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Master Thesis 2025

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Urban Design



Urban Design for Social Cohesion: **Housing for The Displaced**



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Figure 1. Askinviken, top view of the area



Gracias,

To my parents and family, my eternal fuel of love and encouragement.

To Joaquim, Joanna and Maja, for reminding me to be brave and supporting me through this process.

To Luis, for embracing my troubles and grounding me with loving advice.

To Ani, Sai, Constanza and Juan Pablo, you became my family and for that I am always grateful.

To friends and classmates, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your journey.

Urban design for social cohesion:
Housing for The Displaced

Abstract

The year 2015 marked a cornerstone in Sweden’s history of hosting refugees, receiving 162,877 asylum applications. Although the number of applicants decreased to around 12,000 thanks to changes in migratory regulations, the future is unpredictable.

The journey of the displaced implies external forces (e.g., weather disasters, war) that make it impossible for the person to stay in their place of origin. These individuals seek asylum in other nations, but it is a complex process involving legal, social, and cultural factors. Additionally, resistance from local populations poses a challenge to their establishment.

The thesis aims to showcase the importance of housing as a key factor for the displaced’s integration on the city scale; as well as open the dialogue and reflect on the relationship between the built environment and a cohesive society.

Following “Research by Design” methodology, case studies of Swedish reception units (e.g., SällBo) as well as other

European models (e.g., Les Cinq Toits) were observed.

The thesis extracts design guidelines addressing collective living, adaptable spaces, visual security, and other qualities that have good outcomes in their establishment.

By placing the scenario of a speculative housing prototype in Gothenburg focused on the displaced family and individual as well as potential new residents and visitors, explorations of design were made with the purpose of merging conventional spatial rules for dwellings and local construction regulations with design guidelines tailored to their needs.

The result is a series of replicable frameworks for designing dwellings that have a particular focus on the displaced’s recovery and belonging, demonstrating the role architects play in addressing fundamental global issues through prioritizing spaces for their well-being.

Keywords
Gothenburg; displaced; migration; housing planning; housing design; housing; integration; speculative design; well-beings



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Figure 2. Restad Gard, photography

Introduction

Context

Scenario

Design

Discussion

Clavo mi remo en el agua, llevo tu remo en el mío
Creo que he visto una luz al otro lado del río

El día le irá pudiendo poco a poco al frío
Creo que he visto una luz al otro lado del río

Sobre todo creo que no todo está perdido
Tanta lágrima, tanta lágrima y yo, soy un vaso vacío



Yo muy serio voy remando
Muy adentro sonrío
Creo que he visto una luz
Al otro lado del río

Preface

“Sometimes without knowing, we try to answer the fundamental questions that accompany us through life, as if there was a thread we follow along every project we do.”
-Maja Hjerten Knutsson

I have always been intrigued by people in communities and movement. The curiosity to understand the world inclined me to have a position on social justice from early days, and that same drive led me to travel to cities, schools, and continents, having the opportunity to feel and observe the implications of traveling to new landscapes.

When I moved to Gothenburg, one of the first things I noticed was the diversity of its people; after a short time, I started to notice how diversity came along with separation, from hearing conversations about how certain areas were for certain people to feeling like a fish out of the water when being in neighborhoods far from the student housing I was living.

Migrating here to pursue my master’s degree broadened my curiosity to pinpoint many issues I observed as an active watcher and sometimes the one living them. Adding to this, the university supported my need for knowledge with great courses, professors, and exercises that made me question myself and everything around me.

The principle of the thesis was born after the course “Architecture in the Anthropocene,” where we had the task to design a UNHCR reception unit to see its performance. While looking at the final exhibition, I remember thinking how the discussion of what it takes to build a “refugee center” was often overlooked. Through other situations, I started to get the feeling of desensitization¹ to some conditions or phenomena that affect the context and the people we are designing for.

Afterward, in the course “Design Systems,” we had the assignment to analyze a project through the theory of natural movement and space syntax, where I chose the previous “refugee building” to find out the impact it would have to be placed in the location it was chosen and if the building could help or sever people’s conditions.

When looking back to find a thesis topic, the path was nice and clear, since I felt there was much I still wanted to learn about, and the curiosity was just growing stronger every course I had the chance to glimpse into it.

“Urban design for social cohesion: Housing for the displaced” is an evolution and exhibition of all I learned through my master’s degree, taking into consideration my past and position. Having the chance to develop the project gave me the podium to share the desire to go deep to understand the context and take a stance in the role we have as architects.

¹ According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, the word Desensitization refers to “make (a sensitized or hypersensitive individual) insensitive or nonreactive to a sensitizing agent”

Figure 3. Appian A. (1887), Fisherman in a Boat at the Riverside
Extract from “Al otro lado del río” (At the other side of the river), by Jorge Drexler. Translation:
I plunge my paddle in the water, I carry your paddle in mine - I think I've seen a light at the other side of the river / The day will gradually withstand the cold - I think I've seen a light at the other side of the river / Overall, I believe that not everything is lost - so many tears, so many tears and I'm an empty glass / I hear a voice that calls me, almost a sigh - row, row, row, row, row, row. / I am rowing very serious and smile deep inside - I think I've seen a light at the other side of the river

Resident



Someone who lives somewhere permanently or long-term

Immigrant



Someone who moves voluntarily from one place to another

Displaced



Someone forced to leave their home, typically because of war, persecution, or natural disaster

Newly arrived immigrant



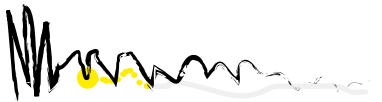
Person who has refugee permit, and has yet to establish in the community (usually 2 year span)

Refugee



Migratory/legal status of those forced to move in order to escape conflict

Asylum seeker



Someone that is currently applying for asylum in their reception country

Glossary List and Abbreviations

- ABO:** (from swedish: anläggningsboende) Temporary housing that the Swedish Migration Agency offers in ordinary apartments, but also rents and procures temporary housing in hostels, cottage villages and other facilities.
- Asylum:** protection or safety, especially that given by a government to people who have been forced to leave their own countries for their safety or because of war.
- Asylum accommodation:** all types of accommodation provided for asylum-seekers, and includes both corridor accommodation, as well as ordinary apartments.
- Border:** a line that has been agreed to divide one part from another.
- Desensitization:** make (a sensitized or hypersensitive individual) insensitive or nonre-active to a sensitizing agent
- EBO:** (from swedish: eget boende) Staying at own accommodation or with relatives.
- Establishment:** The process of settlement in the host city.
- Exile:** An act of being forced to leave one's country or home (typically for political or punitive reasons).
- Forced Migration:** Movement caused due to external forces, danger to stay.
- Humanitarian Architecture:** Presents a holistic approach to design practices in precarious contexts, considering empathic and participatory planning methodologies; used for short-term emergency situations where local capacity to respond is overwhelmed, and external humanitarian assistance is called for.
- Inclusion:** Providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized
- Migration:** movement from one place to another.
- Migrationsverket:** The Swedish Migration Agency.
- Segregation:** The act by which a person separates other persons on the basis of race, color, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin without an objective and reasonable justification.
- SFI:** Svenska För Invandrare.
- Shelter:** protection from bad weather, danger, or attack.
- Social Cohesion:** Set of attitudes and manifestations that includes trust, an inclusive identity, and cooperation for the common good
- UNHCR:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Background and Problem Description

On 2025 a change of regulations in the asylum seeking process in Sweden has took place, stating that every applicant will get accommodation assigned by the Swedish Migration Agency (Migrationsverket) in collaboration with municipalities.

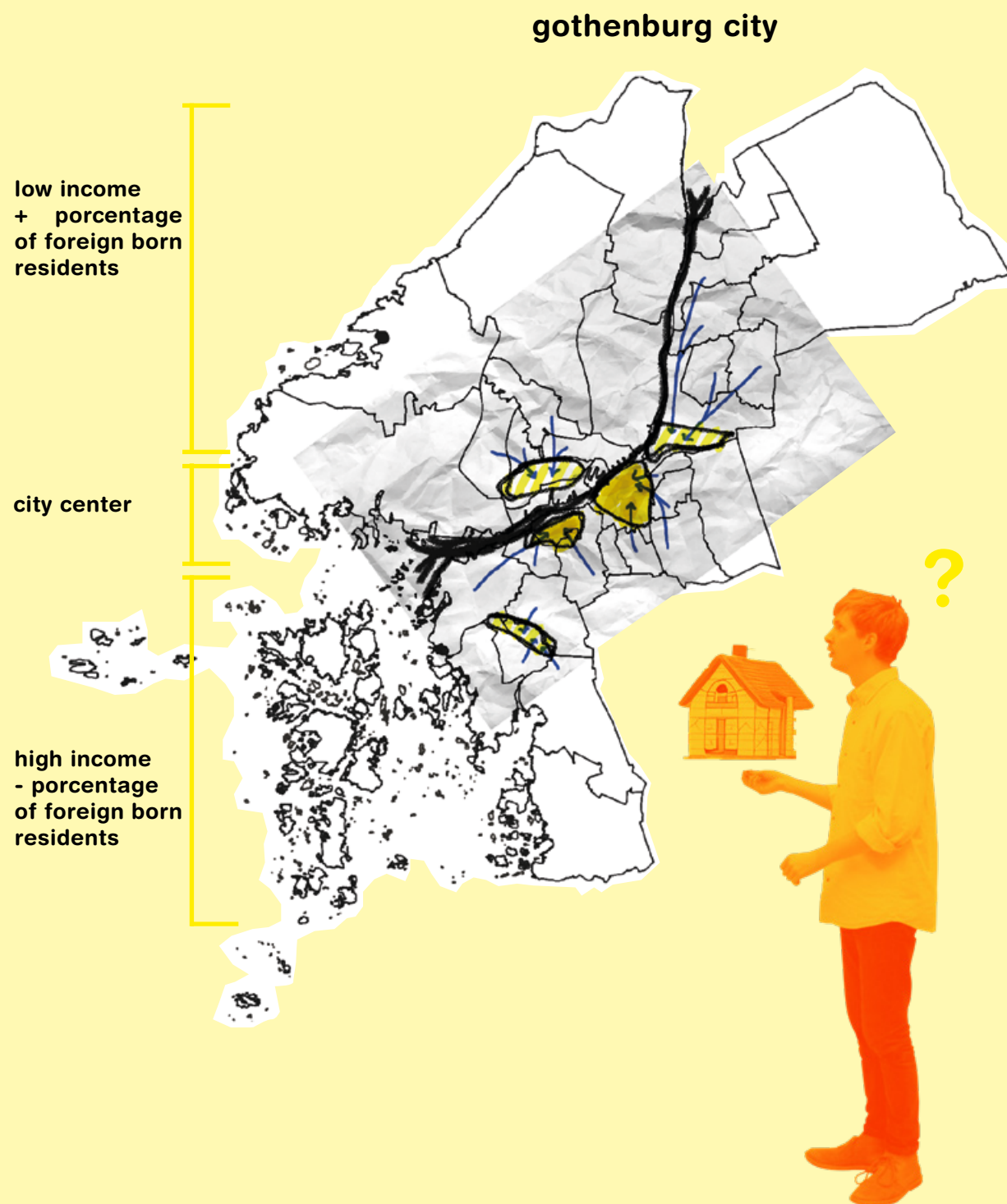
It is no surprise for policies to strengthen around migratory processes, since they have been re-worked ever since the peak of 162,877 asylum seekers received in 2015; but these new policies written in the Tidö Agreement carry other conditions that are relevant to the built environment. Although it was first proposed on 2022, no specific strategies were published on how the accommodation situation was going to be put into action. This raised concerns to international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and swedish reception centers that were already on a capacity limit.

Reflecting on the case of Gothenburg, one of the largest cities in the country; it plays an important role in the west coast and this migratory process, since it has one of the three Application Units, located in Kallered. These change of policies would mean several repercussions on its grid.

Being a city under constant growth, housing shortage is an already affecting phenomenon, and when looking at its composition, the city is divided by clear regions of income and segregation of other areas and communities. Adding to this the pressure to host all asylum seekers in municipality owned dwellings seems to have the possibility to increase even more these inequalities.

This thesis is based under these situations, context and concerns; highlighting the importance housing has on the wellbeing of people, and it is even more relevant when thinking on the displaced's recovery and establishment.

Figure 4. Intervined map of Gothenburg and its 3 divisions with the displaced wondering where their accommodation is..



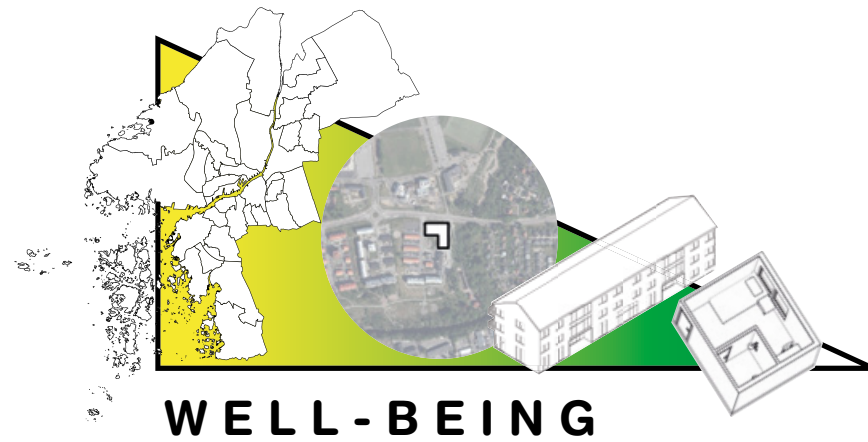


Figure 5. Diagram showcasing the multiscalar approach to apply at all stages of the thesis, thinking of the different strategies for the displaced's wellbeing that interact in every stage of their context.

Aim

Parting as an exercise of understanding the repercussions of forced migration in the cities and society, the thesis aims to:

Showcase the importance of housing as a key factor for the displaced's integration on the city scale; highlighting the different strategies depending on their timeline and repercussions on their journey.

Analyse a complex intersectional phenomenon through different scales of intervention, touching upon the international situation, Sweden and Gothenburg stance; as well as complete the multi-scalar approach through touching neighborhood-building and room scale with design iteration.

Open the dialogue and reflect on the relationship between the built environment and a cohesive society, stance on the importance of designing resilient spaces that can adapt to sudden flows of migration and their implications, allowing cities to be flexible and prepared for unexpected futures.

Research Questions

What frames contribute to achieve well-being for the displaced in the built environment?

How can design guidelines focused on the displaced work along with existing framework for housing in the city of Gothenburg?

How to do housing in Gothenburg that accommodates to unexpected scenarios of constant migration?

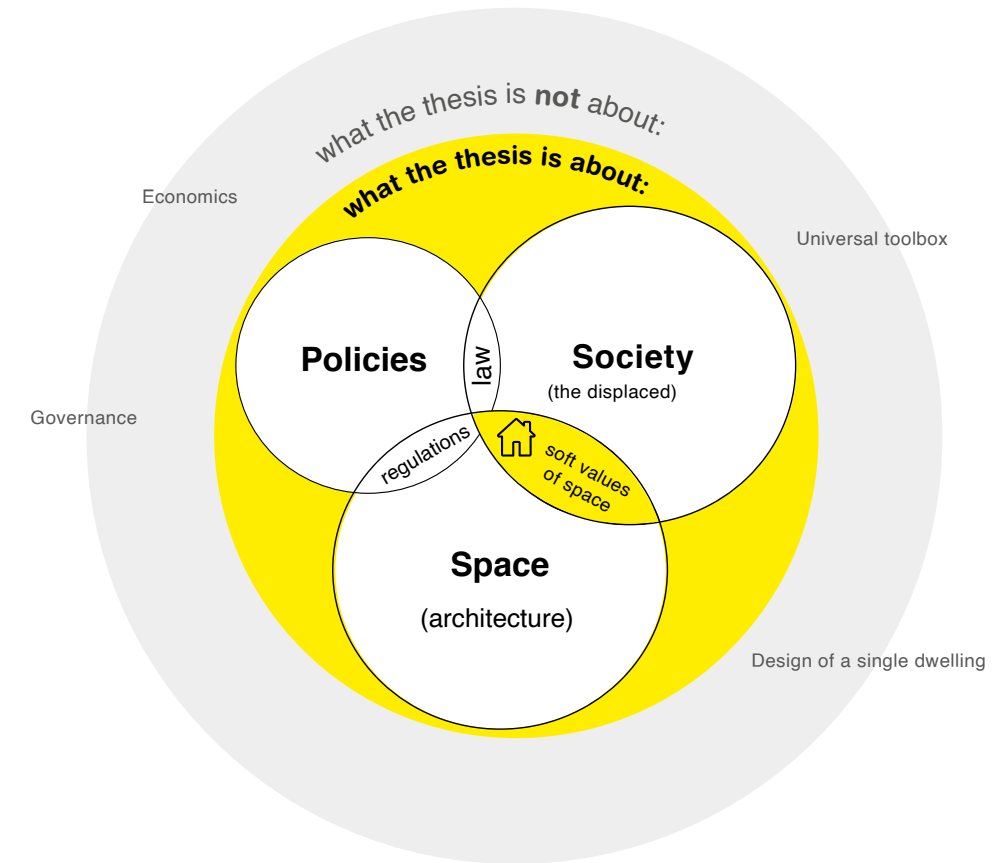


Figure 6. Diagram of delimitation of the topic; in yellow: topics that the thesis touches upon; in grey: topics that the thesis is limiting from.

Delimitations

Understanding migration as a global phenomenon and focusing on refugees settlements, **the thesis will limit to explore spatial interventions**, knowing that there's only much to be done as a professional of the built environment.

By this, **the thesis will limit itself from a deep political critique and environmental performance**, since its focus is on the social repercussions that the designed space creates.

By defining housing as the typology for the intervention of the thesis, the word is used as a cluster of meanings, touching upon **housing-planning, housing-urban residential spaces, housing-architectural typology, housing-the sense of home**.

The concept **"well-being"** is used to explain the sensations to achieve with the design intervention and guidelines, understanding the many factors affecting **the integration of the displaced**, that the spatial qualities cannot solve or help by themselves.

Having as a **case of study the city of Gothenburg**, the project will narrow its focus to create scenarios for the specific conditions of that urbanity, understanding that there is no universal design solution that will ease or solve a multi-scalar problem.

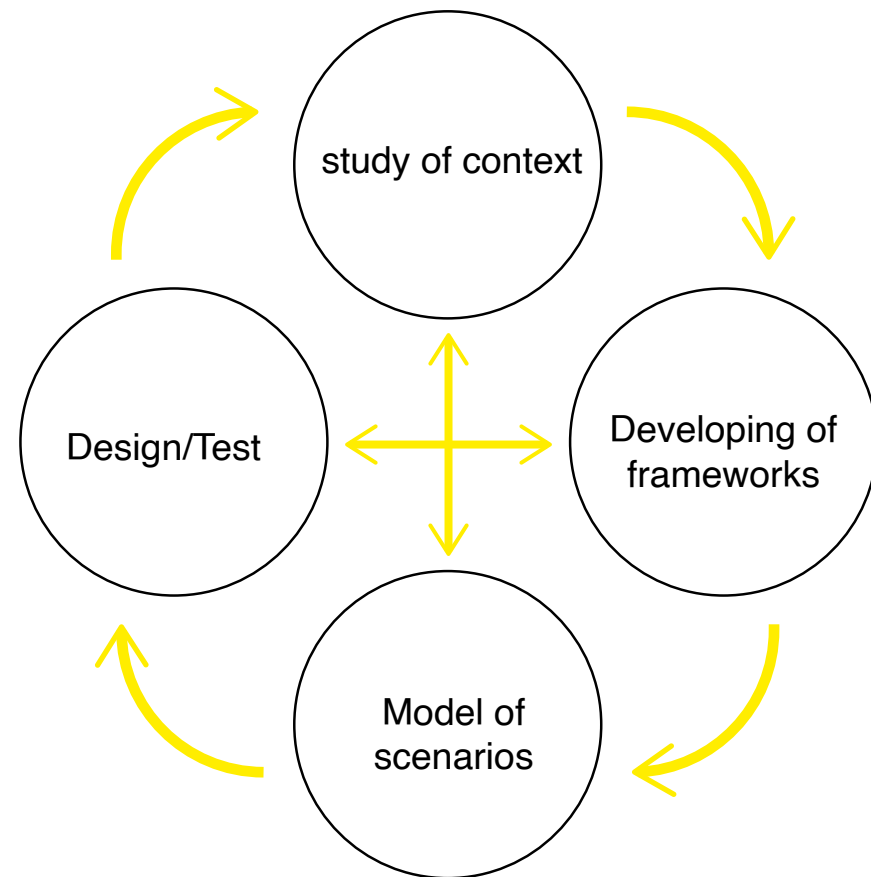


Figure 7. Graphic of “research by design” method, the stages that are involved and their interactions with each other.

Research Strategy and Design

The research questions of the thesis are answered following the Research by Design; through explorations of the design process ideas are refined and the creation of a series of frameworks is made from context analysis and later the own iteration.

To generate research regarding the displaced as a main character in the design process, an exercise is mentioned to relate the application of the obtained investigation and guidelines in both urban and architecture scales.

According to the Research by Design methodology, the thesis is based on the following cycle of stages, touched and re-visited through the whole process:

1. Study of context:

Through **data visualization and observational mapping** I create an understanding of the issue, since I believe it is important to be concise with facts and hard data.

By looking for **case studies** and approaches from I will provide a better background on how this emergency issue has been addressed through the years in different locations.

2. Developing of frameworks:

Related to the study of context, a summary of knowledge obtained is written, creating a **framework for the study of the displaced’s wellbeing** through different disciplines, highlighting the importance to look to all its vertices.

A **compilation of design guidelines** is made, filtering all strategies that were learnt through case studies analysis.

3. Model of scenarios:

With **scenario creating** all the information gathered from the previous stages is landed to a design exercise to put in practice the criteria from the references.

With **mapping** the potential places in the city where housing for the displaced could be implemented, I will test all the criteria obtained from case studies and qualitative research to my scenario of intervention.

4. Design/testing:

After the creating of scenarios, parameters and mapping potential areas, **design iterations** will be developed to have different proposals of how this imaginary new organization of space could look like. By **sketching, creation of collages, and digital drawing/modelling** I will explore my ideas and communicate my design intentions of possible dwellings and their neighborhood.

Finally, by **evaluating** the work and **writing** the thesis, presentations and other forms of reports I will share the knowledge I discover to others.

Relevance for Sustainable Development

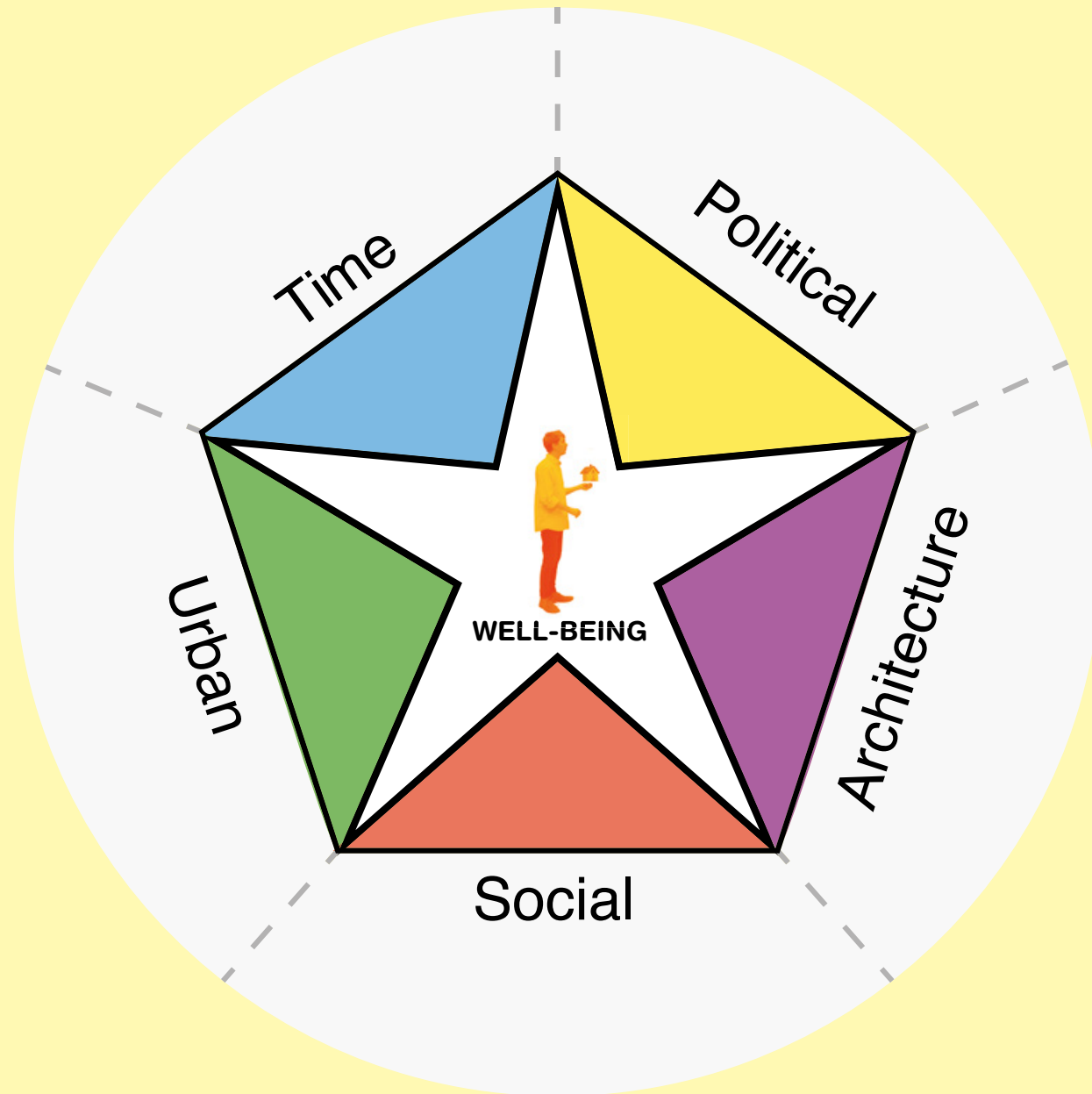
The world is in a current state of crisis shaped by conflicts that push people to flee their homes in search of a chance of surveillance.

