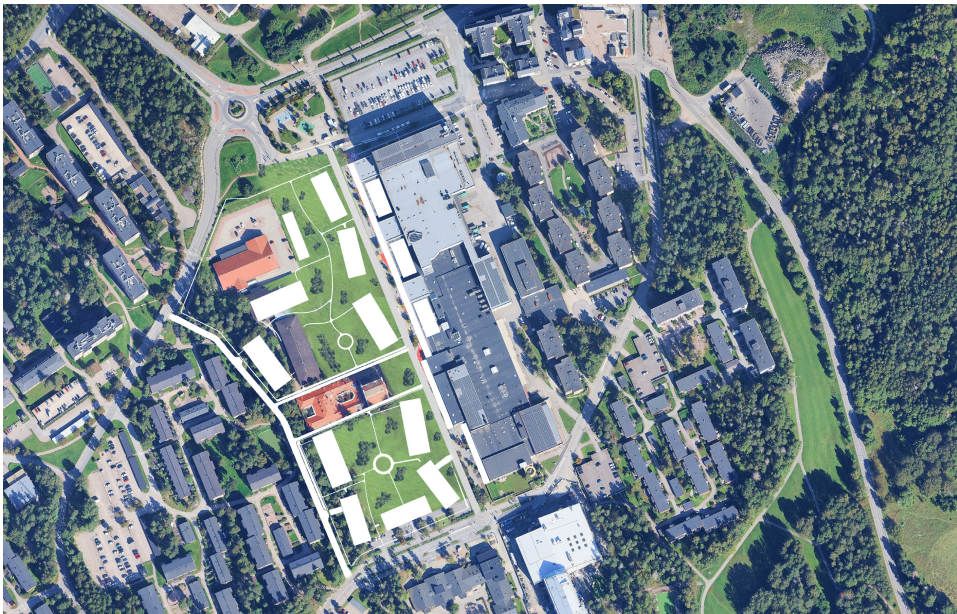




Site Plan with proposal



Original Site

Gottsunda's Common Ground

Gottsunda Centre, a 1974 shopping mall in Uppsala, Sweden, is surrounded by vast parking lots. This mono-functional, auto-centric layout isolates the center, diminishing urban vitality and perpetuating socio-economic segregation. The proposal outlined in the European 18 brief seeks to reimagine this space as a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community hub. By integrating 600 new homes, public spaces, and green corridors, the plan aims to revitalize the area, blending modern urban design with ecological and social priorities.

Urban Design Concept

The transformation is built around a low-rise, high-density urban layout featuring terraced, permeable blocks. These blocks enhance connectivity by linking internal courtyards with surrounding neighborhoods through pedestrian pathways. The project is split into two phases: the **northern transit area**, leveraging planned transport links, and the **southwest residential clusters**, replacing parking lots with homes and parks. This design fosters accessibility and community cohesion while respecting the natural landscape.

Architectural Strategy

The proposal includes 4–6-story buildings constructed from Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT), a sustainable material known for its strength and low environmental impact. The design prioritizes pedestrian-friendly streets (5 and 10) and social courtyards (8), reducing car dominance and encouraging interaction among residents. The housing mix caters to diverse groups—students (1), families, elderly (9) and locals (6)—promoting an inclusive community fabric.

Sustainability and Biodiversity

Sustainability is a cornerstone of the plan. CLT construction sequesters carbon, contributing to a reduced ecological footprint. Native plant corridors, featuring species like birch and wildflowers, replace asphalt, boosting biodiversity and creating green linkages across the site. The 3–30–300 greening principle ensures residents can see three trees from their homes, live under 30% canopy cover, and access a park within 300 meters, enhancing wellbeing and environmental quality.

Civic and Social Programming

To foster inclusion, the ground floors of buildings will house a variety of community amenities, including gyms, makerspaces (2), retail spaces, and cultural hubs, such as saunas (4). These spaces are designed to encourage social vitality, offering opportunities for education, creativity, and cross-cultural exchange. Playgrounds and sports facilities (3) further engage younger residents, ensuring a lively, intergenerational community.

Adaptive Reuse and Vertical Farming

The existing mall will be repurposed rather than demolished, with its facade transformed into vertical farming greenhouses (7). Managed by residents, these structures will produce fresh fruits and vegetables, such as lettuce and berries, for local consumption. An onsite market will sell the produce, embedding food security and economic activity into daily life while strengthening community ties. Rooftop and Renewable Energy Integration
Rooftops will feature solar panels (12) generating renewable energy, paired with terraces for resident use. A community energy cooperative will manage this resource, lowering energy costs and environmental impact. These spaces also support rooftop gardening (11) and social gatherings, turning the tops of buildings into active, green extensions of the community.

Conclusion: Gottsunda's Green Commons

The vision culminates in the concept of a 'green commons', where innovation, sustainability, and social vitality intersect. By repurposing the outdated mall, introducing diverse amenities, and prioritizing green infrastructure, the proposal transforms Gottsunda Centre into a modern hub that addresses 21st-century urban challenges. This human-scaled development not only revitalizes a neglected suburban space but also sets a precedent for inclusive, eco-conscious urban planning in Uppsala and beyond.

The red bold numbers could be found in the phasing drawing, which explains the proposal.



