# Urban living close to nature

- a vision for Pihlajaniemi, Turku

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# Project team from Gehl

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# Public space at the centre

Ilmastonmuutos ja sen hillintä sekä kaupungistumisen jatkuminen lisäävät paineita kaupunkien tiivistämiseksi ja maankäytön tehostamiseksi. Kehityksellä on kuitenkin kääntöpuolensa ja ei voi väittää, että tiivis urbaani rakentaminen automaattisesti loisi ympäristöä, jossa meidän olisi hyvä elää. Huomio onkin kiinnitettävä yhä voimakkaammin kaupunkiympäristöjen viihtyisyyteen ja houkuttelevuuteen. Tulevaisuuden menestyjiä tulevat olemaan kaupungit ja alueet, jotka pystyvät tarjoamaan viihtyisää, laadukasta ja miellyttävää ympäristöä, joka samalla on urbaanin tiivistä ja tehokasta. Tämä on keskeinen tavoite, johon uuden Pihlajaniemen alueen suunnittelussa on tähdätty. Haluamme työllämme luoda esimerkkiä Turun tulevalle kehitykselle ja standardia uudelle kaupunkiympäristön laadulle sekä kaupunkilaisten viihtyisyydelle ja hyvälle elämälle.

Jo ensimmäisten luonnostelmien lähtökohtana on ollut hyvän kaupunkielämän ja ympäristön määrittely. Aluksi hahmottelimme alueen yhteisiä ulkotiloja ja niissä tapahtuvaa toimintaa sekä helppoa liikkumista alueella. Seuraavaksi pohdimme, miten rakennukset tukisivat viihtyisän kaupunkiympäristön muodostumista parhaiten. Lopputulos on rakentamisen kannalta kaupunkimaisen tiivis mutta samalla luonto on vahvasti läsnä.

Pihlajaniemi alueena tarjoaa myös hyvät edellytykset tavoitteemme saavuttamiselle. Alueen sijainti on keskeinen kaupunkirakenteessa ja keskusta on kävely- tai pyörämatkan päässä. Pihlajaniemi sijoittuu hyvin myös jo olemassa olevien joukkoliikenneyhteyksien varrelle ja tulee luomaan edellytyksiä muun kaupunkikehityksen kanssa joukkoliikenteen tehostamiselle Turussa.

Pihlajaniemellä alueena on värikäs historia ja sotilaskäytössä vastaisuudessakin olevat arvokkaat rakennukset tarinoineen tuovat historiallista kerroksen ja rikastuttavat tulevaa kaupunkiympäristöä. Luonto on vahvasti läsnä nyt ja kattavat luontoselvitykset luovat hyvän pohjan luontoarvojen säilymisen turvaamiselle ja alueen tulevalle vehreydelle.

Oman mielenkiintoisen lisänsä suunnittelutyöhön ovat tuoneet puolustusvoimien tarpeiden huomiointi, naapuruston esiin tuomat näkökulmat, haastavat perustamisolosuhteet, sade- ja meriveden huomiointi sekä alueen rakentamisen jaksottaminen.

Pihlajaniemen suunnittelusta vastaavat arkkitehtitoimistot Ajak Oy ja tanskalainen Gehl sekä suunnittelua koordinoiva Urbanity Oy yhteistyössä Senaatti-kiinteistöjen ja Turun kaupungin kanssa.