The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved until the rights of the refugees are satisfied. With research and design approaches the thesis will explore spatial interventions through conscious eyes, thinking of goal number **16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”**, as well as goal **11 “Sustainable cities and communities”** since the topic explores the refugees conditions and access to housing in the city, looking to include them in the urban space and its community.



Figure 8. Askimviken top view, photography

Introduction
Context
Scenario
Design
Discussion



Framing the well-being of the displaced

The displaced's migration to another country comes with several conflicts that affect their integration in the host community. Although there is no simple answer to avoid segregation, discrimination, hostility, disconnection, among other inequalities; a study of the big picture and what aspects intervene are useful when addressing the need to find spatial strategies that could co-exist with answers from other disciplines to help lessen said inequalities.

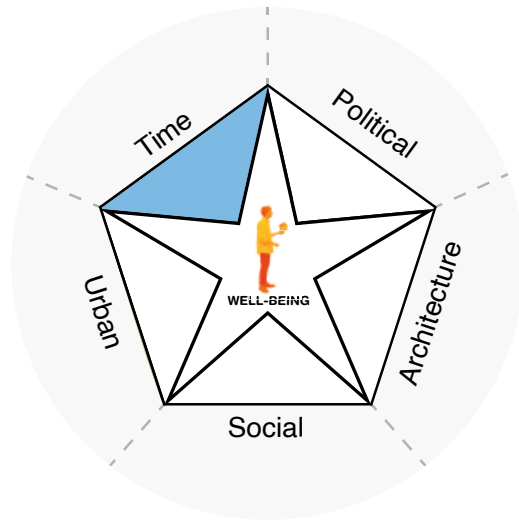
To analyse the situation of the displaced in the built environment it is important to look through several frames that shape the context for their well-being. Migration such as in the displaced's case, needs to be looked with an understanding of intersectionality in these phenomenons.

In this chapter, the research around the topic was conducted the diagram of "the framework of the displaced's well-being", having as center the displaced's wellbeing, surrounded by 5 triangles or themes that are analysed: the time frame in blue, the political frame in yellow, the social frame in red, the urban frame in green and the architecture frame in purple.

Outside its vertices, there is a grey circle and lines that continue from the previous 5 divisions, meaning that the research conducted is a curation of all the information there is yet to be taken in consideration.

In the following pages, every frame will be represented and explained, to fill this diagram with information that will be used later on the other stages of the Research by Design process of the thesis.

Figure 9. Diagram "Framework of the displaced's well-being" showcasing the 5 aspects developed in the topic's research.



Time frame: Forced Migration in Sweden

The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as a person who *“owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country.”*

Migration by itself is a complex social phenomenon, but having to move regions in order to survive becomes a sensitive topic that needs to be addressed in several disciplines. The space where they will habitate is going to have a major impact in their introduction to the city and culture where they are fleeing to, and their conditions locate them in a major state of vulnerability.

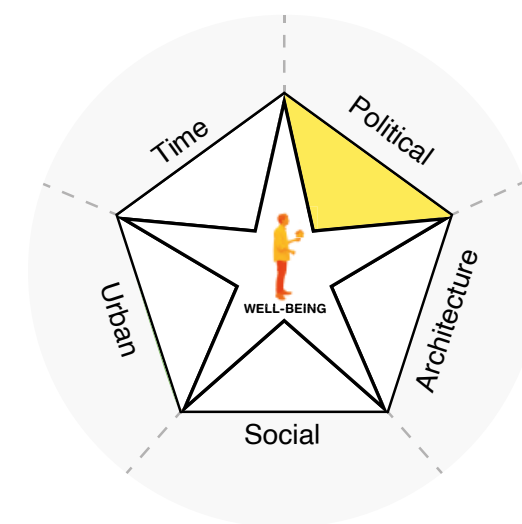
Sweden has been known for its open approach to refugees and migration, the country's historical generosity has helped asylum seekers find a temporal and in some cases permanent residency. Understanding the timeframe regarding the unexpected flow of asylum seekers is key to ground the thesis in a real case scenario. To achieve it, a timeline was made with statistics extracted from Migrationsverket reports of asylum seeking processes in the country and Gothenburg.

As seen in said timeline the increment of refugee population has been a constant number through the years, highlighting 2015's case where more than 150,000 people applied to receive asylum. This phenomenon reflected issues that were under the surface, such as the lack of measures and accommodation from the Swedish Migration Agency and the government; the growing segregation in cities and the disconnection of rural areas to other communities. This situation had many outcomes through the years, one being a shift in regulations and changes to migratory measures made in order to control and lessen unmeasured flow of people to avoid a similar case occurring in the future.

Figure 10. Diagram “Framework of the displaced's well-being” showcasing the time frame in blue.

Complementary information:

Appendix 1. Timeline of asylum applications and other events related in Sweden and Gothenburg through the years.



Political frame: The process of seeking asylum

In the case of Sweden, seeking asylum may differ to other European countries, since its regulations and geographical position are characteristic. The usual path for asylum seekers to arrive to Europe tends to be through the south of the continent (Italy, Greece), but people whose journey takes them to Sweden enter the country through the border it has between Denmark.

Explained properly in the following pages (p.18-19), the process to apply for refugee in the country consists of: the arrival to the country and crossing border police, to then register at an Application Unit either in Malmö, Gothenburg or Stockholm. From that the application process starts with the investigation and gathering of information, where people wait for a decision and live in the country; to get a decision which determines if they stay or have to leave.

In next pages there are other conditions that get involved on the way people live while waiting for a decision, and new changes on regulations that affect it.

Figure 11. Diagram “Framework of the displaced's well-being” showcasing the political frame in yellow.

Complementary information:

Appendix 2. Shift on Policies and Regulations

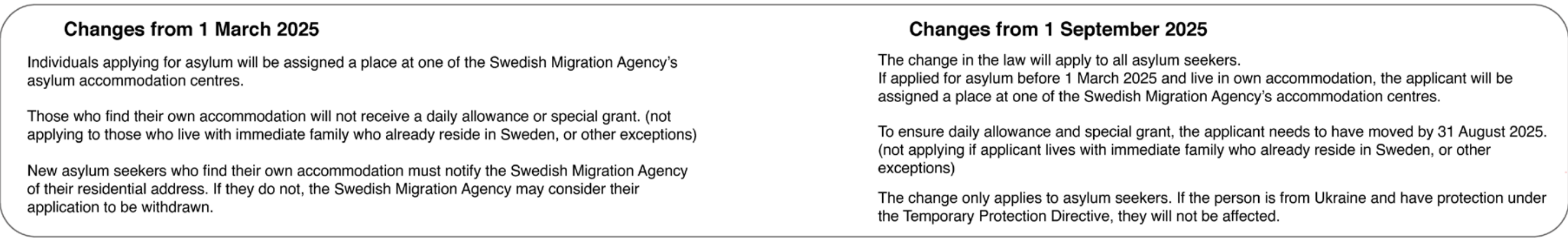
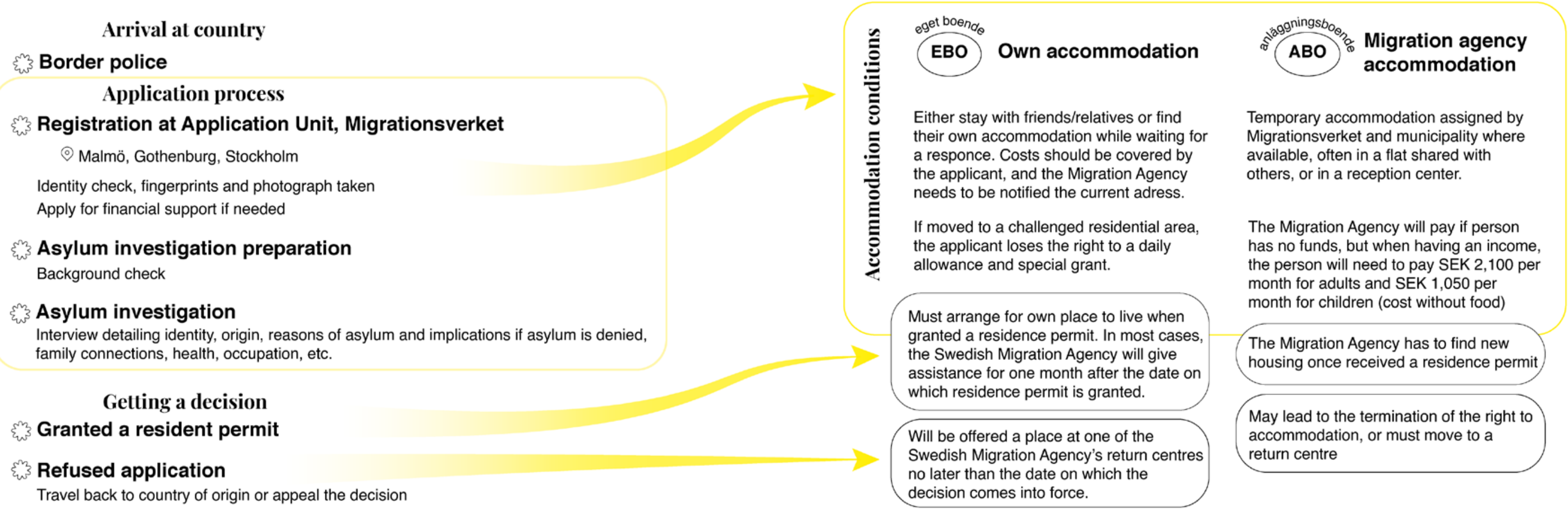
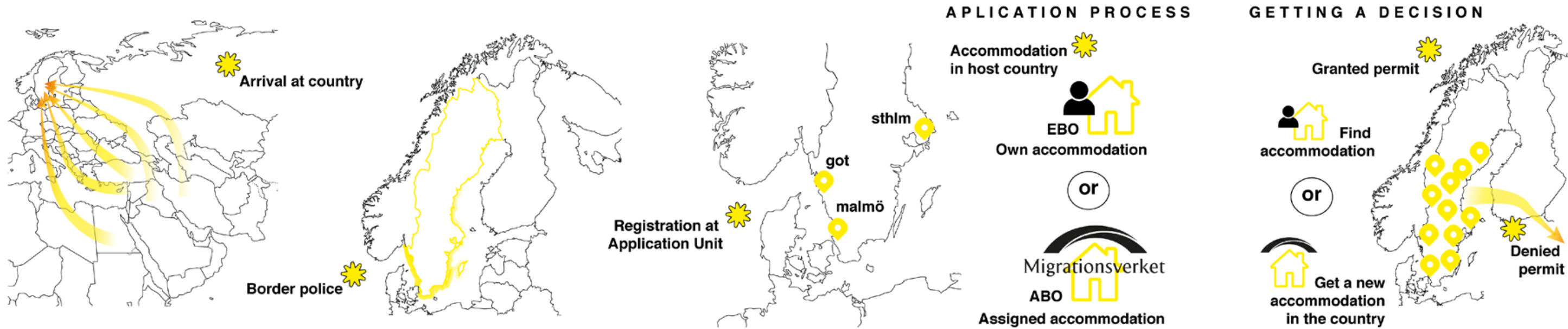
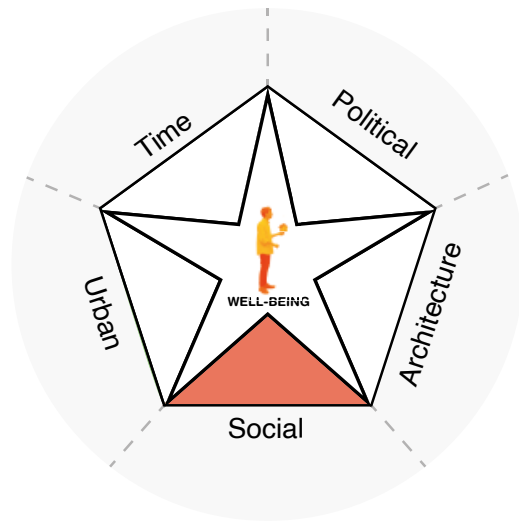


Figure 12. Conceptual map describing the asylum seeking process the accommodation options, and regulatory changes.



Social frame: The Displaced

People that migrate due to conflict get referred with multiple terms along research papers, reports and common media. Although the usual “refugee” is used to describe them, the concept can mislead to frame the situation in just a legal process. For that reason, many others as well as this thesis will refer as “the displaced”, reasoning that no matter in what stage of migratory status, people who see themselves in the necessity to move from their home should have their needs met and rights secured.

When saying “the displaced”, it is also a reflection of the complexity and sensibility of what forced migration comprehends. Through this, The dialogue can be started without any misconception.

Synonyms and complementary words for refugee: The displaced / exilee / asylum seeker / newly arrived immigrant.

Integration and other concepts for their establishment

The social development of the displaced relies on several measures that should be equilibrated to their needs, in order for them to connect to their surroundings and achieve “long term integration”, a term used when an immigrant has find an occupation, and independent existence and can contribute to society.

When thinking on their way to establish in the host community, the word “integration” will be avoided as a term to generally describe the outcomes, since there are many other words that fit better in the specifics of what the design will achieve. It is an intricate concept that misses to ground all aspects to consider, being less clear than describing every benefit people might need to belong.

Other reason to avoid generalizing by saying “integration” is the ongoing discussion around it. Even when used as a positive aim, the term can be understood as something negative and exclusionary, depicting immigrants as problematic. It is a discursive issue, since it leads to thinking in terms of “us and them” (us: already integrated/unproblematic, them: foreign deviant group that poses a problem for societal development).

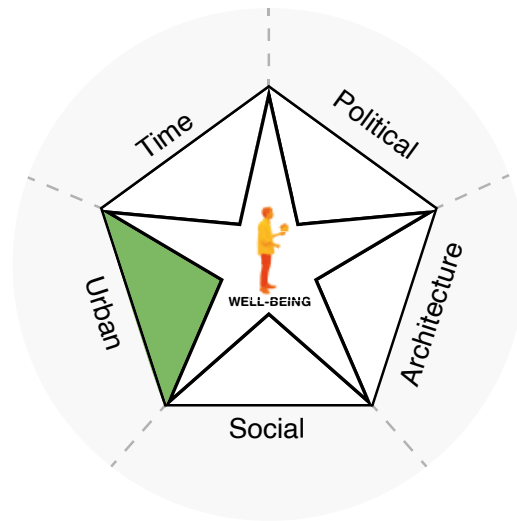
Synonyms: Introduction / Welcoming / Belonging / Connectivity / Reciprocity / Establishment / Inclusion / Participation / Assimilation / Reception / Adjustment

Taking back what “long term integration” is described as, the displaced get introduced to Sweden’s society through several programs, including “The Establishment Programme” by Arbetsförmedlingen and “Svenska För Invandrare” (SFI) swedish language classes. As well as municipalities, other NGOs get involved to provide them of support, and some civil groups organize activities and focus on building communities through recreation, helping to build strong ties with each other.

Apart from that, the type of accommodation that is arranged is crucial for them to achieve an independent existence. Pursuing the fulfillment of the displaced’s needs is one change factor for their situation, but it is not possible to get “integration” just with a good placement of housing and language classes by itself, since there are aspects closely linked to the singularities of every person that interacts with the other, being the displaced, residents from the area, foreigners, visitors, and other groups a vast diversity of individual requirements and additions to the general picture.

It is easier to say that what could be achieved in the built environment is the well-being from good spatial qualities in rooms, buildings and surroundings, leaving room for other disciplines to intervene and add more levels of well-being to pursue the integration and cohesion for the displaced.

Figure 13. Diagram “Framework of the displaced’s well-being” showcasing the social frame in red..



Urban frame: trends of accommodation in the Nordic Countries

To understand the regulations and measures that the Swedish Migration Agency and the government had established, *The impact of migration on projected population trends in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden* (Sanchez Gassen Nora and Heleniak 2021) shows how the strategies of placement are slightly different in each country, noticing first the comparison between the number of asylum seekers that decide to have their process in Sweden than in the other countries.

Focusing on the peculiarities of Sweden's national policies, the maps highlight the spatial consequence of having each municipality host a percentage of asylum seekers in relation to their number of habitants, resulting in distributed areas across the nation. It also shows the trend of having a high share of displaced per total population when comparing it to its neighbors.

To dimension it more, it contrasts highly against Finland's and Denmark's measures, since they distribute the displaced in municipalities with reception centers only, resulting into an uneven scattering of accommodation.

Although there is no universal rule on how to assure the displaced's sense of home when providing accommodation, it is important to remember that through a distribution in host communities they get the opportunity to interact with others and have more possibilities for their satisfaction and introduction to their new location.

Figure 14. Diagram "Framework of the displaced's well-being" showcasing the urban frame in green.
Complementary information:
Appendix 3. Gothenburg in relation to the state of emergency

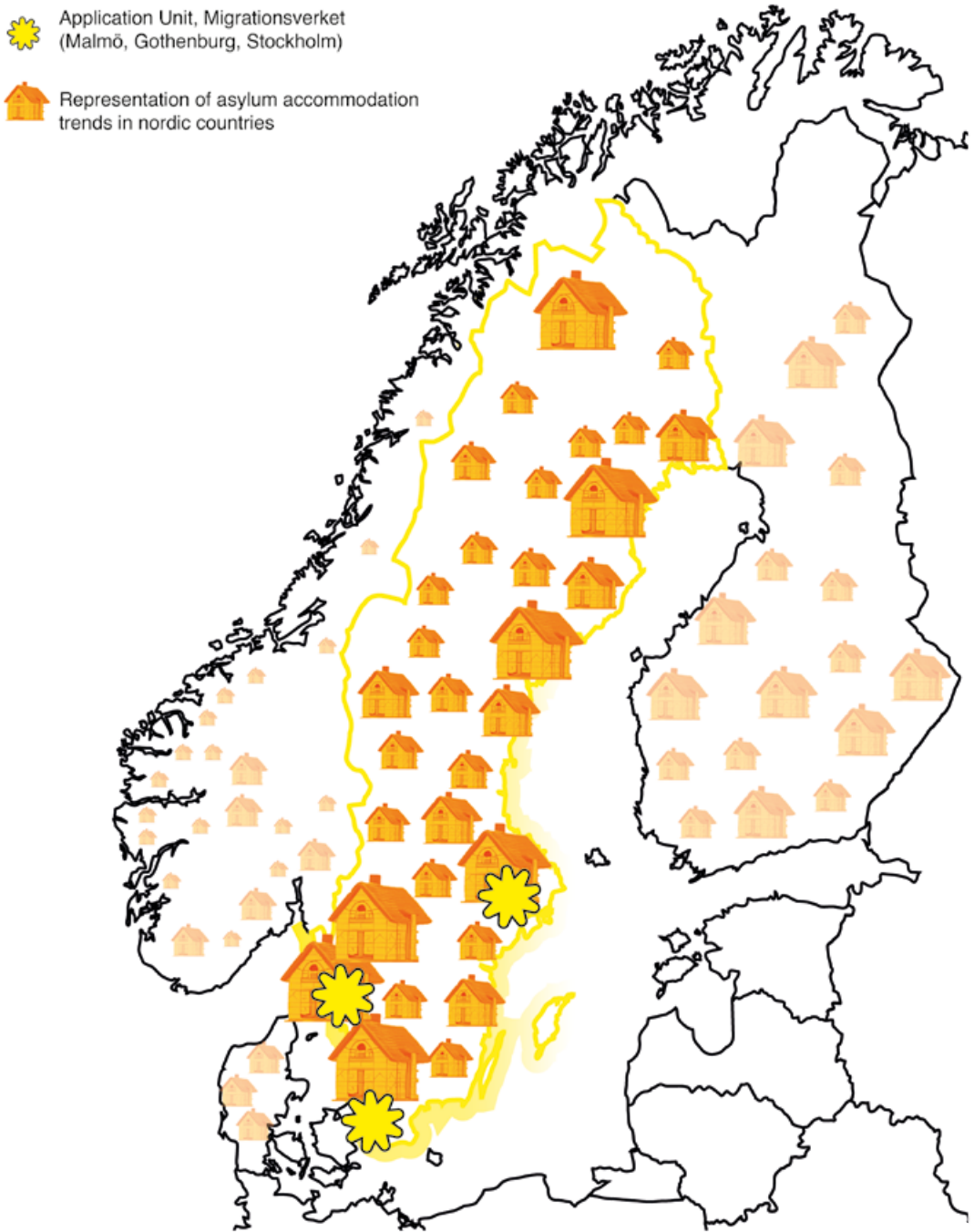
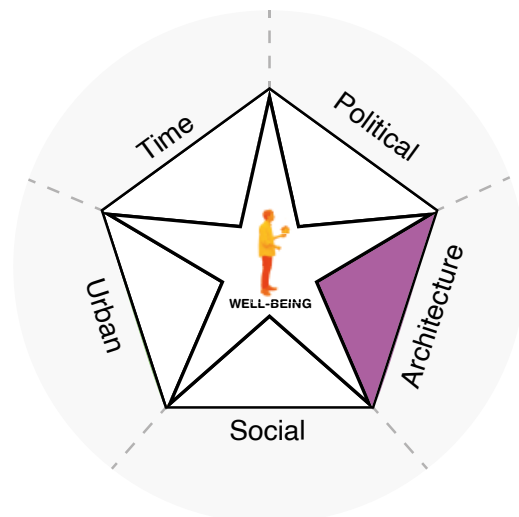


Figure 15. Map of interpretation of accommodation trends in nordic countries, highlighting Sweden and its 3 Application Units
Complementary information:
Appendix 4. Nordregio maps from "The impact of migration on projected population trends in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden"



Architectural frame: Housing strategies for the displaced

"Housing is a cornerstone of refugee integration and community well-being as housing conditions impact a community's sense of security and stability on opportunities for social connection, access to healthcare, education and employment" (Jedrzejewski, Spehar, Centre of Global Migration, 2020)

When looking at the factors that affect the displaced's assimilation to the host community, the accommodation where they are placed/choose is crucial, since it is their first introduction. It is also heavily dependant on the cities' housing market conditions; which represents a huge challenge to developed cities with shortage on number of dwellings per habitant.

Also, every state organization has their own criteria of placement, what derives it to two main strategies: **centralized accommodation**, which means that the displaced are assigned accommodation in a concentrated space, building, reception center or camp. This strategy is used mostly for emergency relief and tends to be overcrowded and inadequate to provide their living conditions.

The other strategy is known as **decentralized accommodation**, or also as "dispersal policy". Here the displaced are in ordinary homes through the whole country or city, being close to the hosts community in hopes to become independent, active and integrated. This strategy is portrayed with better results when implemented in the right conditions, otherwise it also raises concerns.

When placed in rural peripheral areas, the displaced are prone to social exclusion and later on migration again to the big cities, which will pressure the housing shortage. A similar outcome would be if they are placed in marginalized urban areas, since it will harm their integration perspective.

