

Awaken, My Love!

Redefining a public sphere in Hanko, Finland



AAHM01: Degree project in architecture Lund School of Architecture (LTH) spring, 2019

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Hur roar jag mig i Hangö?

Kuranstalten har ett idealiskt läge i stadens vackra badhuspark. Casino med förstklassig restaurang. Musik alla dagar. Dans likaså Från Casinots stora glasveranda och balkongen ovanom denna har man en vacker utsikt över havet Badhusparken med dess präktiga vägar är synnerligen lämplig för promenader. Väldiga klippor och ypperliga vägar av flera kms längd locka till långa promenader Vid Kola-viken, som öppnar sig mot havet, äro friluftsbaden belägna. Storartat plage-liv. Café med utskänkningsrättigheter!

Badhytter, simkostymer och kanoter uthyras.

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1.

From granite to coffee - an introduction to the site



↑ Brick detail, east facade

After recieving the diplomas from the idea competition win together with Rickard Ramberg and Rasmus Rosenblad nothing really happened in the Granite Castle in Itäsatama, Hanko. Some makeshift flea markets and coffee booths were put in the empty shell of the previous granite quarry but in the greater scale it remained a shadow from its former past. Hanko's unequable tourist season concentrates during peak summer leaving the city with unoperated businesses the rest of the year. In the digital era the city need a public living room – a social platform for people to meet and interact – year round. The city is not only molded around the temporal tourist.

I wanted to take advantage of this unique possibility to feedback and explore the potentials we had in our winning proposal. Why did our proposal win and how should the area be developed a posteriori?

How would a transformation and redefinition of a 130-year old building be redeveloped and be adapted to the present society? How are the boundaries between public and private, non-profit and commercial activity considered in the sense of availability?

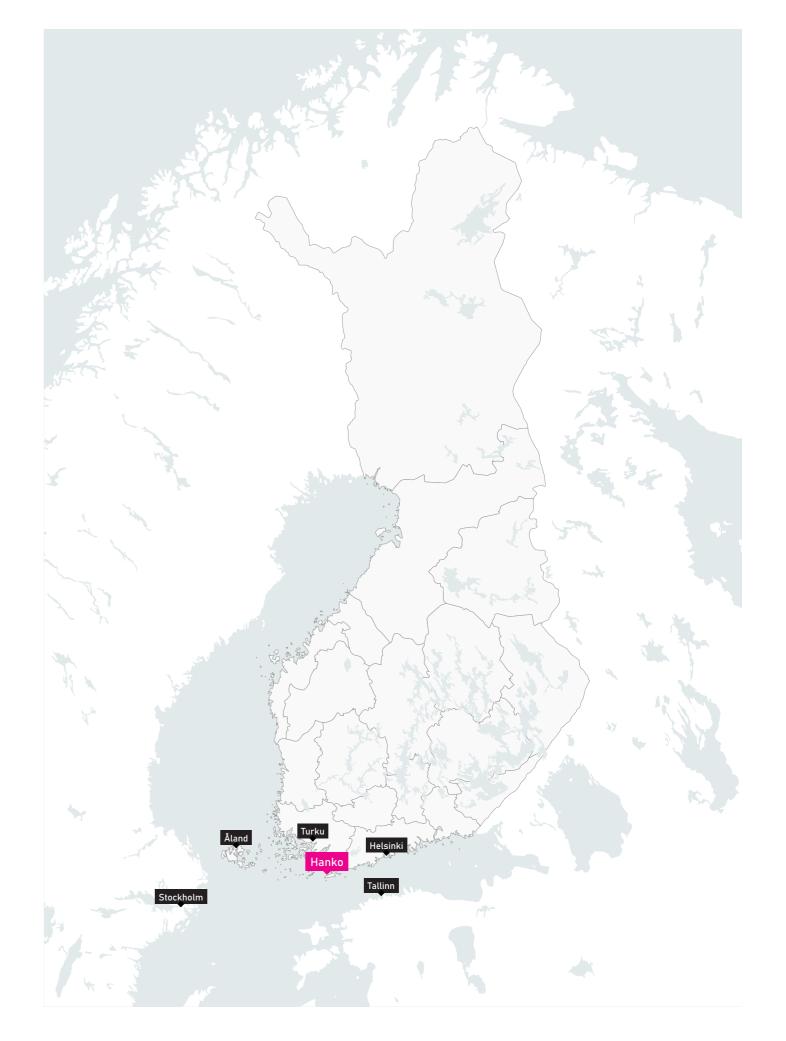
This thesis project aims to explore the site deeper with its history and culture and combine it with theory of how good social public domains and architecture could be weaved in to the city fabric to create a prosperous community for today and tomorrow.



"Environment rich in historic remains often follow a particular pattern once markedly prosperous, they then suffered a rapid economic decline and remained stagnant for long periods, though continuing to be occupied and at least partially maintained...

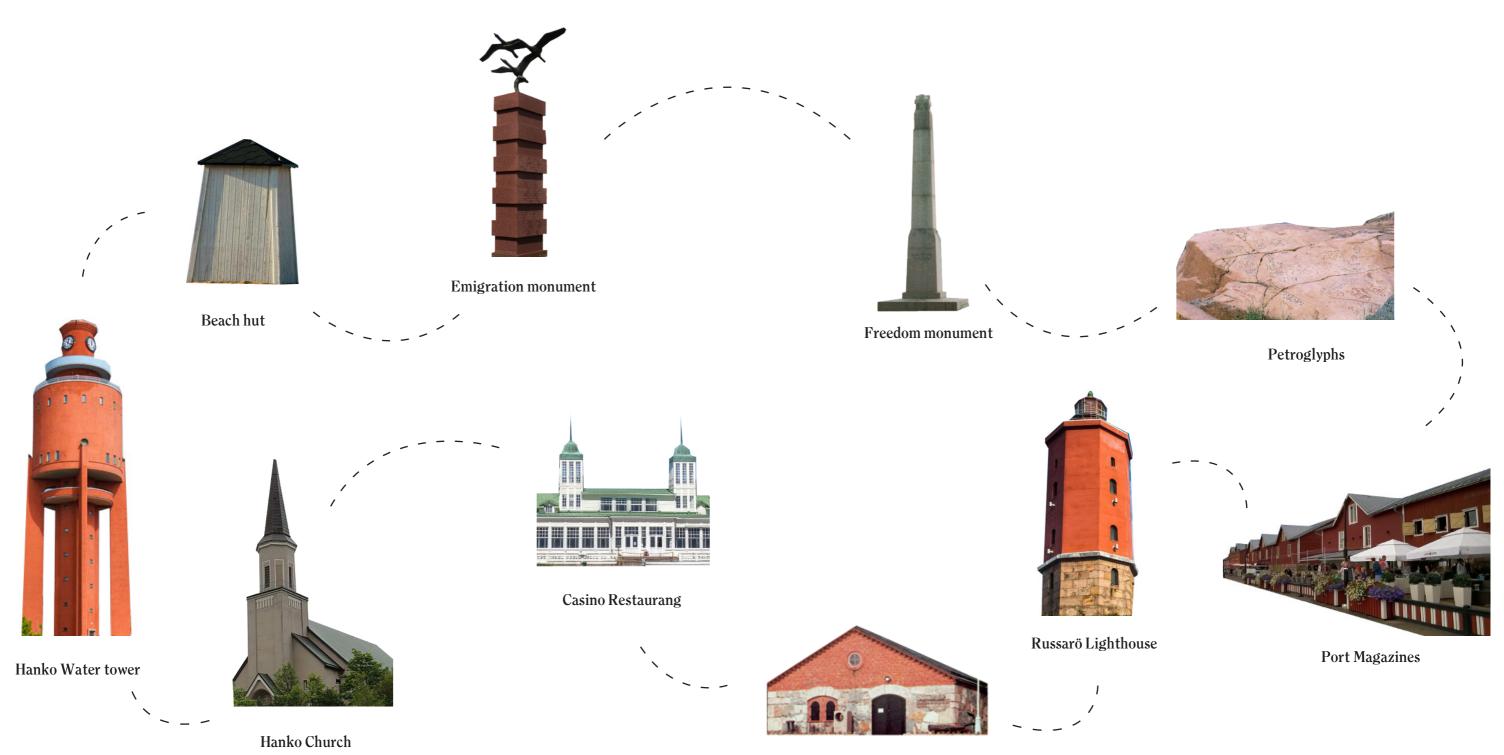
This stagnation must then be followed by a second period of wealth (wether belonging to the region itself or brought in by visitors) that can bear the cost of preservation"

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Hanko - a brief introduction

Finland's southernmost city Hanko, characterized by the inland ice, is surrounded by bare cliffs, pine slopes at its long sand beaches which are interrupted by the beach cliffs of red granite and wooden villages hardened by the strong winds.

Hanko's history as an important port city dates back to the beginning of the 14th century when it was mentioned as Hangethe of the Danish itinerary. During its history its strategically important position has been characterized by war and fortifications of both Swedes and Russians.

Around 1890 Hanko's growth increased as the village became an important export port,

Hanko Museum

primarily of butter. At that time, the population had also risen to 5000 inhabitants. In 1940, the local population only had ten days to evacuate from their homes when the cape of Hanko was to be handed over to the Soviet Union during the Continuation War. 8,000 residents lost their homes when nearly 30,000 Russians took Hanko.

Today, the city is best known for its 30 kilometres of sandy beaches, making the city a popular

holiday resort. Every summer Hanko hosts recurring events. The largest of them, Hanko Regatta, attracts thousands of sailors and visitors to Finland's largest guest harbor – Itäsatama, the Eastern Harbor.

Already at the end of the 19th century Hanko was recognized as a seaside resort with many elements of rich holidaymakers from St. Petersburg and the Baltics.



↑ Aerial photograph of Southern Hanko depicting both harbors Itäsatama (East Harbor) and Länsisatama (West Harbor) as well as the industrial area, housing area, beaches, islands and public space.



↑ Bathing tourists in one of Hanko's many beaches, 1930



Finnish soldiers having a sauna ↑ in the forest, 1941

Itäsatama, the Eastern Harbor, is seen as an excellent development area, where Drottningberget, the gouged mountain hill adjacent to the harbor, offered raw granite for export. An entirely new residential area is underway for both old and new residents. The site where the Granite Castle now stands will therefore lie in a central location between the newly built area, the harbor and the city. A transformation and new additions will create new conditions and dynamics in Hanko. The east port of the island is one of the most important and largest marinas and guest harbor in the Gulf of Finland at the foot of Drottningberget.

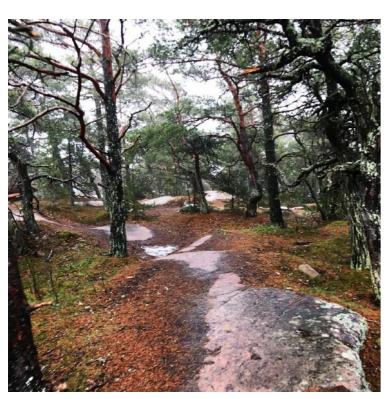
The harbor with its quays and warehouses were built at the end of the 19th century for the needs of the townspeople in a protected bay in the eastern bay at the time of the founding of the city. Unlike the West Harbor, which was state-owned, the Eastern Harbor was the city's own port. Red port warehouses, of which all but one is built in wood, delimit the Eastern Harbor's northern edge. Of the original 19 port magazines, 14 have been preserved and are today, along with other buildings in the vicinity, protected (hanko.fi).

From having mainly worked as a trading and fishing port, the place today has changed to become a harbor for enjoyment and leisure

activities for mainly small boats. The protected port magazines, were placed by the city architect August Boman in 1873 in the immediate vicinity of the Eastern Harbor. They were placed in two straight lines and the Magasingatan that runs between the dredged railway tracks that tied the magazines to the national traffic network (docplayer.se).

The Eastern Harbor can be characterized as a functional sub-area with a non-traditional appearance. The area is more of a gathering place, an open space or a square-like area that changes its shape according to the events and as needed. It is thanks to the site's surfaces that makes it suitable for holding larger events for the large numbers of visitors during the tourist periods. The attraction of the port can partly depend on the site's picturesque environment where restaurants, events, sales stands and evening markets are arranged in the summer with the Gulf of Finland as a backdrop.

There is currently a desire from the municipality to develop the harbor operations and its surfaces, for example how the use of the Eastern Harbor as a place for events in connection with sailing and boat traffic. How can the edges and surfaces of Itäsatama be developed?



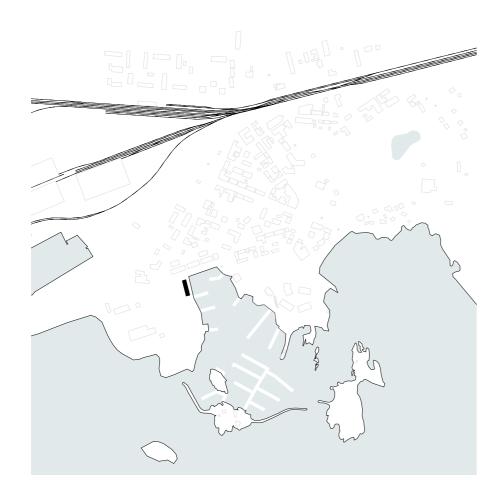












Today one may analyse how the Granite Castle is situated in the urban landscape in Hanko. In direct connection to the water opens up its potential to be transformed to something many people can enjoy. The challenge is to get people

to the site since it is not something one go past when going south - since there is nothing past the building itself. It sits at the edge of the public stroll.



A dense traffic network connects the housing areas with the public functions either by car, bike or foot. The area around Drottningberget, which was previously covered by the moutain

(now demolished). Being adjacent to the harbor the Granite Castle's placement opens up great possibilities to being accessible either by car, bike, by foot and by boat.



When zooming in on Hanko's city core one can map out the city's main public attractions. Arriving to the train station in the north one may walk south along the Boulevard to get to the Eastern Harbor. The Boulevard may be seen as one of the city's spines as many public programmes are places along this nave. Since the public layer is juxtaposed with private

housing one may only stroll along the bigger road paths connecting the attractions. This diagram displays how the Eastern Harbor lacks public functions past the magazine buildings (apart from the gym). It is possible to walk to the southernmost tip but there is no public programme upon arrival.



