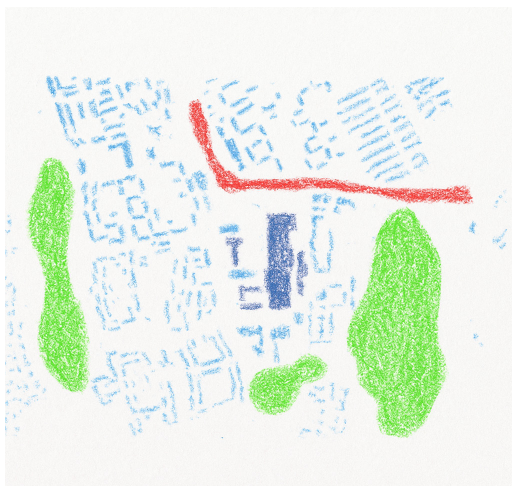


UNFOLDING

Gottsunda is a place in motion. To the north, a new urban corridor is emerging with tramlines, a boulevard, dense city blocks and public buildings. To the south, the Gottsunda Gipen 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. This results in an introverted structure 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 Gottsunda Centre a place where people do not just pass through but choose to stay.

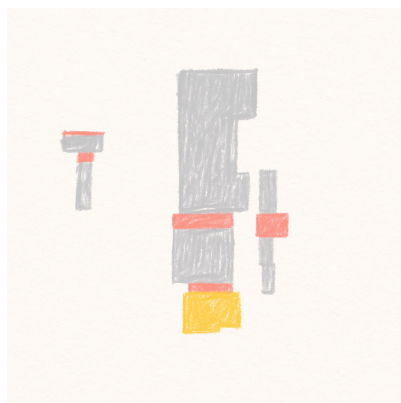


TRANSFORMATION

The transformation of Gottsunda is not about starting over, but about building on what is already there. By strengthening what works, addressing what holds the area back, and creating new connections, the district is reshaped through a careful and phased process grounded in reuse, participation and adaptability. The first step transforms the old swimming hall into a makerspace, an open setting for learning, entrepreneurship and dialogue. Here, salvaged materials are reused, tested and stored. The development of the area takes place in close collaboration with the local community. Youth programmes, associations and social initiatives gather under one roof. The makerspace becomes a starting point, a place where young people can organise, participate and lead change, closely connected to the cultural centre and nearby school.

From here, a broader transformation unfolds in steps. Existing buildings that have turned their back on the surroundings are carefully adapted, extended, scaled down or opened up wherever it strengthens movement and spatial connections. Implementation follows a clear yet flexible logic. Temporary and permanent interventions are introduced over time, allowing new uses to be tested and to grow organically. Construction is phased to minimise disruption and support continuity of everyday life. Former parking lots become green courtyards where key trees are preserved and space is created for communal use.

The project takes shape gradually, rooted in social sustainability, local involvement and care for the existing.



EXISTING STRUCTURE AND RECONFIGURATION

Gottsunda Centre currently consists of an elongated building. The facade is largely closed off from its surroundings, and an extensive roofscape spans the entire volume. Shops, a cultural centre and a swimming hall are all held together within a single structure. Beneath it all lies a rational framework, a column grid with 6x6 metre spacing, offering strong potential for transformation. The existing 6x6 metre column grid is preserved as the basis for the transformation. Two incisions divide the large volume into three



GOTTSUNDA CENTRE

Gottsunda centre is transformed by opening up its facades with glazed sections aligned to the 6x6 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 garden and allotment. The transformation preserves the logic of the original building while giving Gottsunda Centrum a renewed presence, more open, vibrant and connected to its surroundings.



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.

The existing buildings are carefully adapted to fit their surroundings and new functions, refined to a more human scale.

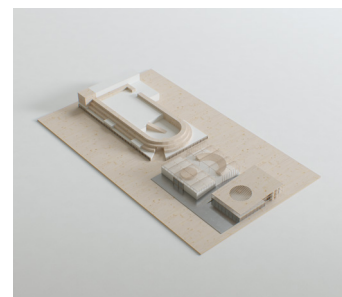
Where possible, dismantled materials are reused in new buildings or stored in a material bank at the makerspace. Soil is reused for urban farming and shared courtyards.



CULTURAL CENTRE AND MAKERSPACE

The facades of the cultural centre and makerspace are opened up in line with the existing 6x6 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.



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.

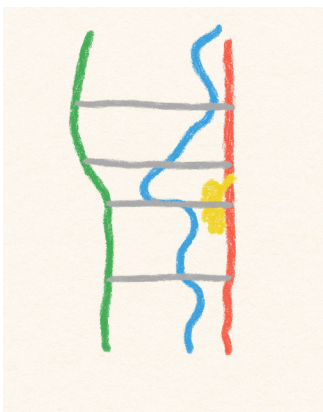
Horizontal passages divide the centre building into smaller volumes, clarifying its different parts from commerce to culture and production.

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 Gottsunda Valley. It links the landscape to the new city blocks and reinforces Gottsunda'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.



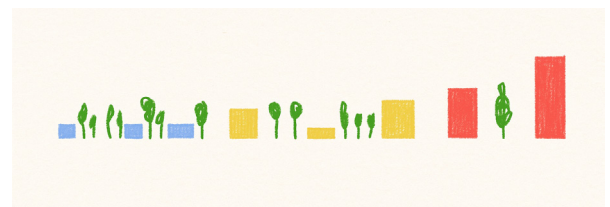
STRUCTURE

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 Gottsunda 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 uses to change over time. Existing buildings are preserved where possible, densified 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 Gottsunda's local culture, strengthens social sustainability and offers something distinct that connects to the wider city of Uppsala.

