

Abstract

This project is part of the studio Planning for Sustainable Development in a Local Context in 2022. The main project scope is conducted in a municipality in the southwest of Sweden, called Mark. The studio collaborated with the Västra Götaland region and local politicians from the municipality and its villages. The aim of the studio is to understand and initiate design solutions to foster sustainable development, which is conducted by working on an in-depth design proposal.

Collaboratively, the studio created a common SWOT analysis to better understand the threats and opportunities for the design proposal. The main issues within the municipality of Mark are related to infrastructure, housing, lack of public spaces and uneven development of different areas. The following project addresses these problems and shows how the village of Berghem can prosper in the future.

The booklet is organized in 3 parts. Starting out with an analysis part, a mapping process to understand the structure of the villages within Mark. From that step, one specific village, Berghem, was selected and a design intervention is proposed. Divided into three different steps: the public connection, the gathering point and the cooperative space. The concept for the design can be applied to several villages throughout the municipality but is still made site specific for the specific community.

Aim

The aim of this project is to find ways of counteracting the uneven development within the municipality, to foster community bonds and to create social gathering spaces. A process including analysis, understanding and intervention within the rural development in the context of Sweden.

The project site features a village in Mark Kommun called Berghem. Today it is mainly a residential area with small businesses and many commuters to slightly larger towns such as Kinna/Skene and Gothenburg. Due to a strong focus on the center of the municipality, the people of Berghem described their situation as “being forgotten by the municipality” which resulted in the relocation of the school and the community center.

In order to counteract this development, this design proposal focuses on creating public gathering places with specific functions like a cafe, store and co-working space, spread out along a conceptual path around the village. These small and large-scale interventions foster community bonds, provide the inhabitants with basic functions and eliminate the need to commute anywhere as well as tying the public village spaces and public infrastructure systems together.

The project is conducted in three steps, which are building up on each other and require strong communal engagement as a core component.

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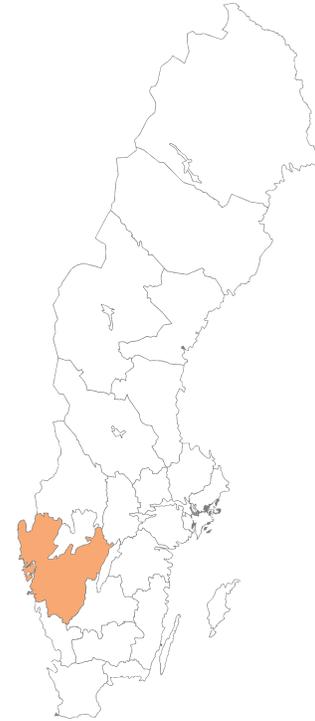
03.1 Hyssna

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Västra Götaland

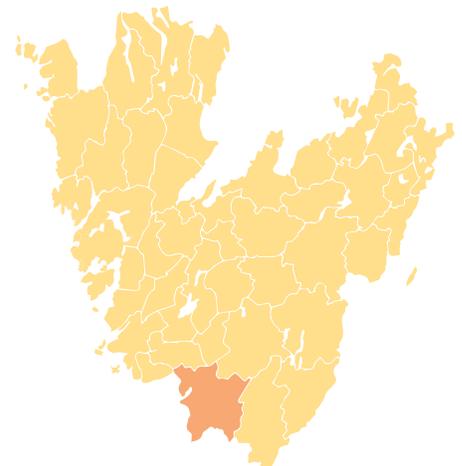
Västra Götaland is located on the west coast of Sweden, with the second largest population per county in Sweden. It includes a total 49 municipalities and was established in 1998, merging the four Counties of Älvsbor, Gothenburg and Bohus and Skarabor. The region's main responsibilities consists of healthcare, public transport, regional development, and culture. There are 1.75 million inhabitants in the region, which is 16.5% of Sweden's total population. A changing demographic makeup, with challenges connected to an aging population causes a disparity between education and work force demands. This increases the effects of urbanization, leading to a mismatch between population needs for housing, tenure forms and workforce accessibility. The aging population will need more care and with the healthcare system already under pressure, this could lead to funds being displaced from other public sectors.

Societal challenges connected to a shifting political landscape with evermore populist tendencies leads to increased social divide between different groups. Growing gender inequalities may further increase this divide within the region, and Sweden as a whole.

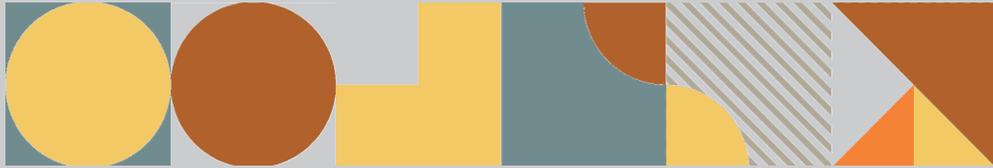


Mark Kommun

Mark Kommun is located in the south of the Västra Götaland County and was created through the Municipal Reform Act of 1971 by uniting eight smaller municipalities. The center of the Kommun is Kinna Town, which grows together with the bordering towns of Skene and Örby. The municipality is known for its rich textile history, with many industries settling in the municipality along the river Viskan. The region later evolved into the a national industrial center for dyeing, sewing and textile manufacturing following the industrial revolution. During the 1980s, most of Marks textile factories shut down or relocated with only three industries remaining. Mark Municipality has excellent roads, public as well as rail transport from the center to the neighboring major cities like Gothenburg, Varberg and Borås. Within the Municipalities Villages, these connections of infrastructure is lacking. The different focuses of the municipalities lead to uneven development and to the neglect of places, which are not located along the main roads or are to close to the center.

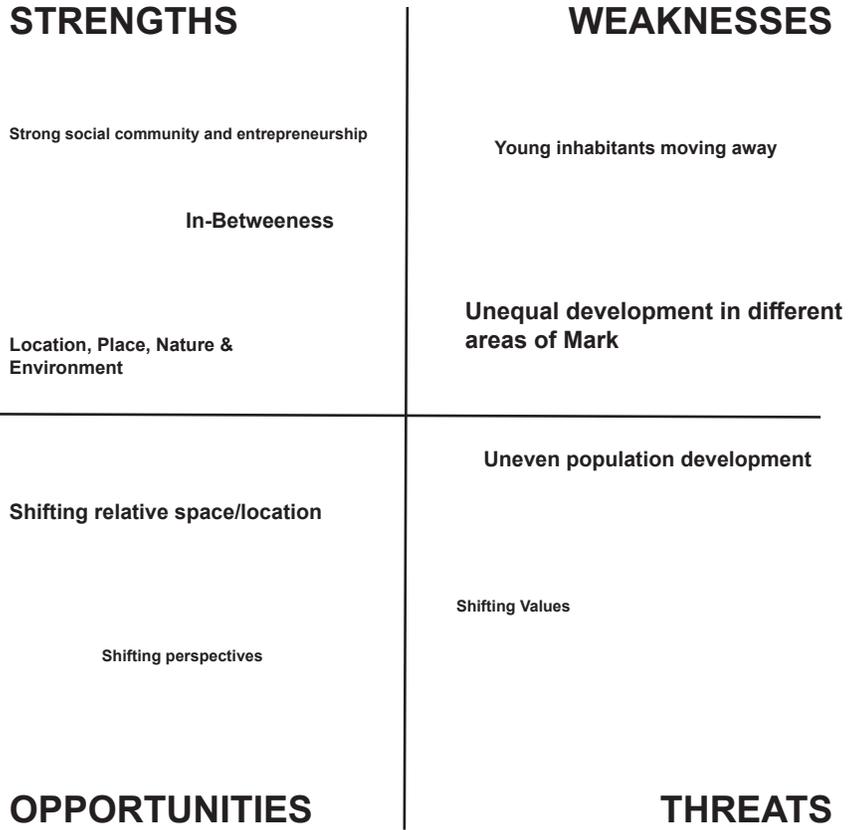


01 Introduction

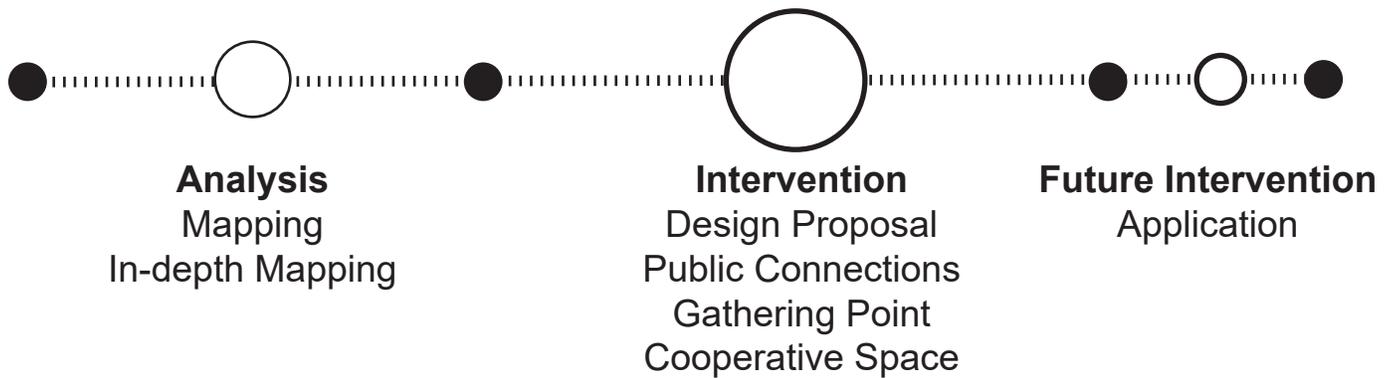


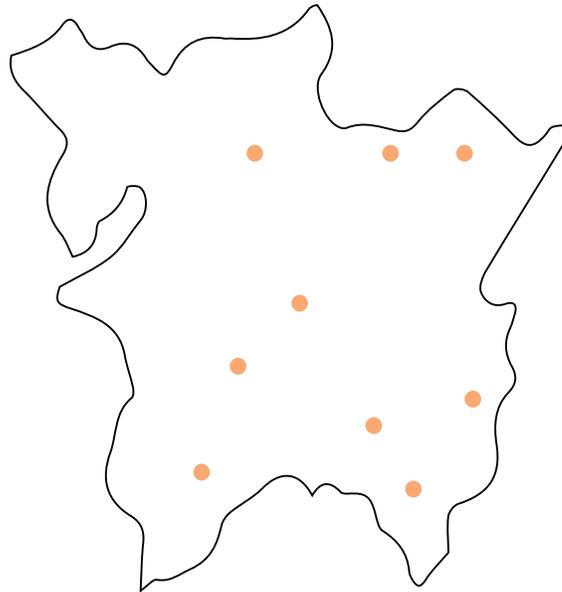
SWOT

Throughout the project development phase, a SWOT Analysis was conducted in order to show the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. As a result this project focuses on tackling the threats of uneven development within Mark. Using the strength of its location to the neighboring cities as well as the relations between the villages in the municipality. Additionally, the project builds up on the strong social community and encourages to strengthen these bonds while creating new spaces and experiences.



Timeline





Mapping

In order to understand the relation between public and private spaces, activities and movements, 9 places within Mark Municipality were selected and analyzed. The selection contains Torestorp, Berghem, Hyssna, Tostered, Björketorp, Älekulla, Rydal, Öxabäck and Fritsla. Within the maps, public spaces and private spaces are highlighted and show the relation between communal and individual spaces. Additionally, the demographics of every village is highlighted and compared to each other as a final step. Interestingly, we found that most of the villages either stabilized their population over decades. Other villages like Sättila had a big increase of inhabitants while some showed a decreasing trend. The final step also included comparing the population numbers to the composition of sex within the villages. Through this mapping process, the selection got narrowed down to three specific villages: Hyssna, Älekulla and Berghem. The selection is based on population size, development and location. All these villages have a stagnant population size as well as a decrease in industry and public services, like schools and shops closing down or moving over time.

Torestorp

In Torestorp water plays an important role. In the middle of the community lies Sju strömmar, a lush area where the Torestorpsån divides into several streams. Distance to Kinna is 18 km, Borås 48 km, Gothenburg 74 km and Varberg 53 km. The population size is mostly stable since the 1980s with slightly more than 400 people living there.

Population Development



Torestorp

▲ 1:5000



Rydal

In Rydal, with the textile factory from 1853, the Inn and the renovated workers' housing are the most noticeable when driving through the community. Rydal is a former mill town but transformed over the years. Rydal has an active village team and multiple associations. In recent years, families with children are moving to Rydal.

Population Development



Rydal

▲ 1:5000



Öxabäck

Öxabäck offers a variety of different typology with forests, lakes and ponds. The highest point is Brattåsen with 240 meters above sea level. The town is mostly open lands where farms are scattered over a large geographical area. There are approximately 340 people living in the town which is located in the southeast of Mark. The distance to other towns are 17km to Kinna, 47 km to Borås, 73km to Gothenburg and 63 to Varberg.

Population Development



Öxabäck

▲ 1:5000



Horred

▲ 1:5000



Horred

From the Texelberget's highest point in Horred you can see all the way to the sea. It was located in the border regions between Mark and Varberg, between Västergötland and Halland and in the past between Sweden and Denmark. Nowadays there are roughly 1250 people living there and it is only 35 km to get to Varberg and 25km to Kinna.

Population Development



Fritsla

In Fritsla, there is beautiful nature all around the town with lots of forests and fields. It is also close to larger cities such as Borås and Gothenburg, where many people commute to work. Landvetter Airport is a few kilometers away. Copenhagen can be reached in a few hours by train via Varberg. The town also offers small cafes and lots of sport facilities for the inhabitants to use. The number of people living in Fritsla almost 2500.

Population Development



Fritsla

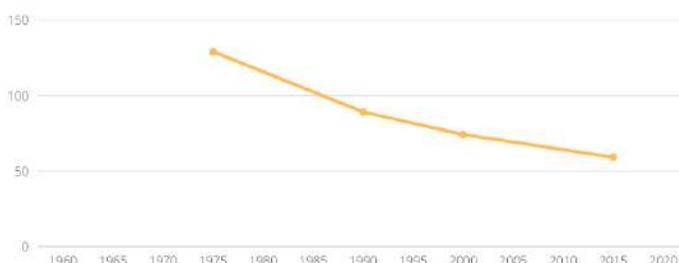
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Älekulla

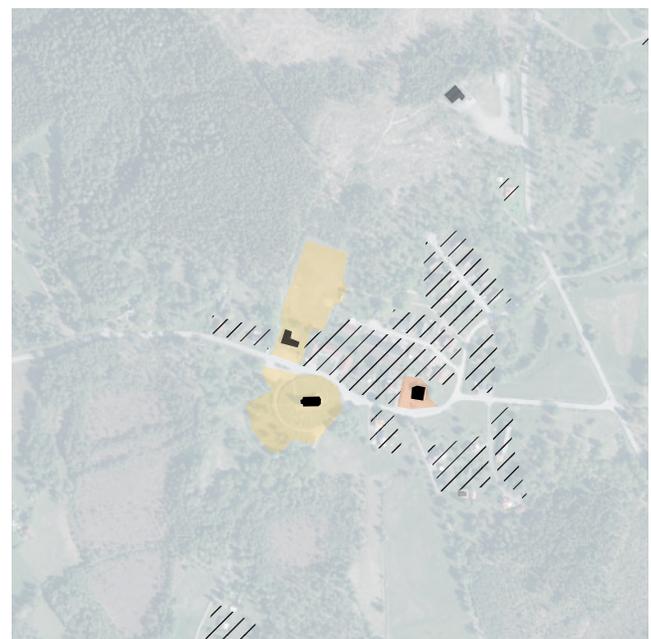
Älekulla is a small, rural place. The biggest event during the year is Skållared Marten spring and autumn, a traditional market with knaves from all over Sweden, funfairs and other celebrations. The village is very spread out with the church and the community building as the only two public places around. The population seems to decrease over the years.