A common idea would be to place them in existing migrant communities to avoid social exclusion, helping their settling process by providing them of something they can identify on; but it also harms their language learning and amplifies the barrier between encounters with local community.

To properly act towards a positive impact, three dimensions of action need to be addressed: the "home dimension" (domestic), the "local-social dimension" (internal/building), and the "external social dimension" (supporting infrastructure).

Figure 16. Diagram "Framework of the displaced's well-being" showcasing the architecture frame in purple..



Architecture frame extension: case studies review.

To find guidelines of how the housing shortage for the displaced has been touched on, several case studies were investigated. The research was made thinking of studying examples of both centralized and decentralized accommodation, emergency shelters, reception centers, buildings or mixed apartment units.

Since the speculative design iterations will take place in Gothenburg, some cases were observed for their building placement decisions, highlighting the existing guidelines provided by the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees.

There are other requirements that need to be addressed, such as the displaceds emotional recovery, which is the reason of the design steps provided by a study on Trauma Informed Based Design.

All of the observations made in the following section, will serve as a compilation of guidelines for the further application of the design of a housing block focused on touching on every detail that could help people thrive in community.

Figure 17. Diagram "Framework of the displaced's well-being" showcasing the architecture frame in purple, with buildings looked in case studies extending from it.

Trauma Informed Based Design

The organization “Preservation of Affordable Housing” (POAH) has developed a toolkit of design principles focused on the people’s wellbeing and recovery from trauma, arguing that the space where they get to live in can impact deeply their emotional conditions.

When designing for the displaced it is key to think on their feelings of safety, community and trust, being this the reason to gather guidelines to create spaces that heal and shelter them. It is also relevant to say that all people experience adversity to diffeent extents, and designing with this in mind can build a good environment that empowers everyone and disrupts the structural systems that perpetuate trauma.

The guidelines are divided in 4 main principles with several strategies added to them. The following diagram shows some of the principles chosen to apply in design phase.

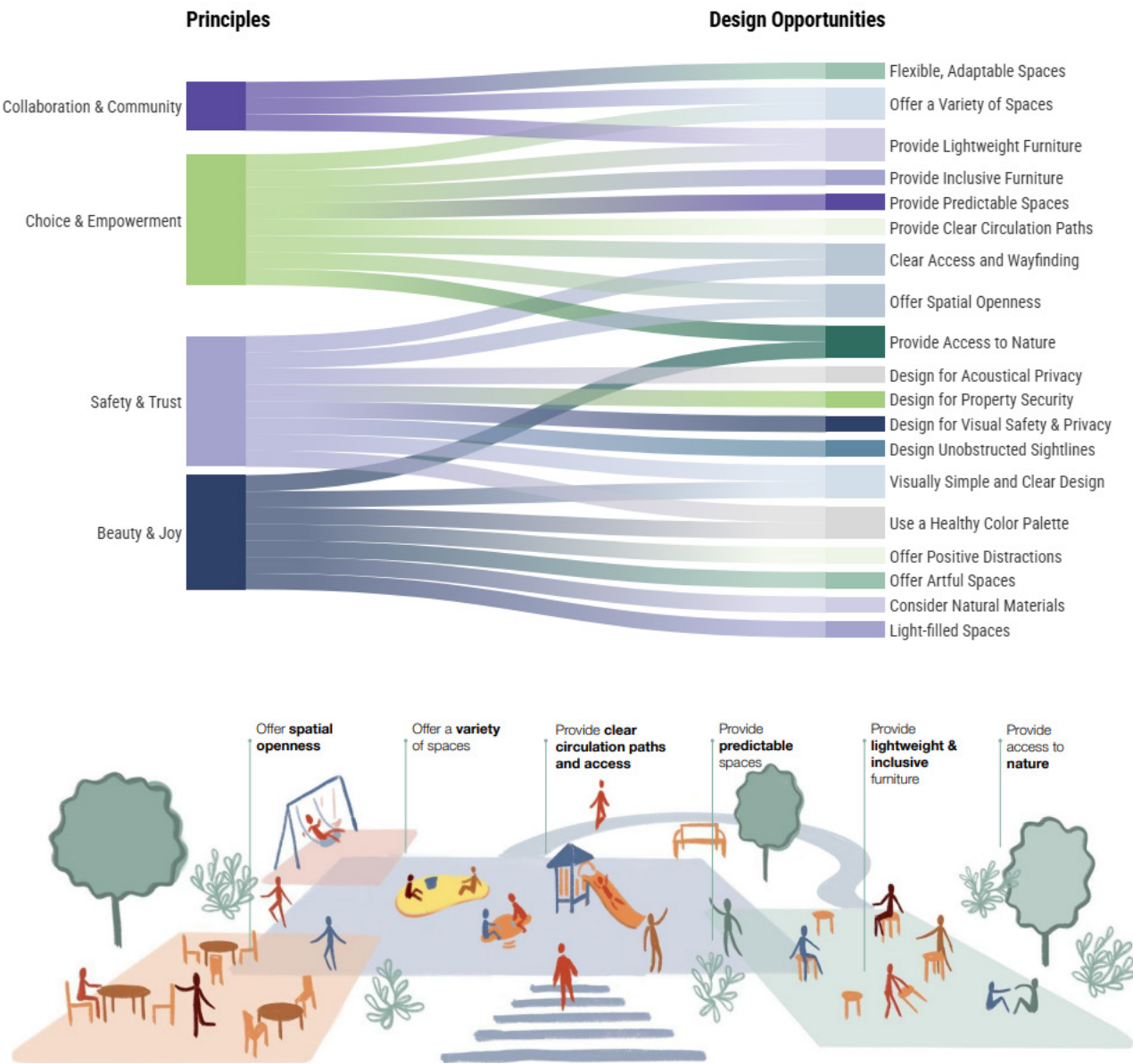
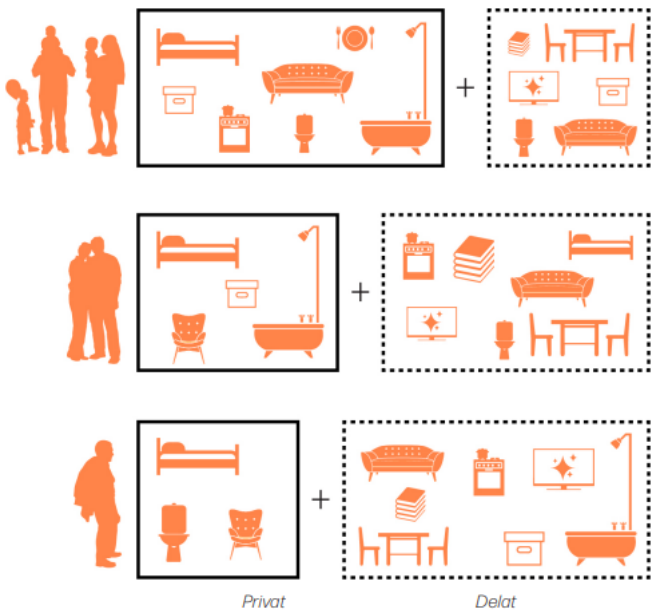


Figure 21. Diagram of design principles for a Trauma Informed Design.
Figure 22. Diagram of spatial strategies for a Trauma Informed Design.

Flexible dwellings: elastiska hem and a. braide design principles

Developed by Kod Arkitekter, “Elastiska hem” is a report based on the idea of alternative design focused on collective living to showcase different layouts of space and a toolkit to inspire others to develop sustainable housing in all aspects, allowing people to have good conditions and infrastructure to support them.

The term “elastic home” is defined as a space that can change and adapt to different stages of life, situations and needs, touching up both the physical and untangible characteristics that the word “home” speaks of. It divides it in three main aspects to fulfill: the physical space, social relationships and governance.



The toolkit starts by describing the people they are designing for, separating their needs by level of private/shared spaces.

From creating a story of the uses of space, to doing a base layout of spaces, this report sets an example of the application of design principles that align to the previous theory and examples.

Finally the “6 design strategies for adaptable apartment” given in a lecture from Ana Braide, are added to understand those design principles from the report, and what do other examples mean by “flexible and adaptable spaces”.

These diagrams show design desicions to provide opportunities to change space, divide it or open it depending on the needs of activities, with them, spaces can evolve through time along the people living in them, providing longevity and resilience.

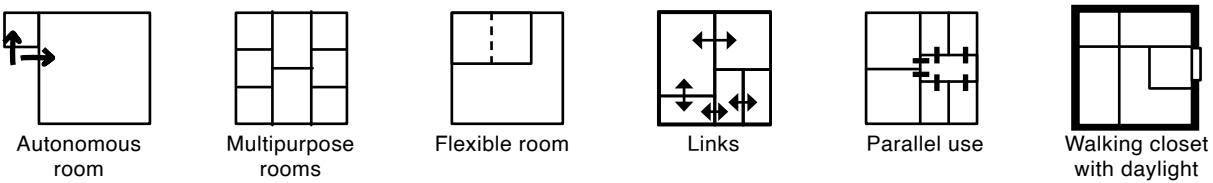
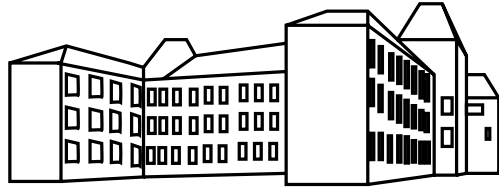


Figure 23. Diagrams of activities, Elastiska Hem.
Figure 24. Concept diagrams of the 6 strategies for adaptable apartments.

Existing buildings in Gothenburg, other case studies.

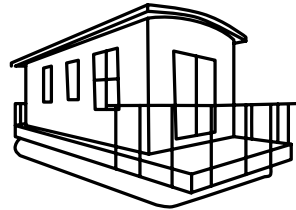
To understand the different options of accommodation available today in the city, four main examples were observed. From them, the inclination to design apartment complexes was clear since it is the most common typology and it could also help to relieve the housing shortage for more people.

Vanersborg



Main users: the displaced
Responds to: need for reception center in Västra Götalands Region
Transformed building
Horizontal distribution
Common spaces, supporting buildings for activities/education
Collective living (dorms)

ANNA



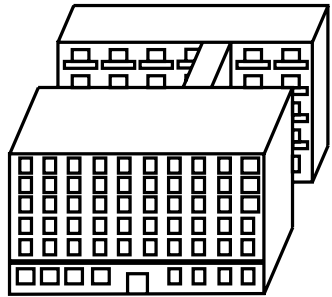
Main users: newcomers, migrants
Responds to: high affluence of newcomers to housing crisis
Private dwelling
Prototype of boathouse
Oriented to the riverfront
Communitary design
Open plan with divider walls
Balcony towards water
Axiality view

Askimvisken



Mixed users: residents, refugees
Responds to: need to accommodate the displaced with low access to dwellings
Apartment towers
Different layouts (1, 2, 3, 4 rooms and loft)
Private spaces
Independent room, central corridor, closet with daylight
Access to balconies from social spaces

UngBo



Mixed users: adults with addiction/psychosocial problems, the displaced
Responds to: Need to accommodate the displaced in the city, need for healthcare housing for young adults
Apartment building block
Divided dorms and apartments layout
Staff that gives psychosocial support
Common spaces inside and outside

Proposed guidelines for future iterations: a list

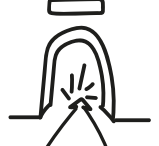
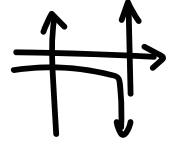
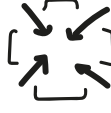
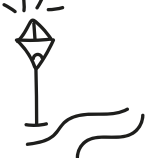
Urban Design

From the UNHCR Master Plan Approach to Refugee settlements and other case studies that touched upon the urban scale, the following guidelines are extracted.

Mainly, the strategies are focused on the spatial connections that the location of the dwelling should have.

Other strategies focus on reinforcing visual safety and flows that are easy to read, as well as the implementation of urban furniture.

These design guidelines will be showcased in following stages of the thesis.

 Close to other communities, education, commercial, recreation	 Relatively close to health facilities
 Near transport network	 Far from risky-triggering locations
 Near central streets	 Located in a well-integrated zone
 Be located in a residential area with similar layout	 Create an inviting, welcoming entry
 Have a clear layout that generates interactions	 Provide a variety of outdoor destinations
 Design for spatial openness and multiple points of access	 Provide visual safety

Complementary information:
Appendix 6. Review of case studies: decentralized accommodation
Appendix 7. Review of case studies: centralized accommodation

Proposed guidelines for future iterations: a list

Architecture

After analysing case studies and the strategies that worked on the later years of implementation, the following guidelines are extracted.

There are strategies focused on the visual accessibility to nature and patios, as well as clear layout of spaces.

The majority of guidelines are regarding the activity or area programming of space, reinforcing multipurpose spaces for various activities, with shared areas to interact with others as well as private sleeping areas for resting.

Both the urban and architecture design strategies are about to be showcased in the following chapters.



Provide spaces for social work-organizations support



Have views and access to outdoors



Provide private rooms



Design spaces for learning, engagement and play



Provide clear sightlines



Allow residents to contribute to the space



Provide multi-purpose spaces

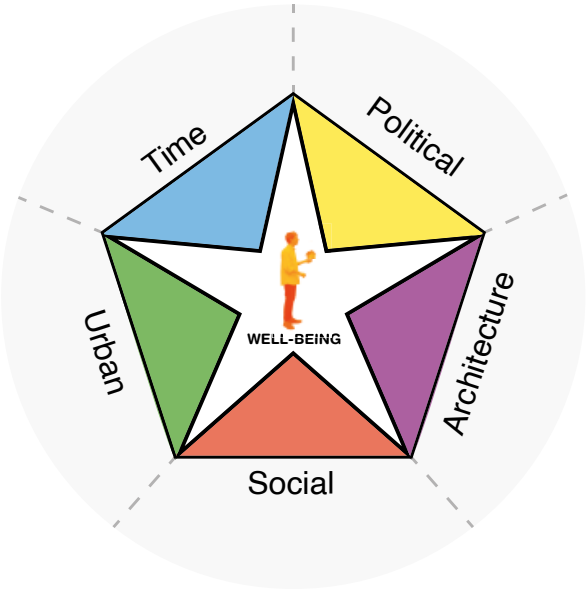


Design flexible spaces for adaptability



Have an exterior patio for activities

Complementary information:
Appendix 6. Review of case studies: decentralized accommodation
Appendix 7. Review of case studies: centralized accommodation



Framing the displaced: a summary of the full picture

The migratory process of seeking asylum is filled with many situations involving legal, political, geographical and emotional aspects; as well as the serious conflict where someone needs to flee and becomes displaced from their home to an unknown place, society and future.

By looking at the number of asylum applications in Sweden and Gothenburg through the years, one can understand the change of migratory measures after 2015, when the country reached its peak of displaced's entering to the country.

When reviewing the legal aspect of asking for asylum in Sweden, it was easier to understand the following moments that the displaced live after arriving to the host country. Also, by looking to new implementations of regulations, the research gap got clearer, since from this year the displaced will not be able to choose their own accommodation, meaning that the Migration Agency along municipalities will have to work on providing housing spaces for every new applicant in the near future.

The social frame is key to deepen into the meaning of integration, well-being and the social implications or strategies that are applied to help the displaced's introduction to a new place. It raises questions such as "who are the displaced? are they only the ones that just arrived or the ones that have a status that says so? How long does it take to feel a sense of belonging in the host community?"

The architecture and urban frame show the strategies and trends in the building and city scales and gives away examples of the repercussions through the years that different actions and design strategies had on its residents and the context the case studies are located on.

This broad picture of the phenomenom is taken as the backbone of the design explorations and further analysis, thinking of the framework as a created tool to navigate the thesis with in all stages.

Figure 25. Diagram "Framework of the displaced's well-being" showcasing the 5 aspects developed in the topic's research.

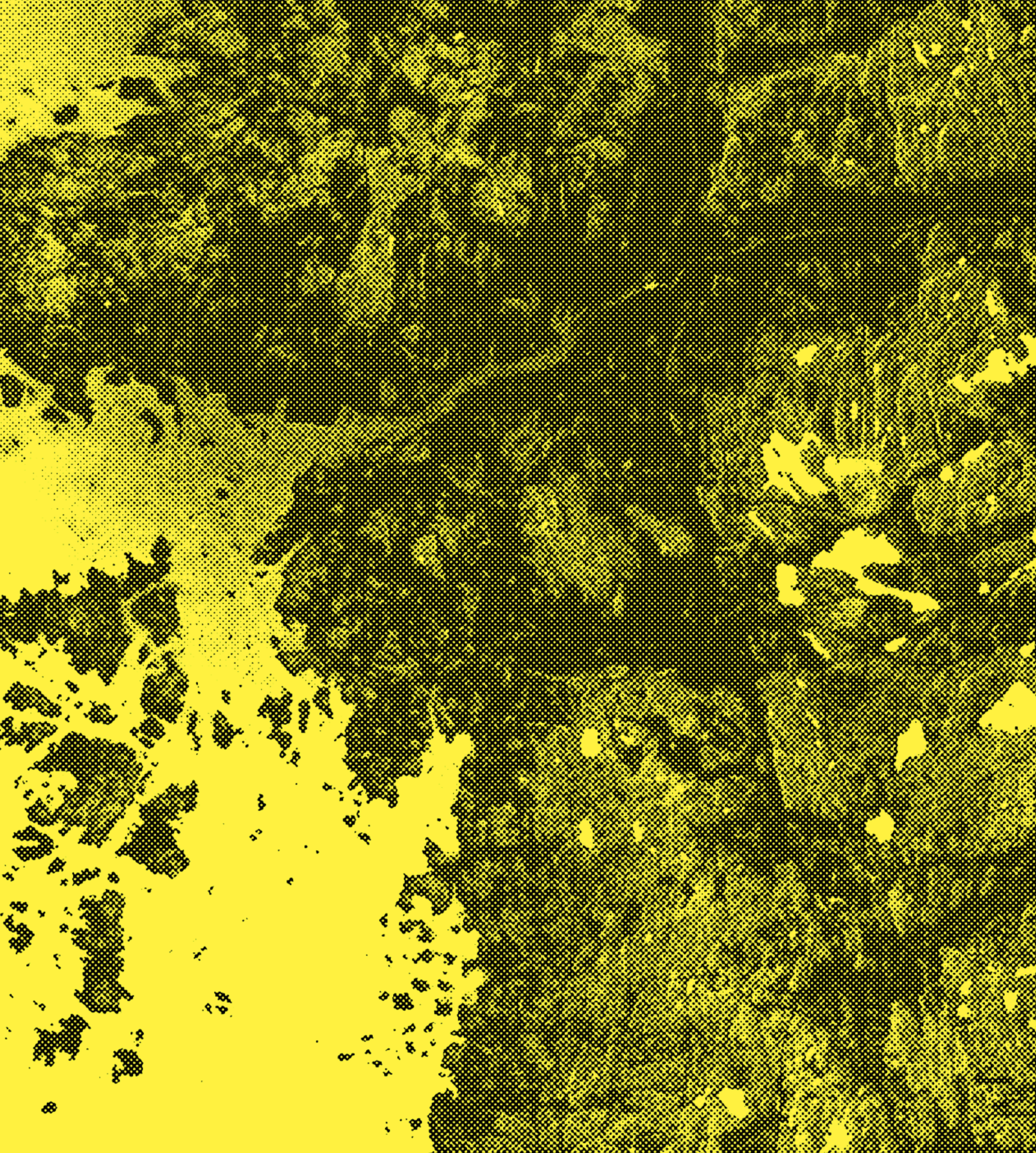
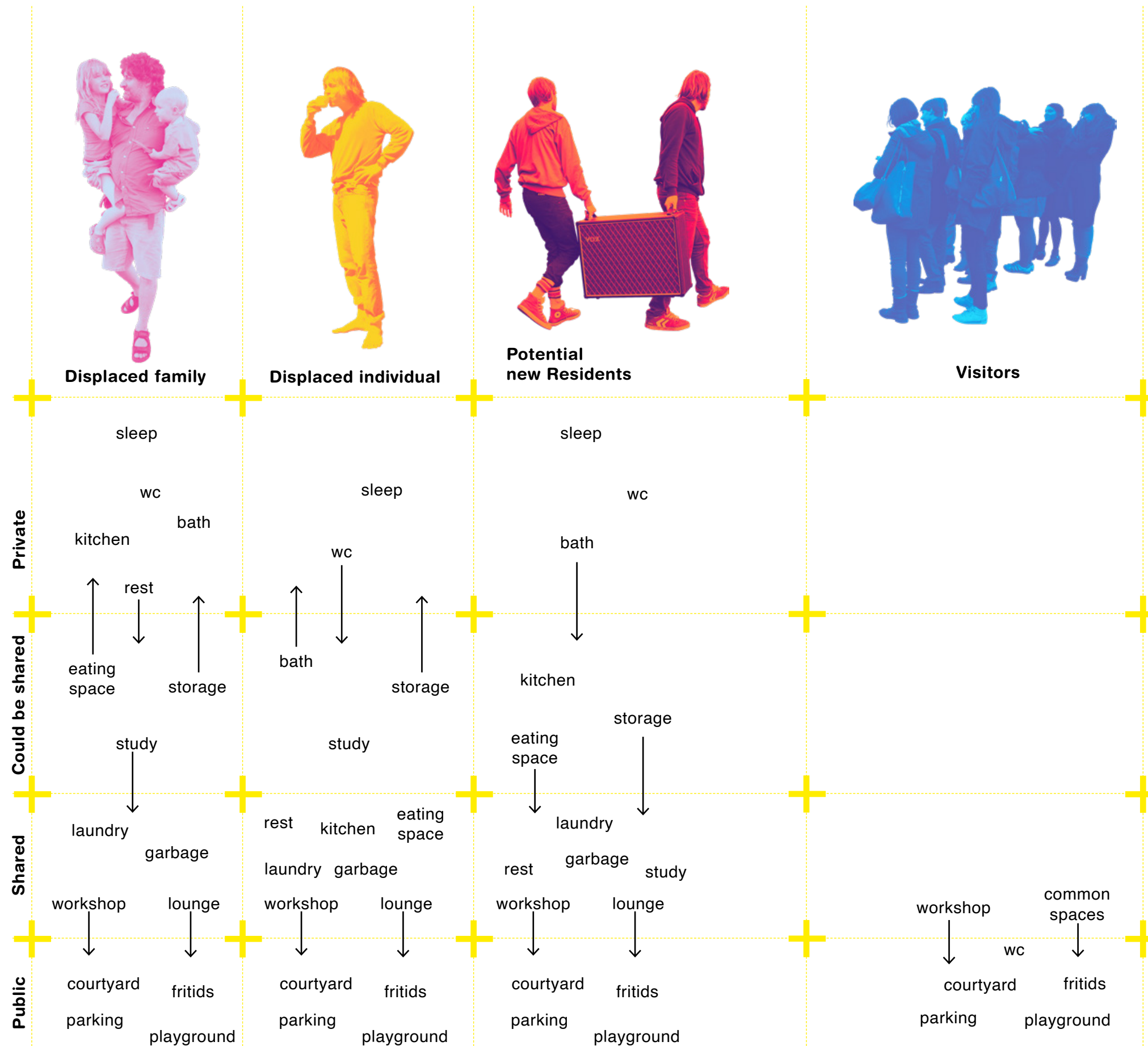


Figure 26. Illustration of Gothenburg map

Introduction
Context
Scenarios
Design
Discussion



Scenarios for design/testing stage

After the development of frameworks, the stage “model of scenarios” comprehends defining the conditions to design for in the design/testing phase.

The main part to take in consideration is the people to design for, that is why the scenarios are not a series of locations or time stances, but storylines of how four defined personas would habitate the space.

Focused first on the displaced, the four scenarios to design are:

The displaced family is integrated by: Mom+Dad+Brother+Sister(+Sibling)

The displaced single.

Potential new residents: (Adult+Partner/Family)
Taking as example case studies such as SällBo in Helsingborg, to broaden the concept of flexibility and use of space, the scenario of “potential new residents” refers to later users that can rent the space when the displaced quota is low, making the dwelling an opportunity to introduce communities, as well as the adaptative use through the years and different situations.

Visitors: From case studies, thinking on the maximization of use of common spaces for recreation activities, visitors are proposed as people that come to events and public spaces in buildings/courtyard or to see residents; so the spaces dedicated to culture, sports and other leisure activities can be attractive to developers, neighborhood and main residents.

