



SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY
an investigation of Borgafjäll in the context of tourism development

MASTER THESIS
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Thesis title:
Searching for identity
- an investigation of Borgafjäll in the context of tourism development

2024
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thank you

*to Joakim and Cicci Engwall,
without you there wouldn't be a thesis*

*to everyone in Borgafjäll,
for answering my persistent questions*

*to Marco, Louise and Joaquim,
for believing in my project*

*to friends and family, for all the love,
support and consistent cheering*

*to my classmates, for all your wise
words throughout the years*

*to Toms Kokins, for teaching me that
architecture can make a difference*

ABSTRACT

As rural areas become developed and exploited as tourist destinations it occurs an imbalance between the visitors and the local population. The residents' livelihood is dependent on that tourists will come and visit, therefore environments and experiences are created to please the expectations of the visitor. In a globalized world where both buildings and experiences become more similar to each other, it is important to cherish the local identity of each place, to include cultural heritage in all development and care for the residents and their traditions.

The aim of the thesis is to explore a holistic approach to development of rural tourism in Sweden, with a specific focus on the rural mountain village of Borgafjäll in Västerbotten, Norrland. The past century Borgafjäll has evolved from families hosting guests in their homes to a thriving tourism destination, with future plans of further exploitation on the horizon. It is a place for several nature experiences, such as skiing, driving snowmobiles, hiking and fishing.

keywords: rural development; tourism;
cultural heritage; identity

There is a rich cultural heritage on the site, both from the Sami people, since the area is located in Sápmi, and the two characteristic buildings by Ralph Erskine. Guided by the philosophy of *genius loci*, the search for identity has however included morphology of all built environment and landscape, and the intangible layers in between.

The thesis argues that the local inhabitants also need to be prioritized while developing a tourist resort with a majority of second homes, since they are the very core of the identity and genuine experience. Therefore the design proposal will act in favor for the permanent residents, through a *Bygdegård* (rural community center) while secondarily giving extra value for part-time visitors as well.

The outcome of the thesis is both the findings made when searching for Borgafjäll's identity- which is collected and curated in an archive, and the design intervention made within the frames of found identity. This is an iterative process where new findings inform the design throughout the project.

Reflections, January 2024.

As this thesis starts, I have just visited Borgafjäll for three weeks, where I have been mapping the site, (from the perspective of an architect) but I also worked at a restaurant and hostelry, (from the perspective of a seasonal worker). In between, I have socialized and got to know the community, (from the perspective of myself).

To have these three different legs to stand on, gently shifting depending on the situation I've put myself in, I have managed to collect fragments that I'm now trying to merge into a holistic picture of what Borgafjäll is - as a mountain resort, as a home, as an area in Sápmi, as a ...?

The picture I had of Borgafjäll before I arrived was a place for adventure, with a few spectacular buildings, and new built holiday homes. That also these waters had been regulated for the benefits of hydropower and green electricity. That the samis have called these grounds home for thousands of years. That there was a spirit of hospitality, but also an ambivalence that can be applied to the whole of Norrland; can we maintain a life here? Will there be jobs? Will I have the energy to endure the lack of infrastructure or will I surrender to a more comfortable life?

As I arrived, everything I saw was a white wall. Snowstorm. I tried to recognize landmarks as the bus drove through the village, but all I got was a glimpse of the hotel. As I lived in Barga, where also my work was located, in Borgagården, I felt that I had reached the end of the world. Which, thinking about it, is quite humoristic since the slogan of Borgafjäll says "where the road ends the adventure begins". Without a car, I headed out for the 4km walk towards the village to buy some groceries. What I hadn't quite understood was the big hill you need to conquer. Up and down. And I figured why these centers were separated (and probably always will be).

I started to act as a chameleon, becoming a part of my context. Having a coffee on the couch by the reception at Borgagården, listening to a conversation about everyday issues. How one man was deeply frustrated over the fences that were brought to the ski slopes to protect the kids from skiing into the car road. How would he now enter his shortcut through the slopes? To all problems there were solutions. Also to the fact that running a ski system is expensive. That the costs can't be covered by the income from skipasses. But, the current solution; the money needs to come from somewhere else, like selling plots and properties, like building a hotel.

This conversation that I witnessed my first day really frames the spirit of Borgafjäll. The resort is still so small that there is not yet competition for the visitors. The more

tourists the merrier for everyone. "If the tourists keep on coming we can maintain a livelihood here". The question that starts to form in my head is when the resort will reach its tipping point. Today, the target group is people who love nature experiences. When will the machine of tourism, exploitation, reach the point where the natural values are lost? I hope in the bottom of my heart that it never reaches that point, because then Borgafjäll will just be another ski resort in the list, tamed within the frames of the market.

A recurring topic of conversation is the depopulation in the municipality. In Dorotea, the count of population is 2377, and the density is one person per 1 square km, why these numbers are interesting is because Dorotea municipality has the lowest size of population in Sweden, closely followed by Bjurholms municipality which in the moment of writing have one more inhabitant (24-01-19).

When people talk about how happy they are of the increasing number of new holiday homes, they also have to mention that the inhabitants of Dorotea city are not as happy. Since, it's their taxes that pays for new infrastructure in the village. Due to the higher number of children and elderly that need public care, the municipality has one of the highest taxes in Sweden at 35.15%. "Why shall we pay for infrastructure for tourists?" one asks, and the municipality answers with that they hope these people potentially become permanent residents of Borgafjäll, and then there will be more people who can contribute by paying taxes.

The political system is something most people in Norrland are aware of. They see the money that comes from their local natural resources flooding to companies that in best cases have their nest in a larger city in Sweden, most likely Stockholm. Or worse, abroad. (fishing)water, forestry, and mining are resources taken from the north, nowadays creating few job opportunities, but historically the building of dams and harvesting forest is what brought new settlers to Norrland and evolved small communities in which some stayed. Because then, Norrland was the place for jobs.

This is also applied to Borgafjäll. The village sprung from the building of the dam in the 50's. The road needed to be extended for this, before, there was none. The water level rose 18m, before, there was no lake in Borgafjäll, it was only a river. I was told that before winter starts they let all the water out from the dam, bringing it back to its original level, and with the meltwater that comes in spring the water level rises, and when water is needed in the power plants further along the river, the water is strictly let out.

My managers at Borgagården talks about how they would like to build new cabins to attract another kind of guest, since the ones they have now are quite worn out. "We want to offer accommodation and food for every kind of guest". The more luxury cabins were planned to be located closer to the water, but due to the protected waterfront they had to change plans. They question further which waterline actually should be seen as the protected one. The natural one or the man made one? Today a lot of their plot is covered in water, during the summer time at least.

At the start of this project when I, on the map, saw the new unbuilt plots and the future plans of the hotel, my curiosity rose. People are investing here, and why is that? I soon got to know that the village is lacking beds for visitors, if you look at the top season. In the village you find about 4500 beds, regarding commercial and private ones. Someone said there were 9000 people here for New Years, an example for that the supply does not meet the demand. There is one hotel, two campings, one that offers cabins and one that offers a few apartments, a hostelry with cabins, a cabin village 10km further west, and private homes being rented out. I found a family on Instagram who is building a huge holiday home just to rent out, while they live in the neighboring cabin.

With this said, the hotel is needed, but it might start some competition in the low season. If they also want to offer a restaurant that is open to other guests than their own and, you can't really come around it, they can drop their prices and recruit the guests who before would have chosen the cheaper cabin accommodations, they might both compete both the hotel and the cabin owners.

I brought up STF in conversation. I think that I had both the role of an architect and myself here, I found it much easier for people to open up when I had the appearance of just being me and not "only an architect student with strict questions". So I gently asked if they thought STF might invest in a mountain station in the future, since Lapplandsleden, the new hiking route, starts in Borgafjäll and connects to Kungsleden in Hemavan. They were a little surprised by the question, and when I asked where they thought it could be placed, they were a bit unsure since the valley is surrounded by quite steep mountains, (hence the name >Borga<, fortress) and the only easy access north to the mountain range is by following Korpån.

One evening when I was driving guests home, (since all restaurants offer shuttle service due to the lack of taxis) I got to know that there was a man who had plans on developing the area behind the ski slopes, on the backside

of the mountain connecting to the valley of Korpån. That there was a possibility to expand the ski system to that side, but that the plans have been canceled (for now). On my last day in the village I got to borrow a car, and drove to the northern periphery of the village, as close to Klöverfjället as you can get. Here the SCA cabins are located, designed by Jan Thurfjell, a friend and colleague to Ralph Erskine (who have designed the Chapel and Hotel Borgafjäll) On my way I passed two areas with new plots, some houses were already finished and some were under construction. It was quite a gray day, but through the clouds and snow I could get a glimpse of the ski slope coming down to the village and Avasjöliften and on the opposite side the magnificent silhouette of Klöverfjället.

I wandered around, photographed the houses, I have photographed almost all the houses I have passed by now. My feeling is that the Hotel by Ralph Erskine gets all the attention when you talk about architecture in Borgafjäll, but regarding cultural heritage for the whole area, I feel that there are more to consider. "Have you visited the hotel yet?" they ask. And I need to explain over and over that I am interested in all built environments. Who am I to choose what is of importance and not? So I guess that is my starting point, to make an archive of the built environment. Find forms, material, colors and histories imprinted on the facades.

My intention is for this archive to become some sort of base I can use for my design proposal, and how the proposal will have a program relating to tourism and countryside development. The rest of this thesis I guess you will read in the following pages, as this diary lookalike text is a prologue for you, and myself, to be seen as a springboard before the deep dive in literature, theoretical concepts and design iterations. Welcome to my thesis!

STUDENT BACKGROUND

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READING INSTRUCTION

This thesis is organized in four parts; first the background where different concepts can be found regarding rural development, tourism, heritage and identity. The second part is an introduction to Norrland and the site of Borgafjäll. Third, the documented material is gathered in what is defined as the “archive”, which is being interpreted in the fourth part for the design proposal.

DISCLAIMER

This thesis does not seek to tell the whole story of Borgafjäll, but is rather gathering layers of information, some more deeply investigated than others. The thesis is an extended work of the book *Borgabygden - i ord och bild*, by Elof Näslund (2014), who has documented the history and the people of Borgafjäll through extensive research. History about the site is based on his stories, and could not have been done without his work. The homepage www.borgabo.se has also been of great help, where also visual material of Borgafjäll is gathered.

The thesis also aims to open for discussion of what cultural heritage is and how we can implement it while developing rural mountain resorts. Cultural heritage and identity is not to be seen as a fixed object but rather collected layers of information, which evolve with time and will continue to evolve after this thesis is finalized.

All figures without a reference is a product by the author.

GLOSSARY

Archive

An uncritical accumulation of materials (in this case, connected to a place)

Globalization

The rapid increasing movements and exchanges (of human beings, goods, and services, capital, technologies or cultural practices) all over the planet.

Bygdegård

Rural community place.

Cultural environment

Places and spaces with significant history and heritage.

Cultural heritage

The history of all materia affected by humans.

Genius Loci

Material and immaterial qualities. The history, landscape, people, spaces and stories together formulate and constitute the soul of a place. / Phenomenological term for the “spirit of a place”. (Norberg-Schulz, 1980)

Identity

The heritage of a place

Local population

The people living permanently in Borgafjäll, which have their house as a permanent base and can maintain their livelihood by doing so.

Morphology

The study of the evolution of form within the built environment.

Phenomenology

The study of phenomena and how we experience them.

Regionalism

Architecture that is specific to a particular region.

Rural development

The act of developing the countryside.

Sápmi

The land of the Samis.

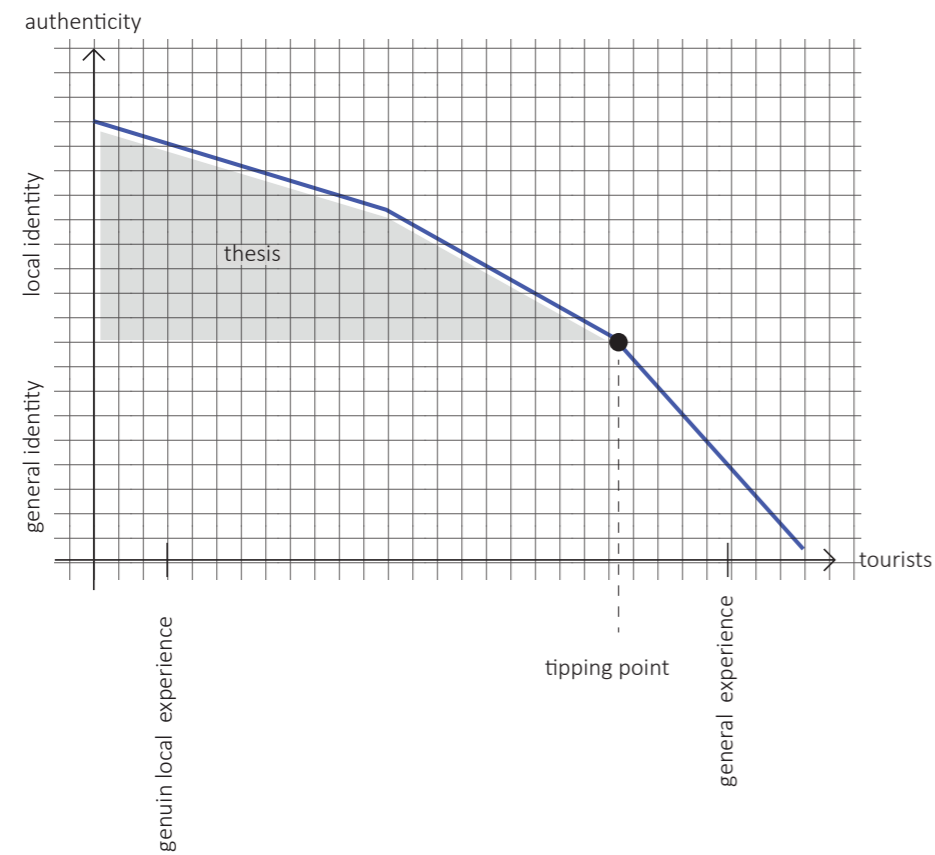
Second home

Holiday homes, where you do not live permanently. .

Tourism

The business of providing services such as transport, places to stay, or entertainment for people who are on holiday.

INTRODUCTION PROBLEMPICTURE



POINT OF DEPARTURE

The thesis originates from observations that part-time accommodation is increasingly prioritized in the built environment in rural tourist destinations. As rural areas become developed and exploited as tourist destinations it occurs an imbalance between the visitors and the local population. The residents livelihood is dependent on that tourists will come and visit, therefore experiences are created to please the expectations of the visitor. Even though tourism is to experience the genuine settings and cultures, it will always be through the eye of the observer.

It creates an ambivalence for the residents, since their existence is totally dependent on providing what the visitor wants to experience. (Tidholm, 2017)

In a globalized world where both buildings and experiences become more similar to each other, it is more important than ever to cherish the local history, traditions and identity. To include cultural heritage in all development and care for the residents and their way of living.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How can we accommodate life quality for the local population in the rural area of Borgafjäll, Västerbotten, when tourism tends to expand and become a priority within the built environment?

How can we maintain the local building heritage and identity of Borgafjäll in a time of globalization?

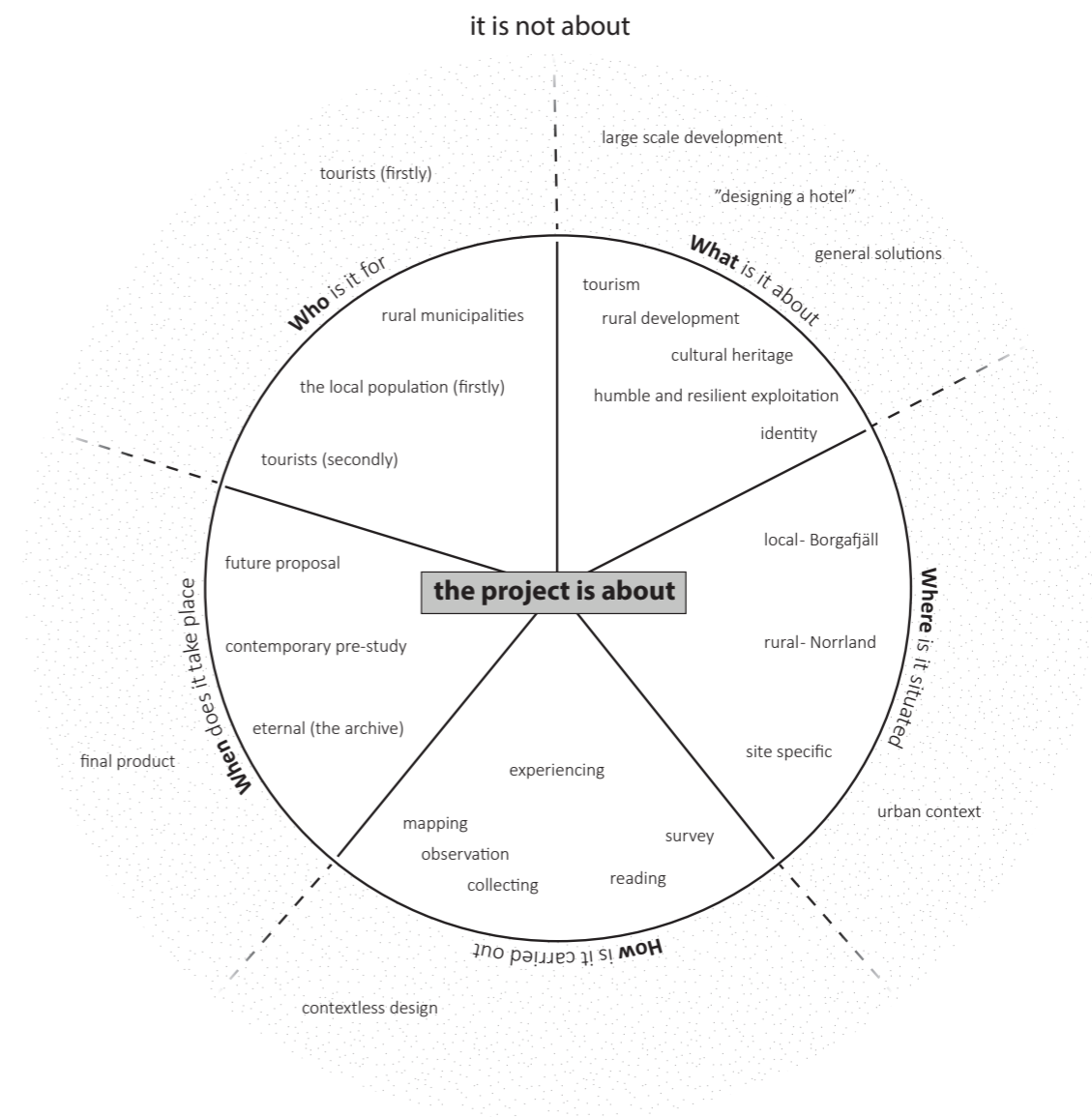
AIM

The aim of the thesis is to explore a holistic approach to development of rural tourism in Borgafjäll, Västerbotten. In a time of rapid globalization the thesis investigates local rural identity and its relation to exploitation and tourism. The search for identity and the findings made will act as a framework for design explorations and a final design proposal.

The thesis originates from observations that parttime accommodation is increasingly prioritized in the built environment in rural tourist destinations. Therefore the interventions will act in favor of the local population, as a strive to evening the balance of who is to be prioritized while developing tourist resorts, in this case the village of Borgafjäll. When searching for identity the aim is to collect and curate an archive including the findings from the site. The archive will never be completed, but will instead act as an iterative tool throughout the process, to argue that an identity is never a fixed object, but rather always in change parallel to time

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The expected outcome is to collect knowledge of the site of Borgafjäll, its history and development. To reveal both tangible and intangible layers of identity. The collected material will act as a framework for future design proposals, and will be showcased both through the collected material, in an archive, but also by being implemented in a design proposal related to the site. The buildings will then stand as a physical example of how local characteristics can be used while developing a rural area but without losing its local unique identity.



INTRODUCTION
METHOD AND PROCESS

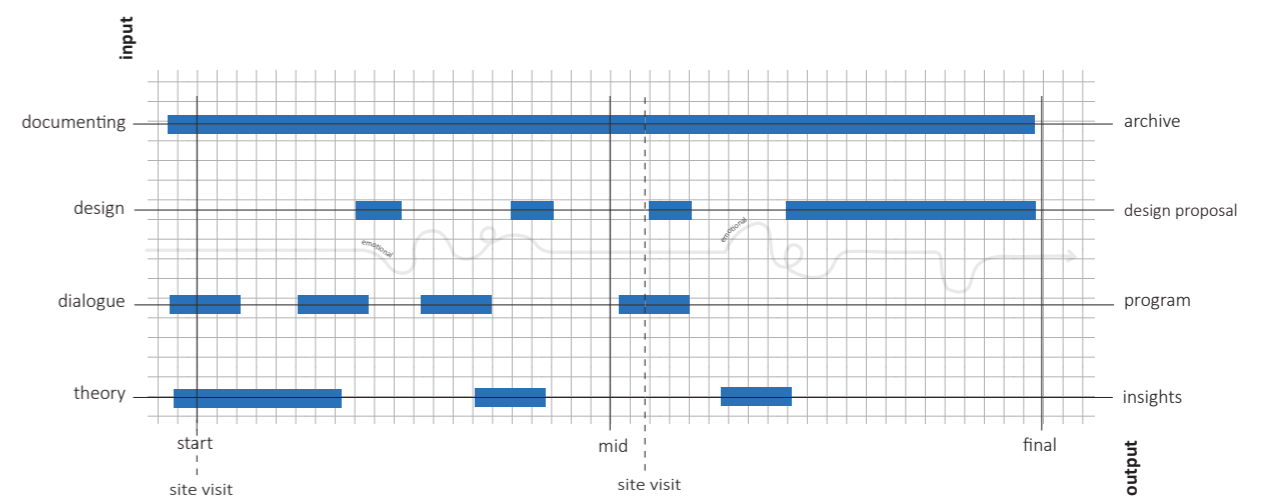
METHODS AND PROCESS

The project starts with a three weeks long site visit in December 2023 where Borgafjäll is investigated. This is done through three perspectives: By the architect, the seasonal worker and the private guest. All investigation is carried out by the author, who shifts from being an architect student to a seasonal worker at a restaurant to a guest who simply enjoys the mountain life

The process of the project can be divided in four categories, regarding what's being investigated; documentation, dialogue, design and theory. The process of documenting will continue along the whole process, where the outcome will be an archive of identity. The background and theory is to support the project and give new insights in the subject. Dialogue is made in different forms in informal interviews, formal interviews and a survey. Both to get a better understanding of the collected material and to create a base for the design intervention regarding the program. The design will come together towards the final phase of the project. Also, the archive is to be curated and designed since it is of major importance to the project and the search for identity. By creating a narrative of storytelling, curation and representation the design proposal and archive will be exhibited.

