

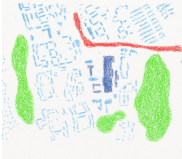


The new urban corridor alongside the transformed city centre.

UNFOLDING

Gottunda is a place in motion. To the north, a new urban corridor is emerging with traminelines, a boulevard, dense city blocks and public buildings. To the south, the Gottunda Open opens up a vast landscape of nature, walking trails, allotments, football fields and proximity to schools and everyday life. The centre sits right at the intersection between a future urban hub and an existing natural landscape. Today, the area is dominated by parking lots, service buildings and a long large-scale commercial structure. The building is mostly closed off from its surroundings, yet houses essential functions: a library, healthcare, shops and cultural spaces. Many people pass through every day, but the spaces around it do not work well. Facades are closed, parking surfaces dominate, and connections to housing, schools and nature are weak or missing. Activities and functions remain indoors, invisible from the outside and absent from the public realm. The goal is to make Gottunda Centre a place where shared life is held back.

The proposal builds on what works and addresses what hinders the area's development. There is great potential and strong existing qualities. Instead of demolishing and starting over, the design works with the current structures and opens them up. Connections to the city in the north and the landscape in the south are reinforced. The goal is to make Gottunda Centre a place where people do not just pass through but choose to stay.



TRANSFORMATION

The transformation of Gottunda is not about starting over but about building on what is already there. By strengthening what works, adjusting what holds the place back, and creating new connections, the area is reshaped through a careful and phased process.

The first step is to transform the old swimming hall into a makerspace, an open setting for learning, entrepreneurship and dialogue. Here, salvaged building materials can be reused and the development of the area takes place in conversation with the local community. Local initiatives are given room to grow youth programs, associations and social projects gather under one roof. The makerspace becomes a place where young people can participate, organize and lead change, a local hub in close connection with the cultural center and the nearby school.

The next step involves a larger transformation. Existing buildings that have turned their back on the surroundings are scaled down, opened up or removed where it strengthens flows and spatial connections. The long centre building is divided into smaller volumes with new entrances, daylight and active ground floors facing the emerging urban street. Former parking lots are turned into green courtyards where key trees are preserved and space is created for shared use. The project takes shape gradually, a transformation rooted in social sustainability, local engagement and care for the existing.



PATHS

The proposal establishes a clear yet fine-grained network of pedestrian routes that connect different parts of the area. Three main paths structure the site: one urban, one green, and one natural, each with a sequence of distinct spaces and nodes along the way.

The central path runs as an urban corridor from the city street in the north to the green landscape in the south. It reinforces the western side of the centre building, activates the facades, and passes through the new square where the church, culture house and housing meet. Entrances and street-level activities turn it into a lively axis through the area. Horizontal passages divide the centre building into smaller volumes, clarifying its different parts from commerce to culture and production. This creates variation and strengthens the link between programme and spatial expression. The courtyard passage runs through the residential courtyards as a blue-green corridor. Rainwater is collected underneath the path, and the passage becomes a safe car-free route to the school while connecting to the broader green network. The forest path moves diagonally through the Gottunda Valley. It links the landscape to the new city blocks and reinforces Gottunda's proximity to nature.

Together the paths form a soft-flowing network that improves orientation, increases access to key destinations and creates a varied sequence of human scaled spaces.



STRUCTURE

The new housing is distributed across three areas, each with a distinct character, yet connected by a shared structure. To the north, the buildings meet the future city street with a denser scale, larger volumes, and ground floor spaces for shops and services. This strengthens the sense of an urban street, with activity, everyday life, and movement along the facades.

The central area is more fragmented, with lower buildings, a mix of typologies, and green shared courtyards. Here there is space for play, gardening, and social interaction. The housing includes rowhouses, apartment buildings, cohousing, and senior living. The facades facing the central corridor hold local services, while the inner courtyards are calmer and more small-scale. To the south, housing meets the natural landscape and the school. Semi-detached houses and low-rise apartment blocks are proposed here, with space for studios in close connection to the makerspace, the school, and the forest.

The buildings are designed to soften the large scale and create a finer, more human structure. Building heights decrease gradually between zones. Housing types are mixed, from small to large units, for families, young people, and the elderly, offering alternative ways of living. The buildings are constructed in sustainable materials, often with terraces, solar panels, and green roofs. Car traffic is kept at the periphery. Parking is concentrated in two points at the edges, making it possible to move freely by foot or bike within the entire area.



STAGING THE SCENE

The proposal sees Gottunda as a place that evolves with the people who live there, not through a complete reset but by carefully building on what already exists. It recognises the area's rich cultural life, strong networks and everyday creativity and brings these qualities out into the open. What has previously been hidden or confined within buildings is now made visible and active in the public realm.