To know which spaces were needed and how could the design be collective/adaptable, a diagram of activities divided by levels of privacy was made to each of the users. The more public activities were, the more “shared” they were thought to be, having this as the base for the area programming in the design phase.

Figure 27. Photograph of displaced family, displaced individual, potential new residents, visitors.



Speculative design: the exercise

To put in practice the researched theory to add new layers to the discussion on the current housing strategies for the displaced available, a design iteration was made, from the four scenarios of personas to design for; following certain stages of producing ideas, showcasing design principles in a graphic way, and the evaluation of design.

1. From the study of the city regarding statistics, a general area will be chosen to find an empty lot to work on.
2. By applying the urban parameters for a connected and equipped site, a location will be established, being this the place of the scenario design.
3. From previous steps and case studies, a storyline of how the design will be used is to be created, focusing on the people living in the accommodation through time.
4. The design will focus to fulfill both present, eventual and future users needs.
5. The conditions on the detail plan of the area will be applied as extra design guidelines.
6. Taking the extracted guidelines from case studies, a design concept will be made.
7. From the designed spaces, all steps above need to be reflected and explained.
8. An evaluation on the extend of the exercise will be made, as well as a comparison with what exists now in the area.

- LOCAL ACTORS**

State
 - a** The Establishment Unit (Göteborgs Stad)
 - b** Migrationsverket asylum office (Kallered)
 - Framtiden AB / Bostadsbolaget**

Housing
 - i** Askimvisken
 - c** UngBo
 - d** Prototype “ANNA” from MERGING

Support of housing
 - e** Hjärtarum / Räddnings missionen

Displaced rights
 - Ingen människa är illegal**
 - f** Asylrättstudenterna (Asylum rights students)

Support of minors
 - Agape**

Health
 - Rosengrenska kliniken, Göteborg**

LGBTQ+ Rights
 - Regnbågshuset (Rainbow House)**

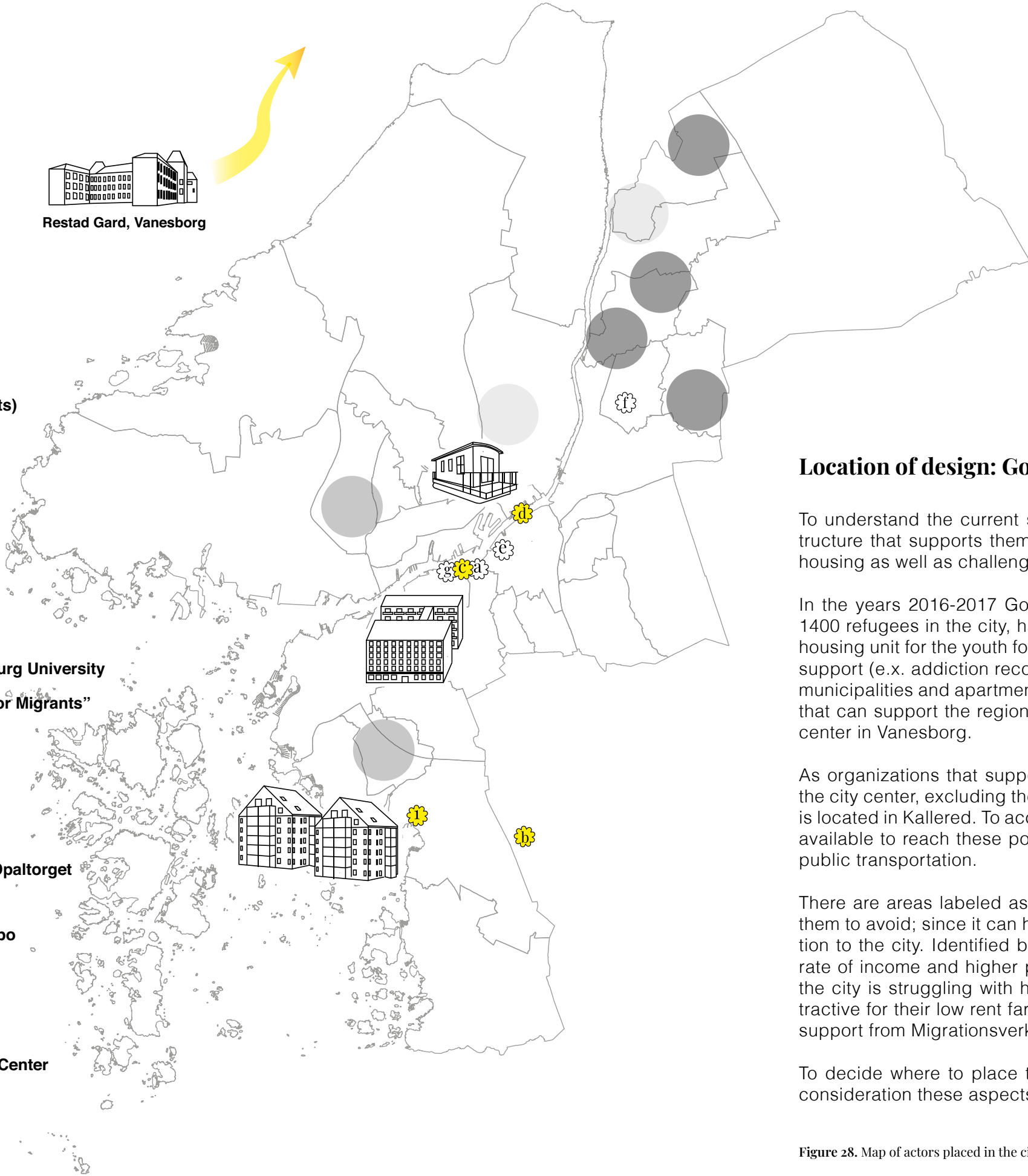
Research
 - Center of Global Migration (CGM) Gothenburg University**
 - Research project “MERGING: Integration for Migrants”**

Challenging areas

Utsatt Område
 - Gardsten, Hisings Backa**

Riskområde
 - Biskopsgården, Tynnered, Grevegården, Opaltorget**

Särskilt utsatt område
 - Bergsjön, Lövgården, Hammarkullen, Hjällbo**
- NATIONAL ACTORS**
 - FARR (Flyktinggruppernas Riksråd)**
 - Asylrättscentrum / Swedish Refugee Law Center**
 - Röda korset - Red cross**
 - Svenska Kyrkan - the Swedish church**



Location of design: Gothenburg and its actors.

To understand the current state of the city in relation with the infrastructure that supports them I decided to map actors involved, current housing as well as challenged areas delimited by the Swedish Police.

In the years 2016-2017 Gothenburg received a quota of hosting 800-1400 refugees in the city, having available buildings such as UngBo, a housing unit for the youth focused on male users that need psychological support (e.x. addiction recovery); as well as private units owned by the municipalities and apartments from Askimviken complex. Other building that can support the regional quota of asylum seekers is the reception center in Vanesborg.

As organizations that support their needs, the majority have offices in the city center, excluding the asylum office from Migrationsverket, which is located in Kallered. To access them, the displaced should have routes available to reach these points, either by walking distance or effective public transportation.

There are areas labeled as “challenged” where it is recommended for them to avoid; since it can have negative repercussions in their introduction to the city. Identified by grey circles, these areas also have lower rate of income and higher percentage of foreign born residents. Since the city is struggling with housing accesibility, these areas are still attractive for their low rent fares, even if that means losing other financial support from Migrationsverket.

To decide where to place the design phase, it is important to take in consideration these aspects.

Figure 28. Map of actors placed in the city of Gothenburg.

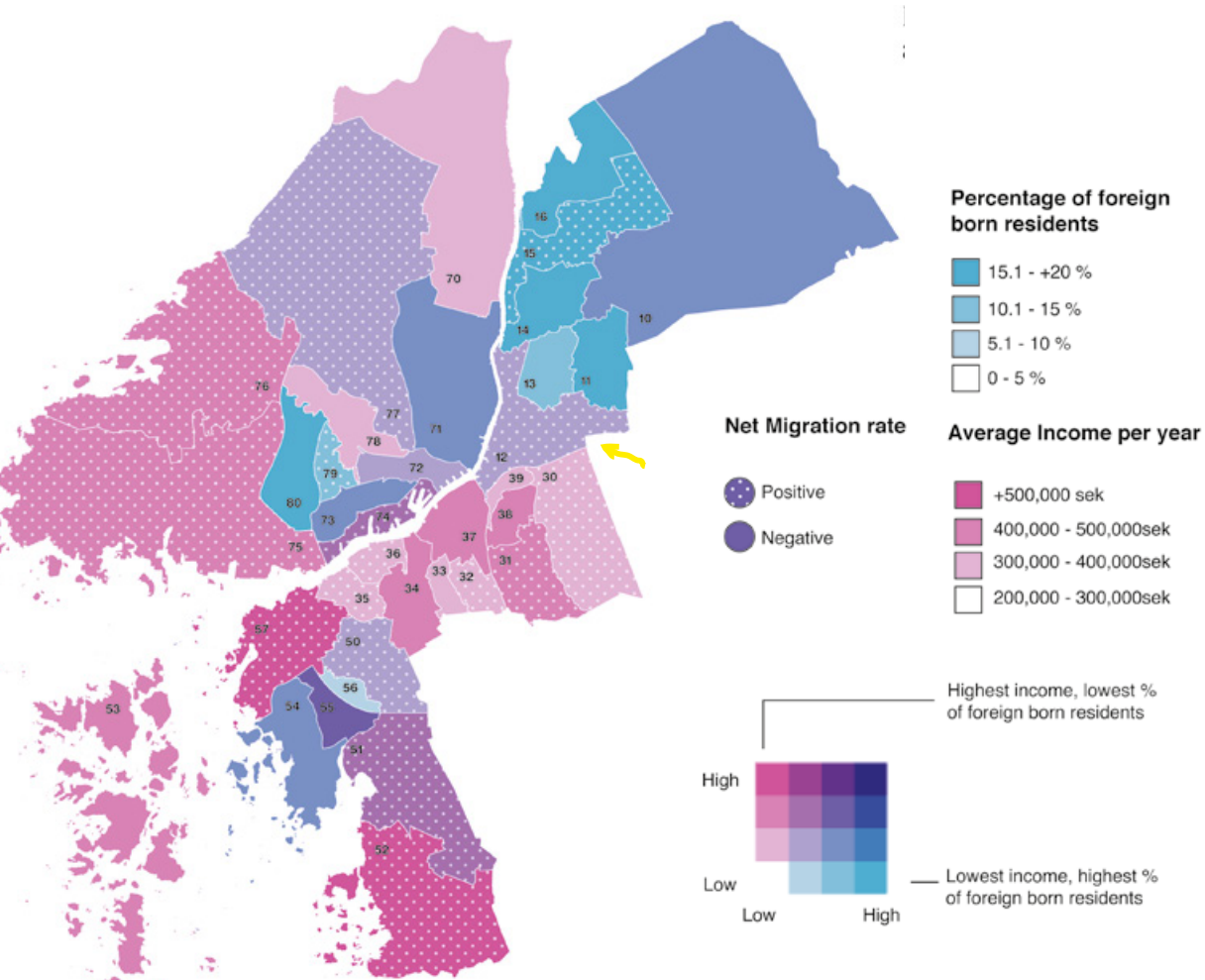
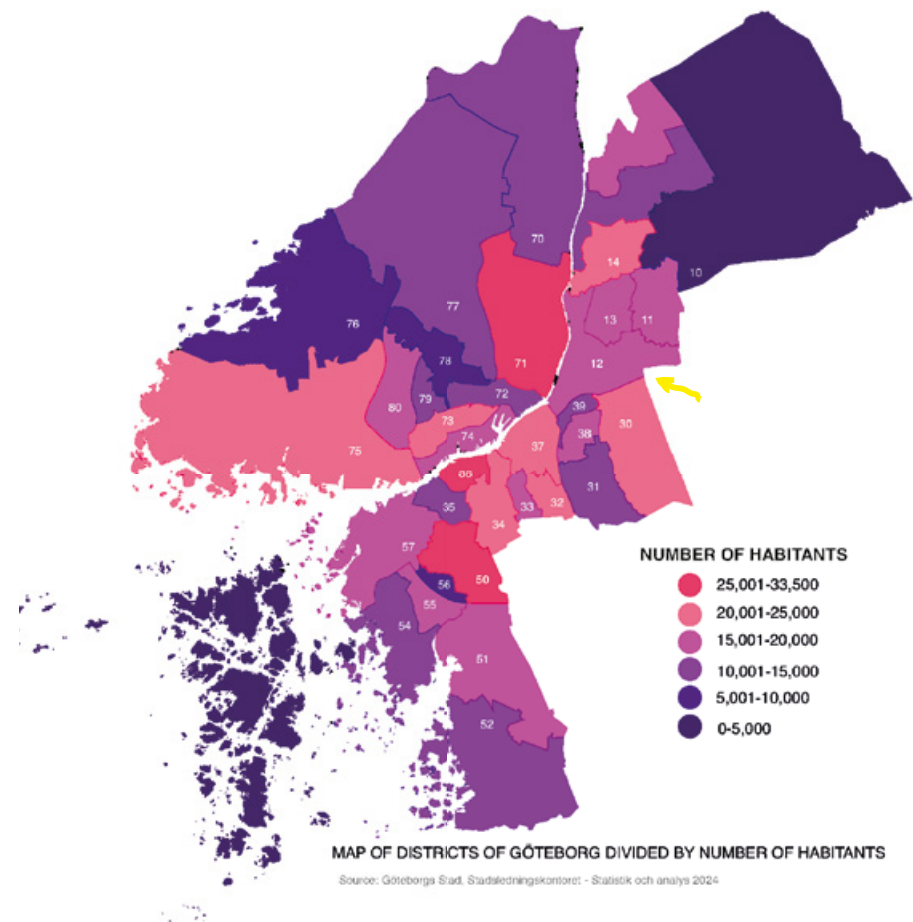


Figure 29. Map of districts of Gothenburg divided by number of habitants
Figure 30. Bivariate map of districts of Gothenburg divided by average income and percentage of foreign born residents, as well as net migration rate in areas

Choosing context through parameters

After looking to general statistics of the city, actors and relevant locations of housing and other organizations that work with the displaced, it is time to choose a location for the following design exercise.

First we need to look at the existing conditions in the regions, such as the analysis of the net migration rate (in swedish: neto flyttning), which can be seen as an indicator of the frequency of rotation of the community of the area. When having a positive number, this data means that people is staying and more is arriving to the area, and when there is a negative input it reflects that there is some issue or conflict behind people choosing to move out. It is marked also the regions where challenging areas are.

From the maps and pevious analysis the region 12 “Gamlestaden-Utby” was chosen, since it is a zone with a considerable percentage of foreign born residents as well as sweden-born ones, it is a large zone with an important number of habitants and has important connections to other parts of the city, its net migration rate is positive - meaning that placing a building with temporary contracts would not affect it's community establishment, and that the displaced would be able to create connections to the neighbors nearby.

From there, a quick observation to empty lots was made, where first the priority was to find a municipality owned site, to end up choosing a lot that had spatial potentials even if it had private ownership, arguing that since it is an explorative iteration, the narration could be that the municipality would ask the developers to think of relegating a percentage of apartments to the displaced, or to rent the buildings for this purpose.

Complementary information:
Appendix 8. Areas of Gothenburg through regions with numbers
Appendix 9. A picture of Gothenburg through statistics

Site Analysis

Gamlestaden station

Public transport stop

Health center

Restaurant/café

Supermarket/livs

Swedish classes

Mosque

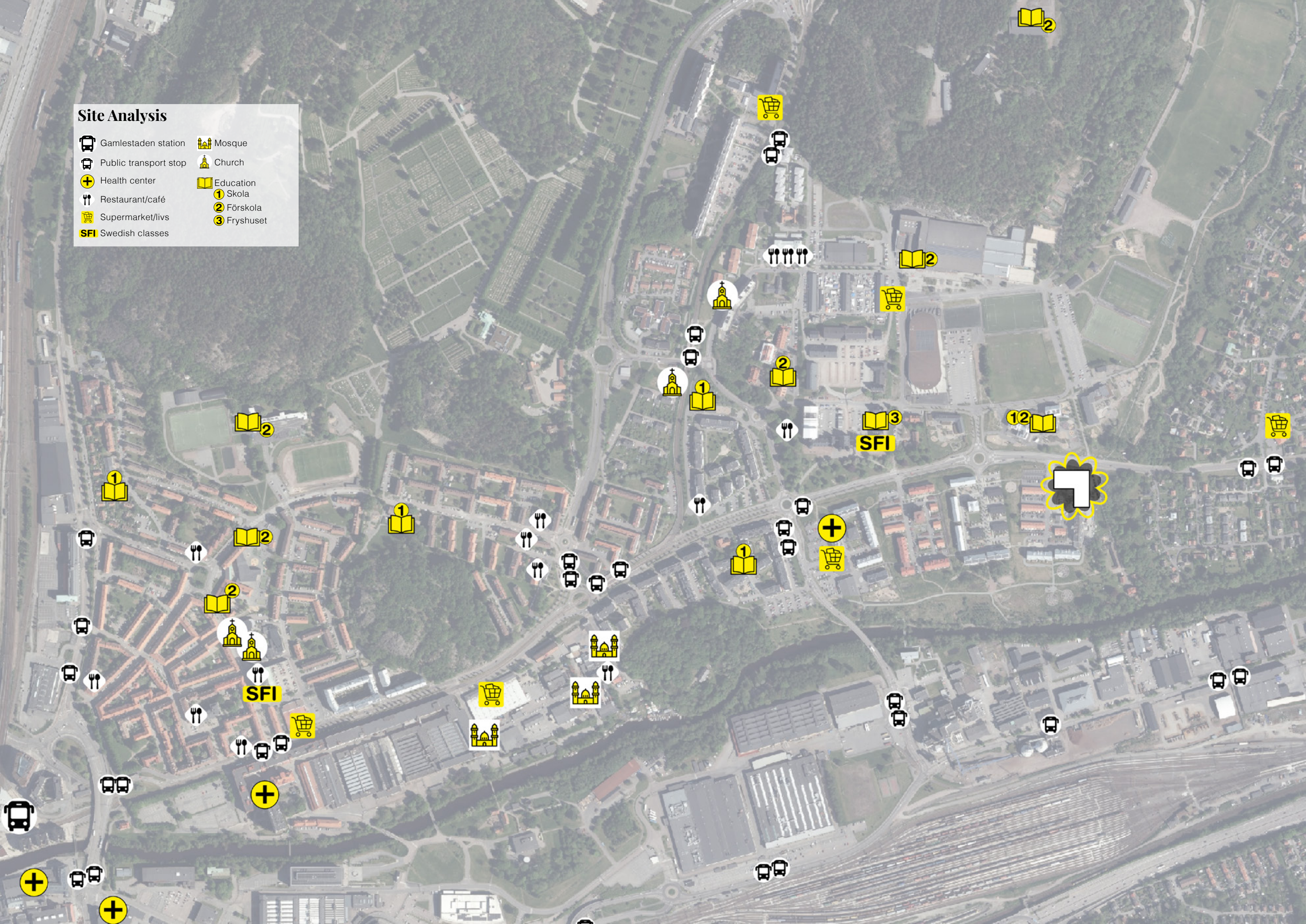
Church

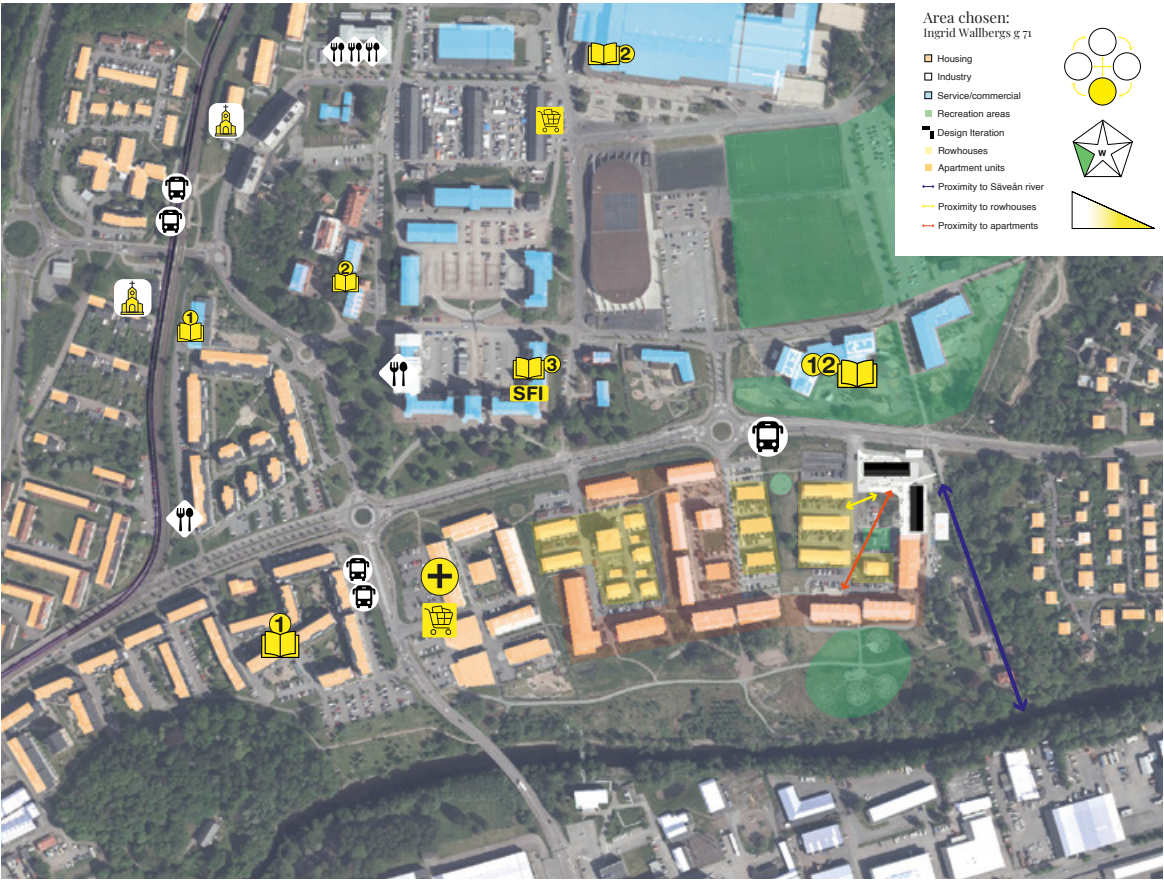
Education

1 Skola

2 Förskola

3 Fryshuset





Analysis of connections and infrastructure in the area

In the area of Gamlestaden-Utby there are plenty of newly built and empty lots, after searching for a municipality owned site, the decision was to discard those options to land on “Ingrid Wallbergs g 71”, since the other were clearly disconnected and hard to reach. This area is planned for residential projects that are being developed, and by plain sight, it is evident the proximity to green areas, the Savein river and a main road that has several transport stops along it.

Going back to the case studies, the area was evaluated by the extracted parameters to see its potential regarding its position in the city grid, taking a 1km-500m radius of analysis. As it is showcased, the site is placed next to a road that is spatially integrated in the city scale, while being secondary in the neighborhood, providing good connections in terms of transportation, the traffic is lower and in walking distance there are other obstacles such as the river that disconnect it from an industrial zone.

Shown in next pages’ map, all of its surroundings gets access to nature and water, while having other sport facilities nearby to support recreation. At the same time, the area has education complexes and many commercial spots such as supermarket, livs, eventual markets, restaurants, cafés. It is near some religious spaces as well, and two locations of SFI classes. The main healthcare center is located at the Gamlestaden station, which can be reached through the main road at aprox. 2km of distance.

By looking at its equipment and connections, the site was chosen as a good context for the scenario design.

