

Identity by History

**How New Buildings Can
Enhance the Historical Identity
of a Place**

Ylva Schütte

Chalmers School of Architecture
Transformation and conservation
Examiner: Kia Bengtsson Ekström
Supervisor: Oscar Carlsson

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Abstract

We are living in a globalized world where products and people become more mobile and the urban areas more uniform. In community planning there is an increasing interest in trying to seize the soul of a place - what makes the place unique. People of today to a larger extent choose where they want to live. And with high demands on quality of life and culture they want to live in a place that has an identity.

Half of Sweden's surface consists of national interests. A national interest is a geographical area that contains national values: economical, military, cultural etc. At the same time there is a housing shortage in 255 of 290 municipalities in Sweden and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning are estimating that 600 000 new dwellings need to be built before 2025. In many locations this causes a conflict between new built houses and cultural values.

The purpose with this master thesis is to explore how new buildings through scale, placement, facade expression and historical values can be placed in an area of cultural heritage in a way that contributes to the sites

identity. The main question to be answered is: how can new buildings contribute to the local identity? The aim is to widen the debate of how to deal with national interest and building on the countryside.

The village Svanå, in Västmanland, is classified as a national interest due to its remains of the iron works by the stream, its well preserved mansion and the characteristic workers' dwellings. The design proposal is a vision for a sustainable extension of the village. The proposal is an exploration of how a new residential area with mixed typologies can take shape and what the worker's dwelling of today looks like.

The method of analysing the local building context is both executed on the nearby iron works communities, Svanå, the worker's dwellings and the surrounding farmer villages.



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Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose and Aim
Research questions
Delimitations
Methods
Reading instructions
Background

Purpose and aim

The purpose is to explore how new buildings through scale, placement, facade expression and historical values can be placed in an area of cultural heritage in a way that contributes to the site's identity. The proposal is an exploration of how a new residential area with mixed typologies can take shape in the village Svanå and what a worker's dwelling of today looks like.

The aim is to widen the debate of how to deal with national interest and building on the countryside.

Research questions

How can new buildings contribute to the local identity?

What are the conditions that shape a local identity?

Which characteristics in the local architecture are important to relate to?

What can we learn from the change of history?

How can you live sustainable on the countryside today?

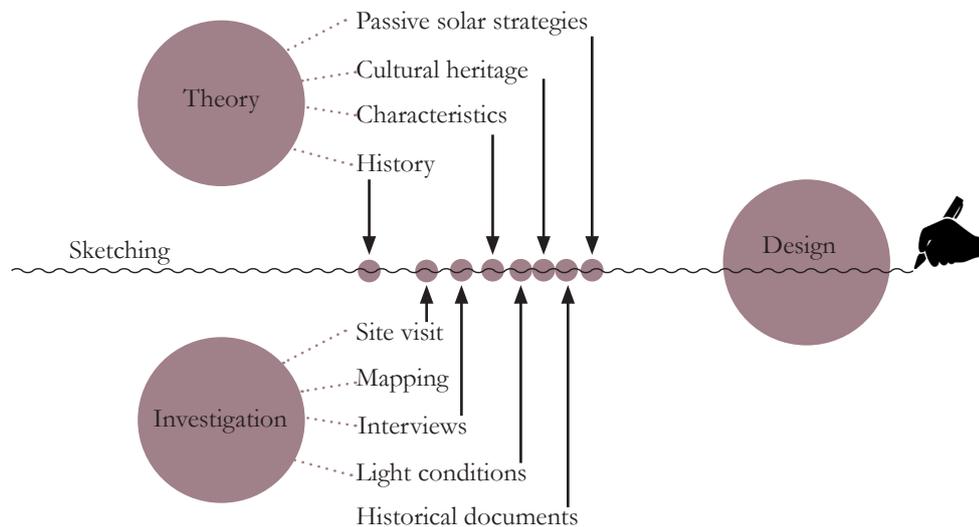
Delimitations

The thesis will mainly focus on the visual aspects of local identity and preferences. The detail development plan for the area will be used for property borders, amount of households and access to the area.

Methods

The method used is mainly research for design that has initiated the design proposal, but research by design is also practised by continuously sketching. Methods used are:

Historical investigation:	looking at old maps, reading books, documents.
Site visit:	photographing, sketching, experiencing
Mapping:	demography, trends, context, features of houses
Interviews:	inhabitants, landowners, involved architects
Researching:	local materials, energy efficient houses, history
Sketching:	computer, hand drawn, collages, overlaying



Reading instructions

Each chapter starts with a table of content and ends with an illustrated conclusion that highlights important insights. The chapters start with a broader picture and zoom in on the design proposal in the end. First the national situation and current debate is presented in a theory chapter followed by three chapters describing the history, presence and future of Bergslagen, the worker's dwelling and the village Svanå. The following chapter contains the design proposal and thereafter a conclusion and reflection.

Background

“ The cultural heritage environments does not only exist of prehistoric remains, buildings and other man-made facilities, it also consists of the people that has lived and live in it, their history, sustantation, traditions and ways of living. ”

Hans Gillgren (Gillgren, 2000)

We are living in a globalized world where products and people become more mobile and the urban areas more uniform. In community planning there is an increasing interest in trying to seize the soul of a place - what makes the place unique. Today people are freer to choose where to live and have higher demands on quality of life and culture. They want to live in a place with identity, a place that offers something special. (Sveriges kommuner och landsting, 2010) The history and story of a community combined with buildings and environments are an outstanding part of the place's identity. Well preserved characterful environments from different eras, that tell about people's life on this site, creates the "soul" that distinguishes one community from another. (Gillgren, 2000)

What are the conditions that shape a local identity?

“ In a study among the municipalities of Sweden with housing shortage 2013, 60 % answered that the governments method for dealing with national interests had stopped construction of new houses at least once the last three years. ”

Riksrevisionen (RiR, 2013)

Half of Sweden's surface consists of national interests. A national interest is a geographical area that contains national values: economical, military, cultural etc. Depending on the character of the interest different institutions are responsible for it. (Boverket, 2017a) In Sweden there is a housing shortage in 255 of 290 municipalities and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning are estimating that 600 000 new dwellings need to be built before 2025. (Boverket, 2017b) In many locations this causes a conflict between new built houses and cultural values.

Is it possible to build new houses in a national interest of cultural heritage without losing its inherent values?

The village Svanå, in Västmanland, is classified as a national interest due to its remains of the iron works by the stream, its well preserved mansion and the characteristic worker's dwellings. (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2012) There are plans to extend the village within the border of national interest. The first proposal for a detail development plan was denied by the County administrative board partly because it was not respecting the historical values of the village. When studying history you do not look at a set stage with defined conditions, you rather look at the changes and development over time. History is a constant transformation, adaption and discussion.

What can we learn from the change of history?

1,5 % of Sweden's surface consists of communities/cities, remaining 98,5 % are rural. Despite this the architectural debate of today is very focused to the city and the urban as an ideal. (Hsu & Urey, 2018) There are other typologies, living patterns and relationships that are important on the countryside.

How can you live sustainable on the countryside today?

“ Even concepts like green values and ecological sustainability today leads your mind into urban farming on a high rise rather than to a potato field. ”

K Berggren (Berggren, 2018)





Chapter 2
Theory

History
Identity
Conclusion

History

Cultural heritage

According to The Swedish National Heritage Board, environments affected by humans is considered as cultural heritage. A specific environment or landscape is often geographically defined by a historical system, like a village or field network. (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2014). But there are more aspects to the concept than physical remains, houses and roads. These man-made facilities also tell a story about the people who have lived there. The cultural heritage consists of the life of people and their activities, memories and traditions. These areas from different ages that tell a story about people's lives create unique places with their own identity. (Gillgren, 2000)

“ Cultural heritage environment is the whole surrounding landscape people have created by changing the nature by farming and building. It is the cultivated land with buildings, roads, cities and villages.

(Gillgren, 2000)

National objectives

Sweden has national objectives of how to work with architecture and cultural heritage aiming to:



- Promote a living cultural heritage that is preserved, used and developed.



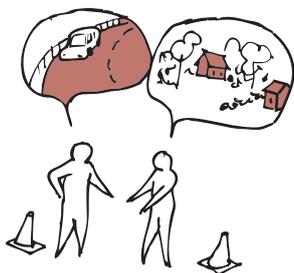
- Quality and beauty aspects shall not be undermined by short term economical speculations.



- Historical and aesthetic values in existing environments shall be taken care of and enhanced. (Boverket, 2014)

National interest

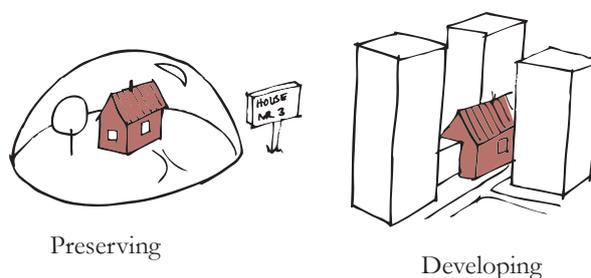
The village of Svanå is classified as a national interest (*riksintresse*). National interests are geographical areas that contain national values and qualities. It can be areas that are valuable for preserving, exploiting, commercial fishing or reindeer husbandry. Depending on the values of the area either the government or different administrative authorities are responsible for its interests. Svanå is a national interest of cultural heritage and The Swedish National Heritage Board (*Riksantikvarieämbetet*) are responsible. (Boverket, 2017a)



46% of the area of Sweden is regarded as national interests and there are around 1650 areas that belong to the group of cultural heritage. (Riksdagen, 2017) In many places there is a conflict between different national interests and regarding the cultural heritage areas it is to be defined in each comprehensive plan how to treat these overlaps. (Boverket, 2017a)

At the same time there is a housing shortage in 255 of 290 municipalities in Sweden and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning are estimating that 600 000 new dwellings need to be built before 2025. (Boverket, 2017b) In many locations this causes a conflict between new built houses and cultural values. There is also an uncertainty which department has the final say when there are collisions. 60% of the municipalities with housing shortage 2013 had to stop new development at least once the last three years because of the government's method for national interests. (RiR, 2013)

There is an ongoing discussion how to deal with the conflict. Some politicians and governmental investigation suggest an extension of these areas to cover more valuable land, while other politicians see this as a hindrance for, especially, rural development. There is a conflict of preserving or developing. But also, a discussion about developing new buildings and still preserving the historical identity. (Svärd, 2017)



Identity

Identity

It is hard to define what makes up the identity of a place, but the physical identity is of course based on the arrangement of buildings and landscape. This creates a regional language that allow people to define who they are. The globalisation of the worlds brings us closer to each other, but also makes us more uniform. In the built environment this means that a single dominant architecture is applied everywhere. The special identity of places and cultures vanishes, and cultural complexity and variety is lost. (Brown, 2002)



There is a fear that our living environment will be more uniform and there is a growing interest in community planning to define what characterizes the identity of a place. (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2004)



People of today to a larger extent choose where they want to live. And with high demands on quality of life and culture they want to live in a place that has an identity. The need for a place to offer something special can be seen in the competition with slogans among the municipalities. (Sveriges kommuner och landsting, 2010)

The report 2004:8 from Riksantikvarieämbetet that evaluates how to define local characteristics focuses on the countryside. This is where the settlement patterns have developed over the centuries and where changes would make a greater impact. (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2004)

Find identity and characteristics

The character of an area is established by all buildings together. It does not necessarily mean that one unique feature that characterizes one building also is characteristic for the whole area. If the buildings differ in expression the character of the area is defined by the range of variation. (Balgård, 1976)



Variation can be summarized as the concept of uniqueness and commonness. The commonness describes the resemblance between buildings and features in an area. There can be commonness even though the buildings differ a lot in the details. The uniqueness describes the deviation and differences that the variation contains. Generally, there are almost always differences, though the buildings seem very alike. A difference in colour, roof angle and measurements is enough to counteract the feeling of repetition. (Balgård, 1976)

When building new in an existing area there are different ways of relating to the existing environment, either contrasting or blending in and to varying extent refer to the existing houses. When referring it is most important to relate to the long-lasting features of proportion, composition and placement if you strive for coherence. (Balgård, 1976)



Conclusion Theory



Important with identity



Grasping the variations



Respecting history



Chapter 3

Bergslagen

Bergslagen
Ironworks
Surrounding ironworks
Bergslagen today
Regional trends
Conclusion

Bergslagen

History of millenniums

Bergslagen is a geographical area in the middle part of Sweden. It does not have any set borders but includes parts of the provinces Värmland, Närke, Västmanland, Dalarna, Uppland and Gästrikland. In Bergslagen you found the resources for iron production: ferrous ore, streaming water, vast forests and closeness to transportation routes. These were the conditions that made the iron industry develop and it started already 2500 years ago and flourished in the 1600s. The area was sparsely populated before the iron production so the built environment is shaped by the “production-line”.

This is also apparent in the names of the places where names ending with *-berg* (mountain) indicates a place that has dealt with mining, names ending with *-hyttan* indicates a smeltery and names ending with *-hammar* indicates the hammer that hammered the iron into compact form. (Ekomuseum Bergslagen, n-d).

Mining and melting

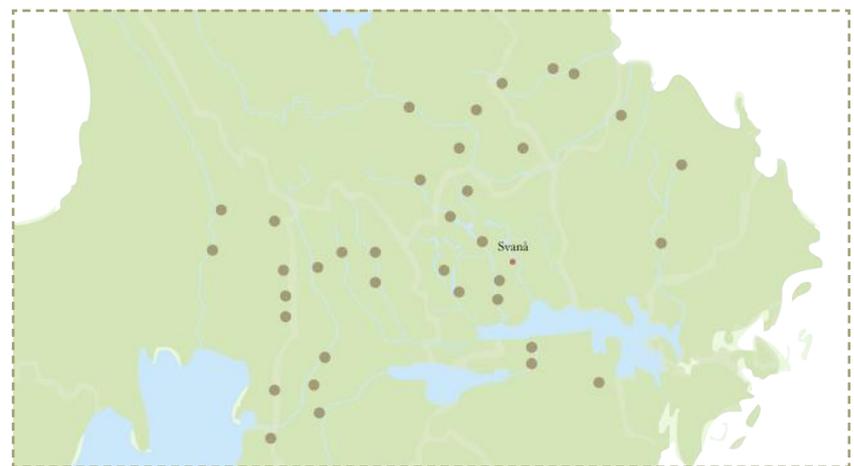
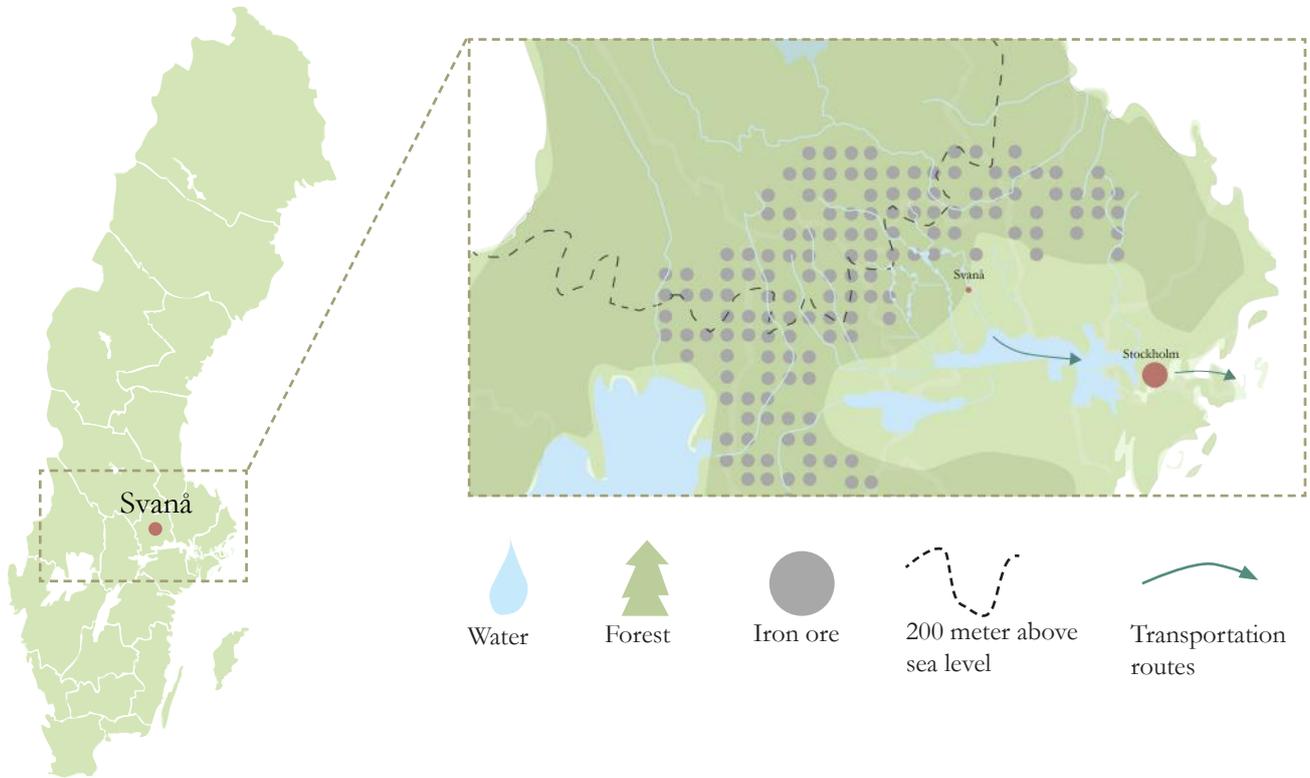
In the northwestern part of Bergslagen the ore was mined and close by villages were established. They consisted of timber houses clustered around a common smeltery. The homesteaders both worked as farmers and produced pig-iron. They mined their own

ore and took turn on smelting it. To roast the ore and heat up the smeltery huge amounts of wood were needed. The wood was transformed to charcoal in charcoal stacks. It took the smeltery 2 days to burn a stack of charcoal that took 120 days of work to produce. (Ekomuseum Bergslagen, n-d)

Refining and selling

The pig-iron was bought and transported to the ironworks with hammers and smithies. During the 1600s the nobility was encouraged to establish new ironworks. Due to years of melting iron and producing charcoal there was a shortage of forest and the new ironworks were placed downriver outside the mining areas. (Blomberg & Linscott Arkitekter, n-d) The production of bar-iron took place in an organized way and a whole society grew around the industry. The bar-iron was very profitable and important for the wealth of Sweden. Transportation routes were not that efficient, so the societies were fairly isolated and had to be self-dependent in many ways. They had to produce their own food, construction material, machines and tools. There was a great need for wood for keeping the furnaces and hammers going. Most of the free farmers felt forced to join the ironwork and pay the rent in charcoal. (Ekomuseum Bergslagen, n-d)

Preconditions for the ironwork settlements



Smelteries and ironworks still active in 1950s

Ironworks

Hierarchical layout

There was a clear hierarchy between the foundry proprietor and the simple worker at the ironworks. Everybody had their place which also is readable in the built environment. The early ironworks from the 1600s grew successively and the buildings were placed according to outer circumstances whilst the later ones were shaped after French ideals. This included a row of workers dwellings along a street (at least for the most important workers, the smiths). Distant from this street (*bruksgata*) lied a mansion, with wings, placed in a park. Often there was a straight sightline from the mansion to the church. The smithies, hammers and smelting works were placed close to the energy source - the stream. (Ekomuseum Bergslagen, n-d)

Characteristic elements

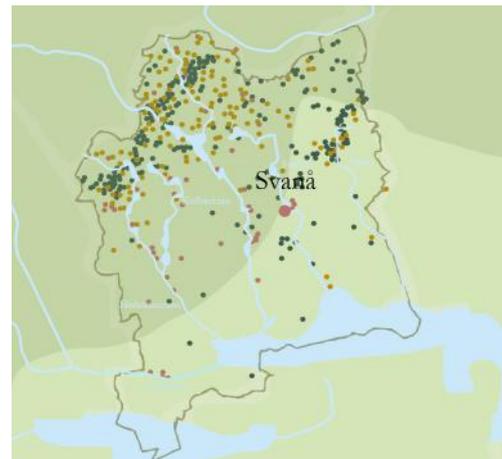
The mansion often represents the ideal style from when it was built and is not that locally connected. Though they have inspired the surrounding buildings. The park was an important feature that first was inspired by French and later English ideals. The mansions are characterized by their symmetry. The main building has two or more wings and a central entrance road. The buildings are often well proportioned, covered in plaster or light colours and has a hipped or mansard roof. The agricultural buildings were placed further away, often behind trees. Other characteristics are the colonnade of trees, properly built agricultural buildings and a lot of residential houses for the agricultural workers. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län, 2002)

Water- and railway

The iron was transported to the harbours in Mälaren where it was brought to Stockholm and then shipped abroad. During the 1700s the industry flourished and 70% of Sweden's export consisted of iron. In the end of the 1700s a canal with locks was built that eased the transport for many ironworks in Västmanland. When the railway came in the end of the 1800s many small railway tracks were built to connect the industries to the larger main lines. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län, 2002)

Market changes

Over the centuries the older buildings were replaced whereas new techniques came. During the 1800-1900 the Swedish iron production got a larger concurrence when England among other countries started with new and more effective methods. The price was much lower and the Swedish market couldn't compete with that. Since most communities depended on one company they slowly faded away as the company shut down. The solution was to specialize the company in one field. The communities where the industries managed to restructure has a whole other scale and character. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län, 2002)

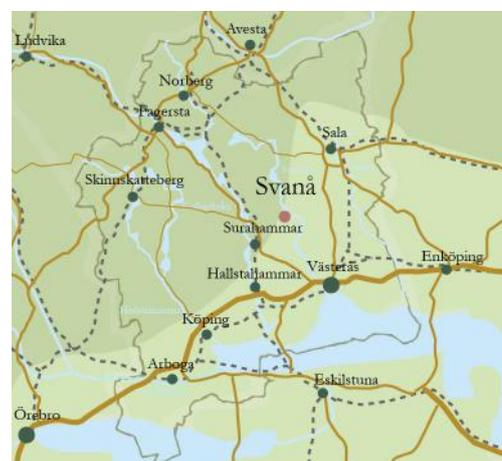


Iron related settlements in Västmanland over the years

- Mine
- Smeltery
- Ironwork/hammer



Railway in Västmanland 1920.