The transformation is grounded in participation. New functions are introduced gradually and tested at a small scale. Local initiatives, from youth programmes to community events, are given space to grow organically and shape their surroundings. Structures are added with flexibility in mind, allowing use to change over time. Existing buildings are preserved where possible, dismantled and updated instead of demolished.

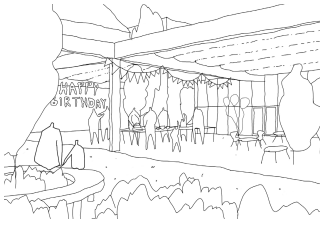
Reuse becomes a way to build collectively. An old window might become a wall in a pop-up pavilion, or timber from a demolished structure might form a market stall, a bench or a stage. This approach makes reuse not just an environmental strategy but a participatory tool, a way for residents to take part in shaping their neighbourhood.

At the heart of it all is a new square by the church, a central space where housing, cultural centre, school, services and makerspace come together. A vibrant meeting place for markets, performances, everyday gatherings and celebration. It brings visibility to Gottunda's local culture, strengthens social sustainability and offers something distinct that connects to the wider city of Uppsala.



1. ENTRANCE

To the north, the entrance to Gottunda Centre is marked by taller buildings framing a smaller square. Ground-floor spaces open up towards the street, food trucks can stop by, and a pop-up pavilion offers room for temporary events. The space serves as a clear entrance into the central axis and connects the area with Gottunda Allé and the new square and swimming hall.



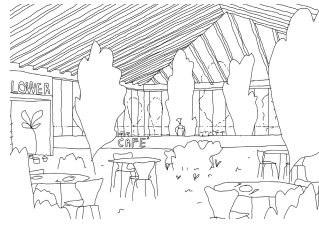
2. POCKETS

Along the main path by the central building and the new housing, small pockets are created in the urban space. These moments of pause invite activity. A business can spill out onto the street, a pop-up market can take shape, or a birthday celebration can unfold spontaneously. The flexible structure running through the centre creates spaces for both everyday life and unexpected events.