Population Development



Älekulla

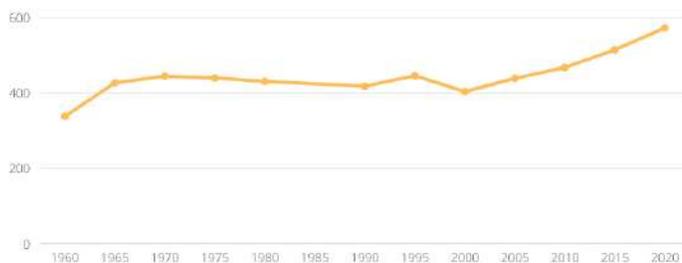
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Björketorp

Björketorp has one of the most popular swimming lakes in all of Mark, the outdoor area Navåsen. In addition to the lake itself there are also green meadows, saunas and toilets, a café, a beach volleyball court and hiking trails. On the other side of Björketorp you find the much larger Öresjön, where people swim during the summer and ice fish and ski in the winter. National highway 41 runs straight through, splitting the village.

Population Development



Björketorp

▲ 1:5000



Hyssna

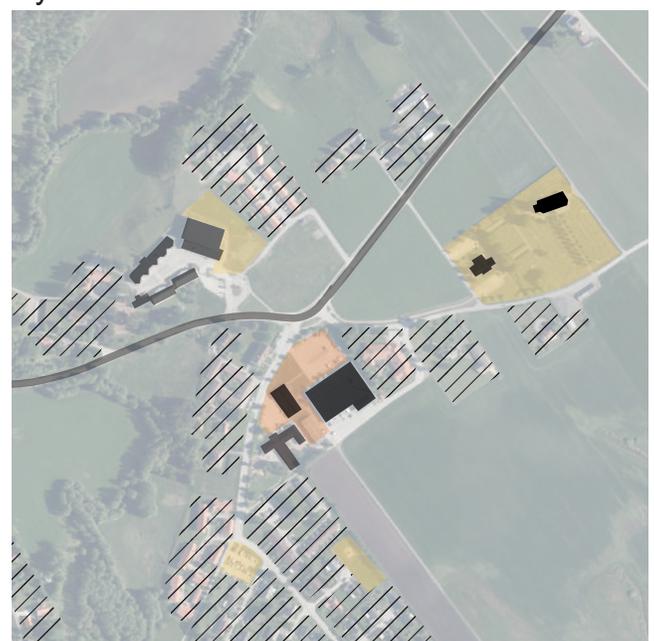
Hyssna is located in a really good location between Kinna, Landvetter and Gothenburg. The forest is a popular excursion destination and there is a four-mile-long hiking trail called Hyssnaleden with overnight accommodations along the way. In Hyssna there are many active associations. Once a year they come together for Hyssnadagen. On the third weekend in September there are activities and parties.

Population Development



Hyssna

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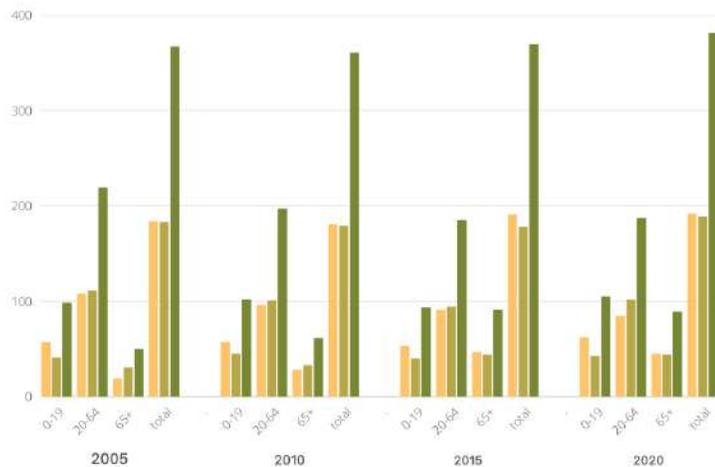
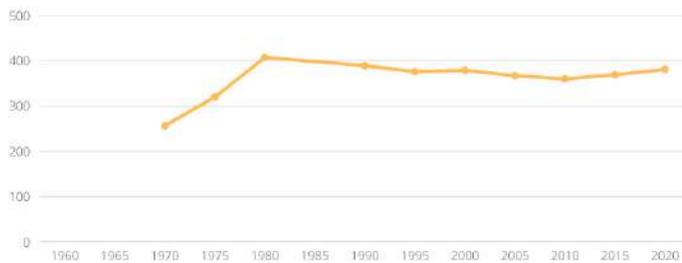


Berghem



Berghem is situated on both sides of the Viskan valley, a few kilometers south of Skene. Today it is mainly a residential area with small businesses and many commuters to slightly larger towns such as Kinna/Skene and Gothenburg. The trains on the Viskadal line Borås-Varberg stop in Berghem. In recent years the closure of the school and the community center resulted in a lack of gathering places for mainly young people.

Population Development



- Women
- Men
- Total

▲ 1:5000



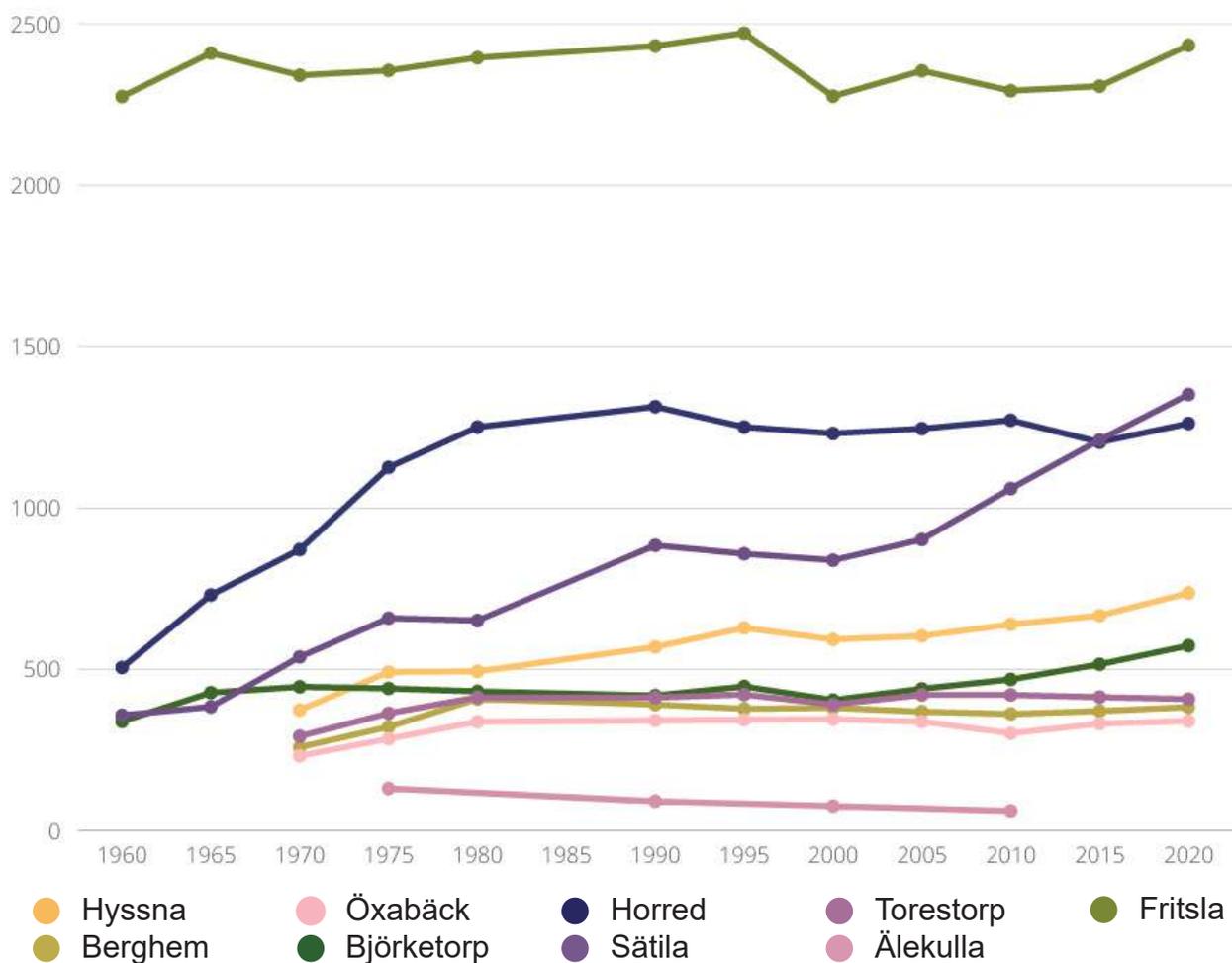
The graph shows the population size in Berghem related to gender and age throughout the years 2005, 2010, 2016 and 2020.

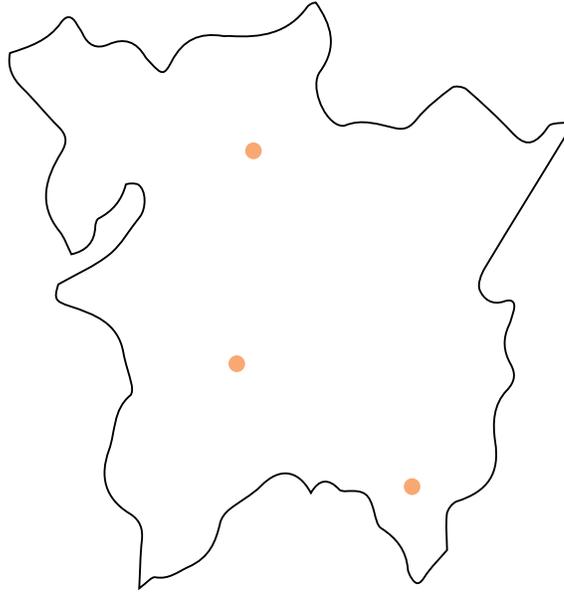
Demographics

The most represented age group within Mark are people ranging from 20 to 64 years old.

These numbers can be a threat in the future, since the population will be compromised of a majority of 65+ people who left the workforce.

It can take a toll on the system and the municipality has to take the threat of this uneven population development into account in order to prepare for the negative outcome.



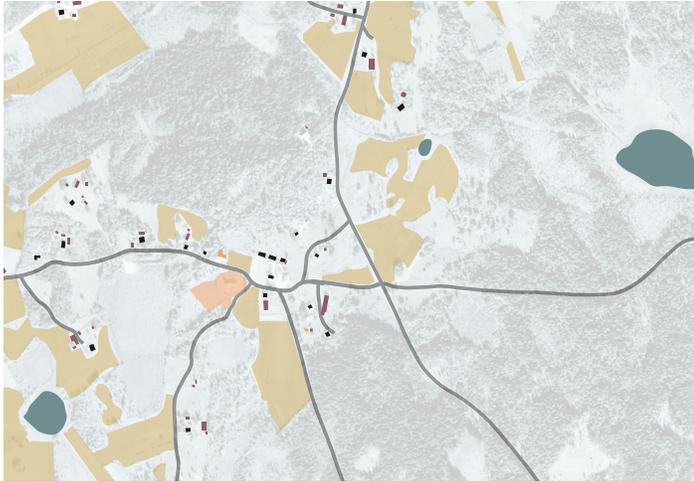


In-Depth Mapping

After finishing the mapping process of the nine villages and gaining an overview of the public patterns, movements and relations between communal and private spaces, the selection was narrowed down to the three villages of Hyssna, Älekulla and Berghem. The selection is based on population size, development and location. All these villages have a stagnant population size as well as a decrease in industry and public services like schools and shops which have been closed down or removed over time.

These in-depth analysis highlight the main infrastructure, industry, public and private buildings, water bodies as well as land-use. The development of these aspects are shown over the years of 1960, 1975 and 2022. Additionally, the main meeting spaces are highlighted with the focal points and the main buildings that are either industry, a public service building or a public space.

Älekulla



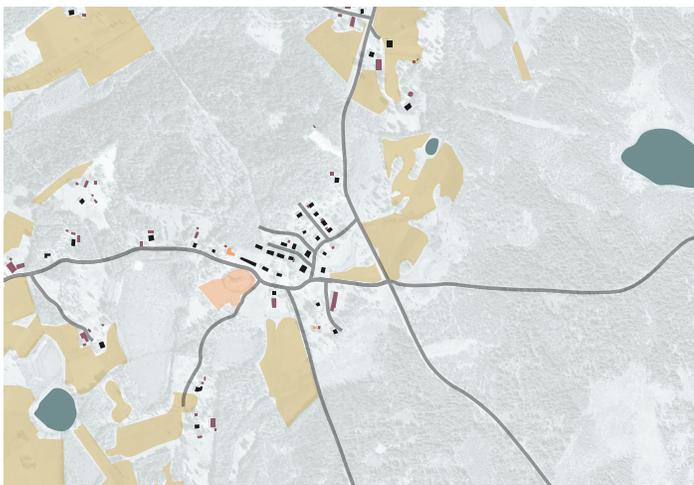
1960

Älekulla in the past

Älekulla is a settlement that borders Svenljunga, Varbergs and Falkenberg's municipalities in Mark's southeast part. With mostly farmland and a few residential houses, belonging to farmers are spread out. There are only two public building which are the church and the Bygdegård.

- Residential Housing
- Public Space
- Waterbodies
- Arable Land
- Commercial Facilities
- Streets

▲ 1:5000

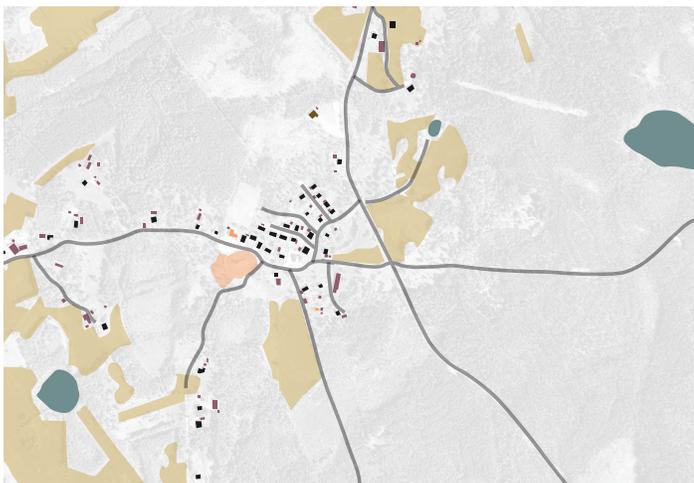


1975

Älekulla in the past

Älekulla attracted more people to the village in 1975. This can be traced back to the settlement of textile industries within Mark. The farmland did not change over the years and the public functions and facilities also stayed stable

▲ 1:5000



2022

Älekulla today

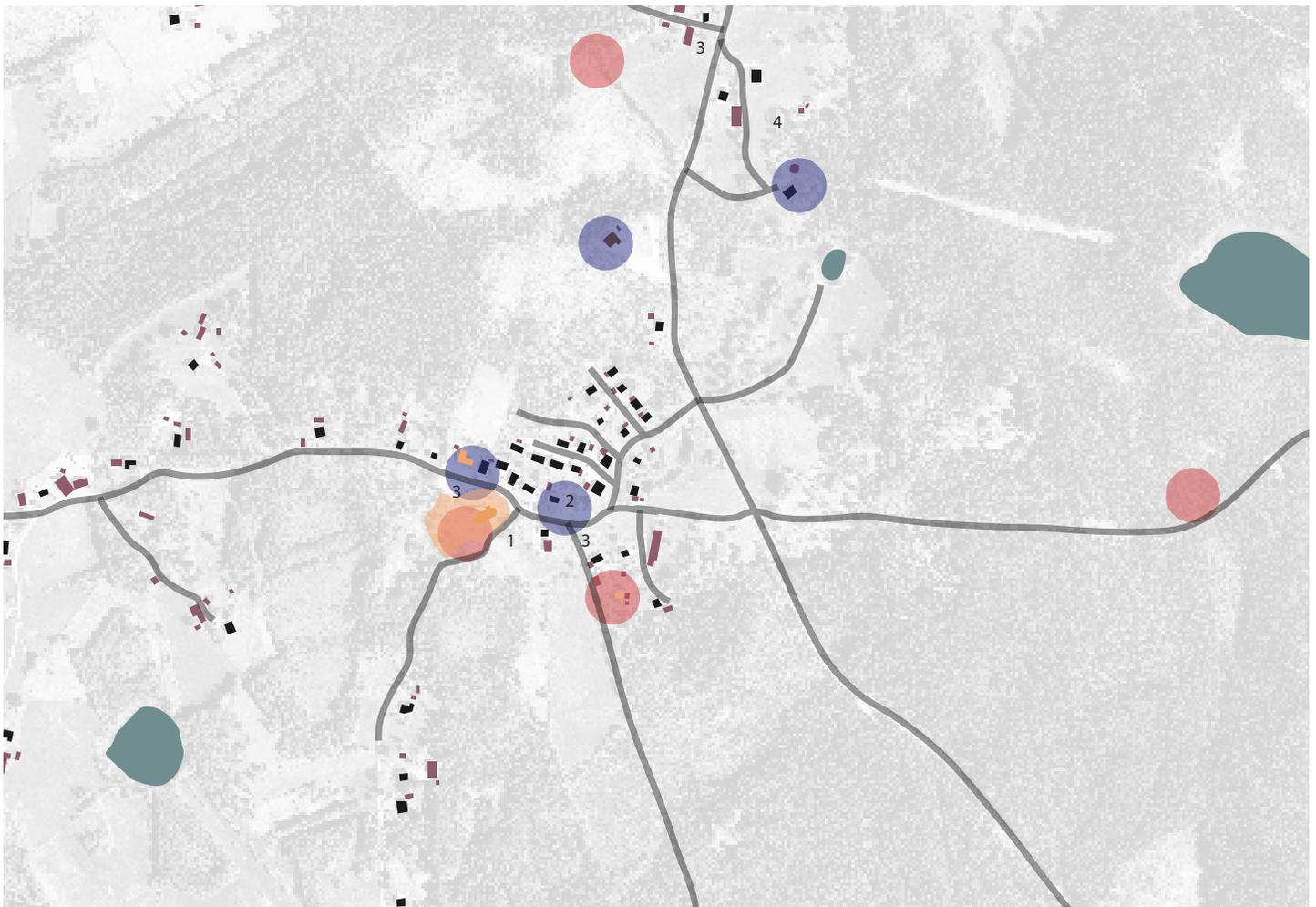
The qualities highlighted by the village community are linked to the natural and cultural environment: Fishing lakes, unique cultural environment landscapes, natural areas, medieval church, riding arena over the Skållaredsån, Svärdstenen in Bostebygd and the Österberg stone. There is no municipal bathing area in Älekulla.