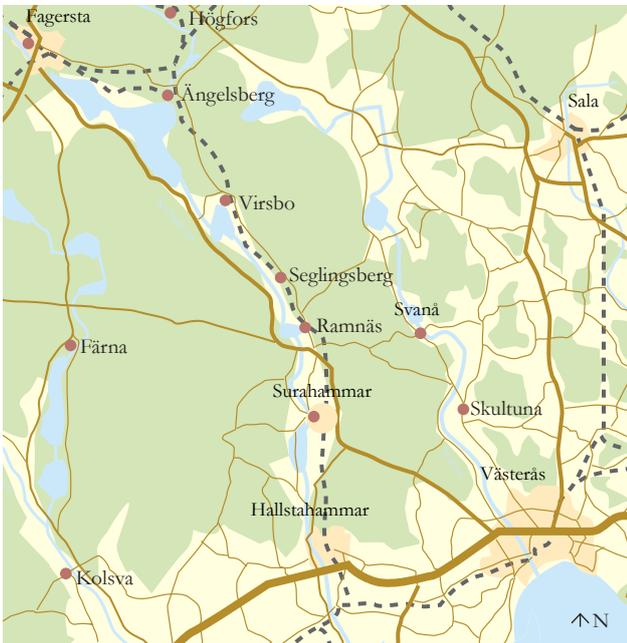


Västmanland today

Surrounding ironworks

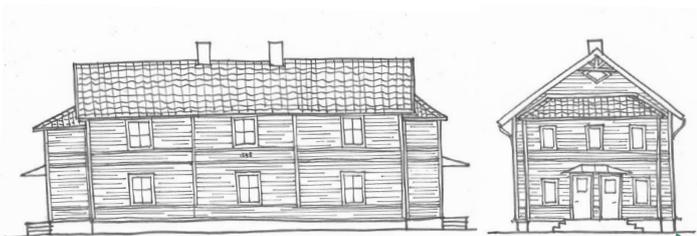
In the surroundings of Svanå you find several communities with remains from the iron industry. In some places there are just traces of activity by the rapid, while other have preserved the historical site and buildings and by the iron works that has industrialized their production a city has grown around it. The characteristic mansion, industry by the rapid and worker's dwellings in rows can be found at most places.

■ Worker's dwelling ■ Mansion

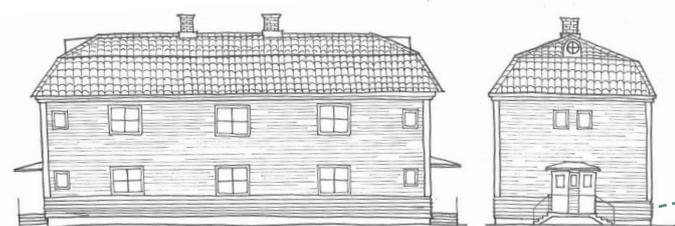


Iron- and brassworks surrounding Svanå

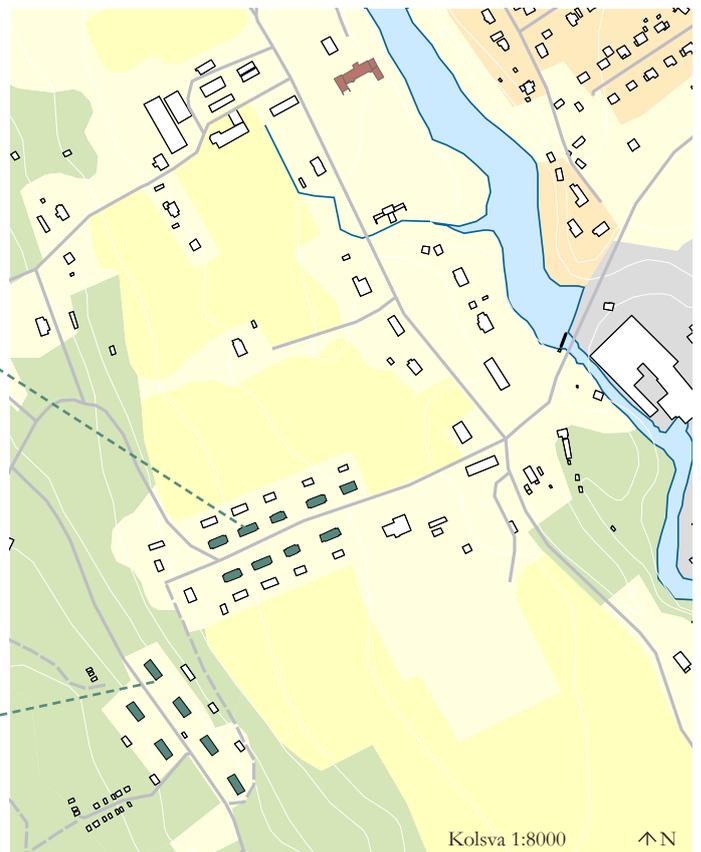
Kolsva



Bruksgatan, 1898-1901, one-four apartments, nine units



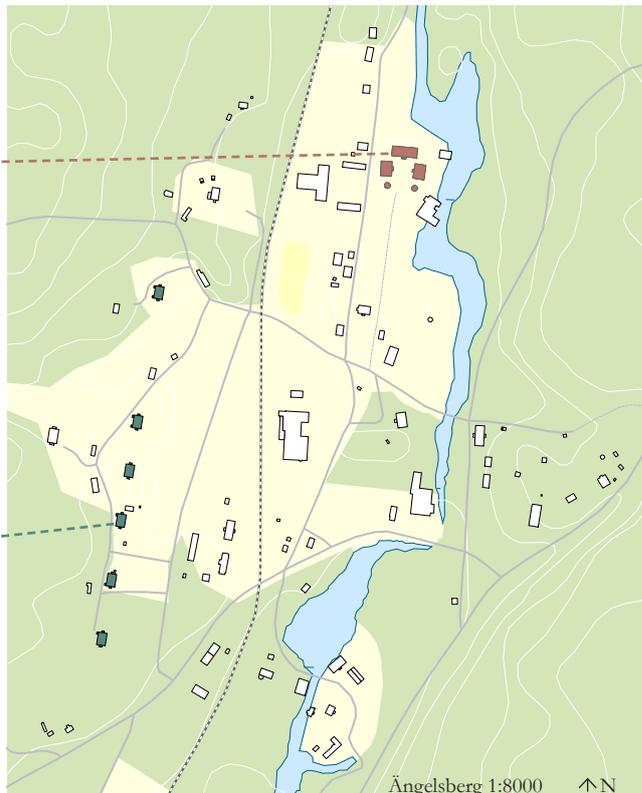
Varghedsvägen, two-four apartments, six units



Ängelsberg



Mansion ,1746

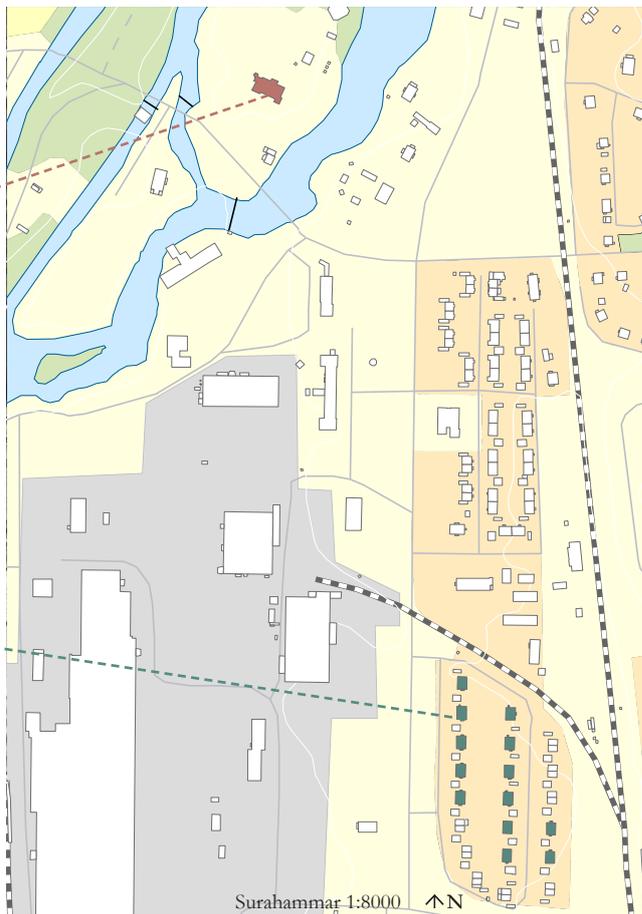


Tallbovägen, four apartments, six units, 1917

Surahammar

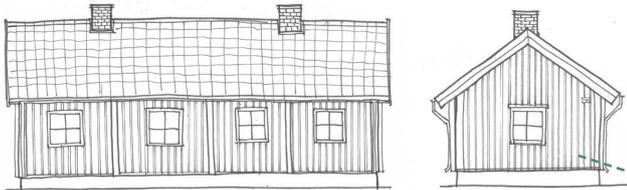


Mansion, 1858



Two apartments, thirteen units, 1920

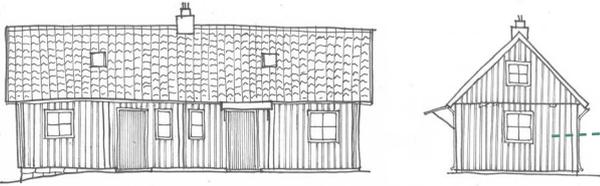
Skultuna



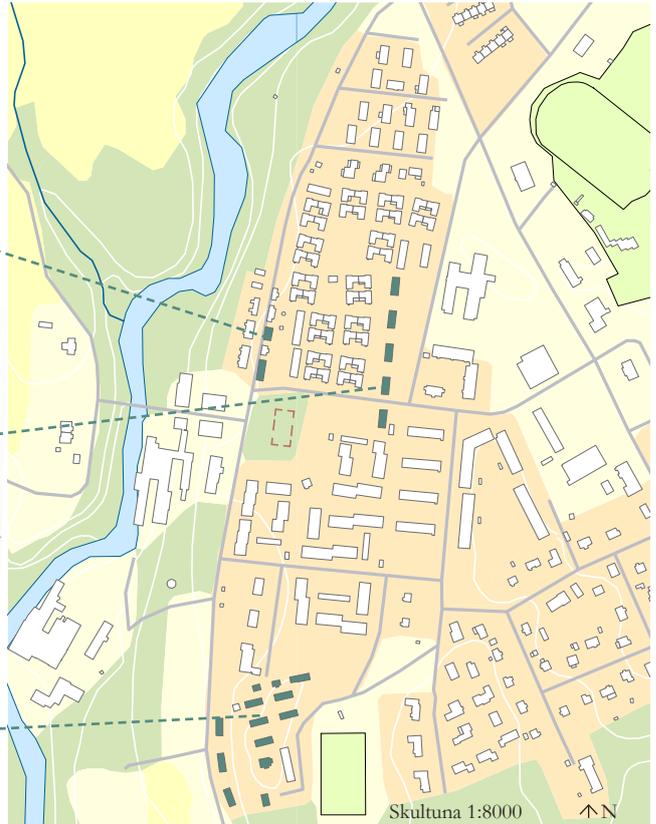
Brukskatan, two apartments, eight units, 1700s



Stenhusen, two apartments, five units, early 1800s



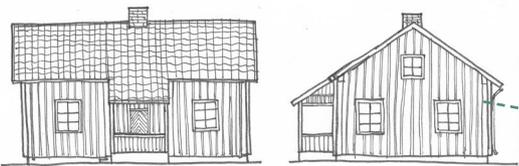
Kärrbo, two apartments, nine units, 1700s



Virsbo



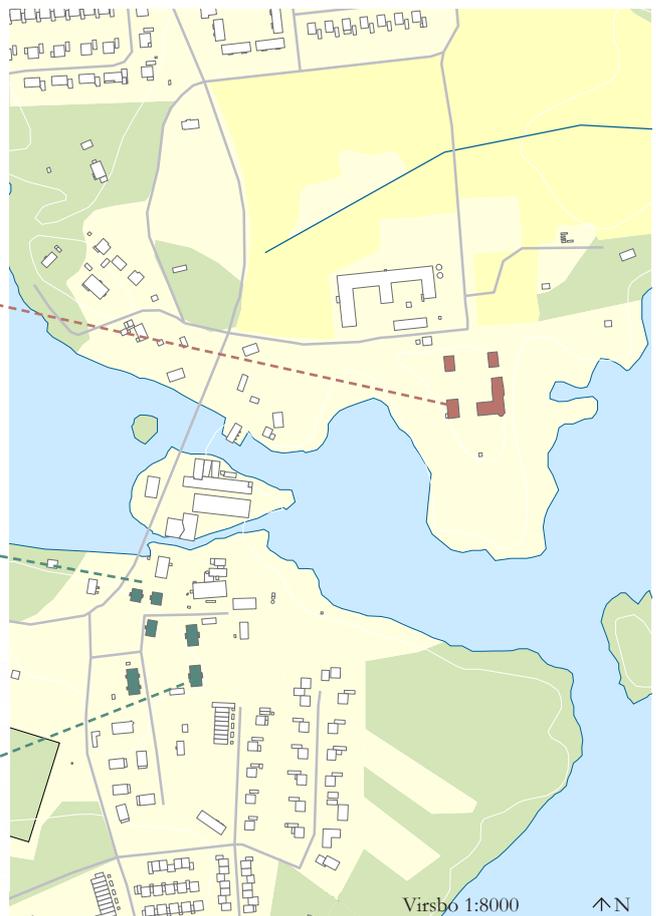
Mansion, 1753



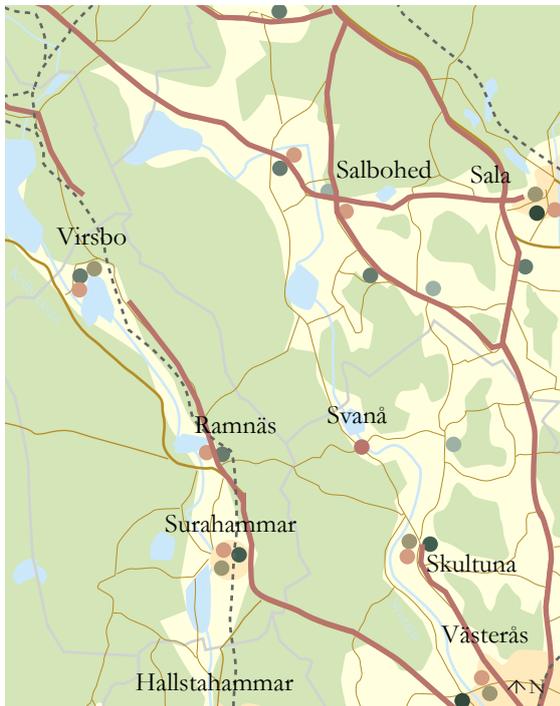
Vinkeln, 1759



Sörgården, six apartments, 1916



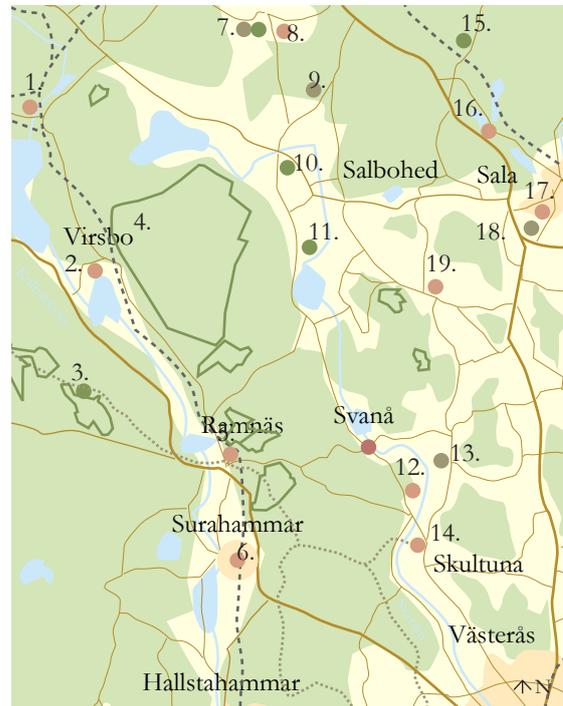
Bergslagen today



Service on the country side

	Grocery store		Preeschool
	Municipal boarder		Elementary school 1-6
	Healthcare center		Elementary school 1-9
	Bus routes		Gymnasium

In the forest west of Svanå stands a sign pointing out the centre of the province Västmanland (*Västmanlands mittpunkt*). Svanå is located in the furthest part of Västerås municipality, one of ten municipalities in the county Västmanlands län. The commute pattern also demonstrates that a lot of people from the neighbouring municipalities are working in the region's largest city Västerås (Mälarrådet, 2016). In the eastern part of the province smaller cities are located along the water streams, cities that depend on one large industry.



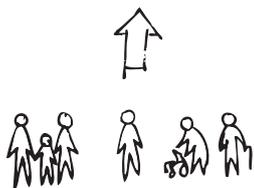
Attractions on the country side:

	Culture/attraction		Eco tourism
	Farm shop		Nature reserve
	Bruksleden walking trail		

1. UNESCO world heritage Engelsberg
 2. Virsbo konsthall
Virso herrgård
 3. Ulvsbomuren Vildmark & lantliv
 4. Hälleskogsbrännan nature reserve
 5. Visit center Elden & Skogen
Ramnäs hantverkshus (Smithy, ceramic, leather)
Schenströmska herrgården
 6. Bruksmuseum (iron work museum)
 7. Gröna hagars kött (farm shop)
 8. Västerbykil dramacenter
 9. Svedbo Kött & Grönt
 10. Svartådalens bygdecenter
 11. Edens garden B&B (ecotourism)
 12. Lagår'n (dance and events)
 13. Harakers kvarnmusteri
 14. Skultuna mässingsbruk (brass work)
Restaurants, shops and hotel.
 15. Norrängens alpacka
 16. Silvköparens camping
 17. Sala silvermine
 18. Hällsta (farm shop)
 19. Sätra Brunn (spa, conference, restaurant)
- (Svartådalens Bygdecenter, n-d)

Future Bergslagen

The population of Västmanland is slowly increasing and also the amount of the population over 65 years old is increasing, 21,8 % in Västmanland and 19,8 national average. (Tillväxtverket, 2019)



The tourism in Västmanland is increasing, the hotel nights have increased with 35% in ten years (Tillväxtverket, 2019). The eco tourism in the region around Svanå is increasing. The local association Svartådalens bygdeutveckling expresses an increase in european tourists that wants to experience the wild nature. (Svartådalens bygdeutveckling, 2017)

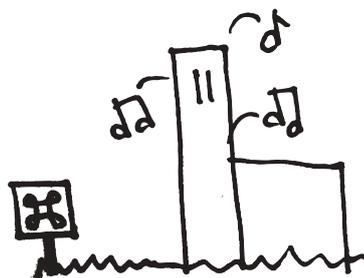


The number of inhabitants in the larger cities is increasing in Sweden, but not due to people leaving the countryside. On the contrary more people moved from a large city to the countryside than the other way around in 2015. (SCB, 2015).

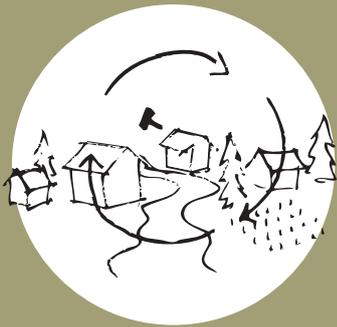


Other ironwork and mining industries in the area that have lost their primal income has adapted in different ways. Some have specialized their industry, some have invested in tourism like the UNESCO world heritage Ängelsberg. Some have introduced music and art into abandoned buildings like the Norbergs electro-music festival. (Norbergfestival, n-d) Many of the mansions belonging to the ironworks are now conference hotels.

In Sweden there is an increasing interest in selfsufficiency, growing your own vegetables and live a stress free life close to nature. (SR, 2018).