Documentation is carried out by photographing, sketching and gathering of digital material such as maps, histories and historical photographs. A continuous dialog is carried out with relevant local inhabitants and a survey is sent out with the aim of collecting a collective memory of Borgafjäll and wishes for future development. Another site visit of two weeks takes place halfway through the project, to collect missing material and document the plot for the design intervention. Also this time the site visit is seen through the three perspectives of an architect student, seasonal workers and a guest.

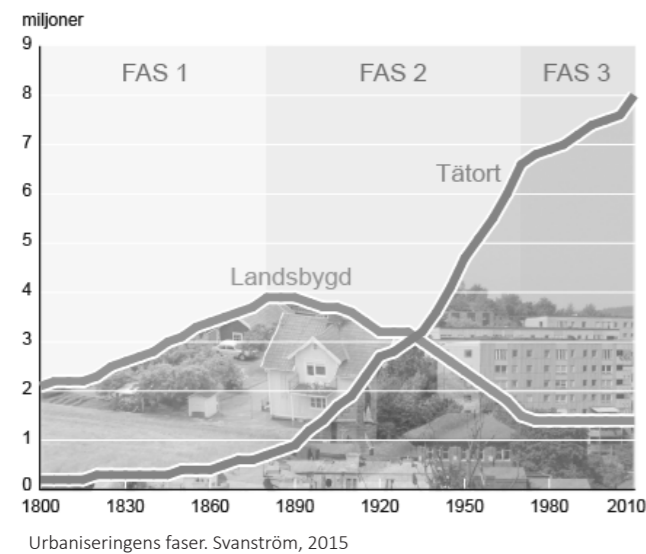
The methods can be divided in three phases regarding when they are conducted. Since the project is totally dependent on its site its relevant to let the documenting and curating be a large part of the project at start, while the design is guided by the frames of the archive and therefore will come together later in the project.



| PHASE I | PHASE II | PHASE III |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|
| + preparation | + currating | + design |
| + documenting | + theory | + currating |
| + theory | + design exploration | + refinement |
| + interviews | + survey | + model making |



CHAPTER 1
theoretical concepts



To understand rural development one needs to understand urbanization. How the two are linked and the political decisions behind it.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND URBANIZATION IN SWEDEN

To understand rural development, one needs to understand urbanization; In Sweden, urbanization and centralization have been carried out by different political decision makings, where the urban life is seen as the frame and base for development. This led to that a majority of the population in Sweden moved from the countryside to cities during the last century, to find new jobs and ways of living. (Åkerman, 2020)

In numbers, 87% of the population lives in urban areas today whereas those areas only maintain 1,3% of the land. A consequence is that it's now more difficult to work and act in rural areas, since political representation has decreased due to depopulation. The merge of municipalities was also a part of the decrease. In 150 years we have gone from about 2400 municipalities to 290, and the gap between inhabitants in rural and urban areas can be seen in its physical form and priority. (Åkerman, 2020)

The transformation that the countryside has witnessed because of ongoing societal changes, for example that both people and information now travel more freely, creates a new reality for the countryside, which it needs to adapt to. Peripheral local communities have never really been independent regarding economically, socially or politically aspects, but they have previously been able to control the process that affects their everyday life. This control has decreased intensively due to the globalization and imbalance of dependency that our society today creates between the urban and rural communities. (Hall, et al., 2009)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN VÄSTERBOTTEN

The large amount of countryside in Sweden is unique in the way it is diverse from each other. From the large farmlands in the south, the huge coastline, to the forest, mountains and arctic climate in the north. This thesis focuses on the countryside of Västerbotten, in the mountain range of Södra Lappland.

Mountain villages have had continuous development since the sport industry and winter holidays were established in the 60's. More recently, due to covid-19 and the traveling restrictions, a great part of the Swedish population started to explore the local nature. The demand for homes in the countryside increased, and so did the demand on holiday homes.

In combination with a globalized building industry we can see that mountain villages are rapidly exploited, and although the development is needed it still needs to be cared for and planned with a holistic perspective. The rural mountain areas have an old and unique history with many cultural layers, where some are similar and some diverse. To enhance these unique characteristics becomes more and more important as we see trends of a more mainstream approach in the development of peripheral areas.

Talking about rural development in Västerbotten, and the municipality of Dorotea where Borgafjäll is located, one needs to take note of the particular conditions of Norrland. The distances. The harsh climate. On one hand Borgafjäll is a thriving tourist destination, with the slogan: "where the road ends the adventure begins", where the

pure nature experience is what attracts the visitors. But as more plots get exploited the infrastructure needs to do as well. And this is paid by the tax-payers in Dorotea municipality.

In Dorotea, (Kraapohken Tjjelte in Sami) there is a current depopulation. The count of population is 2339, and the density is one person per 1 square km. Why these numbers are interesting is because Dorotea municipality has the lowest size of population in all of Sweden, closely followed by Bjurholms municipality which in the moment of writing have one more inhabitant (24-01-19). (Statistiska Centralbyrån, 2024)

Due to the higher number of children and elderly that need public care, the municipality has one of the highest taxes in Sweden at 35.15%. This creates friction between the population in the municipality and the developers of Borgafjäll. "Why shall we pay for infrastructure for tourists?" one asks, and the municipality answers with that they hope that these people potentially become permanent residents in Borgafjäll, and then there will be more people who can contribute by paying taxes. (Alexandersson, 2019)

From a survey made at the start of the project people described their ambivalence of further exploitation of Borgafjäll. They want the resort to be thriving and in an economical growth, but still they want to keep the small-village feeling. What they describe is what still makes Borgafjäll so special compared to other mountain villages that have already passed the tipping point of exploitation.

Tourism - the new source of income for peripheral areas?

TOURISM IN THE RURAL CONTEXT IN SWEDEN

According to Cambridge dictionary, tourism is: “the business of providing services such as transport, places to stay, or entertainment for people who are on holiday” According to the United Nations: “Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes. These people are called visitors (which may be either tourists or excursionists; residents or non-residents) and tourism has to do with their activities, some of which involve tourism expenditure”, more defined as: “traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure and not less than 24 hours, business and other purposes”

There is no universal agreement on the definition of rural areas or rural tourism - In Sweden, Norway and Denmark a rural area is seen as a place where less than 200 people live in a cluster, while in Finland that number is 500. (Hall, et al., 2009) But since this only includes the

number of residents living there permanently, and not the spatial or environmental qualities of the site, rural tourism can rather be seen as certain activities located to specific places. It can be defined as its relation with its environment, to be functionally rural and in a small scale with traditionally social structures, ways of living, agrarian economies and natural settings. The development should have been carried out in slow pace and small scale, traditionally and organically in its character. It's a pattern of the local, history and economy. (Hall, et al., 2009)

Hall, et al., (2009) Explains that rural tourism can many times be seen as sustainable tourism, and that there is general stated rural development goals:

- + sustain and create local incomes, employment and growth.
- + contribute to providing economical & social infrastructure.
- + encourage the development of other local industrial sectors.
- + contribute to local resident amenities and services.
- + contribute to the conservation of environmental & cultural resources.



Förkortade öppettider, stängda restauranger, Gåsens fjällstuga avecklas och minskat antal bäddar på Sylarnas fjällstation. Det blir förändringarna när Svenska Turistföreningen ansöker om ny markupplåtelse i Jämtland/Härjedalen.

Example of restriction of tourists in favor of nature.

Tidholm (2017) explains further that tourism in rural areas will be affected by what the urban people want to experience while traveling to rural areas. Even though tourism is to experience the genuine settings and cultures, it is still through the eye of the observer. So, even though tourism is an important source of income, it creates ambivalence for the residents, since their existence is totally dependent on what the visitor wants to experience. (Tidholm, 2017)

The fact that tourism is used in rural development as an economical replacement to previous “traditional” livelihoods is what reality looks like for many peripheral communities. (Hall, et al., 2009)

The past twenty years tourism has contributed with an increase of working hours with 14% in rural areas, which from a local point of view is seen as an important source of income. Especially in comparison to industries, such as manufacturing, agriculture and production, which has decreased by about 30%. (Tidholm, 2017)

Planning of future tourism are seen as a way to control the economical situation and social consequences of it in the countryside. On one hand tourism can be seen as a “savior” for these communities, but it is important that tourism originates from the unique site and not the other way around, that the concept of “rural tourism” is forced upon places where it doesn't belong. (Hall, et al., 2009)

Looking at natural resources, the tourism industry is often forgotten as a consumer of these. When the flow of people increases in nature it is important to be aware of the wear it has upon the land. Here there is a continuous conflict between that rural tourism is seen as sustainable, but only within the frames of that nature can heal from the wear and tear of people. (Hall, et al., 2009)

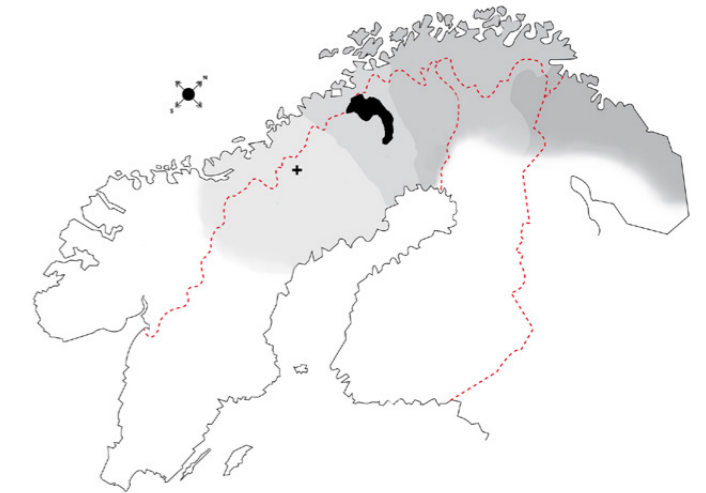
TOURISM & CULTURE - A CULTURE OF TOURISM

Culture can come across in two ways in relation to tourism, either that the culture is there for the tourist to be experienced, as a tourist attraction, or the pure act of experiencing this tourist attraction is a culture in itself. (Hall, et al., 2009)

Culture is used as a resource in the tourism industry, and heightened for peripheral regions to market themselves as unique in the era of globalization. Since globalization contributes to a homogenisation of place, it becomes like a competition between the regions to highlight themselves to attract the tourists. An example of this is from looking at the marketing of Norrland, and especially Sápmi, the homeland of the Sami, where the area is described as "Europe's last wilderness" - even though the land has been inhabited and used by the Samis for thousands of years, and today is heavily exploited for its natural resources. (Hall, et al., 2009)

An example of "untouched wild nature" which people travel to visit is the manmade lake Akkajaure in Lapponia, close to Sarek, which is the water reservoir from the damming of Stora Sjöfallet, created to extract green energy from hydropower. To the eye the water looks like a natural lake, but this precious Sami land was covered in water - information that seldom reaches the tourists. (Hentati, 2023).

Included in cultural tourism is also heritage tourism, 1972 UNESCO adopted the international treaty "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" which encourages all countries to protect their heritage and to assist them in conserving listed objects. Previously mentioned Lapponia got an UNESCO status in 1996, and is considered a "mixed heritage site" of both natural and cultural heritage. (UNESCO, 2007)



Map of Sápmi, highlighting Lapponia and marks out Borgafjäll .

SÁPMI - THE LAND OF THE SAMIS

Sápmi, the land of the Sami people, has existed for thousands of years. It is located in northern Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Kola peninsula in Russia. There are several different cultures, languages and traditions among the Sami, but they are all our indigenous people. (Samiskt informationscentrum, 2018)

A NEW SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE SAMIS

Indigenous people are often used in tourism promotion and marketing of the region and this also applies to the Sami. Sami culture is epitomized as an asset to attract tourists to the north, this has previously been seen as problematic but due to current social, economical and climate changes tourism has become a part of a future solution for the Sami to keep their lifestyle. Tourism creates new business opportunities as the reindeer herding is decreasing due to the challenges they face. To make the indigenous culture into a tourism business is not without problem. Just as with tourism in the rural regions, it is always with the threat of losing the authentic identity due to the demands of experience from the tourists. A solution to protect the authenticity and the Sami heritage is to limitate the tourism, to keep the balance of genuineness and exploitation of the culture. (Hall, et al., 2009)

THE SECOND HOMES IN RURAL SWEDEN

Regarding tourism and heritage, the concept of the second home is of utmost importance. In no other place in the world is second home ownership as common as in the Nordic countries. The second home is something unique in our heritage, however it does not come without friction. Although they stand as a reason for regional development and shines a light on the countryside, both socially and economically, they also cause rural displacement which becomes an issue for many authorities. Erik Cohen (1974) argues that second home owners merely are a part of tourism at all, since traveling to a facility you own does not involve any new experiences. So if a destination mainly consists of second homes, it no longer has a status as a destination for tourists. (Hall, et al., 2009)

When tourism, as we know it, evolved in Sweden during the 60's, after the world wars, and with new transports such as the car and with new holiday policies where domestic recreation was promoted, the second home played an important role for the upcoming rural change. For the upcoming two decades the construction of second homes

boomed. Towards the 90's when societal and economical situations were changed many households were left empty in the countryside as a result of urbanization. At the same time we got a larger part of the population that had retired and could spend their free time outside the permanent home. This correlation of supply and demand that occurred at the same time created the growth in second home tourism.

As we entered the digital and global era it emerged a new longing for the local, secure and well-known. The vernacular second home became a safe space in a fast changing society. One can argue that the second home is a counter reaction to urbanization, and without it there wouldn't be the same need for second homes in the peripheral regions. In parallel to this the rural landscape has become romanised by the urban population, something seen as a part of a rewarded lifestyle. The first second home of Borgafjäll was built already in 1940, and today there are approximately XX second homes in the village. (Näslund, 2008)

CULTURAL HERITAGE

According to the Swedish national heritage board, cultural heritage is defined as "something that consists of historical traces that have been created through human activity in different times: objects or phenomena, but also ideas and perspectives. Cultural environment refers to the entire environment affected by humans and can include an individual's remains or a larger landscape section. When we call something cultural heritage, we give it a certain value. Regardless of whether it is written in indefinite or definite form- cultural heritage or *the* cultural heritage- it includes a variety of expressions." (Riksantikvarieämbetet [RAA], 2024) The art of architecture has always been of central importance to man and the development of society. The building is a part of the cultural heritage that continuously affects all people. It is a legacy that we are coexisting with. (Riksantikvarieämbetet [RAA], 2024)

What is to value in the built environment and who is to decide what value an object holds? Are there intangible values that become lost in the process?

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Cultural values can be seen as a gathered knowledge regarding material and methods through history, which creates a sense of identity and collective memories of a place.

Cultural heritage reaches from real estate economical issues, to climate, technology, and further into how we interpret the world around us. The built environment includes our everyday surroundings, such as buildings, antiquities, urban structures and landscapes that have been classified to be of great importance through history.

But cultural values consist of more layers than those strictly related to architecture, in short it is all traces we can find from mankind. The touch of the hand, important eras in history and special happenings.

Cultural values can therefore be categorized in two fields: Specific protected areas which are designated environments of special cultural-historical significance, such as architectural monuments or nature- and cultural reserves. Or the overall impact of mankind, which can be more intangible to define. (Sveriges Arkitekter [SA], 2023)

This thesis seeks to question what is seen as a cultural value, and therefore tend to originate from the later category, where all environments touched by mankind should be seen as important for the cultural heritage. This also opens up for more flexibility regarding the mapping process and the understanding of the identity of a place. Disclaimer: Although decisions must be made of what elements are to be included or not in the mapping phase. But: the proposal of what cultural heritage or identity is should not be seen as something static, but rather something dynamic that evolves with time.

A place is not merely a particular place in space, it holds greater meaning and complexity.

(Relph, 1976)

FROM HERITAGE TO IDENTITY

In the book *Heritage: Critical Approaches* (1974) Rodney Harrison argues that heritage is co-produced through interrelations between people, places and things. He is critical towards the definition of heritage and that it is exclusively seen through a western and european perspective, and does not include the perspective of indigenous people or other cultures. Harrison argues for a dialogical approach to heritage and re-conceive heritage preservation as a creative, contingent process of producing the past in the present for the future. (Harrison, 1974)

EXPERIENCE OF PLACE

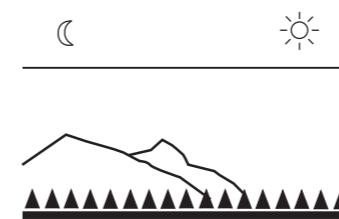
Phenomenology is the interpretive study of human experience where the aim is to explain and clarify human situations, events, meanings and experiences as they come across in everyday life. The core of phenomenology is to find out what is obvious but unquestioned and therefore question it. (Seamon, 2000) Edward Relph seeks a new definition of “phenomenology of place” and he brings a new perspective of place and how it is an eternal dimension of human experience by defining how space and place relates. Space is not an empty void or isometric plane which a place consists within, but rather “to study the relationship of space to a more experientially-based understanding of place, space too must be explored in terms of how people experience it”. Although there are many variations of space, which all layer up to the combined experience. By understanding one layer, such as the cognitive conception of space, through a map of a city, the streets and plazas can come across with more intensity and therefore be experienced in a more nuanced way.

SPIRIT OF PLACE

Identity as Genius Loci

Talking about place and identity, the term genius loci is often used, meaning “spirit of a place”. Architectural historian and architect Christian Norberg-Schulz (1979) describes in his text: *Genius Loci: towards a phenomenology of architecture*, that we experience places through physical boundaries of what we can see and touch, but also the invisible intangible phenomena such as feelings. Does a place come off as reliable and genuine? (Norberg-Schulz, 1979) This is something Edward Relph discusses in the text *Place and Placelessness* (1976). Theme of discussion is authenticity and how a place can come across as “a direct and genuine experience” rather than something that is shaped by technical solutions and social expectations, places which are described as “placelessness”. Placelessness tends to show when a place becomes a part of a massproductions, which happens more and more often in the global era we live in today. (Relph, 1976)

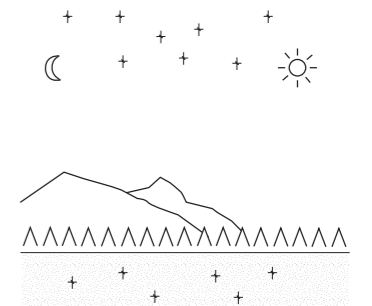
When experiencing a place - can you trust the physical boundaries and what is your general impression? Norberg-Schulz describes further that the task of the architect is to create meaningful places, and to do so one needs to understand the genius loci, by defining the identity and interpreting it in new, differnt ways. (Norberg-Schulz, 1979)



Genius Loci - boundaries in landscape.



Genius Loci - boundaries in the built environment.



Genius Loci - boundaries seen through sami mythology.

Identification of Genius Loci - to become friend with a place

Searching for genius loci you need to look at a whole, what happens between heaven and earth. There are landscapes and nature, buildings, people, animals, all through the layer of history showing its layer of time. To time there are also seasons and weather, light and darkness, constantly in a change. As Norberg-Schulz states: “The structure of a place is not a fixed, eternal state. As a rule places change, sometimes rapidly. This does not mean, however, that the genius loci necessarily changes or gets lost” change is a layer of a place’s identity. (Norberg-Schulz, 1979)

Collage of scales

Searching for a place’s identity one needs to look at different scales. From small details in a facade to the overall expression of a city. All pieces merged together in a collage that sets out the frame of identity. (Norberg-Schulz, 1979)

GENIUS LOCI THROUGH SAMI MYTHOLOGY

Sami mythology is deeply rooted in nature; all elements of nature such as animals, rivers, mountains, and celestial bodies, possess spiritual qualities and can influence the daily lives of the sami. In the film *Historjá - stygn för Sápmi*, Britta Marakatt-Labba (2022) talks about that there are three “spheres” in sami mythology: Himlen - “heaven”, jorden - “earth” and underjorden, “the underworld.” Samis also believe that you borrow your land, it can not be possessed, and shall be returned in the same shape you found it for future generations.

Reflection: If you see physical elements as phenomena possessing a spirit, how does that affect the spirit of the place? Is the genius loci changed or is it just another layer which adds upon the total impression? Does that then mean that depending on your knowledge and previous experiences, you interpret places differently? Who is then to tell the story of a place’s identity?

The ambiguity of development
vs.
The ambiguity of stagnation.

CRITICAL REGIONALISM

When talking about a place's identity, the parameter of time will always have to be taken into account. Tracing a place's history back to the roots, one can get an identity crisis and become nostalgic of what the place once was.

