

Piteå

Lagom

How
the
town
is
recon-
nected
with
its
water-
front?

The project **Lagom** is built on the idea of care. The proposal aims to enhance the ecological system of Piteå by designing a biophilic infrastructure capable of nurturing the soil, the air, and various forms of life, including **vegetation, animals, and our own species, humans**. The project has been developed through an environment-centered approach based on the principles of the Strong Sustainability Model, which emphasizes regenerating and restoring the natural environment as a foundation for improving social aspects and fostering sustainable and inclusive economies. Our vision serves as the missing piece, a valuable bridge to reconnect the residents of Piteå with nature and biodiversity. With confidence, it proposes the creation of lush

green parks, comfortable sea-front residences, and a contemporary hub, all designed to address the town's needs for resilience and sustainable development.

Our inspiration has been drawn from the *genius loci* of Piteå, as the natural surroundings have guided our choices, along with elements of the local culture expressed by words like *Lagom*, symbolizing harmony and balance, and *mångata*, which inspired the shapes, as well as drawing upon the forms and values of the Sami flag.

Moreover, we aim to recreate *Smultronstället* (a sanctuary, a place of the heart) where people can reconnect with nature and immerse themselves in it, inspired by the concept of *gökotta* (waking up at dawn to listen to the birds sing).

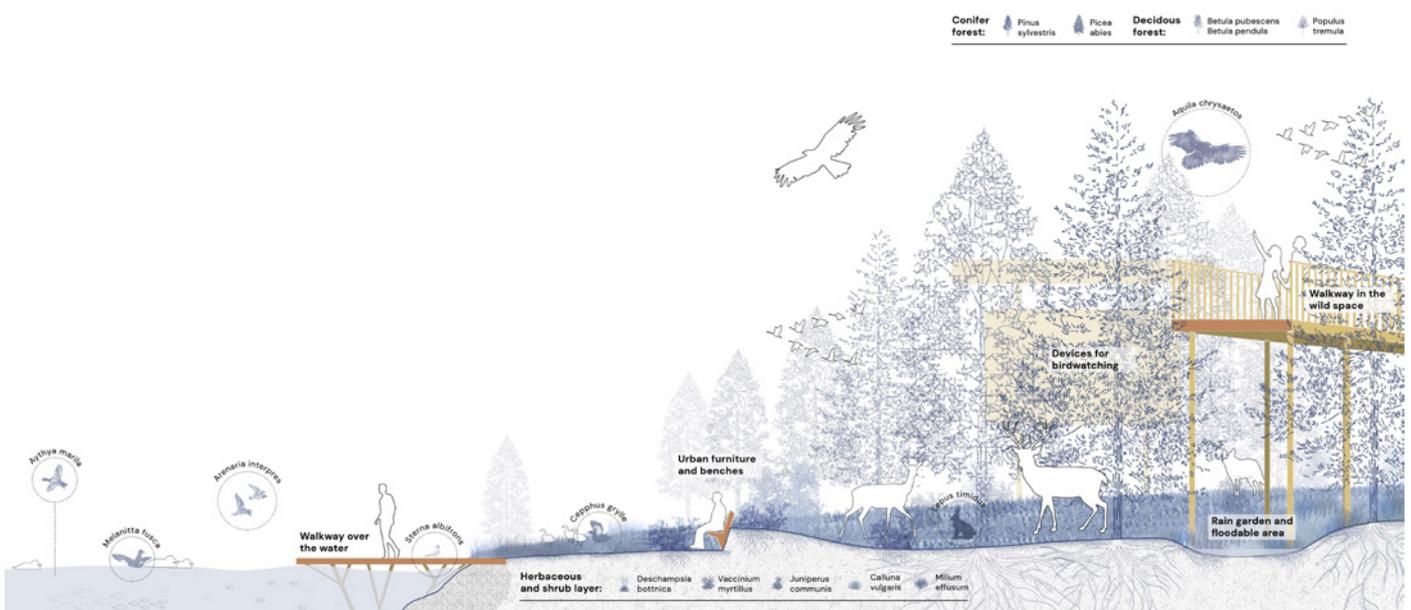


What does a hub for green mobility look like?