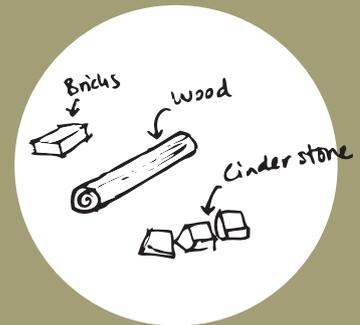
Conclusion Bergslagen



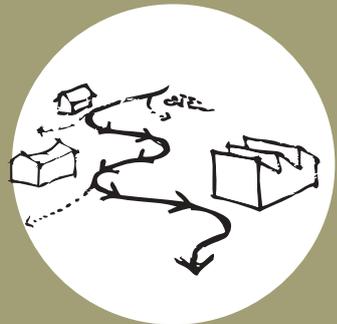
Selfsufficiency



Upgrading the living standard



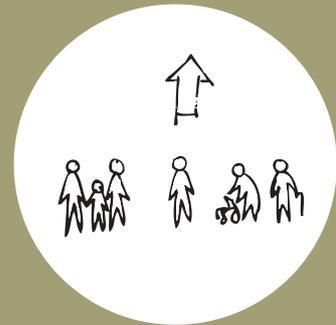
Local materials



Adapting is surviving



New influences



Growing population



Chapter 4

Worker's dwellings

History
Facade expression
Plan & apartment
Conclusion



Skultuna



Fagersta



Surahammar

History

Improving living conditions

A building type very specific for the ironwork communities is the worker's dwelling. It was a house with apartments for the workers and their families, commonly one room and a kitchen or one room with a stove. The purpose of the worker's dwellings was to improve the living situation for the employees. Normally the apartment was part of the salary. The earliest versions from the 1700s were one story high with pitched roof. Later they became larger with 2 - 2,5 stories and containing up to 12 apartments. These large volumes deviate in scale in the rural landscape where they often are placed in rows of two to ten houses. It is often the same house repeated along the street or similar versions of a house. The houses were built with local material like wood, brick from the brick work and cinder stone that was a decay product from the industry. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län, 2002)

New influences

Even though the ironworks were traditional and partly isolated communities, they were also societies in the forefront. There was an interest in new ideas both socially, as in occupational health service and pension system, and technically as in fireproof stone houses. Famous architects were hired to draw these modern residential houses with new ideas of plan and facade. There is often a play with symmetry, volume and placement of apartments. Though the apartment was on the second floor there was almost always a separate veranda where you could have contact with the ground and neighbours. There was little or no connection to the traditional architecture on site, but it also gave new inspiration to the conservative areas. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands län, 2002)

The worker's dwellings did introduce toilets early and a cement brick house was built 1915 for testing the new material. At this time many worker's dwellings were also built inspired by national romanticism with red wood panel facade combined with white verandas and window frames. (Vikström, 1998)

System change

For the communities that kept growing this typology was replaced in the 1920 by "Egna-hem". A concept where the company provided you with land and material and you built the house yourself. When the modernism and rationalism came many apartment houses were built in the ironwork communities. The companies had shaped the whole society around the ironworks and often built other facilities like schools, stores and cultural houses, but in 1947 a new law gave the municipalities the role to control the urban planning. Even though some companies continued to build houses for their employees and subsidized the rent it was an era that ended in the middle of the 20th century. (Vikström, 1998)

Today many of the workers dwellings have been rebuilt and apartments unitized. The demand for eight one-room-apartments without toilet is low. Many four-apartment houses are now pair houses often resulting in double entrances.



Kolsva

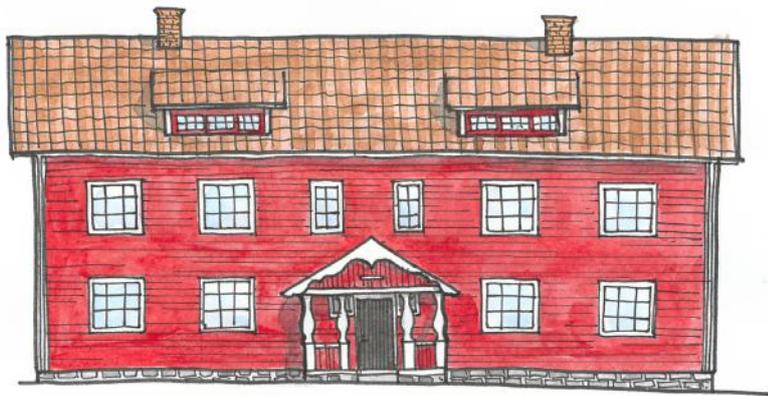


Kolsva

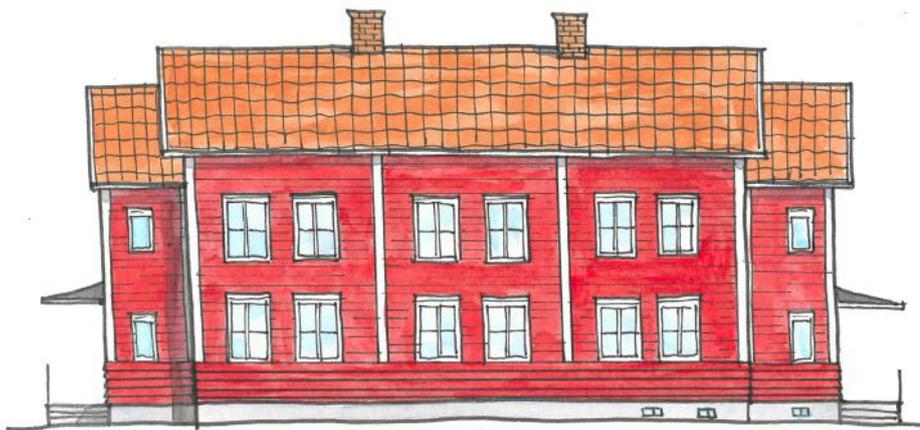
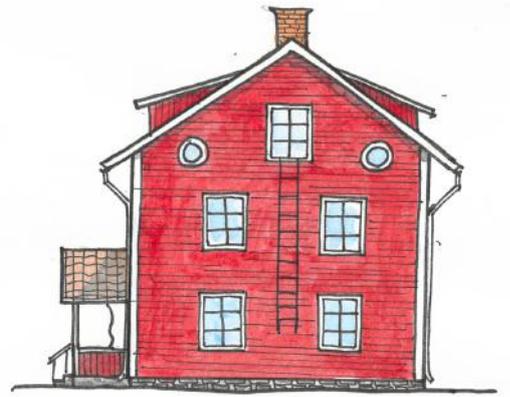


Karmansbo

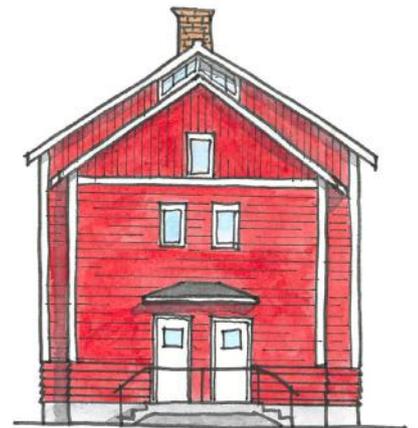
Facade expression



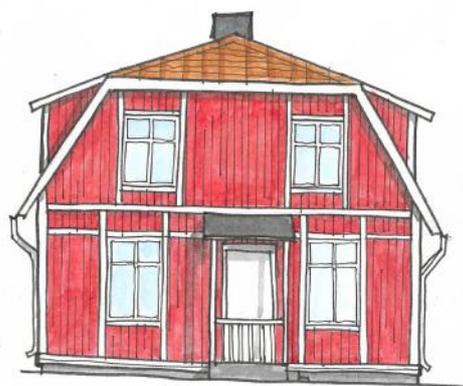
Virsbo, 1916,

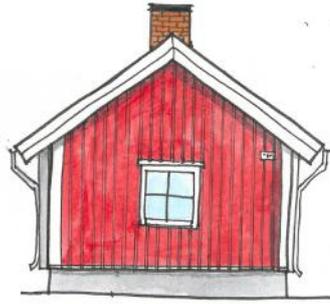
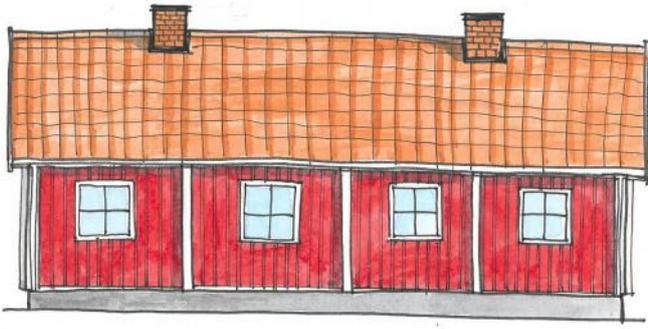


Kolsva, 1898-1901

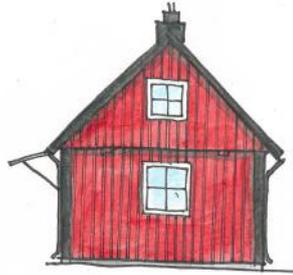


Surahammar, 1920

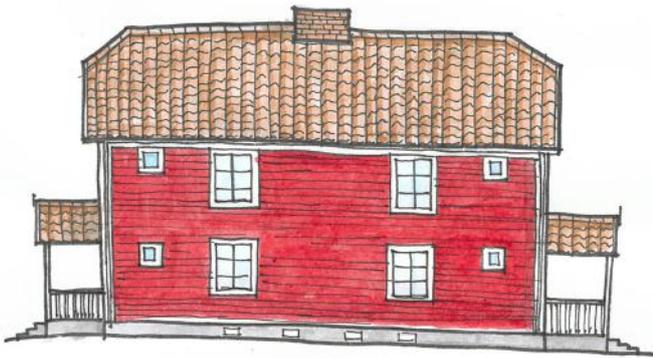




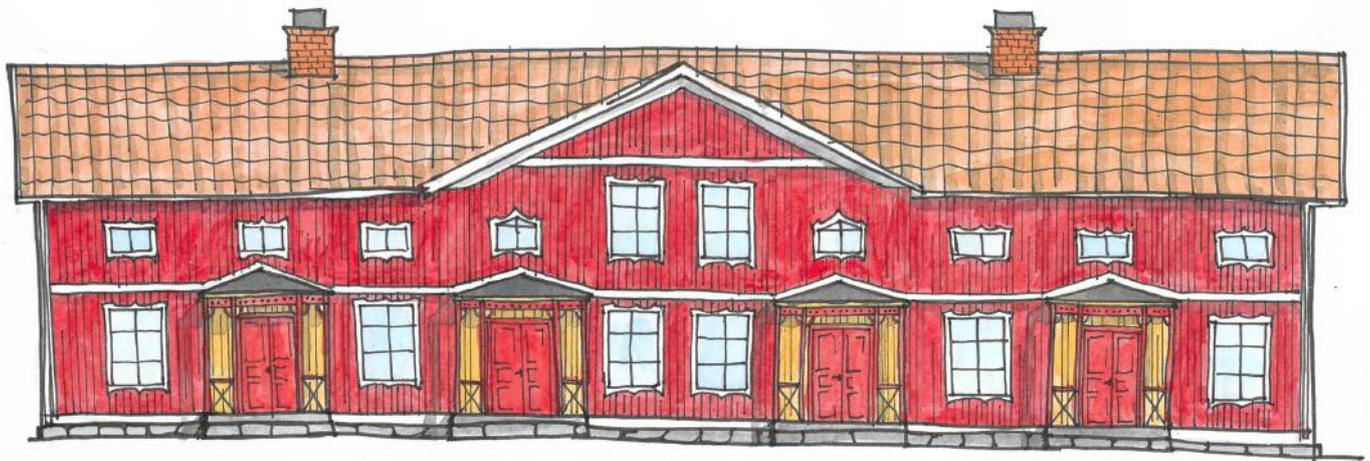
Skultuna, 1700s



Skultuna, 1700s



Ängelsberg, 1917

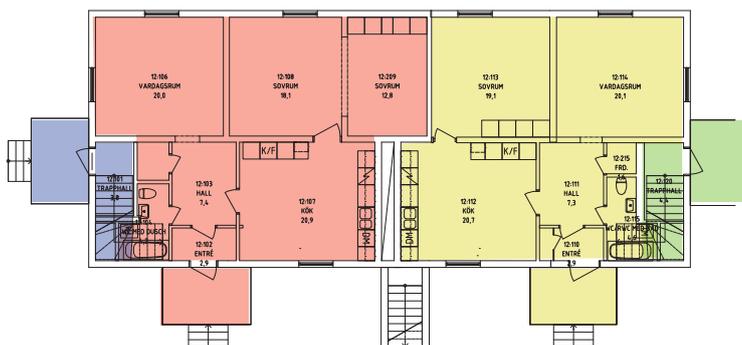


Gysinge, 1890

Plan & apartments



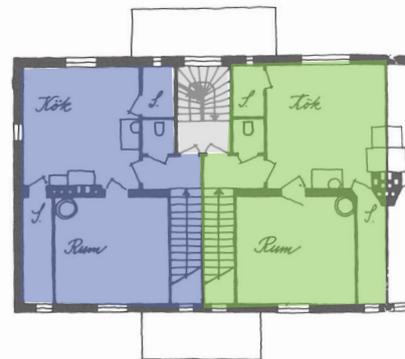
Svana Södra statarlängan, 4 apartments, second floor



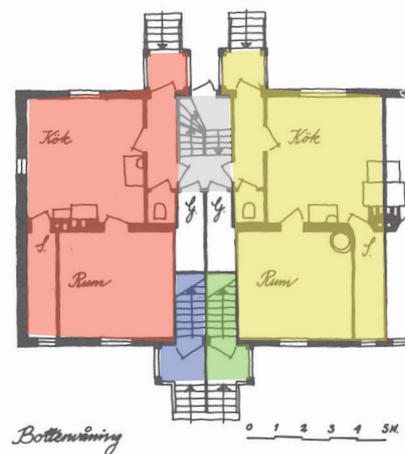
Svana Södra statarlängan, 4 apartments, first floor



Svana Norra statarlängan, 2 apartments, first floor
(Svana bruksarkiv, 2016)

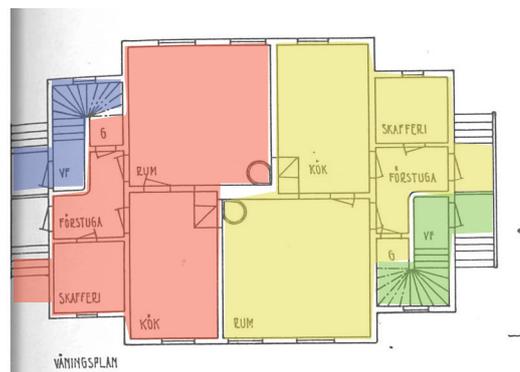


Trappning 1 trappa

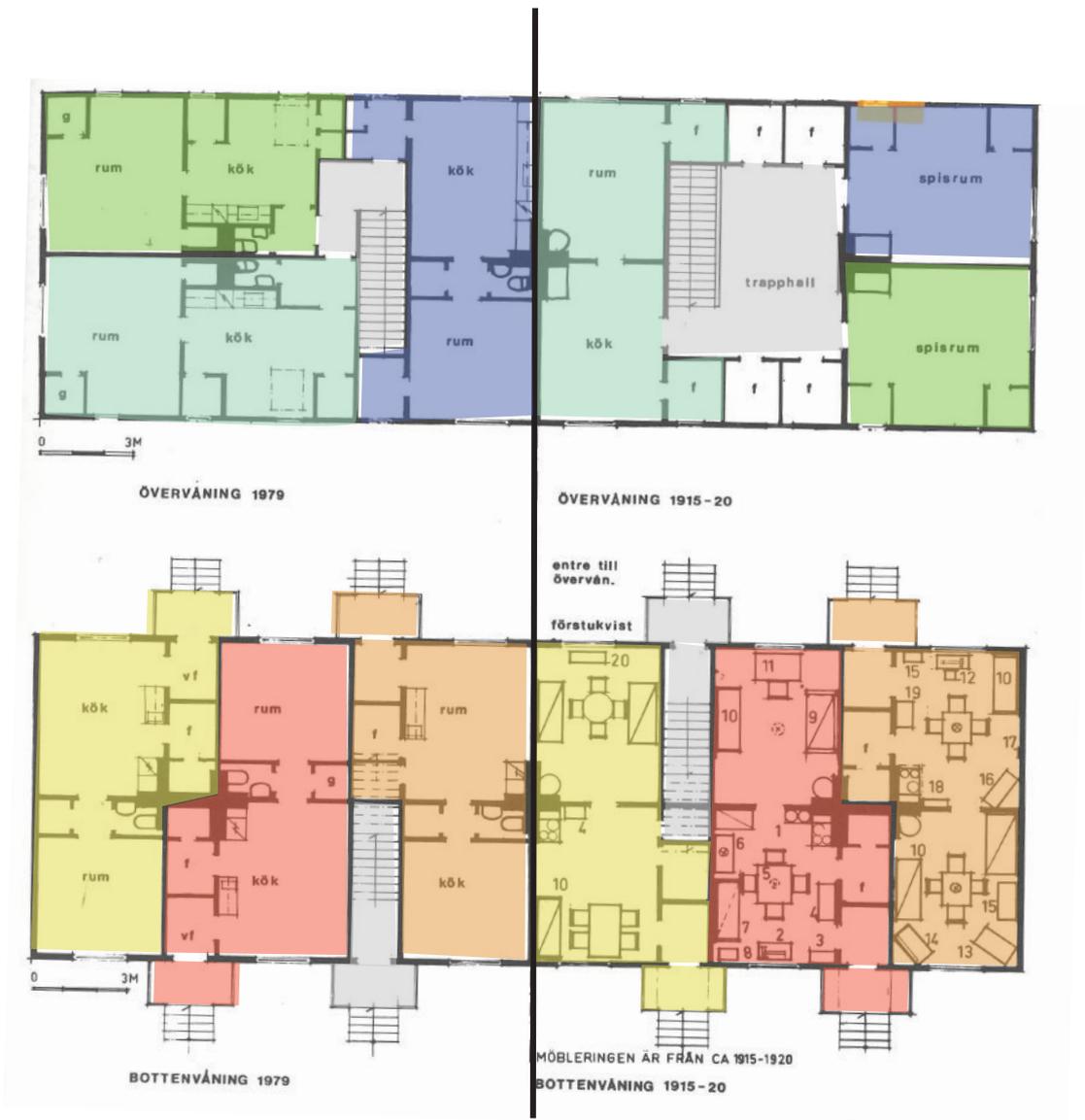


Bottenutgång

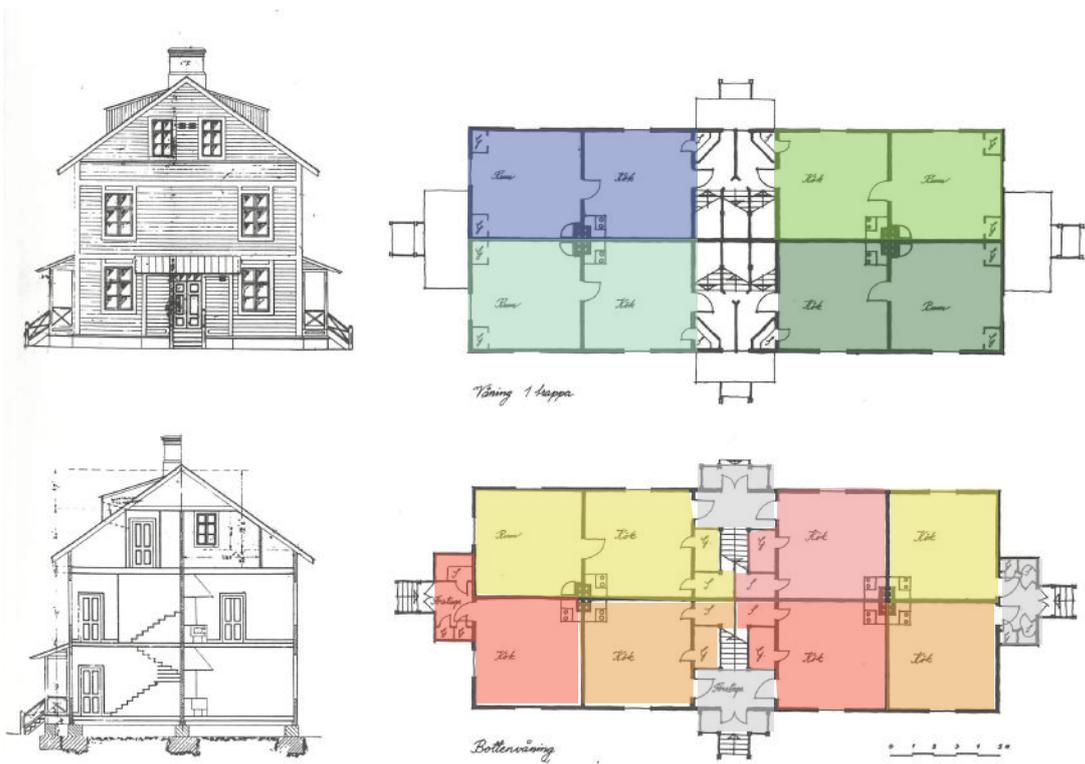
Grängesberg, 4 apartments
(Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola, 1983, p126)