In the text *Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance* by Kenneth Frampton (1993) he refers to a quote by Paul Ricoeur, who outlines the conflict by one's heritage and by being in the contemporary. The strive to bridge the past without being totally consumed by it, to risk stagnation in an era in history. Emphasizing local identity, there has to be a balance of romanticizing history and to be open minded for outer change.

The ambiguity of a place's identity occurs from the opposites of strengthening the sense of identity by the regional and traditional qualities, while on the other hand continuing to develop and being inspired by other cultures and traditions for further development. Kenneth Frampton (1993)

In a digital world where information travels faster than ever, other cultures and inspiration is only one click away. This opens up for remote places to be a part of a global development. Architecture in these vast places can still be specific to its site and history while simultaneously keeping pace with global development. And it is the task of the architect to make sure these two opposites evolve in harmony. Andrea Crudelli (2018)

BYGDEGÅRD & HEMBYGDSGÅRDAR

A Bygdegård is a meeting place that often is located in the countryside or in smaller towns, open to the public. These community centers are in most cases independent buildings that were built solely to serve as a meeting place for those who live in the community. Sometimes older, historic buildings from the area are also used as community centers, and sometimes they are moved to the site. It happens that they have previously belonged to a popular movement such as the free church movement or were previously school buildings.

Art exhibitions, lectures, association meetings, theater, film screenings and markets are activities arranged in the community center, and sometimes the house can also be rented for example parties and school camps. In some cases, the history of the area is sometimes documented and archived, but this is more common among hembygdgårdar. (Bygdegårdarnas Riksförbund, 2024)

Hembygdsgård is a gathering of buildings, normally from the agricultural areas, which in most cases has been taken over by the local community's association. In the hembygdsgård there is arranged space for collections of objects and documentation from the region, and sometimes the interior and furniture belongs to the historical time period of the building. The gathered knowledge is shared through educational activities and events, and many people tend to visit the hembygdsgård during midsummer and holidays when gatherings and parties are held for the inhabitants of the region. In rough numbers; in Sweden there are approximately 1400 hembygdsgårdar with around 8000 buildings. (Sveriges hembygdsförbund, 2024)



Collage of Hembygdsgård.

Collage of Bygdegård.



CHAPTER 2
context analysis

Criteria for case area selection

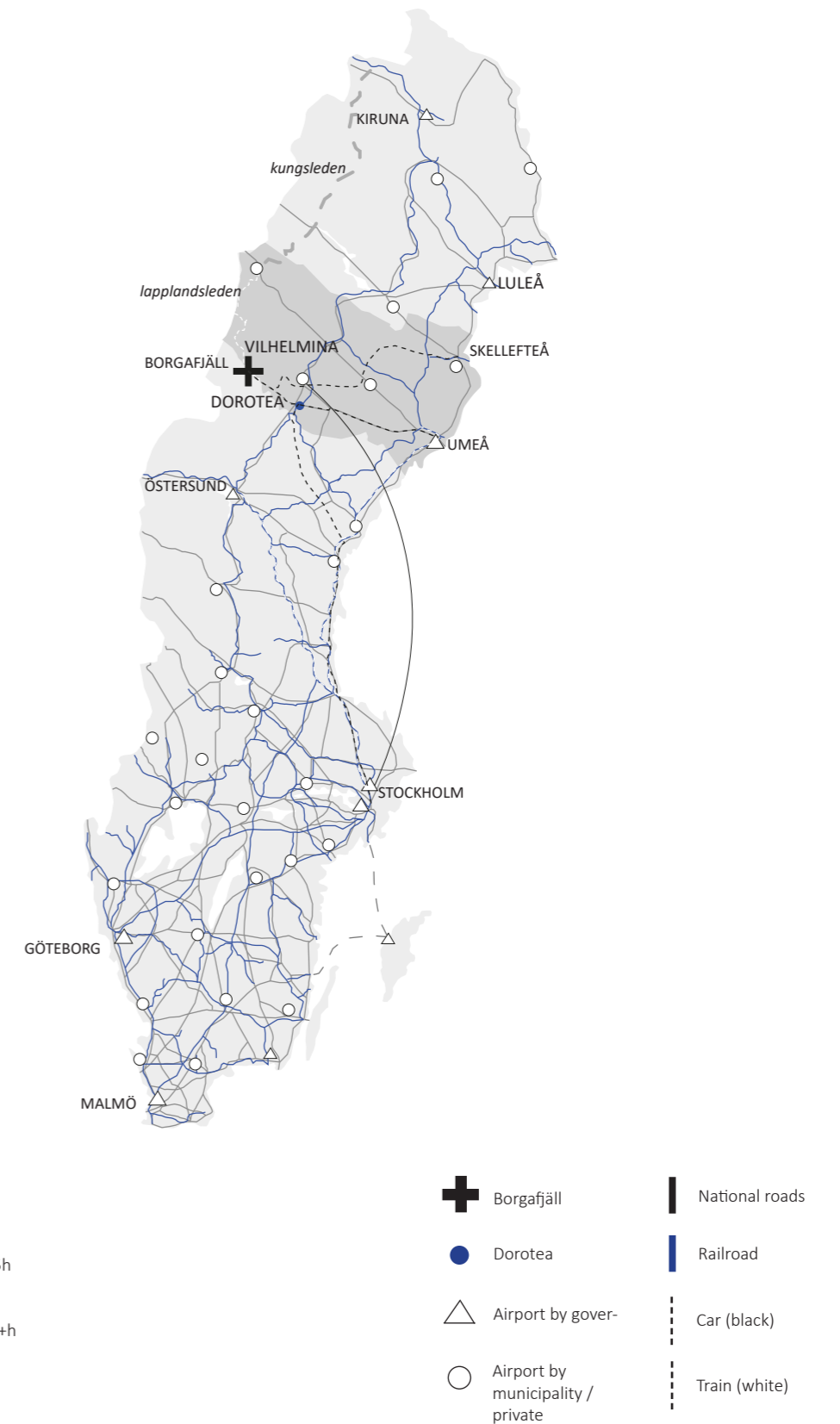
The case area should be located in the Swedish mountain range, the place should also be rural and not yet too developed. The place should have a potential of becoming exploited, due to a larger demand on mountain tourism. Interesting layers of history and building culture would be a plus for the investigation.

The case - Borgafjäll

Borgafjäll, or Borgabygden, is a small mountain village in Västerbotten, in the municipality of Dorotea. The area has been inhabited by Sami people for thousands of years, and Voernese Sameby still has their summer grounds in the area. In the beginning of the 1800's new settlers came to the area to farm and live by the land. Today the village mainly hosts summer and winter tourism, and new plans of developing the area further exist today. About 90 people live here permanently.

How do you get there?

Researching infrastructure, as travel routes, Borgafjäll is easiest to access by car. There is public transport such as buses from Dorotea, and in Wilhelmina there is an airport where flights from Stockholm lands two times a day. You can travel to Östersund or Umeå by train, and from there continue by bus to Borgafjäll. Although there is a train station in Dorotea, it is only trafficked in the summer, and not by SJ.



BORGAFJÄLL

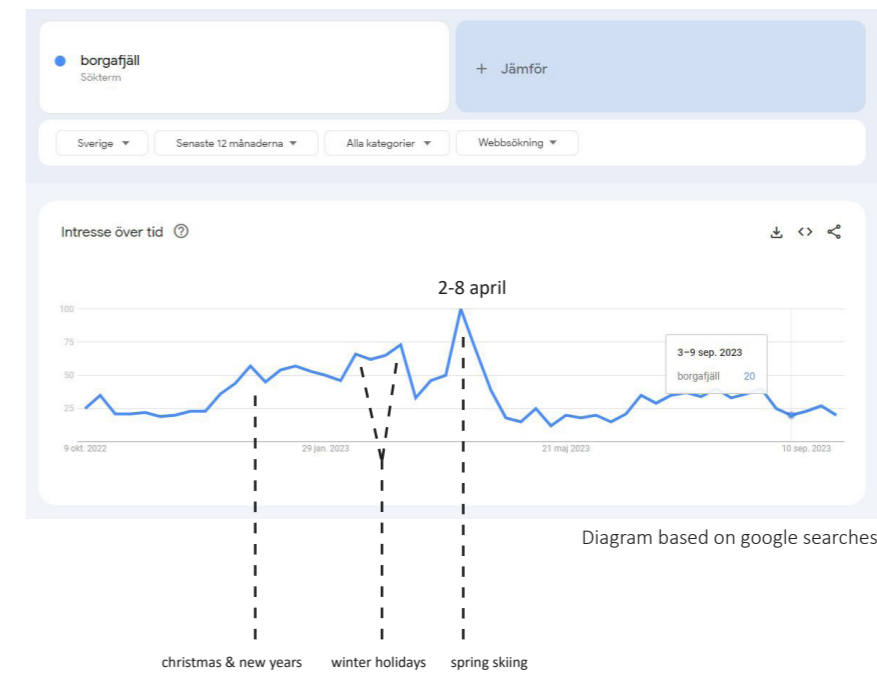
Borgafjäll is a small mountain village in Västerbotten, in the municipality of Dorotea. The area has been inhabited by Sami people for thousands of years, and Voernese Sameby still has their summer grounds in the area. In the beginning of the 1800's new settlers came to the area to farm and live by the land. Today the village mainly hosts summer and winter tourism, and new plans of developing the area further exist today. About 90 people live here permanently. (Näslund, 2014)

TOURISM IN BORGAFJÄLL

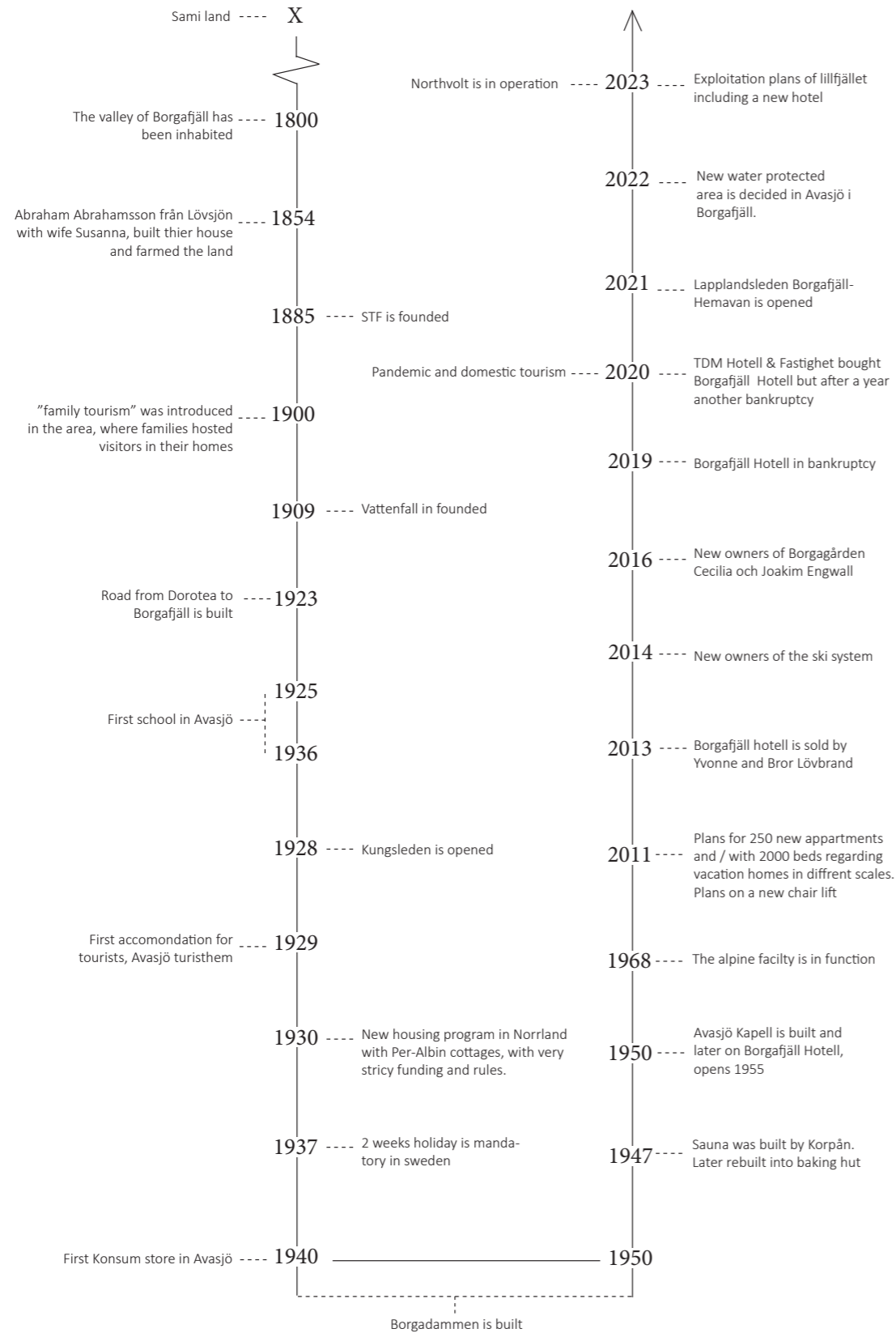
Tourism has existed in the village since the beginnings of the 1900's, where families hosted visitors in their homes. This created many friendly relationships, a mentality and hospitality that can be found in today's tourism as well. In the 1920's, visitors came to enjoy nature and bird hunting, and are seen as the first proper tourists in the village. 10 years later the first hostel was started, Avasjö Turisthem, and at the same time the road from Dorotea was built enabling easier access to the village. Next larger milestone of tourism is when Borgafjäll Hotel was built 1955, designed by Ralph Erskine. Winter tourism increased with the construction of the alpine facility in 1968, with one ski lift in Borga and one in Borgafjäll. During the past 15 years, new plots and facilities have been developed. Approximately 250 new apartments with a total of 2000 beds, regarding holiday homes in different scales, are planned. 2021 the new hiking trail, Lapplandsleden, was opened, which ends in Hemavan connecting to Kungsleden, Sweden's most famous hiking trail. (Näslund, 2014)



1955. Visitors together with Siga and Hugo Isaksson outside Sigas Family Hostel.



CONTEXT ANALYSIS
BORGAFJÄLL



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

An important milestone for the village was in the 1930's when the new reform of a housing program in Norrland was introduced, with Per-Albin Torp, enabling construction of smaller wooden houses. Many were built in the area. During the 1940's the damming of Borgasjön was developed, for this a new road was constructed, and it was now easier to access the area. When the dam was finalized the water level of the lake had risen 18 meters, putting a large amount of land and farmland under water. Today the water is still regulated, reaching its maximum level in summer and is let out before the winter to its original level.

The constructors of the dam lived there for a period of ten years, creating more life and settlement in the village. Dorotea municipality realized the potentials of Borgafjäll and plans of building a hotel were made, the hotel we today know as Borgafjäll Hotel designed by

Ralph Erskinne. The hotel was not supposed to be too big, since many people still hosted tourists in their homes, an important source of income that the municipality didn't want to concur with.

With the opening of the alpine facility in late 60's Borgafjäll grew into a place for both winter- and summer sports. Since then the village is growing with sports cabins year by year, and new actors are developing businesses related to tourism.

The latest addition is the opening of Lapplandsleden, a hiking trail connecting Borgafjäll with Hemavan where Kungleden starts.

As the thesis is written new plans of development are on the table, regarding a new hotel facility close to the ski slopes.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS FROM BORGAFJÄLL

Year stated is from the time of the photograph



1908- moming of reindeers.



1919- first bird haunt.



1920- lappvallen.



1930- old school.



1934- Ante and Kristina Andersson.



1939- Anders och Gerda med barnen Elof och Donald.



1945- house built in 1901.



1945- Oskar Sjökvist fishing at Avasjön.



1950- building of the dam.



1954- building of Borgafjäll Hotell by Ralph Erskine.



1954



1955- Sigas and guests outside her hostel.



1957- Avasjö Kappel by Ralph Erskine.



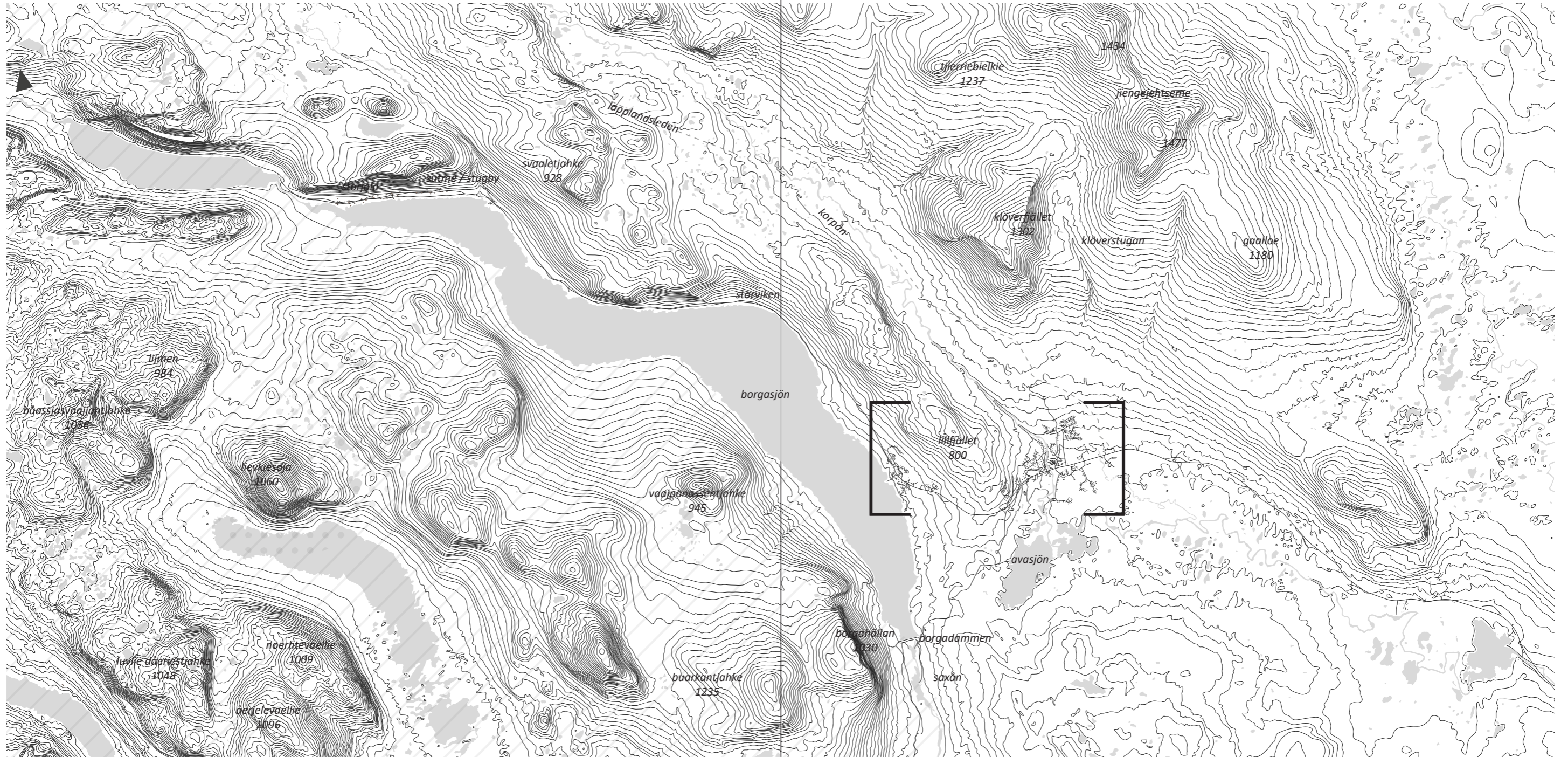
1957- Borgafjäll Hotell (roof as ski slope).





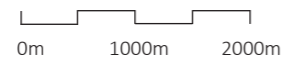
1959- Borgaluspen.



1975- Borgafjäll Hotell with iconic mountain view.