Pekka Saarinen

Diplomi-insinööri, YKS/582 Urbanity - Urban Design Management





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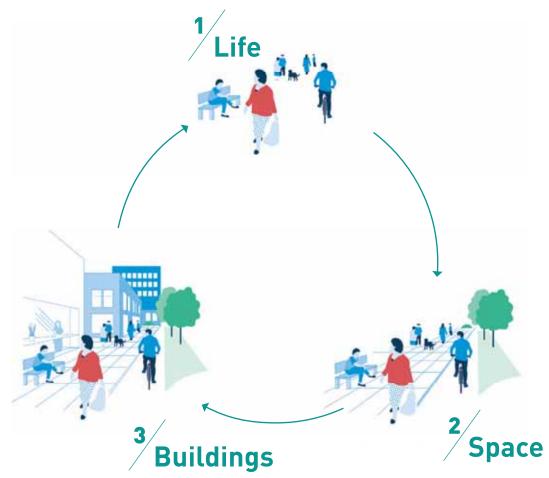
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We believe in a planning process that **puts** 

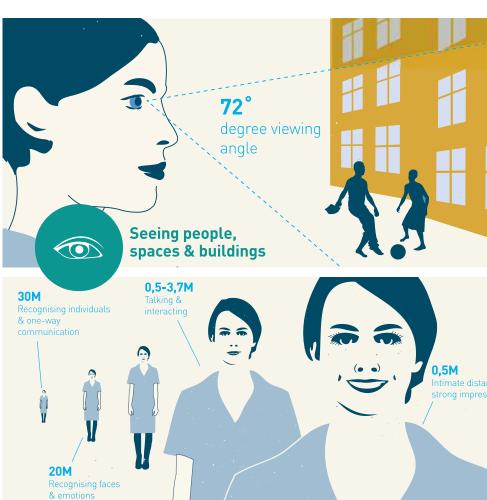
people first

People first approach - design for life in the city and put focus on how the built form affects the life in the city.



# We want to create a **human scale city**, that stimulates all senses and encourages interaction







# 1/Turkuis growing

Introduction

# A love letter to Turku

It's easy to fall for Turku's charm: a town with a clear civic dignity which somehow still feels laid back. Turku is a town mixing old and new, with grand, classical public buildings alongside National Romantic apartment blocks and modern architecture with sociable functions. Turku had culture close to nature, traditions and trendiness, history and hipsters.

But Turku is an old city facing new challenges. Perhaps the biggest one is how Turku should **grow from a town into a city**.

Like many other countries round the world, Finland is urbanising. More and more people are moving to the towns and cities, looking for the economic, social, educational and cultural opportunities as well as the many other practical conveniences of urban life. The question is not just about how to build for more urban density but also for high-quality of urban life?

At the same time a key component of quality of life in Finland is being close neighbours with nature, spending time outdoors all year round, what I would call "living with the weather". It is important that any new urban development should recognise and make sure people can maintain their relationship with the forces of nature and have many opportunities to enjoy life outside.

Finland has always been famous for architecture and design, but more recently also for everyday quality of life; for work/life balance, for being progressive and innovative, for start-ups and leisure-lifestyles, for excellent schooling and public services. The holistic package of livability is making Finland attractive as a new homeland for talented people from round the world.

And while the Finnish brand is getting stronger, Turku is getting famous in its own right – in particular for its evolving food scene and cultural activities. Turku is becoming known nationally and internationally, as a great place to live, and significantly, more affordable than Helsinki. It's not surprising that so many people want to move to Turku.