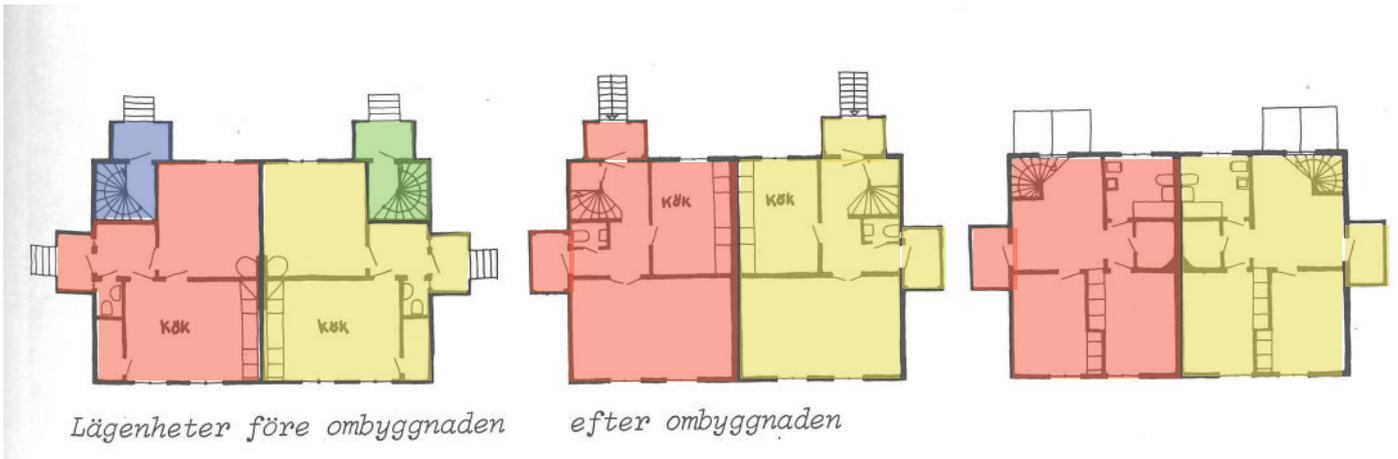
Grängesberg, 4 apartments
(Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola, 1983, p163)



Hofors, 12 apartments (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola, 1983, p89)



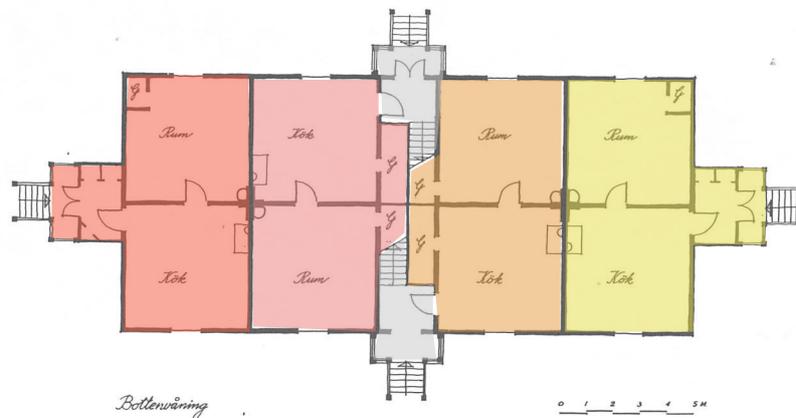
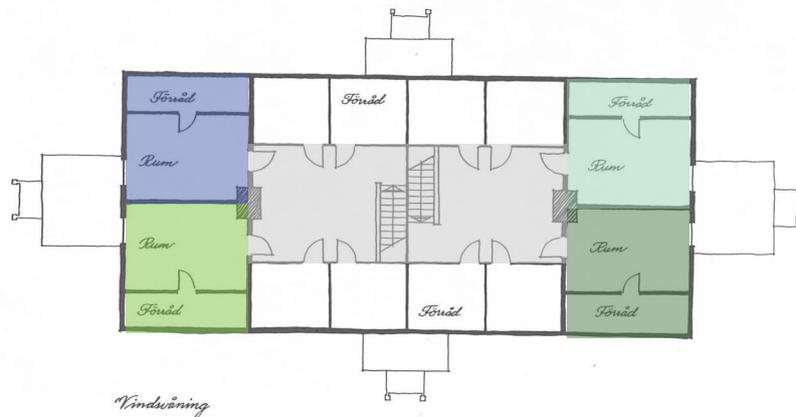
Fagersta, 5 apartments and 6 rooms (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola, 1983, p 123)



Grängesberg, 4 apartments, later 2, (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola, 1983, p 161)



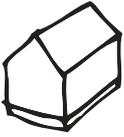
Arbetare-bostad



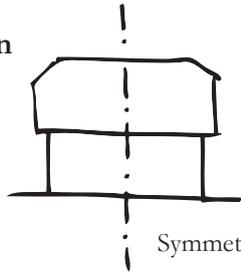
Hofors, 4 apartments and 4 rooms (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola, 1983, p 123)

Conclusion

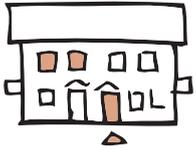
Building, proportion



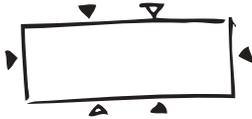
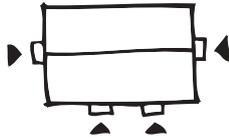
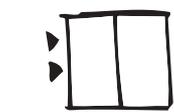
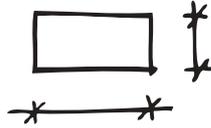
Monolith, pitched roof



Symmetrical



Non-intuitive entrance



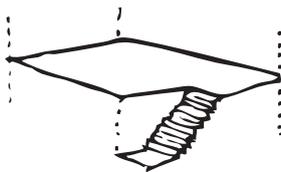
- ▶ One apartment
- ▶ Multiple apartments

Separate entrances, 2-12 apartments

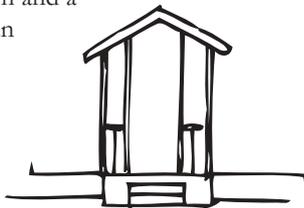
Plan



1 room and a kitchen



Stairs inside apartment



Marked entrances: private, semiprivate and public

Colour scheme



Red wooden panels

White details

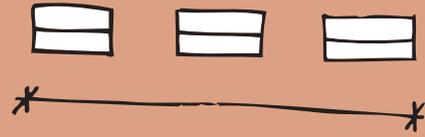
Cinder stone



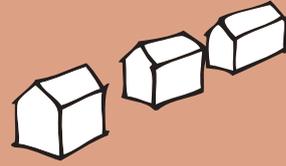
Light coloured plaster

Darker window frames

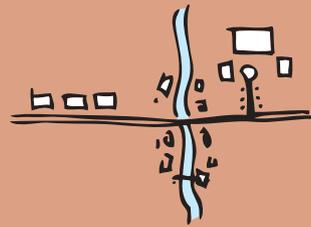
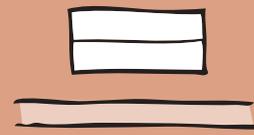
Settlement structure



Row of 2-12 houses

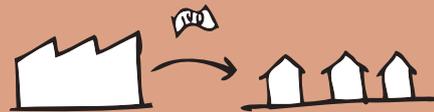


Long side against the street



Relation dwelling, ironworks, mansion

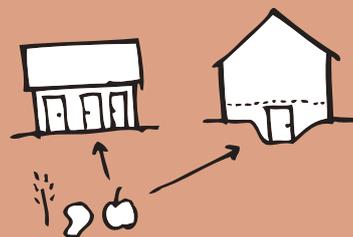
Preconditions for life by the ironworks



Dwellings built by the company



Each apartment had their own cultivation lot



Storage for food in basement and sheds.



Photo: Ingrid Norman

Chapter 5

Farms & villages

Landscape character
Conclusion

Landscape character

Follow the terrain

The south eastern part of Bergslagen meets the fertile farmer land with open fields and small forests. The buildings on the countryside have slowly developed over the years compared to cities and towns which have grown fast in stages. Cities are often characterized by planned areas with a coherent character while an important feature of the countryside is variation. The houses are gathered by farms and in small villages near forested hills, on waste land or along the streams. There is a high frequency of farms in this part of Västmanland, you always see several by the horizon. The villages are small, but the farms large. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands Län, 2016)

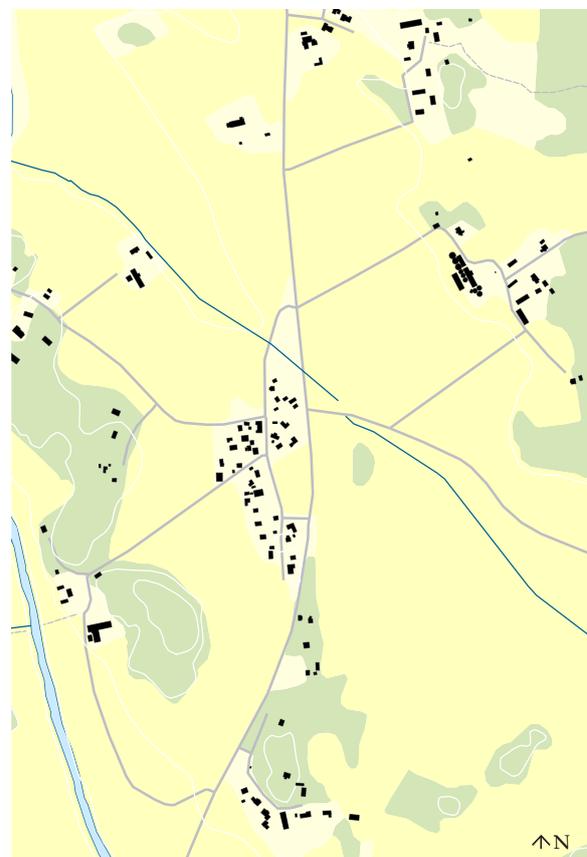
The settlement pattern on the countryside changed radically with the “skiftesreformer” in the 1800s. The small villages in rows or in clusters were sprawled out. The entrance to the main house often faced south. After the reform new farms were built according to a mansion manner with a main building flanked by wings and the larger houses for the animals were placed further away. Historically when there was a need for a new barn or agricultural buildings, a new building was built next to the old. This has created a landscape full of buildings not in use that tell a story about former generations life. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands Län, 2002)

Material and colour

For a long time the timber houses in the farms were unpainted. During the 1600 the red colour belonged to noble places but eventually it was also used in farms. Many influences first came to the mansions and were later adapted by other typologies.

In the end of the 1800s new industrially sawn panels were available and this affected the look of the houses as well as the new oil paint in light colours. The oil paint had more status than the red paint and many of the farms had a main building in a light colour while the wings were red. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands Län, 2002)

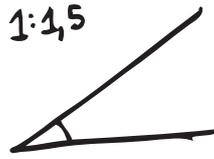
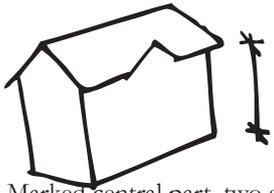
The constructions were based on the measurement of timber and the houses could be extended and heightened. The doors have always had two purposes: to protect and to welcome. In old times you gave the door a prominent place to show it and the artistic handicraft invested in it. (Länsstyrelsen i Västmanlands Län, 2002)



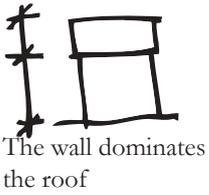
1:4000 Abelsberg, 5 km east of Svanå

Conclusion

Building, proportion



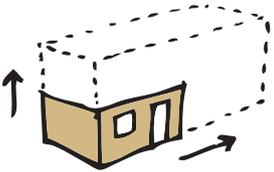
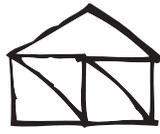
Marked central part, two stories Common roof angle



The wall dominates the roof



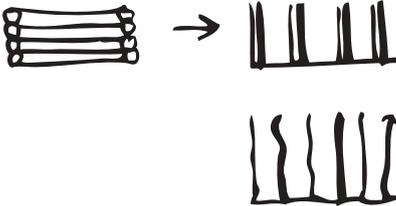
Proportions



Developed through adding



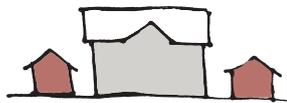
Depend on the size of logs



Timber walls, cladded with panels (board and batten)

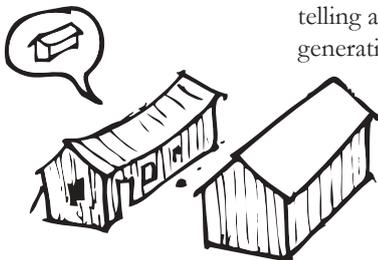


Door: to protect and welcome.

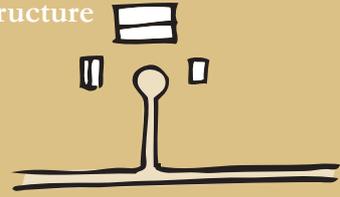


Main building in light colour, wings red

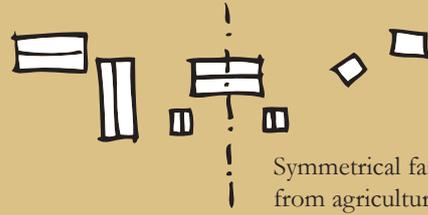
Old buildings next to new, telling a story about former generations



Settlement structure



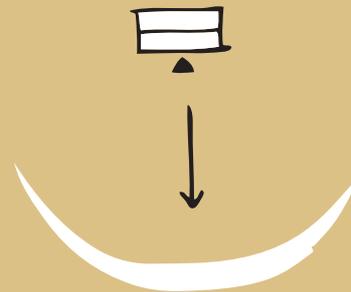
Houses set back from road



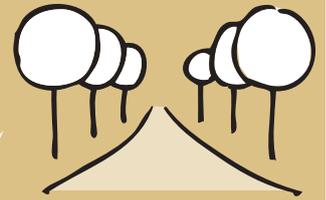
Symmetrical farm yard, separated from agricultural buildings



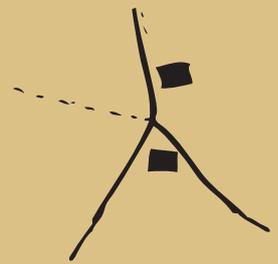
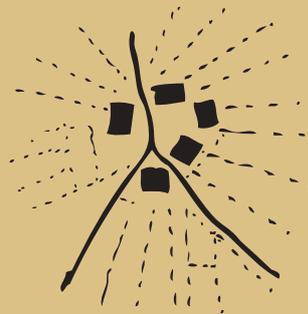
Field Waste land Forest



Entrance facing south



Colonnade of trees



The "Skiftesreform" in the 1800s shattered the villages



Influences first came to the mansions and was passed over



Chapter 6

Local Context

History of Svanå

Svanå today

Cultural heritage

SWOT

Future Svanå

Worker's dwellings

Analysis

Conclusion

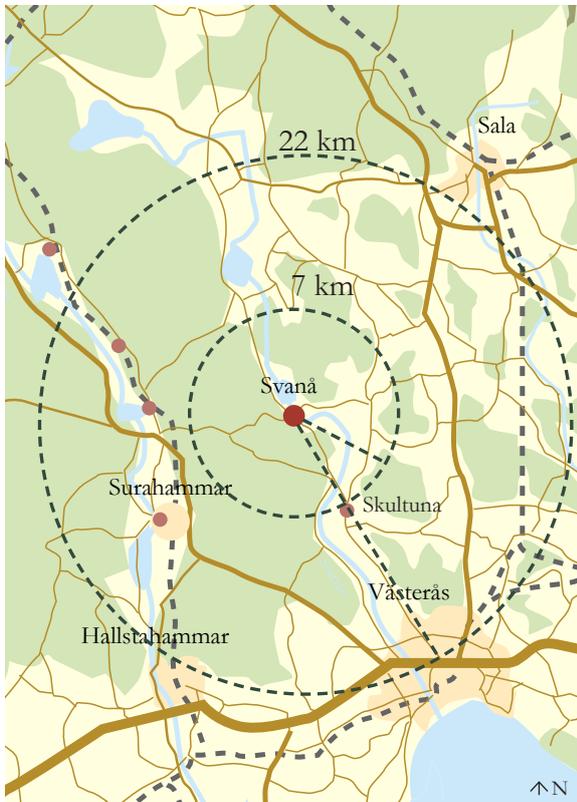
History of Svanå

Centuries of settlement

Svanå is located where the vast forests meet the open fields and the stream Svartån forms two waterfalls. The place has been associated with ironworks and smithies since the 1300s. From the 1500s the name Sigulskvarns Bruk was used and in the early 1700s the name Svanå is known and the iron was marked with the symbol of a swan. Svanå was part of a larger corporation with mines and smelteries and owned by different noble families. In the 1600s Ebba Brahe took over the property when her husband passed away. She was an active woman that increased the iron production and initiated the construction of the mansion.

(Sweco Kulturmiljöanalys, 2018)

The mansion was first a red timber construction that later in the 1700s became rough casted with yellow plaster. The baroque garden in between the mansion and the stream was also initiated by Ebba Brahe. The mansion has two wings and the yard in front of it, surrounded by agricultural buildings, has changed expression over the years. Two worker's dwellings for farmers also flank the central axis of the mansion. In the second half of the 1800s the English park was established on the other side of the stream, containing garden house, bridges and ponds. (Västmanlands länsmuseum, n-d)



Map of Svanå in its geographical context.



Team of workers in Svanå 1919. *Haraker sn, Svanå*. Reprinted with permission. (Västmanlands läns museum, 2018)

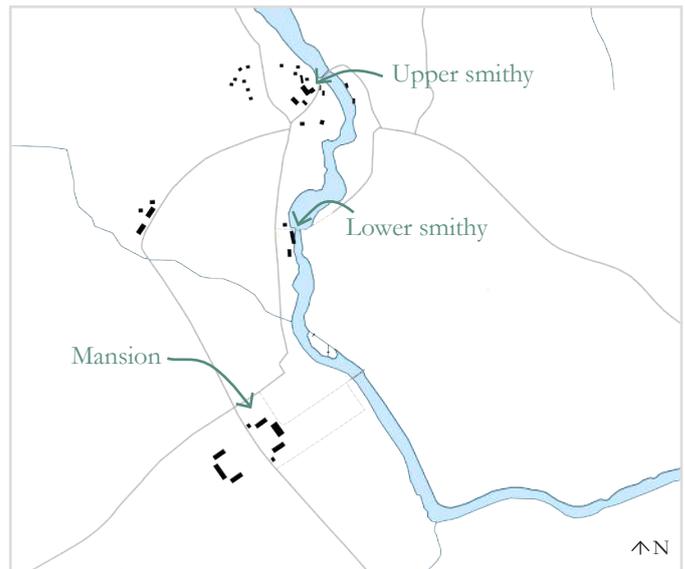
Along the stream the smelteries, hammers and smithies lay producing bar-iron, nails and agricultural tools. The water supply was never reliable in Svanå causing the production rate to vary. The goods were transported by sleigh during the winter to Västerås harbour. (Blomberg & Linscott Arkitekter, n-d)

More than iron production

Svanå was a society with a high degree of self-sufficiency. Except for the iron production there was agriculture, forest, a dairy, brick work, a saw mill and a mill. The ironworks also had its own currency for some time to encourage the workers to spend their income in the local grocery store.

In 1802 the factory appropriator and his wife built new worker's dwellings. The two story high plastered stone house called Öster (East) was constructed in 1802 and in 1820 a similar house called Väster (West) was built for the smiths. These houses had sheds that were shared by the families. Most of the apartments consisted of one room containing a kitchen, but on the gables there were apartments with kitchen and a small chamber. These larger apartments were meant for the master smiths.