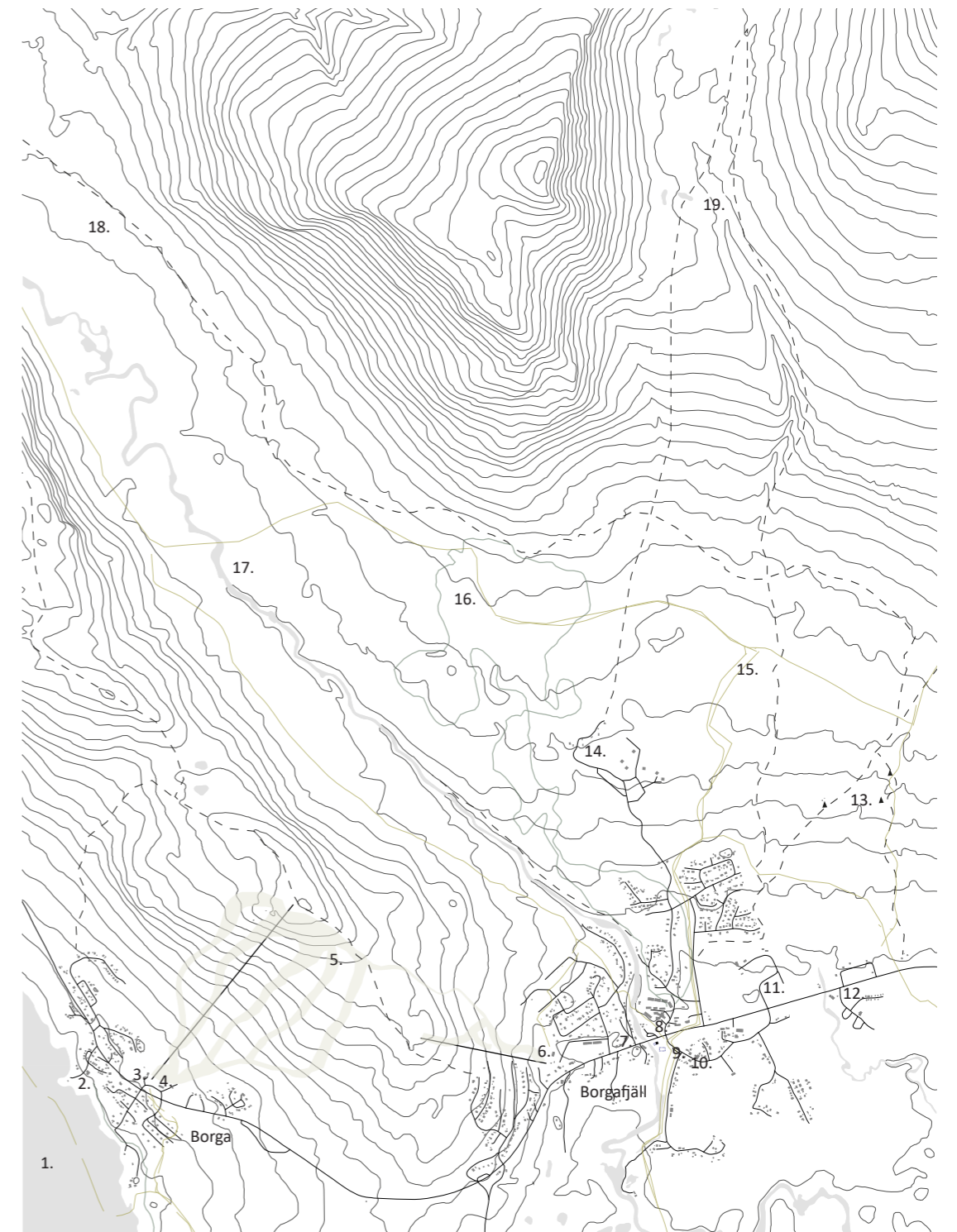
-  Voernese sameby, summer grounds
-  Voernese sameby, calving land



The context of Borgafjäll, Västerbotten, Norrland.

THE VILLAGE TODAY

Borgafjäll is today a village divided on two sides of Lillfjället, Borga and Borgafjäll. Most services such as Ica, the bus stop, the hotel, the pre-school and most of the accommodations are located in Borgafjäll. On both sides you can find restaurants, ski slopes, equipment rentals and campings. North of the village is Korpån and Korpådalen, which is the start of Lapplandsleden. From the picturesque SCA-cabins you also enter the landscape of Klöverfjället, a popular hiking and ski touring area. The cross country tracks are also to be found here, even though they start down in the village. Lappvallen, one of two Sami remnants in the area, is on hiking distance from the village. In winter time snowmobile tracks are crossing the village and connect with the rest of the mountain range.



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Borgasjön | 5. Lillfjället | 10. ICA | 15. Snowmobile tracks (yellow) |
| 2. Borgagården | 6. Avasjöliften, Skicenter | 11. Pre school | 16. Cross country tracks (green) |
| 3. 69 North Camping | 7. Avasjökapell | 12. Snowcamp | 17. Korpån & Korpådalen |
| 4. Borgaliften, Äventyrscenter, Johannas restaurang, | 8. Borgafjäll Hotell | 13. Lappvallen | 18. Lapplandsleden |
| | 9. Recycling station | 14. SCA cabins | 19. Klöverstugan |

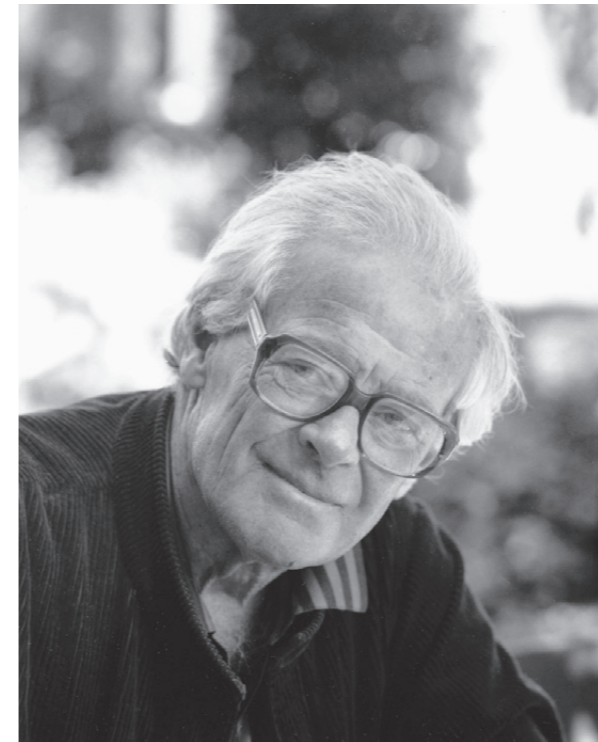
BUILDINGS BY RALPH ERSKINE

In Borgafjäll, Ralph Erskine designed two buildings during the fifties. First Avasjökapell, which was finalized in 1950, and then Borgafjäll Hotel that was inaugurated 1955. Erskine is known for working with care for the environment and local nature. He often used the specific qualities at the site when he designed his buildings, which got more visible the further north he designed his projects.

Borgafjäll Hotell is designed to integrate with nature, as the sloping roofs mimic the skyline of the mountains, and one roof can also be used as ski slope. Avasjö Kapell's outer walls is made of brown wooden moldings, which makes the chapel look timbered. The building is then covered by a steep hipped gable roof. To the west of the chapel is a free-standing belfry with a church bell from 1862, "Lillklocka", which was donated by Risbäck's church. The site of the chapel is framed in all directions by a beautiful manor house wall of natural stone.

SÁPMI - THE LAND OF THE SAMIS

Sápmi is located in northern Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Kola peninsula in Russia. There are several different cultures, languages and traditions among the Sami, but they are all our indigenous people. (Samiskt informationscentrum, 2018) In Borgafjäll, Voernese Sami village has their spring and fall grounds, meaning that they are moving their reindeers through the area during the seasons, from the east coast where they are located during the winters and from the mountains in the west where they are during the summers. Some areas are especially protected for the calving season, which takes place in April and May, when the reindeers need large lands of safe space. (Sámediggi, 2018)



Ralph Erskine, photo by Sune Sundal / ArkDes



Borgafjäll Hotell.



Avasjö Kapell with iconic mountain



Jeremias Brantholm, local guide of the Sami huts in Sutme, Borgafjäll.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS
REFERENCES FOR THE ANALYSIS
OF BUILDING TYPOLOGIES

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

While mapping, it has been important to be able to analyse the gathered material equally. Therefore the reference of the Winding Towers have been of great help, where there are rules of how a building or object is photographed. This has sometimes been hard to follow since there is a huge amount of snow on the site, and the fact that you sometimes can't enter a private property as you wish.

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCE

The Bechers (1966) organized the images into groupings assembled in grids, classified by function into types. In this strict layout, each structure may easily be compared with the others.



Bernd Becher, Hilla Becher (1966-97) Winding Towers.

IDENTITY REFERENCE

By making collages Savinova (2016) searched for a visual result that captured a spirit of a place. By rescaling and rearranging she highlighted certain features which contributes to an intangible notion of spirit.



Anastasia Savinova (2016) The Spirit of Cities Captured in Collage.

MAPPING OF BUILDING TYPOLOGIES

Selection of photographs from the site, chosen to represent common characteristics in the built environment.

1. Second home, moved to Borgafjäll 2018
2. Small cabin, belongs to larger plot
3. Garage / cabin. Offset facade
4. Sports cabin. One floor
5. Sports cabin. Divergent roof slope
6. Second home. Divergent roof slope, offset facade
7. Abandone house. Gable roof, dovetail joinery
8. Caravans. Portable homes
9. Klöverstugan Mountain cabin. Gable roof.
10. SCA cabins. Private second homes
11. SCA cabins. Offset facade
12. SCA cabins. Attached entrance
13. Sutme Sami settlement. Storage. Lifted foundation
14. Sutme Sami settlement. Laavu
15. Sami settlement. Lappvallen
16. Matt Jons Laavu. Lappvallen
17. Second home. Gable roof, two floors, large windows, chimney
18. Second home. Gable roof, two floors, geometric details
19. Second home. Gable roof, one floor
20. Second home. Gable roof. Traditional design
21. Capell. Steep sloping hip roof, visual half-timbered house
22. Borgafjäll Hotel. Divergent roof slopes, offset facade, supporting columns
23. Restaurant. Laavu inspired design
24. Borgagården. Gableroof, extended parts.



CONTEXT ANALYSIS
IDENTIFYING THE SITE



Location of the site in Borgafjäll.

SITE INVESTIGATION

Since Borgafjäll is divided between Borga and Borgafjäll (or Avasjö as the original name is), the village is occurring fragmented. All services is located in Borgafjäll and this has historically been the center, with Borgafjäll hotell and the grocery store as nodes. Therefore it is reasonable to enhance this as a center, due to the small rural scale, rather than introduce a new node and create more fragmentation.

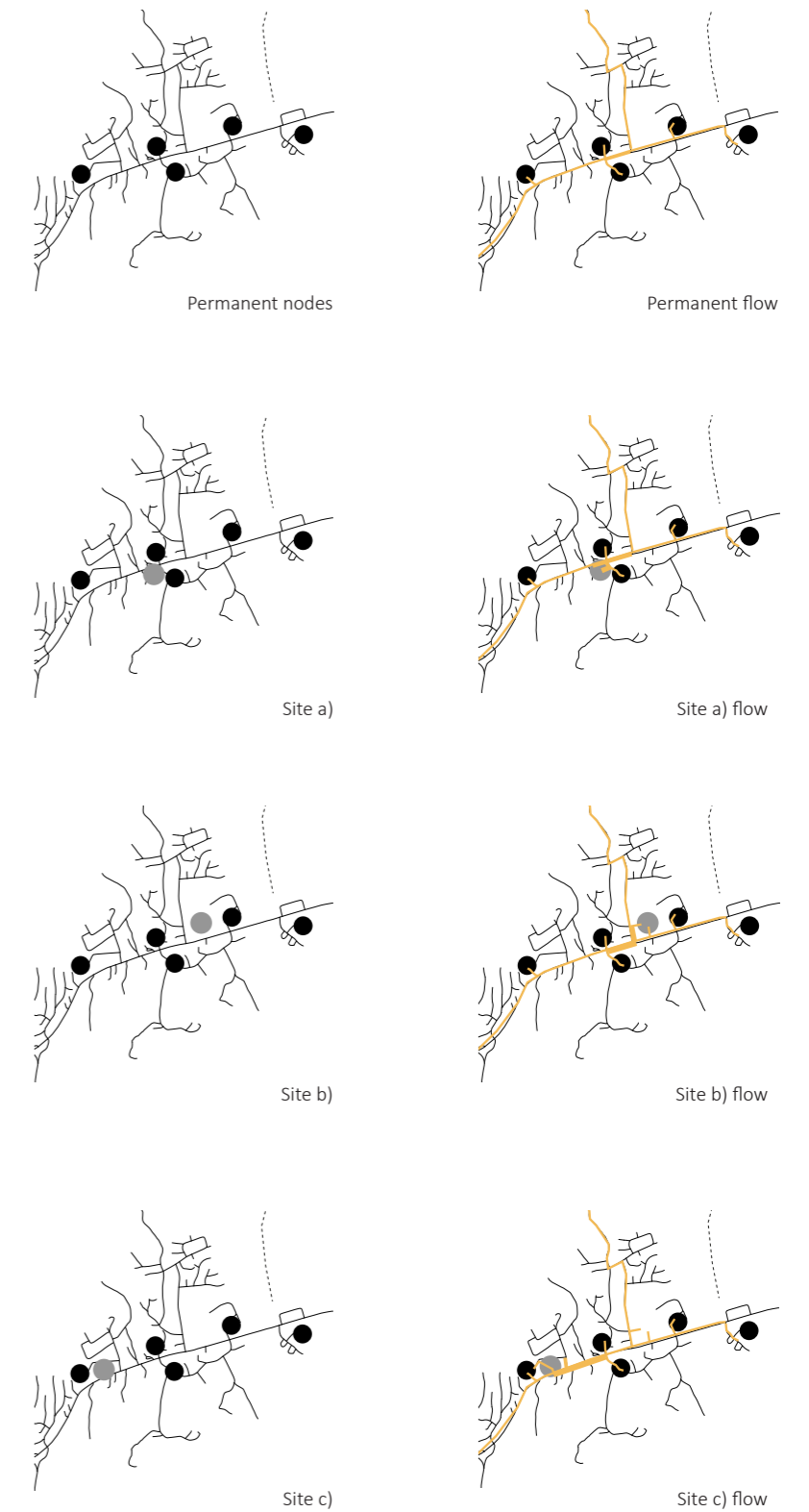
Site criteria:

- + create a "village feeling"
- + placed on walking distance in the village
- + promote existing center
- + make use of current movement

Site a)
Placed in the current crossing in the center. Will make use of current flows. Flat landscape with Korpån framing to the west and Byvägen to the east.

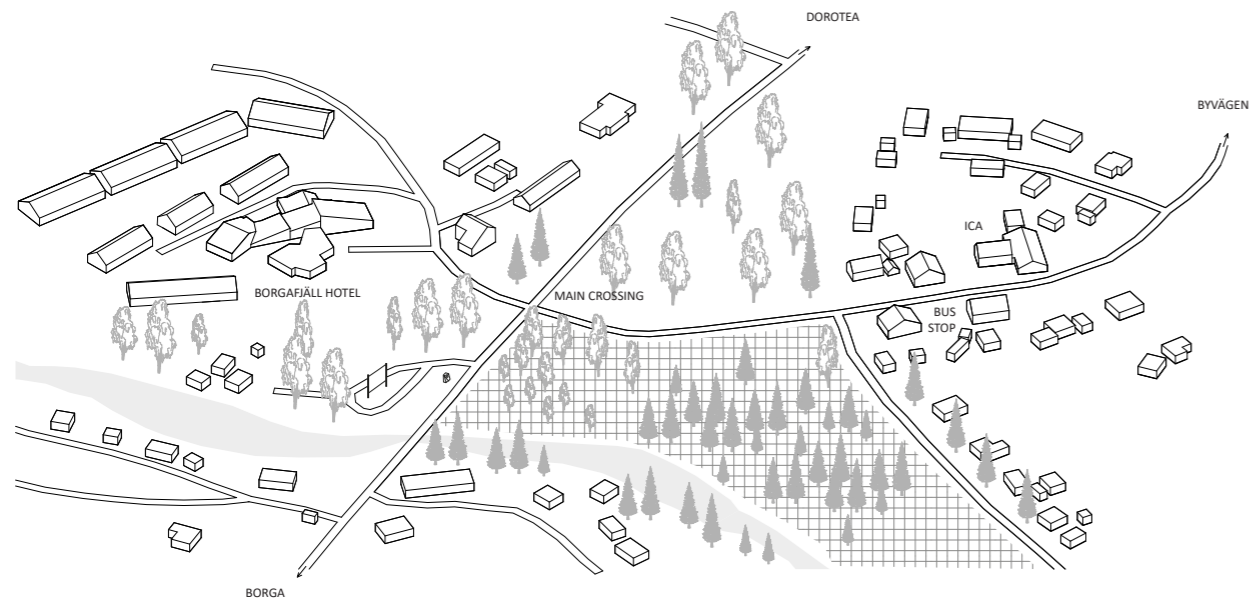
Site b)
Placed in the east outskirts of the center. Will make use of current flows. Flat landscape. No spectacular views.

Site c)
Placed in the west outskirts of the center. Will make use of current flows but will also increase the flow on the mainroad from the crossing. Flat landscape. No spectacular views. Close to Avasjöliften.

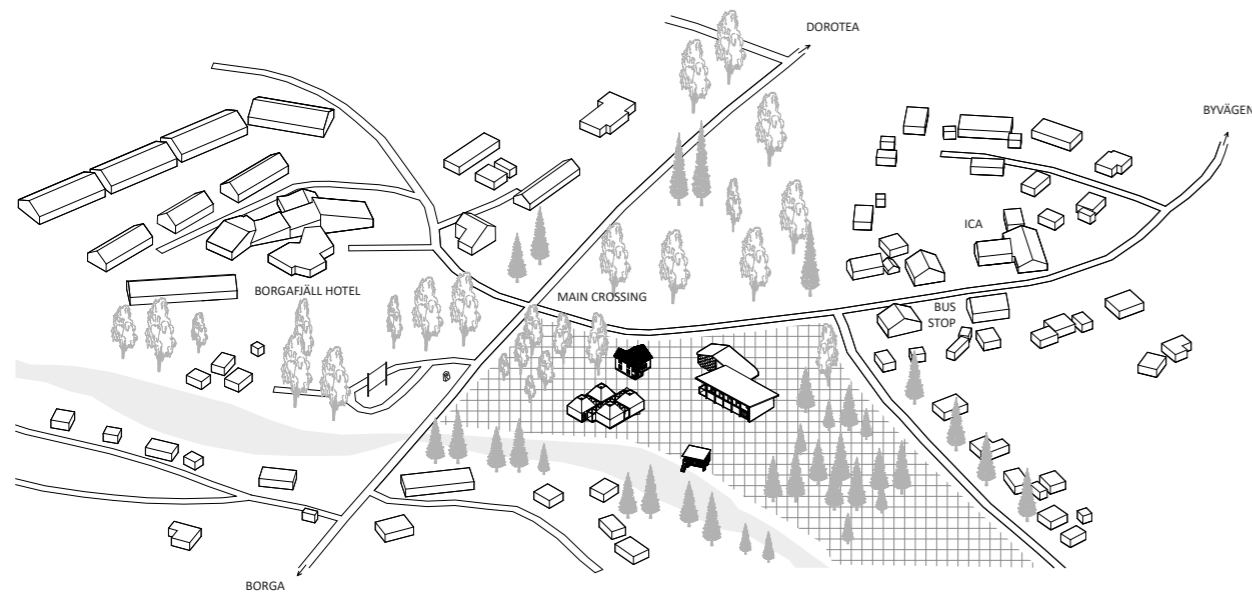




CHAPTER 3
design



Closest context to the site.



Closest context to the site with intervention.



SITE a) THE CHOSEN PLOT

From the site investigation site a) was chosen as a plot for the intervention. It is a relatively flat site, with vegetation of birches and pines. The plot is framed by Korpån to the west, Borgavägen to the north, Centrumvägen to the east and Torpvägen to the south. The main crossing for Ica and Borgafjällhotell is just by the plot, and in wintertime there

is a main crossing for snowmobiles, and a starting point for many hiking routes in the summer. The creek is rather shallow with larger stones, which frames the mountain of Klöveren behind Borgafjäll Hotell, and in the southern part of the plot, looking south, you see the wall of the mountain Borgahällan- the two iconic mountains of Borgafjäll.

MORPHOLOGY

Morphology is the study of “the evolution of form within the built environment” and is often used in reference to a particular vernacular typology of buildings. In architecture the morphological process is the categorical study in the change of buildings and their use from a historical perspective, as they have been designed or changed due to the intervention by mankind. (Mandal, et al., 2018)

ANACHRONISM

Anachronism is a chronological dis-placement in some compositions, normally a juxtaposition of people, events, objects and language terms from different periods in time. The most common type of anachronism is an object misplaced in time, but it may be a verbal expression, a technology, a philosophical idea, a musical style, a material, a plant or animal, a custom, or anything else associated with a particular period that is placed outside its proper temporal domain. In this case the anachronism is characteristics of building typologies, which are inserted through collaging in the new design proposal. (Jane Potthast, 2013)

DESIGN STRATEGY

To implement the findings from the mappings, building components are categorized into volumes, openings, roof and details and material. These elements are to be recombined into new forms for the design proposal. By altering scale, material and colors a reinterpretation of the built heritage is conducted. The aim is to create a physical example of the local identity, which will act as a foundation of knowledge for future development of Borgafjäll.

The Archive

From the archive physical elements are extracted and implemented.

Identity

From the theory of genius loci intangible values are collected and carefully redefined and visualized.

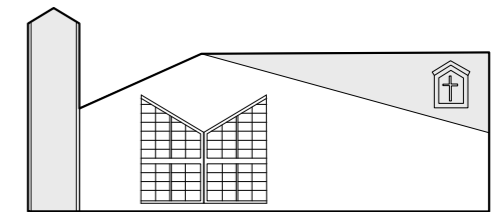
Tourism

The program is in favor of the local inhabitants of Borgafjäll, arguing that a sustainable tourism comes from a resilient local population.