Figure 31. Photograph of chosen location in the Gamlestaden area

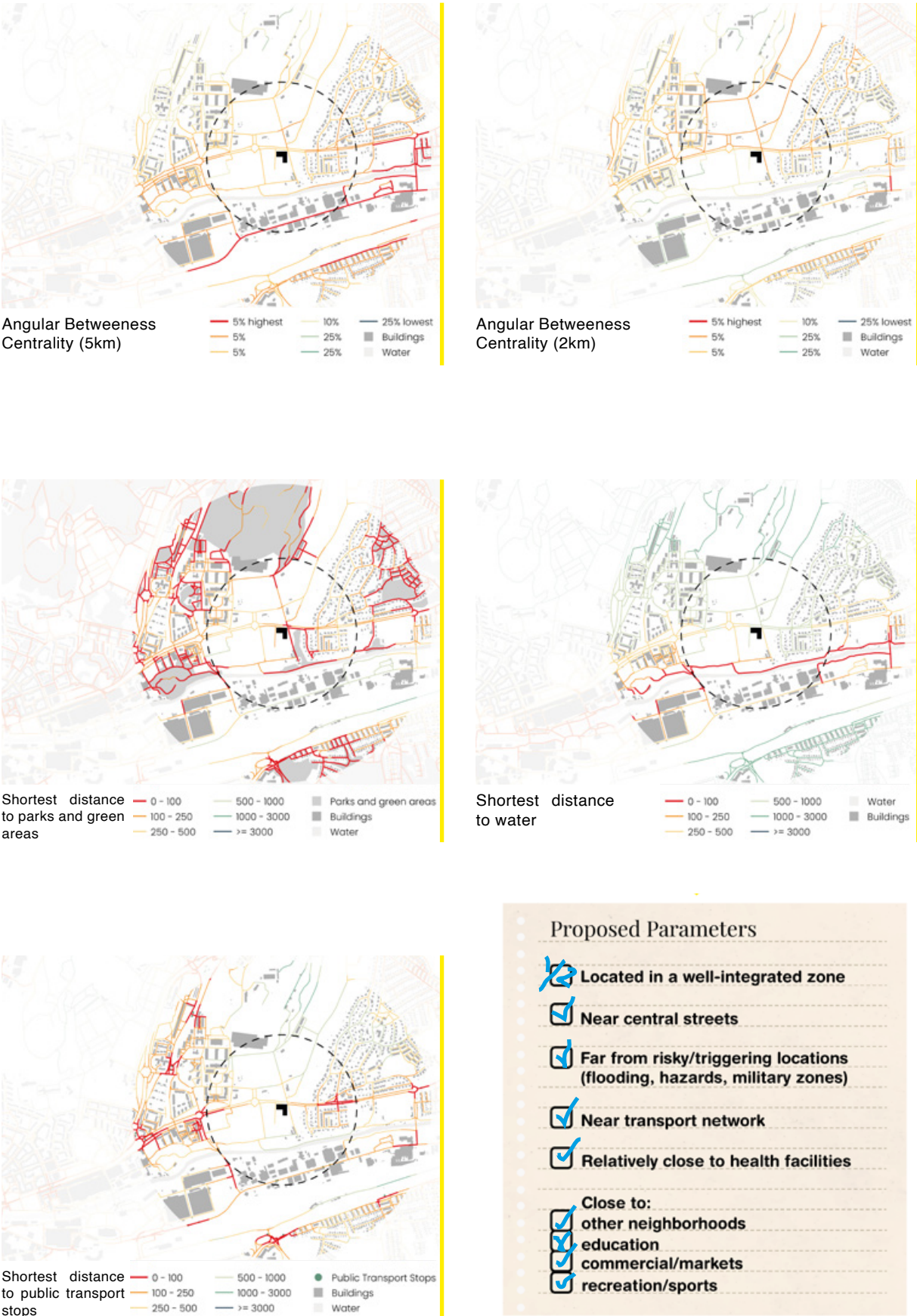


Figure 32. Maps of the site showing different characteristics according to space-syntax analysis, Urban Calculator Data and infrastructure mapping of the area.



Detail Plan of the zone: new conditions

For the exercise to be grounded as real as possible, new guidelines are added based on the detail plan of the area extracted from the municipality. Also, it is relevant to observe the layout of its surroundings to relate to them.



The block consists of mainly rowhouses of 2 to 3 floors, and a new section on the south is being developed by PEAB, being 3 apartment buildings with a lamella-like typology

The different apartment layouts from PEAB "Brf Kvibergs Säteri" are:

- 2 RoK (in swedish "rum och kök": rooms and kitchen) apartments of 44-58sqm
- 3 Rok apartments of 66 and 72sqm
- 4RoK apartments of 98 and 100 sqm

The dwellings are being sold by a variety of prices from 2,450,000 to 4,500,000 sek, which means that by month the payments would be around 6,000 sek. The information gathered above is displayed later in the evaluation stage, where the comparison of the design and the existent will be analyzed

The previous illustration shows a map of the existent buildings, green areas, common gardens and connection to the riverfront; as well as highlighted in yellow the outline of the detail plan boundaries and regions.

From the detail plan, the following specifications are reflected upon and applied:

- Building must be placed in marked property boundary.
- Roofs must be side gabled roofs, with overhang of 30 grades and material of red brick tiles or light gray smooth plate.
- The model to follow should be a lamella type with 3-4 floors of extension
- The facades should have a redish brown brick material when facing the outside, and a clear white or light colored facade on the walls facing the inside of the block.
- Additions may be carried out along the maximum length of the facade.

Figure 33. Illustration of buildings that surround the site, with the detail plan layout of municipality's documents.
Figure 34. Photograph of the area, provided by PEAB

Complementary information:
Appendix 10. Detail plan of the area, Göteborgs kommun



Figure 35. Illustration of Housing prototype

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Figure 36. Section showing different spaces and its activities

Exploration of area programming

Having the base layout established along strategies to design with, the task of design spaces for activities came by.

As background, the idea of lamella-like apartment complexes with collective living was settled. Added to this, the study on activities per user helped to understand which areas needed to be in all apartments, and which could be shared by placing a few in a central area of all floors.

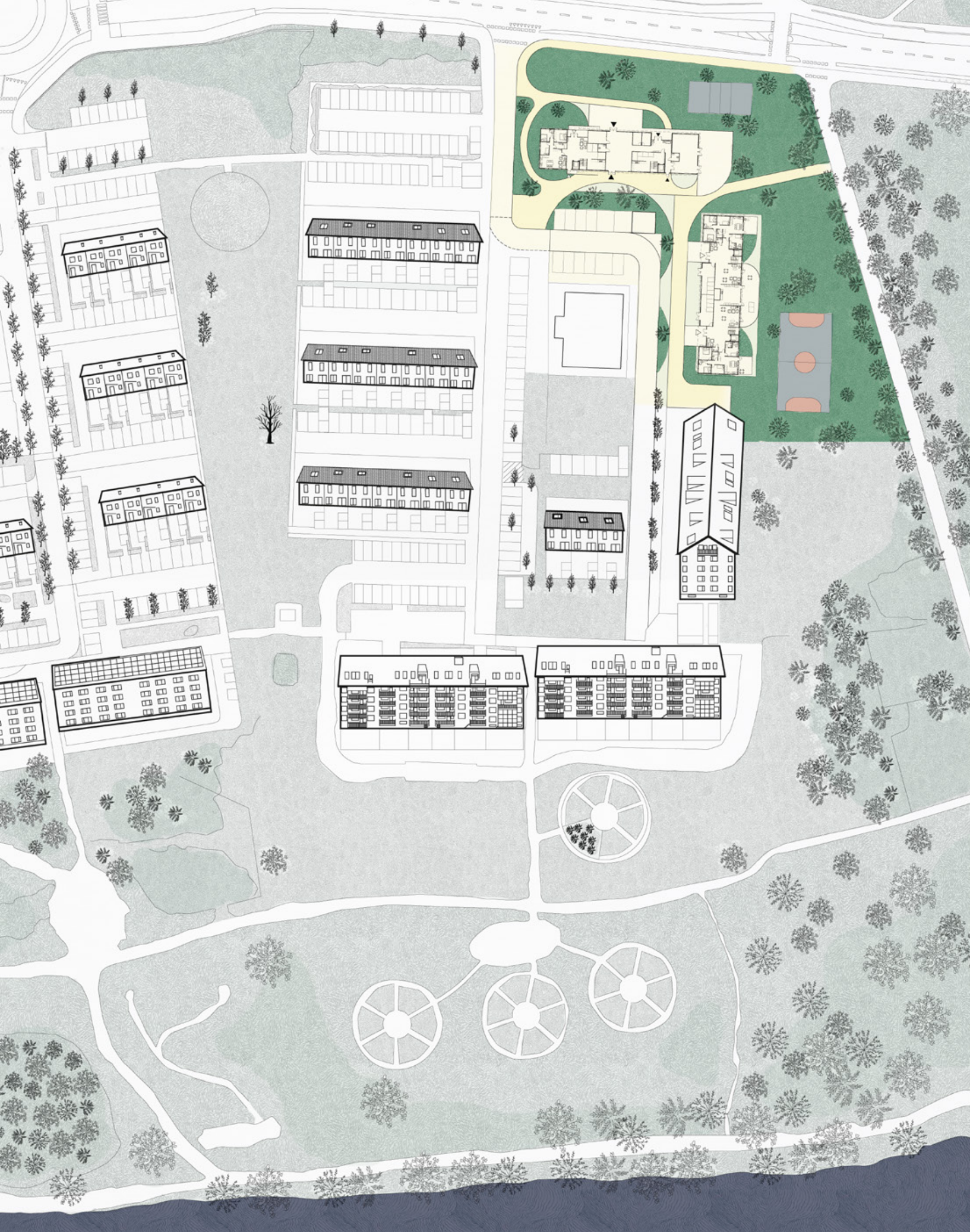
The exploration then got materialized as a mixed apartment building, with family apartments (colored pink in section) and collective dorms (colored yellow).

All units share recreation and lounge areas in common spaces distributed in all spaces (marked in blue). These zones are in front of vertical circulation, serving as a lobby between the entrance of every unit.

Kitchens are a shared element in the collective unit, being in the center and adapting bigger spaces to eat/prepare food.

All units have a balcony facing the green spaces of the back of the site, where the kitchen and eating spaces are oriented as well.

The groundfloor is a public element, where the transition between street and building gets built by green barriers, an entry threshold and seating areas accessible to visitors. Other functions placed in groundfloor are workshop, storage and laundry.



Areas at groundfloor level.

An important aspect of the housing complex designed is how it meets the street and interacts with the outside.

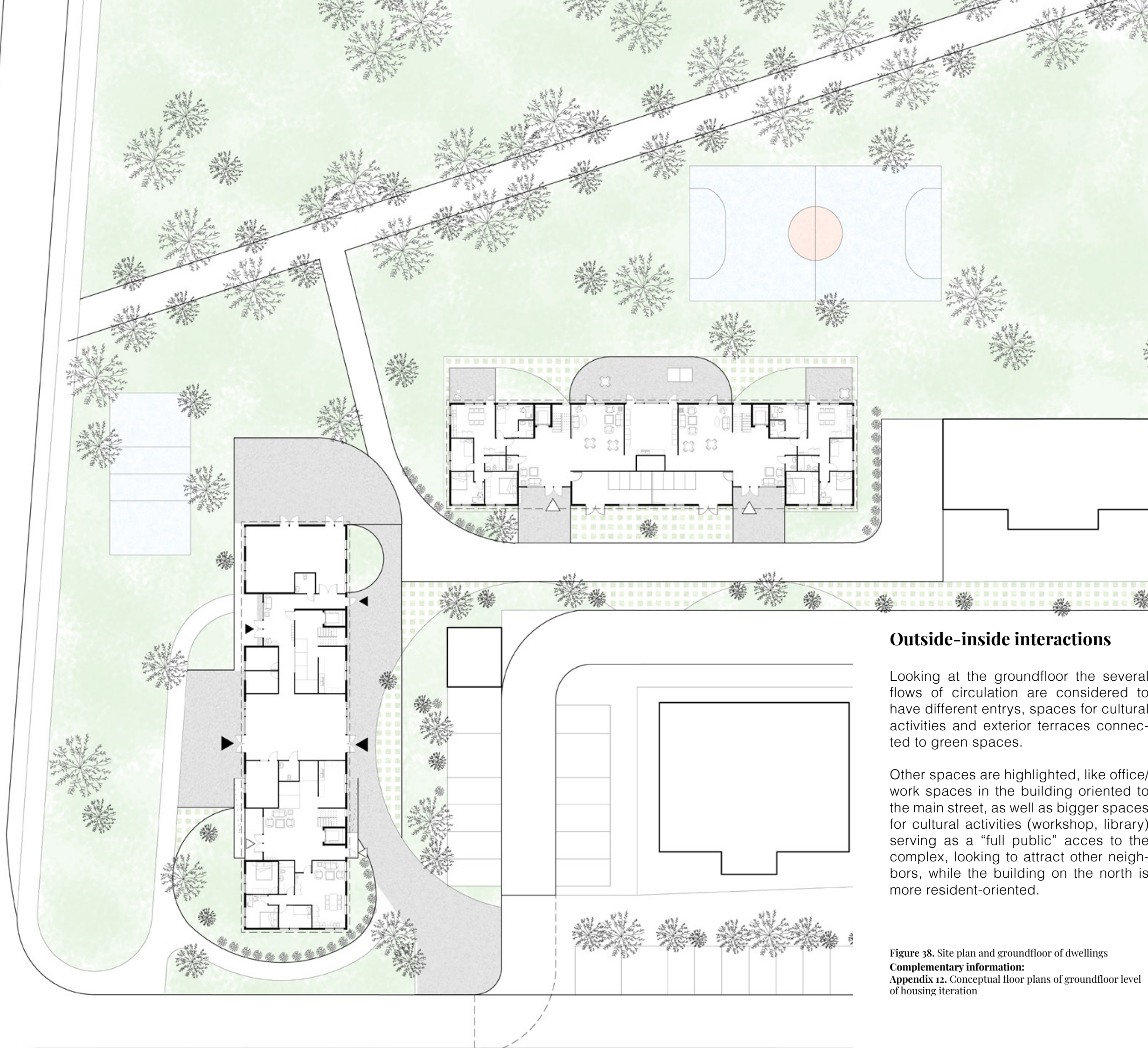
The complex consists of two buildings with the same base floorplan for housing, but on groundfloor they differ having public areas for both visitors and residents.

The one next to the main road has mainly public functions such as a workshop/event area, a courtyard, offices for social work/study spaces, and a open center space intended to host cultural activities (library, fritidis, co-working and study areas). On both wings it has the entrance to housing spaces through vertical circulation, as well as private storage and laundry area.

Is neighbor has shared functions such as lounge and laundry oriented to green area, and bike workshop and storage at the front of the residential street.

On the outside there are several areas for the displaced to walk around, fields for recreation and playground opportunities. From a path next to the green area people can get access to a communal garden in the south and the Savean riverfront.

Figure 37. Illustration of site plan and surroundings along the designed dwellings
Complementary information:
Appendix 12. Conceptual floor plans of groundfloor level of housing iteration



Outside-inside interactions

Looking at the groundfloor the several flows of circulation are considered to have different entrys, spaces for cultural activities and exterior terraces connected to green spaces.

Other spaces are highlighted, like office/ work spaces in the building oriented to the main street, as well as bigger spaces for cultural activities (workshop, library) serving as a “full public” acces to the complex, looking to attract other neighbors, while the building on the north is more resident-oriented.

Figure 38. Site plan and groundfloor of dwellings
Complementary information:
Appendix 12. Conceptual floor plans of groundfloor level of housing iteration

Use of the spaces in daily life: Displaced family

To focus on the displaced's experience in the prototype designed, a routine of an ordinary day in their life was made.

The displaced family wakes up on a saturday with a day ahead, dad cooks breakfast while mom is playing with the children.

After eating together, dad heads to the supermarket and takes the bike with him, and mom has to do the laundry in company of sister.

Brother and sibling go to the common space of the upper floor to study and play with children of that floor.

Later in the evening the displaced family decides to go out and play football while enjoying the sun.

Figure 39. Collage of the displaced's family routine

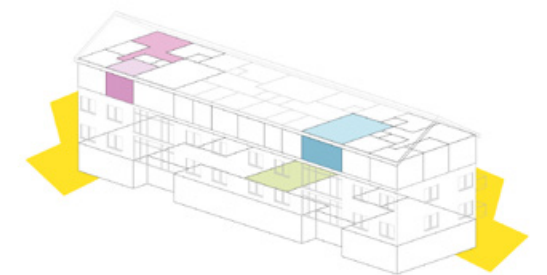
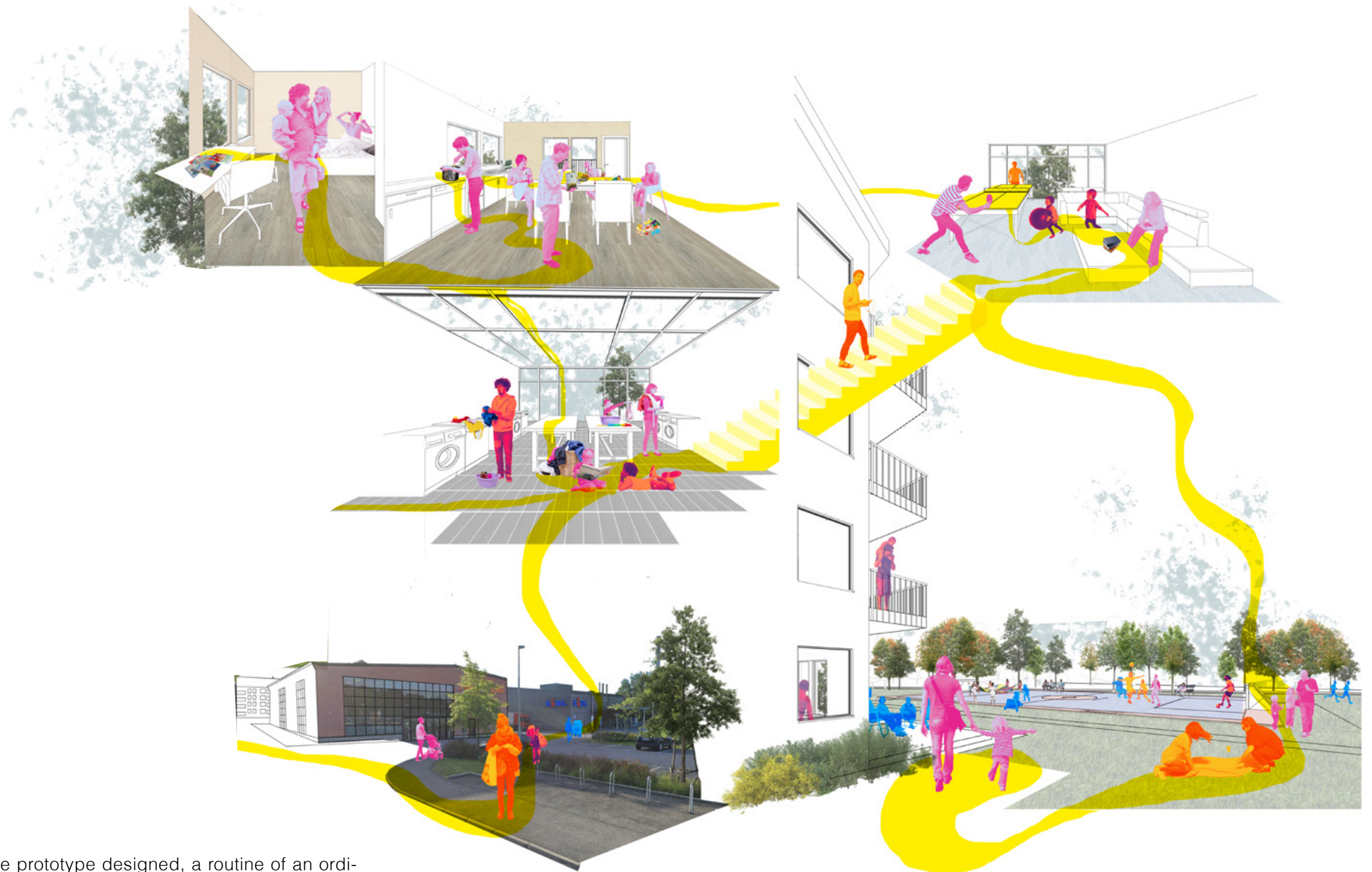
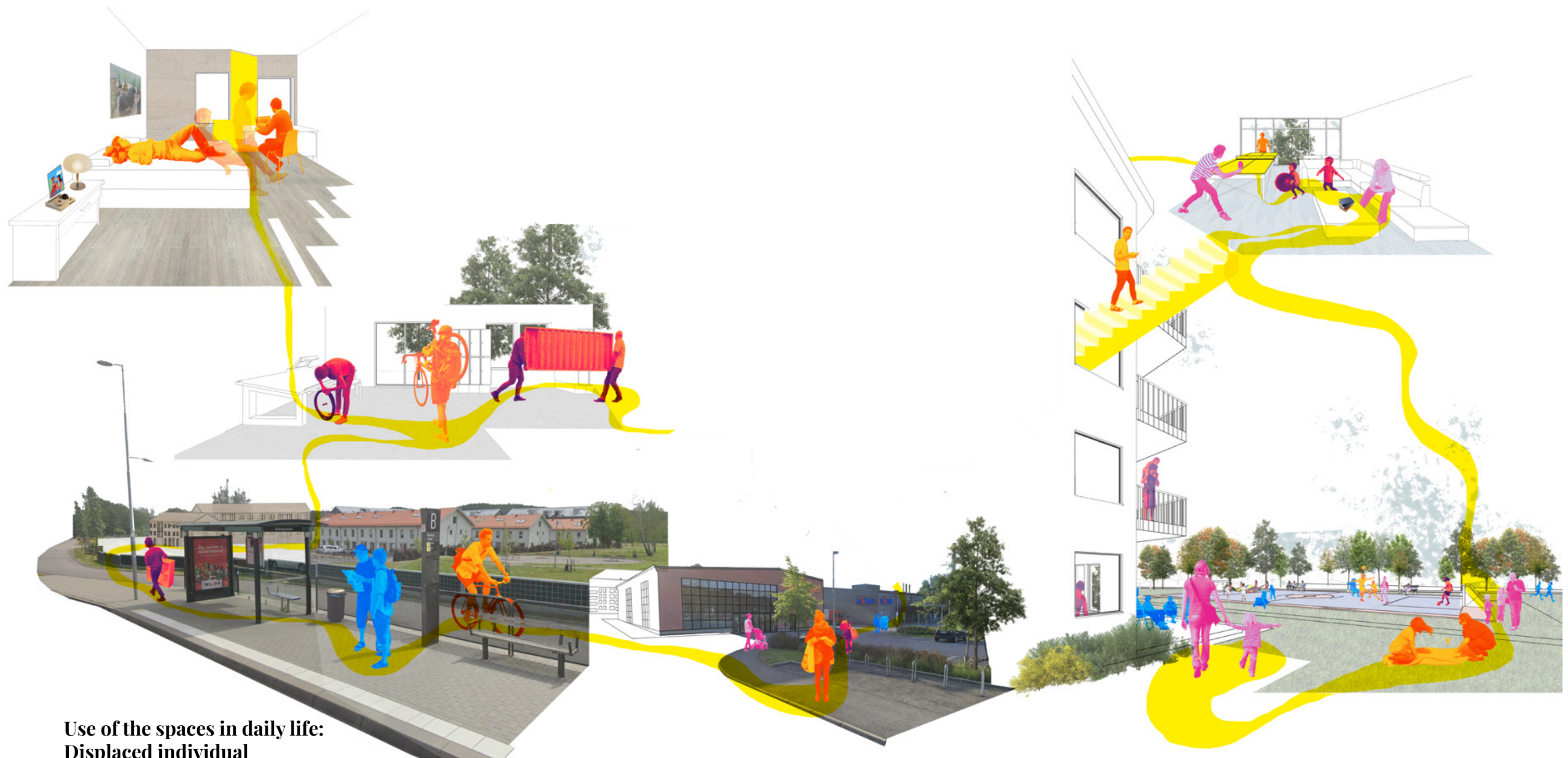


Figure 40. Plan diagram of represented spaces in story.



Use of the spaces in daily life: Displaced individual

Displaced individual wakes up late on a saturday, enjoying the weekend.

After spending some time in their room, the displaced individual has a videocall with friends.

When the call ends, the displaced individual goes out to the common space of their floor to check their mail and finish some work on their computer.

Later the displaced goes to the kitchen to grab something to eat, and meets other neighbors.

After a small conversation, the displaced individual decides to join them outside.