▲ 1:5000

2022

There are many meeting places, the most important of which is Älekulla Livs. The associations also play a big role: village center with library and weaving shed, community center, homestead farm, Älekulla IF's club house, shooting pavilion and dance floor. Reoccurring events and markets also contribute to the well-being and the village community. The village team notes that Älekulla must grow in order to be able to maintain the service that exists today.

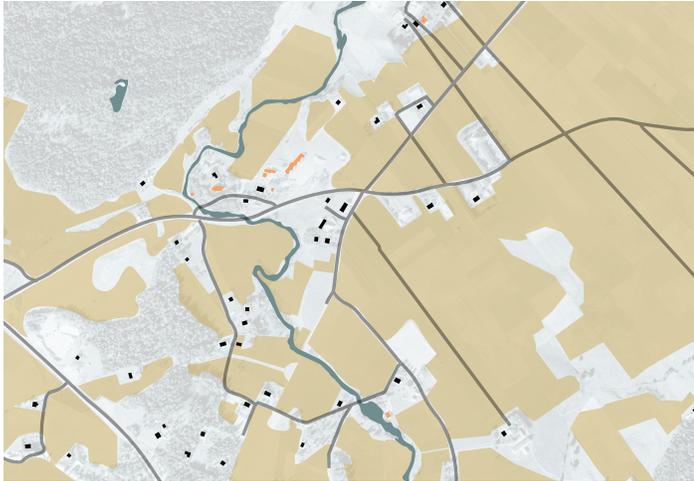
- Place
- Public Space
- Social/Meeting Place
- The power stations with canals and dams



▲ 1:5000



Hyssna



1960

Hyssna in the past

Hyssna has a really good location between Kinna, Landvetter and Gothenburg. In the past, Hyssna. Similar to Älekulla was mainly farmland with few residential houses spread out. The main public functions were the church and the community building which is today the sports facility.

- Residential Housing
- Public Space
- Waterbodies
- Arable Land
- Commercial Facilities
- Streets

▲ 1:5000

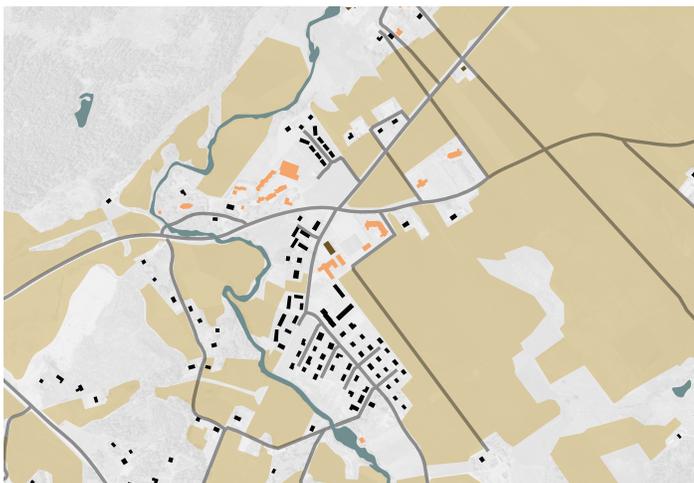


1975

Hyssna in the past

The town increased in population throughout the 1970s. Residential Housing was created to meet the demand and a few public function serve added like a store and a school, as well as a cafe. The farmland did not change significantly and the landscape speaks a clear language, showing th structure of arable land and the residential and public spaces.

▲ 1:5000



2022

Hyssna today

As we have seen so far in the compilation, bathing places and sports grounds are important meeting places for many in Marks municipality. This also applies to Hyssna. The community states as the main problem in the municipal part is lack of safe traffic environments for children, young people and those who do not want to use the car.

▲ 1:5000

2022

The forest is a popular excursion destination that you also pass if you walk the four-mile-long Hyssnaleden, a circular hiking trail with overnight accommodations along the way. Hyssna has many active associations. Hårsjön's and Lilla Hårsjön's swimming areas places are highlighted as important meeting places, next to the cultural-historical area along the Surtan with several important sites and buildings.

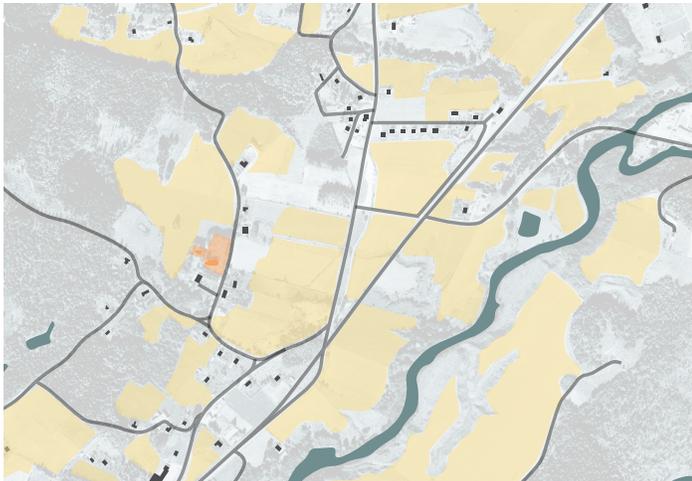
- Place
- Public Space
- Social/Meeting Place
- The power stations with canals and dams



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Berghem



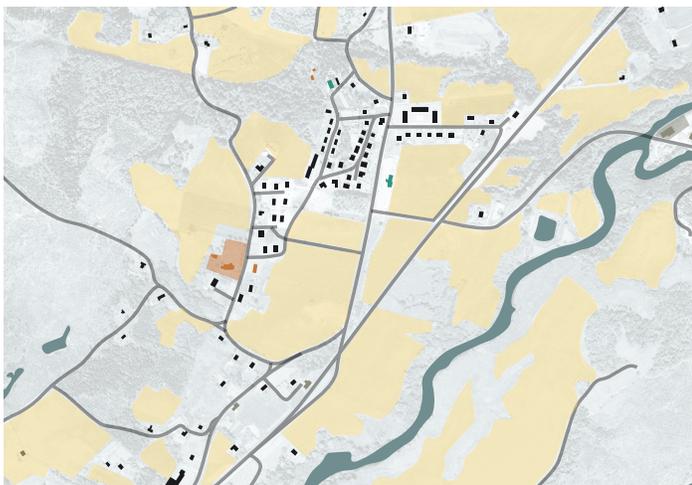
1960

Berghem in the past

With its beneficial location close to the bigger towns around and due to the river Viskan, it was used in the past as mainly farmland with a few residential units and farmhouses. The only public building in 1960 was the church on top of the hill.

- Residential Housing
- Public Space
- Waterbodies
- Arable Land
- Commercial Facilities
- Streets

▲ 1:5000



1975

Berghem in the past

Throughout the 1970s, the town increased in population and industry settled along the river Viskan. The town established a Bygdegårdförening, which was with the church the second public building. Later, a school was added to the town but was relocated again, since it didn't have enough pupils.

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2022

Berghem today

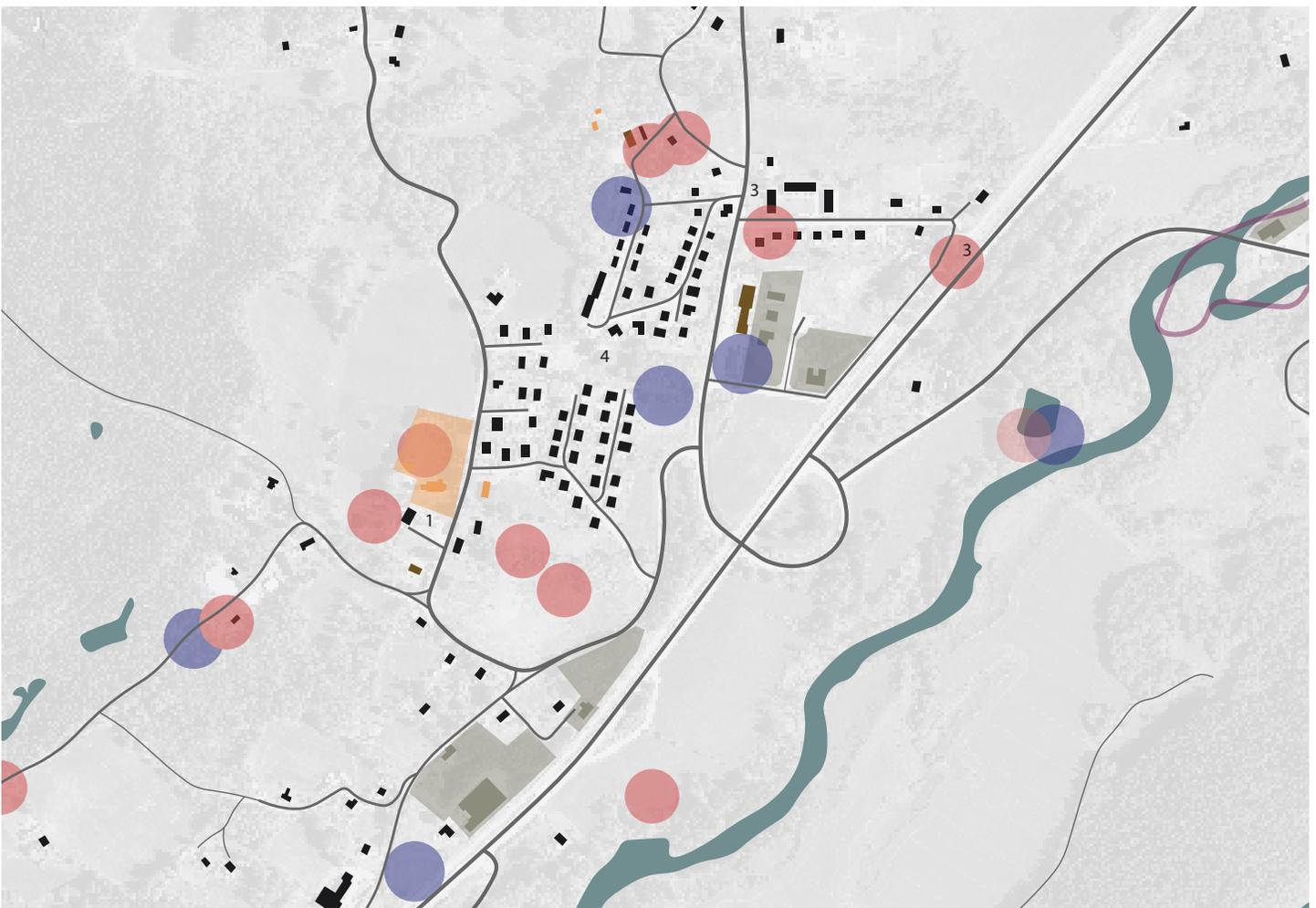
People in Berghem describe the village with words such as decommissioning, closures and the need for faith in the future. In its location just outside Kinna/Skene it conveys a feeling of being forgotten. This led to the closure of the school and the community center and resulted in a lack of gathering places for mainly young people. Some other issues include the deficiencies in pedestrian and bicycle road networks which results in traffic safety deficiencies and insecurity among the inhabitants.

▲ 1:5000

2022

The meeting places that are used include the ice dam, the playground, the home village park and the home village garden, the church and several swimming areas. Social meeting places are generally described as being in short supply, especially for young people. Especially as the gymnasium closed in connection with the school closing. This has affected people strongly, on several planes.

- Place
- Public Space
- Social/Meeting Place
- The power stations with canals and dams



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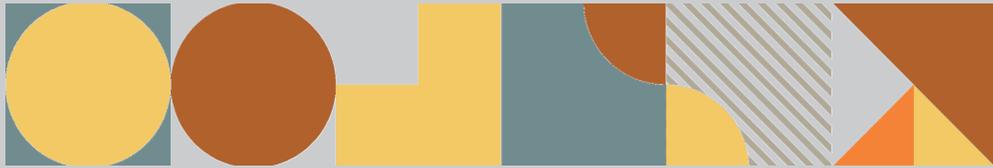


Survey & Interviews

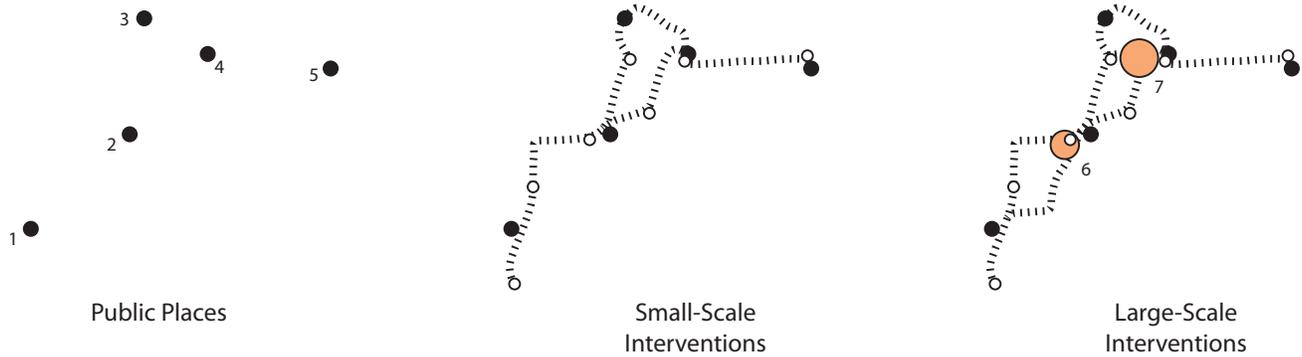
In order to understand the needs and opportunities from the community we conducted several interviews with local residents as well as a survey. The interviews were conducted over the phone and included a member of the Bygdegårdsförening, a local artist and politicians from the municipality. The conducted survey included questions about the present communal places around Berghem, what inhabitants do in their freetime and how well they know others in the community. The interviews included more in-depth questions about public space in Berghem and its opportunities. The main points of needs for the community were gathering places, a store and better infrastructure. Very often, people in Berghem commute by car, either to the neighboring center of Mark or to other cities like Gothenburg, Borås or Varberg to meet their needs, to work and for social activities. The Bygdegård Förening organizes a few events each year but overall the results of the interviews and the survey concluded that gathering spaces are lacking within the village. This is also evident in the mapping conducted in the earlier project phase.