COLLAGE OF CHARACTERISTICS

Collages combine pictures and fragments from different sources into a new entity, which puts the parts in new roles with new relations and thereby gives them new meanings. It brings out new narratives, dialogues and juxtapositions. It is a common method in contemporary art and filmmaking to “copy” fragments and composes them together, something which can be applied in architecture as well. (Jennifer A. E. Shields, 2014)

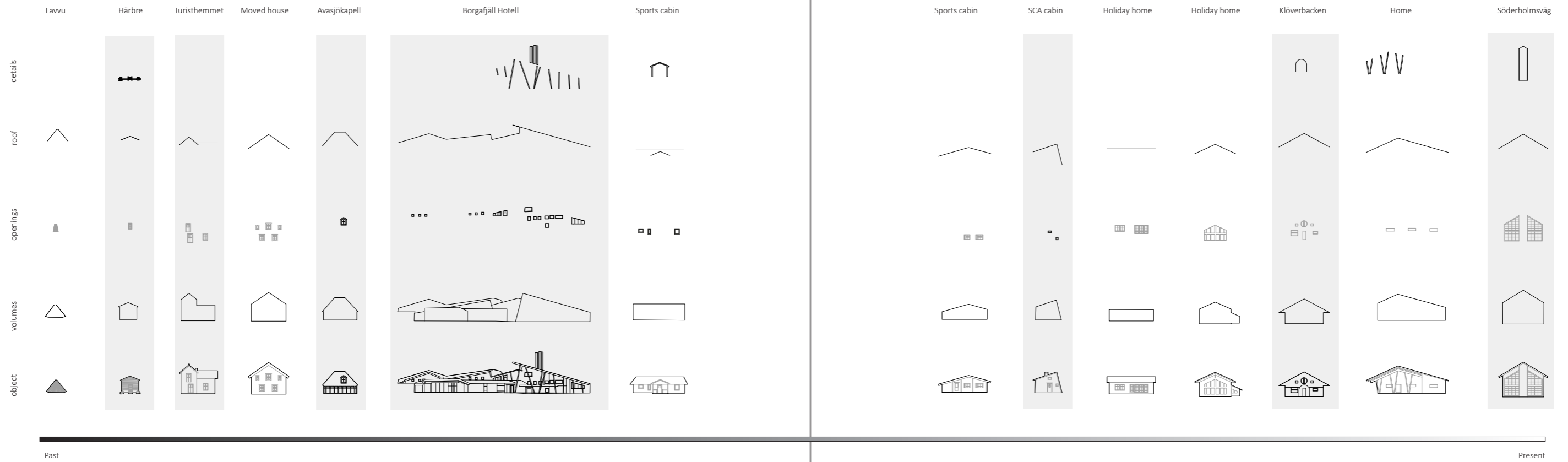
The features from the morphological investigation will be collages into new composition and implemented in the design proposal.



Example of collage from the morphological experimentation.

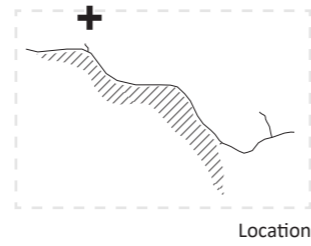
FORM FINDING IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Exploration of morphology: By tracing photographs from the site, and then dividing the buildings in volumes, openings, roof and details different characteristics start to emerge. All drawings are coherent to the current condition of the buildings, represented as they appeared when they were explored at the site. The chosen buildings represent examples of common typologies, where a few are selected for further investigation since they contain time-typical features of their era. The selection of buildings is supposed to cover the whole building history of Borgafjäll, from old Sami huts to new holiday homes which still are under construction.



HÄRBRE - SAMI STORAGE

The Härbre is found in Sutme, 10km west of Borgafjäll. There is a cluster of 8 remaining facilities of small storages, lavuus and härhren on the site.



MATERIAL:
sod roof

birch roots

timber

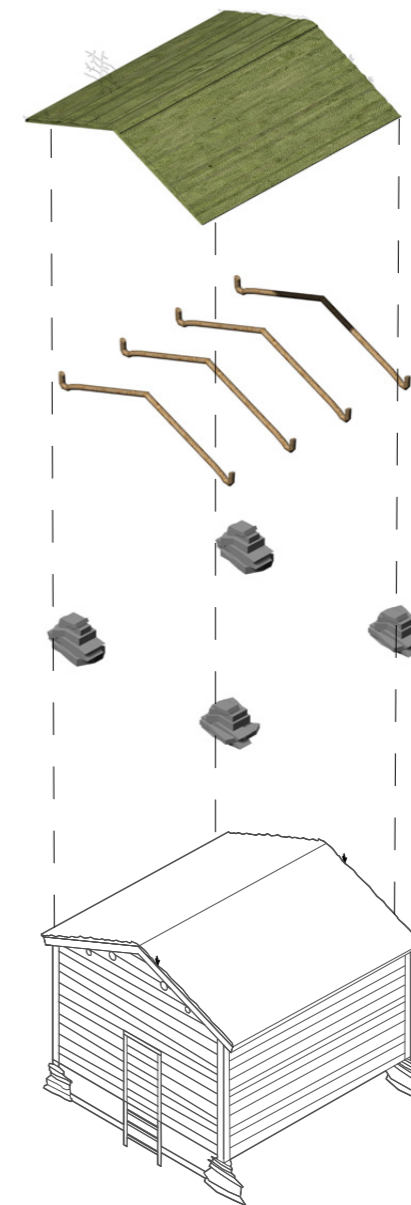
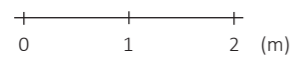
piled stones



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ sod roof

+ birch roots

+ piled stones



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

+ sod roof

+ birch roots

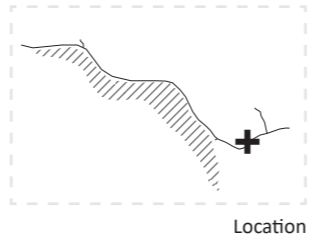
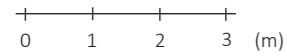
+ piled stones

CURRENT CONDITION

AVASJÖ TURISTHEM

The building has also been referred to as "the abandoned house" since it is not in use today. The facade has been taken down to simplify the inventory of timber logs- since the building is for sale, to be moved to another plot. Built in the early 1900's and has hosted tourists since 1924 according to the guest book.

Exception: This building acts as a reference for the cultural heritage of Borgafjäll but the whole building will also be moved to the site of the design proposal. In addition to the move inspiration is taken from the built features to be included in the morphological archive.



MATERIAL:
metal roof
(previous wooden shingles)

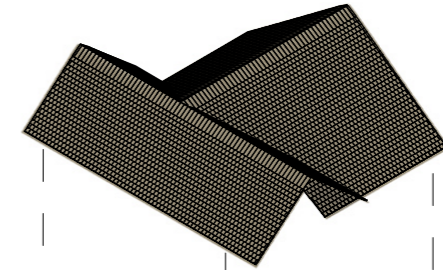
laxknut

timber

FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ wooden shingles

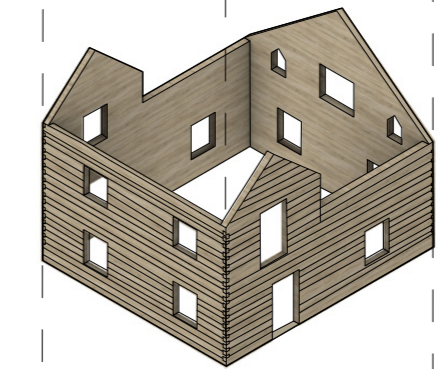
+ laxknut

+ timber



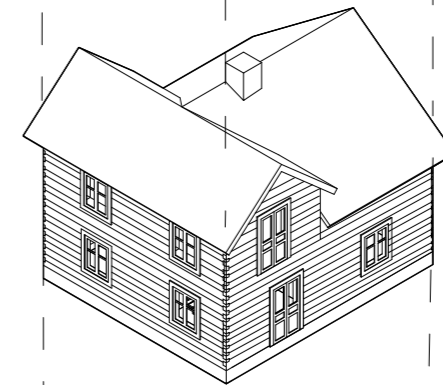
FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

+ wooden shingles

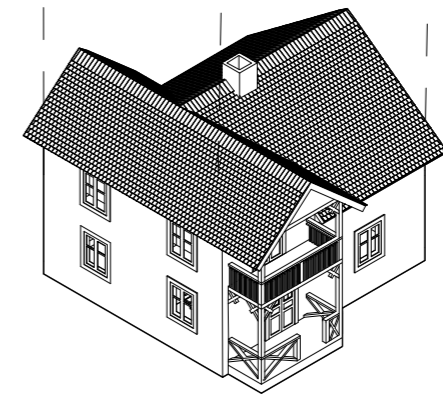


+ laxknut

+ timber



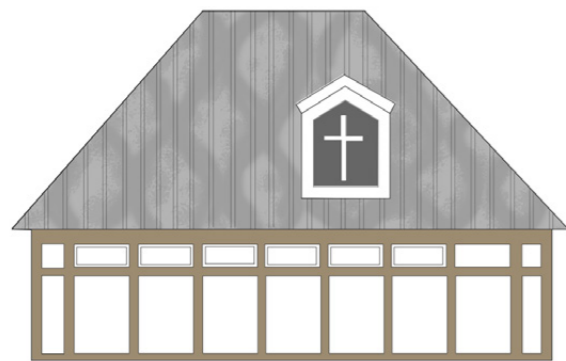
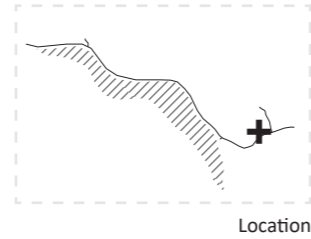
CURRENT CONDITION



ORIGINAL CONDITION

AVASJÖ KAPELL

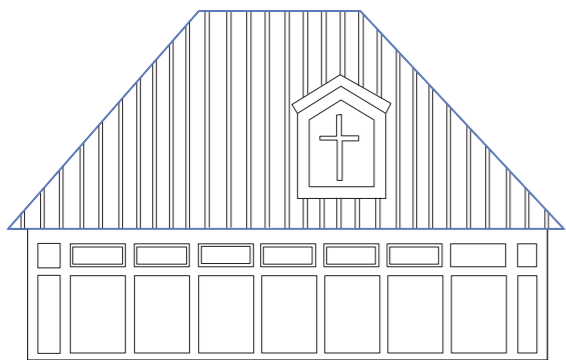
Designed by Ralph Erskine and built 1950. The smaller chapel is still active. The outer walls are made of brown wooden moldings, which makes the chapel look timbered. To the west of the chapel is a free-standing belfry with a church bell from 1862, "Lillklocka", which was donated by Risbäck's church.



MATERIAL:
metal roof
(previous wooden shingles)

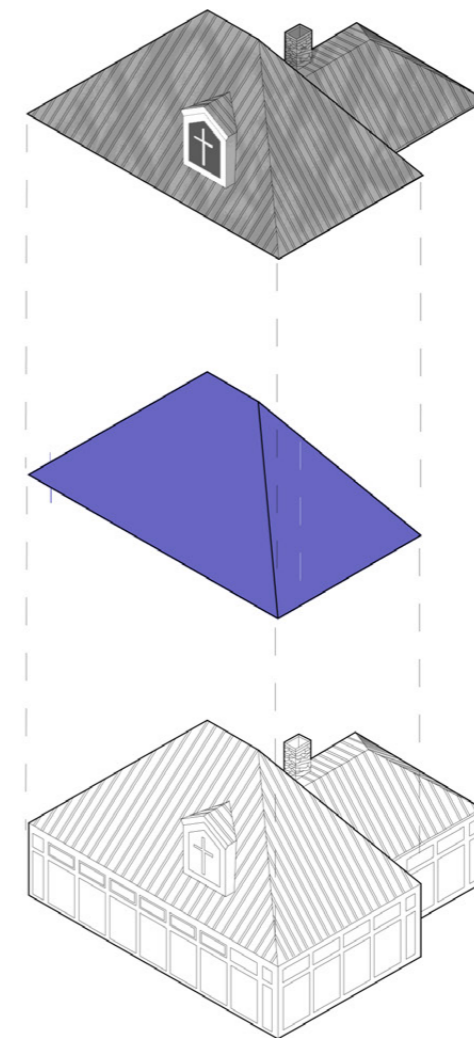
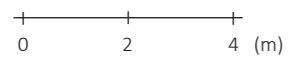
attached post work
(imitating half timber)

timber



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ metal roof

+ hipped gable roof



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

+ metal roof

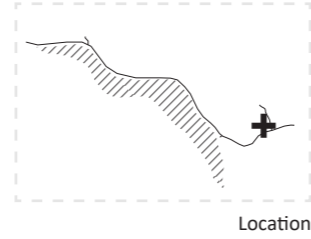
+ hipped gable roof

CURRENT CONDITION

DESIGN
MORPHOLOGY

BORGAFJÄLL HOTELL

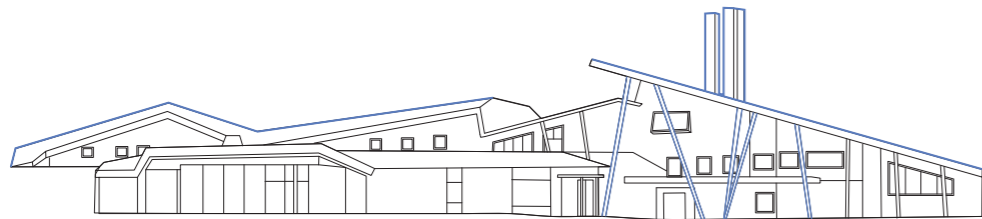
Also drawn by Ralph Erskine, Borgafjäll Hotel was inaugurated in 1955 and is designed to integrate with nature, as the sloping roofs mimic the skyline of the mountains, and one roof is also designed to be used as a ski slope. The volume in front is an extension of a spa, reception and conference area built in the late 80's. The building is constructed with materials from the site; pine, natural stone, bricks produced nearby and telegraph poles predominate as building materials. The roofs were originally sod roofs.



Location

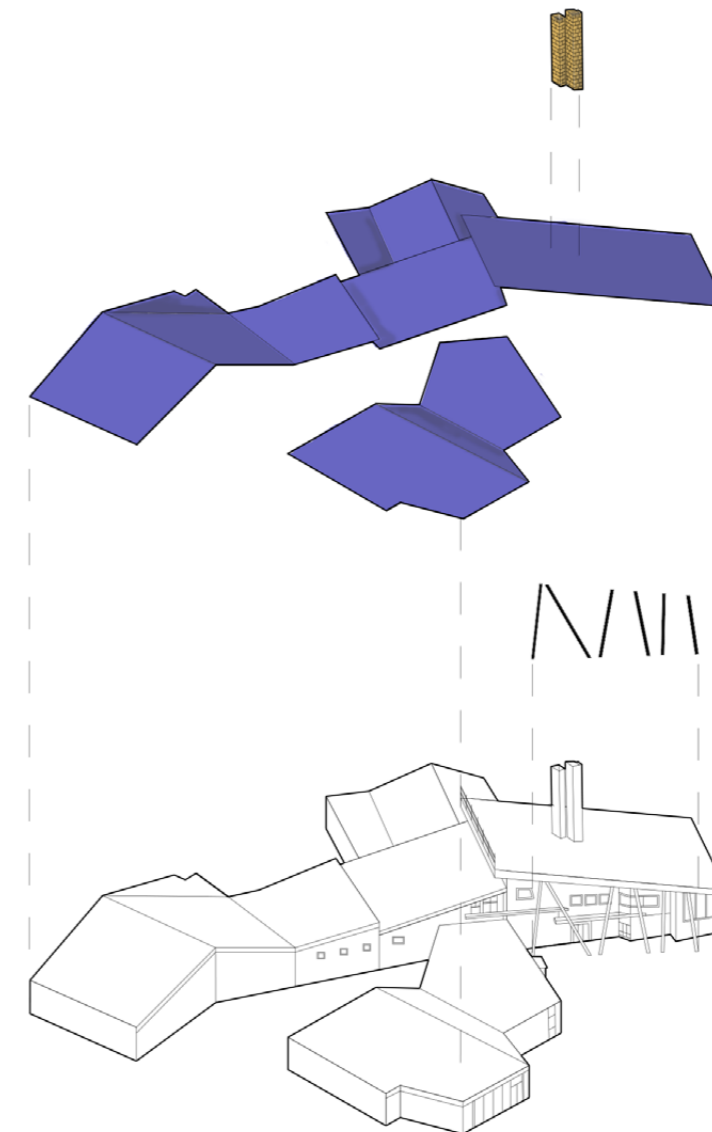


MATERIAL:
sod roof
wood
timber



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ chimney
+ sloping roof
+ telegraph poles

0 5 10 (m)



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

+ chimney

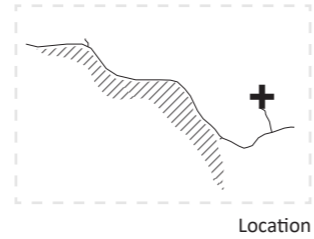
+ sloping roof

+ telegraph poles

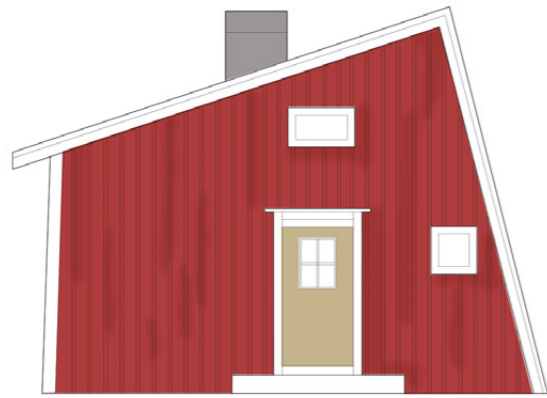
CURRENT CONDITION

SCA CABINS

The forest company SCA built 5 cottages as holiday homes for their employees in 1962. The architect was Jan Thurfjell, a close colleague of Erskine, and in 1990 they were sold to private stakeholders. They vary a bit in additional features, but the volume is similar for all of them.



Location

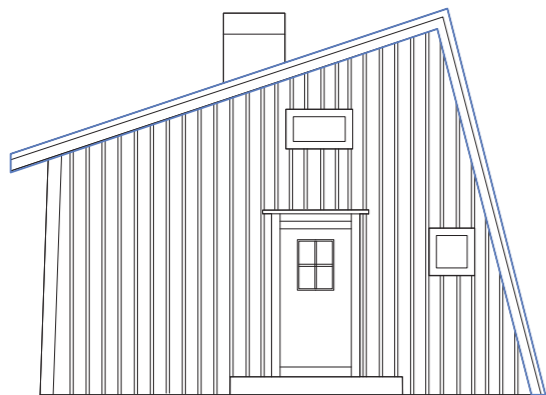


MATERIAL:
roofing felt

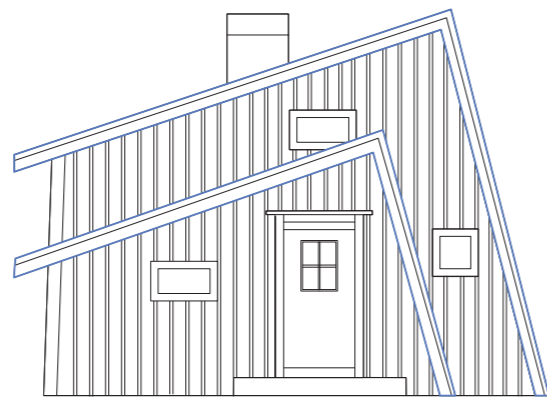
wood

FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ sloping roof

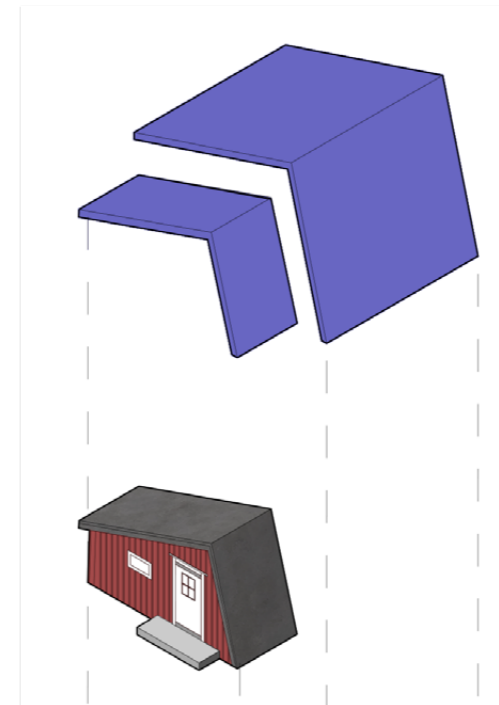
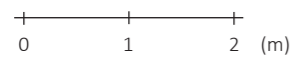
+ attached entrance



Example 1.



Example 2.



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

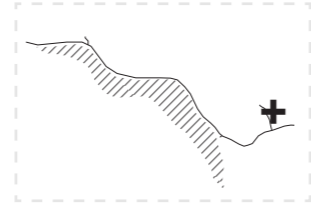
+ sloping roof

+ attached entrance

CURRENT CONDITION

KLÖVERBACKEN

Holiday home designed by Thomas Sandell. Structure of cross-laminated wood with playful geometrical windows and details. Built in the 2020's.