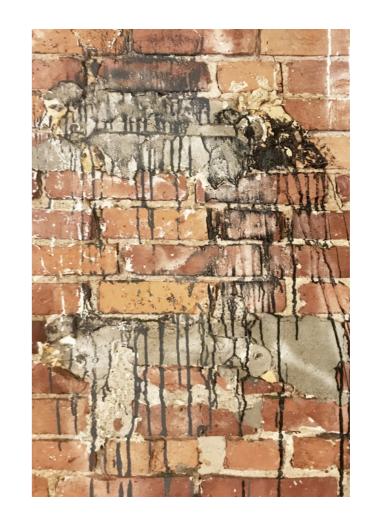
The newly developed site together with the new housing area creates a whole new area in the city. From being on the outskirts of the city the site is now in the central core. The harbor now has multiple centralized public programmes

and a path that is considered safer since there now are housing overlooking it. These addictions now utilizes the whole perimeter of the harbor extending its public stroll from the east side all the way to the southernmost tip.

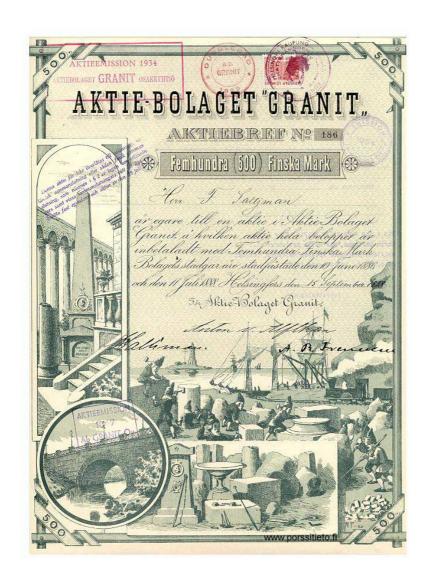
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2.

The Granite Castle - the past and its present



↑ Interior brick facade







The past and its present

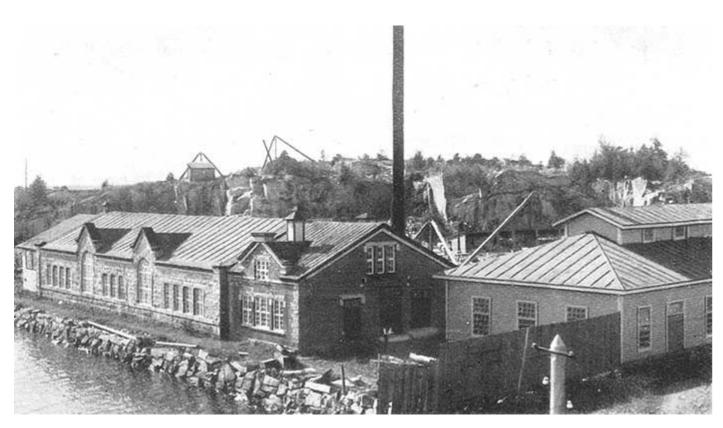
The era of modern Finnish stone industry is linked back 130 years to the year 1886 when the stone industry AB Granit Oy was founded by Anton Von Alfthan (geologinenseura.fi). It was then Finland's first, largest and most important representative of Finnish stone industry. The company's specialization was quarrying and processing granite (uppslagsverket.fi) and

their industrial structure still characterizes the Finnish stone industry today: quarrying of stone, stone processing and stone export. The Granite Castle's capacity enabled a variety of products. Polished columns, facade bricks with various surface treatments for paving stones and statues were exported. In the 1920's when the representatives of the first emigration generation died in America, gravestones of Finnish stone for emigrants in America

constituted most of AB Granit's production (hanko.fi).

The most distinctive varieties were the gray Nystad granite "Birkhall gray", the red Vemogranite "Balmoral Red" (also known as Bothia Red in the USA) (The Hanko Granite, Ehlers, Selonen). Russia's largest cities went through a rapid modernisation where, among other things, they began to lay paving stones on

the roads which, among other things, were the result of the start-up of the company according to Ehlers and Selonen. The same development took place in the Finnish capital Helsinki where paving stones and building material where needed on a large scale. AB Granite's location in Hanko was the most ideal right next to the granite extraction at Drottningberget in direct connection with an international port. The operation was discontinued when the Soviet



Union took Hanko and moved temporarily its business to the neighboring city of Salo. When the Soviets retreated in 1941 operations resumed on a rather modest scale. A short period later, in 1949, the business ceased entirely in Hanko.

The building itself were planned and designed by the architectural firm Grahn, Hedman &

Wasastjerna. Brick extensions were built in 1903 and again in 1928.

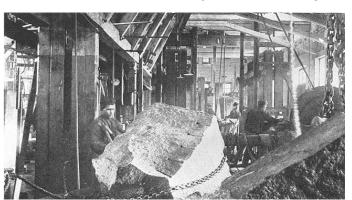
Up until today the building has housed different programmes such as military base and nightclub. At the present, the Granite Castle and the adjacent car park are privately owned by the company Kiinteistökolmio Oy, an estate agent company.





↑ Photograph from the granite extraction site Drottningberget.

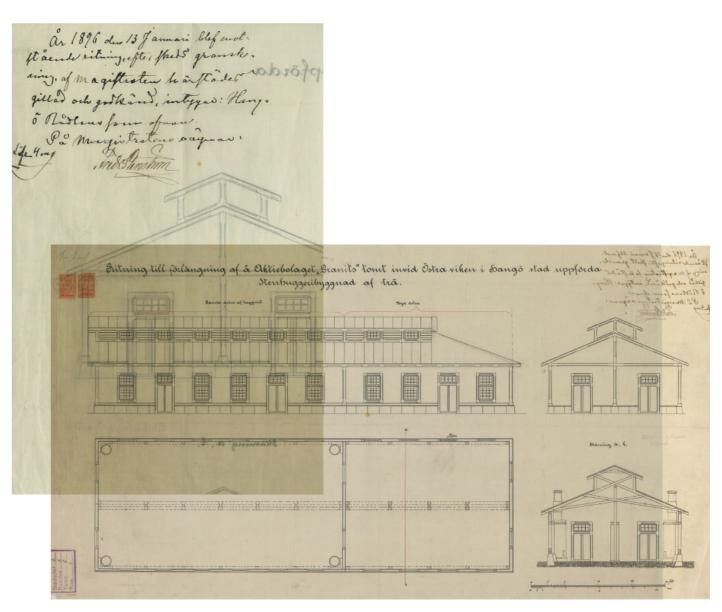
Early interior photograph depicting workers treating the massive stone blocks. One may notice the lack of a particular ceiling... [↓]

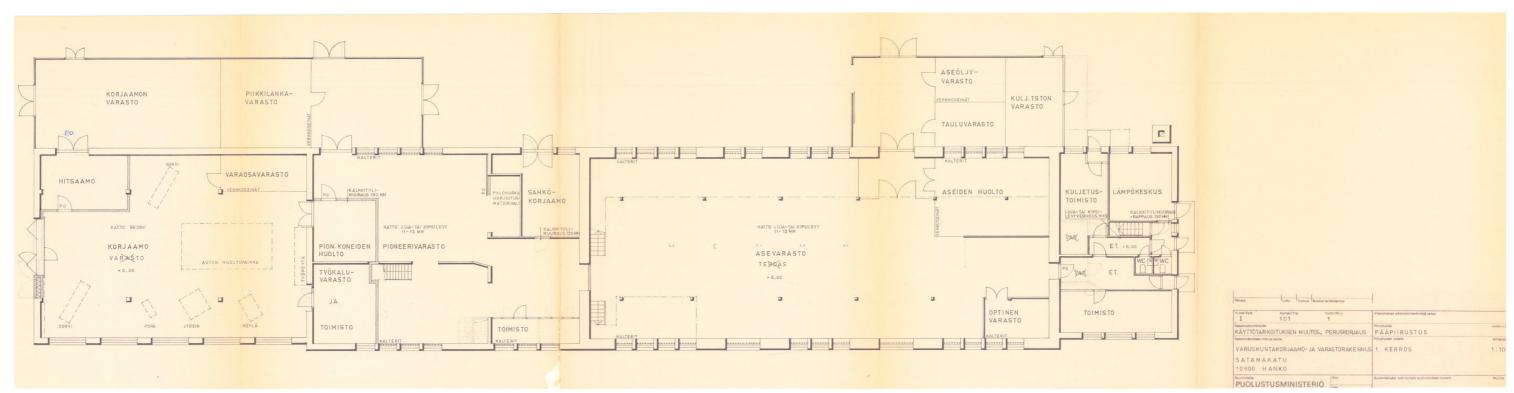


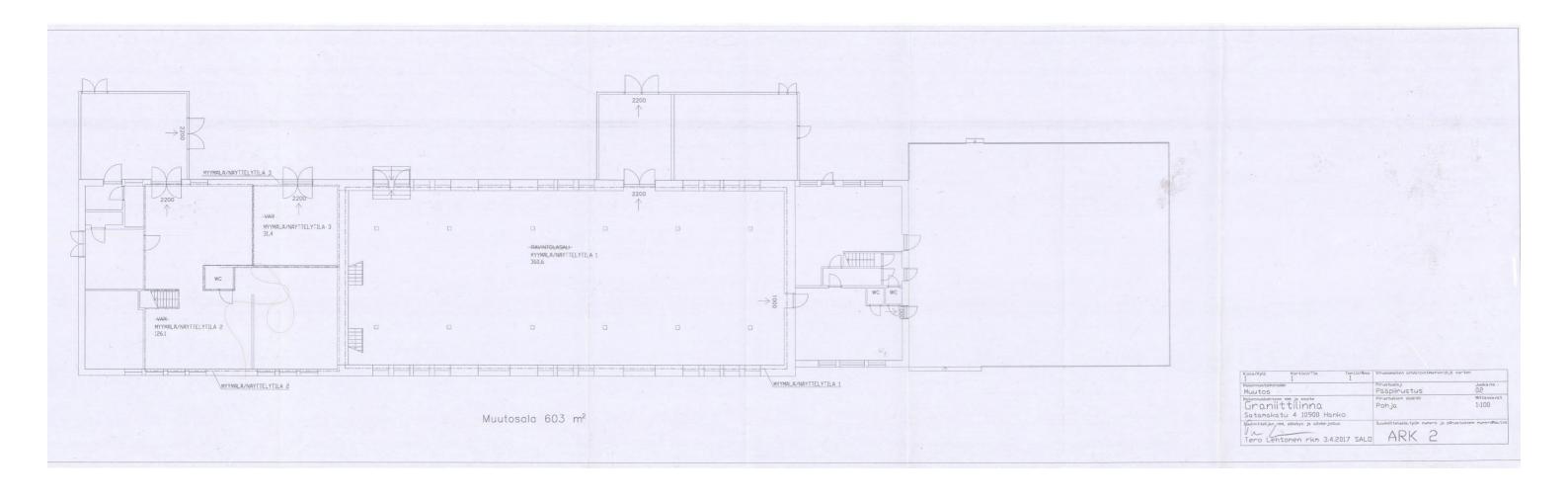


Stone treatment next ↑
to the harbor with
the church in the
background.

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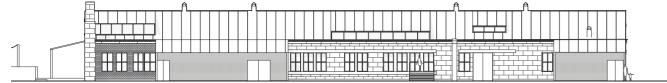


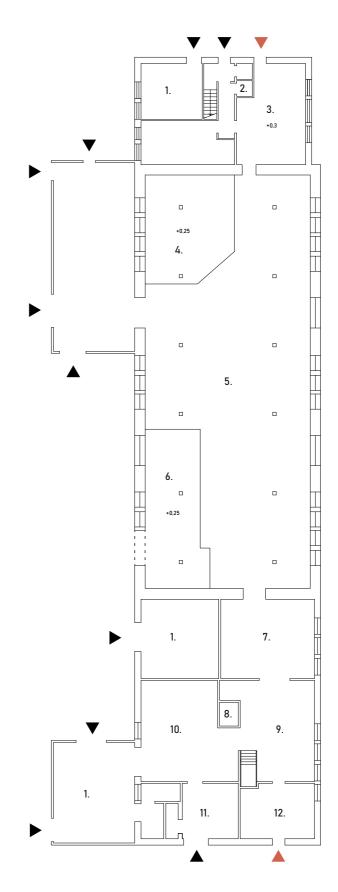


One major difference from the military era is the southern volume is gone as well as the addition of the northern wooden deck. The main space is still open and able to adapt to current events and needs.











Private

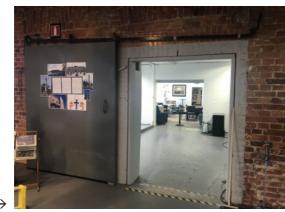


These collages depicts the original materiality of the Granite Castle. There is a quality of the past in the massive timber structure, the bare brick walls and raw concrete floor.

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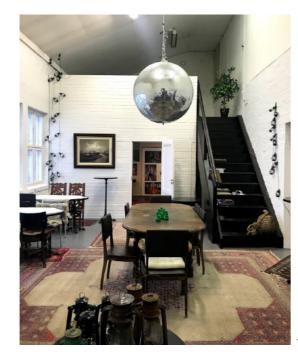
This exit led to one of the empty wooden extension rooms on the west side of the building. What qualities do we want to keep from the past?



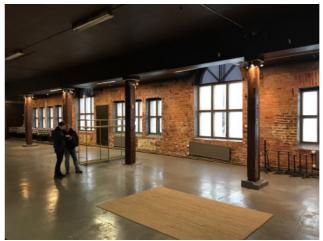
Entrance to the southern volume. This part of the building has white painted brick walls →



Since built, the Granite Castle has undergone various adaptations and ← modifications.



Room number 9 (in the plan drawing) with jolly interior combined with a \leftarrow discoball.



Interior view ← facing north east.



Questionable cut in the ceiling to expose the rounded glass window. →



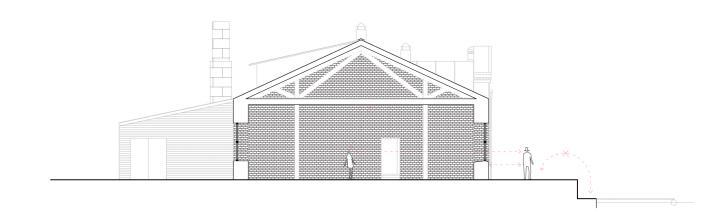
Modern technology carelessly incorporated with the historial ← context.





The main room's spatial quality is impaired by the added ceiling which lowers the whole impression of the space. It hides the roof trusses and blocks daylight from the roof windows.



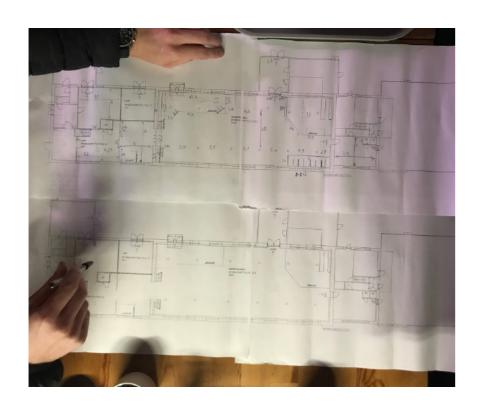


The south facade has two entrances whereof one is for visitors. A sign that says "CAFÈ" is the only indicator that depicts it is a public entrance. This facade has a neat patina from its past, other than that it lacks further qualities.