02 Interventions

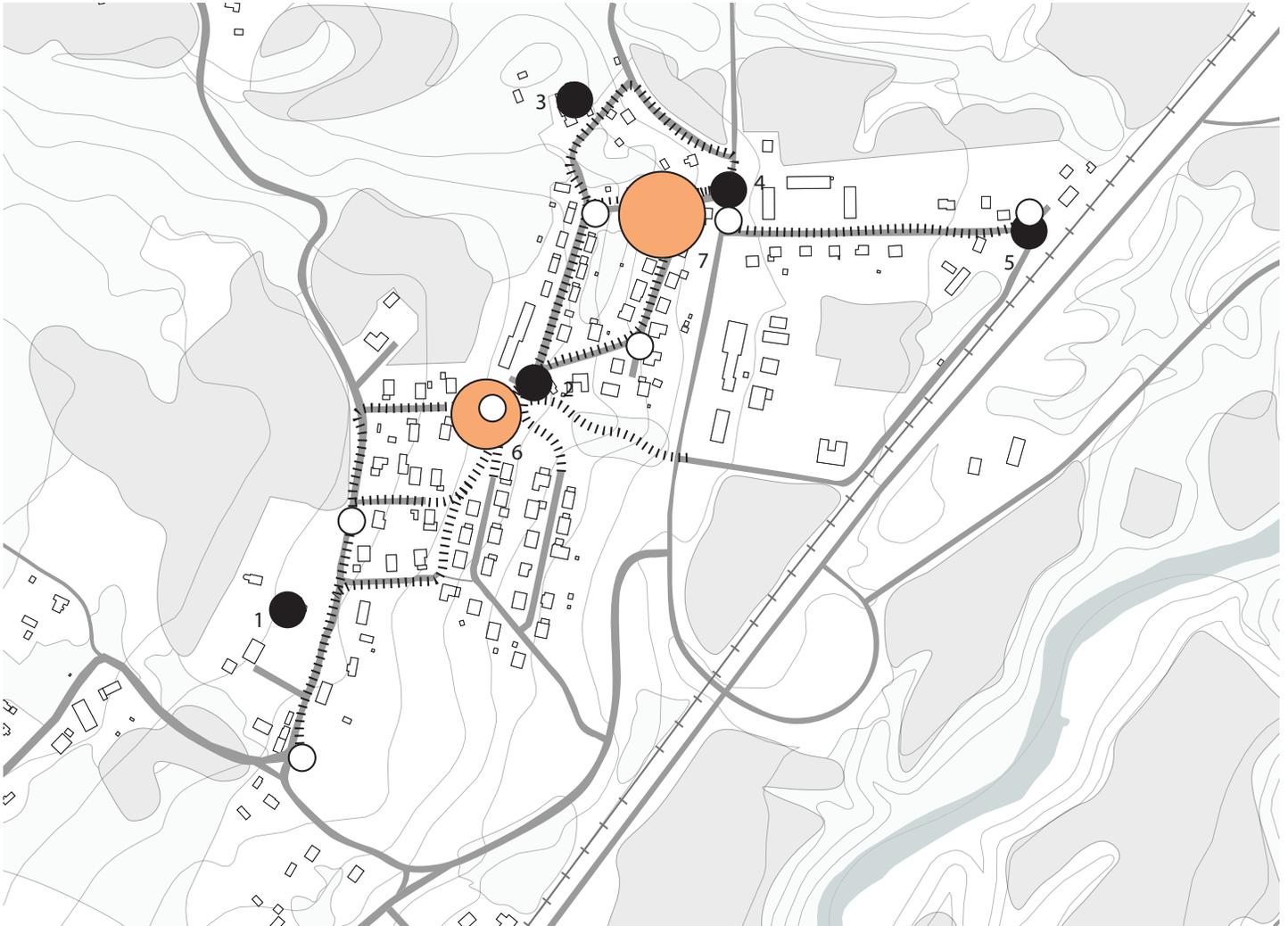


Development Plan



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Community Engagement



The co-operation with the local community is an essential part of the design proposal. The different steps build up on each other and have communal engagement at its core. Because in order to make each step of the project work, different groups within the municipality have to work together. For the first step, the public connections, the Bygdegård takes the initiative to organize the art festival with the help of the municipality. Everyone around the village is invited to come out and participate. For the second step, the gathering point, the architects and municipality provides the plans how to build the structure and inhabitants are needed to help build it. Additionally, the store needs its own association to be managed, refurbished and regulated. Even though the whole community should be part of the process, the association will be in charge.

- 1 Church
- 2 Playground
- 3 Hembygdsförening
- 4 Bus Stop/Crossing
- 5 Train Station
- 6 Gathering Point
- 7 Community Store
- Small-Scale Intervention
- Large-Scale Intervention

Roadmap



1

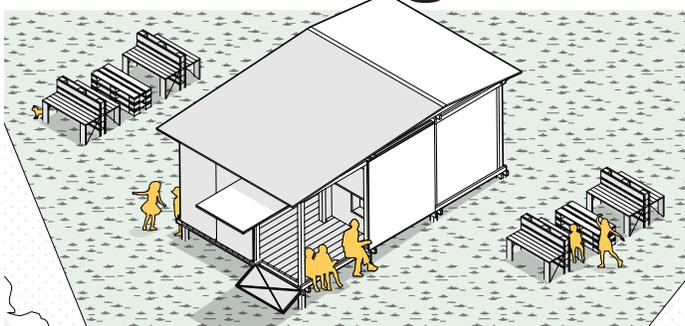
Public Connections



A conceptual path is defined through seven specific spots around Berghem. Providing a path through the village with places to stop and sit down. Enabling moments of rest and gathering throughout. Supposed to foster, through its creation, a greater community spirit.

2

Gathering Point



An intervention is placed in the central part of the village, creating a space for people to meet and gather. Creating a new reference point in the village. A space that is supposed to be open and available for all to take care of it through new organization.

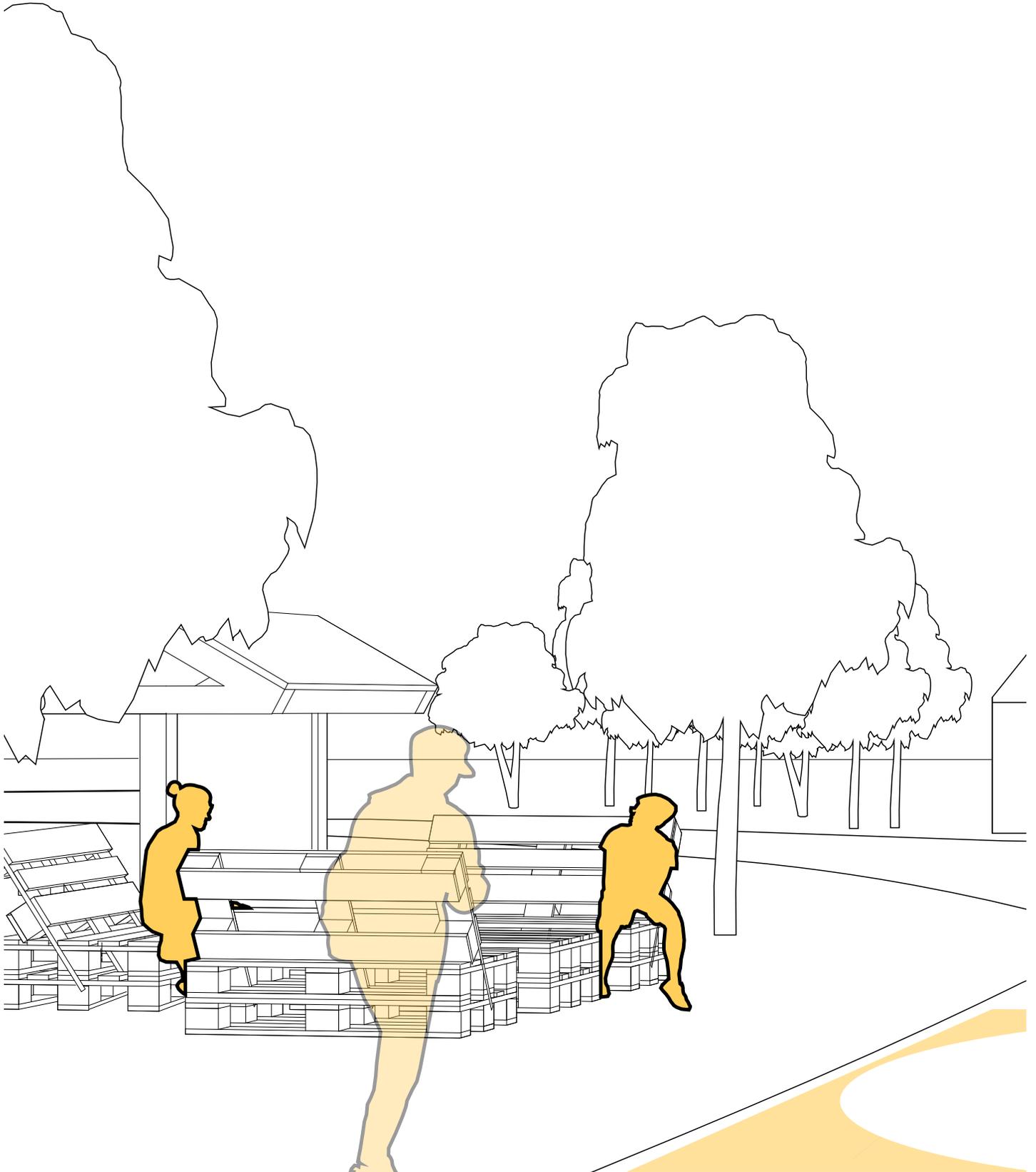
3

Co-operative Space

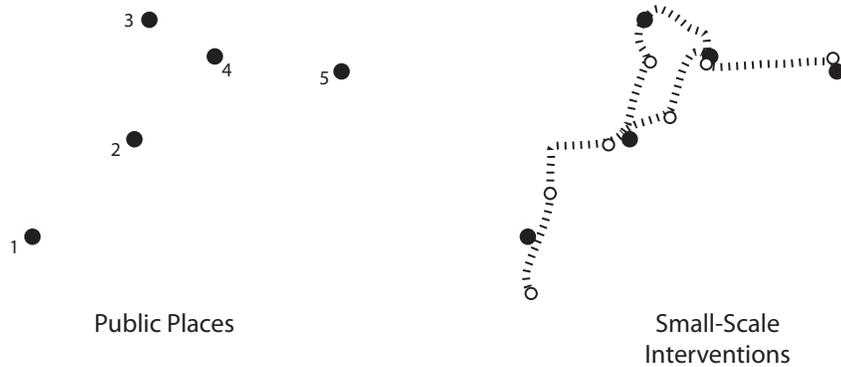


The co-operative store that re-inhabits the structure of an abandoned building in the village. Its organization being built upon the success of previous interventions.

Public Connections

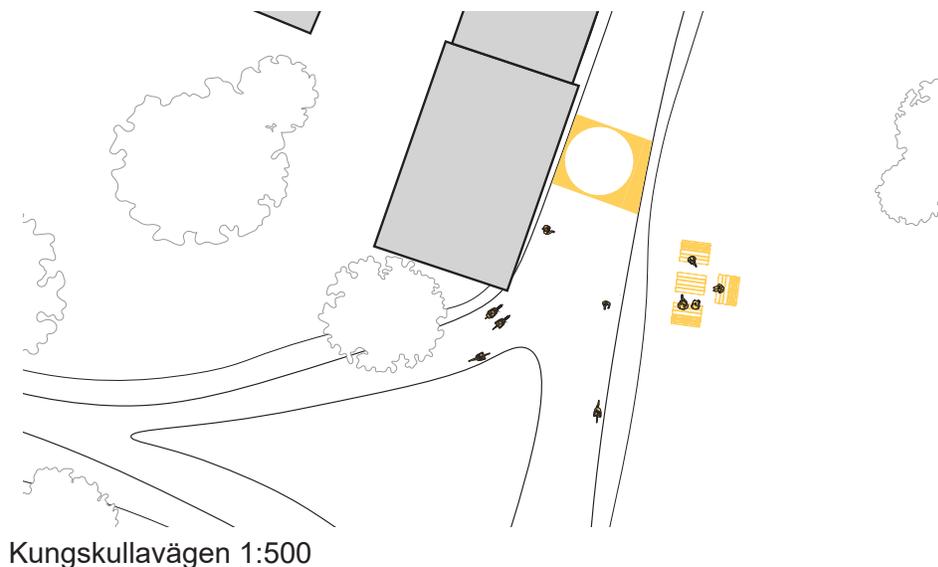


Concept

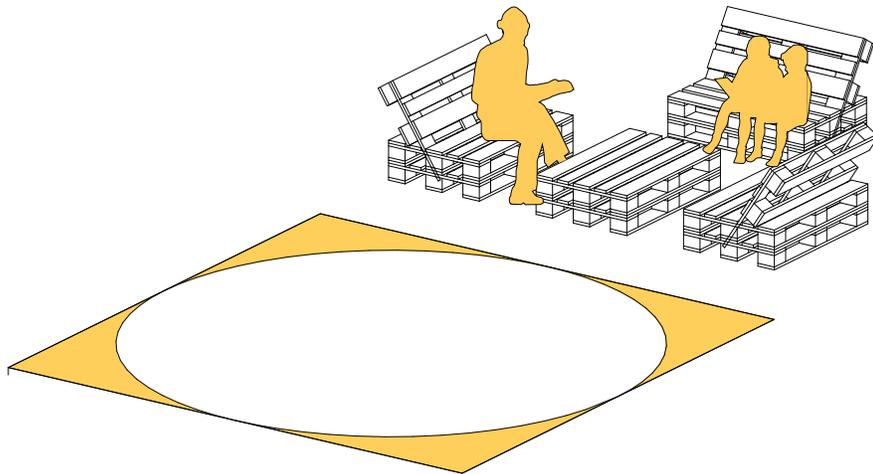


Berghem offers several public places like the church on top of the hill, the playground in the center of the villages and the Bygdegård Förening. In order to connect these public places with the infrastructure like the bus stop and the train station, a conceptual path is lined out. It connects all the public places and offers a sense of direction and initiation to walk around Berghem. The conceptual path is physically established by having 7 small scale intervention at specific locations. These areas offer a place to gather, rest and encourage people to spend their time outside, socializing with others.