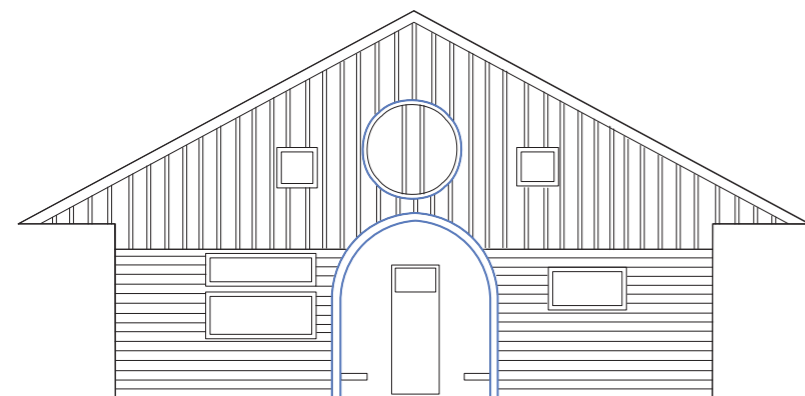
Location



MATERIAL:
folded sheet metal

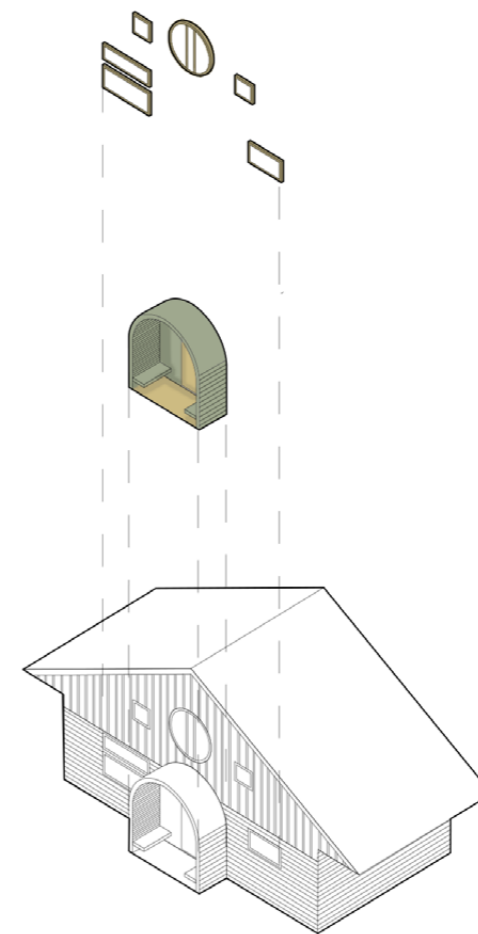
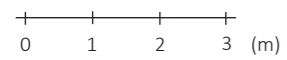
KL-wood

Ground slab



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ geometric windows

+ attached entrance



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

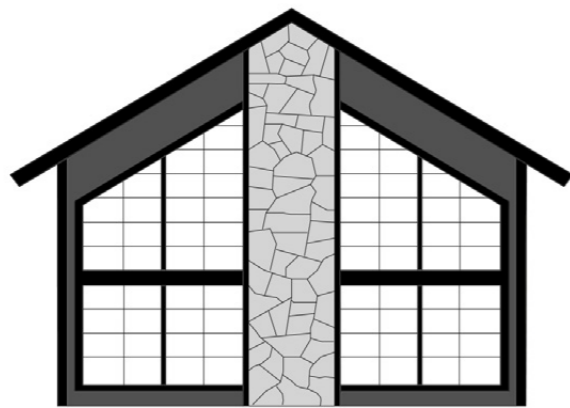
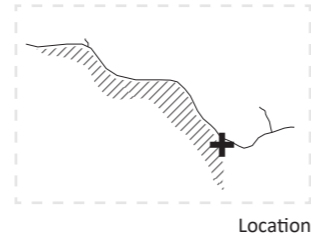
+ geometric windows

+ attached entrance

CURRENT CONDITION

SÖDERHOLMSVÄG

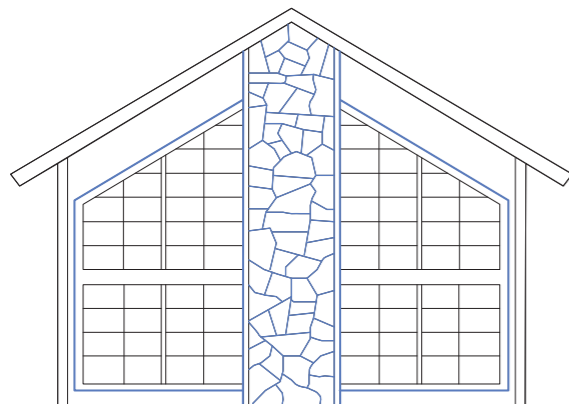
As the site is visited in the beginning of 2024 the house at Söderholmsväg 1 is still under construction. To the house there is also a large double garage. By observing the house you can tell that there will be double ceiling height towards the facade where the chimney is located. Presumed wooden structure.



MATERIAL:
roof tiles

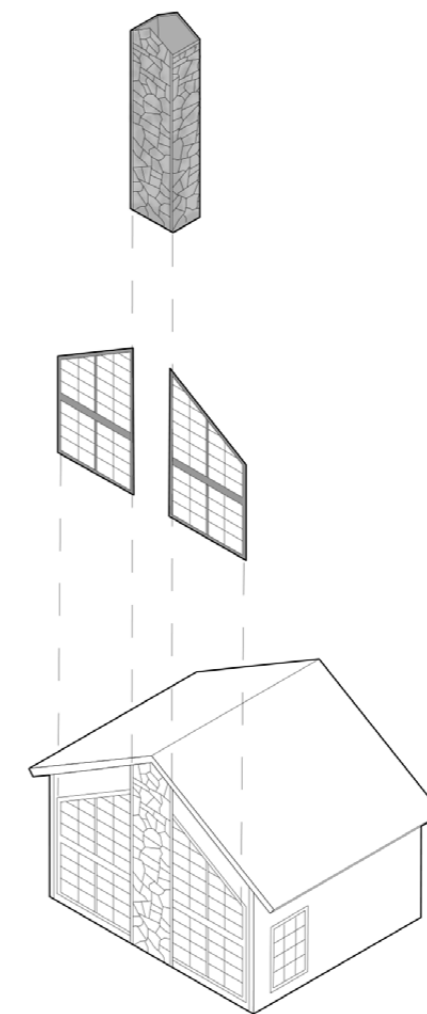
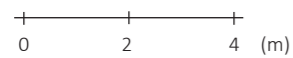
wood

brick chimney



FEATURES TO EXTRACT:
+ chimney

+ large windows

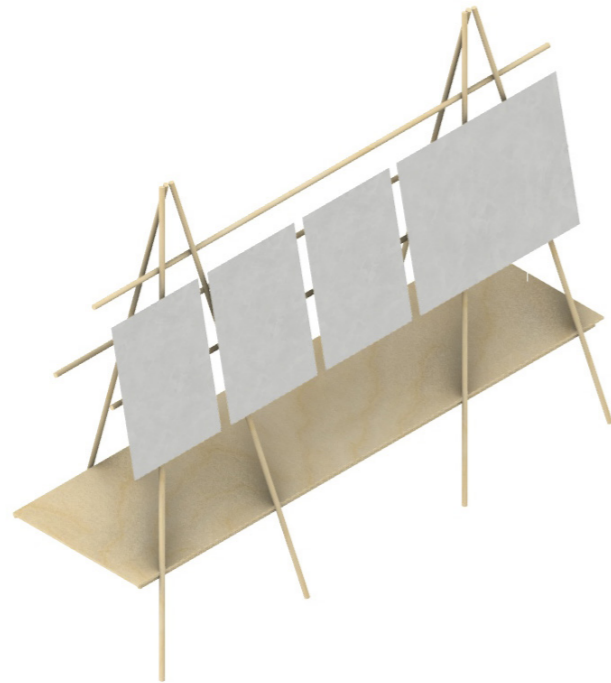


FEATURES TO EXTRACT:

+ chimney

+ large windows

CURRENT CONDITION



A SHELF FOR EXHIBITION

As the documentation and mapping phase is a larger part of the project, and it is important to curate the findings made. The gathered findings, the archive of Borgafjäll, will therefore be curated further for the exhibition. An early stage of including the cultural heritage of the samis in the design process was to create an exhibition shelf with

inspiration of sami building techniques. The shelf takes inspiration from a temporary foldable structure, buoddu, and has been co-designed with Joakim Engwall, a local carpenter and owner of Borgagården, who introduced the idea and explained the joinery of the structure.



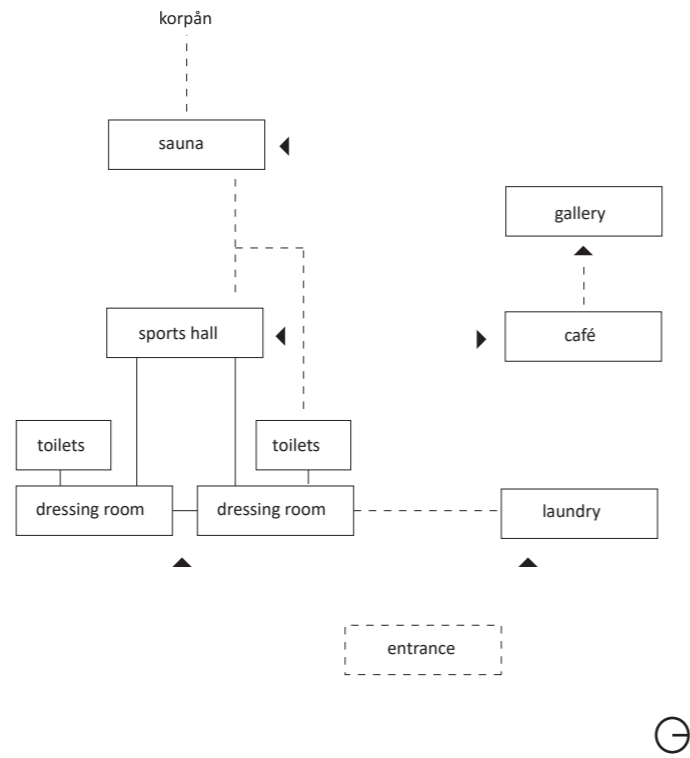
The shelf on display during the thesis exhibition at Chalmers 2024.

DESIGN PROGRAM

SPATIAL SEQUENCE

minimum space:

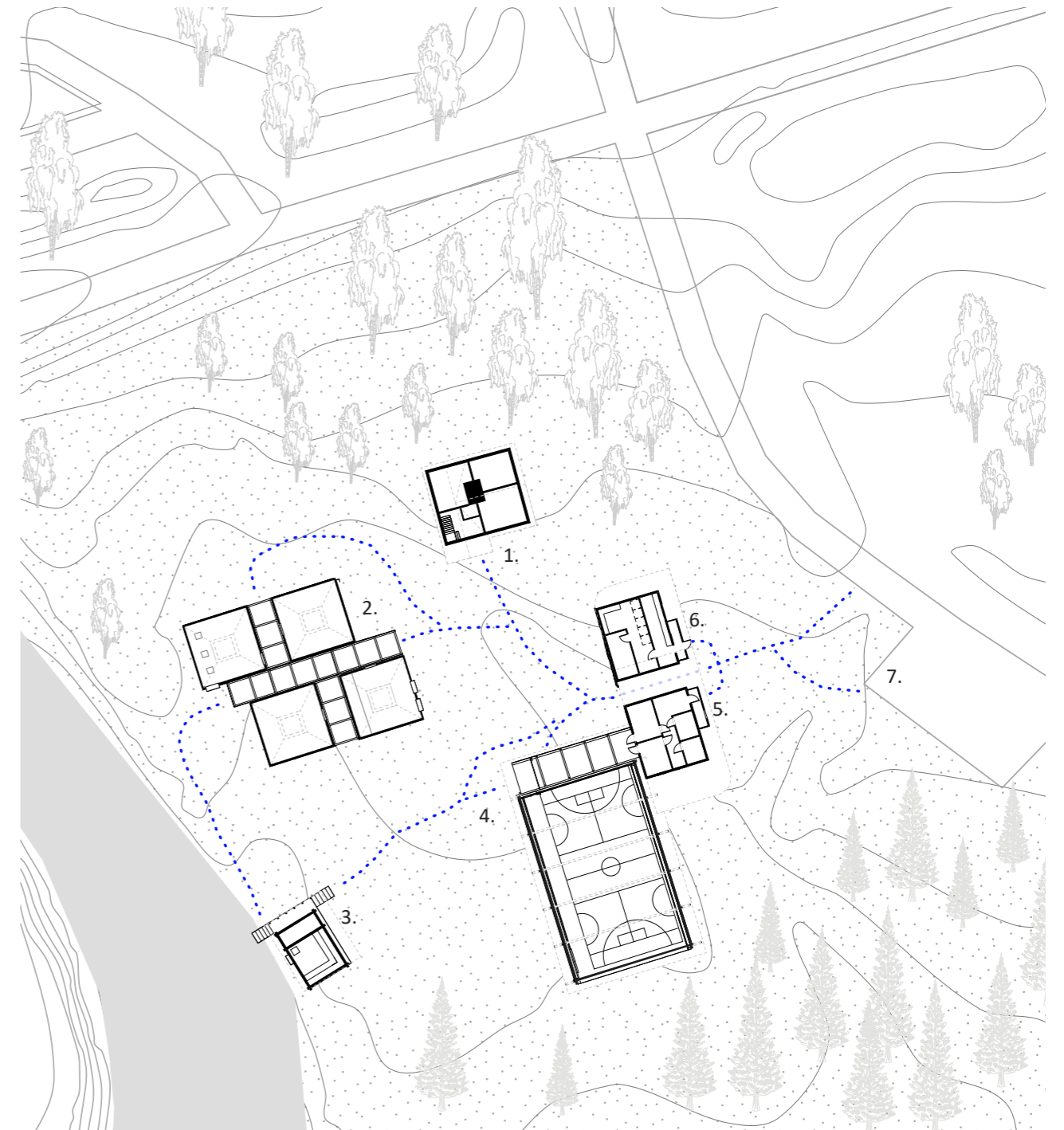
- sports hall: 20m²
- sauna. 10m²
- toilets: 10m²
- dressingroom: 20m²
- laundry: 20m²
- cafe: 30m²
- gallery: 30m²



BYGDEGÅRDEN

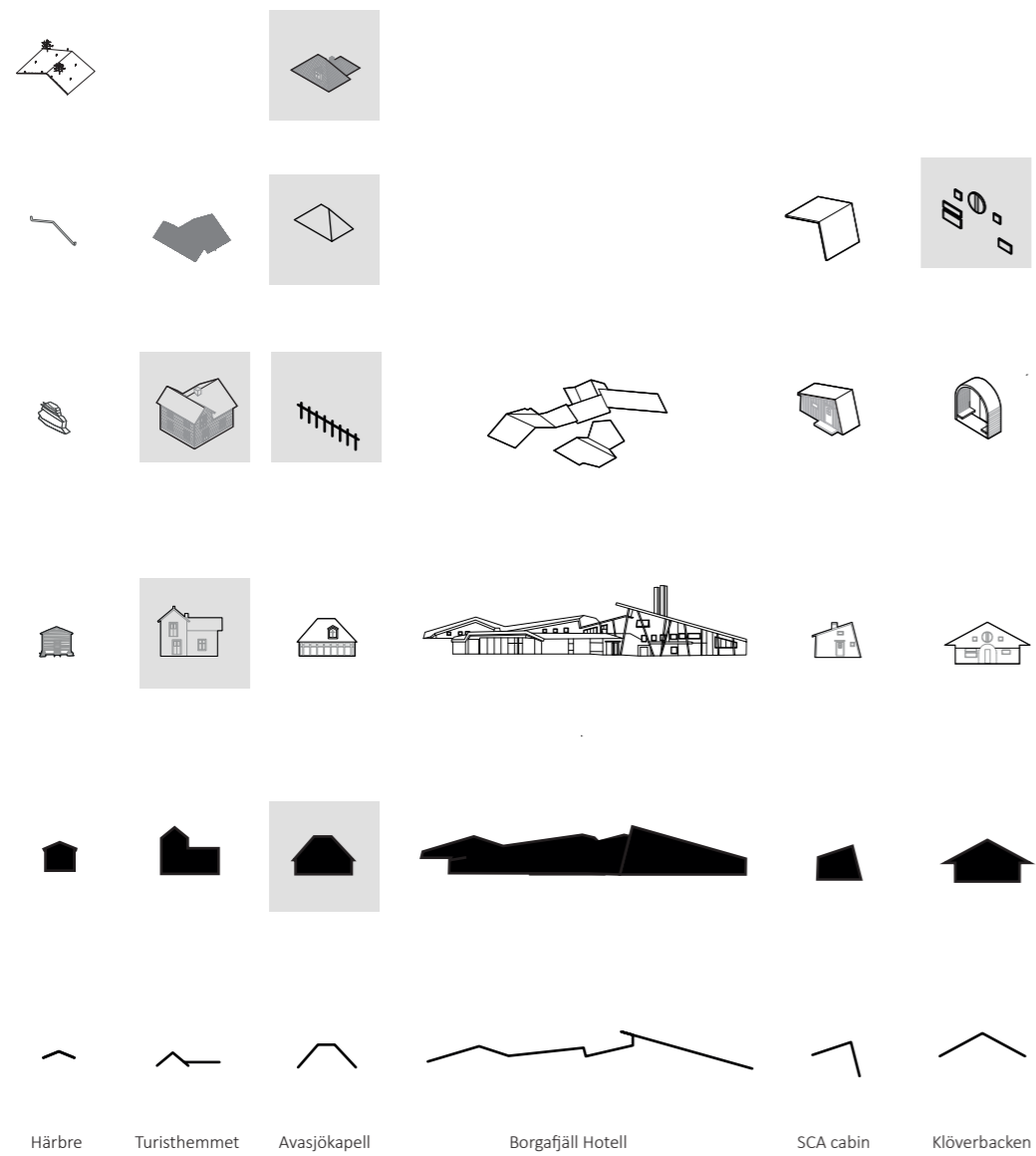
As the program originates from a survey that was sent out (see appendix) in a local Facebook group of Borgafjäll, the buildings hold functions that are missing in Borgafjäll today, according to the survey. The program is though not of priority since what is emphasized is to implement

the previous mapped characteristic. The buildings are scattered at the plot, a common spatial organization of Bygdegårdar. The abandoned house of Avasjö Turisthem is moved to the plot transformed into a café and the new buildings includes a gallery, sauna, sportshall, dressing room and a common laundry facility.



- 1. Café
- 2. Gallery
- 3. Sauna
- 4. Sports hall
- 5. Dressing room
- 6. Laundry room
- 7. Parking

DESIGN
PROPOSAL



THE GALLERY

The gallery originates from the volume of Avasjö chapell, with its hipped gable roof. There are four similar volumes with different facade material. The metal facades draws inspiration from the roof of the chapell, the geometrical windows from the windows of Klöverbacken and the wooden pergola inbetween comes from the attached postwork of the chapell. The roofs opens up for natural light inlets.

THE CAFÉ / AVASJÖ TURISTHEM

The café is in the building of the current abandoned house, previous Avasjö Turisthem. The building is moved to the site and restored to its original shape regarding the facade and exterior details. Many of the older houses had similar exterior details, a characteristic feature that is now brought back to life.



DESIGN
PROPOSAL



THE SAUNA

The sauna is located close to Korpån, with the iconic view of Klöverfjällen as a backdrop. The building draws inspiration from the foundation of the Sami Härbren in Sutme, with piled stones which carries the building. The walls are of wooden logs, similar to the structure of Avasjö Turisthem, and the geometrical windows is from the windows of Klöverbacken.



DESIGN
PROPOSAL

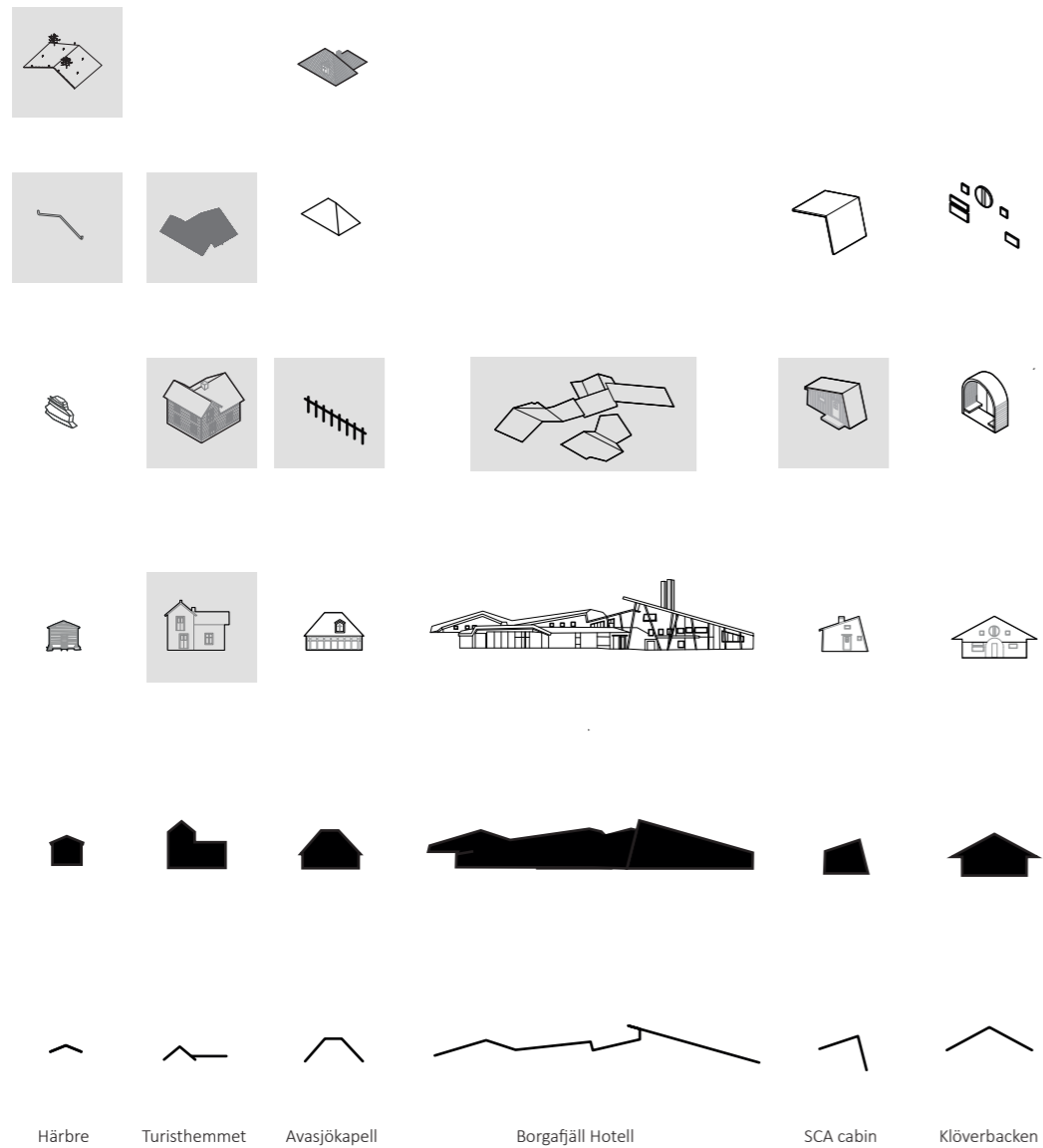


THE SPORTS HALL

The sports hall draws inspiration from the sloping roof of Borgafjäll Hotell, and the fragmented interior walls response to the attached postwork of the chapell. The eaves are rounded to mimic the bended birches which holds the roofs on the Sami Härbre in Sutme.