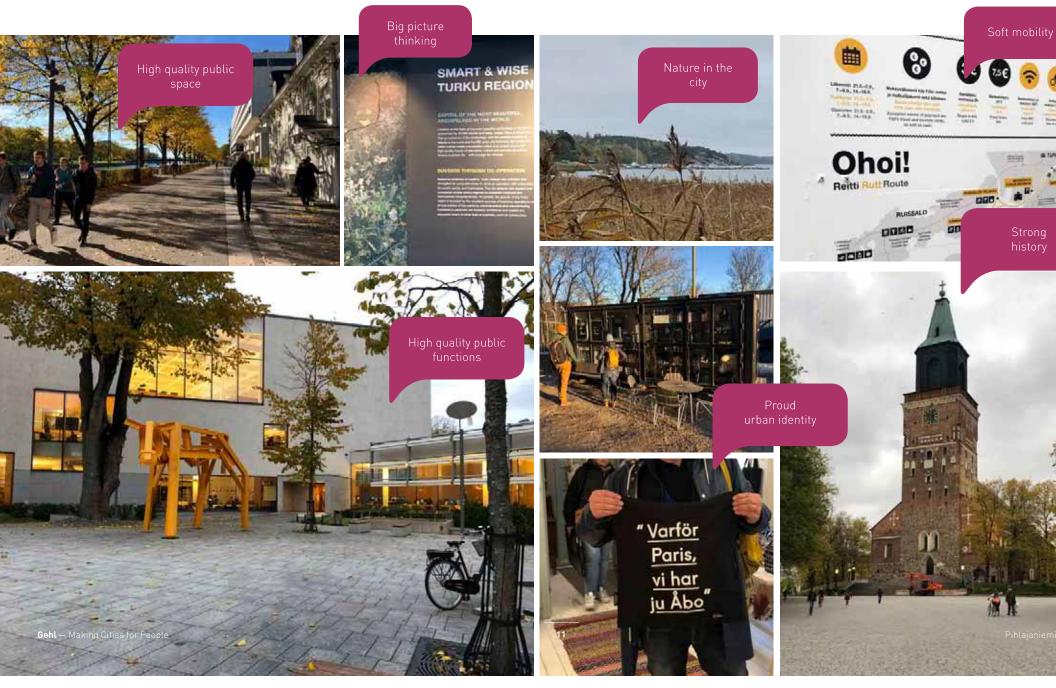
Change can be threatening and this period of growth that comes with Turku's growth clearly brings with it challenges – but there also opportunities. How to take all the qualities of Turku – the human scale of buildings and spaces, the convenience of getting about easily and the trust that comes with community – and without losing them – scale up and grow, densify and diversify? Can we make more of what's already great about Turku?

Of course, what is the most important aspect of Turku is the people. People make Turku what it is. Whatever we do, we have to make a great environment for everyone, for the people who have always lived there as well as the new ones who have chosen to make Turku their home.



**David Sim**Partner, Creative Director
Gehl

# Urban vibes in the city - Turku knows how to do it!



# The city has ambitious plans

"The city aims to be **carbon** neutral by

**Circular** economy is one of the main priorities of

http://www.turku.fi/en/europeanoffice/ourpriorities/carbon-neutrality-and-circular-

Turku"

http://www.turku.fi/en/europeanoffice/our-priorities/carbonneutrality-and-circular-economy

"The importance of walking and cycling will further stand out in the jammed urban traffic of the future."

https://www.turku.fi/en/housing-and-environment/traffic/ pedestrians-and-cyclists





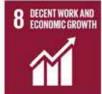






























# Global goals to tap into

ambitious agenda for sustaina have ever agreed on and adopte be developed! How can we en an active work towards reaching goals? Which goals do we focu and how?

https://www.un.org/ sustainabledevelopment/sustainabledevelopment-goals/

# ... that respond well to what people ask for

# **Participation process**

We asked for help to better understand the wishes for the Pihlajaniemi site and the development of Turku as a city. Here are some of the things that were discussed.

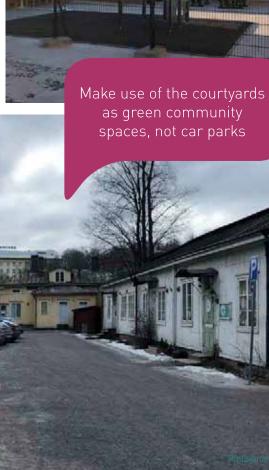
The survey was conducted between January 30 and March 10, 2019. About 300 people gave more than 1,700 responses to the online map survey and about 200 people attended the events.