Figure 41. Collage of the displaced's individual routine

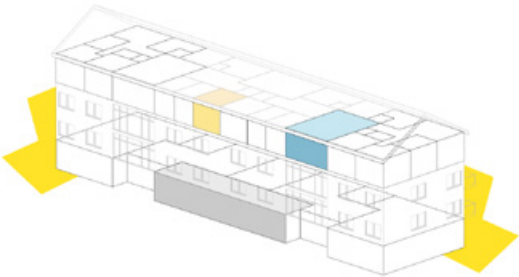
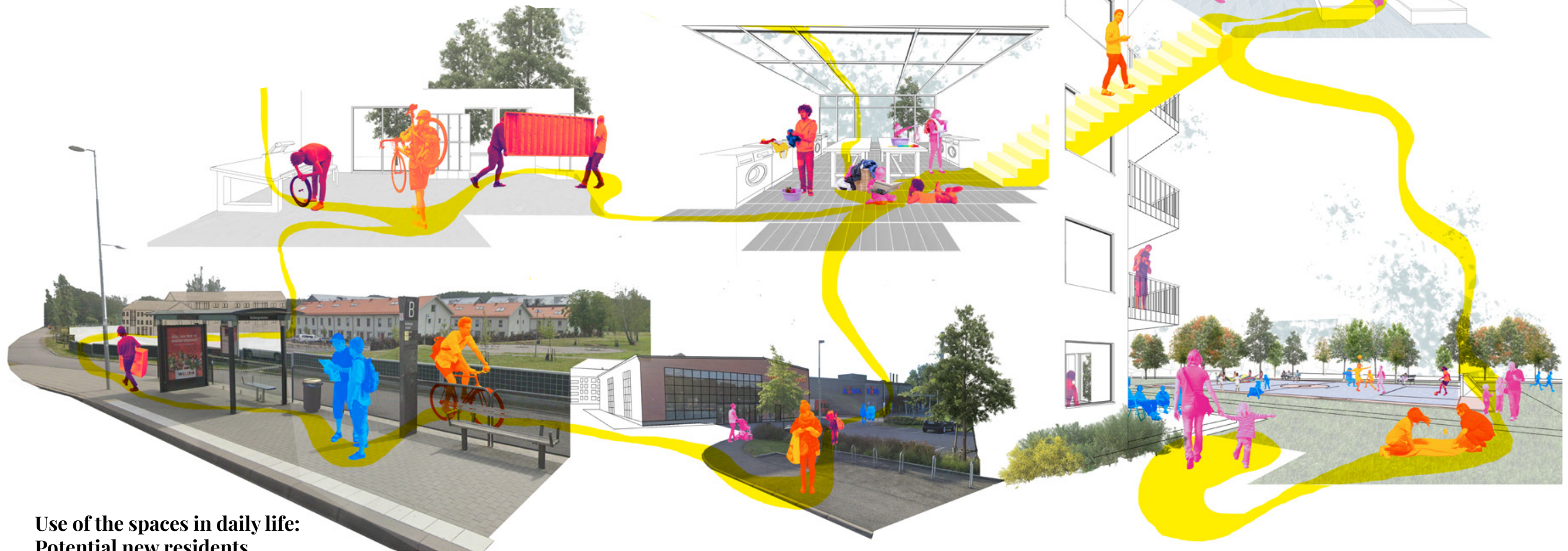


Figure 42. Plan diagram of represented spaces in story.



Use of the spaces in daily life: Potential new residents

Potential new residents have a busy day ahead.

One took the bus to buy furniture for their room

Other is fixing the tires of a neighbor's bike

Some are just moving in

Others are doing house chores while some are playing with friends

After a busy day, they might go outside to see what's going on

Use of the spaces in daily life: visitors

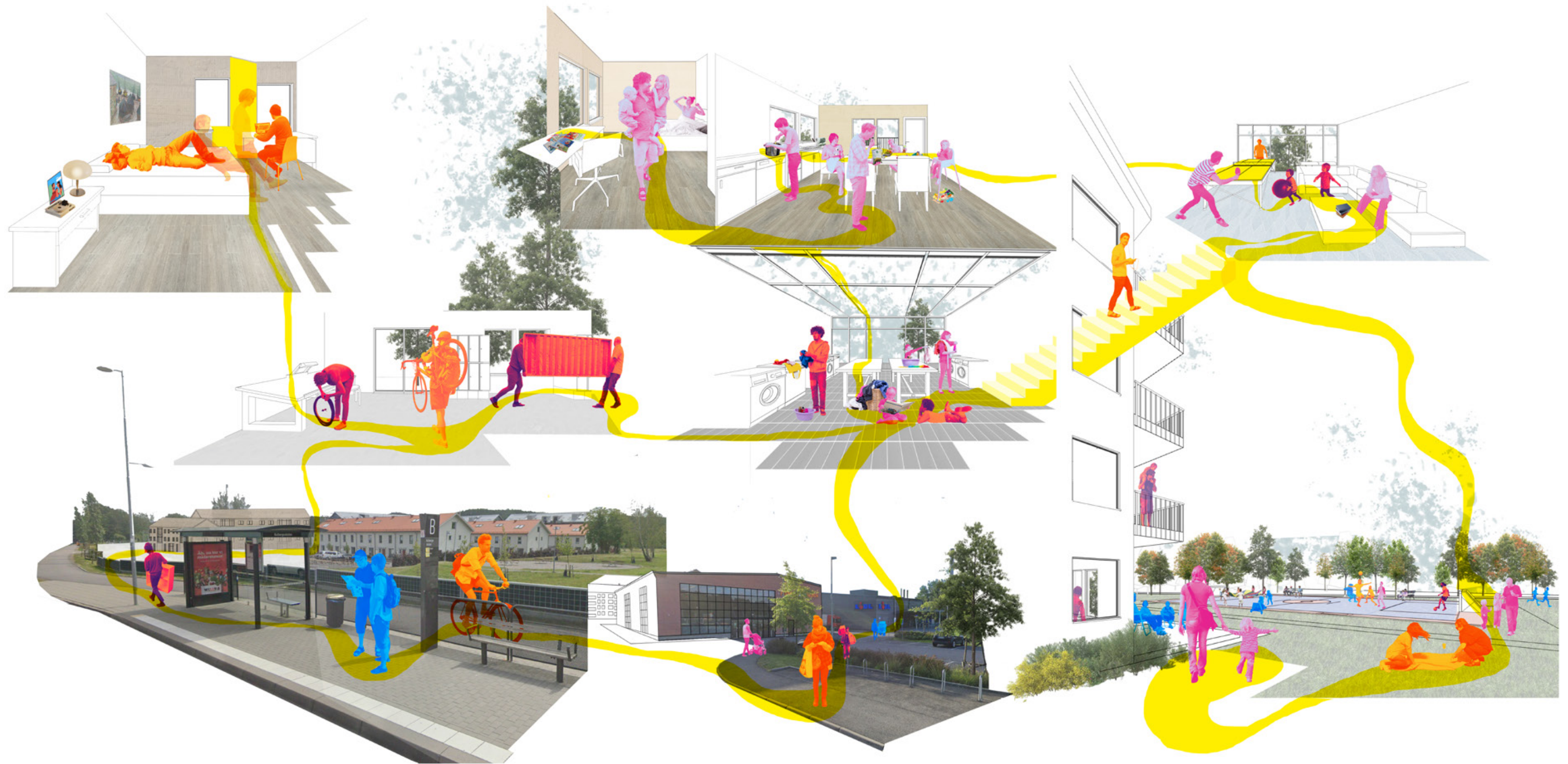
Everyone is invited to the picnic day and football match at the new Kviberg buildings!

Visitors arrive with time, excited to see their friends

Before heading to the event, they go to the nearest supermarket to buy food to share.

The party has started for everyone to enjoy!

Figure 43. Collage of the potential new residents and visitors routines



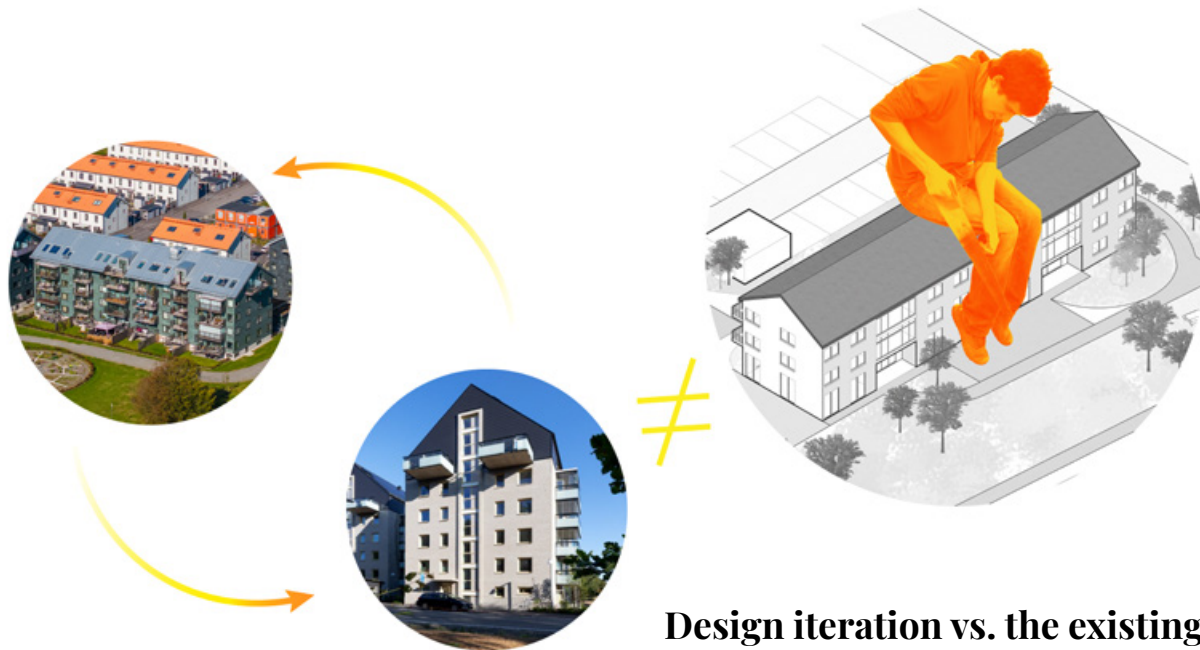
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Close to other communities, education, commercial, recreation</p> | <p>Near transport network</p> | <p>Be located in a residential area with similar layout</p> | <p>Provide a variety of outdoor destinations</p> | <p>Have a clear layout that generates interactions</p> | <p>Have views and access to outdoors</p> | <p>Provide private rooms</p> | <p>Design spaces for learning, engagement and play</p> | <p>Have an exterior patio for activities</p> | <p>Provide multi-purpose spaces</p> |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|

Figure 44. Collage of all storylines meeting each other



Figure 45. Close up of Housing prototype

Introduction
Context
Scenario
Design
Discussion



Design iteration vs. the existing

For the last parts of the exercise and the thesis, I decided to compare the design iteration with the existing buildings nearby (PEAB's development "Brf Kvibergs Säteri" and the apartment building in Askim that has hosted displaced people).

When looking for similarities, I realized that the evident difference is between conventional and unconventional ways of living, having for the existing private apartments with balconies and their own spaces for study/rest. While the design iteration shares all that was considered not necessarily private.

All have well lit spaces, views to the greenery outside and outdoor-indoor variety, with the difference that while the others were designed with a general person in mind (one that can cost the payment-rent), I was always focused on the displaced's wellbeing and with the idea that it should be affordable, but still dignified to have spaces with qualities for their comfort and development.

When placing the design iteration in a close to reality scenario by comparing it to the existing, I came with the realization that it is not an impossible task to implement frameworks and guidelines focused on making the displaced's life and establishment easier, since the outcome turned out to be a reachable exercise that prioritize them in all areas, while equilibrating the existing requirements for residential spaces.

Thinking back, the concept of making a complex that would adapt to different periods of time and hosting potential new residents could be considered the main struggle of design, since flexible-adaptable housing requires a high attention to detail and time to figure out an optimal layout. This idea couldn't be explored deeply, and it raised questions regarding the effectiveness it could have to manage properly unexpected flow of people/displaced as well as the amount of space one should give to common spaces/amenities.

There are more questions that arise from the exercise, such as:

- Would it be attractive for others to live in this type of accommodation?
- How to really share an apartment without interrupting one another?
- Design guidelines applied and aligned to regulations, would they cost more to apply or is it just that the displaced well-being is not the priority in conventional housing?

Discussion and reflection

What frames contribute to achieve well-being for the displaced in the built environment?

How can design guidelines focused on the displaced work along with existing framework for housing in the city of Gothenburg?

How to do housing in Gothenburg that accommodates to unexpected scenarios of constant migration?

Along the thesis process, the section that seemed to be ever changing was the research questions. It all started with a curiosity to understand a social phenomenon in a spatial sense, and it went from the "is it even possible to achieve well-being just through what we can design" to "how can these frameworks could be showcased to raise curiosity in other students so these social phenomenoms are taken as the main point of investigation?"

The design part of the document not only consists of the explorations made in the last chapter, since the five aspects of the framework of the displaced's well-being were structured after getting knowledge from research and it could be seen as a tool for approaching and untangling the complexities of this type of migration.

The well-being of the displaced is something that has several vertices, but by framing it into five dimensions, can give a clear start for design through the understanding of the implications, possible outcomes and future scenarios through reviewing its history, legal processes, social studies around it, and the urban and architecture strategies that have been put into action before.

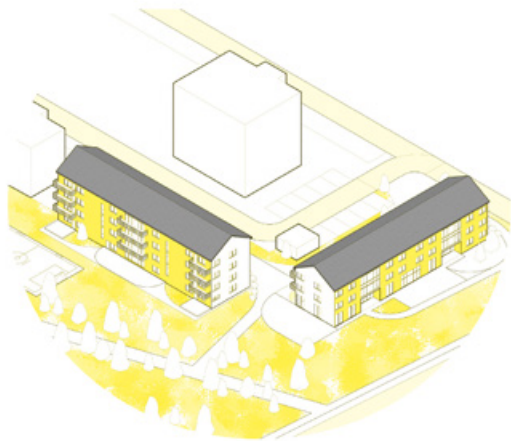
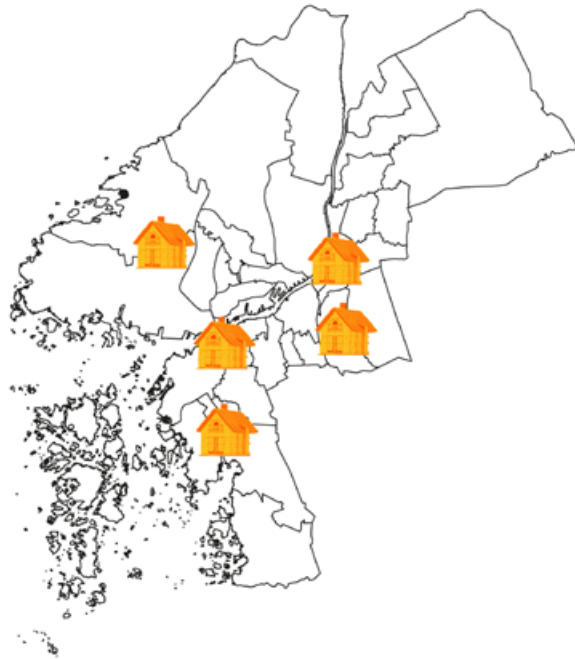
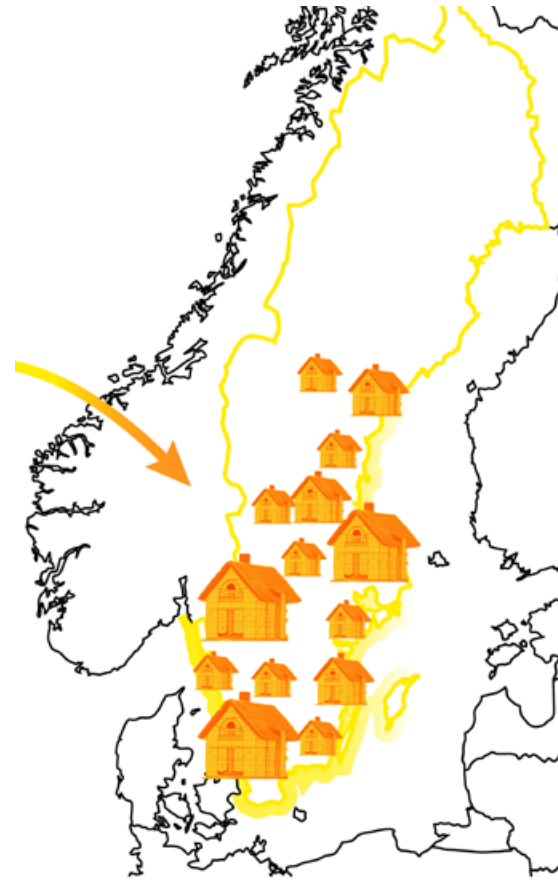
It helps materialize the reality: other people have been given the task to design and build these accommodations, and they have studied, theorized and seen the repercussions of the design decisions. By designing this framework, I could have a clearer image of what could be done, and how well-being (and even less integration) is not going to be solved just by strengthening one living condition, but that it needs to be a collective effort that should be taken through multiple disciplines.

Another framework was born from it: a list of curated design guidelines to apply, that take case studies learnings and illustrates them how they are: a simple number of intentions that enable interaction, flexibility and diversity of spaces for their leisure, enhancing well-being by the development of communities and opportunities to do all their activities in a cohesive environment. These guidelines were proven to be highly achievable, speculating the low cost of application and that they are not exclusive to just the displaced's benefit, but that it highlights a nicer way of living to all residents of the neighborhood.

As discussed in the previous page, this framework of design could be explored further and expanded through explorations of other strategies for adaptability, understanding that it is not fully possible to design for the unexpected, but that one can try to give flexible spaces that can grow and change according to its people, their conditions and time.

Figure 46. Photographs and plans of Askimviken, Brf Kvibergs Säteri and housing prototype to compare to.

The thesis was born to show how designing for the displaced and others (the unconventional/ not established) should be in everyone's design process, since it is crucial to give cohesive spaces everywhere. Leaving more questions and areas to deepen about, regarding belonging, territoriality, what wellbeing and integration means, and what is the reach that spaces have in people's emotions.



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Appendix. 1. Timeline of asylum seeking processes in Sweden and Gothenburg through the years and related-events.

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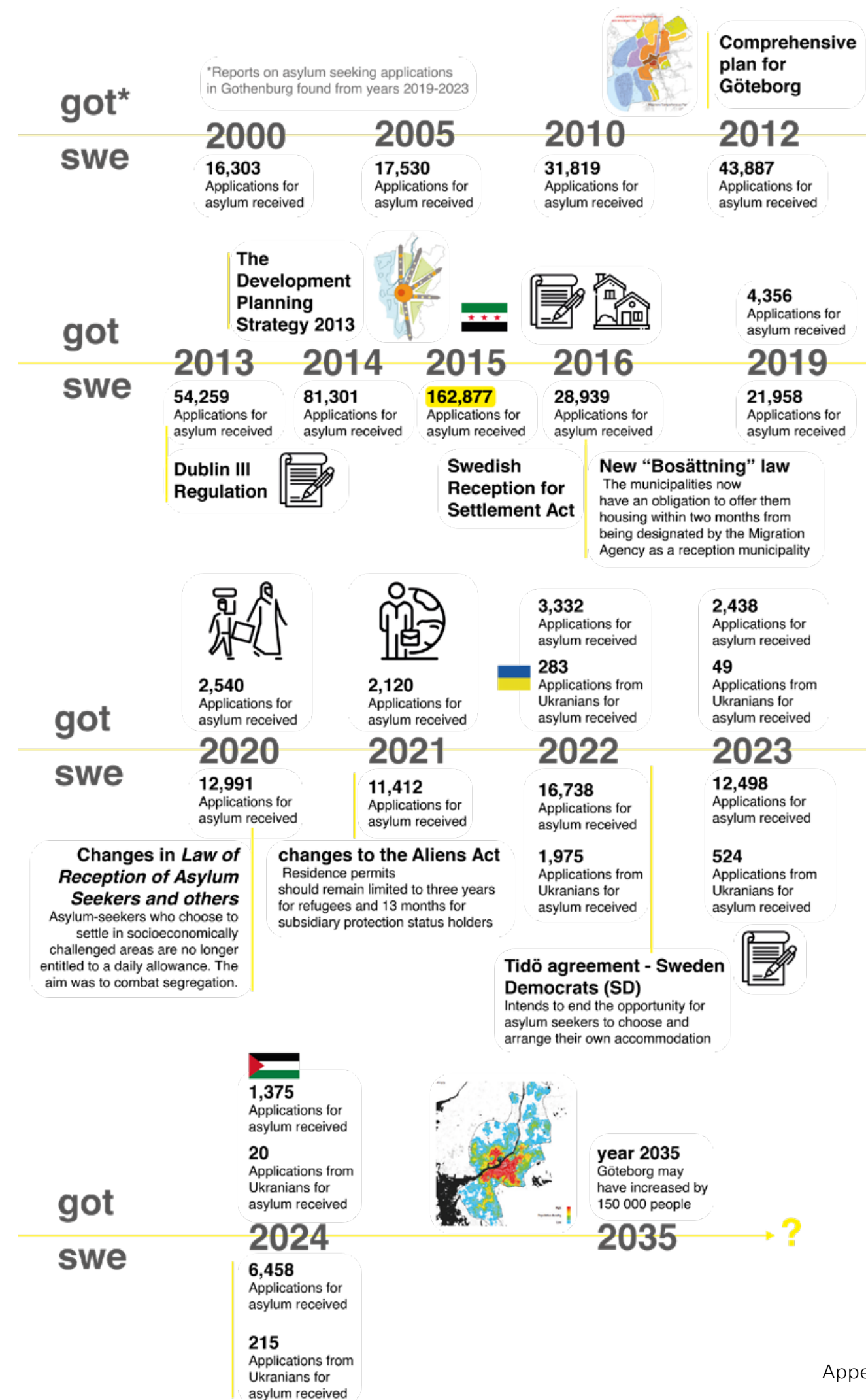
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Appendix



Shift on Policies and Regulations

In 2020 a change on the “**Act on the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Others**” was made: people that decided to establish themselves in a “socio-economically” challenged area were going to be retrieved from their allowances that the municipality provides to refugees. This measure is supposed to attack segregation and to encourage refugees to live in areas with better conditions.

In 2022 the **Tidö Agreement** was stated, where there is an intention to withdraw refugees decision of accommodation arrangement. This agreement proposes that municipalities in accordance to the Swedish Migration Agency establish reception or transit centers for asylum seekers to stay while their migratory situation is being processed. For this measure to be implemented the government needs investment for the creation of a new system for reception of asylum seekers, which could take months or even years to get (Asylum Information Database, European Council on Refugees and Exiles, 2024).

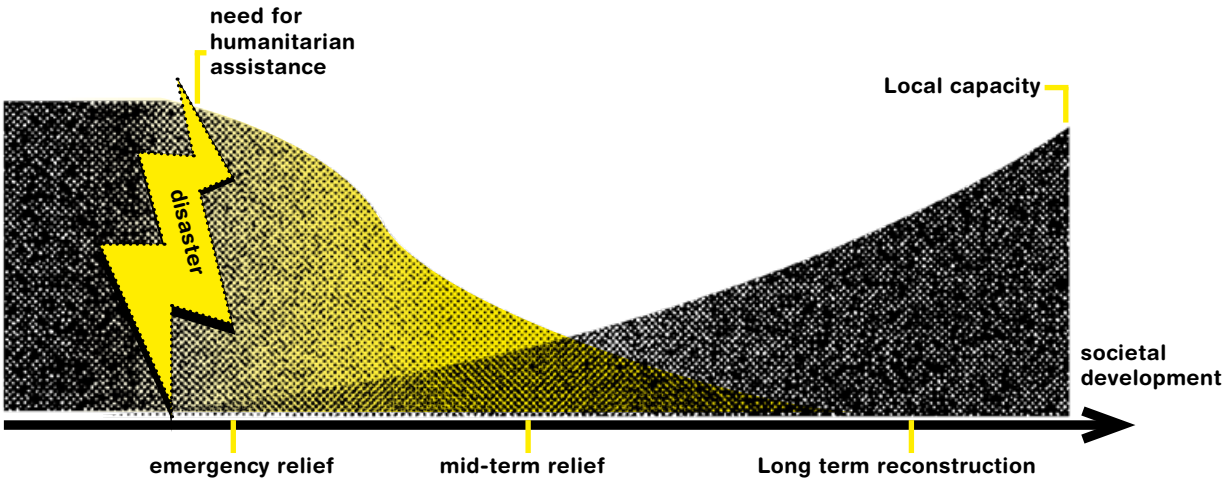
With these new changes in refugee politics, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has stated several observations to Sweden's measures, where the risk of social exclusion might rise if these regulations are not addressed properly.