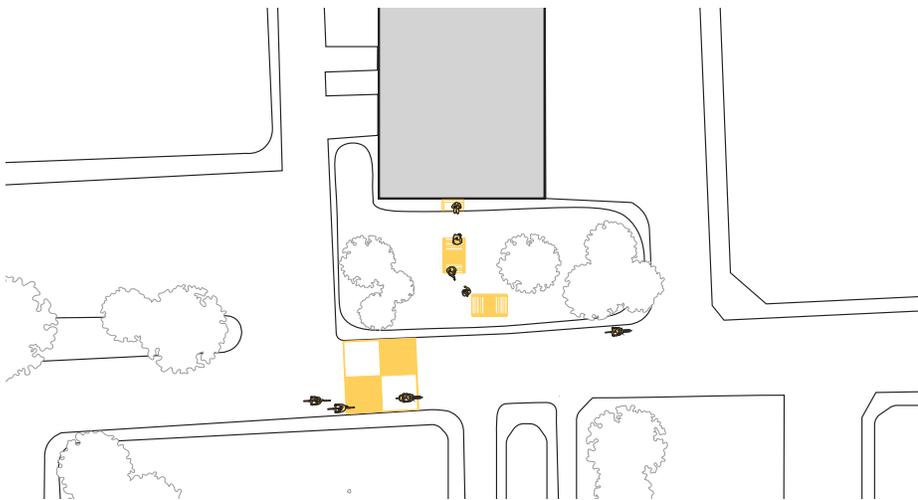
- 1 Church
- 2 Playground
- 3 Hembygdsförening
- 4 Bus Stop/Crossing
- 5 Train Station
- 6 Gathering Point
- 7 Community Store
- Small-Scale Intervention



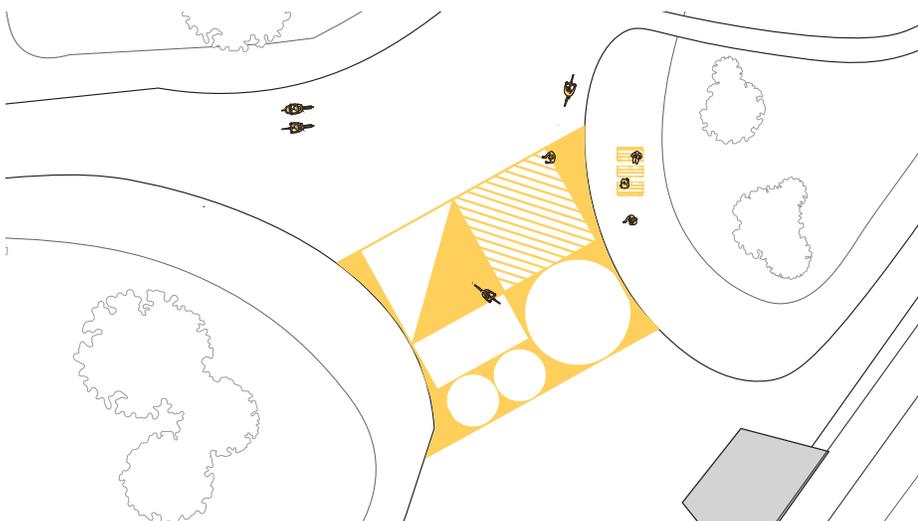
Markings



With the help of the Bygdegård, schools and Associations around Mark, the community of Berghem is invited to come together for an Arts festival. Children, Parents, Adults and Elderly are encouraged to paint the paths along the main walking streets within the central area of the village. Additionally, patterns/markings are painted along each stop of a designated path to give visual clues and provide direction. This event is happening on a specific day of the year and can be repeated if it is a success.



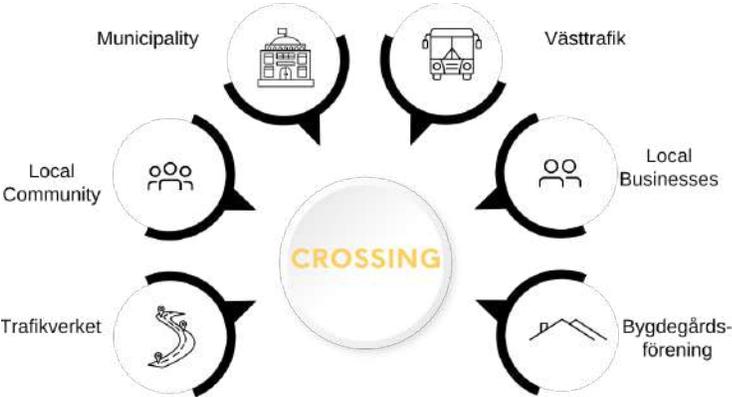
Älvängsvägen 1:500



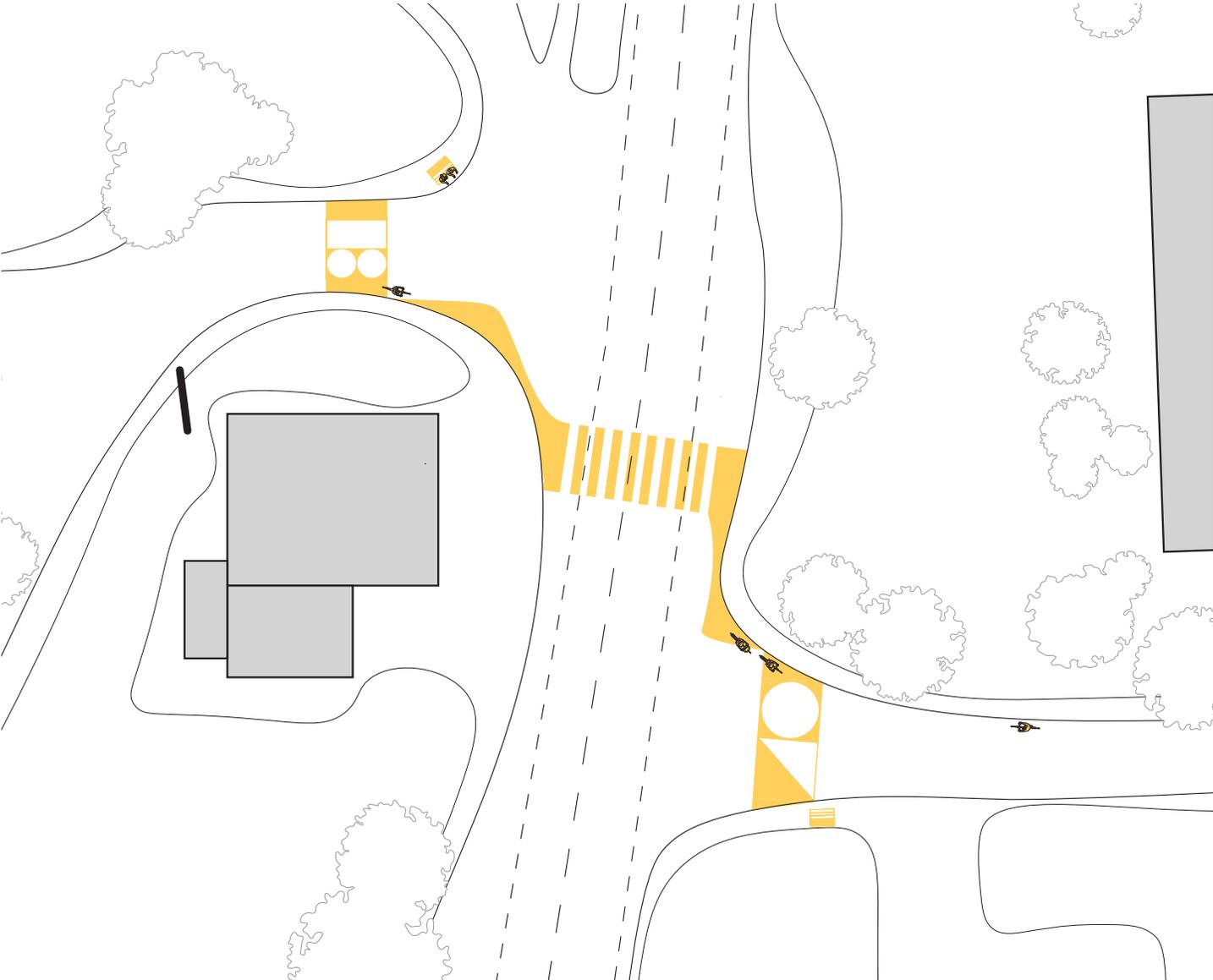
Train Station 1:500

Crossing

Berghem seems divided by the main road and typography. In order to establish a better connection within the village, the crossing over Varbergsvägen is included in the design proposal. With the help of the municipality, the community works together aiming for a safe crossing for pedestrians. This step, while more complex, involving public stakeholders like trafikverket, is meant to show that the municipality is willing to support the community. Additionally, markings visualize the directions of the public path and establish a safe way to reach the bus or train station.

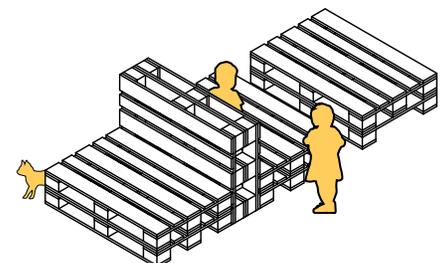
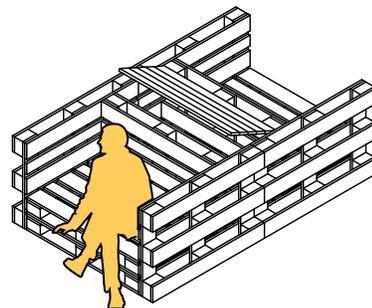
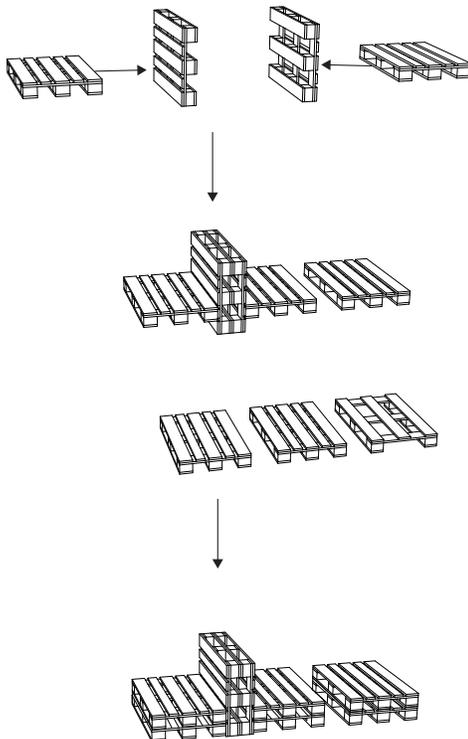
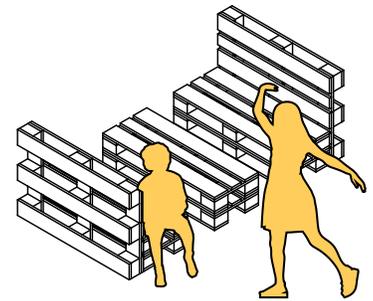
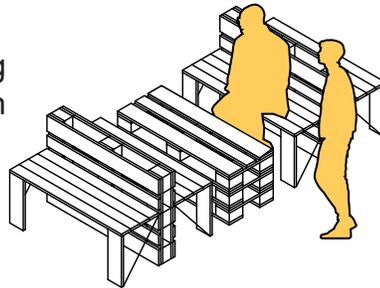
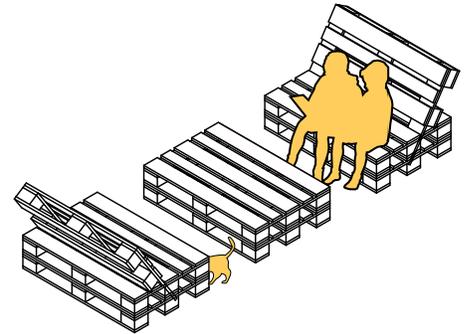


Crossing along Varbergsvägen 1:500



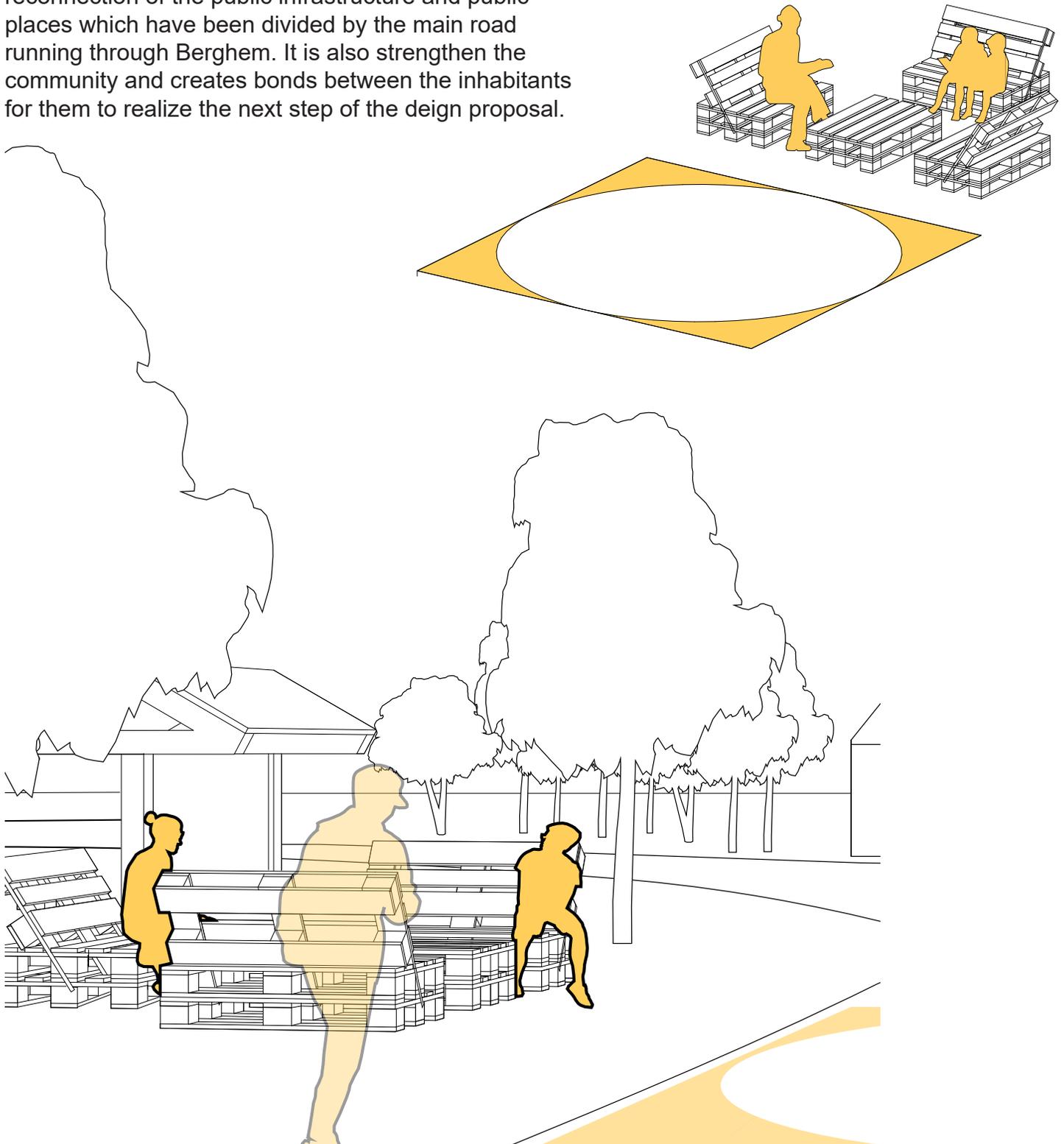
Furniture

Together with the help of the Bygdegård locals would be encouraged to come together to create furniture out of pallets for the stops along a designated path. The pallets are obtained from local industries and assembled by the community. The plans will be provided and don't require any specific large machines or tools to construct. In order to make each stop along the path specific, the configuration and number of furniture differs. Additionally, inhabitants are encouraged to share their unused furniture with the village, for them to be placed along this path. These spots are designed to encourage people throughout the village to gather outside, also providing a sense of direction.