The section depicts the thickness of the building's walls as well as how the ceiling disrupts the spatiality inside.

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↑↑ South facade view ↑ Interior view facing north ↑ South facade today, 1:200 ↑ Short section today, 1:200





During my visit to Hanko I got new impressions and ideas both from the owner Olli Lehti, the municipality and also some of the inhabitants in the city. Visiting the site and taking in all its aspects, form and conditions is of great importance, to really feel the place. Of equal importance is to meet and exchange ideas, opinions and general thoughts and concerns from those involved economically, bureaucratically and socially.

During our small briefing with Olli before the meeting with the municipality I got the notion of Olli and Kiinteistö Kolmio wanting to exploit and develop the site as soon as possible. Since the development of the dwellings in Drottningbergen had came to an halt the site's programme had to change and adapt to the site as it is today. Soon the discussion revolved around how to fit as

many car parkings as possible as well as how to generate money during the winter season with one idea to transform the structure to a conference facility with 40 hotel accomodations on the site.

Meeting representatives from the building division in the municipality gave fruitful discussions from a local planning perspective as well as from an economic perspective from Olli. Here is where the vision's differences emerged more clearly.

One vision and strategy is to develop the site and building as it is today - with no housing area in Drottningberget and no further strategy on how to extend the peak season. The development plan is set in stone and should not be questioned since a change would add several years to the development. One is set on the

situation and would develop with the limitations and constrains present today to maximize economical gains.

Another vision is to analyse the challenges the city has and with that develop the site step by step, not only with the economical aspects in mind but also what would benefit the city and the area as a whole. How would the development plan be altered to create the best prerequisities for the site? These two distinct visions basically dealt with either economic gain today or social growth tomorrow. What is one's role as an architect in-between two points of views and how can one meddle to please both?

Visiting the building itself gave a lot of insights of what spaces, rooms and materialities it had. One decision we took during the design phase

of the competition was to remove the ceiling to expose the space with a spacious double height. When visiting the upper floor one may see why it should be removed. Strategically it should also be removed to free up square metres for the building rights.

The interior in the main hall were in good condition. The non-perfect - in some places even wabi-sabi-like - facade really gave the room a strong personality and a sense of history. The volumes in the northern and southern end felt quite disconnected from the main central hall both in scale and materiality. The northern room had an elevated floor with a grey worn laminate finishing, white painted rendered walls and none of the personality the room next door had. The southern space weren't as disconnected except its white painted brick walls.



Sykkivä Itäsatama - the pulsating harbor!
- analysing the winning proposal

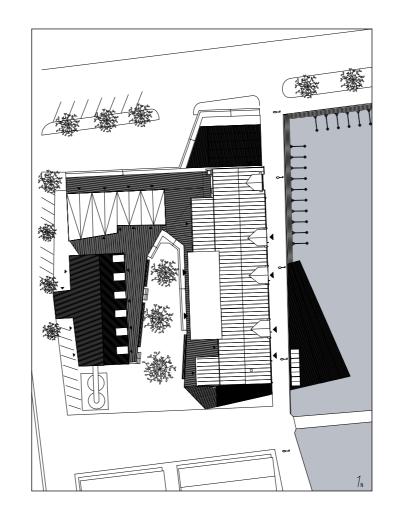


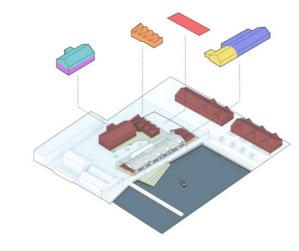
↑ View from the proposal "Sykkivä Itäsatama"

"The new era for the Granite Castle has arrived to activate the city's southern area.

The upcoming residential area at Drottningberget will move the harbor's core west of the city's heart. This change places the Granit castle in a strategic location where you can link and connect the new residential area to Hamngatan, restaurant services and the harbor.

We therefore suggest that the Granite castle be filled with versatile features intended to activate and promote your business. The main idea of the transformation is to create a new contact point in Hanko harbor where both the city, the tourists and the summer guests can find interesting things to do. The purpose of the proposal is to create a vibrant Eastern Harbor that works both in the summer and in the winter!"





This project started with the win in the idea competition in the beginning of the summer 2017. A private company, Kiinteistökolmio Oy, had aquired the abandoned building in the east harbour (Itäsatama) in the heart of Hanko and needed ideas of what to make of it.

The competition proposed two main challenges; one being the program itself and the other being the design.

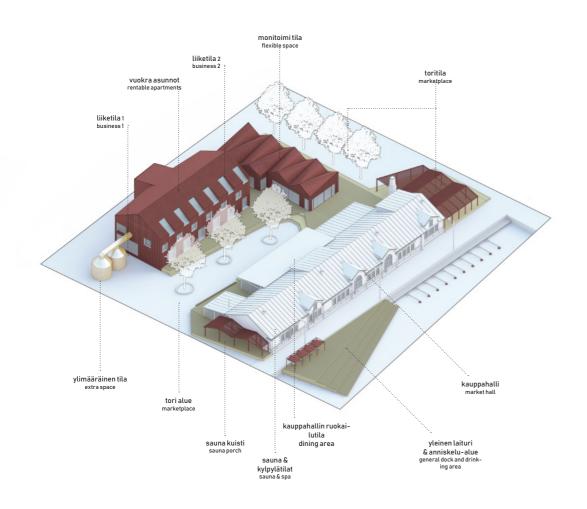
What programmes would fit the description and the wishes from the company? What could turn a profit but still be available to the public sphere?

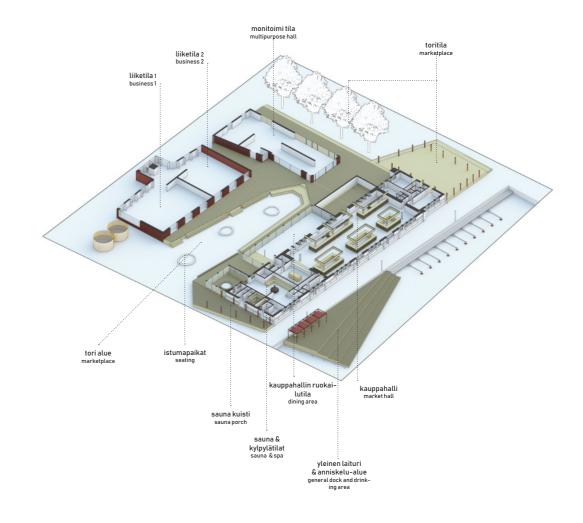
Sykkivä Itäsatama, the pulsating East Harbour, combined a food market, sauna, traditional shops, housing and flexible space in three different building volumes. The design took inspiration from the buildings in the proximity from the site whereas it was the choice of roof

shape or facade material and color. But why did it win the competition? One reason could be that the proposal succesfully envisioned the Granite Castle as a lively and public core in the now empty space. Since economical sustainability was one of the competitions requirements the proposal endeavour fulfilled to squeeze in different programmes into different volumes that created a public whole. However, "Sykkivä Itäsatama" does not fully connect to the site and

Hanko in its design and choice of programmes.

Because of the academical situation, the competition was considered, designed and presented in four days. This meant the research of the site, the city and the building got limited attention. The red color for instance relates to the adjacent buildings but there is connection to Hanko.





The western extension certainly creates good economical opportunities for the owners with potential small businesses in the ground floor (in the case of a proposal, a local microbrewery) with loft apartments on the second floor. Firstly, the detailed development plan states that only two floors are allowed in the site as well as the buildings only can inhabit businesses and offices as a programme. If it was the case that the lofts were an apartment hotel it would reduce

the site's autencity the tourists seek. If the proposal does not support activities during the off season the apartments would be empty and unused. In addition to planning and building six smaller apartments next to an area with building permits to almost 15,000 sqm of accommodation (whereas half of them may be leisure homes according to svenska.yle.fi) it could reduce the proposed programme.

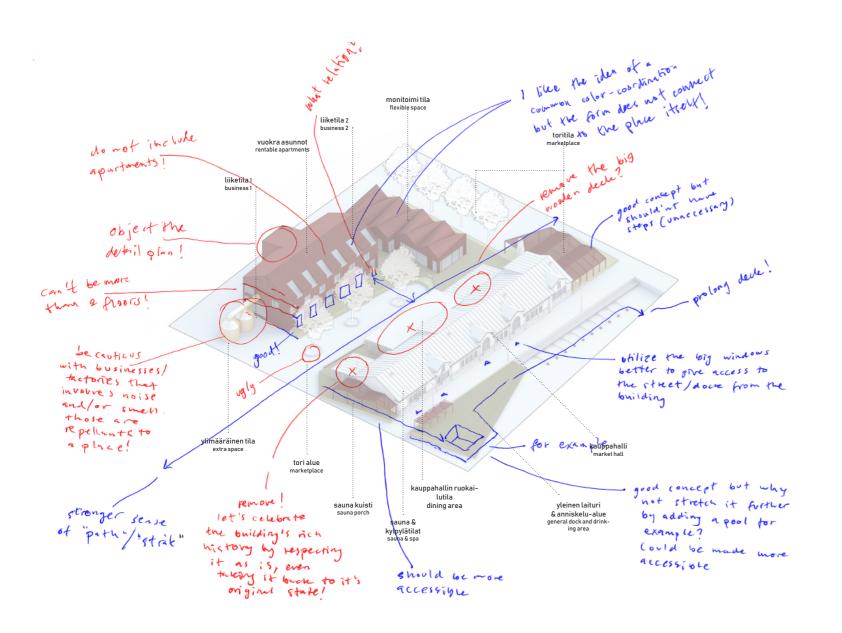
The question is; what does the west extension give the locals already living there and who want to use the place all year round? Would they just go to the brewery or shops because it is a must or would they even have to go into the courtyard to shop? How much does a brewery smell? How much does a brewery sound with its machines and deliveries? Perhaps it would contribute with more repellents than attractans.

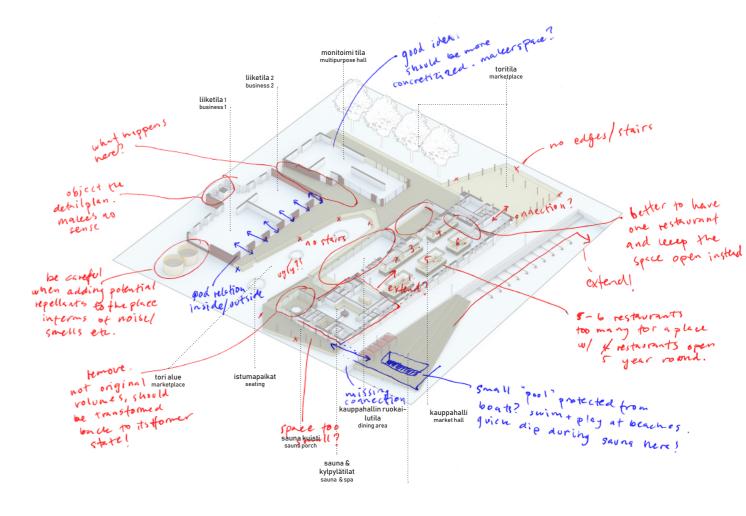
The extensive wooden deck creates more problem than it solves. Admittedly, it creates and atmosphere, a new space, in a place that is otherwise covered by asphalt and gravel. A change of paving material is something one would like to strive for in a place like this to give it more character.

According to Jan Gehl in his book Cities for People (2010) the stair and steps creates more

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↑ Isometric view of the proposal





boundaries and difficulties in the means of going from one place to another which one should largely avoid to benefit accessibility. In its own right, the proposal would have needed some type of element to climb the height difference however not necessarily in wood and made out of steps but rather ramps.

"Stairs and steps definetly represent a genuine physical and psychological challenge for pedestrians. If possible pedestrians certainly will avoid them[...] If we have choice between a ramp and stairs, we almost always choose the ramp."

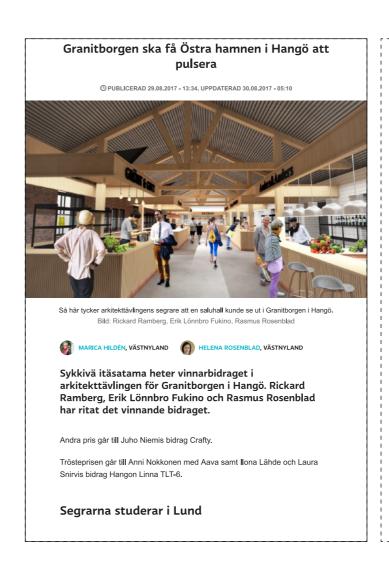
The marketplace north of the Granite Castle was a good idea that connected the city's evening markets during the summer season. As mentioned this space should've not have contain unnecessary steps to potentially hinder visitors.

The glass extension the Granite Castle's western facade should be removed in the sense of keeping the protected building in such an original condition as possible. Subsequently, the other

two protruding volumes should, if possible, be removed to restore the Granite Castle closer to its original design.

Programatically the food market hall works; serving food and drinks. If six or seven different restaurants are required, one can reflect of the fact that many restaurants in Hanko closes down after the summer. What would happen to the restaurants in the Granite Castle after the





Rickard Ramberg, Helsingfors, Rasmus Rosenblad, Grankulla och Erik
Lönnbro Fukino, Sverige, studerar arkitektur för tredje året vid Lunds
universitet i Sverige.

Segramas visioner för Granitborgen i Hangö.
Bild: Rickard Ramberg, Erik Lönnbro Fukino, Rasmus Rosenblad

De frågade Hangöborna via sociala medier vad de önskar att skulle finnas i
Granitborgen. Alla idéer utmynnade i bland annat en saluhall, bastu, ett stort
torg och öppna platser.

season ended? Would they close down until the next tourist boom and leave the building unused?

Why not instead keep the programme, food and drinks, but centred around one restaurant where the floor space instead can be a flexible space for serving, pop up shops, exhibition space, shop-in-shop, concerts... Here the project can combine more programmes that have been tested over the past few summers which seem to

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have been working very well.

Finally, the sauna which is a good idea and well fitting for the place. One may consider the placement. On one hand, it is beautifully situated next to the harbor and the water. The contact with the jetty and dock makes it easy to run out to the deck for a quick dip to cool off. Here there would be opportunities to develop the dock so that it allows and protects any bathers from

boats. On the other hand it feels too small to be a focal point for a larger community. One option is to keep the sauna programme inside the existing building and instead expand its floor area from the current "staff area" in the proposal, about one third of the surface of the building.