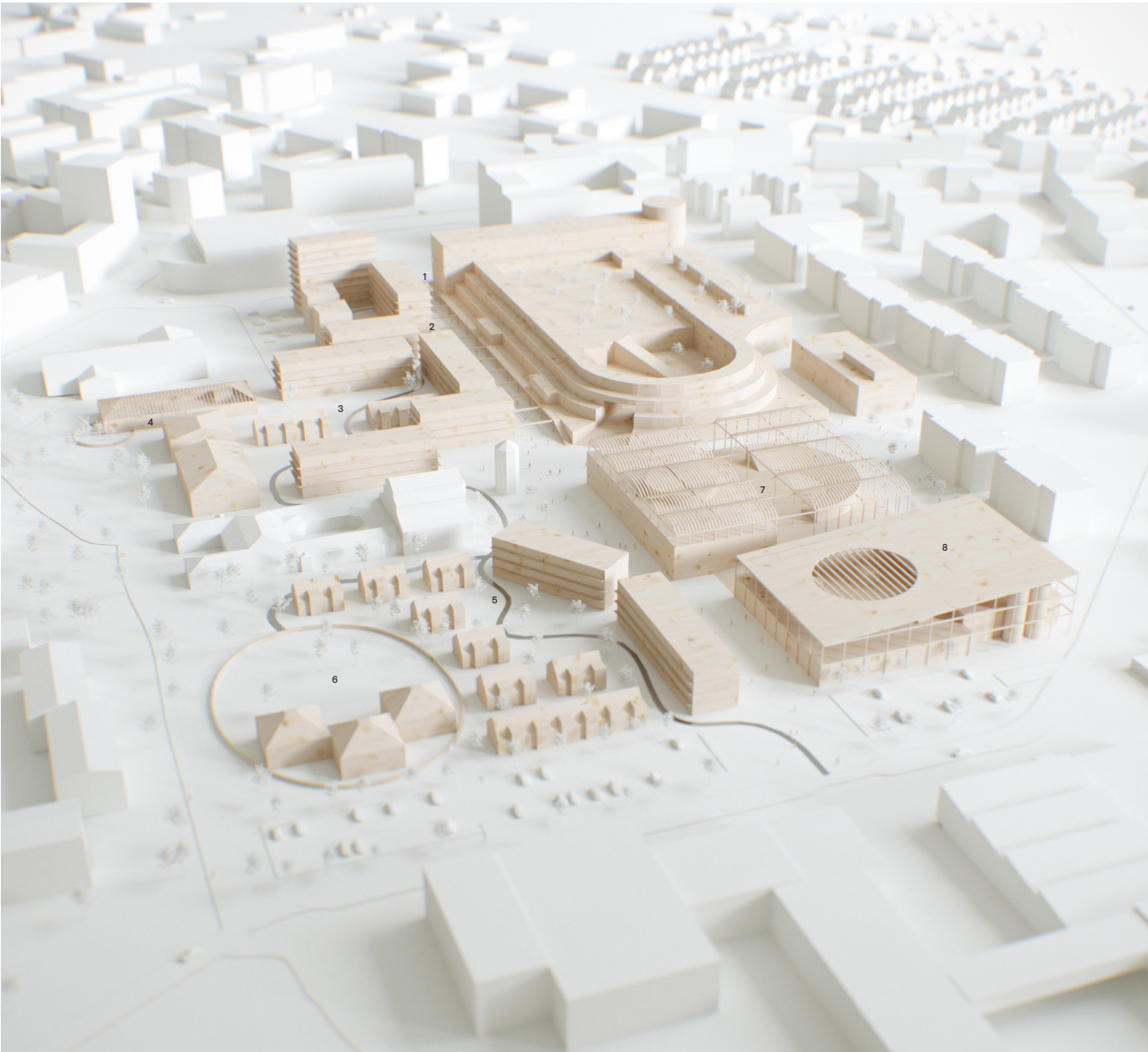
3. GARDEN ROOM

In the courtyard, residents from the surrounding homes, the co-living house and the senior housing come together around a shared garden. Neighbours meet over tomato plants and herbs, exchange knowledge and harvest together. The garden becomes an open-air living room, a place for conversation, collaboration and growth.



4. GREENHOUSE

The old service building is given new life as a greenhouse. The roof is removed, the roof trusses exposed and covered with glass. Here, residents from the senior and co-living houses, visitors and passersby meet in a green environment for community gardening and sales. The restaurant is run collectively, with room for plants, conversations and everyday life.



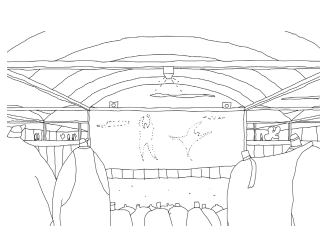
5. GREEN PASSAGE

A winding path runs through the area, connecting homes, courtyards and the preschool. It offers a safe, car-free environment where parents and children can move through everyday life. Beneath the surface, rainwater trickles through an open ditch. This is part of a system that collects, filters and distributes the water to the courtyard plantings.



6. FOREST CLEARING

At the southern edge, the new buildings meet the adjacent forest. A new preschool is placed here, where play areas are woven into the existing natural landscape. Trees, paths and vegetation are preserved and integrated into the environment, allowing everyday play to take place within the landscape and nature to become part of growing up.



7. ROOFTOP LANDSCAPE

The roof of the cultural centre is open to everyone, a new space above the city. Here, anything from open-air cinema to yoga, performances and conversations can take place. The lightweight structure spanning the roof provides shelter from sun and rain, frames the space and can be used flexibly for various purposes. An everyday rooftop landscape offering space for community, culture and views.

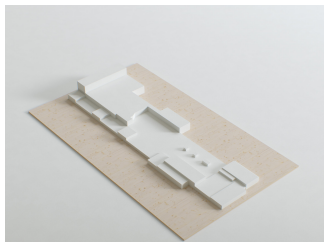


8. ROOFTOP WORKSHOP

On top of the makerspace, creativity meets everyday life. An open workshop provides space for reuse and larger projects while studio apartments offer a place to live and work. School classes, neighbours and local initiatives build together in a shared space where planters, furniture or installations take shape. A flexible space for entrepreneurship, creativity and learning.



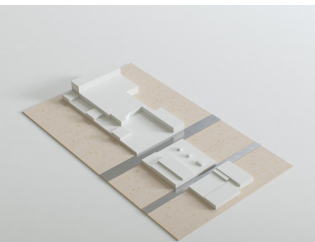
The transformed city centre with open glazed facades and terraced housing above.



EXISTING STRUCTURE

Gottunda Centre currently consists of an elongated building. The facade is largely closed off from its surroundings, and an extensive rooftop spans the entire volume. Shops, a cultural centre and a swimming hall. These cuts open up the structure, introduce new pathways, and activate the facades with light, entrances and public life.