The reconnection between the city and the waterfront: stitching together the built environment and accessibility for all to nature.

The project tackles the challenge of uniting the seaside with the historical heart of the city, along with the future interchange hub, based on the foundation of sustainable mobility. Lagom addresses the urgent need to create a visual and formal connection between Uddmansgatan and the sea through a safe passage. Currently, Uddmansgatan is partially pedestrianized, but the project aims to transform it into a linear square, a new high-quality space for socializing, intensifying the already beloved use by many citizens and tourists of all ages, especially during the summer months due to its exposure to natural light. This new avenue that connects the city and the coast will traverse the new mixed residential development south of the center, eventually linking with the network of nature-immersed paths that lead to the new park, the interchange hub, and various points of interest in the city park dedicated to biodiversity, sports, and diverse cultural activities. Additionally, the redevelopment of this route guarantees a direct visual access to the sea and the coast, emphasizing the previously limited relationship between the city and the sea. Furthermore, to ensure additional safe passage, accessible cycle-pedestrian footbridges have been designed for all. These footbridges connect the center from the main square (on Kyrkbrogatan axis) and from the new linear square of Uddmansgatan to the coast, the hub, the park, and all its new amenities. Visually, the stitching between the

city and the coast will be executed through new quality constructions, integrating spaces for interaction and nature. Specifically, in the area south of the center, between Hamnplan and Timmerleden, currently occupied by vast parking lots and a short walk from the historic square and major shopping centers, the creation of a new area dedicated to residential living and local commerce is proposed, with the potential for offices given the presence of the center and the new hub. The morphology of these three new mixed lots takes inspiration from and revitalizes the typical inner courtyard form found in the urban fabric and some local references, such as the buildings along Hamnplan, particularly the complex on Parkeringshuset Leoparden. Part of the plan still includes some parking spaces to serve the existing users, while commercial activities will be developed on the ground floor. In this way, on the first floor, safe green spaces will be created, with an elevated square to facilitate interaction and socialization among the new lot's inhabitants, while keeping commercial activities and vehicular traffic flow on the ground floor. Additionally, to meet the required number of accommodations, the expansion area of the city has been identified west of the center, between Lillångsgatan and Bergsviksvägen, proposing a new "village," an attractive polarity that harmoniously integrates with the existing vegetation, which will be further enriched with native species to create a biodiverse habitat. The project includes the construction of multi-story residential units, offices, and services, which will also be beneficial



for the residential area north of the neighborhood. These new amenities will contribute to recreating the atmosphere of a vibrant village immersed in nature, fostering the interaction between sustainable urban living, nature, and community. The buildings will be constructed in phases, in line with Piteå's economic growth needs.

In accordance with the provisions of the city's master plan, the buildings will adhere to the maximum height regulations and will be constructed using prefabricated wood, a choice that allows for cost reduction and lower environmental impact, thanks to the use of local materials, a result of synergies with current industries. The accommodations will be equipped with solar panels to create small renewable energy communities. Each dwelling will have its own balcony that can be closed during winter. The park in the new residential area will become an essential element in ensuring climate resilience, thanks to the presence of rain gardens that collect rainfall and snow, and the new trees that reduce wind speed during winters to provide more comfortable spaces.

Biodiversity Park and the Revitalization of Sörfjärden Marina

The new coastal area is designed to become an attractive green oasis for various activities favored by the citizens of Piteå. An immersive space, intended to be enjoyed year-round, from the extended summer days to the long Nordic nights. The park will serve as a natural sanctuary where the animal and human worlds can coexist and interact. Birdwatching stations are nestled within the dense vegetation, typical of Swedish forests, providing a home for various animal species. The park has been specifically designed, taking into consideration

the climatic conditions, existing biodiversity, and land management throughout the different seasons. The park also acts as an essential climate-resilient device, offering a broad spectrum of ecosystem services. Thanks to the creation of a variable morphology, it has been developed using nature-based solutions, featuring a sustainable drainage system composed of water and snow storage areas, raingardens, and bioswales for water treatment with phytodepuration capabilities, collecting water during extreme weather events.