The second option would be to break out the sauna program and give it a separate building volume somewhere behind the Granite Castle.

With this we get larger surfaces and more possibilities, but at the same time lose the direct connection to the water.

Bild: Marica Hildén / Yle

Företagare får plats i en tillbyggnad på baksidan av Granitborgen där de

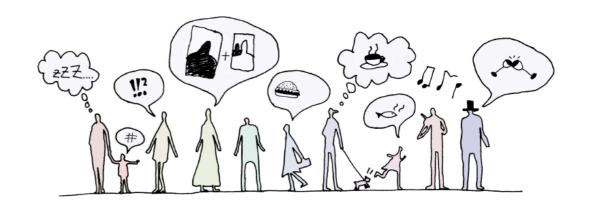
↑ View of the inner courtyard towards south

↑ ↑ Article excerp from svenska.yle.fi

Different "agents" require different types of programs. Tourists and locals, boaters, art enthusiasts, nature enthusiasts, sailors, musicians, artists, bathing visitors, tennis players, old, young, hungry, full...

4.

Molding the public sphere -social values -from space to place



↑ Different agents want different things



Social values are generated through value-creating meetings made possible by deliberately designed sites according to Berg, Eklöf, Livian and Rosenhall in the book "Att bygga mötesplatser (2017, 13).

The motive of this project is to crystallize a kind of cultural policy for the design of the venue in guestion with the help of praised theories. I am interested in how and what factors make a public meeting place good. In "In Search of New Public Domain", Hajer and Reijndorp (2001, 49) write that the interest in exhaustion of places and events has increased significantly in recent years. They argue that this is a consequence of the increased growth of the middle class where the desire for unique experiences has become a phenomenon that changes public spaces. Inner cities are changing, amusement parks are constantly being renewed and museums are curating new exhibitions with enticing themes to meet and satisfy the needs of the unpredictable visitors.

A public place's essensce is described as a place or room that is unhindered accessible for everyone. A pure opposite of private. However, there are public places that are not entirely public and public in the sense that they can be privately owned and managed which act as a public domain according to Hajer and Reijndorp (2001, 11). Continuingly, Hajer and Reijndorp mention that there is a distinct difference within the term audience. They argue that there is a public sphere (where society is formed) and a public domain which acts as the physical place (2001, 12).

An assumption of what is a good meeting place can primarily be its location. Many people automatically think that a public place refers to specific urban places such as cafés, squares and parks. Since they usually work excellently as theoretical public domains, no indicaton is given of the quality of its public sphere according to William White in "In the Social Life of Small Urban Spaces" (1980, 17). Whyte further observes that the more popular public places have a



higher degree of people in groups of two or more than the less successful public places. The best used places are social sites with a larger proportion of couples than less used places. More people in group - more people meeting. Whyte (1980, 17) mentions that when people meet in constellations of two or three, the place is usually already predestined. Today, the public space is characterized by the digital telecommunications technology's revolution in society which has reduced physical encounters and where new and higher demands on meeting places have taken place.

With its large amount of tourism, the city has rediscovered local history in Hanko where new economic opportunities have led to newfound potentials. Local residents usually see past the historical sights while they are at the center of attention for the tourists. At present, the Granite Castle and its surroundings can be seen as a non-place – a place without identity that is used as a passageway, a corridor in the city network. Instead, we can renew the public space by

changing the physical structures and intervening in the physical room's programmes. Anette Rautio describes in "Den destinationslojala turistens Hangö" (The destination loyalist's Hanko) (2013) that attractive attractions are important for the tourist as it would not be perceived as good value for their money if experiences beyond the ordinary would not be present.

Why the Granite Castle is an interesting project to develop is both the owner's and the city's vision of Hanko, not only as a summer city, but a unique year-round city for residents as well as tourists until 2020 according to Rautio (2013, 6).

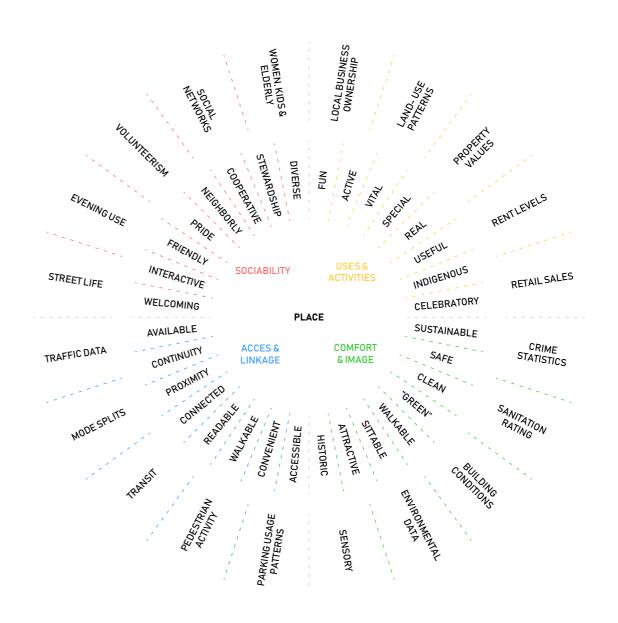
The Granite Castle strives to generate two different kinds of values in the meeting place they, the owner and the city, want to create. As a public space and a public platform, one would strive to create social social values, a type of value that can only be created in meetings between people. The social values have no economic elements or prerequisites. Since the

building is owned and managed privately there is an incentive to also create financial value for the place.

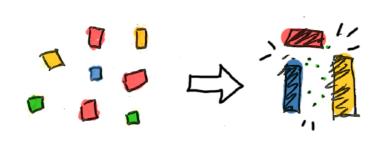
The economic values appear when two individuals meet and exchange a commodity or service in exchange for a price that the buyer is willing to pay, Berg, Eklöf, Livian, Rosenhall (2017, 23). These values are generated, catalyzed and created through structures (i,e, the building) and agents (i.e. a visitor). Briefly, a structure is described as the framework that govern, condition and affect human actions. Examples of structures are physical - such as buildings and physical places and social - laws, norms and culture (2017, 22). The physical structures can be inserted into two subcategories, the materialistic physical structures that deal with the properties of material nature such as walls, doors, facade materials, greenery and functions, and the intangible physical structures that deal with the properties of intangible nature such as the beauty of a place, characteristics and user-friendliness of the place according to Berg, Eklöf, Livian and Rosenhall (2017, 136). Therefore, it is of vital nature that the place recieves good attractors and works actively to reduce any repellents to the best of their ability (2017, 138).

Examples of repellents one should reduce to the best of one's ability: poor odor, light and sound environments, lack of maintenance and care of the physical structure and uncertainties around the site's accessibility.

Examples of attractants one should emphasize to the best of one's abilities to attract - and retain - visitors and users: good quality of food and drinks, beautiful environment, green elements, pleasant climate, seatings, close proximity to people who enable and/or contribute to social interaction (2017, 141-143).



↑ Interpolation of Whyte's Project for Public Spaces of key attributes for successful places

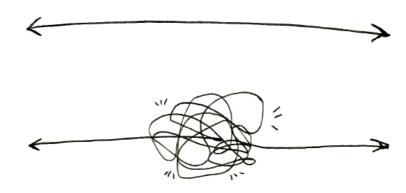


Condensing multiple different types of activities into one site appeals more to different people during different times of the day and year.

By dividing different kinds of activities we can attract different people to the same place. Berg Eklöf, Livian and Rosenhall (2017) argues that by dividing the activities into three categories, necessary, elective and social activities, we create a challenge and opportunity for the social interactions. The elective (free will) activity could for instance be sitting in the sun, walk or excercise (physical place important!). The social (often dependent on others) activity could for example be interacting or observing with other people. Lastly, the necessary activities could be studying, working or shopping - something one must do. The challenge is to make the meeting places attractive to attract - and retain - the users for their social activities while the opportunities lies in creating good meeting places around the necessary activities that are often already meeting places.

As an example, a de facto meeting place could be the stairwell which with an added bench may indicate a place to sit on and invite other for interaction, as stated by Berg, Eklöf, Livian and Rosenhall (2017, 148). For a place to activate meetings and interactions it needs social generators. It could be a television showing sports at a pub or other physical elements – a third thing to focus on than ourselves. Combined with social catalysts, which could be the space's furnishings, social interactions are easier occured.

Jan Gehl writes in his book "Cities for People" (2010) how a combination of daily routines and habits together with good articulated spaces creates an environment for smaller events. When a place has these criteria, a kind of domino effect follows where something happens because somethings happens because something happens because something happens because... In the same spirit as how good routines and rooms create events that create life, areas that do not provide the same quality can create a downward spiral. Nothing happens because nothing happens because nothing happens because...



The theory points to a triangulation of activities and programmes with a rule of thumb of at least ten different activities to get people to stay on the place. What attracts most people is other people!

This quote were made apparent when talking to some of the locals in Hanko during my site visit. Upon being asked what she did in her spare time her response was "nothing, because nothing happens in Hanko during the winter".

The meeting place in this project has it roots in the Granite Castle that will act as the physical structure of the meeting place as it is an actual physical building in a physical location. On the site, additional physical structures will be erected and planned to generate expanded social and economic values for all involved actors who can form the basis of Hanko's social and economic development. In a period where the number of meeting places, both physical and virtual (social media, traditional media, forums...) per capita is more than ever, even more meeting places may seem superflous. The role of the square, the church and the town hall in the past is not the same today. But building more places to meet in a city not only means immediate values but also increases the potential for future creations of values

through the activitites and exchanges made on the site. In a city like Hanko, which annually sees a reduction in its population (hanko.fi) a well-designed and functioning social node in the heat of the city can become a part of a crucial factor for the city's survival. The Granite Castle's challenge in the city is to relate to the site's hierarchy and dimensions. An ambiguity in each one creates an uncertainty among potential users. May I be here? Who may be here? Are everyone welcome? Jan Gehl (2010, 67) argues that instead of creating public places in abundance for few people, one should instead limit and concentrate the surfaces to produce the clarity of the place. In Cities for People (2010), Gehl also argues that even adding more seating. removing car traffic and restoring a space, can provide completely new patterns of movement in a city. Gehl also presents important arguments in why one should rather invest in a place's quality rather than quantity. More people are not egual to a good place. Gehl (2010, 16-17) believes that if one work with the place's time and quality rather than with numbers and quantity, the city's

"For places that do not have meeting places, the consequences of absence today are all the more serious. Highly educated people are inceasingly seeking to the stronger parts of the network where the connections - and the opportunities - are as many as possible"

quality is improved for everyone involved. Is a place many use as a passageway considered as a popular and better place than a place where fewer people stay but for a longer period?

It is also important to consider the Granite Castle's future adaptability to contribute to the temporal meeting places that arise during the popular events that take place in the city. For example, the Hanko Regatta is one of Hanko's largest events where the city is filled with thousands of tourists and sailors in the Eastern Harbor. Here there are good opportunities for the building to contribute with a social public space where local residents and tourists can interact in a value-creating neutral arena.

With more meeting places per capita, a meeting place must be made attractive to attract the desired target groups, which can be achieved by thematising and specializing the place to stand out among the competition. This means that the site's soft values play an inceasing role; the experience, aesthetics, values, social content,

accessibility and so forth as stated by Berg, Eklöf, Livian and Rosenhall (2017, 56)

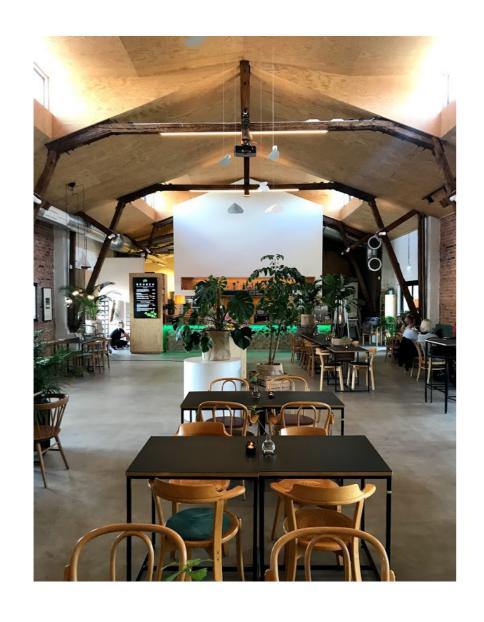
In the public space discourse, German philosopher Jürgen Habermas said that universal access and openness were the defining aspects of the open democratic public space. However, secondary economically driven (such as food, drinks, events) can increase socialization in the public sphere (2017, 91).

One speaks of man's third place, unlike the first (home) and the other (the job) that allows the person to escape everyday worries and instead engage oneself in company and conversation. A good supply of said third room, a kind of public living room in society is a key asset in a strong functioning society.

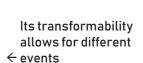
These theories helped this project by providing a method and a base for the analysis behind and the conformation of the proposals.



Public entrance in the south to the Granite Castle. Despite being a public attraction during the summer the entrance looks rather uninviting.





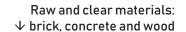


5.

How can it be done? How has it been done?
-Magasinet Kalmar by Jangir Maddadi



The ceiling has been fitted with a ← plywood cladding





For several years, the old train magazine next to Kalmar Centralstation was empty. The house's unique location between the urban space and the castle sparked local enthusiast and designer Jangir Maddadi to blow life into the building. They serve different kinds of curated foods and drinks during the days and the spaces can also

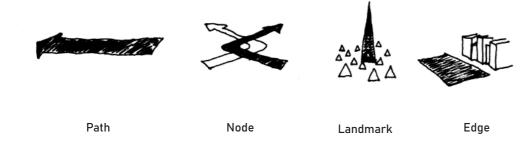
be rented out to companies for fashion events, conferences, dance performances et cetera. The space is also used as a shop-in-shop for his own products as well as a clothing brand. The interior has been refurbished with a plywood cladding and newly casted concrete floor.

6.

Awaken, My Love!
-site analysis
-the proposals



↑ Proposed east facade view





Before visiting Hanko and the site I studied Kevin Lynch's method of identifying a site by mapping its paths, nodes, landmarks and edges from his book "The Image of the City" (1960). This was to achieve a better structure and method in my mapping of the place.

The main paths in Itäsatama are the ones next to/connected to the public domains. Vice versa

"Nodes are the strategic foci into which the observer can enter, typically either junctions of paths, or concentrations of some characteristics." Lynch (1960, 72) for the public domains. It seems like the area is focused or narrowed around the harbour, not surprising since it is the country's biggest in a summer city. Although the streets seem like the main paths one may instead look at the water as a path. Tangent to the shore, dock, deck and beach lies the most popular domains spread out. As well as the path the water acts as the area's

"Landmarks, the point references considered to be external to the observer, are simple physical elements which may vary widely in scale" Lynch (1960, 78) edge. Since people arrive to Hanko by both from land (car, bike, bus) a big portion also arrive by the water by boat or ferry. The city's public programmes welcomes the visitor without having them search for them. Paving material could also be seen as soft edges.

