

**TOPIC**

Urbanising with infrastructures - new polarities in relation to networks. The competition area will be the starting point for a coming regeneration of the north-eastern parts of Gothenburg. Today the site is fragmented by an obtrusive traffic system in which the old area of Gamlestaden is located as an urban island, in perceived isolation from the rest of the city. It is a strategically positioned old industrial area with a well-developed infrastructure and a strong potential for becoming an important node in the future urban landscape. The site has to be rearticulated with new urban spaces and links to the rest of the city.

CONURBATION

Gothenburg is the second largest city of Sweden, positioned at the mouth of the river Göta on the west coast of the country. It was founded in 1621 and planned on a system of canals of dutch influence. The city is home of the largest harbour in Scandinavia and several internationally well-known companies such as Volvo, SKF, Astra Zeneca, Saab Ericsson Space, Hasselblad, etc. Today focus is shifting from heavy industry towards high-tech and knowledge-intensive enterprise.

The city of Gothenburg is experiencing steady growth with some 3600 new citizens yearly and there is a large demand for new housing. New plans are now being developed for the harbour areas to the northeast of the city, from the river to Gamlestaden, bordering the northeastern entrance to the city.

SITE

The site is located 3 km's upriver where an older settlement, Nya Lödöse, originally was situated. This area, now known as Gamlestaden, also became the founding place for Gothenburg as an industrial town in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1913 a new town plan was adopted for the residential parts of Gamlestaden, which today is a multi-cultural and vibrant area, somewhat run-down but with strong urban qualities.

The study area stretches from Gamlestads torg, which once was the main square of the area but which today is a traffic junction, and down to the E20 highway. This old industrial area is today being gentrified, as new enterprises working with media, culture and leisure move in to the industrial buildings. The site itself, Gamlestadstorget, is surrounded by Gamlestadens townscape, the industrial area and the railway, where a new station is to be constructed for commuter trains in connection to the two tramlines that traffic the area. The small river Sæveån divides the site into two parts. The land is partly owned by the town and partly by private landlords.

Population: 474.000/831.000 (conurbation)

Location: Gamlestadstorg

Study area: 18 ha

Project area: 6 ha



PROGRAMME

Gamlestadstorget is to be re-established as an important node in the city with attractive and safe new urban spaces and strengthened connections towards the city and the Göta river. A significant densification must be undertaken to achieve these objectives, along the main streets and at Gamlestadstorget, where it is possible to create a densified and integrated urban environment, including some new landmarks. The current traffic solution is to be revised and the tramways can be rerouted.

ISSUES

Social / Functional

The site is one of the best connected transportation hubs in the region, which puts pressure on the development of the surrounding area with new urban buildings for mixed uses, including housing, and designed for a vivid and safe environment. The new train-/tram-station will have entrance-points on both sides of the Sävån River.

Sensitive features

The main bulk of the old industrial buildings are classified as buildings of great historical value, something that must be considered in the projects. Sävån is today a neglected resource that should be upgraded and better taken care of. It is classified as national interest, meaning that the position of the current riverbanks can't be altered.

Sustainability

A densification of this area offers environmental advantages. However, the traffic system is also problematic with regards to the levels of noise and pollution. There are also safety distances for the railway to consider.