Existing Diagram



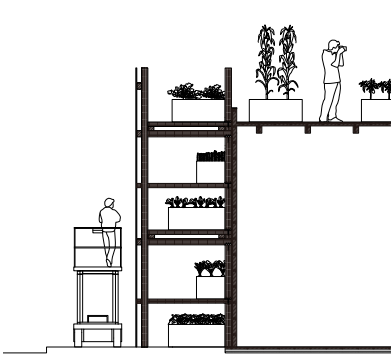
Proposed Diagram



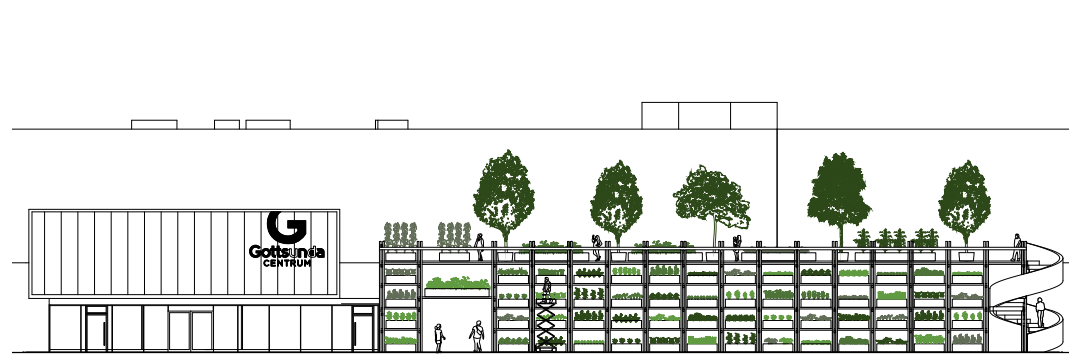
Existing

Phase 1

Phase 2



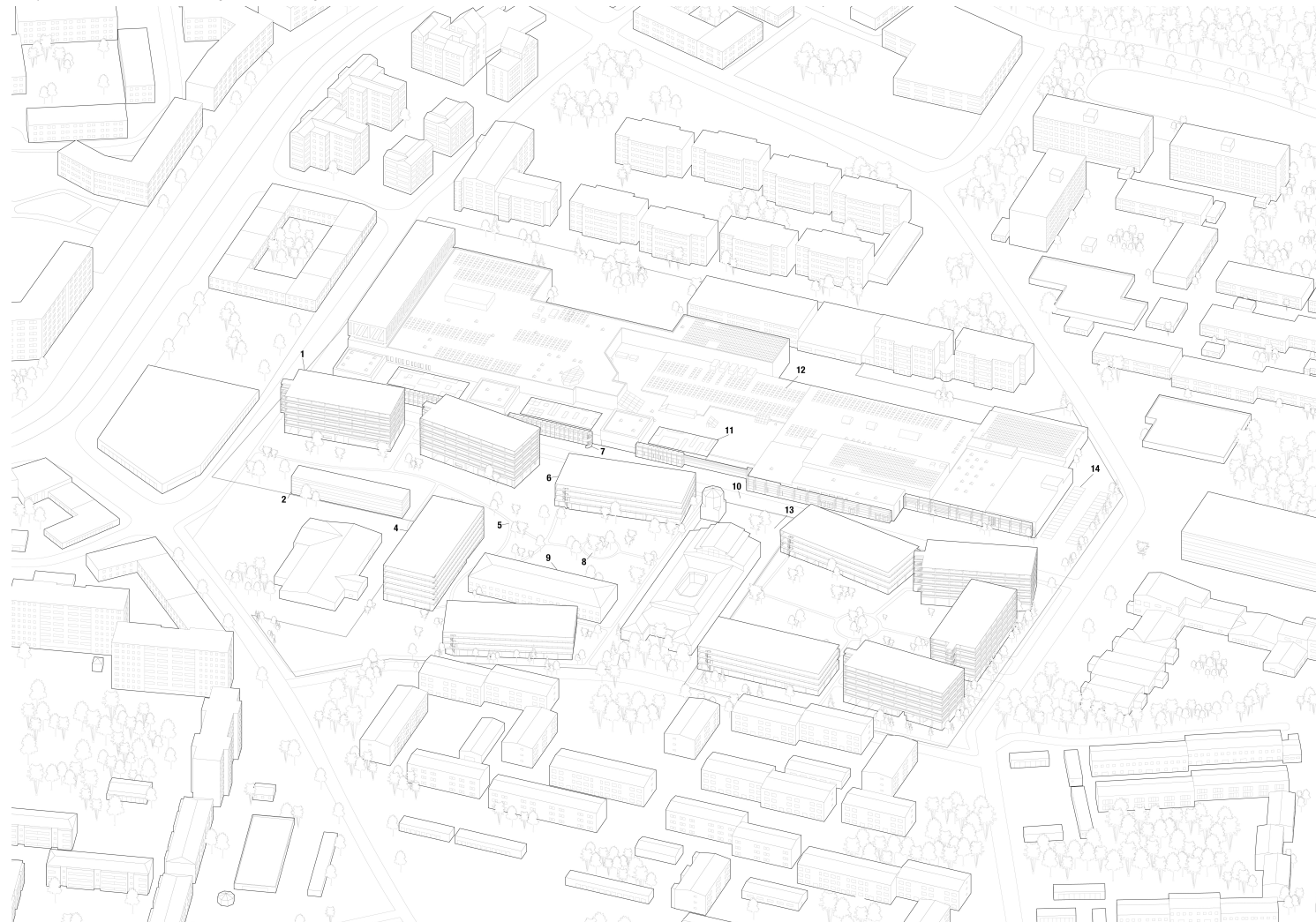
Facade Section



Facade Elevation



© Proposed Street, View between New Housing and Vertical Farming Greenhouses



Isometric



© Courtyard, View to New Housing



Existing Site Model



Proposal Model



Site Model with Proposal