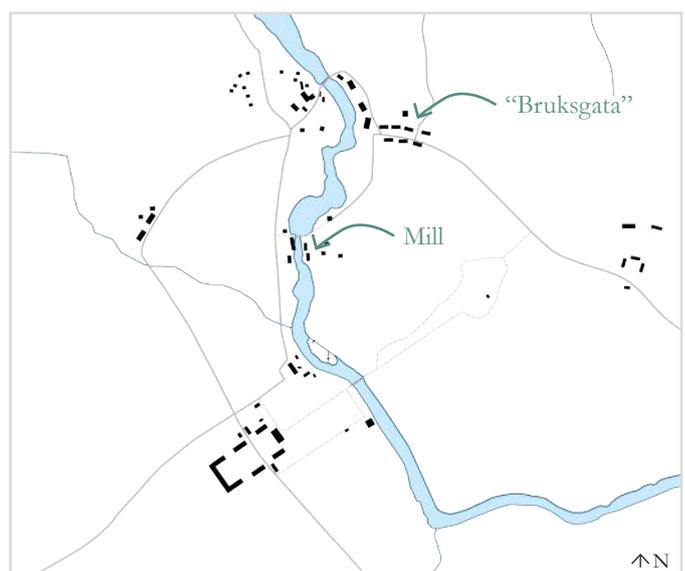
The first school in Svanå started already in 1768 and in 1870 the amount of children required a new school to be built. It was built by bricks from the village's own production and contained three classrooms. (Blomberg & Linscott Arkitekter, n-d)



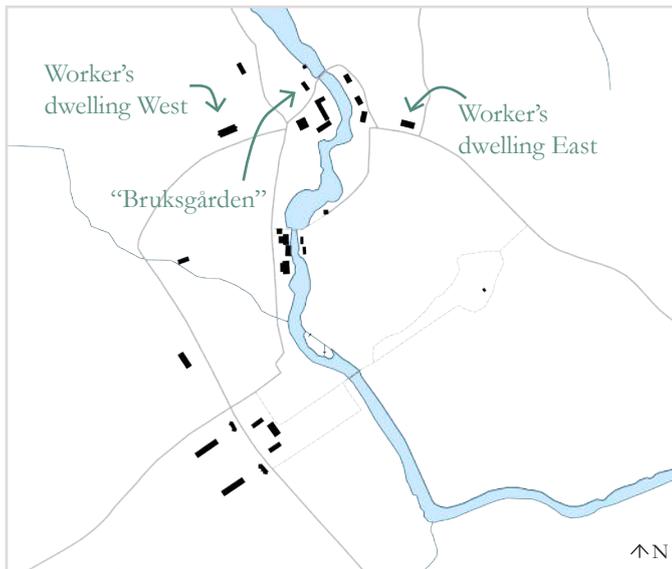
1:15 000 Svanå 1719



1:15 000 Svanå 1769



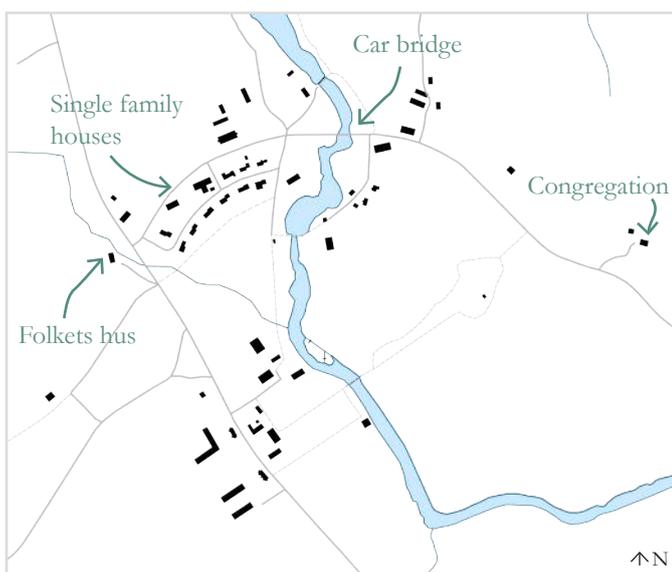
1:15 000 Svanå 1791



1:15 000 Svanå 1833



1:15 000 Svanå 1906



1:15 000 Svanå 1960

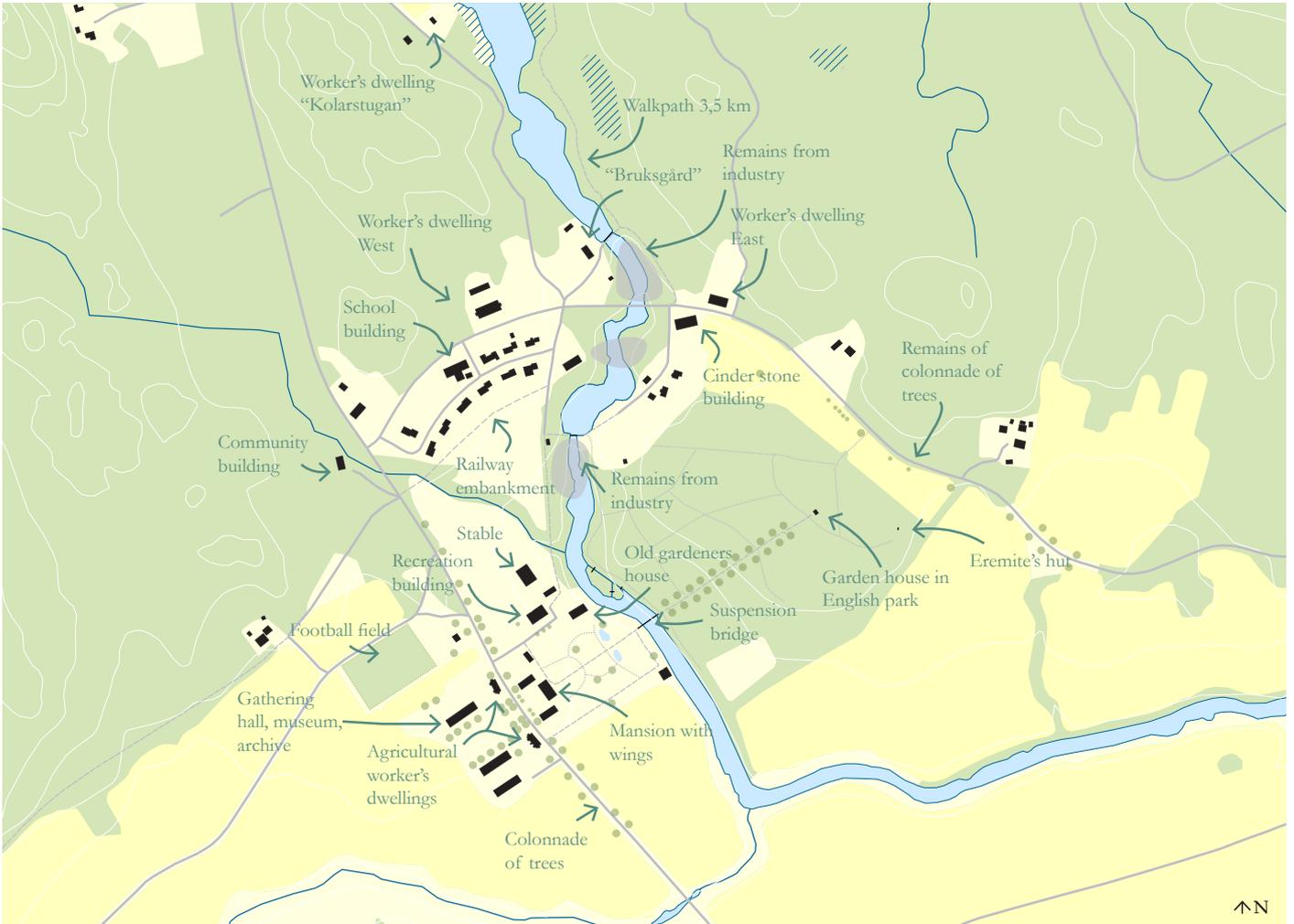
In 1837 and some years after the steam boat Svanen (the swan) frequented the stream Svartån to transport ore from the mines upstream. During summer time the boat was also used for leisure. (Västerfärnebos hembygdsförening, n-d) The boat was a loss-making deal and the global concurrence in iron production made the owner turn the ironwork into a stock company. In the 1870 business were better and Svanå got connected to the railway system with its own track. But the water supply was still a problem and other industries had modernised their techniques. (Blomberg & Linscott Arkitekter, n-d)

Demolishing and preserving

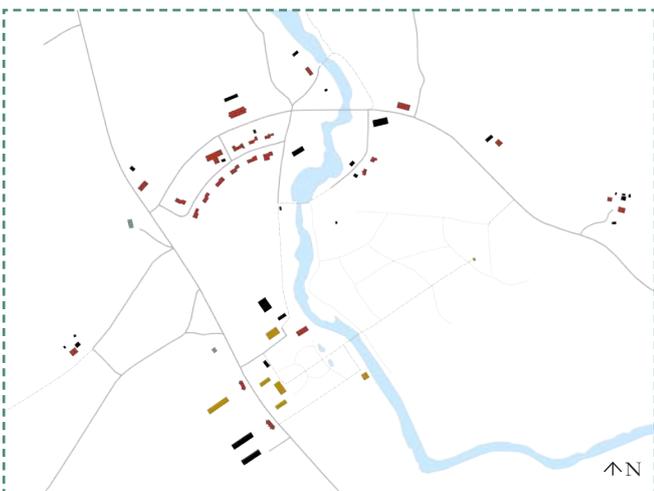
In 1905 Svanå Bruk was sold to Surahammars Bruk AB and in 1916 to ASEA. In 1925 the smithies were demolished and in 1935 the railway track was torn down. ASEA (later ABB) renovated the mansion and its surroundings and used it for representation. (Blomberg & Linscott Arkitekter, n-d)

In the 1960s the village was extended with a road and ten uniform single family houses and a new car bridge. In 2005 the property company AB Arvid Svensson bought the property. (Sweco Kulturmiljöanalys, 2018)

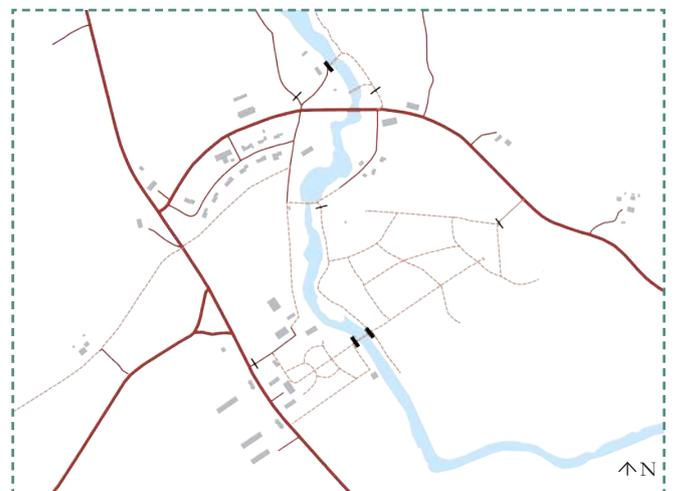
Svanå today



1:10 000 Svanå today



Functions 1:15 000



Infrastructure 1:15 000

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| ■ Housing | ■ Out-building | Streets | ■ Blockade |
| ■ Public | ■ Mansion/conference | Trails | Blockade you can pass |



The old school building

Calm village

Today Svanå consists of around 50 inhabitants in 27 households. The old school building is a residential house and the plastered worker's dwellings built for 70 people now house one family. The "Folkets hus" is a community building (*bygdegård*) and the single family houses from the 60s have gotten more individual expressions.



Worker's dwelling West

Along the stream you can see ruins of the industrial buildings that once stood there. Stonewalls, sometimes hidden under the greenery telling a story about the power of the water. The saw mill house, the "labbi" and a storage house made of cinder stone still stands there reminding you about the past. Traces from the railway can be found in the old railway embankment and the pylons for the railway bridge. Close to the upper rapid the "*Bruksgård*" still lies overlooking the water and the village road. There stands the bell tower that used to ring when work hours began and ended.



Folkets hus now serves as a community building

A trail with signs about Svanås history leaps along the stream and park. It isn't clearly defined what is private and public in the village.



Cinder stone house, once a storage for iron



The houses from the 60s have developed own expression

New initiatives

The vast property of Svanå that contains forest, fields and the mansion is owned by a property company. They work with three areas: the forest, the agriculture and to administer the buildings and run a conference business. The mansion and wings are well refurbished in the 90s and contains 22 bedrooms with en suite. In one of the wings there is also a small cafeteria. In the adjacent agricultural buildings there is a museum over Svanå and its refurbishment, a catering kitchen, a gathering hall for 150 people and an archive containing historic documents.

The old dairy is carefully transformed into a recreation building with sauna, dining hall, kitchen, conference rooms and butchery. Frequently used by the local hunting team. The stable is rented out to horses. The two agricultural worker's dwellings and the old orangeri are divided into rental apartment and today you have to queue to move in.



Svanå mansion from the 1600s



The old dairy, now a recreation building



Private museum, gathering hall, archive and kitchen



The pig house now serves as a stable



One of two agricultural worker's dwellings

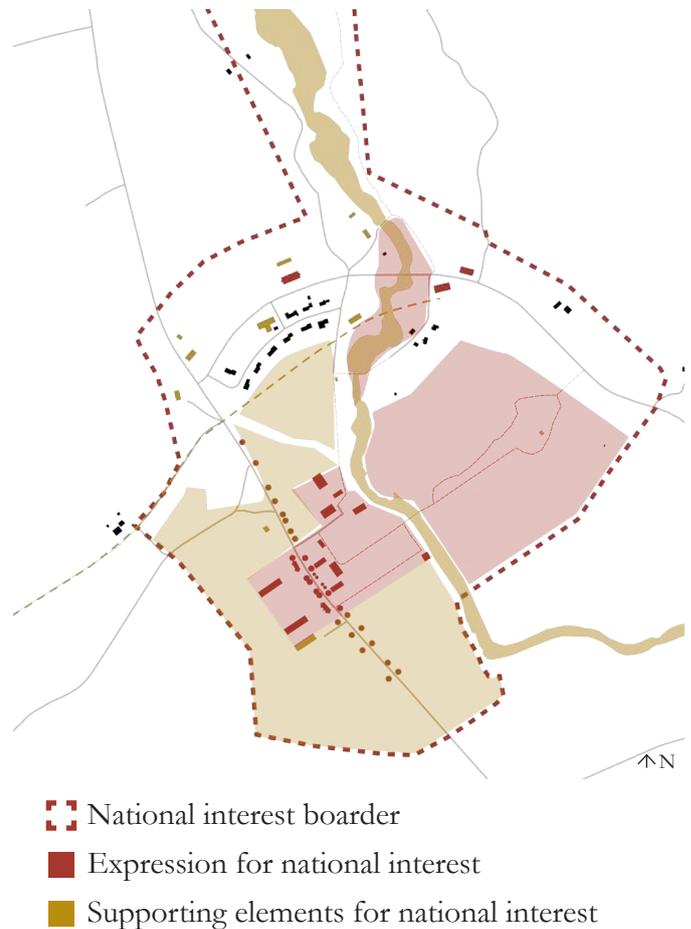
Cultural heritage

Svanå is classified as a national interest of cultural heritage with the motivation:

Ironwork environment outside the medieval Bergslags-area with a mansion built in caroline style with beautiful interiors.

The expression for the national interest is:

The main building and its park is shielded of with a colonnade of trees from the agricultural buildings from the 1700s and 1800s.
 A well preserved english park.
 Two well preserved worker's dwellings from the early 1800s and a former iron shed.
 By the rapid of Svartån there are numerous remains from the hammers of the ironwork.
 (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2012)



According to the Kulturmiljöanalys done by Sweco there are other elements within the classified area that contribute to the historical context. Supporting elements:

The open agricultural fields, the stream Svartån, other houses with a supporting function such as the school and storage houses, traces from previous function like the railway and production.
 (Sweco, 2018)

When it comes to development within this area different authorities have expressed their demands. The county administrative board says:

“Additional houses has to be executed to be perceived as a consistent continuation of the intentions that has existed over the centuries. Facade and roof material must be of high quality. Though the design can be contemporary in the same way as the existing buildings were when they were built.”
 (Västerås Stad, 2018)



Strenghts

- Well preserved mansion and historical buildings
- Rich history
- Scenic landscape
- Fertile land
- History of self-sufficiency
- Cycle distance to Skultuna and service 7 km
- Closeness to stables and horse paddock
- Nature trails
- Concentrated village, walking distances
- Closeness to Svartån
- Historical remains
- Strong identity
- Company established enabling working possibilities
- Closeness to forest
- Low amount of traffic - calm and quiet

Weaknesses

- Difficult to distinguish public and private
- Car dependency
- No service
- Aging population
- No public transportation
- No bike lane connecting to Skultuna
- Restrictions because of nature-and cultural values
- Not many work places
- Water shortage
- Low amount of traffic - no one passes by spontaneously
- Strong identity - hard for new inputs to grow
- Wild boar ruin the gardens

Opportunities

- Possibility for self sufficient house holds with their own alotment
- Connecting to closeby Skultuna and it's services/bike lanes/water and sewage
- Housing environment for horse interested people
- Possibilites for new business creation
- Development of eco tourism
- Growing population as the municipality grows
- Warmer climate - longer growing season

Threats

- Depopulation
- Climate changes: draughts, fire, landslide
- The history is forgotten and the place looses its historical values
- Centralisation - service is disappearing

Future Svanå

There are ongoing plans to extend the village of Svanå. A detail development plan is in progress with the aim to complement the village with around 80 residential houses and other activities with respect for the cultural heritage. The plan contains two new residential areas which densifies the village, new facilities by the mansion and new usage for the saw mill and cinder stone building. Possible future facilities are a preschool, rooms for coworking, conference, restaurant and hostel. (Stadsbyggnadsförvaltningen, 2018)



Cinder stone house



Aerial photo with development areas

Ortofoto (C) Lantmäteriet



Pittoresque view of cinder stone house and worker's dwelling



House and garage create a yard set back from street.



Cluster of buildings shaping a yard.



Preconditions on the development site 1:4000



Yard formation with main buildings and out-buildings.



Front of garden house, the backside is facing the development area.



The eremite's hut covered in wood shingles in the english garden.



Sightlines

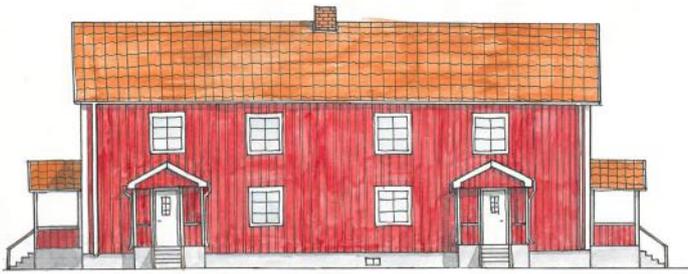


Existing trees and remains of a tree colonnade

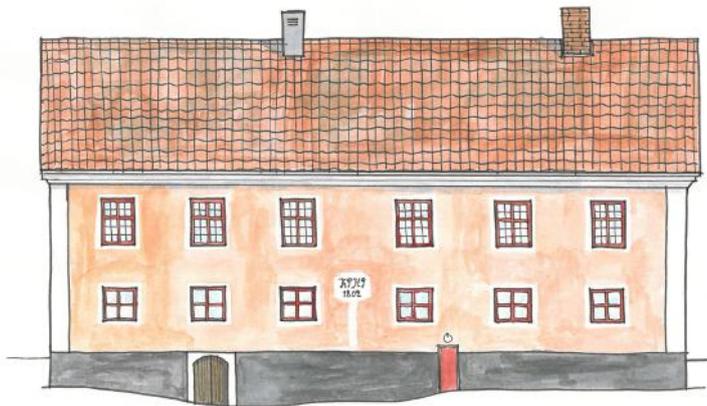
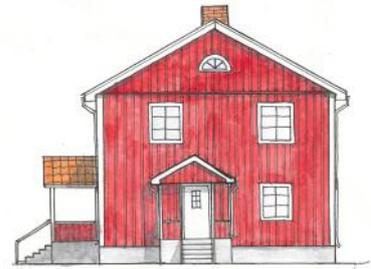


Noise from the rapids

Worker's dwellings in Svanå



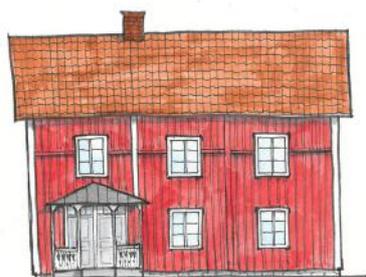
Svanå, 1800s, two almost identical houses today with 4 and 2 apartments



Svanå Öster, 1802

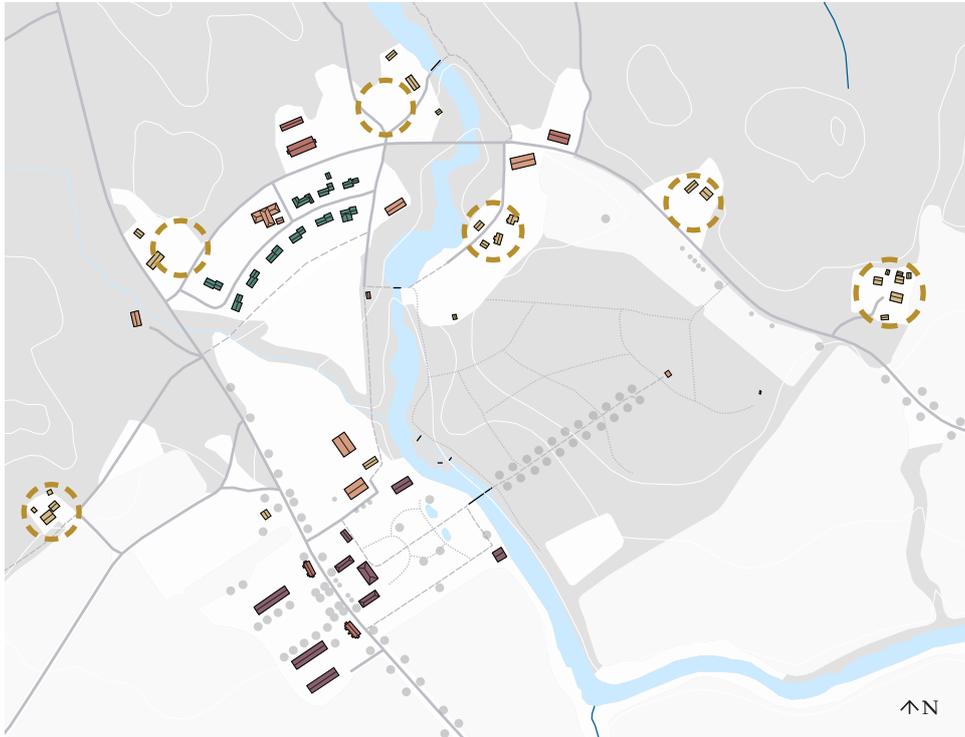


Svanå Väster, 1821, 10 apartments + 2 rooms.



