for various activities, including the existing bus and sitting areas and new spaces can be found in the covered space. Nearby, no longer impeded by unbearable weather, which would have otherwise taken place in the square, a new building with a mixed-use program is proposed, including a cultural hub, a restaurant, and a rooftop terrace. Located on the shore, housing a sauna and a public swimming area with the Blue Hour, the building can incorporate a light source on its terrace, a reinterpretation of the classic lighthouse.

The pedestrian and cycle-friendly waterfront promenade through Brentwem, floating hospitality and other widespread public spaces aiming for a continuous accessible shoreline.

- Existing building
- Existing building with commercial ground floor
- Covered public square
- Covered pedestrian and cycle access to the square
- Floating restaurant
- Floating sauna
- Drop off/pick up point for the water bus
- Floating swimming pool
- Covered gallery for pedestrians and cyclists

Street identity

A city's public spaces' identity is not bestowed by its main square alone, an entire network of public spaces of different sizes, characters, uses, and users is needed. Historically Brentwem always had two centres, one at the harbour, formed around the fishing industry, taking the shape of dense wooden houses, and the other, further inland, a more modernist one, characterized and Nilsen-adjacent. Identifying the city to the fjordspace, an intersection of land and sea.

We propose the strengthening of the central area by enhancing the connection between the two centres, the harbour and the Nilsen-adjacent one, densifying the urban fabric, and allowing for new urban developments to over the pedestrian and cycling the shared space, sites, galleries, and green corridors thread together all public spaces, small green squares, redeveloped parking areas to form a continuous network of public spaces. Densification and infill development in the existing structures of commerce and services, unique green spaces, and spaces - urban interstitial or green spaces, are superimposed on the existing fissure. Although fragmented, Brentwem developed radially, interweaving green fingers with built areas. To protect further urban sprawl and promote sustainable development we propose to densify the built areas, preserve the alternating green fingers, and enhance and extend the existing green fingers, to form a cohesive network of green and blue spaces. Densification instead of infilling the built areas and accepting its potential to become a troublesome landscape. Furthermore, hiking routes and natural features are connected to the city centre through the existing green fingers, creating a cohesive network of green and blue spaces.

As a coastal city, Brentwem's identity is closely linked to its relationship with the sea yet it has turned its back on the water. Redesigning the shore, the square reaching the water and the street connecting the square to the harbour, we propose a new relationship between the city and its waterfront, bringing life to the water for the public is a main objective of the project. Routes along the water were proposed to mend the fragmented shoreline, at times taking the form of floating walkways, near the water's edge, connecting the existing and new public spaces and buildings. Nature based solutions (Water Treatment wetlands (TWW)) and artificial reefs were proposed in the harbour area to mend its degradation of biological diversity.

Pedestrian public spaces network

Proposed action public spaces

- Redesign of the pond square
- Redesign the empty square in front of the Vestfold museum and power station
- Arnold square
- Mental space that connects the two centres
- Tivoli wood
- Changing street
- Central park

Public adventure spaces

- Water
- Proposed small green spaces
- Creating green corridors
- Proposed green capacities which extending the city towards the surrounding natural landscape

Akrehamn identity

Proposal of connecting the two nucle forming the central core with the rest of the branching centrality the radial green fingers hyper development

Connecting Akrehamn to Harmony landmarks & attractions

- Akrehamn city focus
- Akrehamn city centre
- Tivoli wood
- Scenicway street
- Creating hiking trails with the city centre through the proposed green corridors
- National monuments
- National monumentns
- Tivoli
- Water
- Proposed water routes

Architectural identity

The central area is proposed as a dense neighborhood with medium height, a maximum of 5 stories, and two vertical landmarks, of 8 stories and a public rooftop, in the two main squares. The active facades and high mix of functions ensure an active pedestrian friendly centre. New buildings were proposed on the larger plots. Existing smaller buildings were preserved to ensure a diverse and interesting urban landscape. Located on the main streets, to house small scale commercial spaces, more resilient to economic crisis, better adapted to market demand and fluctuations than big-box establishments.

Mixed use buildings are proposed to ensure a dynamic and diverse energy connection between functions. Its more housing of increased variety both in terms of typology and tenure (diplomats, and workspaces are intended within the centre-each addition improves the economic sustainability of surrounding shops and services.

Inspired by the Akrehamn plantation, a new identity was set for the new, built area. Inspired by the historical Sem Manor, the layout of small scale structures, the new buildings achieve a similar look despite their large scale. 2 or 3 storey buildings are proposed to frame the square, with the taller buildings, of 5 storeys, in the figure. Human scale is thus maintained despite the higher density. The pitched roofs house archipelago form is consistent along both the new buildings and the skiss and galleries housing the pedestrian and cycling routes. Modern materials are used to ensure contemporary comfort and sustainability while maintaining a connection to the vernacular. Inspiration for the architectural vernacular from Gjerstage, Jetties Kvednaksson Waterfall and Oslen the green roof ensures thermal and noise insulation, water retention, helps form green corridors enhancing biodiversity, and improves the aesthetic value of the buildings. Wood is used as the main material, as it is a renewable and local material, ease and speed of construction, adequate insulation and lower costs are maintained through standardisation. The innovative yet familiar shapes are meant to appeal to local and visitors alike.

Glass is used to ensure a bright and healthy environment while ensuring visual connection. Sliding stack with folding windows contemporary costs only two buildings in the central area are proposed for densifiion due to the low density and need for redevelopment. The galleries along the facades ensure integration of existing buildings and the new, while adding a new layer of life.

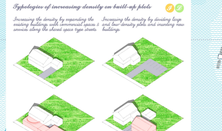
Large, glazed openings for the facades and balconies encourage interaction between public and private spaces. Closing off balconies creates hothouse-like areas heating the interior in the winter months while also protecting the inhabitants from wind and rainfall throughout the year.

Architectural identity

Architectural influences

Pedestrianability of the new buildings

Densification of the street designs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