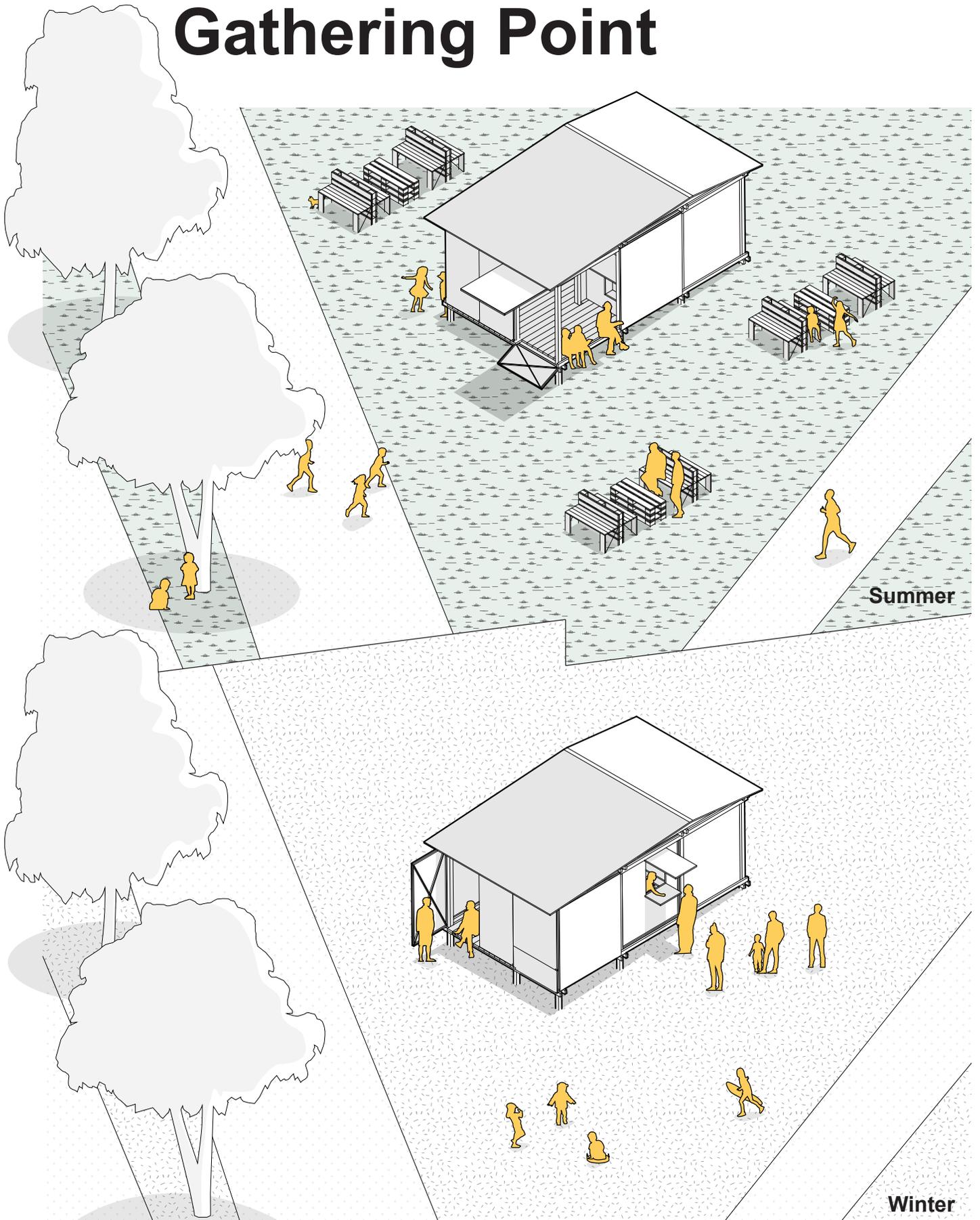


Outcome

These first steps should result in an inhabitable path with gathering spaces throughout the village and the reconnection of the public infrastructure and public places which have been divided by the main road running through Berghem. It is also strengthen the community and creates bonds between the inhabitants for them to realize the next step of the deign proposal.



Gathering Point

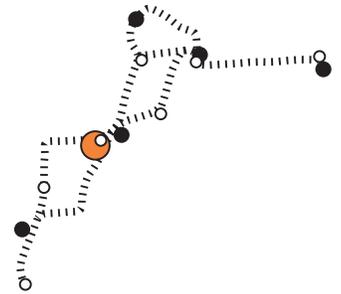


Summer

Winter

Concept

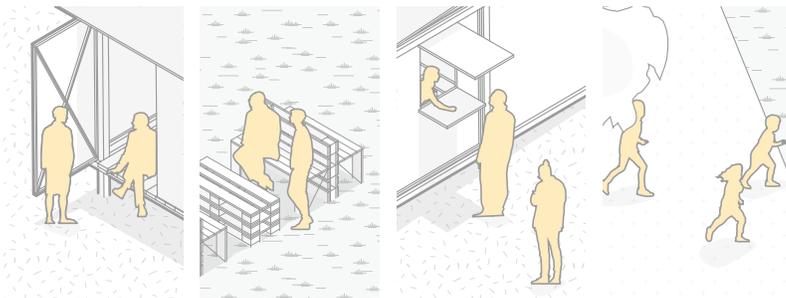
An intervention is built in the central part of the village, creating a space for people to meet and gather while enjoying some refreshments. Additionally, kids can access the storage space which contains toys, slays, bikes and more. The structure can be used all year around with several options to open up or close down the space, depending on the weather. The aim of this intervention is to offer a place for everyone in the village to meet and transform a public space into a attractive location for inhabitants to spend the free time.



Large-Scale Intervention

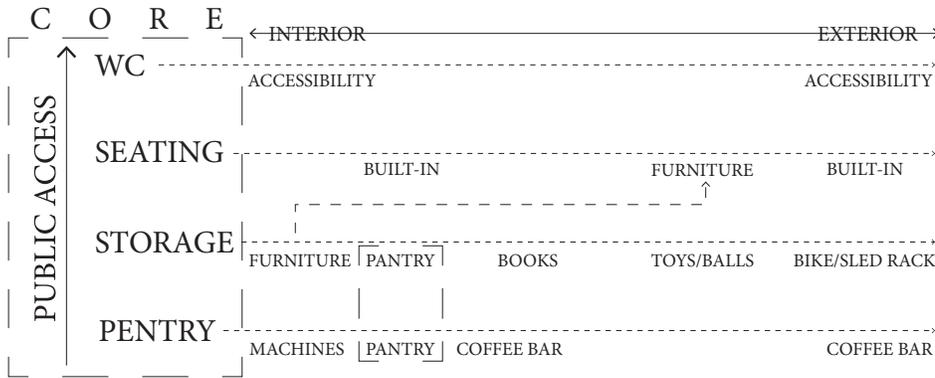


Organization

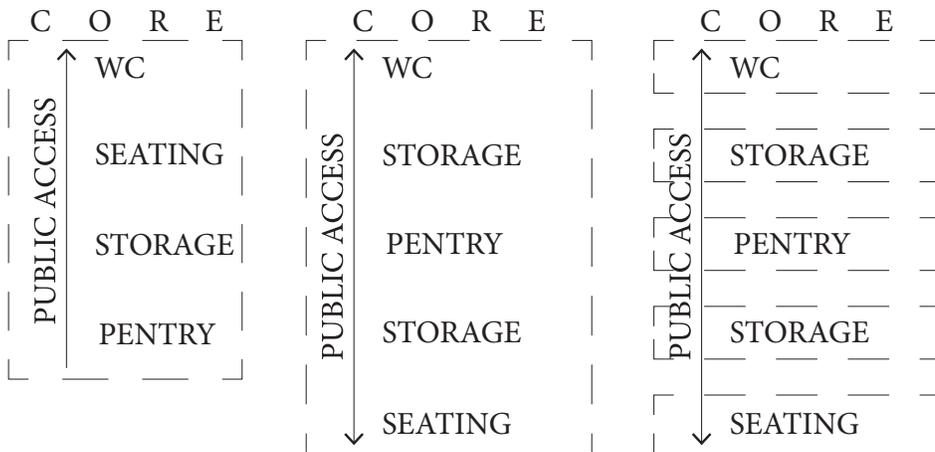


The Intervention of the cafe and storage space will result in better organization and encourage belief in opportunities of the local community and associations. The intervention creates a space where all the different generations of inhabitants meet and it's supposed to encourage interactions between the inhabitants.

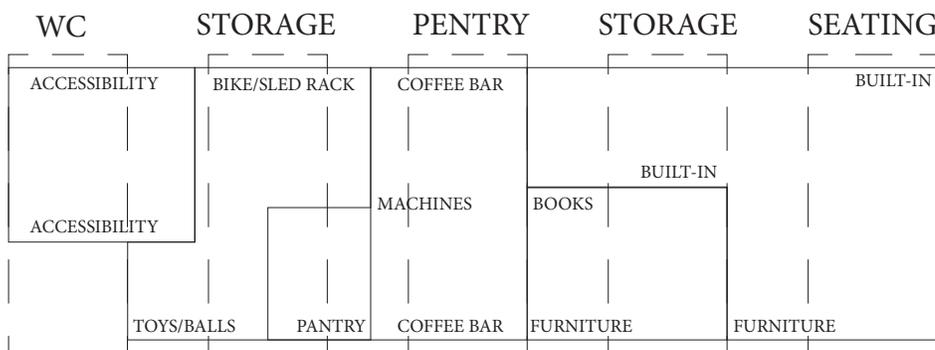
Design



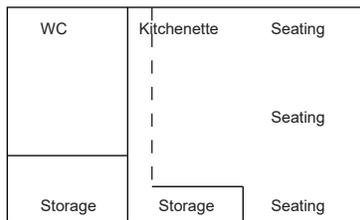
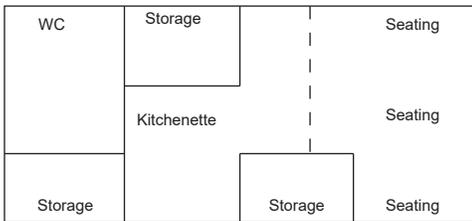
The Intervention has to contain functions all groups could have use for and enjoy during the different seasons. With an accessible WC enabling longer stays outdoor and around. Storage useful in containing everyday outdoor activity equipment and shared toys. A pentry/ kitchenette with the main purpose of providing coffee and preparation of snacks.



Organizing these functions in an order that is in regard to how accessible they should be to the public. Putting them in a configuration that they would interact with each other.



Compressing these functions further to not have unnecessary space.



In an attempt to find a spatial configuration that makes sense both economically and esthetically some of the functions are placed on top of others, intersecting with the ones they are already interacting with.

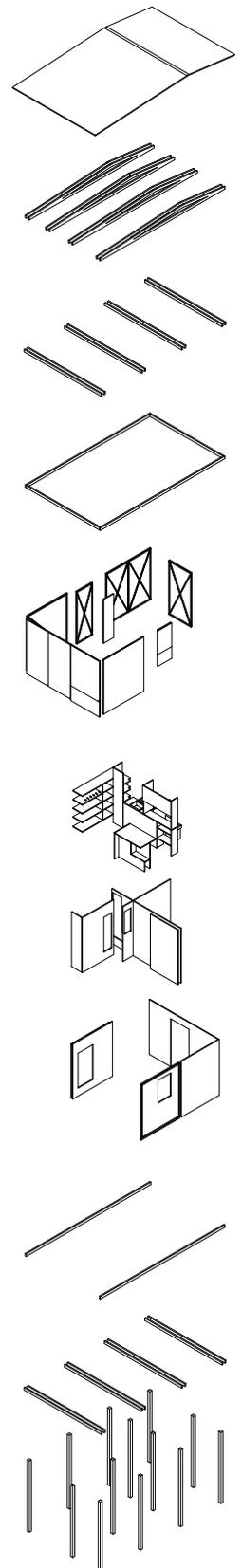
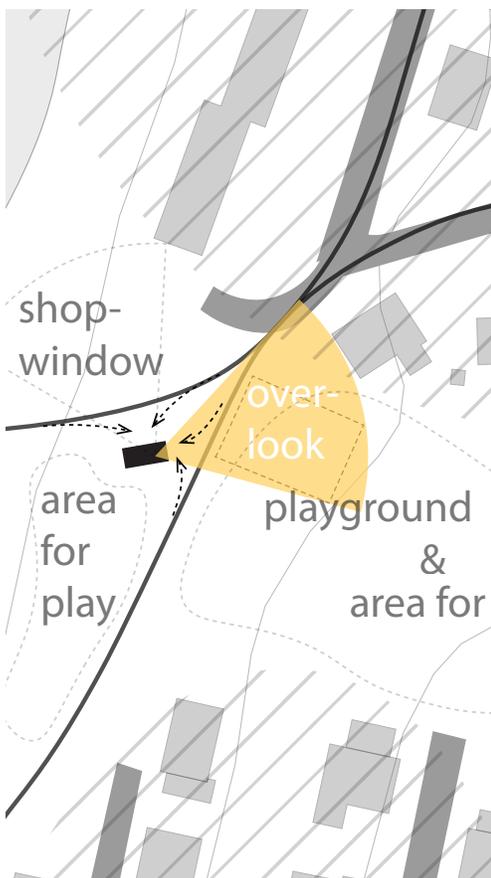
With a now integrated storage space and a re-thought kitchenette more within the flexible seating area, the needed structure is at this point being greatly reduced in size. Its compact size now more fitting into the context, not overtaking the site.

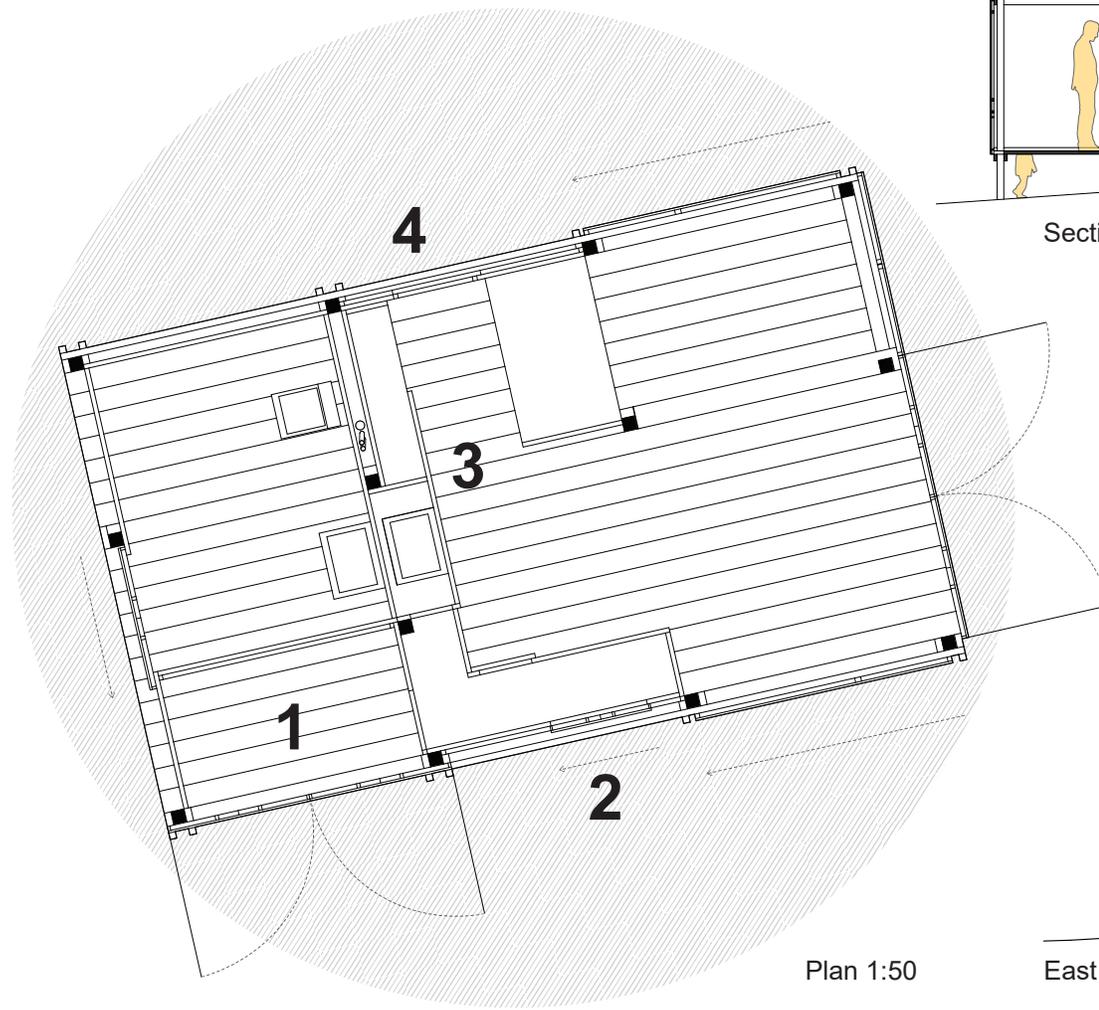
The placement and angle is configured in a way so that it gives an overlook and overview of the playground in front. This is for parents to have their own place while the young kids are playing. Placed as a reference from and the start of areas where there could be play.

The shop window is along the road with the most dramatic inclination, for not having this more commercial function in focus and to create a subtle weighting towards it.

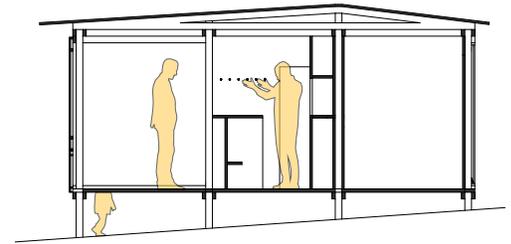
The intervention itself is meant to be transformative with a rigid structure carrying doors and panels that are creating compartments and openings into the interior spaces truly site specific.

