

# MAKING SPACE

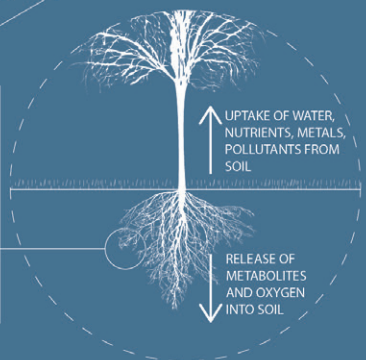
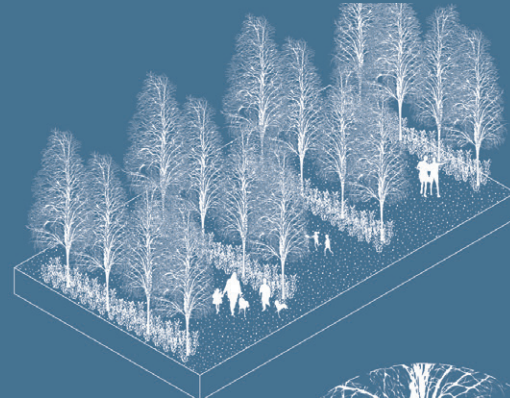
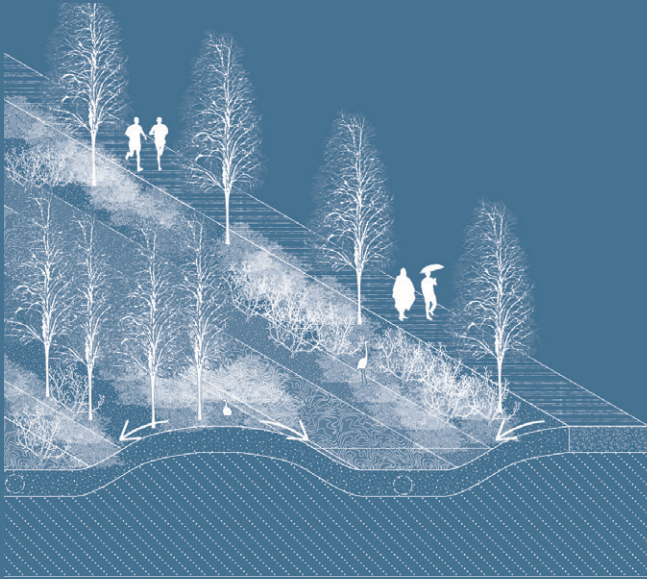
SHOWING SOME GRACE, AND LEAVING BE / CREATING BOUNTIFUL GROUNDS / HAVING A LIGHT STEP / FILLING A LARGE SPACE / THIS IS NOT REALLY FOR YOU / VIEWS

**S**HOWING SOME GRACE AND LEAVING BE / This is an effort to care for old industry and dirty earth — and to display the spectacle of the massive work that is needed to rehabilitate the places we so diligently have grounded down.

Our suggestions are in one sense simple — A cleansing marshland with a narrow red bridge, a floating garden, nurseries for the plants of future parks, and three pavilions providing modest views, roofs, and toilets for the non-non-humans. The harbour site we've been given is like most sites these days a patchwork quilt of space left over from planning for humans, producing strange corridors and appendixes. So what better way is there to plan for it than making space for something other than us? Refusing the site and re-fusing it. Showing some grace and leaving be. But not before we've picked up our own trash; So that maybe we'll be welcomed back sometime in the future.



The solutions we've put forward might feel uncomfortable and a bit fuzzy, like a rough wool sweater; it's unconventional to put a central site like this to use for other things than business and people, and especially for things hard to pin down with concrete statistics. But we are literally flooding with issues — so if we are to build resilient communities we have to start thinking in ways that might not always be new, but that have been rejected earlier, before we realized our precariousness. And while we won't build these issues away — we might have to build a foundation for the real changes to take hold.