The newly forested areas also act as a protective element for park visitors against cold currents, reducing the influx of north winds and shielding gathering spaces.

The coastline has been redesigned to be accessible, enjoyable, and suitable for swimming, with a biophilic approach that allows continuous interaction between humans and nature. The paths connecting the different areas and points of interest from west to east are designed to be constructed using natural materials such as wood or limestone, and in some cases, draining concrete to minimize the ecological impact on the environment. These paths will be illuminated (thanks to renewable energy installations) to enable year-round usage.

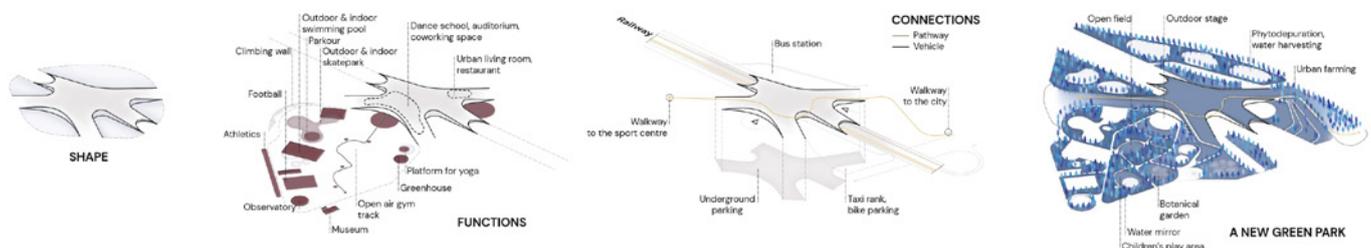
At certain points along the coast, human paths are elevated from the ground using wooden walkways to safeguard biodiversity and offer different perspectives, or with gökotta towers for birdwatching. To actively comply with the principles of the new Nature Restoration Law, the coastline will be renaturalized, with beaches and rocks promoting the reproduction of local bird species. Facing the city, the Mångata Bridge offers the opportunity to dive into the sea during summer or provides a new view of the city from the coast.

The Västra Kajen area will undergo a transformation and become one of the meeting polarities in the park, thanks to the implementation and enhancement of the existing Piteå Södra harbor and camping area. The new marina will extend with a semicircular wooden deck embracing the coast, offering new viewpoints of the city and the bay, perfect for sunset views. The camping area will be revitalized with new trees, lighting, and accessible facilities, such as bathrooms, a shared kitchen, and flexible communal spaces. These elements connect to the paths designed for all, leading to the discovery of the rich nature and the city center.

The new park will host the old Piteå Boat Museum and existing architecture, complemented by new experiential paths rich in biodiversity, quality sports areas, including a new swimming pool, skate park, sports fields, cross-country ski trails, squares that turn into ice rinks and hockey rinks in winter, as well as performance spaces for dance festivals, music events, and other gatherings, but above all, the new interchange hub.

Piteå Hill: A New Hub for Green Mobility

The new interchange hub emerges as a natural element rising from the ground. Its arms connect various points of the park with the city, creating a meandering hill that blends into the park's forest. Its summit becomes a new landmark, significant yet reserved as a "Smultronstället," in harmony with the natural surroundings. This form serves as a junction that overcomes the division created by the new railway line. It is not merely a bridge between two green shores, enabling animals and humans to move easily from one area to another, but also a new elevated viewpoint of the city, which transforms into a sledding and skiing hill during



winter.

The interchange hub links the cycle path, pedestrian routes, a new road that runs through it, and provides access to new parking spaces with electric charging stations (for bikes and cars). This will allow direct

access to the tracks, sheltered from the weather, and integrated into an active and vibrant hub. Conference rooms, a small auditorium, cafés, restaurants, coworking areas, or flexible spaces cater to the travelers

of the new North Bothnia Line railway. During the summer, the hub and its spaces expand outdoors with an area for performances and events, nestled in the enchanting green setting of the new park.