UNHCR recognizes the possible good outcomes from providing accommodation through reception centers, without having the other scenario where asylum accommodation can lead to further isolation, marginalization and worsened reception conditions if not addressed properly. It recommends that the time living in these collective accommodation is limited, so refugees can move to smaller housing as soon as possible; also it mentions that the measure should be more flexible to families, people in vulnerable/trauma conditions and asylum seekers that have the opportunity to stay with already established relatives or friends in their private accommodations.

Gothenburg in relation to the state of emergency

The journey of the displaced is ever changing and particular to everyone, zooming in there are many cities involved through different stages of their migration. To cross borders, people need to travel intricate routes and find shelter in several places, meaning that the accommodation that they receive varies according to the context they are located on.

As architecture concerns, these situations raise conflict in the local capacity of cities, since it is not predictable when a crisis will happen or how many people is going to flee. According to what “humanitarian architecture” defines, the conflicts can be traced through different times of response. The following graph shows in a simple way how this phenomenon behaves and interacts with the integrity of cities.



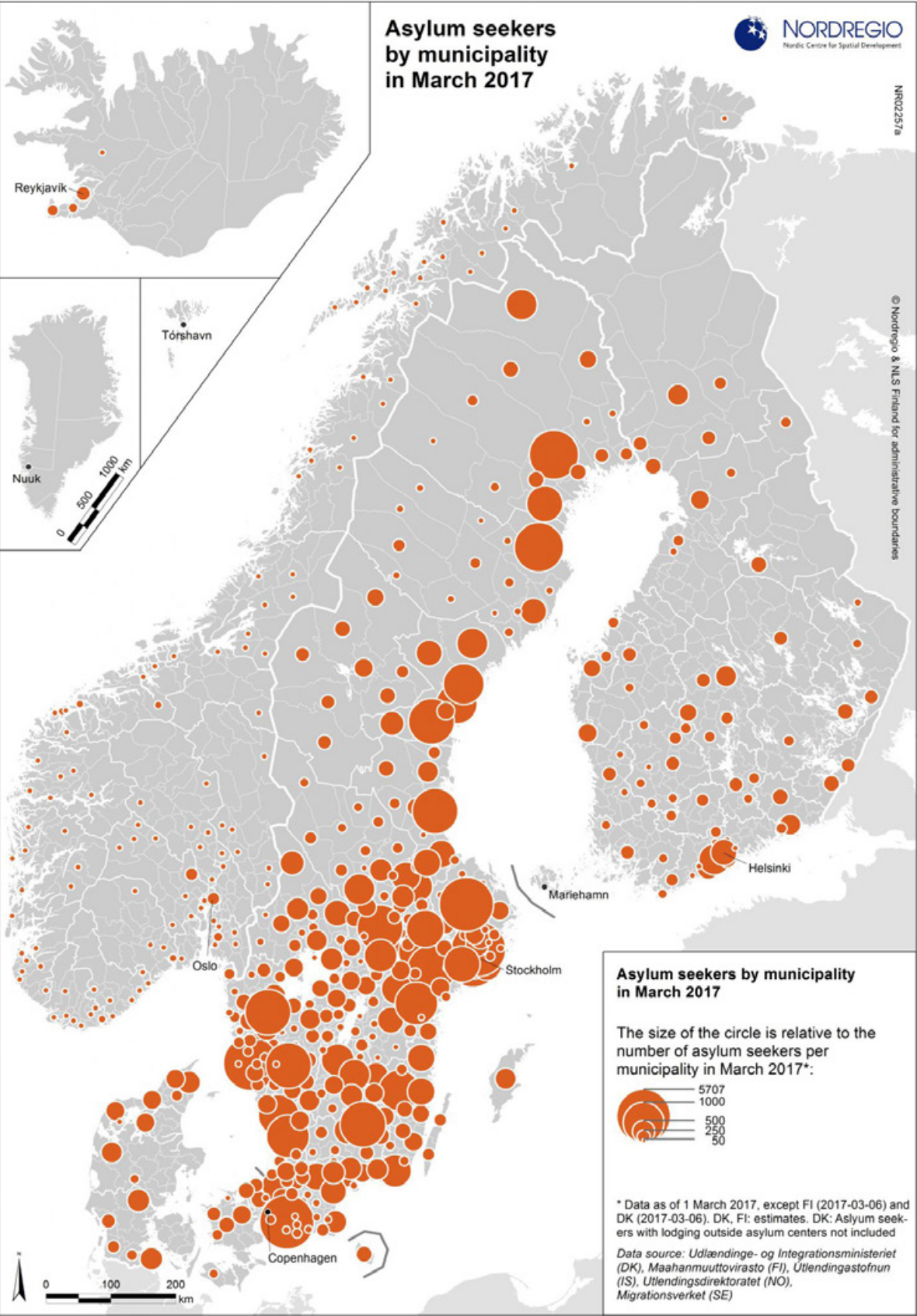
Graph “Humanitarian Architecture-what does it mean?”

Starting with a disaster that destabilize the order (which could be of any cause), the local capacity suddenly collapses, meaning that the need for humanitarian assistance is high, having as a response measures of **emergency relief**. These actions are translated to **temporary shelters** or **emergency camps** in architecture.

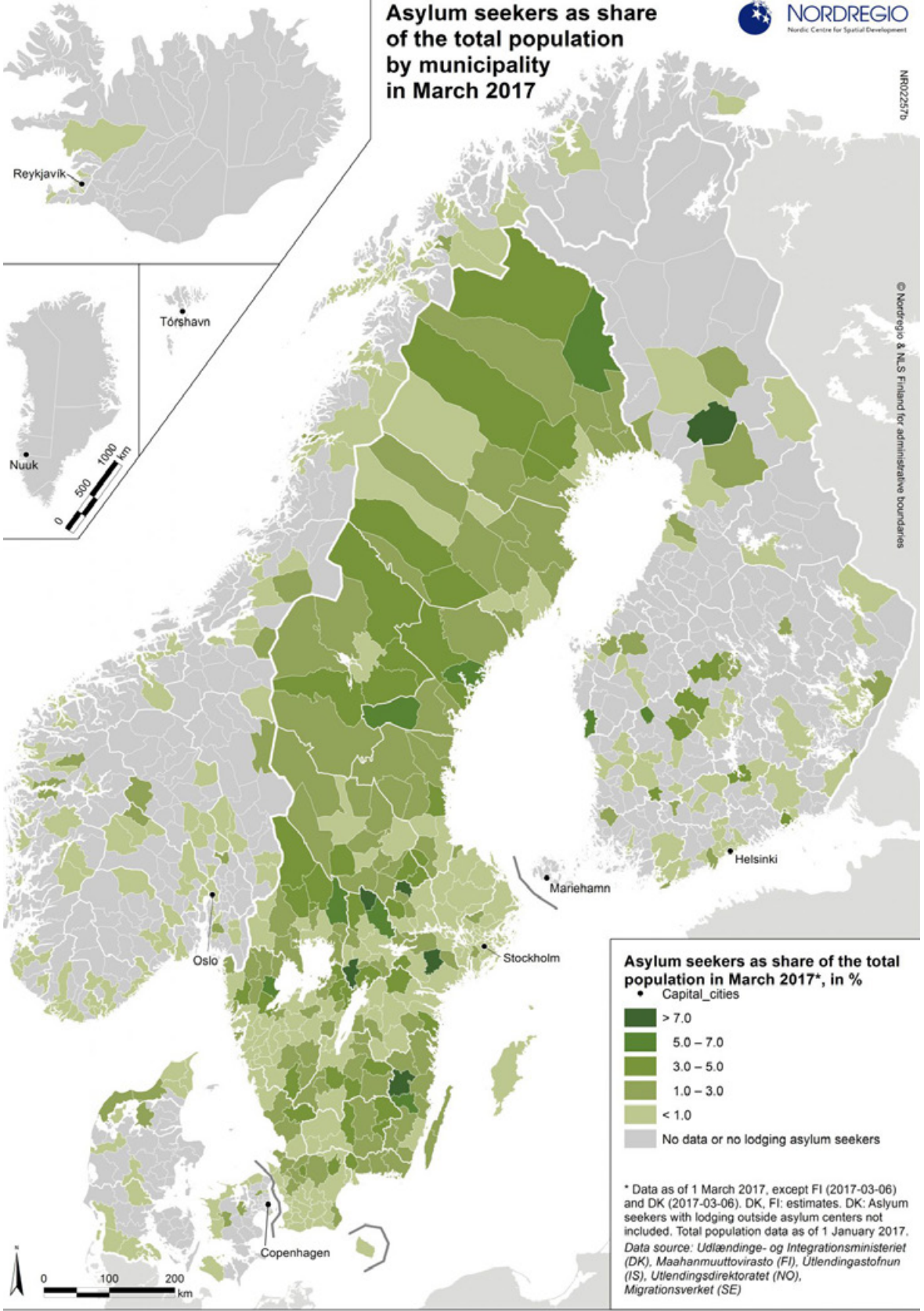
After addressing the emergency, measures for societal development will be implemented to give the community means for their wellbeing (**mid-term relief**), so they can transition to independence again. In this stage, **transitional shelters** tend to be offered as standard solutions to housing needs.

Finally, the **long term reconstruction** stage appears after **permanent infrastructure** is installed and society has recovered mostly from the state of emergency. In this stage, the local capacity has been restored and the city has gained stability again.

Taking the graph as reference, in the case of Gothenburg, the stages were people are located tend to be at the point of mid-term relief and long term reconstruction, since it is not the epicenter of disaster, or the entry city to cross the european border. The measures that apply then, tend to be transitional shelters that provide assistance in the displaced's introduction to the new location.



Asylum seekers as share of the total population by municipality in March 2017, Nordregio



Asylum seekers by municipality in March 2017, Nordregio

UNHCR Principles & Standards for Settlement Planning: implementation exercise in course ACE425

The UNHCR provides through this document a framework for the spatial design of settlements that follow human rights and security of its residents, aligning local, national and international organisms and visions.

As observed through data and statistics, the average lifespan of a refugee camp is between 17 to 26 years to develop through the years until it becomes a new town, this makes settlements an important part on the development of new landscapes of urbanities.

This master plan for camp settlements touches every situation and spatial qualities that need to be considered for the placement and design of this typology of accommodation, thinking about topography, land use, type of soil, infrastructure and equipment and the area needed for the future growth of these spaces.

In the course ACE425 a first approach to the design intervention was made, where the site of Gamlestaden is the main focus of analysis, identifying important transport stops, attractions and dense housing developments in the area.

Afterwards, I looked for empty plots to place new dwellings in the area, resulting in three spots (seen as yellow pins in the photograph), to then connect them to the system and observe how close was the infrastructure needed, looking for different possibilities.

From the parameters that the UNHCR has over the design of camp settlements, I elaborated a simple series of parameters to evaluate this locations by its connection to the city. **Later on, I will relay on this exercise to choose the location of my explorations.**

Proposed Parameters

☐ Located in a well-integrated zone

☐ Near central streets

☐ Far from risky/triggering locations (flooding, hazards, military zones)

☐ Near transport network

☐ Relatively close to health facilities

☐ Close to:

☐ other neighborhoods

☐ education

☐ commercial/markets

☐ recreation/sports

UNHCR Parameters

☐ Travel distance (pedestrian): children <2.5km / adult <5km

☐ Far from risky/triggering locations (flooding, hazards, military zones)

☐ Covered living area 4.5-5.5 SQM/person

☐ Enough space for growth over time (3-4% per year)

☐ Connection to other neighborhoods

☐ Near transport network

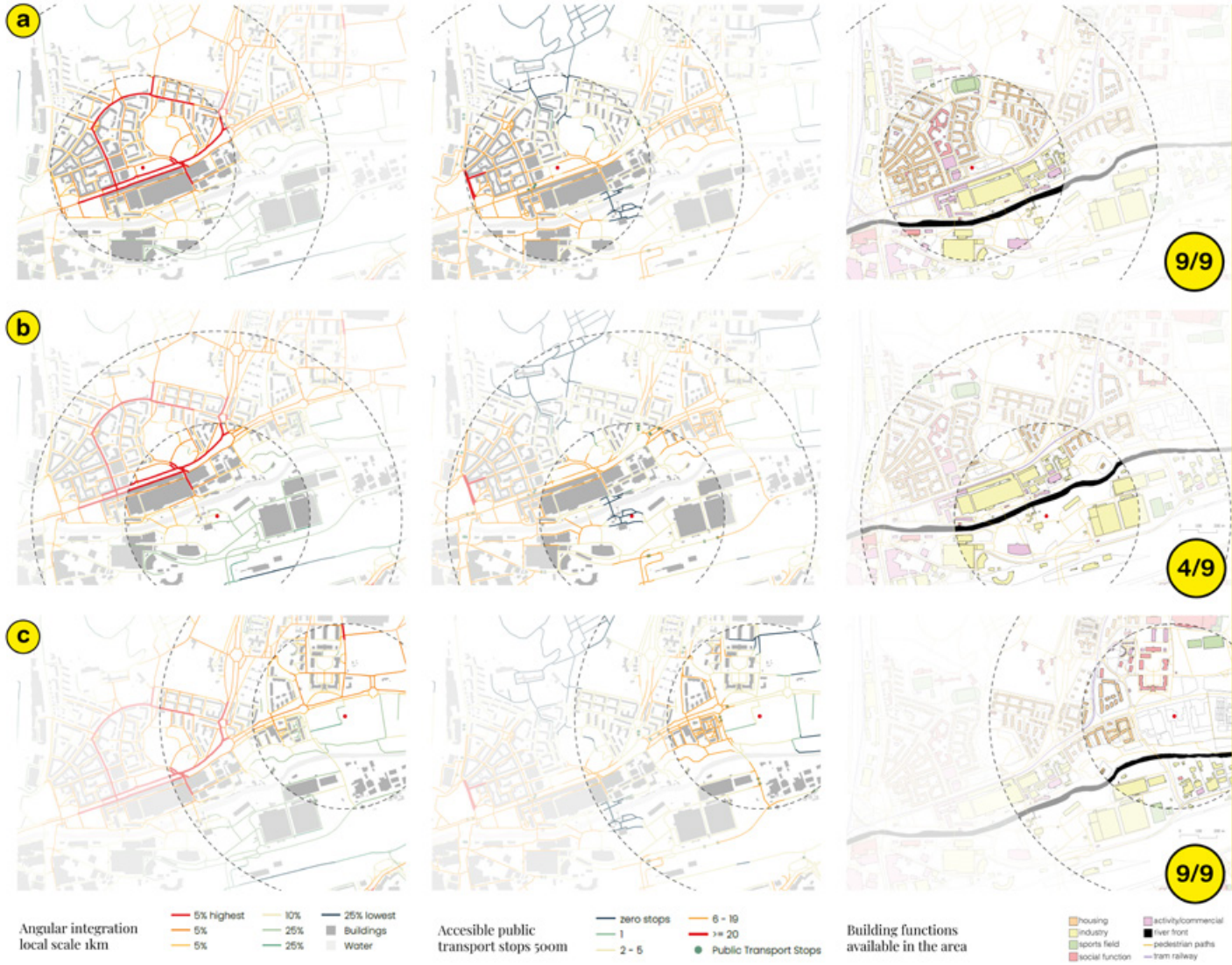
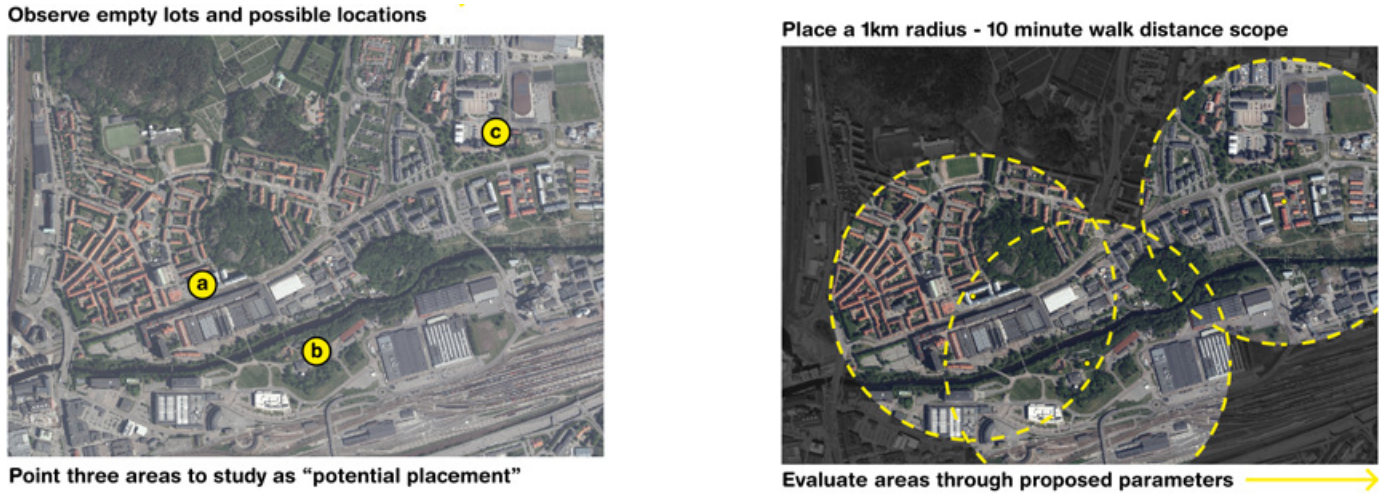
☐ Health facilities and markets <7km

☐ Primary school <2km secondary school <7km

☐ Communal and income generating activities in the local area

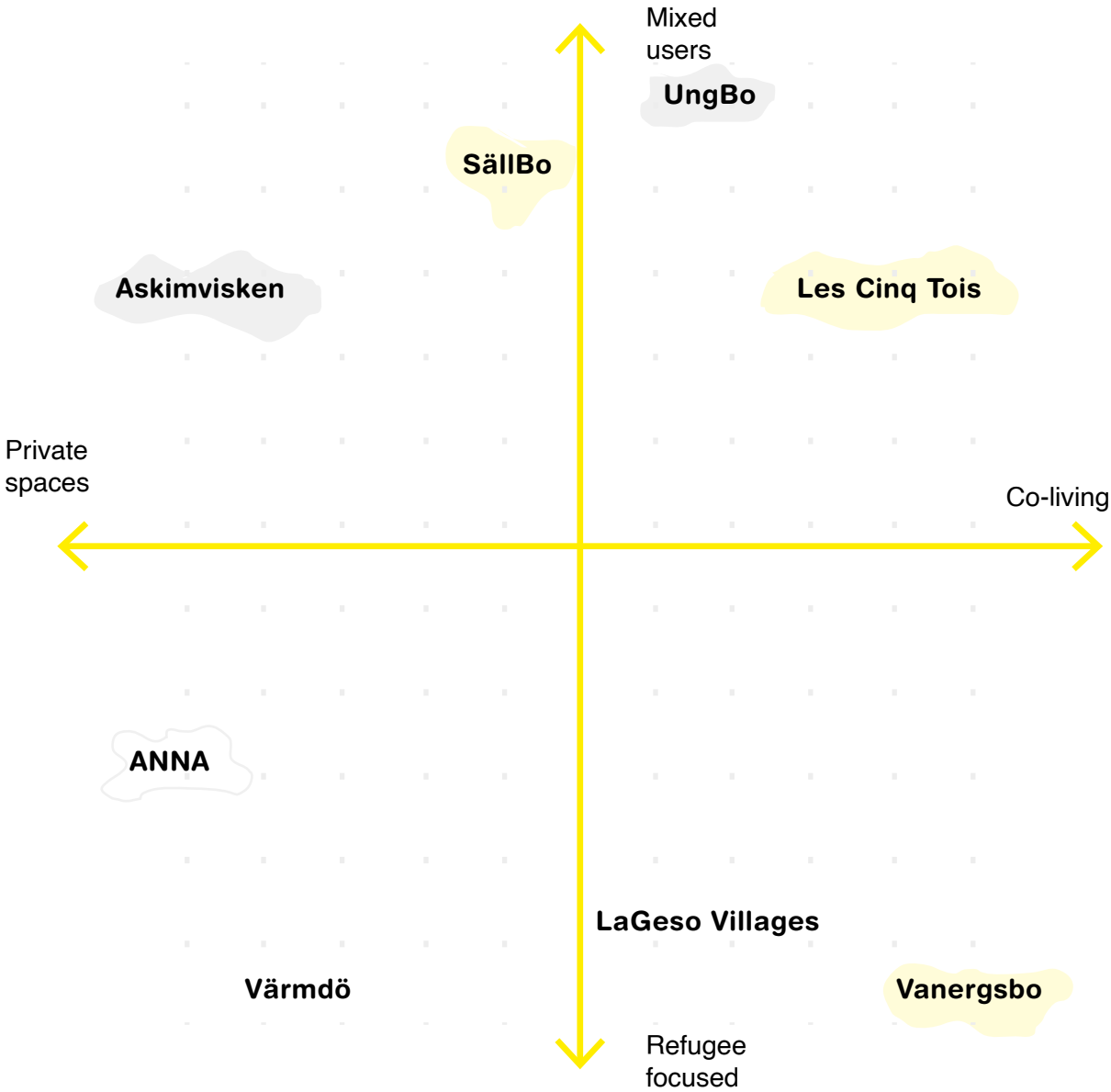
☐ Sufficient vegetation

Illustration of my proposed parameters for evaluation on “spatial intervention” exercise
Illustration of parameters from UNHCR according to the recommendations for the design of a Master Plan for refugee Settlements



Photographs that show the first steps of intervention
Maps of Gamlestaden showing different characteristics according to space-syntax analysis, Urban Calculator Data and in-fraestructure mapping of the area.

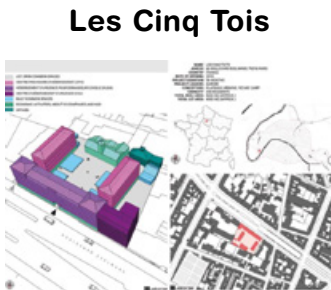
Case studies: Centralized accommodation



When the displaced are assigned accommodation in a concentrated space, building, reception center, camp.

The case studies that related to the building scale were organized through a matrix that looks into their levels of private to collective typologies, and reflected on the type of users they housed. Three cases to mention are the ones based in Gothenburg: ANNA, Askimvisken and UngBo. They respond to immediate needs for accommodation, without looking for permanent measures.

The projects that stand out are SällBo, Les Cinq Toits and Vanergsbo, where each provide with common spaces or adaptable distribution of space in the dwelling.