DESIGN
PROPOSAL



ENTRANCE VIEW

Approaching the entrance you experience the sports hall, dressing rooms, the laundry facility and the cafe. The exterior of the sports hall draws inspiration from the attached postwork of the chapell, creating a fragmented expression. The dressing rooms and laundry facility have attached entrances, similar to the many sports cabins.

The facade of the dressing rooms has scaled up shingles, from the original roof of Avasjö Turisthemmet. The new buildings are connected with a large sloping roof similar to Borgafjäll Hotell, made of sod, like the Härbre in Sutme.



DESIGN
PROPOSAL



THE GALLERY

The gallery originates from the volume of Avasjö chapell, with its hipped gable roof which opens up for natural light inlets in the roof. This view showcases one of the four buildings where exhibitions can take place.





CHAPTER 4
discussion

DISCUSSION

This thesis originated from observations that part-time accommodation was increasingly prioritized in the built environment in rural tourist destinations, both in the Swedish west coast but also in the mountain range. When rural areas gets exploited as tourist destinations it causes an imbalance between the visitors and the local population. Reading the book *Läget i Landet* by Po Tidholm I started to understand the fragility of tourism in rural areas, since the residents' livelihood is dependent on the flow of tourists. The experiences created are to please the expectations of the visitors - even though tourism is to experience the very genuine settings of a place, it will always be through the eye of the observer.

To work in *favor* of the local population one first needs to get to *know* the local population. Site visits, interviews and surveys have been invaluable assets to create a picture of what the people of Borgafjäll are experiencing in the past, present and future. To be at the site has been crucial in collecting material of the built heritage, although a lot of material can be found digitally, the act of intervening with the site adds important insights of how everything is interrelated.

How can we accommodate life quality for the local population in the rural area of Borgafjäll, Västerbotten, when tourism tends to expand and become a priority within the built environment?

The other subject to investigate to be able to answer the research question has been tourism. The history of it and how it performs in the context of Sweden and Västerbotten. Since the current development of Borgafjäll is totally dependent on the industry of tourism, one could early see that the local population was forgotten in the plans of development in the built environment. This leads up to the research of rural development, learning about political decisions which have set the frames for how the countryside acts and looks today.

How can we maintain the local building heritage and identity of Borgafjäll in a time of globalization?

In a world where both buildings and experiences become more similar to each other, it is important to cherish the local history, traditions and identity. When new accommodation for tourists needs to be developed fast, it is more of a rule than an exception that mass produced pre-fab houses are constructed. To display the cultural heritage and care for the residents and their way of living have been the core of this project. Knowledge in cultural environment and cultural heritage and that the history of a place comes hand in hand with its identity: Learning about the philosophy of *genius loci* have been of great help to fragment, analyze, understand and re-compose the identity of Borgafjäll, and to implement this knowledge in the design proposal of the *Bygdegård*. What has been unique about the project is that Borgafjäll yet hasn't reached the tipping point of exploitation, and to learn that the people of Borgafjäll really are interested in continuing developing the resort but still keep the local village feeling has felt like a privilege to work with.

When searching for identity the aim has been to collect and curate the archive of the built heritage with the findings from the site. The archive presented is not completed and never will be, but instead it will act as an iterative tool. The identity found and presented in Borgafjäll is not a fixed object, but will change in parallel to time, and will continue to evolve after the finalization of this project. The findings can influence how we look at the past, the present and reshape how we see the future - and I hope this thesis contributes to a broader understanding of what Borgafjäll is, has been and yet can be in the upcoming future.

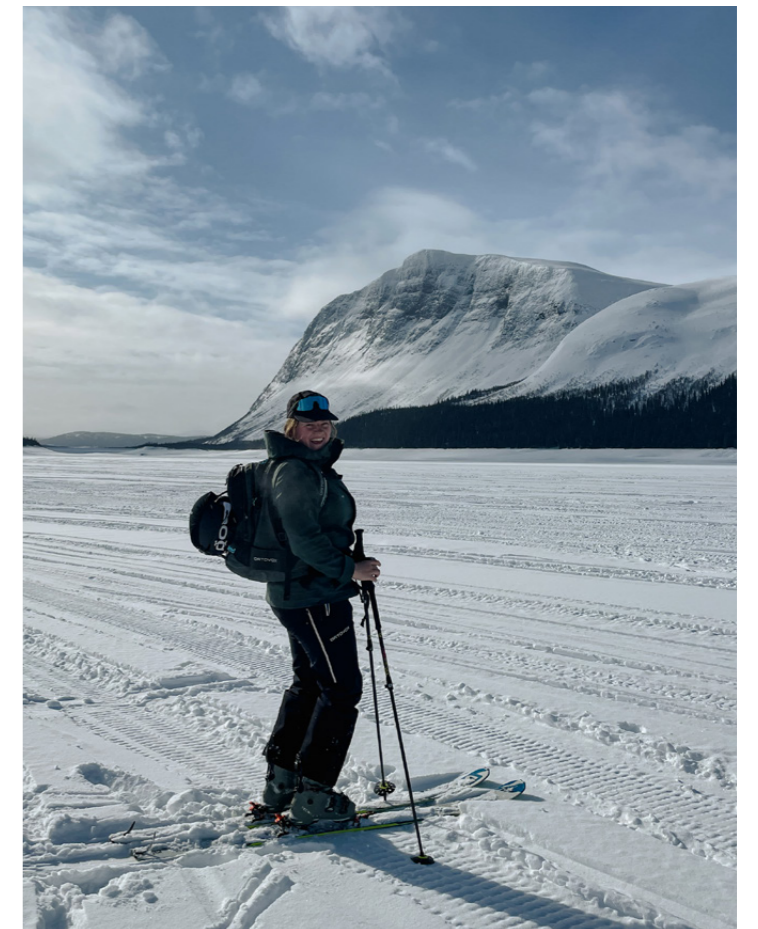
I am widely grateful for the opportunity to conduct my master thesis in Borgafjäll, and I also hope to inspire other students to combine all their interests and weave them into a master thesis project. It has been the most joyful of journeys.

/ Felicia

EPILOGUE

Looking back at this semester I can't believe how fast it passed by. That my first site visit took place before the semester started? That I have totally spent 5 weeks in Borgafjäll, getting to know the mountains, the people, the buildings and the shared history.

I did not know what the outcome of this project would end up as, the only thing I knew in the start was what subjects I wanted to investigate and the site criteria I had set out. It has been both challenging and rewarding to have a process oriented project- although if I was better at time management a larger part of the project could have been divided for design explorations. On one hand it is a big milestone to hand in my master thesis project, all my gained knowledge from the architectural education on a few pages, but on the other hand it doesn't stop here. I have planned to evolve some material so it suits the presentation I will hold in Borgafjäll this summer, sharing my findings with the local community. And somehow that feels more important- that the dialogue continues even though this school project comes to an end. And even though this is the end of an era of my long architectural education, I look very much forward to continuing work in this field for the upcoming future. Being an architect is a privilege which comes with great responsibilities, and to wrap up my education in Borgafjäll has been pure joy.



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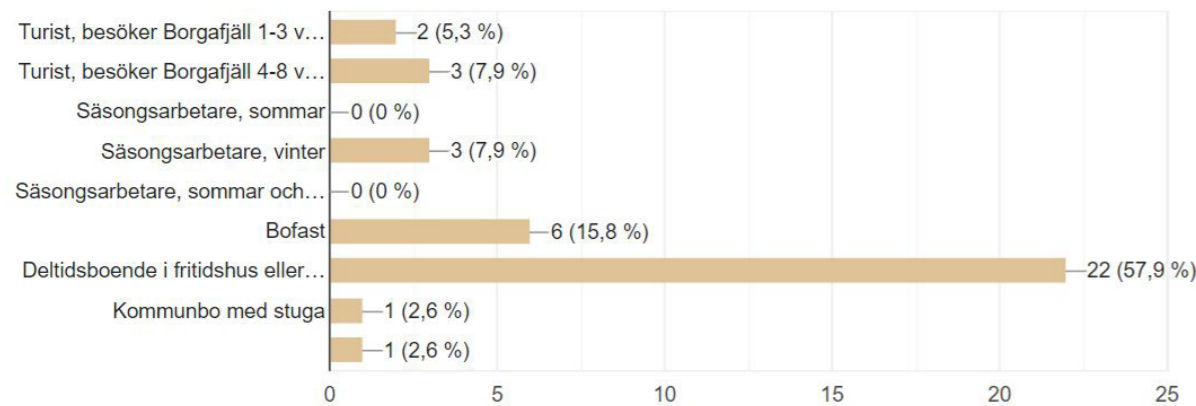
GOOGLE DOCS SURVEY

Examensarbete Arkitektur - Borgafjäll

Survey sent out in the Facebook group "Borgafjäll -Tips, hjälp och nyheter!" on the 8th of February 2024. 39 people participated in the survey. The aim was to get a better understanding of how people looked upon Borgafjäll, what they cherished and wanted to improve.

1) Vem är du?

38 svar



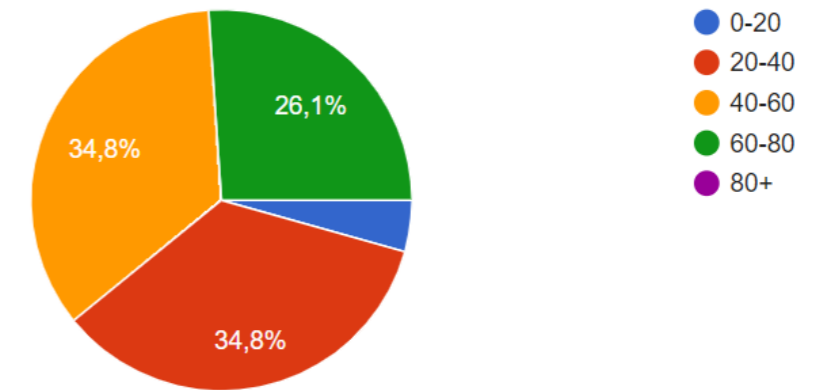
2) Vad är din relation till Borgafjäll? (Uppväxt, inflyttad, besökare etc.)

Besökare
Inflyttad
Besökare
Inflyttad
Bott i 6 år stuga i 43 år
Har en nybyggd stuga där, men spenderat många år innan både på camping och i vänners stuga.
Varit här sedan jag föddes (-56)
Besökare sedan 10 år
Urbefolkning
varit där sedan 1975, byggde vår stuga 1992, har därefter varit i Borga flera gånger per år.
Varit i Borgafjäll sedan barnsben, och släkt kommer ifrån Borgafjäll.
Ärv fritidshus av min far som kom från Dorotea
Varit i vår stuga sedan jag var liten på lov och senare på semestrar och högtider
Besökt många gånger under många år och alla årstider innan vi skaffade eget boende
Haft stuga där i snart 20 år.

Uppvuxen i Södertälje, men med en stuga 42km från Borgafjäll (Rajastrand) morfar byggde på 50-talet där alla lov och semestrar spenderats. Nu i vuxen ålder fick det bli en egen stuga, och då i Borga för närheten till Restauranger och skidbacke.
Kommunbo och Borgafjällsfan sedan 60-talet
Varit här på skotersemester många år och jobbar nu säsong Stugägare
Arbetat med utvecklingen av Borgafjäll
Fritidshusägare sedan år 2000 men varit besökare sedan 80-talet
Stugägare, familjen haft stuga sedan 1951
Säsongpersonal för andra året
Har säsongat förra vintern här och i år kommit tillbaka för att säsonga en till vinter här.
Besökare, men nu med nybyggd stuga på Klöverbacken.
Turist
Uppväxt
Besökte Borgafjäll med min nuvarande make för 10 år sedan. Blev förtjust bott på campingen i typ 7 år. Nu stuga.
Har bott där en period för att driva Borgafjäll Hotel
Besökare, vid nyår och skolornas lov

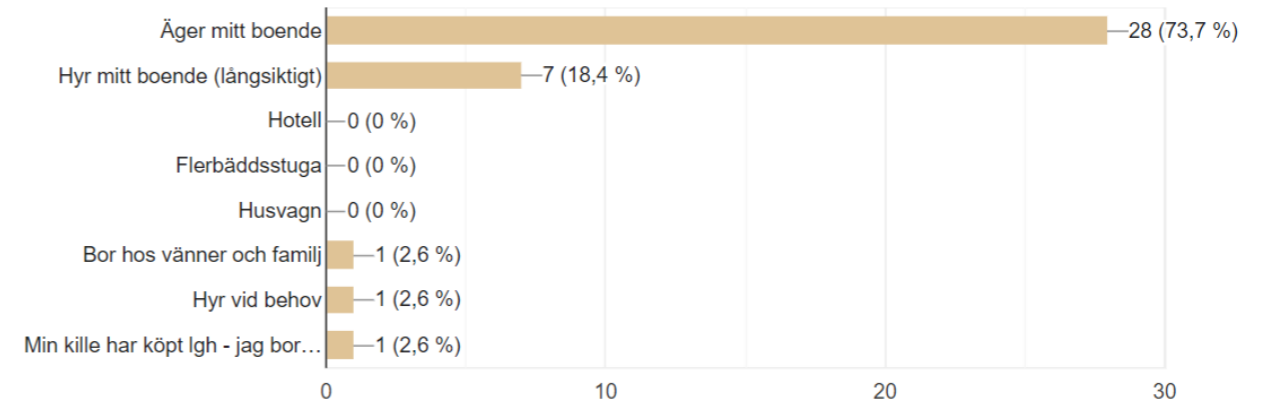
3) Hur gammal är du?

23 svar



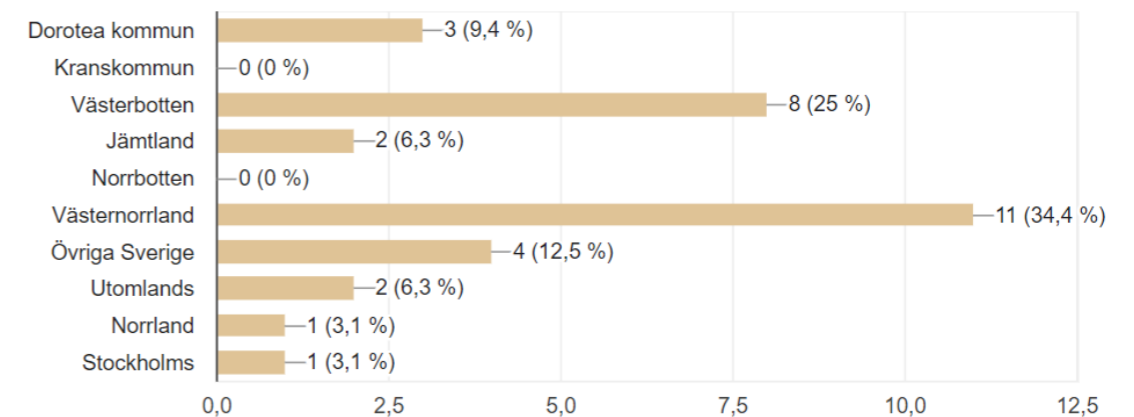
4) Hur bor du i Borgafjäll?

38 svar



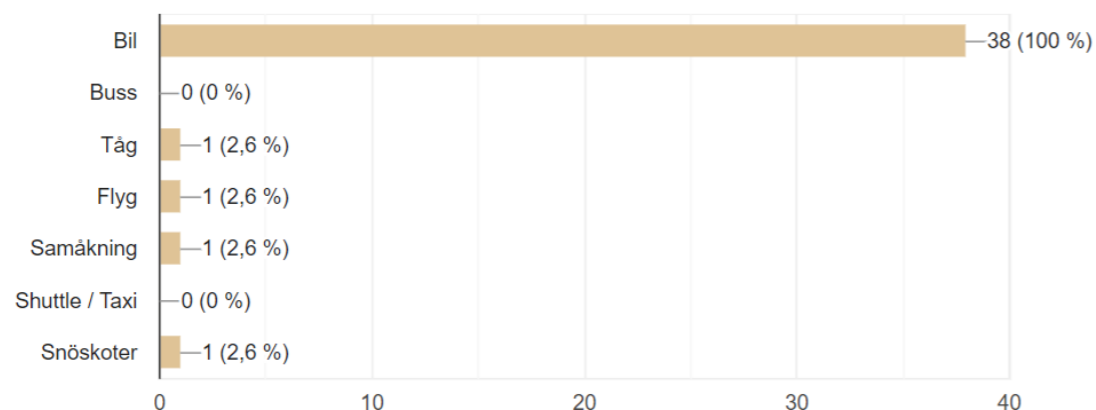
5) Om du inte bor permanent i Borgafjäll, vart bor du?

32 svar



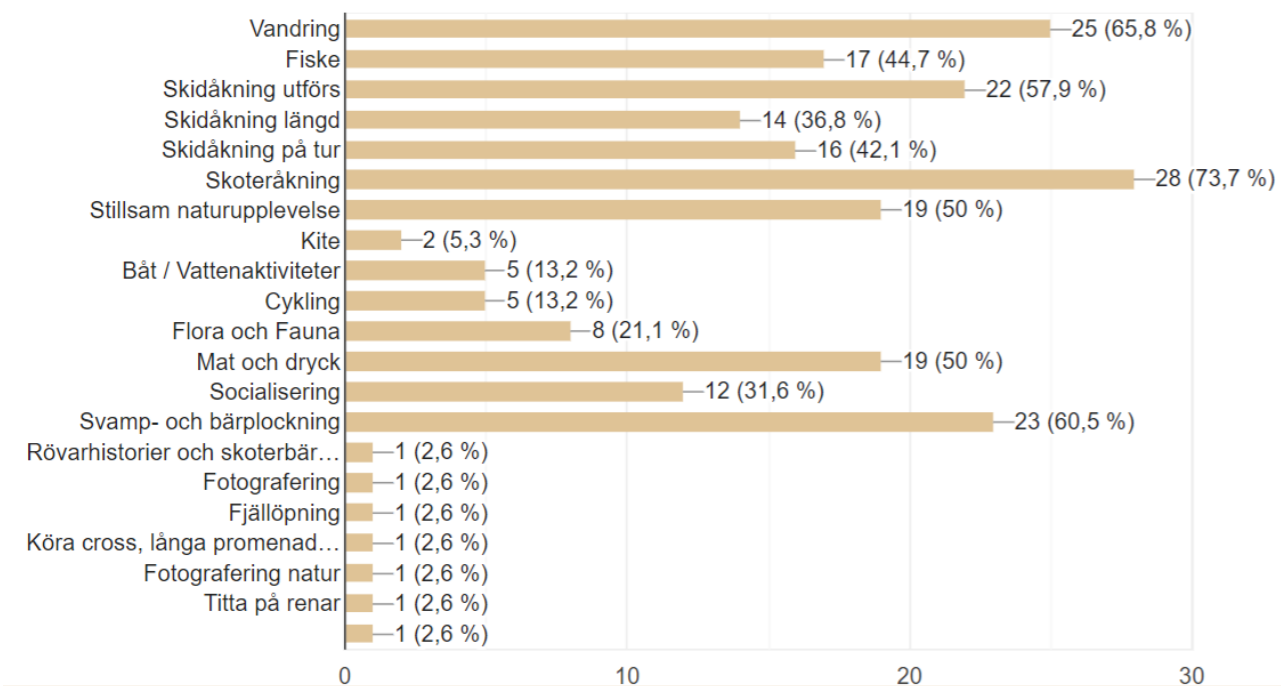
6) Hur reser du till Borgafjäll?

38 svar



7) Vilka aktiviteter utför du?

38 svar



8) Finns det några aktiviteter du önskar utföra men som inte är tillgängliga i dagsläget? (Eller som inte nämns ovan)

Nej
Båtakjuts/färja
Hade varit fint med några inomhusaktiviteter under vinterhalvåret.
Lämpliga kortare dagsturer med barn till ex väffelstuga eller liknande.
Paramotor
Gym!
Ett levande Hotell som har ett utbud och är öppet.
Gymma!
Klättring
Kanske mer cykel leder hade varit önskvärt.
Vet ej
Borgafjäll skulle marknadsföra sig året om och söderut, här uppe har vi ngt som är så exotiskt som inte finns i södern.
Kanske ngt löparläger eller lopp på försommaren eller på hösten kombinerat med en dags svampplockning.
Aktiviteter när vädret är dåligt, tex ett gym på hotellet.
Hästridning

9) Vilken tid på året är den bästa enligt dig att vara i Borgafjäll? (och varför)

| | |
|---|---|
| Höst | Hösten |
| Sommar höst | Alla årstider har sin charm, men ljuvligaste säsongen är mars till september med vandringsutflykter, fiske och foto |
| Mars april | Vårvintern för skidåkning och hösten för svamp och färgerna. |
| Vårvintern | Hösten. Plocka bär och alla fina färger |
| Höst och vårvintern | Februari till april |
| All tid! | Vintern. För att det finns mycket snö och Borgafjäll är mycket vackert på vintern. Har inte varit här på sommaren, men sätt bilder. Och vintern i Borgafjäll passar mig bättre än sommaren. |
| April | Alla tider har sin tjusning. |
| Vår ,sommar ,höst,vårvinter. | Gillar alla tider, men vårvinter är nog min höjdpunkt! Mars-Maj |
| Hösten. | Höst o vinter |
| Vinter | Hösten, det är alltid finaste tiden på året |
| Alltid fint att vara i Borgafjäll men vårvintern är härlig | Våren |
| Alltid | Januari februari, kallt tyst vackert |
| Bästa helgen 100% är Kristi flygare | Vintern, man tar skotern till en liten sjö o pimplar röding, grillar på murrikan o njuter i solen |
| Vårvinter och höst | Vinter, skidåkning är grym! |
| Vinter pga skoterföre | Vintern! För den är bara HELT magisk, hösten är fin också men vintern är bäst. |
| Hösten . Mycke svamp o härligt väder o inga mygg | Påskan- "den femte årstiden" |
| Vintern för skoteråkning och sommar/sensommar för vandring | |
| Alla årstider har sin charm | |
| Alla årstider förutom våren då det inte är så mycket man kan/få göra. | |
| Vårvintern och sommaren, bästa vädret för skoteråkning, och båt fiske på sommaren | |

APPENDIX SURVEY

10) Berätta om ett starkt minne du har från Borgafjäll! Det kan gärna vara flera!