RETENTION OF SOIL PARTICLES (EROSION PREVENTION)  
 IMMOBILIZATION OF POLLUTANTS  
 DEGRADATION OF POLLUTANTS IN THE ROOT SYSTEM  
 UP-TAKE OF POLLUTANTS IN THE ROOT SYSTEM  
 MICROBIAL DEGRADATION OF POLLUTANTS

STREETS AND NOT-PERMEABLE SURFACES ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF POLLUTION I.E. INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS AND ALSO EXACERBATE RAINFALL BY REDUCING INFILTRATION. THERE IS A NEED TO MANAGE THE RUNOFF FROM THE VAST PROJECT AREA, ESPECIALLY DURING INTENSE RAINFALL. EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ARE PREDICTED BY CLIMATE SCIENTISTS TO BECOME MORE FREQUENT, AND THEREFORE IT IS PERTINENT TO INVESTIGATE SUITABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS. THE PROPOSAL IS TO CREATE A LARGE "RAIN GARDEN" TO MANAGE, BUFFER AND CLEAN STORMWATER RUNOFF. THE RAIN WATER IS INFILTRATED THROUGH THE SOIL OR COLLECTED THROUGH A SUBTERRANEAN PIPE SYSTEM IN CASES OF EXTREME RAIN.

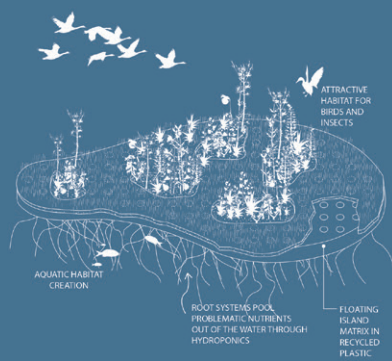
**C**REATING BOUNTIFUL GROUNDS / There are many ways to clean up toxic soil, but combined with the site's need for grey water management phytoremediation crop up. By creating a marshland toxic compounds can be absorbed and/or broken down by the plants without the need for landfills.

The exact approach and suitable species depend on the degree and variant of toxicity; and there are many different variants of phytoremediation one can employ. Phytoextraction for example works by storing the contaminants in the plants and then harvesting them if the concentration becomes too high. For this one might use hybrid poplar, willow, Indian mustard, pennycress, alyssum, or sunflowers (Delvert, Clean by Green, 2017). Another variant is phytodegradation which takes the process one step further by also breaking down the absorbed contaminants – using hybrid poplar, black willow, silver birch, wild roses, stone-wort, or algae (Delvert, 2017). There are a handful of other variants focusing on preventing the contaminants from spreading to other nearby areas, converting and releasing them into the atmosphere as gas, or locking the contaminants within the plants rhizomes and stimulating microbes to break down the compounds, and more.

Water management reduces the amount of runoff and runoff pollution by allowing it to seep into the ground slowly, enhancing the pollutant neutralizing and filtering effects of soil. Done right, it provides environmental, social and economic benefits to local communities. In the end, this large marshland serves as a wistful physical reminder of the work that is needed to maintain us. Our waste doesn't just disappear And the water doesn't just go down the drain. And while it is tempting to fill these spaces with new developments when the earthy wounds have healed, maybe the marshland can have a chance to stay? Retaining some of that strange mysticism industry and nature share in that they are really not made for us.

**H**AVING A LIGHT STEP / A few meters above the marsh runs a narrow bridge, with falu-red railing, resting on dirt mounds raised from the marshlands below. It connects three crucial parts of the site — the tunnel below the tracks to the north, the bridge above the tracks right next to the train station, and the far south side. A sliver of accessibility for us.

## FLOATING GARDENS



FLOATING GARDENS ARE PLACED ALONG THE WATERFRONT AS A NATURAL FILTRATION SYSTEM TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY OVER TIME AND AIR POLLUTION/CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION. THEY ALSO ACT AS A KEY ADDITIONAL HABITAT FOR A DIVERSE RANGE OF WATER-BASED, INSECT AND BIRD SPECIES IN THE AREA.