A great emphasis is put on the intervention being possible for non professionals to build, with the drawings and plans provided beforehand and the material being easily accessible for purchase.

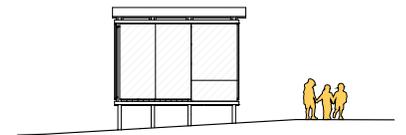




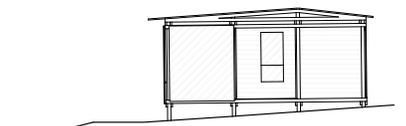
Plan 1:50



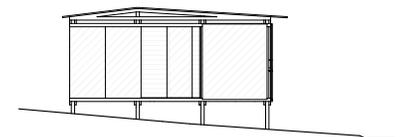
Section 1:100



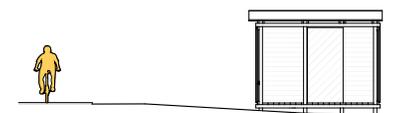
East 1:200



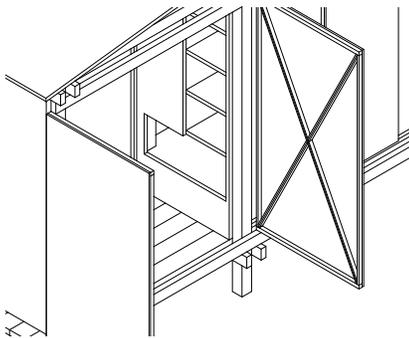
North 1:200



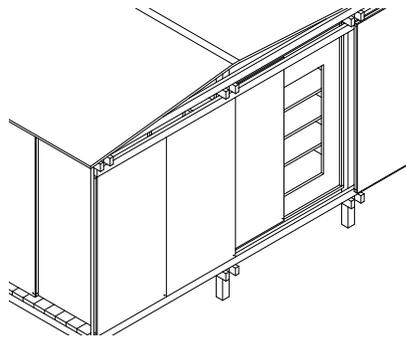
South 1:200



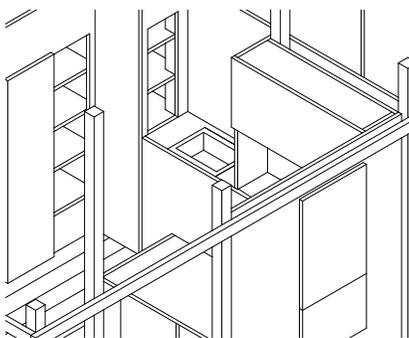
West 1:200



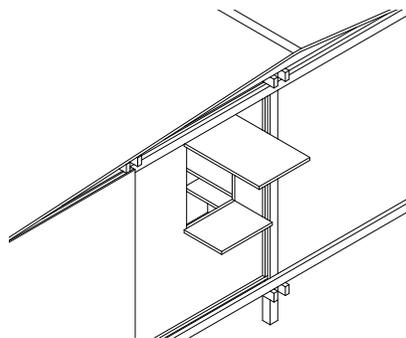
1. Larger Storage



2. Storage Compartment



3. Kitchenette



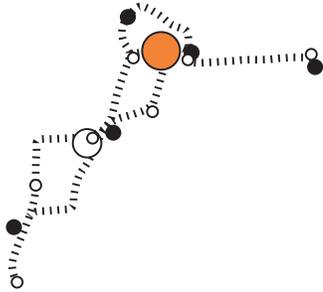
4. Shop Hatch

Outcome

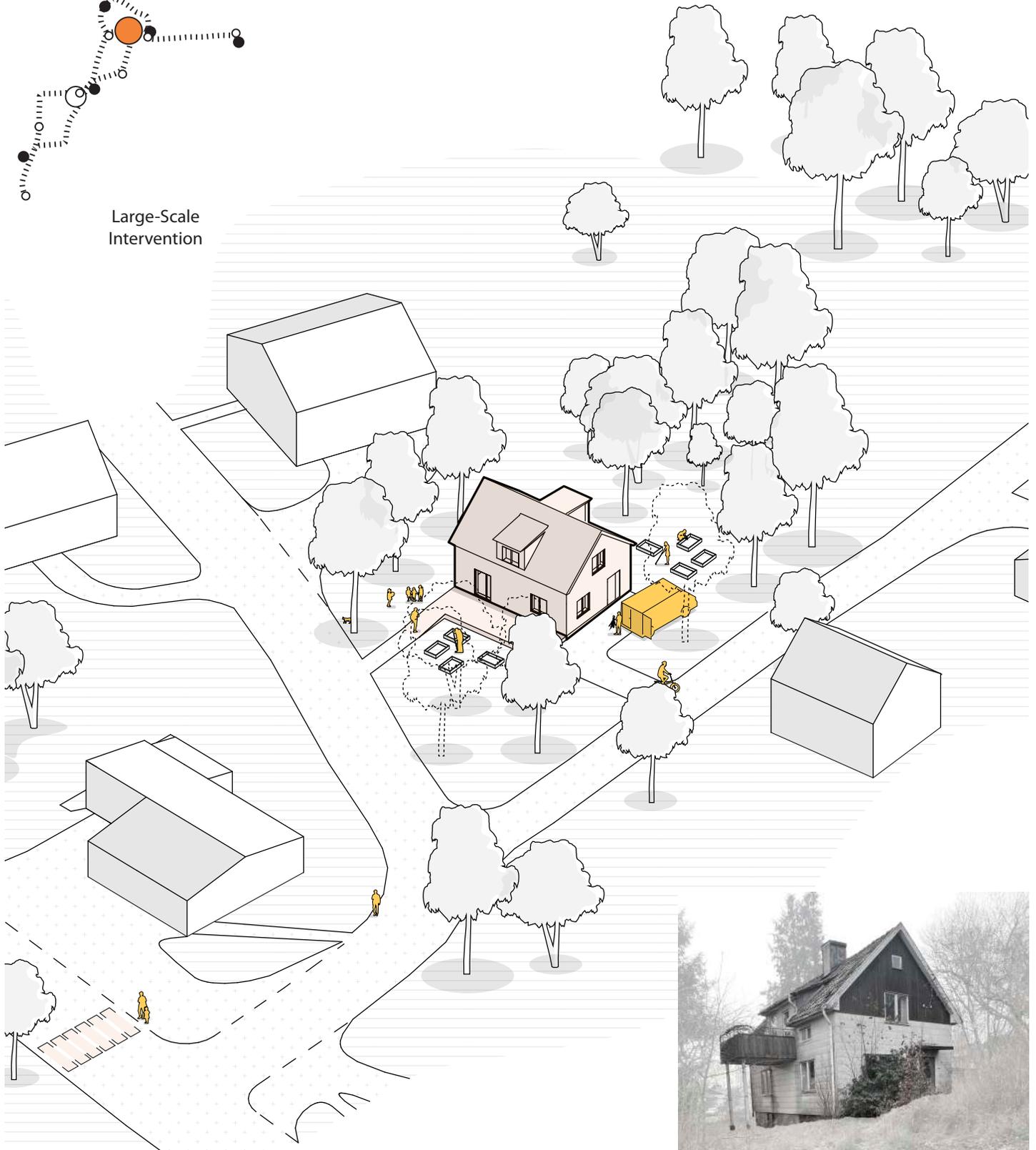
The Intervention of the gathering and storage space is meant to result in better organization and the encouragement for people to think about the opportunities in the local community and associations. The intervention creates a space where all the different generations of inhabitants meet and encourage interactions between neighbors.



Co-operative Space

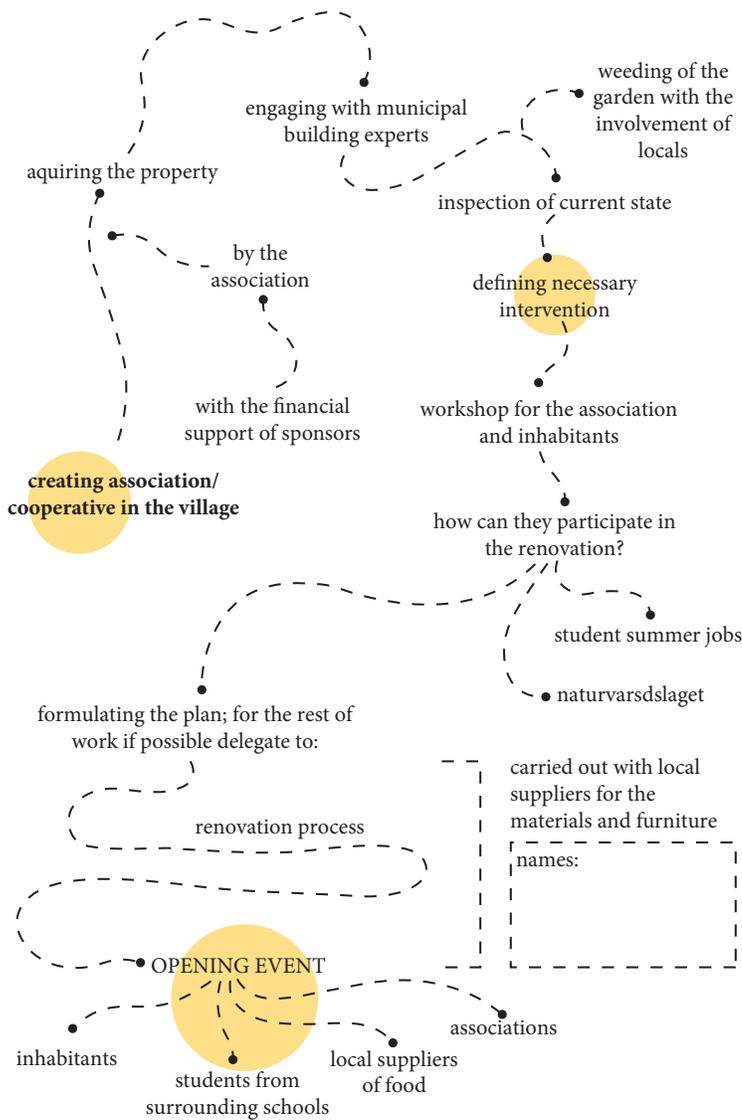


Large-Scale Intervention



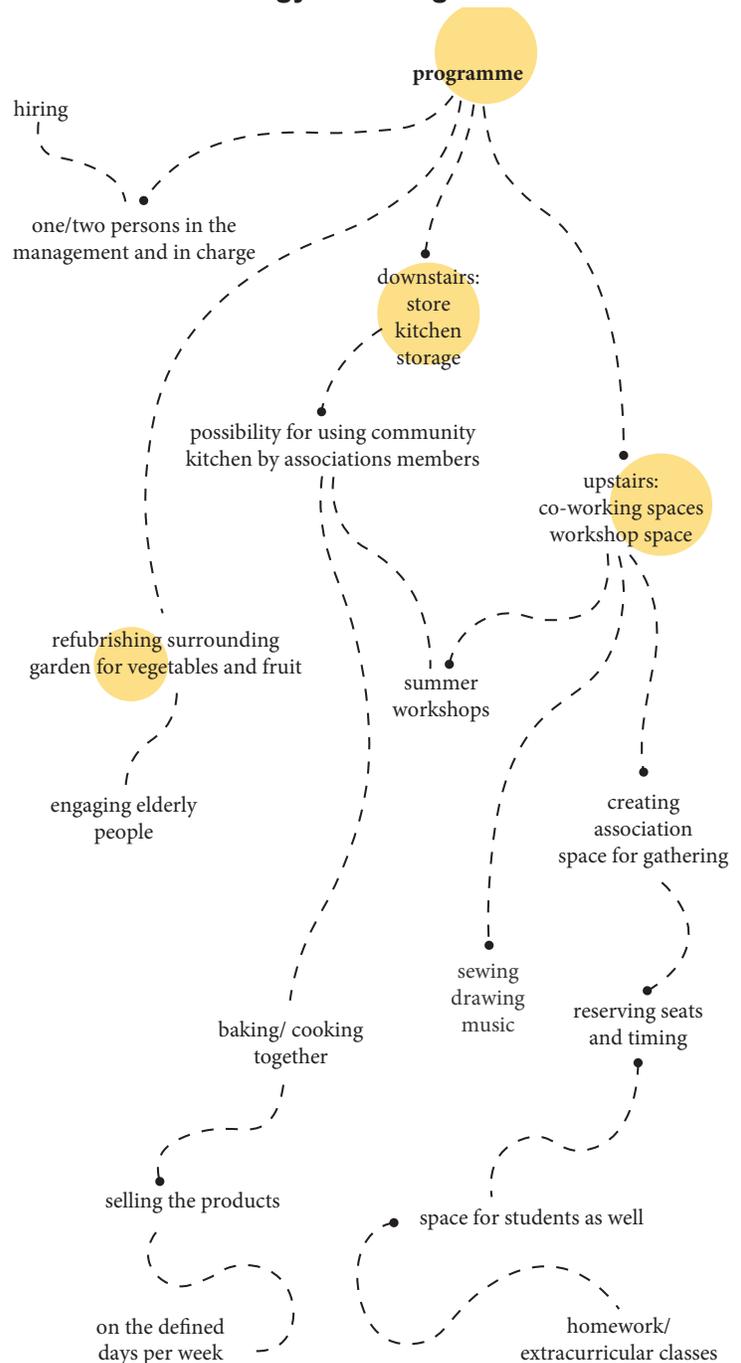
Concept

Strategy of Development



A co-operative store that re-inhabits the structure of an abandoned building in the village. Its organization built upon the ones of previous interventions. As one of the most important services missing in the village is a store .

Strategy of Management



In order to provide a service where people can get their daily necessities, the community makes use of the abandoned building near the main road. The formerly residential house is transformed to serve as a co-operative store on the ground floor and an office/co-working space for adults and children on the upper floor. The outdoor area is used as another gathering spot for the community to encourage meeting each other while doing the daily shopping or helping with the community garden.

Intervention - Co-operative Space



Master plan 1:1000
co-operative house
property borders



Plan of the ground floor 1:200

1. co-operative store
2. community kitchen
3. storage
4. toilet
5. terrace
6. community gardening
7. delivery area



Plan of the first floor 1:200

1. Relaxation area
2. meeting area
3. co-working area

Outcome

“The main function currently missing in Berghem is the grocery store. Anytime we need to buy something we have to drive to one, and the closest is in Hajom”

- Resident of Berghem

The Intervention of the store and co-working space, which is located in the center of the village is essential for its residents. This step will not be possible without the earlier interventions and community engagement but the process will not only add to the well-being of the residents since there is no need to drive to other places outside the village but also create an additional space to meet and interact.

“an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically-controlled enterprise”

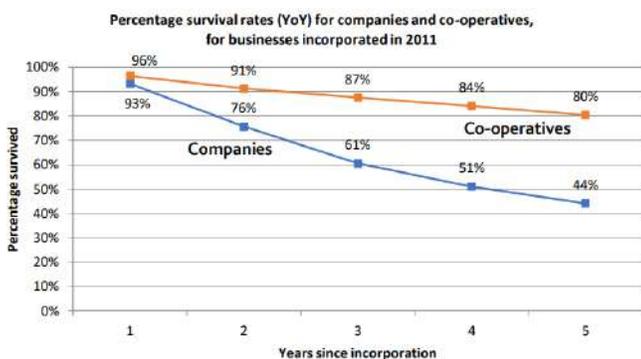


Cooperatives as a resilient business model

1. What is cooperative?

From the definition formulated by International Cooperative Alliance it is “an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically-controlled enterprise ”

There exist various types of them: consumer cooperative, producer cooperative, worker cooperative, purchasing cooperative and more. Based on research from United Kingdom cooperatives are often more productive and resilient - two times more (80%) of them survive first five years with comparison to other business ownership models (41%). It might result from sharing both risk and rewards and are less vulnerable to corrupt incentives. (Capital and the debt trap).



The research also shows that during economic crisis worker and social cooperatives in France and Spain were more resilient. What is additionally a strength of the cooperatives is their investment the profit back into their communities. (6.9% investment comparing to 2.4% of other supermarkets in the UK.