Dagen vi klev in på borgagården och det va vårt Nyårsafton, midsommar, sista april. Firade vår första jul där i år med barnen och så drömmigt!
Första vandringen upp på Borgahällan
Stillheten i byn och naturen!
För många för att präntas på den här rutan
Den dag vi köpte vår tomt,det var helt underbart.
Det finns för många!
När jag som 12 åring följde mina föräldrar till Borgafjäll. De jättehöga fjällen. Nyårsafton 1999, fackeltåg från klövern ner till byn
En brasa, kaffekopp, solsken och tystnad i en snödriva uppe på fjället. Bara lite ljud från några ripor. Då laddar jag mina batterier & mår så gott . Underbara påskar med värmande sol med fortfarande gott om snö på fjället. Ett bröllop på fjället i början av Maj. Vigsel, solgrop, bar och skidåkning mitt på fjället med efterföljande middag på hotellet . Allt i världsklass.
Vandring till Bastunäsklumpen. Slog upp tält med världens bästa utsikt.
När mormor fyllde 65 år och jag var ca 10 år och besökte Borga för första gången med ett besök på restaurangen på Borgagården
När vi mötte två bilar efter vesselspåret på väg upp till trädgränsen(våffelstugan)
Första gången man åkte efter skoterleden längst bort i korpådalen och kom över ”knixen” där Lapplands leden korsar och hela fjällvärlden öppnar sig på ett ögonblick, bara kalfjäll så långt ögat når. Det bör upplevas! Även utsikten från toppen av borgahällan är inte fyskam eftar att man kämpat i timmar att ta sig dit
Topptur i ”lilla Kanada” efter en rejäl dump
Massivt snöfall
Hamnade i snöstorm
När dimman lättade på lillfjället och vi fick em strålande fin höstdag.
Min första flygning med helikopter upp mot Korpådalen och över alla fjäll vidare ner över Avasjön och mot Borgahällan en solig marsdag.
FörsommarVandring upp på platån och vidare in mot Korpådalen,12 tim utan att träffa på en enda människa...fantastiska vidder. Idag är du nästan aldrig ensam då ökningen av turister och nya stugor/stugägare varit stor de senaste 10 åren.
Fantastisk skiddag i backen med mycket lössnö, blå himmel och sol.

Tältade med barnen när de var små uppe på platån en vacker augusti helg. Jag hade varit trött hela dagen och sen tog jag och min kompis ett Kvällsdopp och gjorde en eld och drack te. Och efter det var jag fylld med energi.
Gick på topptur till ett ställe bortanför Sannarn som kallas lejonkungen. Ett av mina bästa åk.
Första gången jag var i Borgafjäll och sov i Jeremias stuga i sutme. Vi hade kört upp under kvällen och därmed inte sett utsikten. När jag vaknade på morgonen och tittade ut genom fönstret var det helt fantastiska fjäll utanför.
När vi turade upp på Jengen med våra splitboards och Erik spelade flöjt på toppen med den vidunderliga utsikten omkring oss.
Det är solnedgång, vi är på kalfjället. Vi har kitat hela dagen och solen håller på att gå ner och vi ska åka hem efter en av de vackraste, mest underbara dagar i mitt liv.
Tälta i fjällen sommar som vinter
Topptursförsök till ”Kruanahke” där vi var 100m från toppen, men vinden gjorde det omöjligt att komma vidare!
Fiskelycka i Korpån med fina öringar i kvällsmörkret.
När vår stuga kom på långtradare och vi rullade stugan på plats.
Första gången jag åkte skoter till slipsiken stugan
När mannen i huset som vi bodde hos lurade ut oss på en fjälltopp med skotern och sa att leden är bred o det går jättebra o köra, det slutade med att vi kryssade mellan träden hem o jag har aldrig haft så hög puls o varit så glad att jag klarade ngn som jag egentligen inte trodde att jag skulle göra. Och utsikten från fjälltoppen va magisk måste tilläggas
Minns en skogstur jag hade i typ maj när det var mellan säsongerna och därmed helt dött. Man såg inte en själ på flera dagar. Va helt underbart att gå omkring å ha en känsla av att allt var mitt! Minns också ett (av alla) isvaksbad vi hade nedanför Borgagården då solen sken och vi var flera som badade. Komma upp iskall men känna solens värme mot huden samtidigt som det var svinkallt i luften. Man kände sej så levande och så glad.att vara levande. Vissa dagar i skidbacken är också extra minnesvärda. När temperaturen är helt rätt så föret är perfekt och det är innan högsäsongen så man har backen för sej själv, solen i ansiktet å riktigt bra musik i lurarna.
Att åka skidor hem från Grubbsjön i vårvintersol och härliga utförsbackar. Att tälta uppe vid raststugan kring midsommar.

11) Hur skulle du beskriva Borgafjäll för någon som aldrig hört talas om platsen? (var gärna målande i din beskrivning)

Mysig by med relativt lite folk nära fjäll och sjö
När du anländer till Borgafjäll infinder sig lugnet i det paradiset som Borga är. Du ser fjäll, stugor, nya som gamla. Några på spark, några kommer på skoter och några ser man åka utför i backen. En värmande och fin plats där man skapar många minnen.
När du väl är där är allting nära.
Där vägen tar slut finns det genuina och stillsamma kvar!
Liten genuin fjällby som är lagom stor men med allt man önskar sig/En jävla återvändsgränd, lite beroende på humör.
Fin natur,fantastiska fiskevatten,nära till fjällen,underbara bär och svampställen.
Vackert, personligt, stillsamt och lugnt.
Närheten till fjällen som omfamnar besökarna.
Där vägen slutar börjar äventyret. Små skidbackar med släplift men bra nedfarter, finns något för alla. Bra skidspår på fjället, fantastiskt runt påsk att gå upp mot fjället och gräva en soffa i snön och njuta av vårsolen. På sommaren möjlighet till fiske och vandring, men många myggor hittar också dit- föredrar pimpelfiske som är myggfritt!!
Borgafjäll är mitt andra hem. En fin by med trevliga innevånare, otroligt fin natur och utflyktsmål som passar alla. Borgafjäll är bäst alla tider på året! Nästan vid vägs ände. Långt att åka, men väl värt. Litet och därmed enkelt och inte så engikrävande att lägga sin tid där. Fantastiska fjäll. Familjärt och inte så storskaligt. Flera ställen att äta riktigt fin mat på. Rolig arkitektur med hotellet mm.
En plats där ingen årstid slår den andra. Fiske, vandring och skoteråkning i världsklass. En plats som inte är väderberoende.
Vackra och lättillgängliga fjäll.
Ett smultronställe.
Fjällbys idyll när den är som bäst. Finns vinteraktiviteter för alla, toppturare som skoteråkare, ung som gammal! Byn kanske inte ser mycket ut för världen när man kör efter vägen, men bara nån minut efter skoterleden har man ett vackert fjäll landskap som aldrig ser ut att ta slut. Pistvakt.
Perfekt! Lagom i storlek och mängden människor.
Finns lite av allt.
Litet men med full service och fortfarande lugnt och skönt.
Fantastisk natur med närhet till oerhört vackra fjäll. Levande by.
Möjlighet till fiske, vandring, cykling,s koter, skidåkning, foto, fisketävling, septembermarknad på Borgagården, julmarknad vid Åbron.

Flera restauranger,bra slalombackar med lite köer. Lapplandsleden. Pärla vid världens ände.
Där vägen slutar börjar äventyret.
Enlitenmysigfjällort,medbykänslaochtrevligabybor.Ejsönderexploaterad. Fina vyer och en by delad på två. Riktig tystnad när det är tyst.

En mycket vacker och mysig plats. Fantastisk om man tycker om att tura på skidor/splitboard eller köra snöskoter. Det finns även en skidbacke med mycket bra offpist och några fina pister.
En plats långt ute i naturen. Där det finns vackra fjäll vart du än kollar. Massor av topptur, kitning och puder möjligheter. En liten by som har så mycket att ge!
Paradis.
En vacker, lugn och harmonisk oas bland fjällvärdens skidorter.
Underbart hotel!
Mindre fjäll skidort.
Fantastiskt.
Magiskt, annorlunda, tyst.
Otroligt trevlig ortsbegolknig med flera restauranger och en ICA Butik som har allt, alla hjälper alla från att dela med sig av magotten när det är slut på affären till att starta skotern när man har slut på batteri.
Eller kolla till stugan när man sitter 30 mil bort och det har varit strömvabrott.

Borgafjäll har ngn att erbjuda alla årstider, vintern med sina magiska skoterleder och en mycket välskött slalombacke, våren och sommaren med härliga leder och stillheten, hösten lyser marken gul av alla kantareller och det finns svamp till alla.
Autentiskt
Borgafjäll är inte som andra fjäll eller skidorter. Det är något magiskt över denna plats. Det är otroliga vyer: fjälltopparna på vintrarna och bäckarna som porlar på sommaren, alla kilo svamp man hittar i skogen på hösten. Det är något alldeles särskilt. Att få se Borgahällan i solnedgången, klöverfjällen på vintern när kvällssolen lyser och gör topparna rosa, höra hur korpån dånar som en motorväg på våren, köpa nått gott på lca och känna alla som jobbar där. Det är en otroligt vacker plats och så mycket av en ”liten by”, ingen har hunnit bli trött på turisterna än så jag tror att alla som kommer hit känner sej så välkomna. Det finns en stor gemenskap och alla hjälper alla.
En naturskön plats vid vägens ände. Trots senare års utbyggnad finns fortfarande det genuina kvar.

APPENDIX SURVEY

12) Vilka platser tycker du om och önskar bevara i befintligt skick?

Borghällan
Korpådalen där julmarknaden är.
Hela byn
Fjällen, sjöarna, hotellet och byasvängen runt affären
Rödingssjön,Kalvtjärnarna och Oxvattnet.
Nästintill samtliga?
Hotellet
Klöverfjället, Borghällan.
Det är viktigt att bevara naturen och vandringslederna så de inte slits och trasas sönder
Hotellet hoppas jag lever vidare. Förstår om det måste renoveras, tilläggsisoleras och så, men hoppas på att utseendet på byggnaden består.
Kalfjället
Korpådalen och Lillfjället.
Naturen
Bevara lillfjällets norrsida så det är tillåtet för skoteråkning. Är lite för mycket reglering redan som det är jysst runt ”centrum”med tanke på hur mycket skoteråkare som besöker Borgafjäll och vad dom bidrar med i pengar till flertal aktörer i byn
Hela Borgafjäll
Alla ställen
Skoteråkning
Korpån
Tycker om många platser men ”vildmarken” Korpådalen,borde lämnas

13) Finns det några plaster som skulle kunna förbättras?

Leden upp till Borgafjäll mer vindsydd och övernattningsstugor
Affären.
Ålderdomshemmet är för tillfället obefintligt,
Många vandringsleder borde underhållas bättre.
Hotellet
Återvinningen, parkering kring matbutiken och skidanläggningarna.
Vägarna på våren . Vattenförsörjningen var ju en katastrof på påsken ifjol och dessutom till Sveriges högsta vatten- avgifter.
Fungerande sophämtning, omöjligt att ställa ut ett kärl för hämtning när man inte kan ta in det för man är inte där på flera veckor och det hamnar ivägen för ex snöröjning.
Absolut, men jag sitter nöjd.
Där det finns insamling för avfall, men jag tror det är på gång med molok-lösningar
Vägen upp till Borghällan
Återvinningen
Slalombacken borde få en ordentlig Park med hopp, rails och hela köret.
Ja, Borgafjällbackarna är kända och omtyckta för offpisten mm. men t.ex. under kvällsåken skulle det höja intresset hos åkarna markant om det fanns nått preparat hopp lite här och var. Barn vill hellre åka på hopp än att plumsa i djupsnön, medans föräldrarna kanske hellre tar sig en pudersurf.
Längdspåret borde få mera struktur i hur och när det blir preparerat, hålls tyvärr inte riktigt bra med bara ideella krafter.

orörd,fri från exploatering. I framtiden kommer sådana platser/områden att vara värdefulla ur många perspektiv.
Turism, växt och djurliv, myrmarker,Korpån med sin öringsstam.

Allt värt att bevara och skydda för all framtid.

Borghällan, lapplägren

Kan inte komma på något

Alla bra parkeringsmöjligheter. Ica.

Att alla vindsydd som finns samt att alla skoterförbjudna områden alltid kommer att vara skoter förbjudsområden.

Allt ska vara i befintliga skick. Inget skräpande i Naturen.

Såklart det mesta, men utveckling behövs.

Tycker exempelvis att kombinationen med reservat och möjliga skoterställen är en bra mix.

Hotellet

Vet ej

Allt

Fjällen

Alla sjöar och skogen runt om, och restaurangerna när man inte orkar laga mat och en otroligt rolig afterski på Borgaskicenter

Klöverplatån, korpådalen

Klöverfjället är nog min absoluta favorit. Det byggs mycket där och det är ändå på en ok nivå just nu men känns som stor risk att det kommer bli mer fula gråa hus (ägda av stockholmare) med gigantiska fönster där i framtiden.

Sutme lappläger, hotellet.

Bygg upp klöverstugan igen på samma plats

Centrum

Vindsydd på klöverplatån.

Skidbacken skulle kunna ha lite mer hopp. I övrigt finns det ju alltid lite små saker här och där.

Det fanns en fjällstuga bakom klöverplatån, att den skulle byggas upp igen samt att backarna när det blir möjligt har kvälls belysning på båda sidorna av backarna.

Automa toaletter längs vandringslederna. Det är ett stort problem när folk gör sina behov lite vars dans. Det Inge kul att trampa i skit , varken för människor eller djur.

Inte vad jag kommer på.

Alla

Hotellet önskar jag skulle bli mer levande. Mycket bättre nu än tidigare, hoppas det fortsätter.

Mataffär och tillgång till drivmedel ,hotellet är i stort behov av reovering

Hotellet.

14) Är det något som saknas i Borgafjäll, som du önskar skulle finnas?

Nej
Thai mat
Fullt utbyggd fiber och ett ålderdomshem, badhus och högstadium hade ju varit trevligt+ en väg till Saxnäs
Fungerande bensinmack
Läkare/ apotek- iallafall på högsåsong.
Att alla har respekt för förbudsområden under vinterns skoteråkning
Utflyktsmål, väffelstugor eller liknande.
En mer utbredd matbutik, mer tillgång till att köpa viltkött.
En bystuga men bastu och tvättstuga.
Kvällsöppen kiosk och cafe.
Äldreboende , barngympa , seniorgympa, bilverkstad .
Mycke bättre lokal trafik , utbildad personal på dagis .
Skola
En tankstation med kortbetalning så man kunde tanka dygnet runt!
Det blir tyvärr ett ganska stort problem om det kommer mycket röda dagar och Ica har stängt eller bara öppet nån timma
Luftburen cykling.
Tankstationerna.
Möjlighet till att göra reklam.
Få sätta upp reklam skylt efter liften eller skoterled för att kunna sponsra
Bättre Ica och tankautomat

15) Om du får drömma, hur ser framtiden ut i Borgafjäll?

Som idag fast med bättre infrastruktur
Mina barn kommer ärva vår stuga och fortsätta vara där i framtiden och så ärvs det vidare.
Exploatering men med hänsyn till naturen
Mer folk med mer aktiviteter och möjligheter och ett stadigare samarbete med Vildmarksvägen.
Hoppas att det inte blir för stort,det sliter mycket på naturen.
Fint att fler turister och besökare kommer.
Vore tråkigt och det expanderar extremt mycket och väldigt många fler fritidshus byggs dock.
Hade varit fint med en närmre väg från Norge.
Ej för överexploaterat, konstsnö i backarna och ett fungerande hotell.
Bra skid och skoterspår
Behåller sin storlek, blir det större tappar det en del av charmen.
Men samtidigt måste det anpassas till dagens storlek då mycket är samma sen 20 år sedan fast antalet stugor ökat rejält, hänvisar till det jag skrivit under förbättringar.
Möjlighet till fler kommunala förbindelser för den som inte har bil
Ganska lika som det är nu.
Levande by, med åretruntboende.
Ica, hotell och att annan service finns kvar.
Kan absolut få växa för att näringsidkarna i byn ska klara sig, men annars uppskattar jag det småskaliga och enkla som Borgafjäll står för.
Om planerna från Bror Lövstrand och Magnus Nilsson går i lås så vore det toppen!
Att det blir stopp på exploateringen!!!!
Får leva här tills vi blir äldre
Visst är det så att om man inte utvecklas så avvecklas man, men just det att man får känsla av en liten fjällbys idyll när man kommer hit är nog en av orsakerna till att många besöker Borgafjäll
Mer liftar och backar.
Ett riktigt hotell som drivs helhjärtad med relax möjlighet.
Mer folk
Ingen jättestor exploatering av Borgafjäll.
Kommunen behöver vara mer restriktiv med ev. framtida utbyggnader av fritidshusområden för att

16) Övriga kommentarer eller rättelser

Vår lilla kommun har fått stora kostnader pga infrastrukturen i Borgafjäll. Det hamnar på skattsedeln för oss kommuninvånare. Det rimliga vore att, åtminstone, fastighetsskatt erläggs i kommunen.

Saknar ”Fjällets dag” som förr arrangerades sommartid en trevlig och uppskattad dag.
En affär typ järnaffär som fanns tidigare där man kunde köpal lite av varje
Ett fungerande Hotell som folk ville besöka, som förr i världen.
Ett gym.
Fler hundbajspåse soptunnor hahaha.
Frisör ibland
Ett café, som kanske skulle kunna byggas uppe i backarna med utsikt på Borghällan , där det finns fika och gott riktigt espresso kaffe.
Det finns inte gott kaffe i Borgafjäll i restaurangerna, bara bryggkaffe :)
Turister och besökare måste utbildas i ”Du är en gäst i Naturen ”
En vettig sophertering, men tror det är pågång!
Större mataffär o bensinmack
Bensinstation
Inte nu.
Förutom bättre tillgång till drivmedel av alla sorter, nej
Cafe, väffelstuga som utflyktsmål
Kanske nån form av folkets hus.
Som man skulle kunna låna/boka för event.
Och ett gym!!
Saknar att gå på gym oerhört mkt.
Ett skidspår på Borgasidan.

istället kunna utveckla hållbart natur/skid/fiske/skoterturism genom att samtidigt bevara/förvalta Borgafjälls unika natur så att turister nationellt och internationellt vill besöka Borgafjäll för just det.. den unika närhet till äkta vildmarksnatur.
Däremot skulle det kanske behövas ytterligare ett hotell för att kunna satsa på besökande turism och jag vet att det kanske finns planer på ett topp hotell vid slalombacken i framtiden och det kan nog vara ett bra komplement till redan befintliga boenden.
Är bra som det är.
Behöver inte växa mer
Ny lift ned på baksidan av lillfjället, fanns planer förr.
En toppstuga som serverar choklad och väfflor på toppen av skidbacken.
Mer vägar som knyter ihop områden så att det inte bara är återvändsgräner.
Ljus. Bra samarbete mellan alla företag
Fortsatt en mysig liten by.
Fokuset får gärna vara på naturen och möjligheterna till att vistas bland fjällen.
Backarna kunde få utvecklas lite grann, men jag tror att Borgafjäll mister sin charm om turismen blir för stor.

Att Borgafjäll backarna har utvecklat sitt skidsystem, att skoterlederna får möjlighet att sladdas upp på fler fjäll och inte bara transportsträckorna mellan platser på marken.
Att det finns ett café där man kan fika med utsikt på borgahällan.

Att inte den blir överbelastad av för många människor.

Att jag vistas här större delar av året.

Som Åre, mycket mer skidbackar uppe i bergen!

Jag hoppas att inte Borgafjäll sönder exploateras.
Värna om naturen i Borgafjäll

Som nu, levande med mycket härligt folk som besöker.

Byn behåller sin originella charm och värme trots stor inflyttning och ökad mängd turister.

Som nu, litet o genuint

Större restaurang utbud, fler fjällnära tomter

Jag förstår att turismen är viktig men jag vill ändå inte att det expanderar allt för mycket.
Låt Borgafjäll vara denna dolda pärla som det är känt för.

Ungefär som nu.

APPENDIX SURVEY

INTERVIEWS

Susan Lindström

2024-01-08
About Borgafjäll, art and everyday life.

Viveka och Birger Isaksson

2024-04-02
About Avasjö Turisthem and general information about Borgafjäll.

Jeremias Brantholm

2024-04-03
About Sutme Sami heritage and general information about Borgafjäll.

Cicci and Jocke Engwall

2023-12-20 - 2024-06-01
About everything.

Mio Schörling

2024
About everything I didn't find from Cicci.

Beatrice von Schoultz

2024
About the mountains.