

E16. Karlskoga (SE). K_BTW.

Sometimes, the current world around us is so different from that of the past that an effort must be made so that the landscape and architecture partially shed that contemporary 'totalitarian' burden, those ideals that were created on a blank sheet of paper, so we become capable of proposing bold and daring territorial approaches and strategies, but familiar to the world where we live in, and where our ancestors lived. It is therefore about rescuing the 'zeit geist' (the spirit of time), and satisfying this purpose, which can be understood as the necessary agenda and the 'desideratum' of today's architectural and landscape trends.

Care valorizing natural elements and landscape: Territory, opportunity, enhancement, respect, repair, deseasonalisation, habitability.

The landscape currently existing in the study and performance setting is the result of a clear respect for the natural environment, preserving its rural identity and its environmental value and importance. Natural elements make up and lead the field of study and action, highlighting the presence of the lake and the tree masses as main interconnected and essential assets.

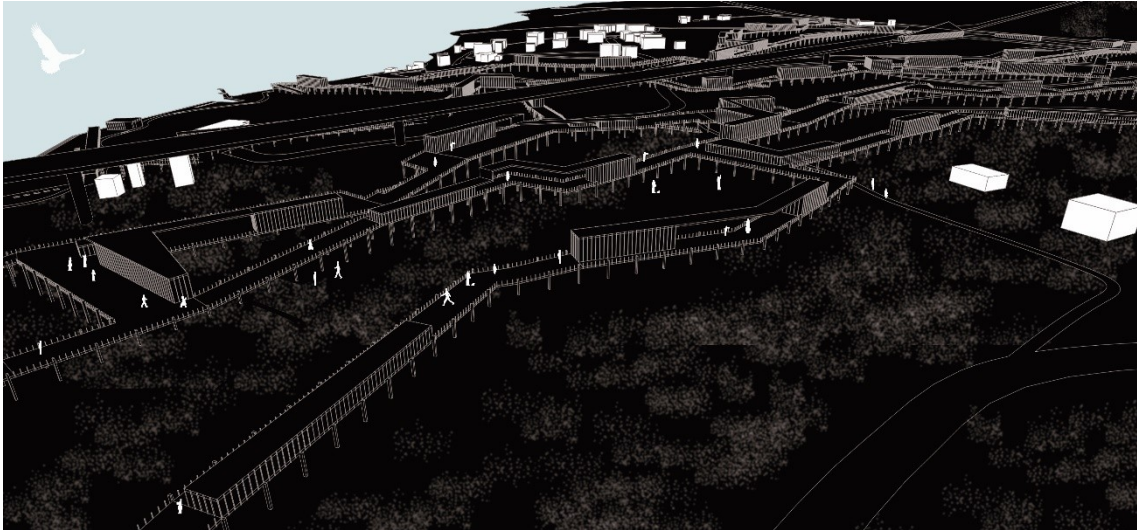
In turn, there is an ambitious railway connection project, which crosses the area of action longitudinally. A priori, it could be understood as a negative action, with a damaging impact in terms of landscape and environment. By generating, at the same time, residual spaces between this infrastructure and the existing buildings with a certain size/scale of an industrial nature. However, we believe that it will become a very profitable action in terms of landscape and economy, thus generating attractive opportunity spaces and establishing a friendly and gradual connection with the existing elements (secondary network of roads, rural buildings, tree masses and sheet of water) previously described, and also empowering citizens and occasional visitors, making them participants and protagonists of these new areas of coexistence and enjoyment.

We seek a mixed, inclusive, collaborative landscape project that generates proximity mobility and fosters mixed synergies among the different activities of the environment/indigenous and those received from abroad. For this, we opted for strategically mixing living spaces and the equipments, with free space.



Author: Joel Shapiro_ Abstract Drawing

The project takes up these agglutinating theoretical traces of local identity and uses its strategic location to rethink the expansion of the city in an organic way, together with a new multiple network proposed perpendicular to the main road (243) and the lake, with which it will coexist. It will rise above the field, thus releasing the ground plane practically in its entirety, in a gesture of respect and enhancement of what already exists. This also serves as a complementary element of mobility that has just sewn the territory, in its two main directions. An aerial “promenade architecturale” will be generated, looking for a continuous and fluid spatiality, as an exaltation of an aesthetic landscape experience originated during that pedestrian route, also adapted to any type of user. In turn, it will serve as a support for the new proposed buildings (housing and facilities/equipments of various types).



We intend to fasten and increase the population in the entire area, and also take advantage of the undoubted tourist potential of Karlskoga in a balanced and compensated way throughout the entire area of operation. For this we propose, at the habitability level, homes that allow different temporalities, thus serving tourists, athletes, students, permanent residents, business people, etc.; as well as different typologies, which are capable of adapting to these diverse users. Along the elevated 'support tapes', this housing may be included with greater or lesser density, depending on the actual demand at each given moment. The released soil will be a productive (urban gardens) and playful space, for recreation free of obstacles for the little ones, where the wooden pillars will 'merge' in some way with the trunks of the tree masses present throughout the complex, in a gesture of integration and symbiosis.



An attempt is made to promote the use of the lake throughout the year. With a new platform attached to the edge of the same, that will be breaking from a formal point of view, and incorporating different services and equipment that will serve as: bathing areas, bathrooms/changing rooms, solarium and rest areas, land and water sports areas (trampolines, swimming pools, etc.), spaces for the celebration of different festivities, spaces for housing boats of different types, etc. In addition, a continuous pedestrian walkway will be built a few meters away from the new proposed edge.



Finally, we have incorporated a polygonal piece, formally similar to the one that extends along the edge of the lake mentioned above, which serves as a filter and as a gentle transition between highway 243 and the area of action. This will act as a reception area, which will include backwater areas, small equipments and plant elements used mainly as sound and visual screens. The intention is that this action, together with that of the edge of the lake, expands along the road and the sheet of water (edge) beyond the area of action, as a global and organic solution, of a territorial nature.

Regarding the existing vegetation, we propose a conservative response, putting it in value, respecting it in its entirety, giving it the prominence it deserves and extending it, in a controlled manner, between the spaces that will be generated between the elevated pathways or 'ribbons'. We will be using native species at all times, which are resistant to the climate of the area and present in the popular historical imagination.