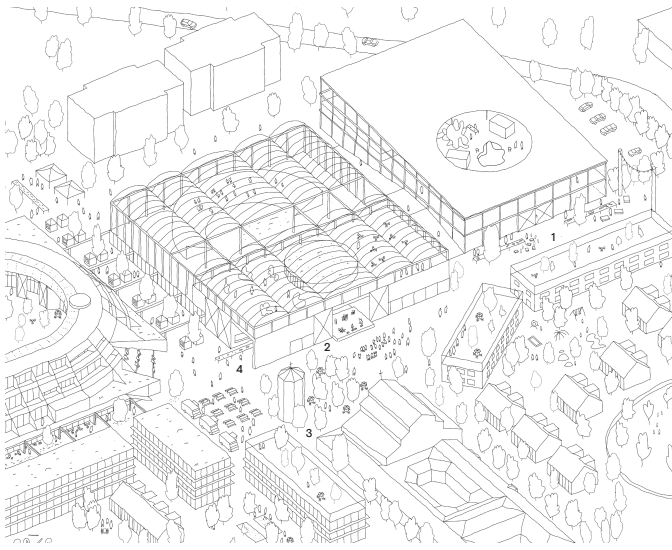
The existing buildings are carefully adapted to fit their surroundings and new functions, refined to a more human scale. Where possible, dismantled materials are reused in new buildings or stored in a material bank at the makerspace. Soil is reused for urban farming and shared courtyards.



RECONFIGURATION

The existing 6-6 metre column grid is preserved as the basis for the transformation. Two incisions divide the large volume into three parts: commercial spaces, a cultural centre, and a makerspace in the former swimming hall. These cuts open up the structure, introduce new pathways, and activate the facades with light, entrances and public life.

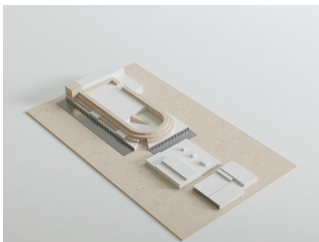
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GOTTUNDADAGEN

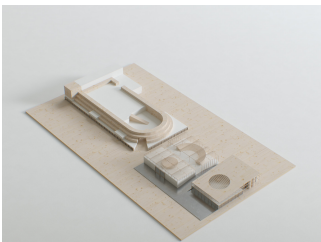


The new rooftop garden above the centre, with space for greenery and allotments.



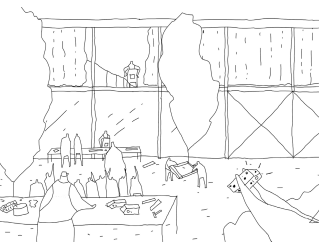
GOTTUNDA CENTRE

Gottunda centre is transformed by opening up its facades with glazed sections aligned to the 6-6 metre structural grid. Entrances, smaller shops and public-facing functions activate the new urban corridor, while larger retail units are positioned deeper inside. Above, a terraced housing addition in a lightweight timber and steel frame extends the structure while minimising load on the existing building. The roof is equipped with solar panels, and the expansive rooftop becomes a green landscape with community gardens for residents and allotments. The transformation preserves the logic of the original building while giving Gottunda Centrum a renewed presence, more open, vibrant and connected to its surroundings.

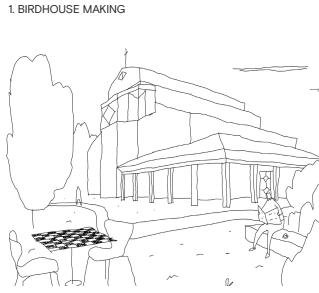


CULTURAL CENTRE AND MAKERSPACE

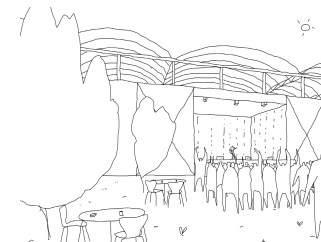
The facades of the cultural centre and makerspace are opened up in line with the existing 6-6 metre grid, making their functions visible and accessible to the public realm. A lightweight structure is added on top of the cultural centre, enabling flexible year-round use, from outdoor cinema to performances and gatherings. The makerspace is extended with an external frame that supports a protective roof, allowing larger workshop activities to take place outdoors. Together, they form a central node for the local community. The transformation offers something unique to Uppsala by strengthening local culture, and providing spaces for making, learning, and exchange.



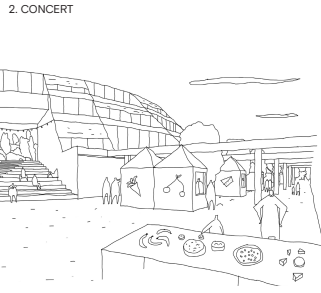
1. BIRDHOUSE MAKING



3. LIVING ROOM



2. CONCERT



4. FOOD MARKET