Svanå Kolarstugan, 2 apartments

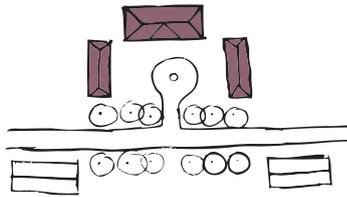
Analysis of Svanå



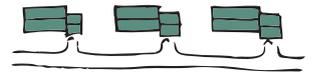
Svanå 1:2500

Five settlement structures in Svanå:

Mansion structure,
Symmetrical,
ortogonal



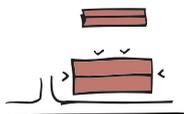
“Bruksgatan”,
repetition of similar
houses along the street



Yard formation,
set back from
street



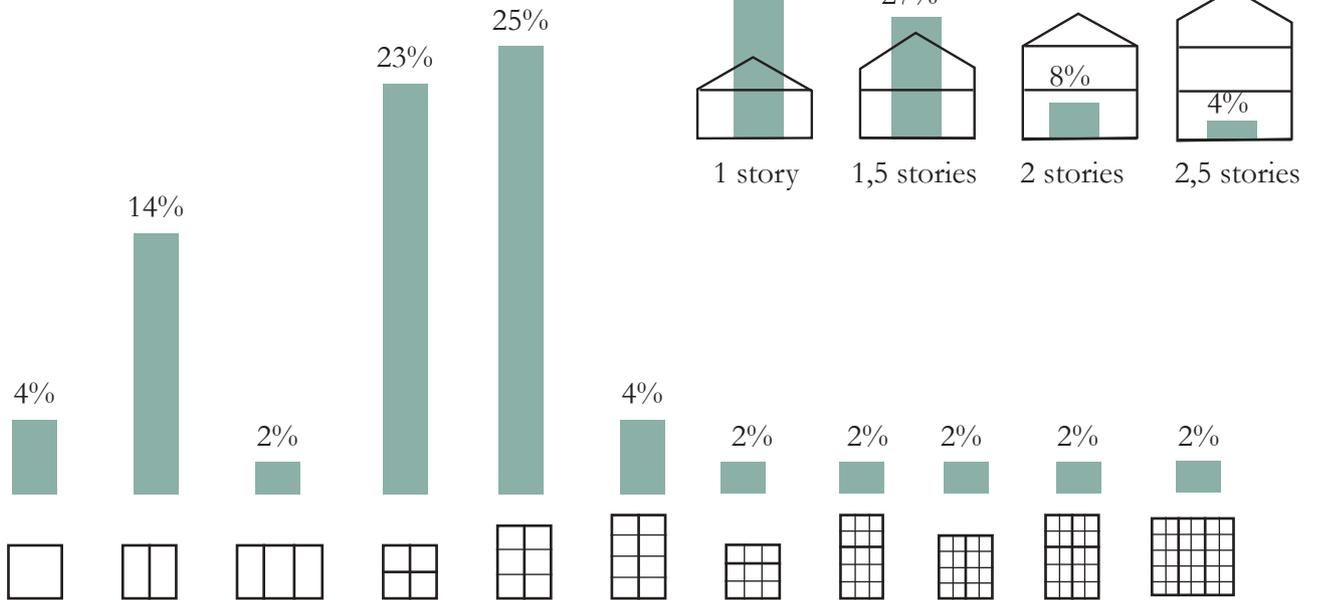
Working dwellings,
along street



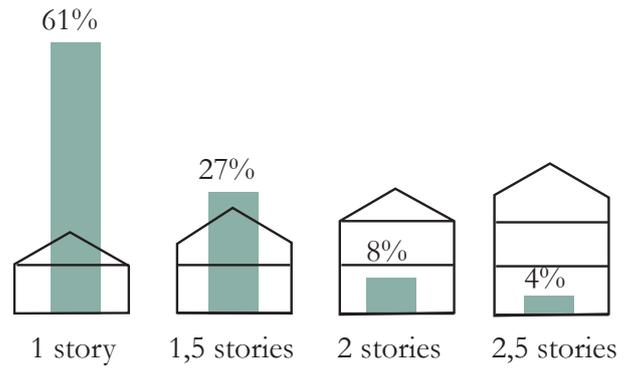
Singular building!
Special shape/
local materials



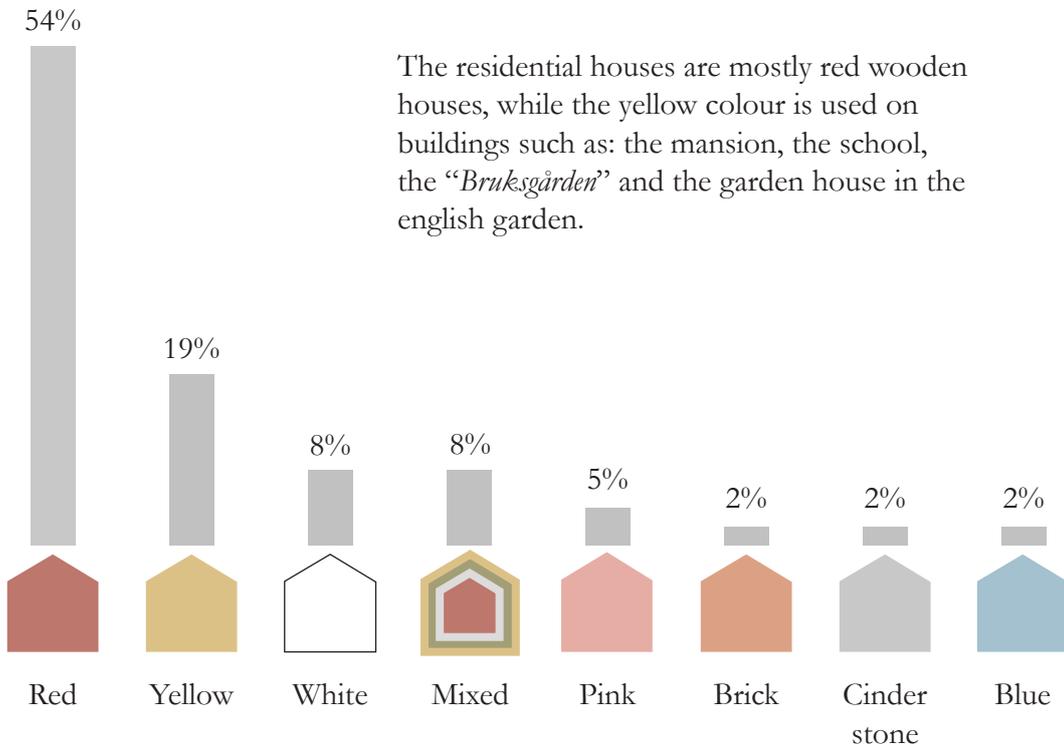
Partition of windows



Number of stories



Facade colour

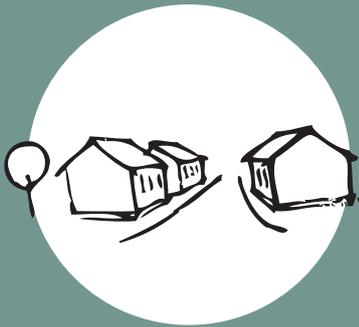


The residential houses are mostly red wooden houses, while the yellow colour is used on buildings such as: the mansion, the school, the “*Bruksgården*” and the garden house in the english garden.

The colour on the houses has changed over the decades.



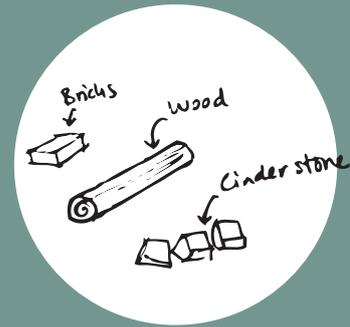
Conclusion Local Context



“Bruksgatan”



Yard formation



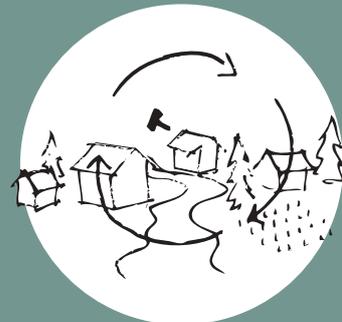
Local material



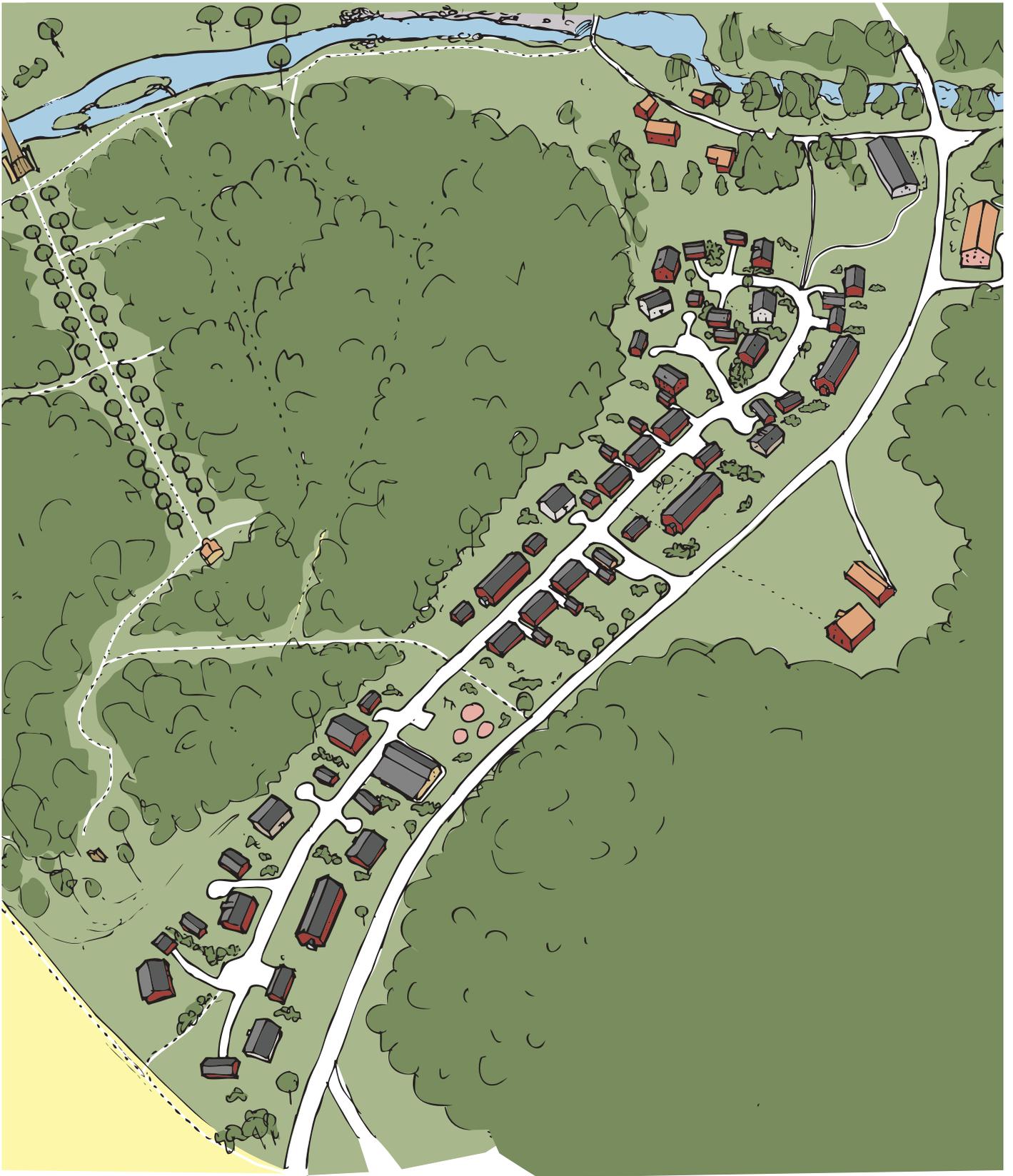
Worker's dwelling



Singular buildings



High degree of self sufficiency



Chapter 7

Design Proposal

Concept

Vision

Site Plan

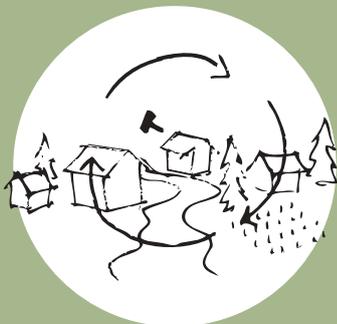
Singular buildings

Residential building typologies

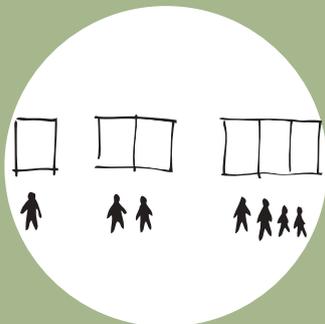
New worker's dwelling

Connection to the village

Concept



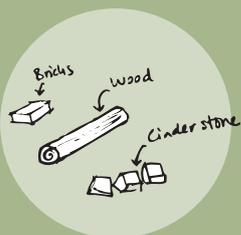
High degree of self sufficiency



Wide target group



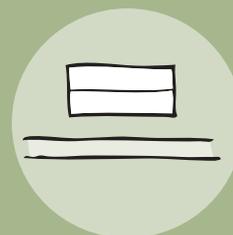
Historical identity



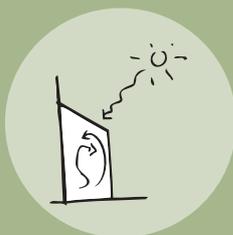
Local material



Families with children



Settlement patterns



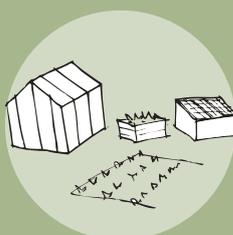
Local resources - the sun



Elderly



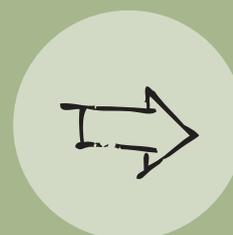
Typologies



Grow and store food

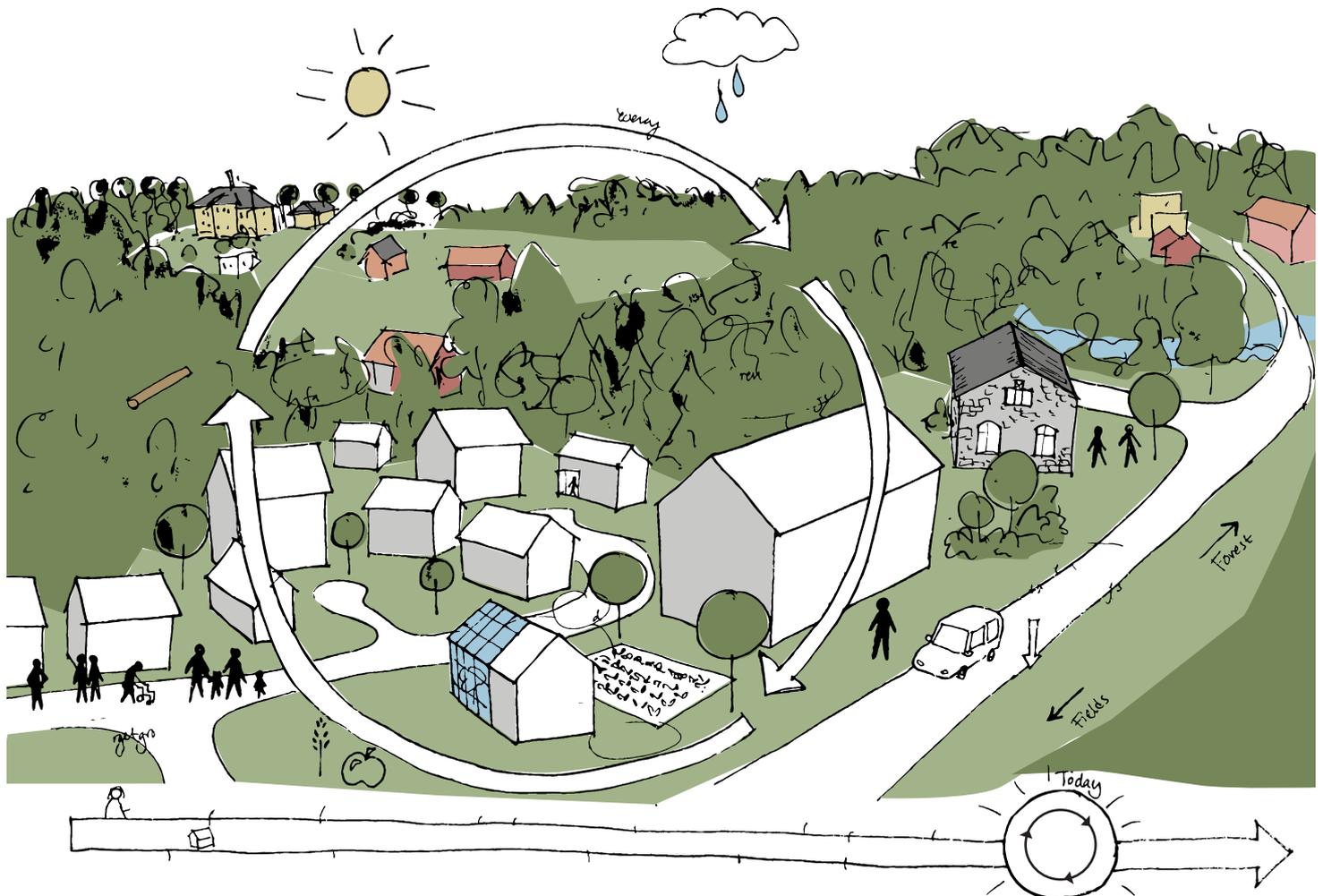


Couple and single households



Sightlines

Vision



The vision for the future Svanå is an extension along the village street that connects the old and new part. As in history the new area has a high degree of self-sufficiency and takes advantage of the local resources on site. It is a place for countryside lifestyle of today and an opportunity for many different households to live close to nature. It is an area that by placement and scale connects back to the historical buildings. It is a place where the historical values live on in the new buildings, contributing to the historical identity.

The houses are built by local materials such as wood and their orientation, solar roofs, sizes of window openings and placement of greenhouses take advantage of the local resource – the sun. An important aspect for a modern self-sufficient home is generous storage space for food, both to minimize car rides to the store and be able to keep what you have grown yourself. The houses have a close connection between spaces for growing, storing, refining and cooking. They all have their own fireplace. The historical values related to are the four settlement patterns, the typologies of the countryside and their proportions and colourscheme, as well as preserving the existing sightlines that represent the village.

Site plan



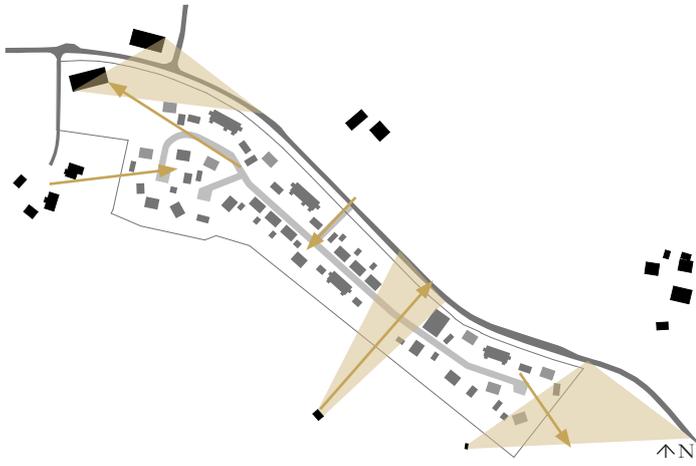
Site plan 1:2500

Ortofoto (C) Lantmäteriet



Site plan 1:15 000

The new residential area is located in-between the village road and the English park. The houses are placed to keep the sightlines that welcomes you when entering from the east providing a view to the eremites hut, the garden house and the two large volumes close to the stream. Also from within the area there are views out on the open fields and towards the existing buildings, but broken sight lines as well to bring down the scale. Similar to the detail development plan the area consist of 37 households distributed in 27 houses with outbuildings. As in the existing village the typologies are mixed and there is a wide range of different house size and also rental apartments.



Sightlines 1:6250



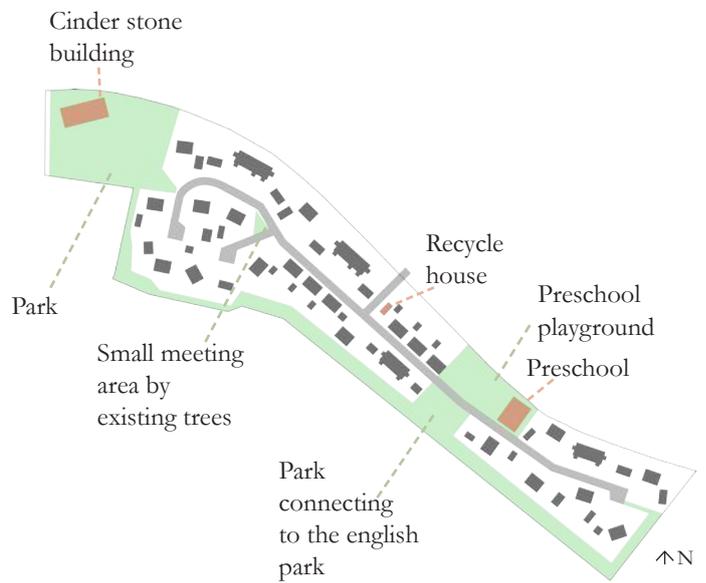
Typologies 1:5000

- Public building, "Bruksgatan"
- Single family houses, yard formation
- Worker's dwelling



Infrastructure 1:6250

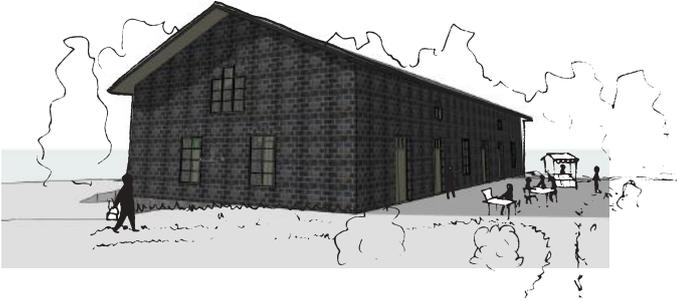
- Streets
- Trails
- Entrance points



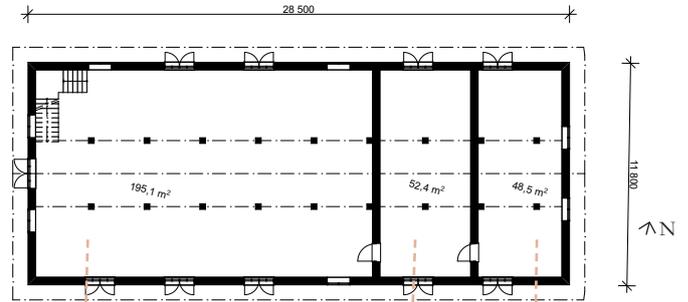
Greenery/Public buildings 1:5000

Singular buildings

The cinder stone house



New use for the cinder stone building that originally was a storage for iron. A combination of a farmers shop for closeby farmers and residents who grow their own food and a refinement kitchen were the food could be turned into jam, juice etc. There is also a section for a common workshop.