2. How cooperatives are managed?

They are democratically controlled by the members, where each of them have one vote for electing the board of directors. It follows the ideas of economic democracy which advocate for growth of decision power for a larger majority of public stakeholders rather than minority of corporate stakeholders. Usually the cooperatives follow the seven Rochdale Principles in their governing

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control, with each member having one vote.
3. Economic participation by members
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

3. How are the cooperatives doing in Sweden?

Today, cooperatives play a key role in Swedish business community. The 100 biggest cooperative businesses in Sweden employ around 100,000 people and generate an annual turnover of SEK 400 billion. Although, it is still perceived as a old-fashioned business model. In 2017 the Co-operatives Sweden organization was launched with the intention to change this image. Biggest of cooperatives includes firms as: Coop, HSB, Skandia

Reference: Holmöns Lanthandel, Holmö Byaväg 6, 918 03 Holmön



Holmön's general store is the hub on the island of Holmön in Norra Kvarken.

The number of all-year-round residents of the island, located forty kilometers from Umeå, totals of 63 registered residents. Due to this, there was no economic interest for the grocery stores in having their location as there is no a big chance of economic profit. It was although extremely important for inhabitants to have the access to the shop and in this aim they created Holmöaffären Economic Association (HAEF). The members then conducted the building process of the new store and apart of it Holmöns Lanthandel acts as an agent for Apoteket, Systembolaget and Posten.

Because Holmön is in the middle of the sea, the villagers have a long history of doing things themselves.



Holmöns lanthandel and community gathering

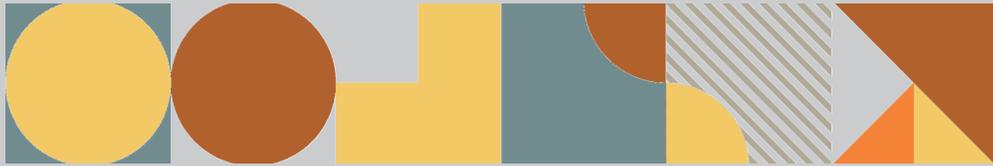
Their commitment is great, and there are many associations. Being involved in several associations is not unusual. The Port Association, the Hometown Association, the Friends of the Boat Museum, the Holmöaffären economic association, the Samfälligheten, and the Saw Association are just a few examples of how the community is largely maintained by the residents themselves. As Holmöns Lanthandel is owned by the residents of Holmön - the association's members help with cleaning, unpacking goods, sitting at the till, etc. Thanks to the non-profit efforts, the country store can stay open every day all year round. Lanthandel's group on Facebook is used to call in extra help on days when deliveries are large. The van rolls up to the general store, and the volunteers walk behind. Someone might have to deviate this time, someone else shows up just in time to unload. Because now all the goods have to go on the shelves, and it's good if it goes fast: so that the ice cream doesn't have time to melt, and so that most of it is ready before it's time to open.

During the summer it is open from morning to evening, and during the winter the shop is open every day in connection with the arrival of the ferries. Jorik Otterbjörk is the manager of Holmön's general store, and the only full-time employee. He applied for and got the job six years ago, and moved out to the island. Jorik thinks that the development on Holmön in recent years has been positive.

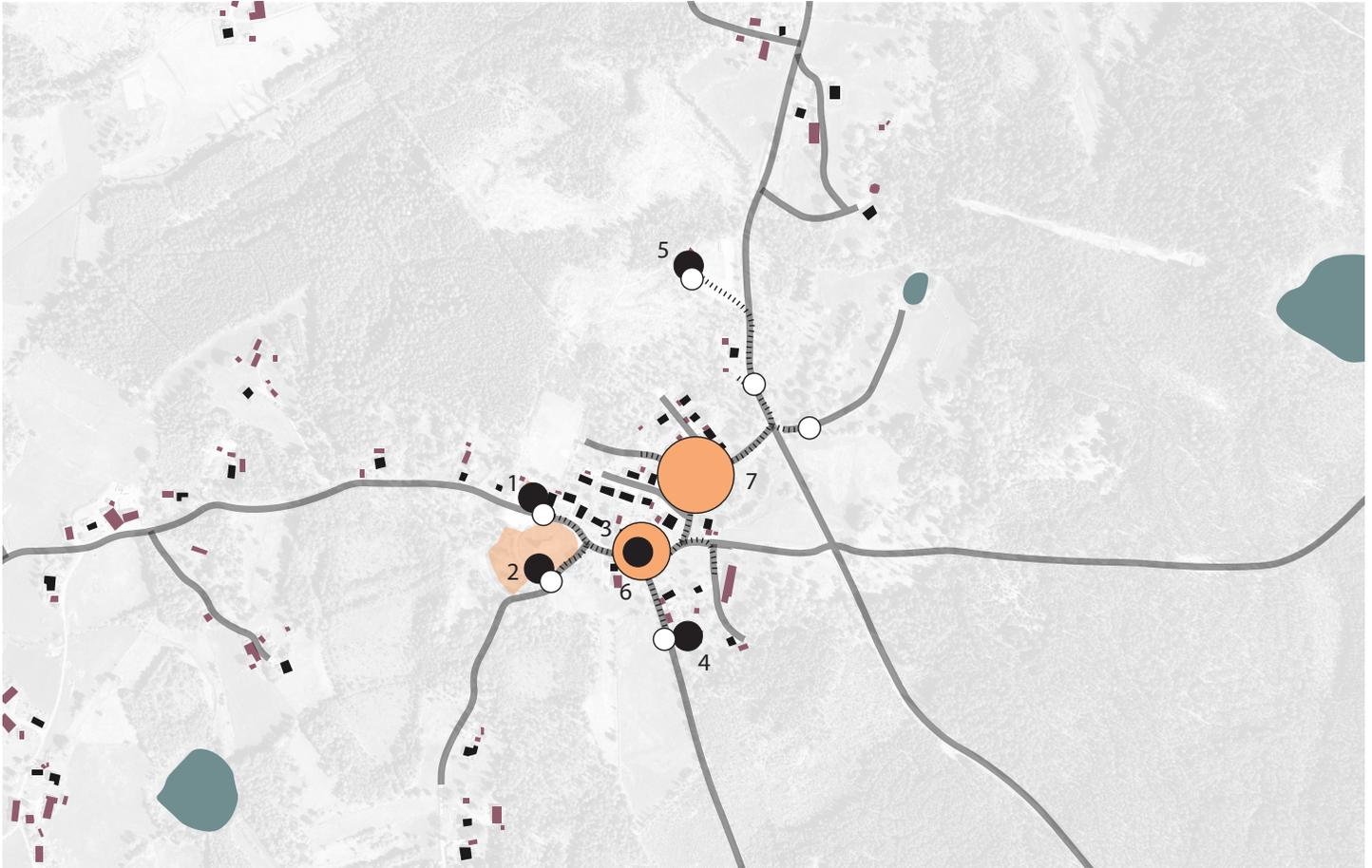


Members of the association

03 Future Interventions

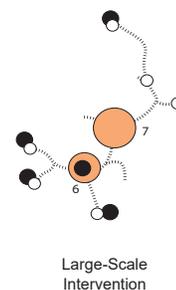
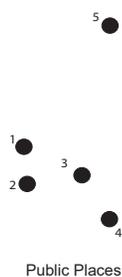


Älekulla

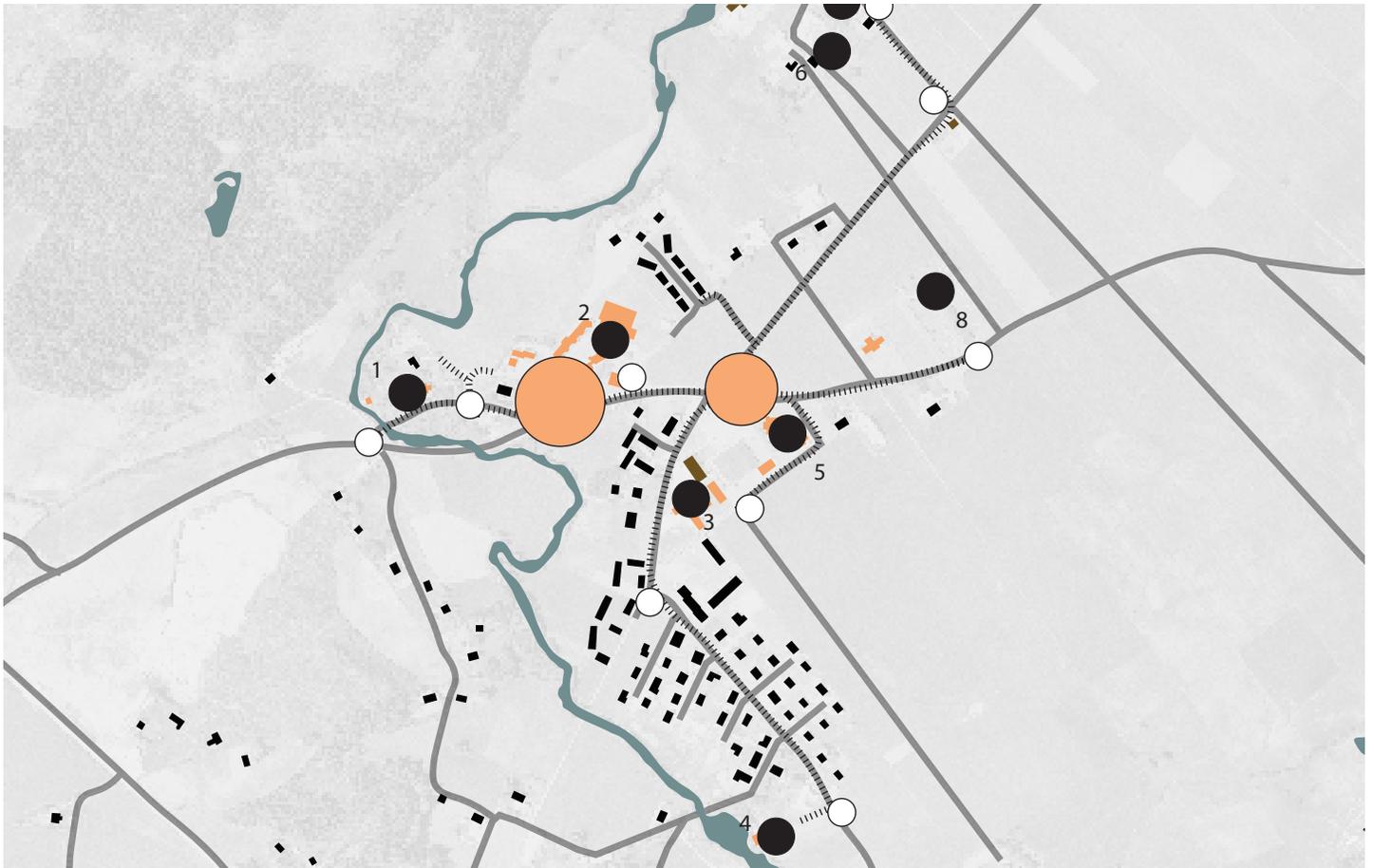


Applying the Development Concept to Älekulla will result in a more connected and attractive village structure. Most of the public meeting places in the village seem disconnected and distant. The small interventions are strategically placed with the larger interventions in the center to make the village more pedestrian friendly and give a sense of direction. Since there is a store in the center of the village, the co-operative space will be mostly used as co-working space for individuals as well as for workshops.

- 1 Bus Stop
- 2 Church
- 3 Supermarket
- 4 Start of Hiking trail
- 5 Bygdegården
- 6 Gathering Point
- 7 Community Store
- Small-Scale Intervention
- Large-Scale Intervention

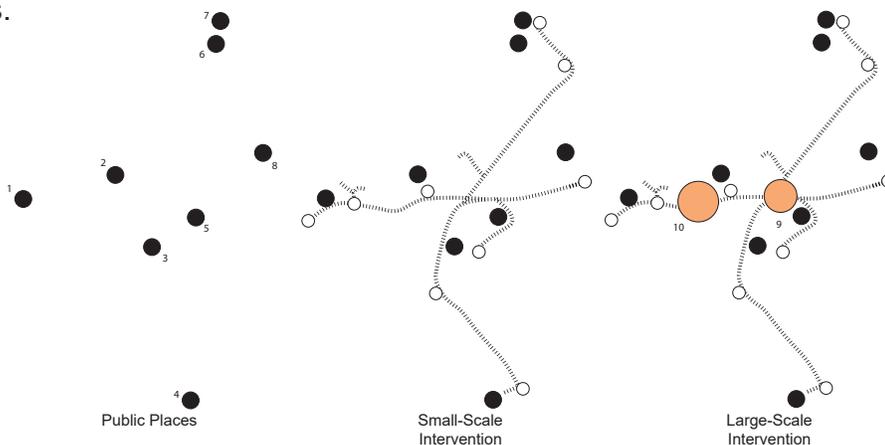


Hyssna

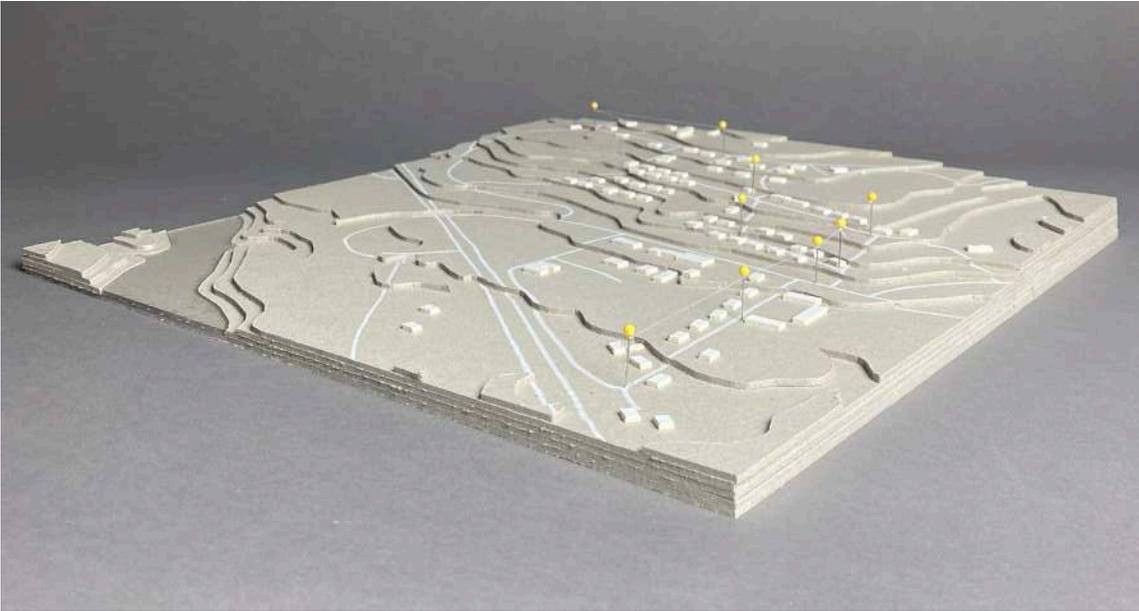


Hyssna already offers several attractions for its inhabitants, such as the sports hall and a pizzeria and a store. The village lacks a clear structure that ties it all together. A new path connects the school, the church, the sports facilities as well as the restaurant and the store. The large scale interventions add value to the livability of the village. The co-operative space will be used as a place for people to gather, work together and conduct workshops and meetings.

- 1 Bus Stop
- 2 Church
- 3 Supermarket
- 4 Start of Hiking trail
- 5 Bygdegården
- 6 Gathering Point
- 7 Community Store
- Small-Scale Intervention
- Large-Scale Intervention



Models



Site model 1:5000



Model of furniture intervention 1:10



Model of gathering point intervention 1:20

Reflection

The concept developed for the specific communities results as a guide for any village within a similar context to follow. Even though the outline includes specific steps to follow, the communities are encouraged to incorporate their own ideas and factors of what the village needs to flourish. The concept is widely applicable, while for this project the specific steps have been taken further and made site specific for Berghem.

In conclusion, there is a need for the individual village associations to take the lead in counteracting the uneven development within the rural context of Sweden. The associations could with enough support start this movement of smaller scale interventions. Transforming the village landscape, fostering community spirit and drawing enough attention for the municipal stakeholders to get involved. Involvement that will be integral to this type of rural development, since the community needs both help but also encouragement in creating and maintaining local, communal public space in the rural context. Through this there will be opportunities found in every place, to create unique spaces for inhabitants to gather around and ultimately create or reconnect to the public patterns of the village.