"Paths are the channels along which the observer customarily, occasionally, or potentially moves. They may be streets, walkways, transit, canals, railroads." Lynch, (1960, 47)

The guest harbor could overall be experienced as an hard edge. The backdrop from the ocean and the man made concrete beach for boats together with the picturesque magazine buildings. Landmarks could be recognized by both its scale (height) but also architectural expression.

"Edges are the linear elements not considered as paths: they are usually, but not quite always, the boundaries between two kinds of areas." Lynch (1960, 62)

Attractors \longrightarrow



Good spatiality



Patina, history



Interesting architecture



Closeness to the water and public paths

Repellants \longrightarrow



Inacessible, unappealing



Broken



Run down



Flat, empty and unappealing





Anonymous entrances



Anonymous entrances II

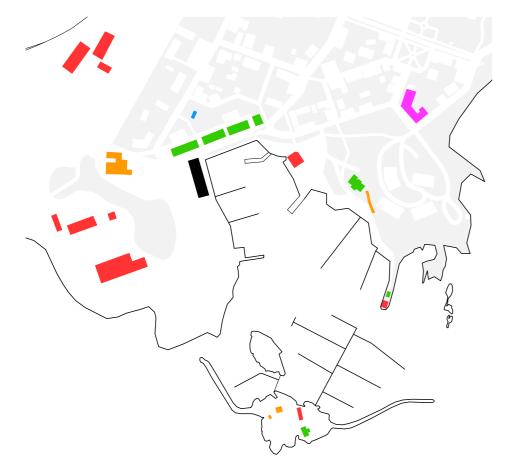


Closed monolithic facades towards the public path



Unacessible docks

↑ Site analysis



Itäsatama today, The programmes in the proximity of the Granite Castle are a mix of restaurants, gym, industry, museum, service buildings and hotels. What programme could fit into this public fabric?



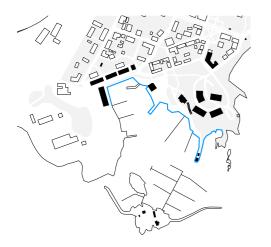


I propose a site with a mix of programmes, a triangulation of activities. By doing so I ensure that the place could be accessible to a broad range of people, year round.

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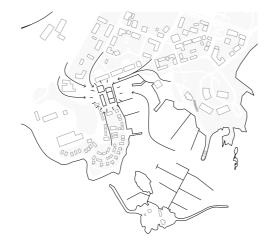
↑ Site diagram



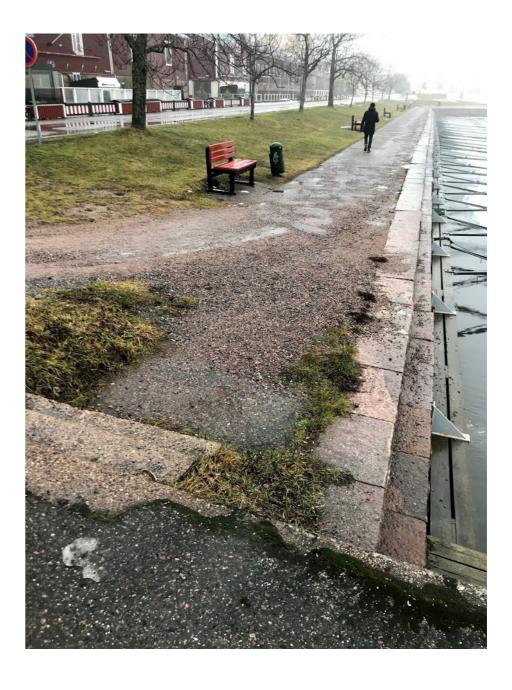


The intention is to activate the site and with that activate the whole Eastern Harbor. Hanko's core centralizes around the Granite Castle and the magazines.





The proposal highlights the Granite Castle's presence in the urban fabric. Since one may get to the site by different means of transportation, the proposal should acknowledge these paths.



Could the proposed project create a positive ripple effect unto its nearby surroundings?

The site consists of a bulldozed nature, a kind of tabula rasa, and the empty granite building as the only physical structure in the vicinity in terms of shelter. Since the building stands empty during the off season there are no agents present in the area. Because of Hanko's spike during the summer businesses close down for the entire autumn, winter and spring season. During the social spikes in the summer, the area is pulsating with people. The pop-up programs such as cafés, pubs and flea markets inside of the building attracts many tourists and visitors for a quick coffee and a stroll along the flee shops and is highly appreciated by the locals. Here the building's placement in the site - right next to the popular street and the quest harbour - acts as its greatest attractiveness together with its sense of authencity.

All in all the building works in its place as it is but only to a minor degree of being a substantial meeting place in the city. For it to become a considerable factor in Hanko it needs a functioning surrounding. Today the building is a standalone structure next to an up and coming dwelling area. Finishing the Drottningberg housing district would give a lot of meaning and sense of developing the site further with giving the area more people potentially using its public programmes – being a backbone to the site. A longer high season and more people in the area with an extended event schedule would make it more profitable to have a business inside of the granite building.

The guest harbour is a huge factor to why the Eastern Harbour is so popular during the peak season with a big portion of visitors coming by boat or ferry. Hamngatan (connected with Strandgatan, Torggatan and Havsgatan) extends along the beach in the east, the Regatta Spa and Hotel, cafés, restaurants, tourist center and bars and the harbour. What more can a visiting tourist ask for - everything in one street. The public

programmes follows this street up to the Granite building. This marks the edge to the western harbour and its industry. One important aspect to the project and vision would be to extend this street past or through the site the granite building is on onwards to the Drottningberg dwellings to continue and prolong the pulsating harbour edge.

The site is unbuilt and open with its flattened empty proximity. As of now the area is covered with a layer of gravel which I believe should be one of the first things to change in the development of the project. The western area of the building needs adjacent volumes to frame the site and to create a sense of place and to give the granite building two attractive facades - the one to the harbour and the one towards the backyard/plaza/square/place. However, the site's openess and topography gives great potential to create something interesting with the granite building as its backbone and central architechtonical piece. The road that will serve Drottningberget's dwellings is raised approximately 1,5 metres above the site. Together with the development plan's rule that all buildings should be raised 0,7 metres above the street gives the site a enveloping boundary, enfolding the potential place.

Stone, brick and wood are the main choices of materials in the area. Newer developments and buildings in the vicinity have less raw exposed materials, but more and bigger glazed facades. The rustic materials gives the building a authentic impression and quality to it. Different colours and states of the brick and stone gives the facades a charismatic impact. Despite the building being empty and unused the facades gives it life. Removing the two wooden volumes on the west facade would in my opinion strenghten the buildings charisma by highlighting the impressive quality stone and brick facade.

Being an industrial structure originally the building didn't have the intention of being accessible to the public in the most effective fashion. It was built next to the Drottningberg and the harbour to be effective in producing and shipping stone products. This had an impact of the accessibility today in terms of how it is placed and how one may enter the building. Initially, the facade facing the harbour would seem to be the most strategic place to have a grandiose inviting entrance situation to be seen from everyone walking by and by visitors coming by boat. Since it was built with other intentions the eastern facade only has windows and no doors.

What is also intriquing is the placement, just next to the narrow path before the dock. This gives no gaps or spacing before the path. The (partially anonymous) entrances today is on the south and north short sides with secondary, assumingly non-public, entrances on the west facade. This affects potential visitors and customers by not having clear and inviting entrances. Can I go in here? Am I allowed? Is this private or public? Would it be possible to introduce another direction of entrance to the building, changing its orientation? How would it change the building by rotating its orientation towards the future backyard and harbour?

Today the inside of the building is the main place to socialise. On the norhern short end is a wooden deck that is to be demolished. The southern entrance had some chairs and tables but other than that, the inside would be considered the main place to socialize.

Second floor is in real bad shape, potential noise from Western Harbour - need a barrier, damaged facades, facades in bad shape, wooden volumes west facade low quality and doesn't fit in, exposed wiring, low quality furnishing, makeshift interior, unappealing entrances and orientation,

uninspiring asphalt, west side gravel, worn out details such as window frames, indoor ceiling, the site's abandoned feeling, bad lightning at night, uncertain entrance situation, nothing to do theredetour not worth it, no seating

During my visit in februrary there was nothing open except local hangout Roxx opposite the granite building. However, in a scenario where the dwellings on Drottningberget are finished and Hanko has extended its season we could introduce more programmes to the site. During peak season people visit the building to grab a coffee, shop for some clothing and interior design at one of the pop up shops, maybe try one of the drinks served in the bar. Food and drinks is mentioned often when discussing what attracts people to a place. But one can not introduce only food and coffee related programmes to one place to make it a good place. Because meeting places are built around one or many activity opportunities one must analyse what sort of activity one has to introduce to achieve a functioning and successful pulic space.

Since we know the three kinds of activities; necessary, elective and social activities, a successful meeting place triangulates these three activities. If we only focused on necessary activities, such as grocery shopping, people in one hand would visit the place - but they wouldn't stay at the place. They only went there because they had to. What we instead want to achieve is a mix- a triangulation of activities - where some may go there because they have to and people that go there because they want to. One of the biggest challenges is to make people stay - and come back, by trying to generate frictionless means of allowing people to meet. How could this together with an architectural language be incorporated with Hanko's city fabric?









Thoughts of the meeting place's anatomy from the visit...

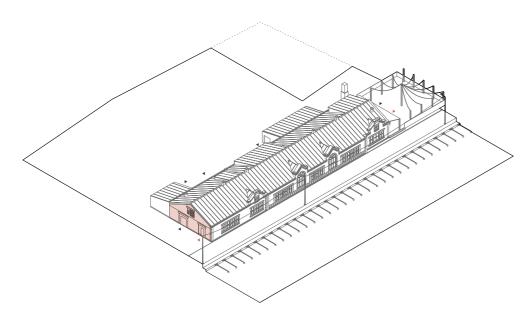
 $^{\uparrow}$ Wood, granite cobblestone, brick, red stained wood 82



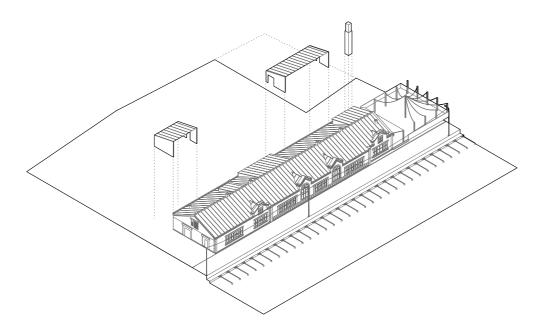
Proposing a new urban space:

Hanko Granite Castle Naturum Studio Hanko

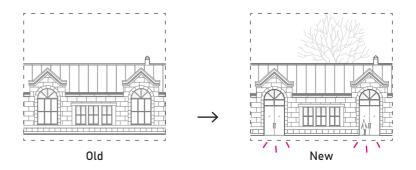




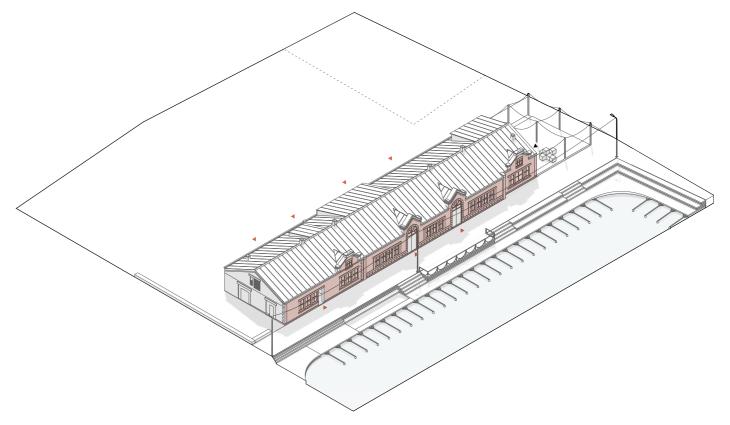
1. The first phase of the proposal is to identify the orientation of the building as it is today. Two public entrances north and south. The main facade to the east could be seen as an impenetrable wall.



2. By removing the two volumes on the west facade the Granite Castle could return to a closer version of its previous state.



Going from a solid wall the east facade gets two new glazed entrances with greater clarity for the visitor.

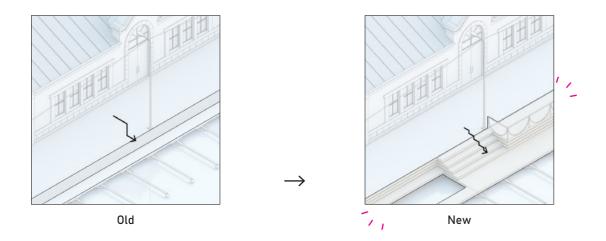


3. Without the now removed wooden volumes the proposal could utilize the openings left behind. By doing minor sensitive incisions in the eastern facade the building's orientation could be rotated towards the water and its backside on the west side. This "acupuncture" invites the travelers from the water as well as the visitors coming from the north with more expressive and visible entrances.