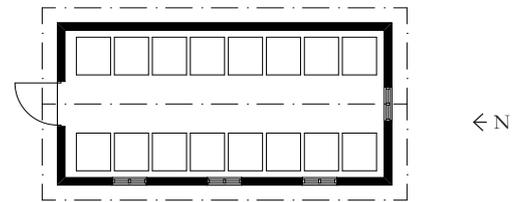
Plan 1:400

Farmers shop

Common workshop
tool library

Refinement kitchen

Recycle house



Plan 1:200

The recycle house is made of brick like historical buildings in the village connected to working and storing such as the former dairy and the “labbi”.

Preschool



The preschool by the park is a continuation of the historical theme to use local resources. Its unique shape comes from optimal sun angles and the construction can be made in the local left over material straw bales and plastered with a yellow colour such as many of the singular houses in Svanå. The preschool could house two child groups.

Residential building typologies

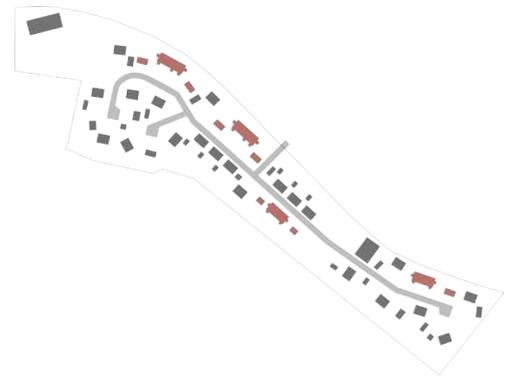
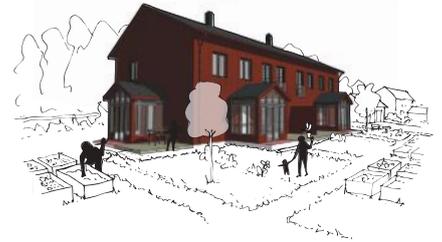
The “bruksgata”



The single family house in yard formation



Two types of worker's dwelling



View facing north west, worker's dwelling and single family houses.

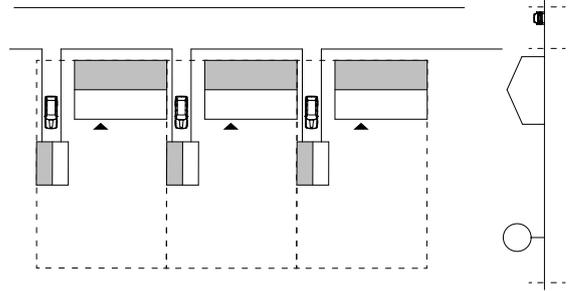
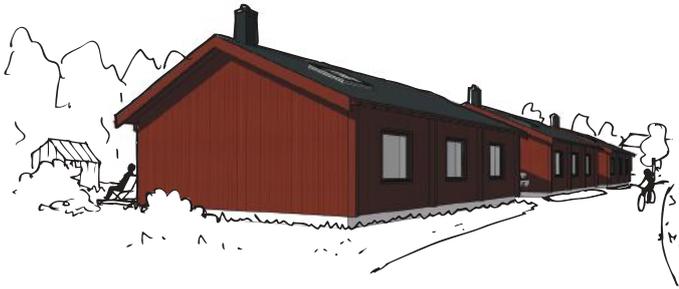


View facing north west with existing worker dwellings at the horizon



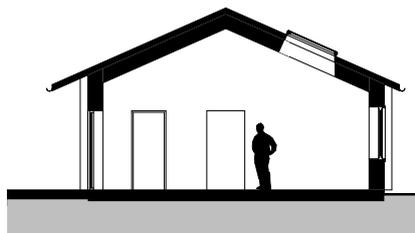
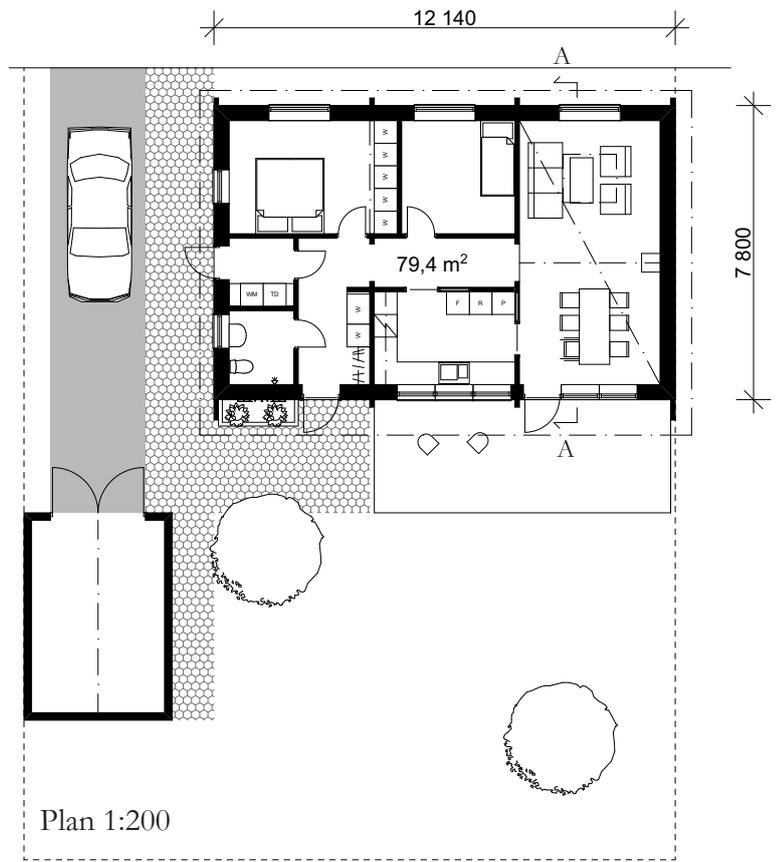
View facing south, yard formation

The "Bruksgata"

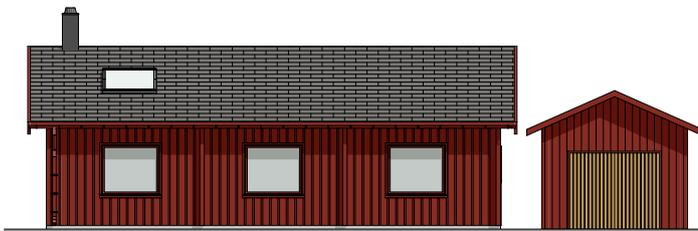


To enable smaller families, couples and elderly to live on the countryside, the single story house offers a simple living with closeness to the garden.

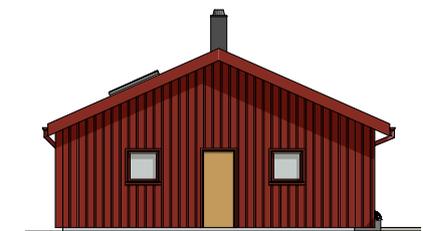
GFA:	94,7+21,5 m ² garage
GIA:	79,4 m ²
Amount:	6 units
Size:	3 rooms+kitchen
Target group:	



Section A-A 1:200



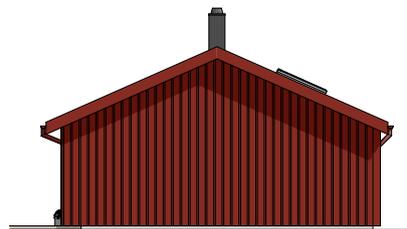
Street facade 1:200



Gable facade 1:200

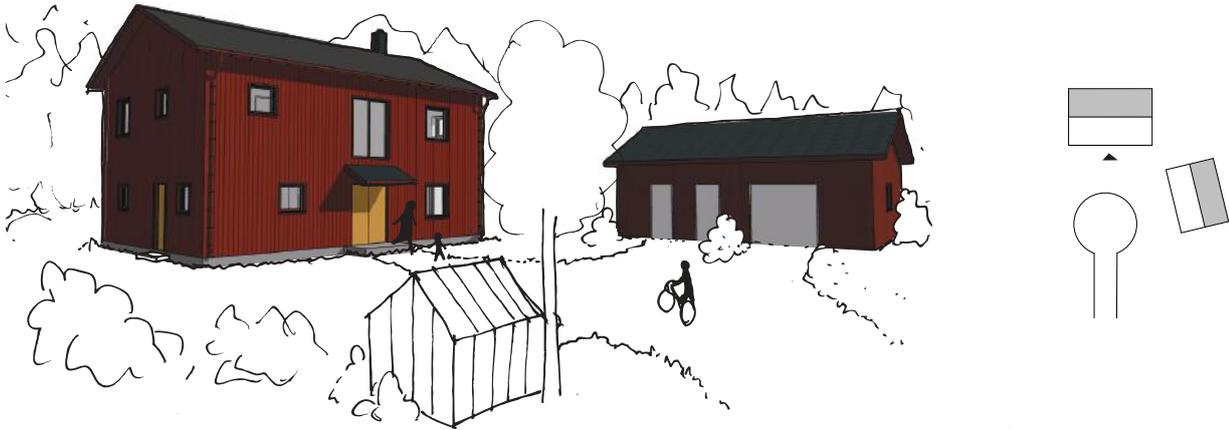


Garden facade 1:200



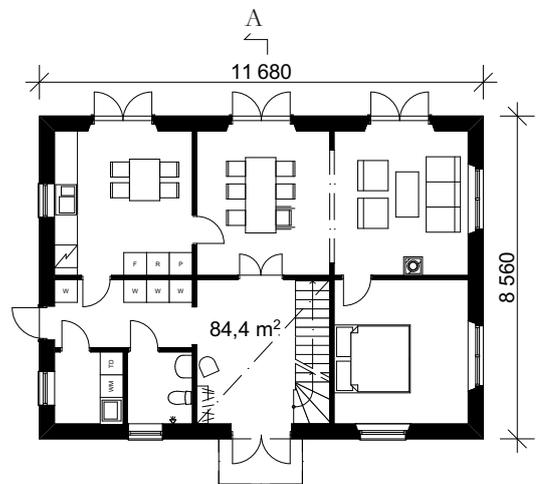
Gable facade 1:200

The yard formation

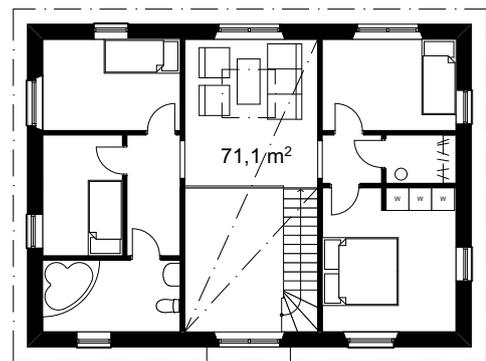


Placed around a central court yard the main building and the out buildings create a calm place set back from the street. The houses have three sizes with 1; 1,5 or 2 stories. Common for all of them is the middle part with generous ceiling height and skylight, the possibility to circulate and closeness between kitchen, garden and storing. The outbuildings can contain greenhouses, garage, storage, workshop or what is desired.

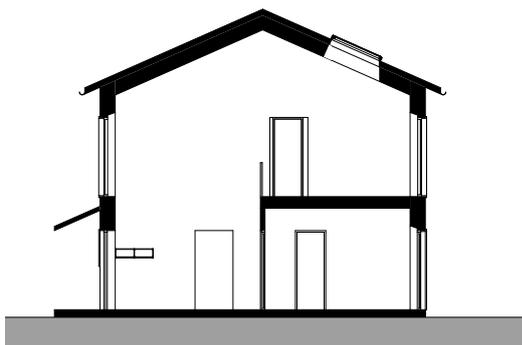
GFA:	100-200,0 m ²
GIA:	84,4-155,5 m ²
Amount:	15 units total
	7 2-story
	3 1,5-story
	5 1-story
Sizes:	3-7 rooms+kitchen
Target group:	



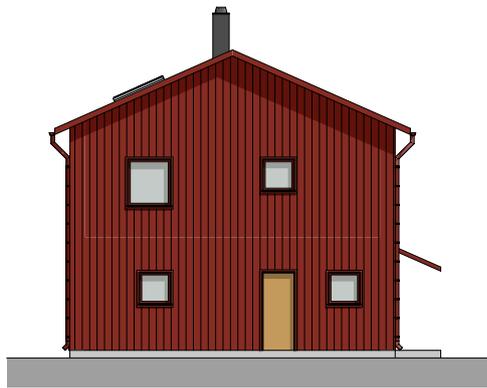
Plan 1 1:200



Plan 2 1:200



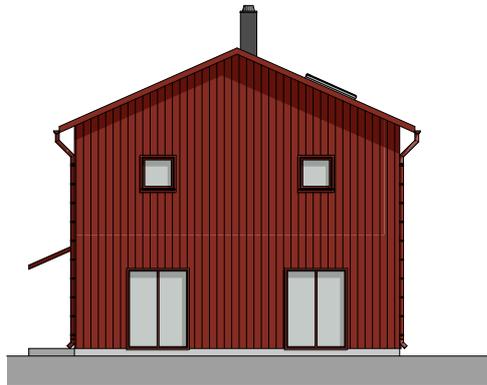
Section A-A 1:200



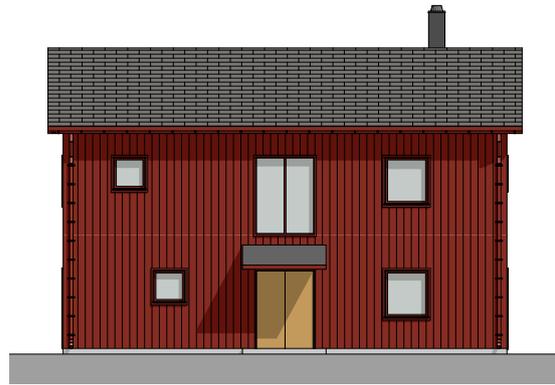
Gable facade 1:200



Garden facade 1:200



Gable facade 1:200



Entrance facade 1:200

To provide a variety of households and give the new area a mix of scales around the yard formations the single family houses have different heights and colour. Most of them are red, as red is the dominating colour on residential houses on the country side and in Svanå. Some of the houses have a light gray or beige colour according to the tradition on the main buildings on the nearby farms.



Plan single story house 1:200



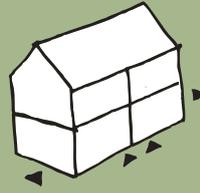
Facade 1,5 stories beige 1:200



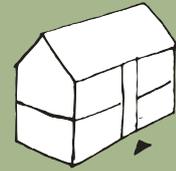
Facade 2 stories grey 1:200

New worker's dwelling

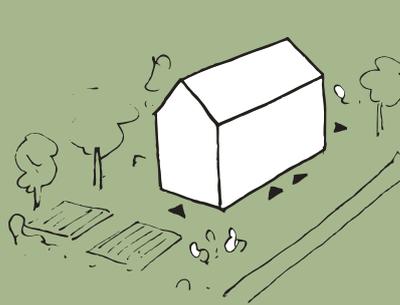
There are two types of worker's dwellings in the new area, to avoid repetition and provide different homes. One with one story apartments and one with a mix of apartments and rowhouses. The modern purpose with the worker's dwelling is to provide an alternative to live on the country side without owning a house. To be able to live in an apartment but in a typology that suits the rural situation and with easy access to the outdoors.



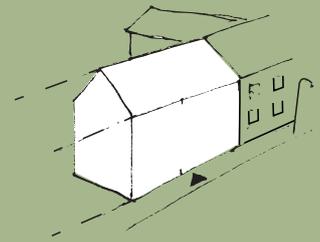
Worker's dwelling



Conventional multifamily house

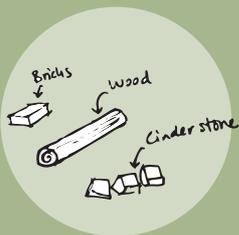


Rural setting

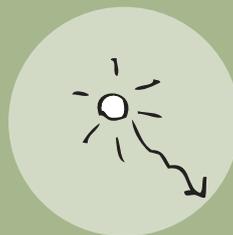


Urban setting

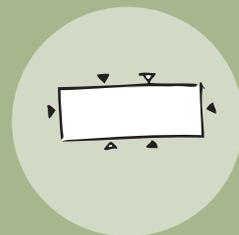
Concept for worker's dwelling



Local material



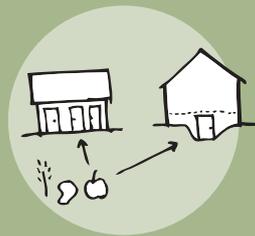
Adapt to the sun



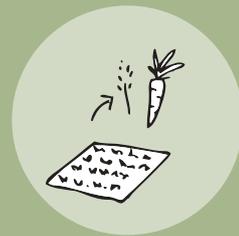
Entering from all sides



Marked entrance

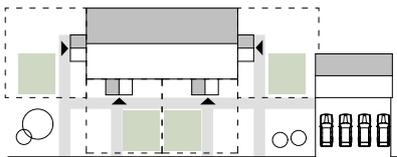


Storage for food



Cultivation lot

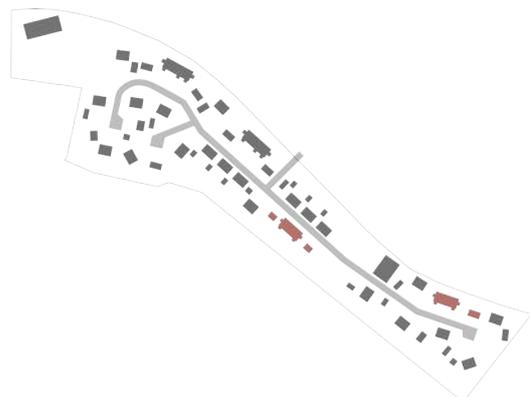
Worker's dwelling - apartments



Plan 1:500

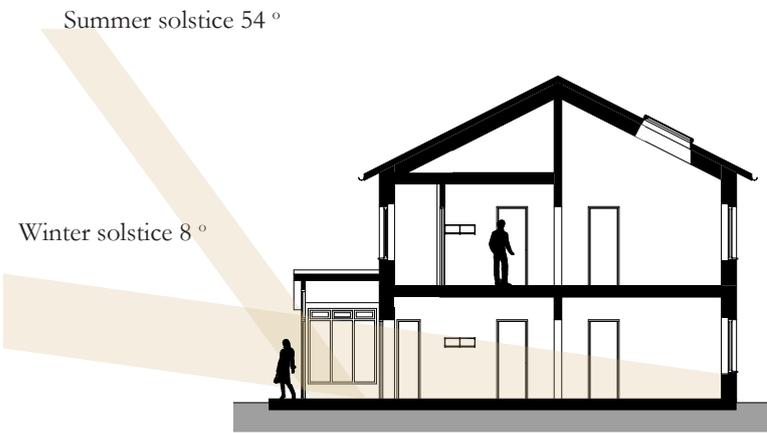
GFA:	318,6 m ²
GIA:	80,6-81,8 m ²
Amount:	2 units
Size:	3 rooms+kitchen
Target group:	  

The new worker's dwellings with apartments have two apartments on each floor, all with a separate entrance on the ground floor. The apartments have 3 rooms and a kitchen, two of them with an interior staircase. Each apartment also has its own allotment easily reached from the entrance, that during the cold months can be used as a greenhouse for growing. The south façade opens up for the sun and connection to the garden while the northern façade gives a respectful front towards the existing village road.





