

h2>Population

480,000 (town) / 700,000
(conurbation)

h2>Location

Gårdsten

h2>Study area

10 ha

h2>Site area

6 ha

h2>Theme

The suburb of Gårdsten is an extreme example of a monofunctionally planned satellite suburb from the 1960-70's. There is today a need for a new diversity, especially in public and commercial services, but also in housing; typologies, dwelling-sizes, etc. There is also a need for better communications. The site is located at the entrance to the area and is strategically important as a connecting and intensifying addition towards the south. The relation to the surrounding vegetation and topography is also of crucial importance.



Conurbation

Gothenburg is Sweden's second largest city and an industrial town that has become a centre of high technology and trade. It also has several universities. The region is expansive and lacks housing.

In the 1960's a number of satellite-suburbs were built. Gårdsten is one of those. It is situated on a hilltop as an isolated island some 15 km away from the city centre and with no tramway or train connection. It has been placed with large social problems and has today a population largely dominated by immigrants.

Site

The site is situated at the entrance to Gårdsten. It's a rest of cancelled plans from the 60's. Here was to be built a large traffic junction. Remaining is an unbuilt plateau of gravel, now covered with spontaneous vegetation. The differences in height are considerable. To the north is a large vertical cut into the rock, blocking access to the existing housing areas. On top of the hill, two tenement slabs have been demolished and are now being replaced by a new area of dense row-housing. To the immediate north of this, one of the 8-floor slabs is under reconstruction.



Programme

The site is a rest. It is now to be transformed into a gate to the northeastern areas of suburban Gothenburg.

There is now an idea of creating new buildings on the site, comprising a medical IT-centre at regional level, the medical centre of Gårdsten, supplying well-needed resources for health-care, taking the multi-cultural character of the area into consideration.

It is also considered a positive thing if housing can be included in the design, providing that the problems with the noise from the roads should be solved.

Issues

functional : The site should integrate a small bus station, where connections between different buses could be arranged in a pleasant and safe environment. The entrance to Gårdsten is to be made manifest. The new configuration of the site is to connect both sides of the road and also to indicate a future extension of buildings to the south.

social : The site is of great symbolic value. Today Gårdsten is invisible from the road. The competition area should be perceived as a connection to the rest of the city. It is to be populated, filled with motion and meetings, to enliven the area. It is to become a place for activities and communication, attractive both to residents and to visitors from other parts of town.

perceptual : The site is seriously exposed to noise as it is lining a major through-fare. The natural topography is very dramatic on a small scale, although heavily damaged. The connection to the surrounding housing areas is important.

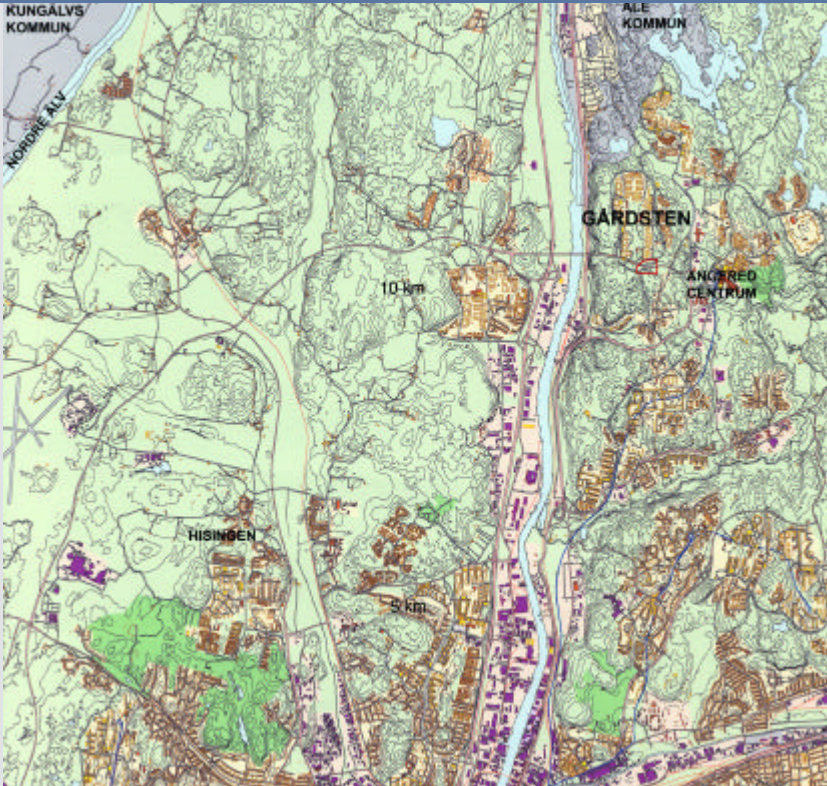


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