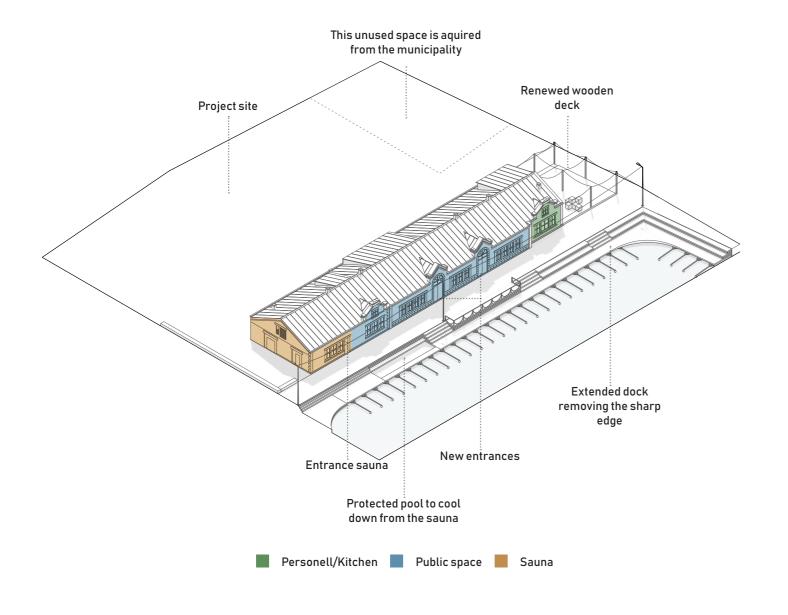


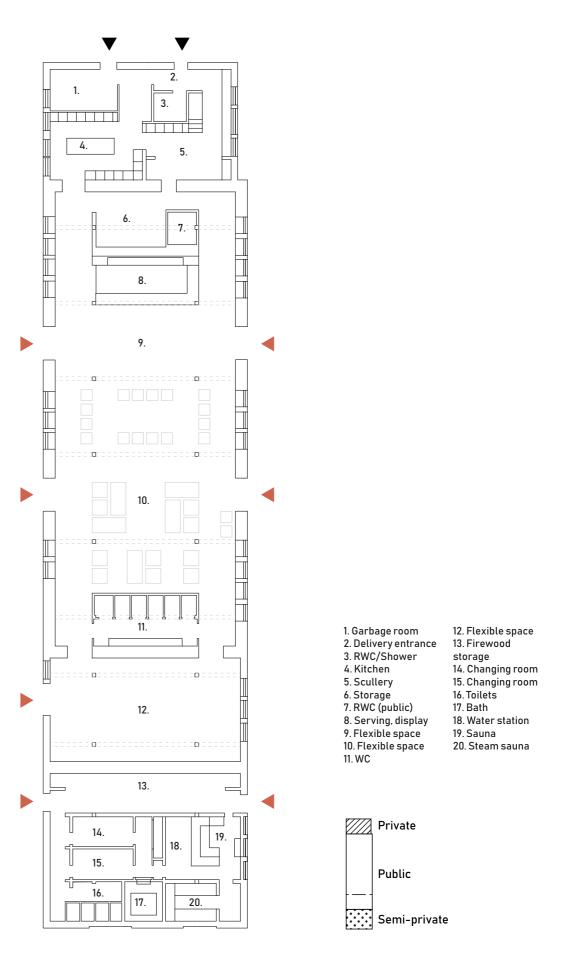
The interior utilizes the roof windows to bring in natural light from the west.

A wide range of activities can take place in the space since its kept flexible to be able to adapt to different occasions.



The hard edge towards the water is erased by introducing a wider and more accessible dock.





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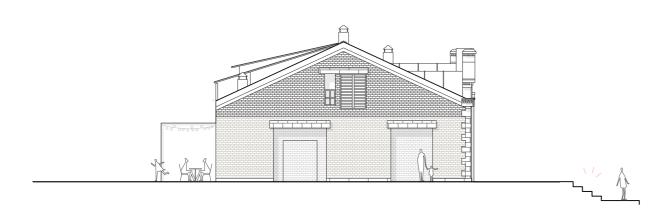


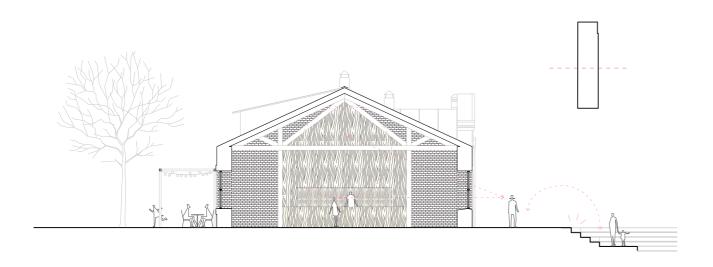
View towards the harbor from the sauna ↑ entrance. Sauna visitors can cool down in the water just outside of the facility.

Towel is optional.

View from the other side of the harbor towards the updated facade. The new entrances emphazises the orientation towards the harbor ← inviting the water.

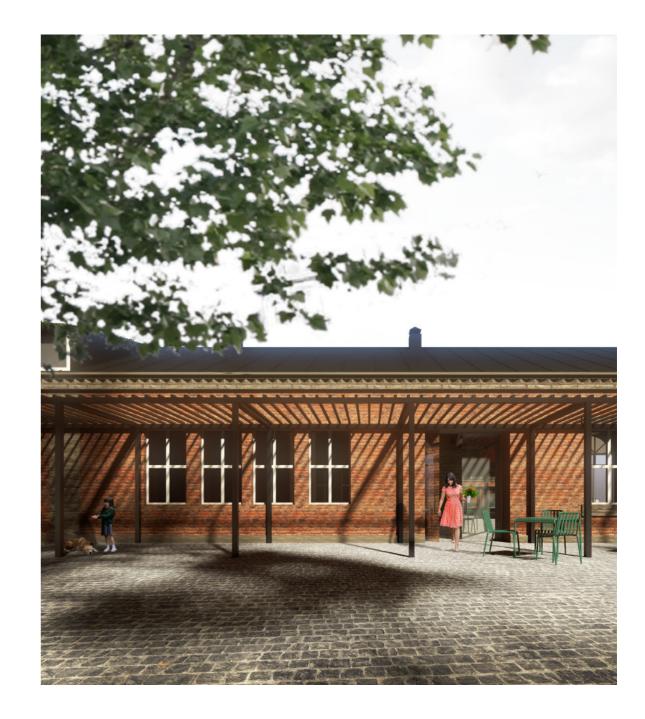
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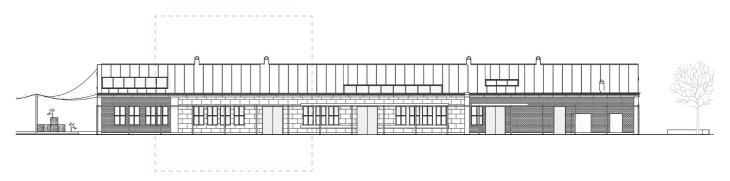




The south and north facade are now closed for public entrances. Instead the building's orientation span from west-east to connect the dock, the water and the "backyard". In the interior the ceiling is removed to give the building more spatiality, utilize the roof windows and to expose the structural trusses.

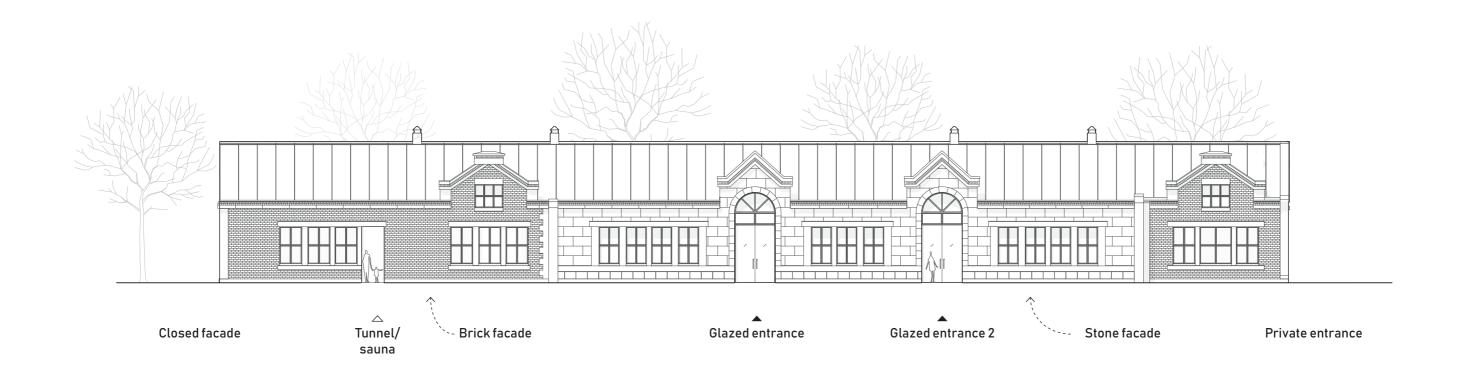
A pergola structure blurs the building's hard edges and creates shading for the restaurant visitors.





95

↑↑ Proposed south facade, 1:250 ↑ Proposed south section, 1:250 ↑ ↑ View of the updated west facade ↑ Elevation of the updated west facade, 1:400





The pergola structure act both as a buffer zone between the outdoor space and interior aswell as a sun shade during evening sunshine.



Hanko's own Jardin du Luxenbourg?

By keeping the site rather unprogrammed people themselves could appropriate the place. The transformable space can adapt to different events and occasions.

As Lynch (1972, 30) stresses in "What Time is this Place?" is that the connection with an established historical event and the sole quality of a building remain even today the chief criteria for preservation. Only after these criterias comes the motives of archaeology and economic tourist promotion.

Lynch (1972, 31) describes the different aspects of dealing with structures of historical value. It could be repaired by minor repairs and refurbishings, rebuilt carefully to its original, known, state – with original or new material choices. In short, Lynch states that the patina of time may be retained imitated or removed. In this statement lies one's choices as an architect. The dilemma of dealing with a building with a connection to the history of a place is "what time do I want to put this building in?".

In the case of the Granite Castle, Should it be preserved as it is today to perpetuate its changes through the years? Should it rather be updated to today's standards with the technology available? Should it be transformed to its original state as it was first built? In the latter predicament lies a layer of controversies. What would happen to historical additions to the original structure? Historical buildings are often thought of as having been built at one time but have in real life undergone several physical changes. Everything we do, every event and every person is historic. Are those changes ought to be celebrated or are one damned to fail in the search of preserve all of the past Lynch (1972, 32)?

Another way of preserving an historically rich structure is to separate and distinguish the inside and outside to shelter current active events for new modern uses whilst keeping the outside public, historic and regulated. Like an extravagant frame where the painting inside changes when it is antiquated. However a convenient compromise one is still burdened with what modifications are to or should be allowed. Thus one may prefer to cherry pick and form our past and incorporate it into the living present. Lynch (1972, 49) states that it is ones obligation to save at least some charactheristic evidence of every major period to form an environmental archive - since we cannot be certain of what would be most relevant in the future. One shouldn't be all too concerned the compliance to the past. Instead, the remains should be celebrated to enhance the complexity of the present without compromising on its irreversibility. "The esthetic aim is to heighten contrast and complexity, to make visible the process of change" Lynch (1972, 57)

However, one should not choose randomly what to keep, according to Lynch (1972, 60). Instead one should consider saving indicative of the previous atmosphere and old ambience, i.e. its scale, spaces, orientation et cetera as well as things with symbolic meanings. In the end, what is saved should be based on what the end users wish to remember or can relate to.

"What pieces of the environment should we attempt to reconstruct of preserve, and what are the warrants for historical treatment?

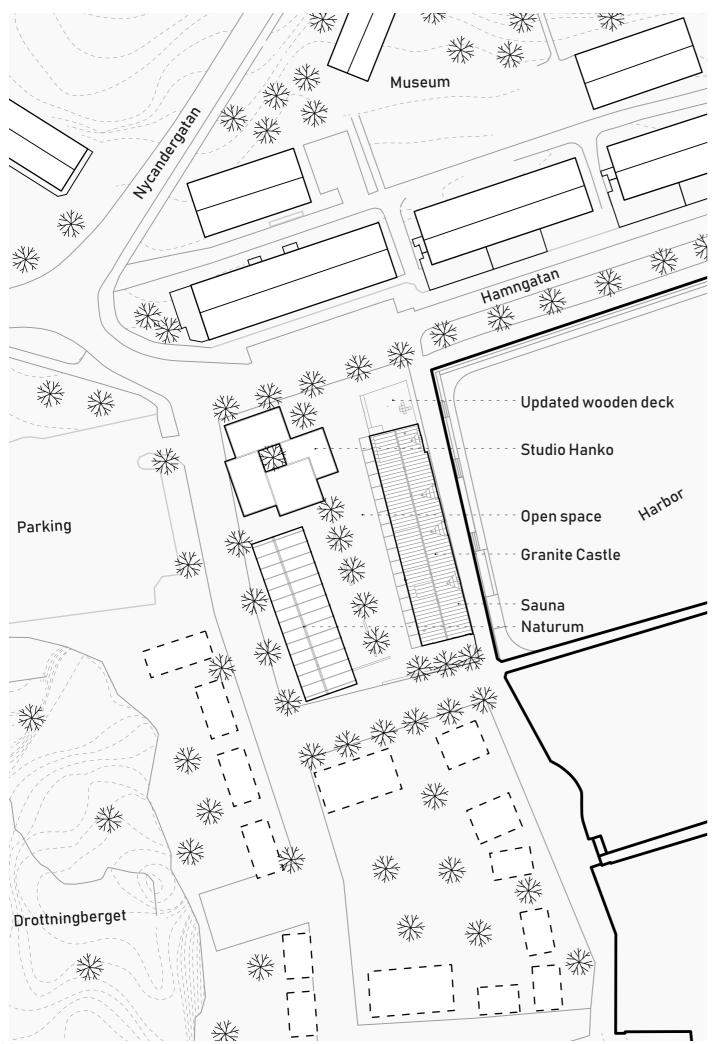
Are we looking for evidence of the climactic moments or for any manifestation of tradition we can find?

Or are we judging and evaluating the past, choosing the more significant over the less, retaining what we think of as best?

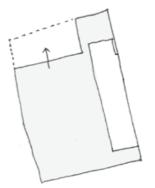
Should things be saved because they were associated with important persons or events?

Because they are unique or nearly so or, quite the contrary, because they were most typical of their time? Because of their importance as a group symbol? Because of their intrinsic qualities in the present? Because of their special usefulness as sources of intellectual information about the past?

Or should we simply let chance select for us and preserve for a second century everything that has happened to survive the first?"

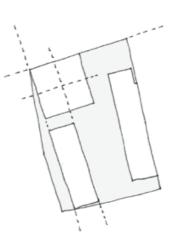


The project site utilizes the unused plot to get the connection to the parallell Hamngatan establishing a visual relation

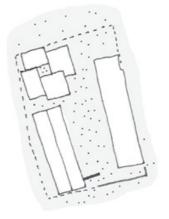


Two additional volumes creates in-between-spaces between the programmes.

A triangulation of temporary residencies, ateliers, and a Naturum adds further activities and programmes to the site.



The site's edges bleed into its surrounding with smooth transitions.



 \leftarrow Site roof plan, 1:1000 $^{\circ}$ $^{\circ}$ Site diagrams



Traditional Hanko fishing huts in Trålarhamnen.
They are arranged in a way that they are individual buildings that creates a whole together in a cluster. This was one of the inspirations for Studi Hanko, the proposal's living and creative programme.



Ready-made red paint from Hanko Color Ab

Traditional red paint is a very old color type that is suitable for painting new and old sawn surfaces and wooden surfaces previously painted with mud colors. The typical color palette and standing wooden panels are to be found around Hanko. I wanted to incorporate this local architectural language throughout my proposals to blend in with its context.