Facade south 1:200



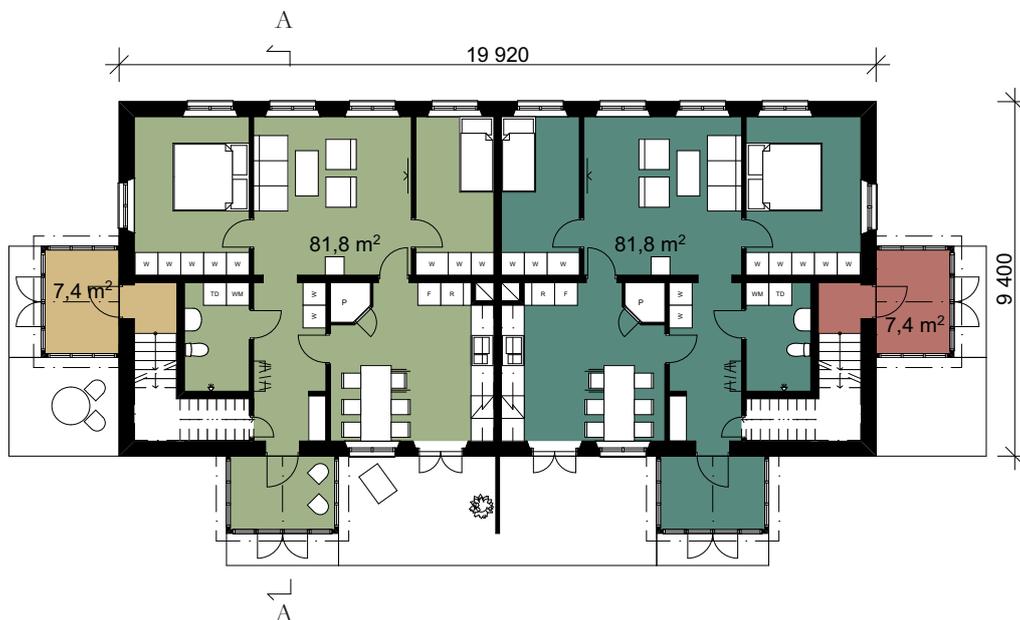
Section A-A 1:200



Facade east 1:200



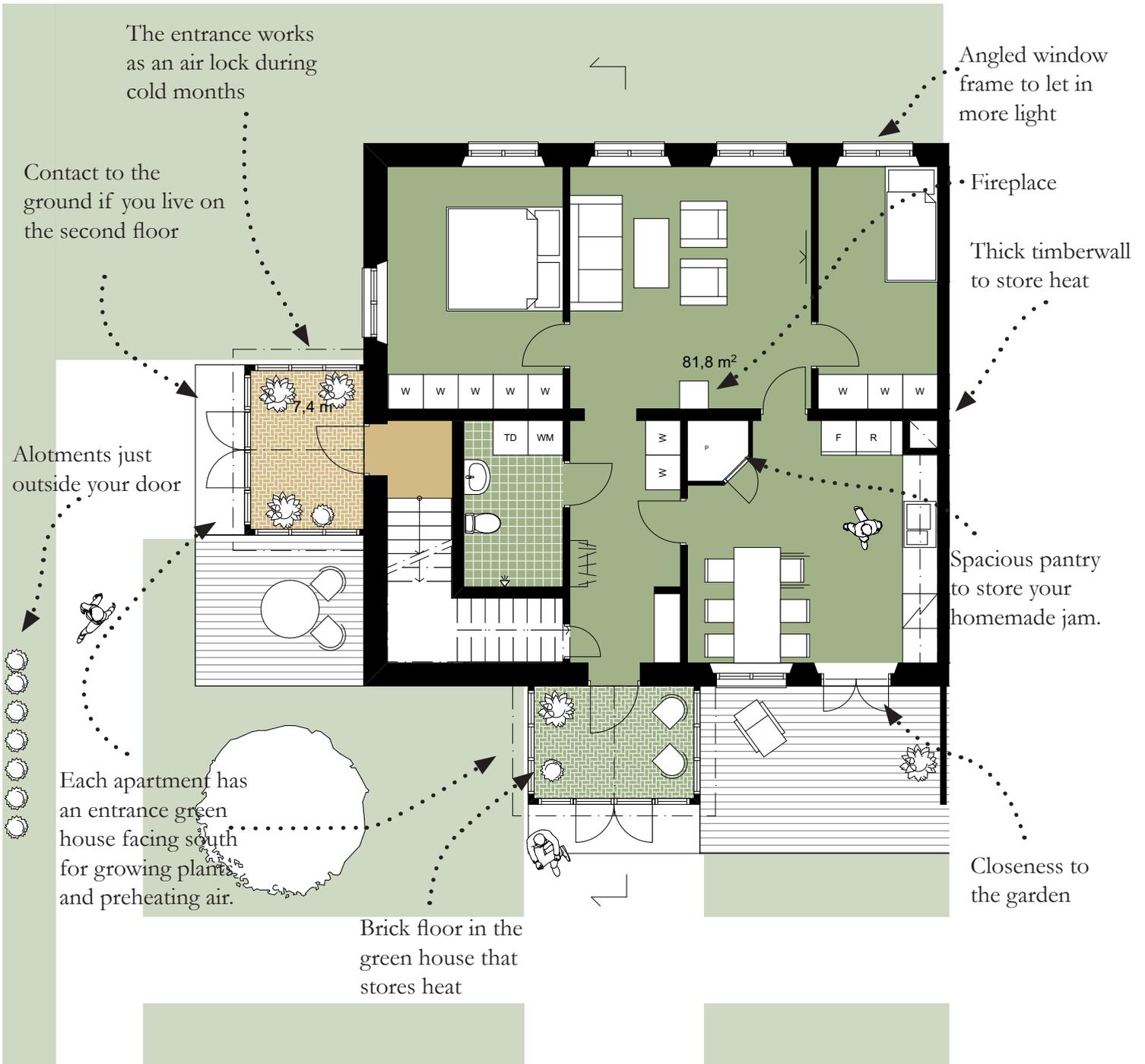
Facade north 1:200



Plan 1 1:200



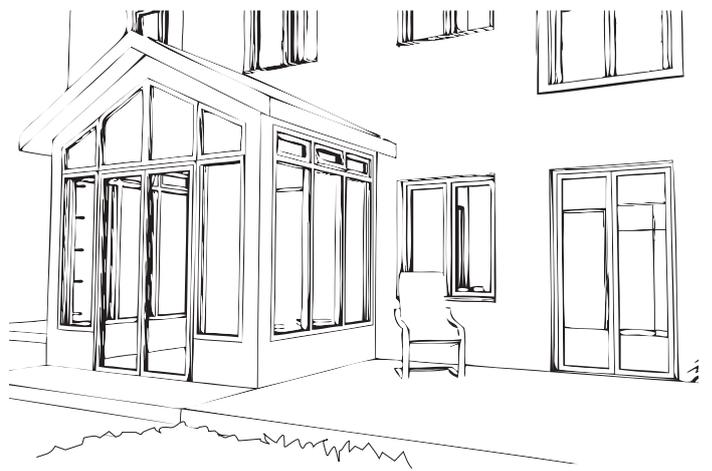
Plan 2 1:200



Plan 1 1:100

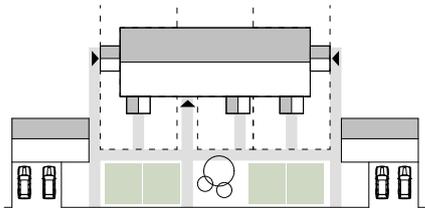


View of kitchen



View of green house entrance

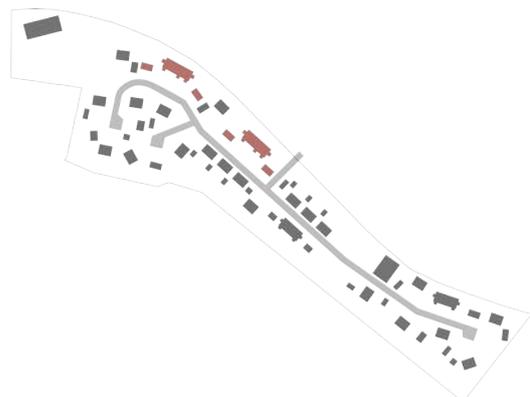
Worker's dwelling - mix

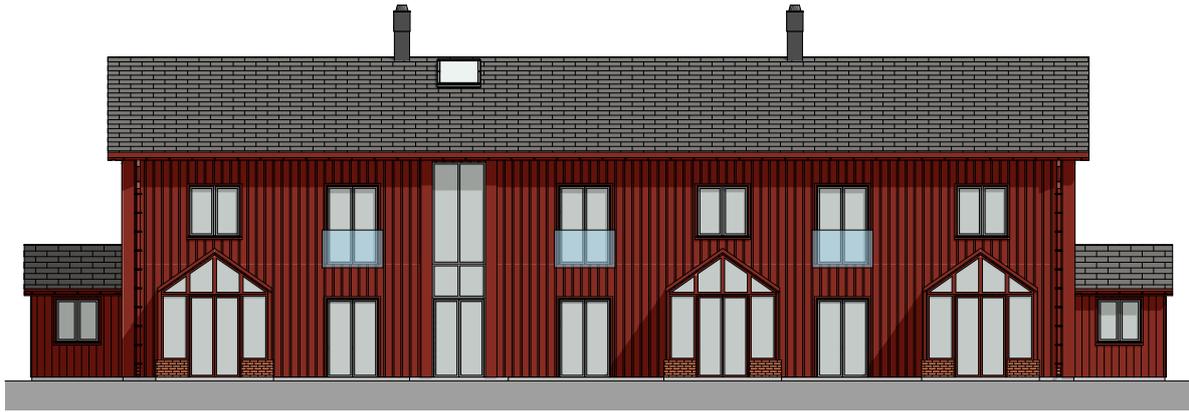


Plan 1:500

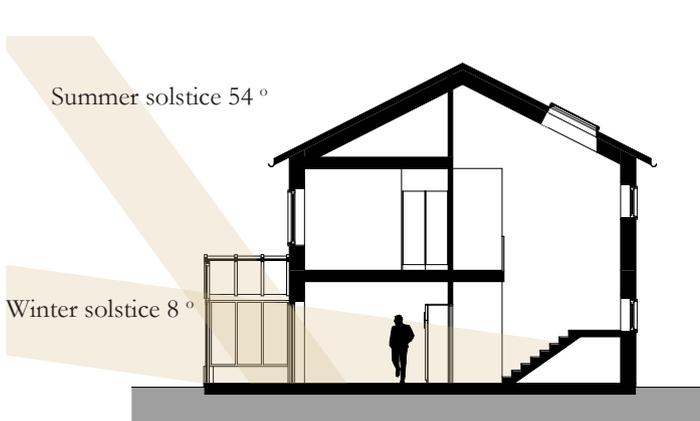
GFA:	491,4 m ²
GIA:	66,6-124,7 m ²
Amount:	2 units
Size:	3-5 rooms+kitchen
Target group:	

The worker's dwelling with mix types contains two rowhouses on the gables and two apartments in the middle part on top of each other. The gable apartments have two entrances from two sides. A green house to the south leading directly to the kitchen, that can be used for growing food and as a welcoming entrance for visitors. On the gable there is a cold entrance where you can store food along its northern wall and it can be a comfortable place to put on your rubber boots. The middle apartments share a common entrance.

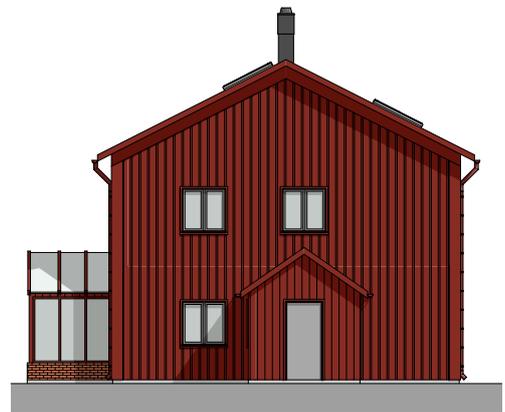




Facade south 1:200



Section A-A 1:200



Facade east 1:200



Facade north 1:200

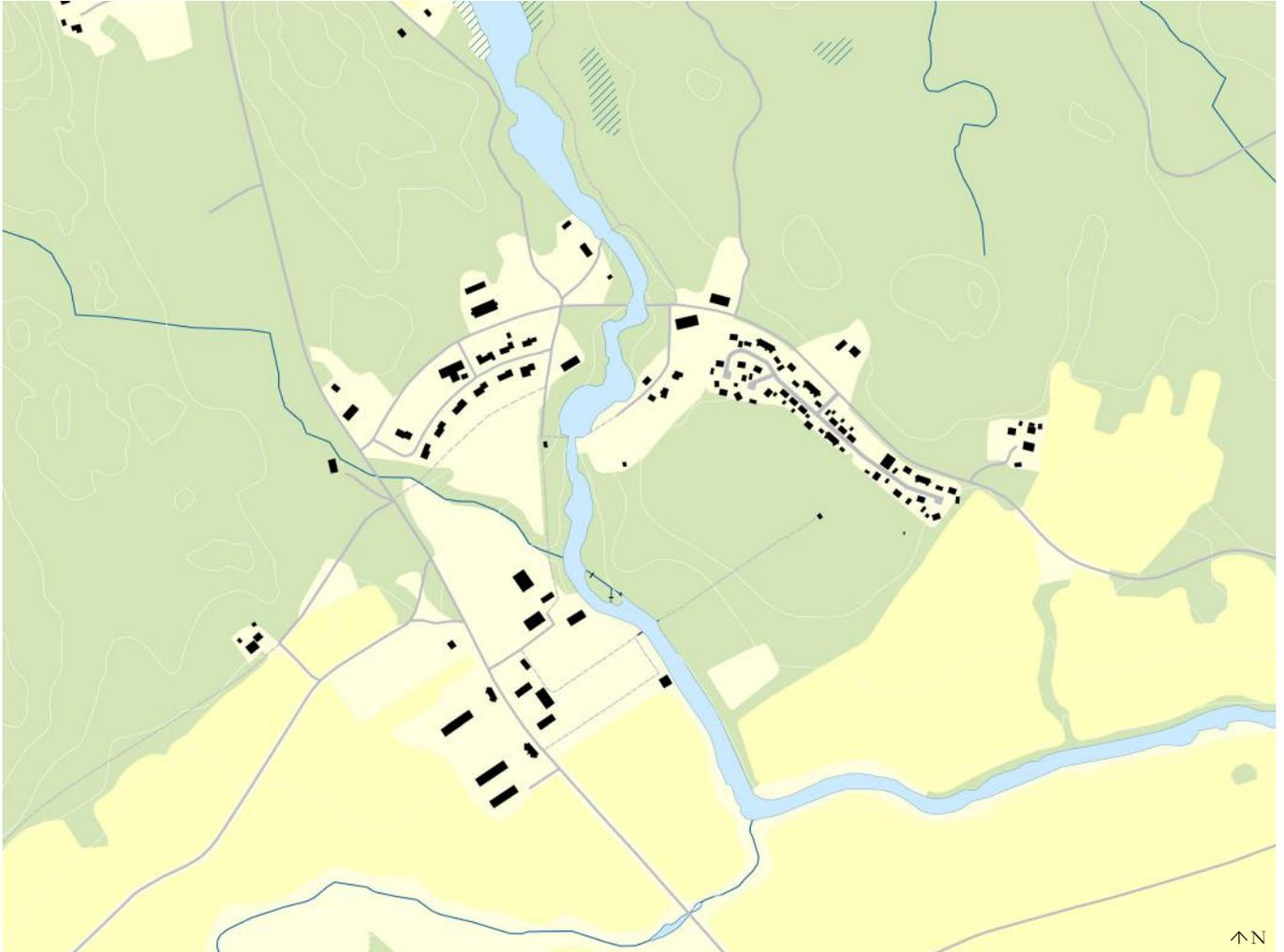


Plan 1 1:200

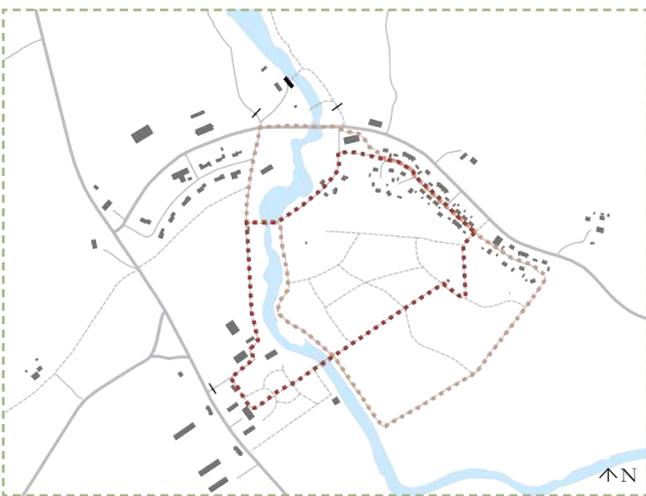


Plan 2 1:200

Connection to the village



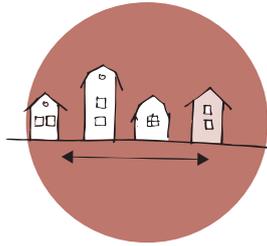
1:10 000 Svanå today



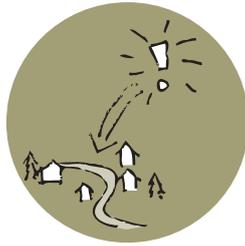
Infrastructure

- Circular promenade around the mansion
- Circular promenade around the english garden

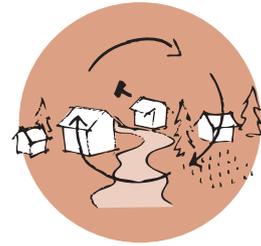
The new extension of Svanå is not just a place for newly moved in families to thrive, it is also a contribution to the whole village. With walk paths connecting it to an (in the future more public) English park and the trails along the water it becomes part of a circular promenade. The new area also attracts village inhabitants with the preschool and playground as well as the activities by the cinder stone house.



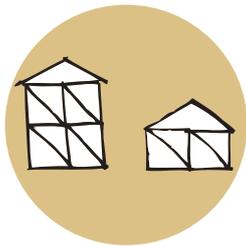
Grasping the variations



New influences



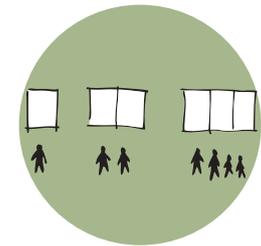
High degree of self sufficiency



Proportions



Settlement patterns



Wide target group



The new residential area of Svanå is a contribution that has a high degree of self sufficiency, that gives many different target groups the chance to live on the countryside

and respects the historical identity, guided by the historical values that has shaped this village. This could be one answer on how new buildings can contribute to the local identity.



Chapter 8

Reflection

Discussion
Reflection

Discussion

This thesis has explored how new buildings through scale, placement, façade expression and historical values can be placed in an area of cultural heritage in a way that contributes to the site's identity. The exploration has led into different aspects of identity and characteristics that specifically forms the village Svanå, but more generally what features that are important to relate to, to grasp the "soul" of a place.

What are the conditions that shape a local identity?

The local identity is shaped by the people that have lived and live on the site today. The local resources, landscape and physical preconditions affect people's lives and shape their living conditions, to a larger extend historically than now. Today our lives appear to be the same no matter where we live, though the physical environment still has an impact on us. The identity consists of many layers, of identifying with a region, an area, a neighbourhood and a history. A large part of the identity relates to the sense of not identifying with something. You have no need to decide what is characteristic until you compare yourself with others. Even though identity is something very local it relates to a wider understanding of your surroundings.

What characteristics in the local architecture are important to relate to?

Primarily the larger features such as placement of houses, relation to the street, proportion and shape are important to

make a new area fit in an existing built environment. From a distance the houses will suit in their environment. When coming up close it is not important to relate to exact shapes and details but to express the same values and feelings as the existing area. When looking at local characteristics it is important to understand the range of variety and not just enhance the most spectacular features. All the buildings within an area contribute to the local architecture and it is important to look both at commonness and uniqueness.

What can we learn from the change of history?

The changes of history teach us how changes have been handled previously. How communities had to adapt to survive, how houses were repainted because of trends, how structures and buildings were demolished and new ones built, how the needs and supplies by a specific time shaped the physical environment. Looking at history can help you find knowledge that we have lost, and it also makes you appreciate the values and equipment of today. Recreating something that has been shaped over centuries is not possible but providing the preconditions that over time will grow to a balanced composition is possible.

How can you live sustainable on the countryside today?

There is a constant discussion whether a life on the countryside with car dependency and individually heated houses is sustainable

Reflection

compared to an urban lifestyle. A sustainable country is depending on a living countryside, that used to be the most sustainable way of living. What we can learn historically from the countryside is the concept of self-sufficiency and local resources, of growing your own food and being able to store it and taking advantage of the sun during the year. Another important factor is the sustainable relationship to nature and neighbours that occur in smaller villages.

These questions and answers lead up to the main research question being:

How can new buildings contribute to the local identity?

Working with a balance of historical values and physical characteristics is a way of contributing to the local identity of a place. What is needed is looking at a wide range of characteristics, investigating an identity with many layers and not being afraid of contributing to the changes of history, combined with a modern need that these investigations are to answer.

This is one design proposal in an area of national interest, each of them being very different. This is not a solution on how to deal with all these sites, but a comment in the discussion on how you could build new houses within these areas. Areas with their own historical identity.

The project was developed as I worked with it and it was adapted to the new inputs the research gave me. It was not until the final weeks I knew the scale of the project and to what level of detail I was going to present it. I think some earlier delimitation would have helped me.

The project started out as an architectural design for a residential house inspired by the historical mansion, but when learning more about the site I realized that I was going to look into the special typology of the worker's dwellings and this required a new layout for the whole area. If there was a continuation of this project I would have focused more on building and façade details and achieving a sustainable construction of the houses.

I have been trying to work with the project from eye level; not just looking at what looks good in plan but how you would perceive it when being there. This is also something I would have wanted to work more with to ensure that all angles and sites in the area were thoroughly thought through.

During the project I always tried to draw the conclusions I got from what I learned or discovered. This has helped me keep a line of argument to myself. I have not learned so much about historical details as I initially intended but I have learned a lot about country side development, history and settlements structures and importantly my own methodology.

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