# .. but public space not always used to its full potential







# 2/ Unlocking the site

Existing site conditions

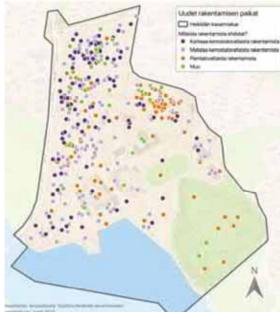
# Replies from 'map survey' tell us what people wish for on the site

# Map survey

We asked people to map out what is important for them in the development of the site.

The survey was conducted between January 30 and March 10, 2019. About 300 people gave more than 1,700 responses to the online map survey and about 200 people attended the events.

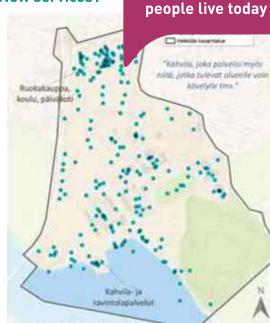
## Where should we build?



market less 100



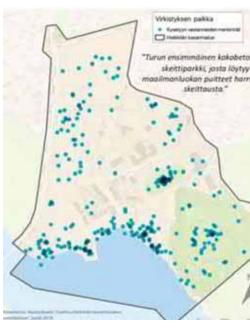
# New services?



Call for services

close to where

Good locations for recreation?



**Existing site conditions** inform the design

- » Edged by two important arteries leading to the city - a lot of people moving past the site every day
- » A lot of people living in the surroundings - there is a need for basic everyday services Direct connection to the city via beautiful river walk
- » Waterfront in a unique south facing location and potential for direct connection to the city via a waterfront promenade
- » Existing nature and mature trees worth preserving on the site
- » Existing building that can tell the history of the site and be used for temporary activation
- » A lot of water on the site gives the opportunity to create a neighbourhood with many blue features
- » Military presence in the area creates a flow of people coming for work



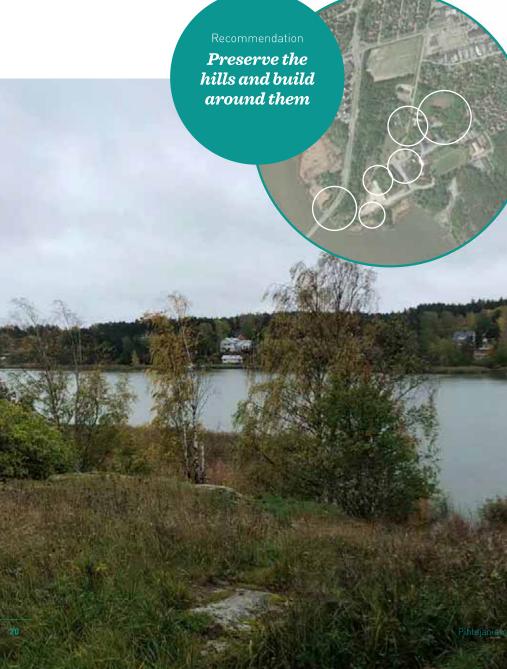
Existing site conditions A unique south-facing An accessible waterfront riverfront walk with a variation  $of activities \, and \,$ public spaces along the way

Existing site conditions



# A varied topography offers rich experiences of the nature









# A place rich in biodiversity - a unique

# habitat for flora and fauna\*



**Gehl** — Making Cities for People

2:

# **Variation of scales** in surrounding neighborhoods, (but with a suburban character..)









# 3/ More Turku for Turku

Vision

# **Vision**

Filling in a missing puzzle piece with great new public spaces for all inhabitants of Turku - and inspire for a sustainable growth of a livable city.



# We want to create more of what is **great about Turku**, by creating a new neighbourhood which...







6 ... is programmed for a mixed use network



7 ... is dense at human scale

# High quality public spaces at the centre



A network of well connected human scale public spaces throughout the neighbourhood. With a clear hierarchy and a variety of characters which respond to both surrounding building programs, resident and visitors everyday needs and the local context. The public space network will cater for different ages and user groups and provide a safe and healthy place for all.