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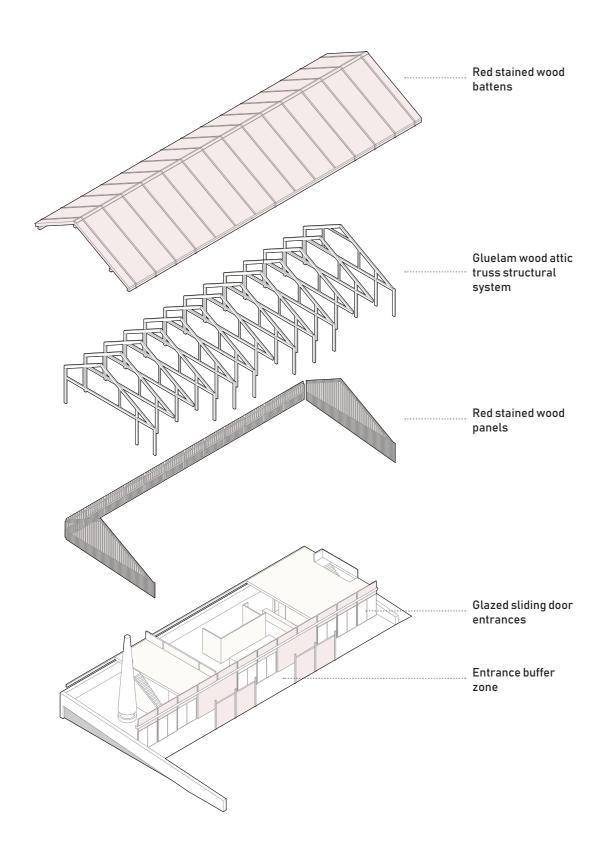


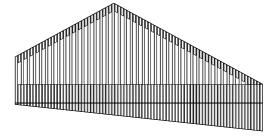
STUDIO !



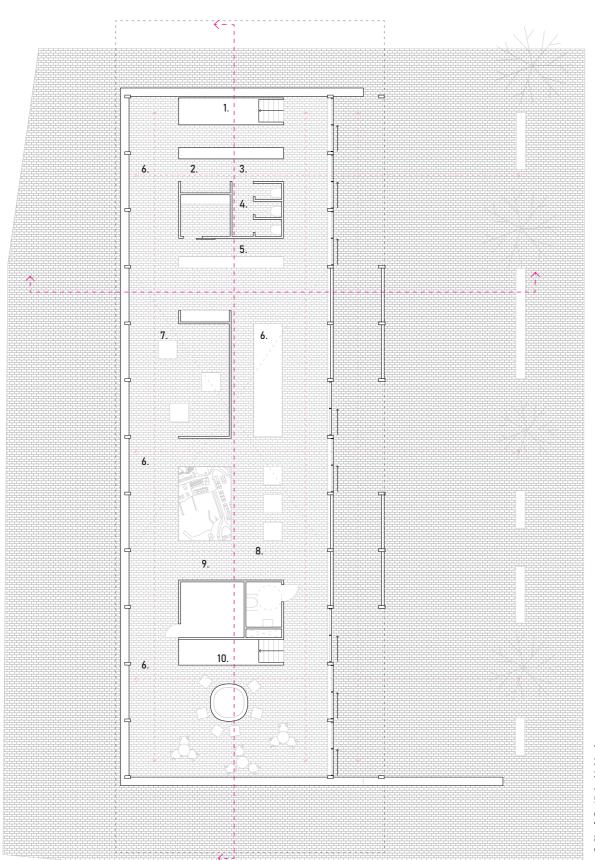
HANKO

FLEXIBLE OPEN'





Hanko Naturum -the nature's building





- 1. Lockers 2. Storage
- 3. WC

- 4. Register/Info
 5. Shop
 6. Exhibition
 7. Temporal exhibition
- 8. RWC
- 9. Storage 10. Fireplace

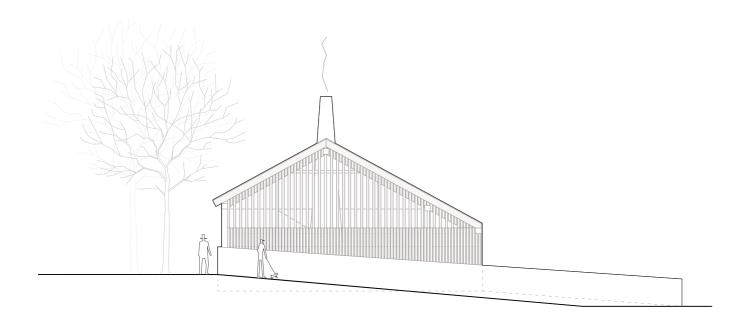


The building opens up to the site with its generous glazed walls establishing a relation to the courtyard.

Being an individual programme on the site the Naturum has the ability to either open up its glazed sliding doors towards the site and interact with it or be its own entity by itself.

↑ Plan, 1:200 🔿

↑ View of the entrances facing south under Naturum's roof







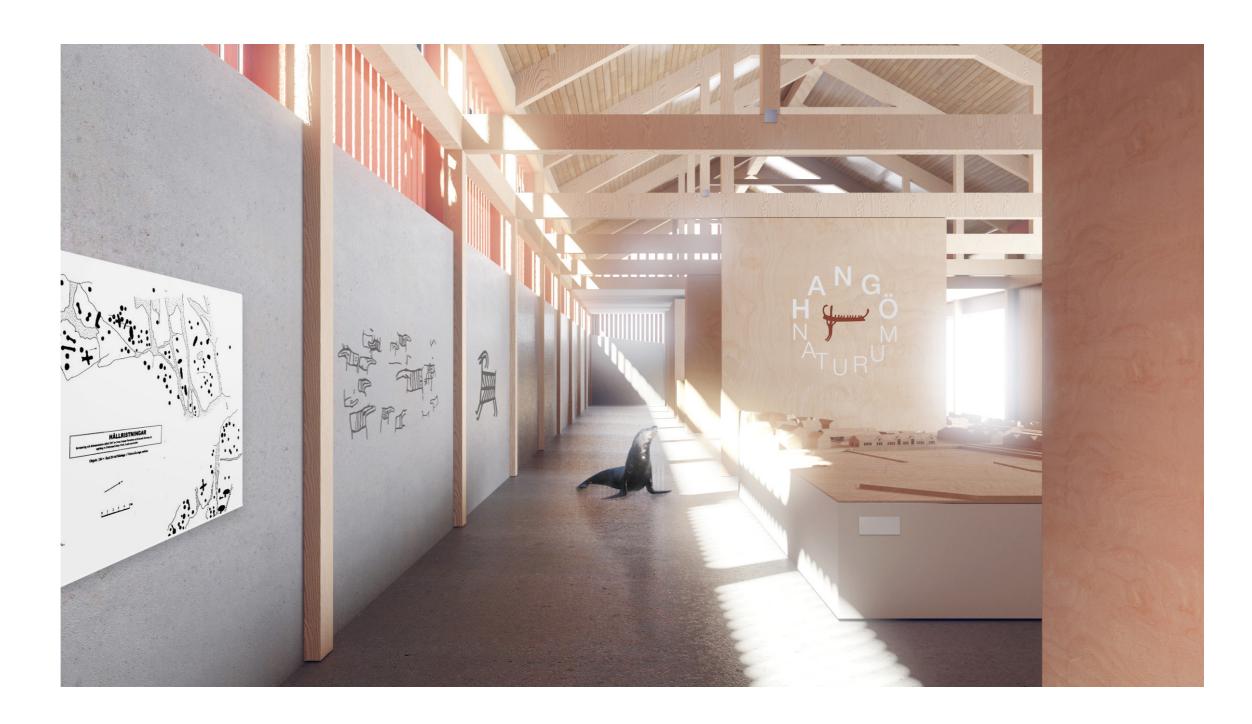
The hard edge towards the site was flattened out creating a slope towards the inner courtyard. Hanko Naturum is placed into the slope creating an exciting spatial configuration. Its wooden facade is stained in Hanko Red.

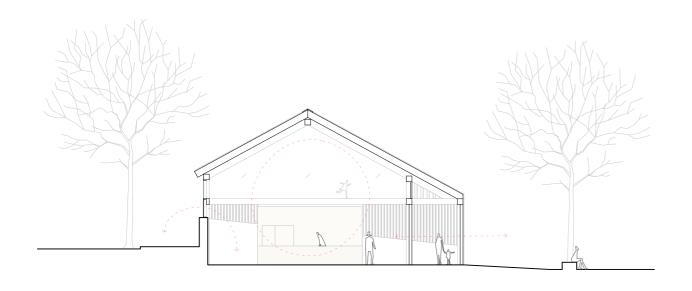
114

The entrance is pushed back from the facade facing the courtyard to create an in-between buffer zone with a gap. Similar to the pergola structure outside of the Granite Castle this blurs the hard edges or facades between the inside and outside.

115

↑ South facade 1:200 ↑ Placement diagram ↑ View of the entrances facing south under Naturum's roof

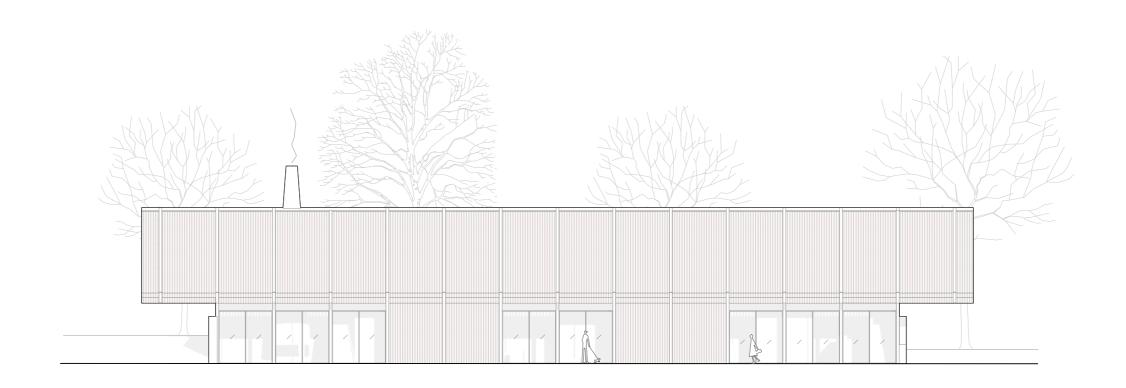


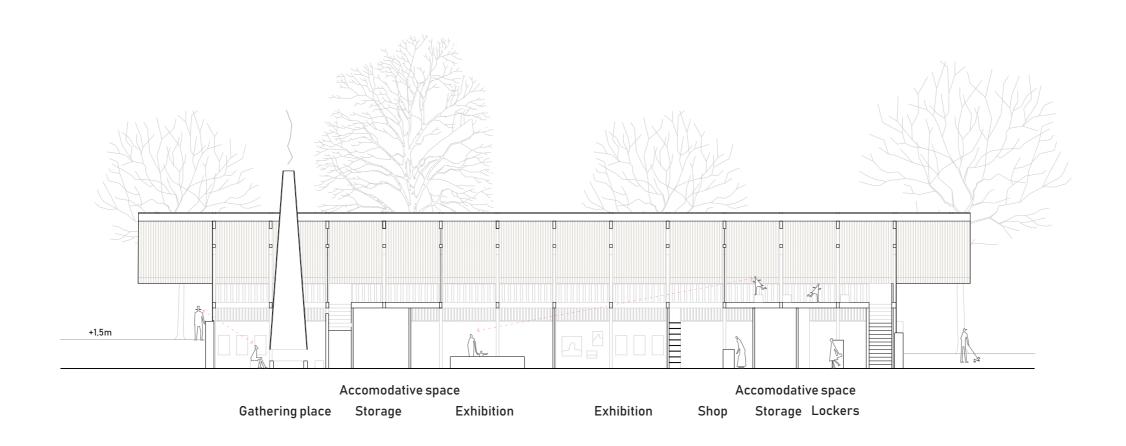


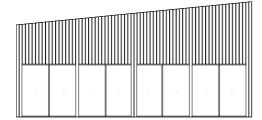
Hanko Naturum displays Hanko's surrounding nature through exhibitions, models and is a place where learning can be done by inviting school classes and tourists to guided tours and workshops on its history and nature.

It is not only on the indside but everything under the roof. It evokes a insideoutside relation with programmes protected inside the building's glazed curtain walls. The facade extends outward from the entrances creating a buffer zone between its edges. Hanko Naturum is carefully inserted in the extended slope on its west facade erasing the sharp edge that was present before. The remaining edge becomes the volume that frames the location with transparency.

↑ Short section, 1:200 ↑ Interior view facing north

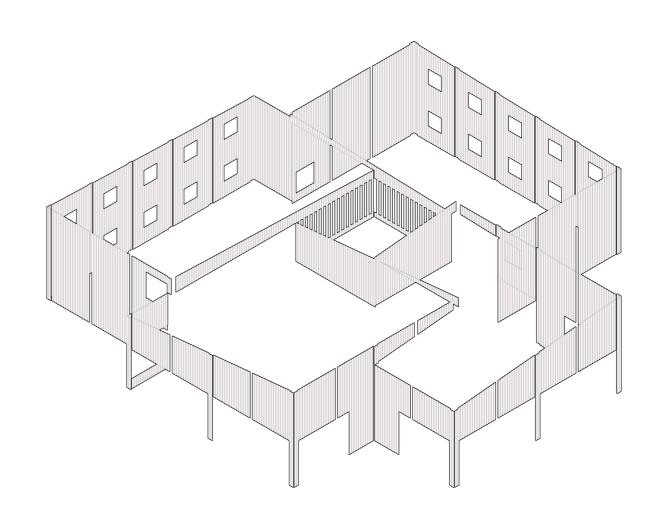






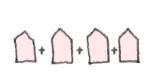
Studio Hanko -the site's living and creating

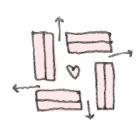
120

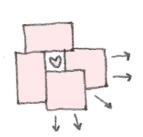


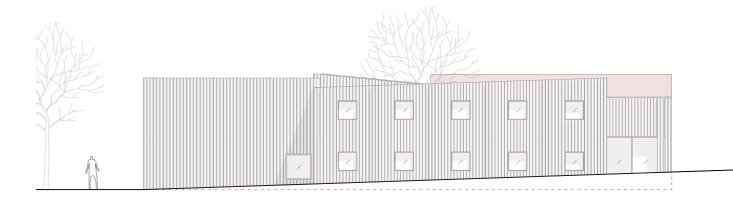
Studio Hanko is the site's creative, productive and dwelling programme. This building offers room to rent (during and after conferences in the Granite Castle for instance), ateliers for creative individuals that have a wish to explore and exhibit their creative work for a broader audience, and accomodative space in-between for exhibitions, gatherings and performances.