YEAR: 2018
LOCATION: Paris, FR

Main users: the displaced, single men
Responds to: Transform a building into social housing to reduce speculation and precarious housing.
Housing block with courtyard
Shared apartments, co-housing
Horizontal distribution
Supporting facilities: Restaurant, community garden, terraces, cycling centre, and shared workshop



YEAR: 2016
LOCATION: Berlin, DE

Main users: the displaced
Responds to: high affluency of newly arrived to the city
Containers as temporary housing
Planned to be dismantled
Rowhouse distribution
Minimal dimensions housing
Common access porches
Outdoor infrastructure, playgrounds, communal facilities



YEAR: -
LOCATION: Gothenburg, SE

Mixed users: adults with addiction/psychosocial problems, the displaced
Responds to: Need to accommodate the displaced in the city, need for healthcare housing for young adults
Apartment building block
Divided dorms and apartments layout
Staff that gives psychosocial support
Common spaces inside and outside



YEAR: 2018
LOCATION: Stockholm, SE

Main users: The displaced
Responds to: high affluency of the displaced, temporary measure
Prefabricated construction
Rowhouse distribution
Private dwellings
Minimal dimensions
Settled in the outskirts of the city

SällBo



YEAR: 2019
LOCATION: Helsingborg, SE

Mixed users: refugees, swedish young adults and elderly
Responds to: need to accommodate the displaced with low access to dwellings
Transformed building
Horizontal distribution
Central corridor
Minimal dimensions housing
Access to balconies from all rooms
Common spaces in all floors

Askimvisken



YEAR: 2017
LOCATION: Gothenburg, SE

Mixed users: residents, refugees
Responds to: need to accommodate the displaced with low access to dwellings
Apartment towers
Different layouts (1, 2, 3, 4 rooms and loft)
Private spaces
Independent room, central corridor, closet with daylight
Access to balconies from social spaces

Vanergsbo



YEAR: 2013
LOCATION: Vänersborg, SE

Main users: the displaced
Responds to: need for reception center in Västra Götalands Region
Transformed building
Horizontal distribution
Common spaces, supporting buildings for activities/education
Collective living (dorms)

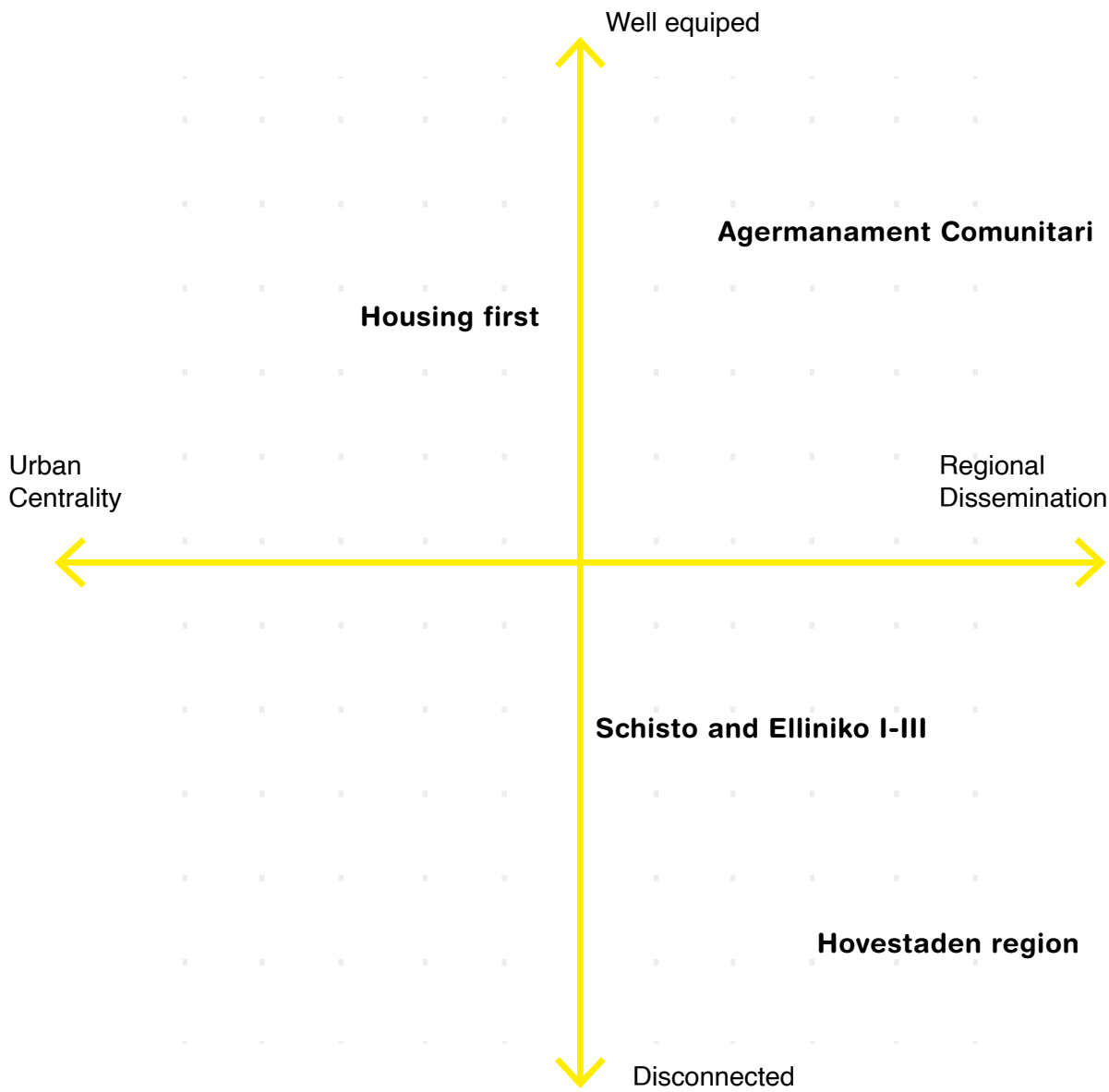
ANNA



YEAR: 2024
LOCATION: Gothenburg, SE

Main users: newcomers, migrants
Responds to: high affluence of newcomers to housing crisis
Private dwelling
Oriented to the riverfront
Communitary design
Open plan with divider walls
Balcony towards water
Axiality view

Case studies: Decentralized accommodation



(Also called “dispersal policy”) Place the displaced in ordinary homes through the whole country/city, so they can become more independent, active and integrated.

The case studies that related to the urban scale were organized through a matrix that looks into their levels of dissemination and connection to supporting infraestructure, having Valencia’s and Italy’s cases as good examples of different measures that support well the displaced’s needs.

Schisto and Elliniko I-III



YEAR: 2016
LOCATION: Athens, GR

Main users: the displaced
Responds to: high demand of need for displaced accommodation
Urban settlements
Scattered distribution, outskirts of the capital
Containers, tents, industrial areas, stadiums as temporary measures

Housing first



YEAR: 2015
LOCATION: Bologna, IT

Main users: Residents, immigrants and refugees
Responds to: Attack severe marginalization
Sustainable Urban Development
Codesign/Cohabitation
Flats distributed in the city
Long term accommodation
Looks for a territorial context that is as heterogeneous as possible, to avoid connotations of ghetto neighbourhoods.

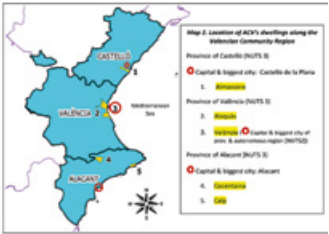
Hovestaden region



YEAR: 2019
LOCATION: Helsingborg, SE

Main users: the displaced
Responds to: Disperse accepted refugees to municipalities with a low immigrant population
Rural, small urban settlements
Decentralized housing
Large cities with relatively high proportions of migrant populations are termed “0-municipalities.” No refugee can move or be distributed to these cities.

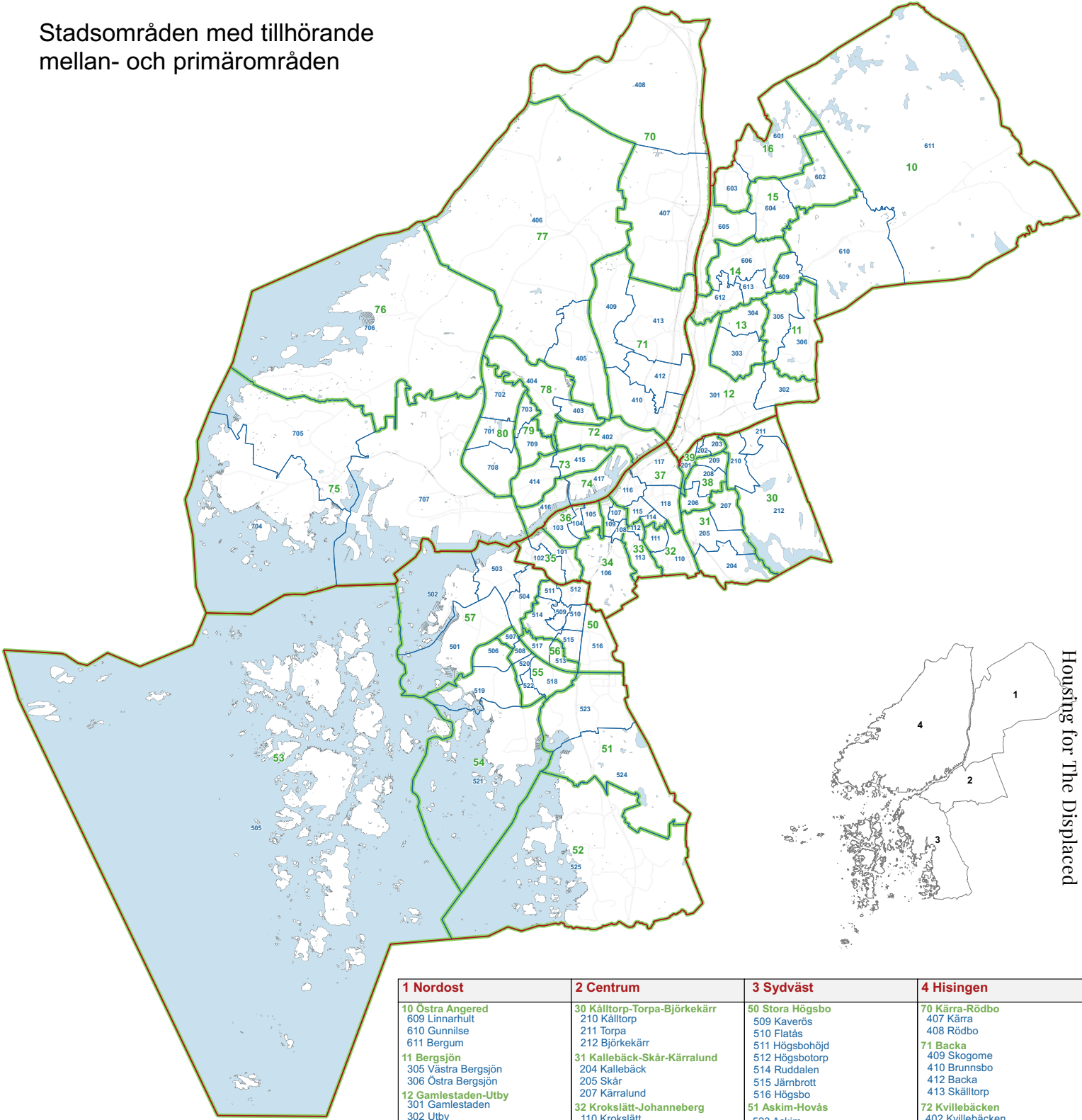
Agermanament Comunitari



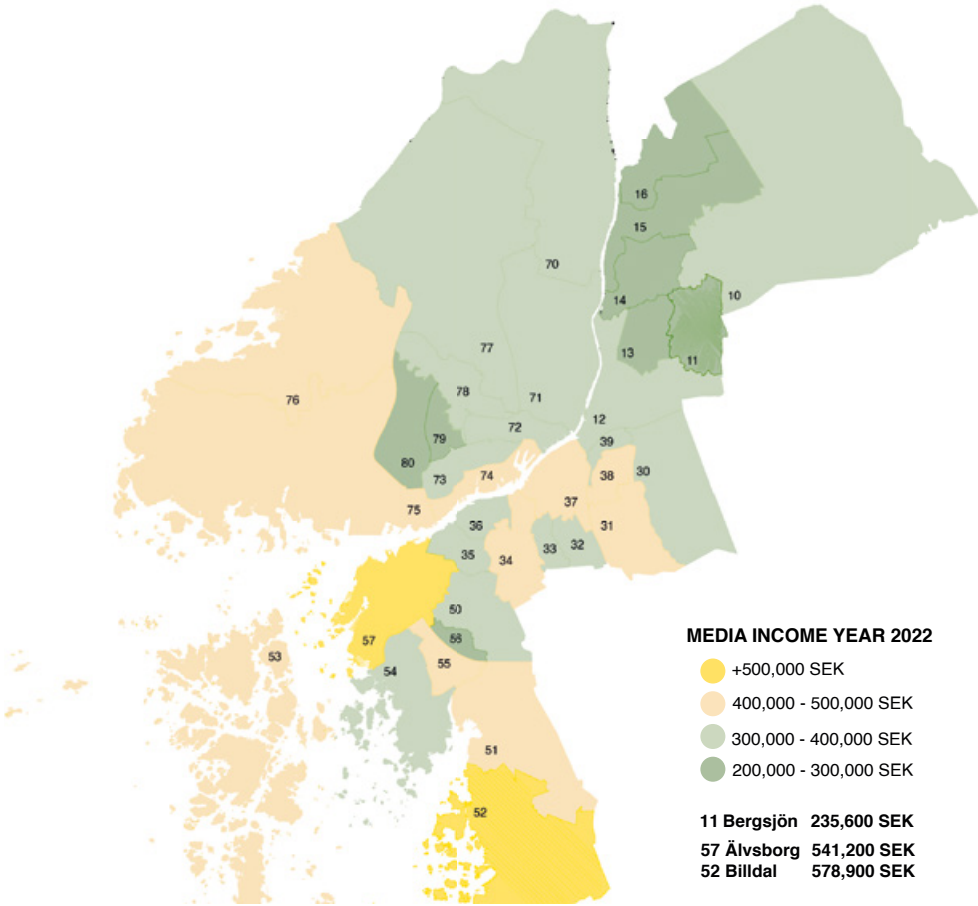
YEAR: 2020
LOCATION: Valencia, ES

Main users: Displaced families
Responds to: need to develop a model for reception of refugees
Planning of temporary accommodation in 5 municipalities
Temporary accommodation (24 months)
Multi governance
Collective involvement
Courses and support programmes

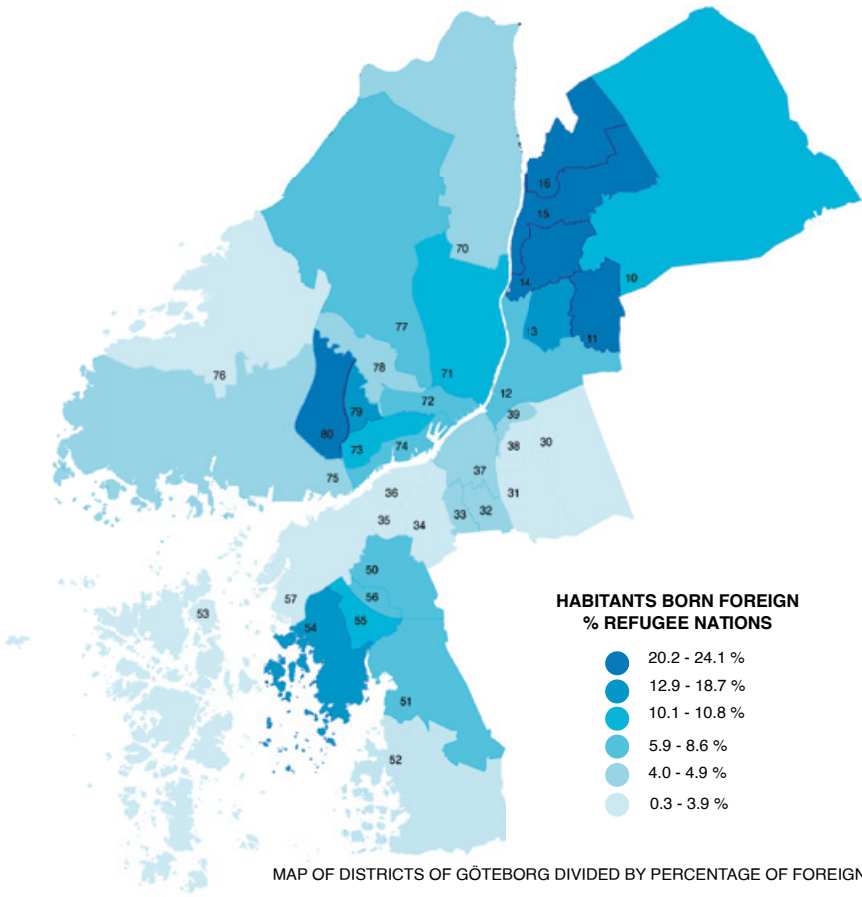
Stadsområden med tillhörande mellan- och primärområden



1 Nordost	2 Centrum	3 Sydvest	4 Hisingen
10 Östra Angered 609 Linnarhult 610 Gunnilse 611 Bergum	30 Källtorp-Torpa-Björkekärr 210 Källtorp 211 Torpa 212 Björkekärr	50 Stora Högsbo 509 Kaverö 510 Kaverö 511 Högsbohöjd 512 Högsbotorp 514 Ruddalen 515 Jämbro 516 Högsbo	70 Kärra-Rödbo 407 Kärra 408 Rödbo
11 Bergsjön 305 Västra Bergsjön 306 Östra Bergsjön	31 Kallebäck-Skär-Kärralund 204 Kallebäck 205 Skär 207 Kärralund	51 Askim-Hovås 523 Askim 524 Hovås 525 Bildal	71 Backa 409 Skogome 410 Brunnbo 412 Backa 413 Skälltorp
12 Gamlestaden-Utby 301 Gamlestaden 302 Utby	32 Krokslätt-Johanneberg 110 Krokslätt 111 Johanneberg	53 Södra Skärgården 505 Södra Skärgården 54 Bratthammar-Näset-Önnered 506 Bratthammar 519 Önnered 521 Näset	72 Kvillebäcken 402 Kvillebäcken 73 Kyrkbyn-Rambergssåden 414 Kyrkbyn 415 Rambergssåden
13 Kortedala 303 Södra Kortedala 304 Norra Kortedala	33 Guldheden-Landala 112 Landala 113 Guldheden	55 Centrala Tynnered 507 Guldringen 508 Skattegården 518 Ängås 520 Grevegården 522 Kannebäck	74 Norra Älvstranden 416 Erksberg 417 Lindholmen 75 Södra Torslanda 704 Hjuvik 705 Nolered 707 Arendal
14 Södra Angered 606 Hammarkullen 612 Hjälbö 613 Erksbo	34 Olivedal-Haga-Annedal-Änggården 106 Änggården 107 Haga 108 Annedal 109 Olivedal	56 Frölunda Torg-Tofta 513 Tofta 517 Frölunda Torg	76 Björlanda 706 Björlanda 77 Tuve-Säve 405 Tuve 406 Säve
15 Centrala Angered 602 Ranneberg 604 Angereds Centrum 605 Agnesberg	35 Kungsladugård-Sanna 101 Kungsladugård 102 Sanna	57 Älvsborg 501 Fiskebäck 502 Långedrag 503 Hagen 504 Grimmed	78 Kärradalen-Slättdamm 403 Slättdamm 404 Kärradalen
16 Norra Angered 601 Lövgården 603 Gårdstensberget	36 Majorna-Stigberget-Masthugget 103 Majorna 104 Stigberget 105 Masthugget		79 Östra Biskopsgården 703 Svartedalen 709 Jättesten
	37 Norra Centrum 114 Lorensberg 115 Vasastaden 116 Inom Vallgraven 117 Stampen 118 Heden		80 Västra Biskopsgården 701 Norra Biskopsgården 702 Länsängsgården 708 Södra Biskopsgården
	38 Lunden-Härlanda-Överås 206 Överås 208 Lunden 209 Härlanda		
	39 Olskroken-Redbergslid-Bagaregården 201 Olskroken 202 Redbergslid 203 Bagaregården		



MAP OF DISTRICTS OF GÖTEBORG DIVIDED BY INCOME
Source: Göteborgs Stad, Stadsledningskontoret - Statistik och analys 2024



MAP OF DISTRICTS OF GÖTEBORG DIVIDED BY PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGN HABITANTS
Source: Göteborgs Stad, Stadsledningskontoret - Statistik och analys 2024

Map of districts of Gothenburg divided by media-income.
Map of districts of Gothenburg divided by percentage of habitants born foreign, related to refugee nationalities.

A picture of Gothenburg through statistics

The displaced tend to be socially and spacially segregated, coming to a new country and getting introduced to its communities is a challenge that can be visible and tangible. In the case of Gothenburg it is easy to see a plain sight who lives in each region of the city, even though development plans are addressing measures to integrate “troubled” areas, the urban space suffers major inequality challenges.

Putting together statistics from Migrationsverket about frequent nationalities applying for asylum and looking into statistics from Göteborgs Stad about percentage of habitants born foreign per district, it is able to extract the percentage of people prone to be displaced.

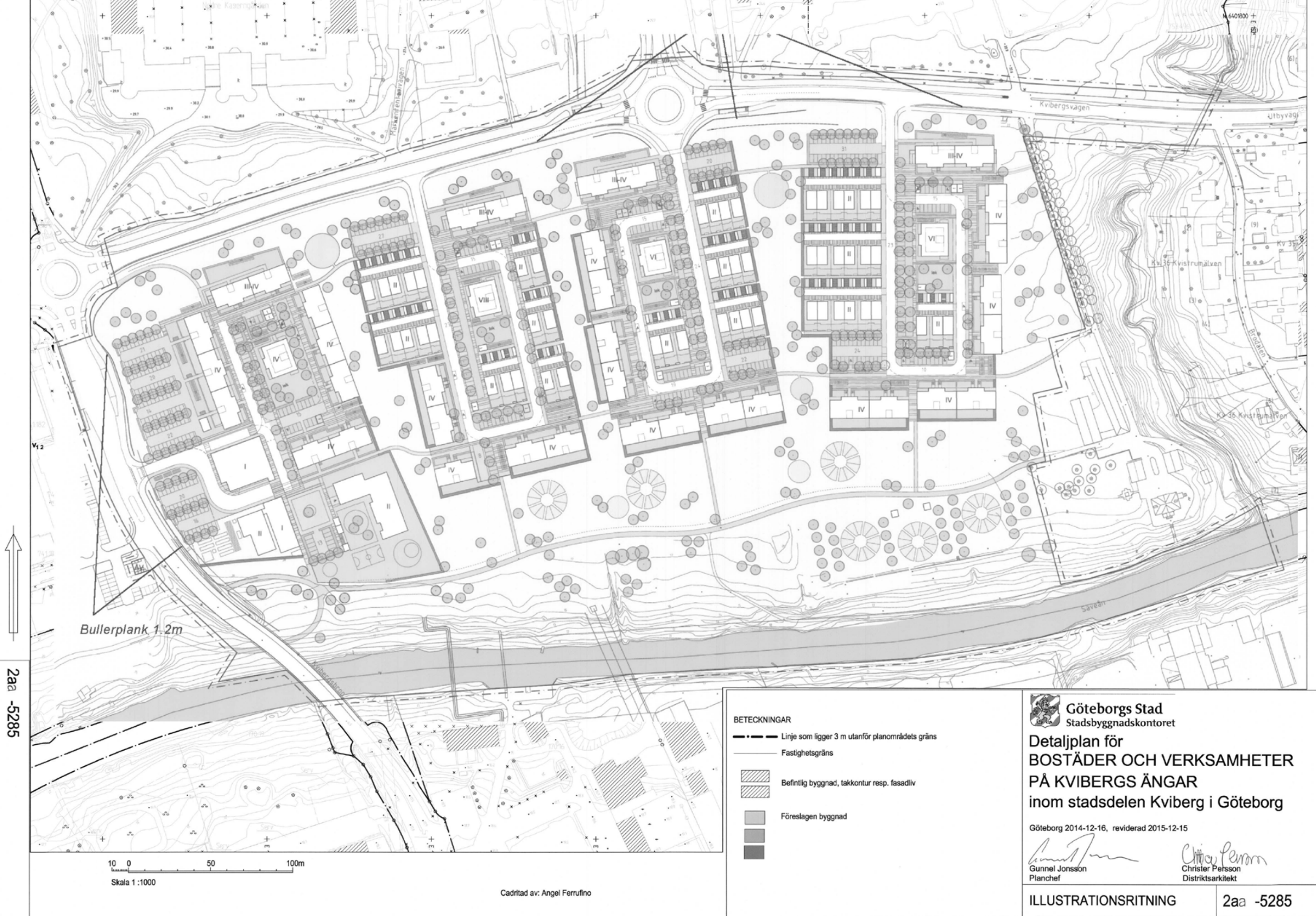
As seen in the following graphic, the districts of Bergsjön, Södra Angered and Västra Biskopsgården are the ones with the biggest percentage of habitants born foreign with nationalities related to those who seek asylum. Also, these regions have a general big percentage of non-swedish born residents. On the contrary, districts like Billdal, Södra Skärgården and Älvsborg have the lowest percentage of people from outside of Sweden living there.

These conditions are no casualty, since it is also related to media-income per district statistics, where it is showed how the north regions where the biggest percentage of immigrants are located have the lowest salaries, while the south regions such as Billdal and Älvsborg have the highest incomes of the city. The city of Gothenburg is clearly divided not only in half by a river that creates west-east regions, but also by intangible conditions that create a north/low income/immigrant -south/high income/predominantly swedish regions.

In the migration journey the resistance from local populations is a common challenge that does not allow a successful first approach to the community and their further integration. Every city gets affected by it, and Gothenburg is no exception.



Graph of Frequent Nationalities that apply for Asylum in Sweden 2023



- BETECKNINGAR
- Linje som ligger 3 m utanför planområdets gräns
 - Fastighetsgräns
 - [Hatched Box] Befintlig byggnad, takkontur resp. fasadliv
 - [Solid Grey Box] Föreslagen byggnad



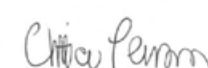
Göteborgs Stad
Stadsbyggnadskontoret

**Detaljplan för
BOSTÄDER OCH VERKSAMHETER
PÅ KVIBERGS ÅNGAR**
inom stadsdelen Kviberg i Göteborg

Göteborg 2014-12-16, reviderad 2015-12-15



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