## AIR-POT



NEW TREES ARE COLLECTED IN TEMPORARY NURSERIES (UNUSED PARKING LOTS AND TEMPORARY AVAILABLE AREAS) AS A STRATEGY TO GIVE THE TREES TIME TO ADJUST TO THE LOCAL CLIMATE AND DEVELOP ALREADY ON SITE. THE TRANSPORT AND INSTALLATION OF THE TREE HAS VIRTUALLY NO IMPACT ON THE ROOT SYSTEM. ONCE THE ARCHITECTURE IS COMPLETED, THE TREES ARE SIMPLY CRANED ONTO A FLATBED TRUCK, TRANSPORTED TO THE NEW NURSERIES, AND CRANED INTO PLANTING PITS. AS AN EFFECT, A NEW TEMPORARY LANDSCAPE IS CREATED THAT CAN BE OPEN FOR INHABITANTS AND TOURISTS ALIKE. THIS CHANGING LANDSCAPE BECOMES A SYMBOL OF A SITE IN TRANSFORMATION.

## NATIVE PLANT NURSERY



THE NATIVE PLANTS NURSERY IS PLACED IN ONE OF THE MEDIUM/LONG-TERM AVAILABLE SITES. THE GOAL IS PRODUCING LOCAL NATIVE PLANT MATERIAL THAT CAN BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARKS OR TO IMPROVE THE LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY QUALITY OF THE AREA. FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY, THE NURSERY PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE VALUE OF NATIVE PLANTS. LEARNING ABOUT THE LOCAL DIVERSITY HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE IDENTITY OF THE AREA, CITY AND REGION.

**T**HIS IS NOT REALLY FOR YOU / woven along the waterfront floats another garden. The reeds, shrubs, and flowers rests on mesh pillows tied together and anchored to a lowered wooden deck. And While this is for us, to distance ourselves from the silos and the factories, from polluted grounds and future building sites, you are a visitor. The floating plants also serve a similar purpose as the marshlands — to clean the area they occupy. But here the task is overwhelming. Cleaning up Mälaren is not something you do alone. Instead it's an invitation for other to participate in this weaving.

**F**ILLING A LARGE SPACE / It's tough to travel far when you're used to staying in one place. So spread throughout the site are nurseries for trees and plants intended for future development. This gives the plants a chance to adjust naturally to the local climate, and of-course develop right next to the site, minimizing both transportation costs, emissions, and potential damage to the plants. Once the architecture is completed, the trees are simply craned onto a flatbed truck, driven to the final location, and craned into planting pits.

The trees are placed on parking lots not in use and other temporarily available areas. Some are spaciouly placed while some form their own kind of juvenile parks creating new temporary landscapes with flexible spaces that can be used for different gatherings. And the air-pot trees in themselves become a signal that the use of that site is changing.

Throughout the project site we planned for a few different versions of nurseries. Far to the west, on the north side of the tracks we have the most short lived community, around one year, packed with the quickest growing seedlings and sprouts, soon to be sent off. On the west side of the harbour and north of the old factory, we've planned for a nursery period of around 5 years focusing on birch and other medium quickly growing trees and shrubs.

These nurseries can stay until all else is finished, or beyond, and maybe even become a permanent place for (a) new generation. Placing this sort of "industry" centrally raises awareness about the fact that these things cost time and money, countering the tendencies of our out-of-the-wall societies ("ur-väggen-samhällen") and become an opportunity to learn about the value of native plants.

**V**IEWS / In the end there is a more than enough space for us, even within this project, maybe just a bit less than we're used to. We've proposed three pavilions. Wooden decks sitting on gabion walls filled with demolition waste from the site. Aesthetically we've looked back at older industrial architecture in Västerås, rough stone foundations and falu-red facade rising from the water, but also at the silos and that part of the city's industrial history.

Each of the pavilions provide three basic necessities — toilets, roofs, and play. The

things you need to be able to stay somewhere for a little longer. On top of that, they include one slight luxury: views. The roofs are accessible through stairs and simple self-propelled pulley elevators, providing both accessibility and a slightly fun/new/old way of getting on top of things.

The roofs are intended as lookout points not so grand as to inspire a false sense of over-view and hubris, but high enough to appreciate a different vista — and that's really the goal of the entire project summarized. Injecting some smaller and some bigger features onto this site to display processes that are generally hidden, assumed and taken for granted. Something to slightly expand our view. To show some grace and leave be. Making space for better things to come.