 \land South facade detail \land Wood facade diagram 121



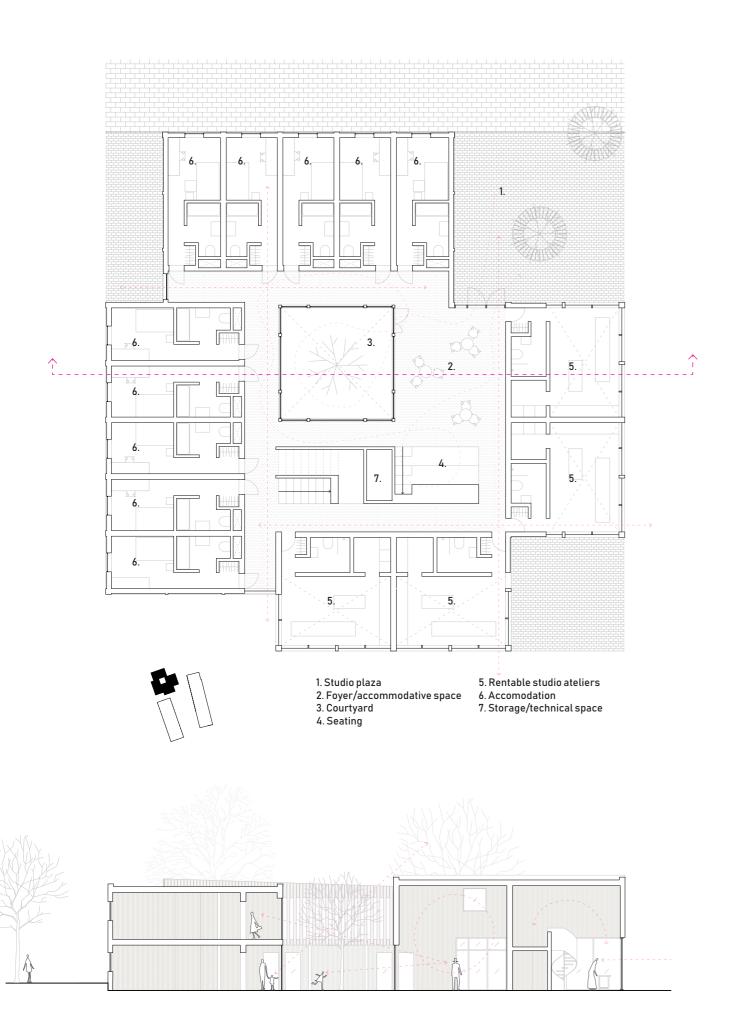






Studio Hanko takes some inspiration from the fishing huts on the other side of the harbor. Multiple volumes clustered to create a whole. It has an open side towards the site and a closed side creating an edge to the surroundings.

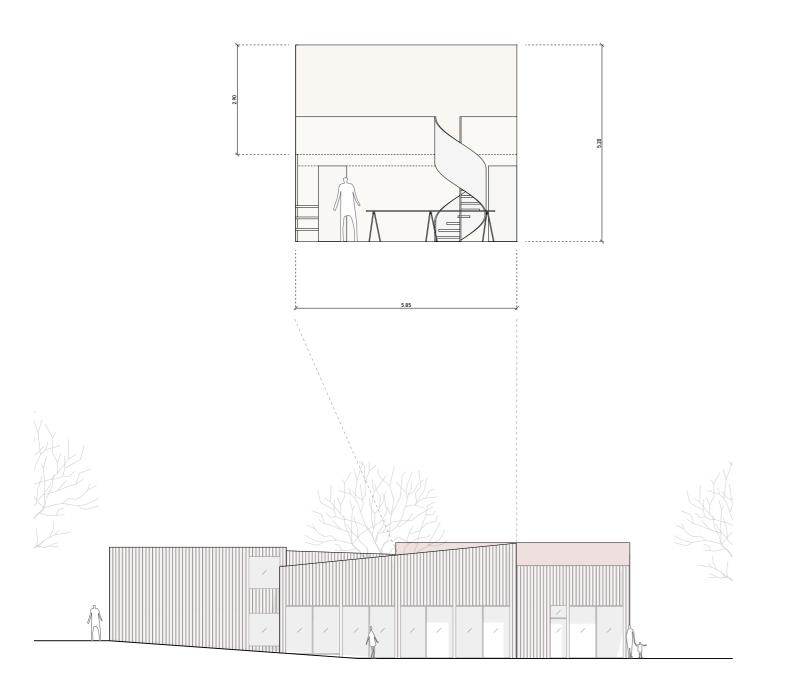
The distinctive red wooden panels in the facade reminisces of Hanko's past and present. The color scheme is found in the area's vicinity in iconic landmarks such as the water tower and the port magazines nearby.



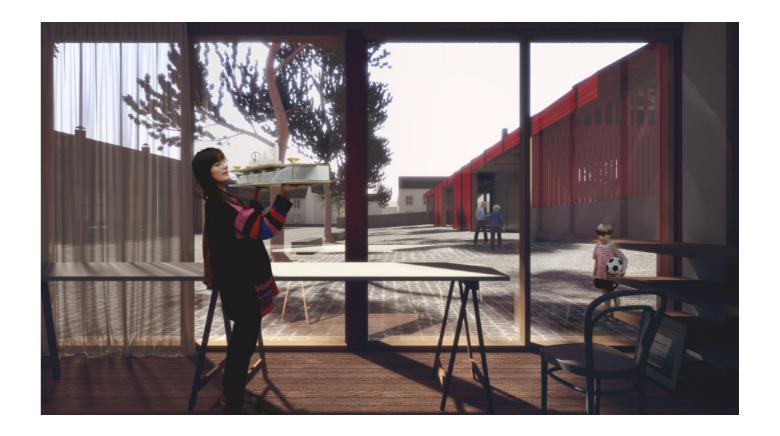
The volume is split up into four main volumes with an atrium in the centre bringing in natural light.



↑ View of the courtyard facing west



Generous glazed windows opens up towards the courtyard where the artist can exhibit and sell their work. Curious passerbys could peek in to see what is going on inside.

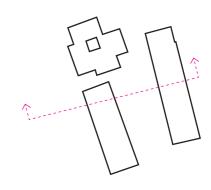


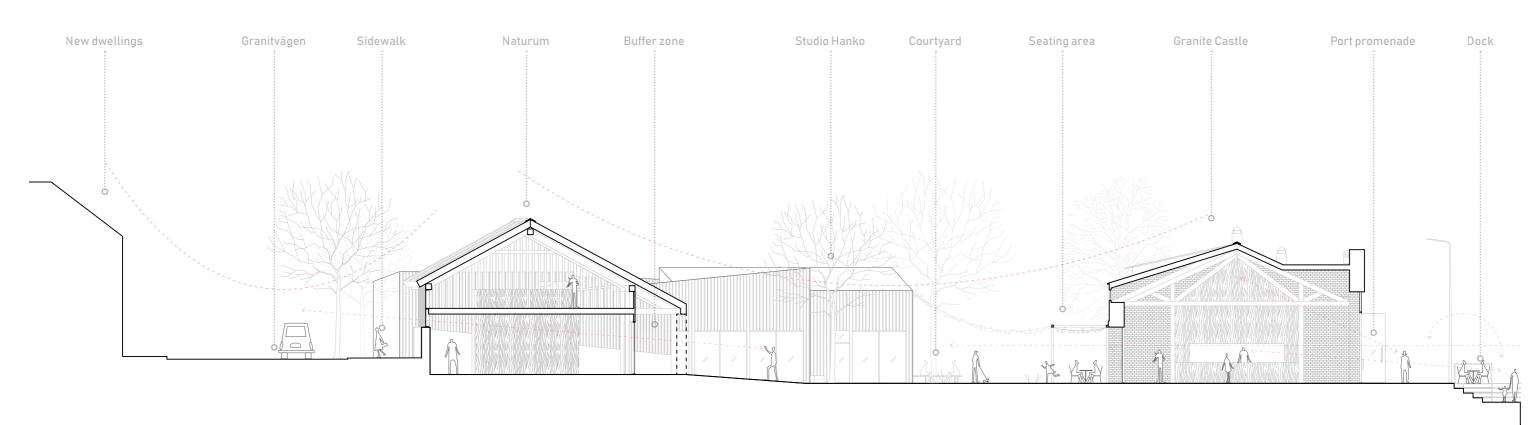
127

 \uparrow South elevation, 1:200 \uparrow Atelier elevation, 1:100 \uparrow Inside of the atelier facing south

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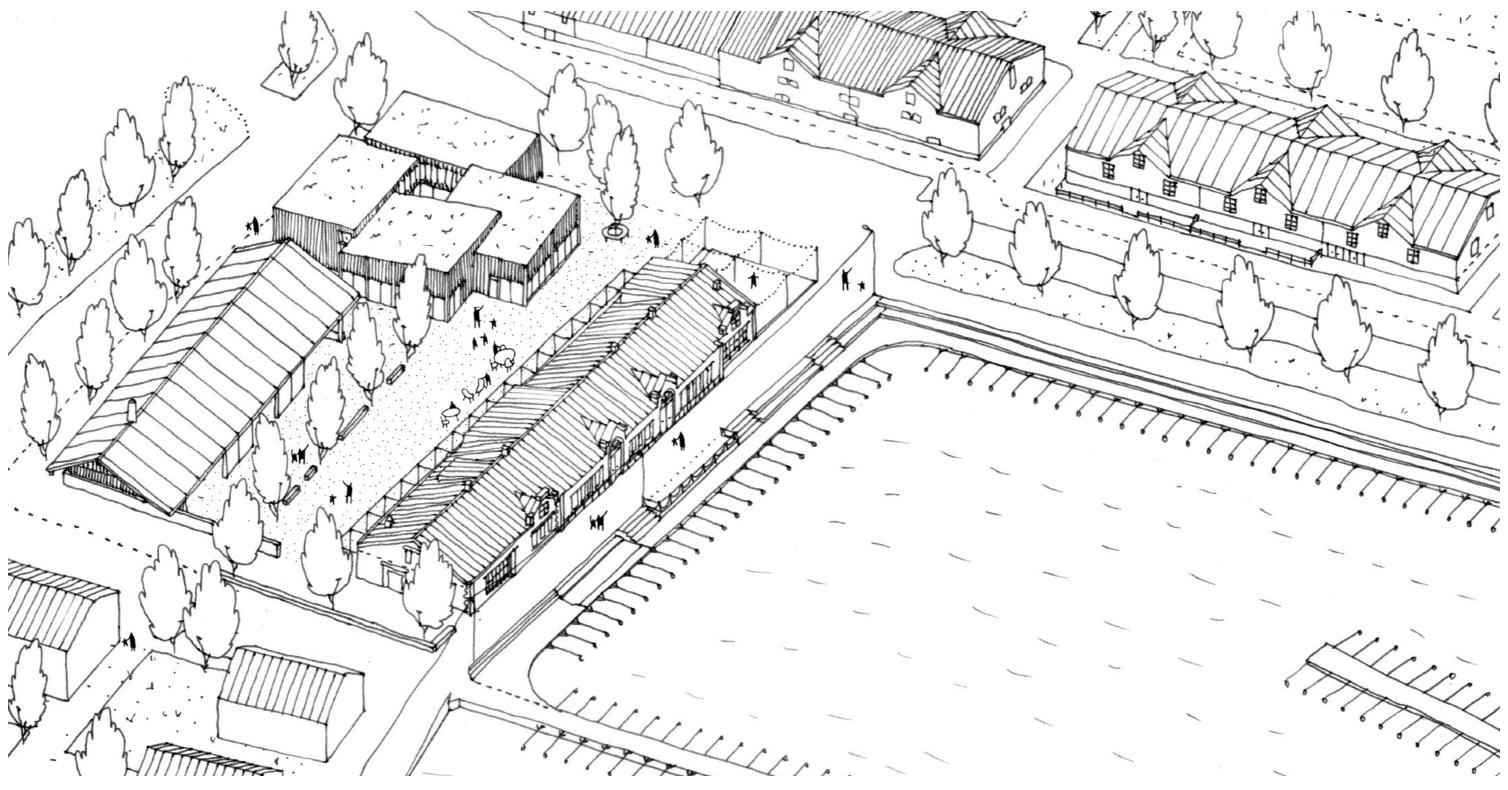






This section depicts the different volume's relation to eachother and the spaces they create in-between

↑ Long section, 1:200



This proposal explores the Granite Castle and the site's potential in becoming a node in the city. The ambition was to repurpose the building into today's community together with supplementary building volumes to transform the space into a place where the community could thrive. The theory have been a way to create a foundation to both the analysis method as

well as the design choices. To go one step back and being able to analyse previous proposals made with a critical eye has helped evaluating how to redefine the place and its programme and activities, to highlight the goods and discard the bads. This method laid a foundation to this proposal that starts with what social values and local architectural qualities this place wishes to include. Who is this place for?

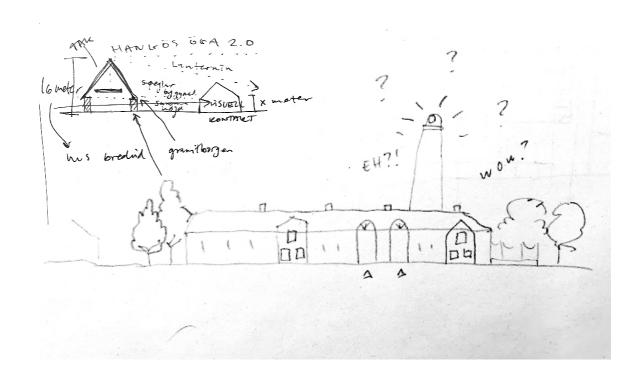
My intention with this project has been to provide a basis for a continued discussion on how to best develop the place with social, economical and architectural values in the best possible way. Including both locals and tourists in

an extended season where the economic gain does not hinder potential social meetings in a public place. This proposal is an proposition in the dialogue where economic as well as social values together with architecture could create a node in the city that gives new prosperous life to both the building and the immediate place, today and tomorrow.

Conclusion

"Jag är ej himlens stjärna, jag är en nattlig fyr; på Hangös berg är jag det torn, det höga, som leder seglarns kosa, när dagens strimma flyr och klippor lura, dem han vet så föga.

Jag vänder om min lykta, än mörk, än åter ljus; var sjöman ser min flamma i havets vilda brus och säger lugnad: "Det är Hangös öga."



In the beginning of the project I came over this quote by Finnish poet Zacharias
Topelius "Hanko's Eye". This quote depicts how the lighthouse on Russarö
guides the traveler on the sea. Inspired by this poetry I tried to incorporate it and
translate it into architecture but abandoned the idea rather quickly. However, in
the end the finalized proposal achieved what I wanted to pursuit - a guiding light in
the Eastern Harbor! →



Thank you! Kiitos!

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Hanko Museum

Own photographs