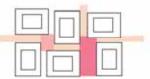




# Place blocks and buildings smart to create a hierarchy and diversity in the public space - how to



We want to avoid: Uniform building layout with little spatial variation in the public spaces



We want to achieve: That buildings shape the spaces and define their hierarchy, such as local streets and neighbourhood meeting places.



We want to achieve: That form scale of buildings support th hierarchy, with smaller units more intimate spaces and m scale towards main spaces

# Tool

# **Urban Quality Criteria**

The 12 Quality Criteria helps us evaluate the experiential quality of a space by evaluating its ability to provide features that are protective, comfortable, and enjoyable.

The criteria can be used for evaluation of existing spaces, or as a checklist when creating new.







### Protection

### Protection against traffic & accidents — feeling safe

- · Protection for pedestrians
- Eliminating fear of traffic
- and cyclists
- · Safe crossings

### Protection against crime & violence - feeling secure

- · Lively public realm
- · Allow for passive surveillance
- · Diversity of functions 24/7/365
- · Well lit / lighting in human scale

### Protection against unpleasant sensory experiences

- Wind/draft
- Rain/snow
- Cold/heat Pollution
- · Dust, noise, glare

### Comfort

### **Opportunities** to walk/cycle

- Room for walking
- Interesting façades
- No obstacles
- · Good surfaces
- · Accessibility for everyone

### Opportunities to stop & stay

- · Attractive & functional edges
- · Defined spots for staying
- Objects to lean against or stand next to
- · Façades with good details that invite staying

### Opportunities to sit

- · Defined zones for sitting
- Pleasant views,
- people watching · Good mix of public
- and café seating
- · Resting/waiting opportunities

### **Opportunities** to see

- · Reasonable viewing distances
- Unhindered views
- · Interesting views
- · easy orientation Lighting (when dark)
- Low noise levels
- · Public seating arrangements conducive to communicating, 'talk scapes'

Opportunities

to talk & listen

### Opportunities for play & exercise

- Allow for physical activity, exercise, play & street entertainment
- Temporary activities Imarkets, festivals, exhibitions
- · By day and night
- . In summer and winter

### Dimensioned at human scale

. Dimensions of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimension in relation to senses, movements, size and

### **Opportunities** to enjoy the positive aspects of climate

- Heat/coolness
- · Shelter from wind/breeze

### Aesthetic qualities + positive sensory experience

- · Good design and detailing
- · Good materials
- Fine views/vistas
- · Rich sensory experiences: trees, plants, water

Vision

# Living with green in the city centre



- » Make nature accessible for more with new parks, public spaces along the water fronts and gren routes
- » Design for different types of green spaces, in different scales, present in the area
- » Pay respect to and preserve existing nature in unprogrammed areas, in addition to the programmed green
- » Carefully study animal habitat in the area, and design the green spaces that are sufficient for their needs
- » Use planting to create a good microclimate and reduce noise levels.













# Living with nature

# Access to different types of green space



### Green public space

- Park
- Waterfront
- Sports
- Play
- Beach

### **Green streets**

- Street trees
- Stormwater treatment in streets
- Opportunity to stay and play

### Courtyards

- Shared
- Semi-private
- For different user groups

### Green close to the apartment

- Private green
- Balcony
- Garden
- Frontgarden
- Private edgezone

# Ensure a good microclimate to make the neighbourhood active all year round

A good micro-climate provides a high level of comfort for all users of the public spaces in and around the site. It is one of the most important aspects of inviting people to spend more time outside. And the reverse is also true - a poor micro-climate with too much direct sun or strong wind can actively push people towards avoiding public space. Taller buildings adapted to the surrounding wider streets and spaces shelter the interior from noise and provide density.

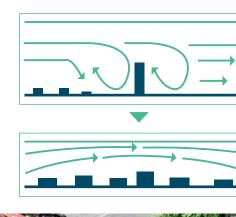








The scale of individual buildings influence microclimate of the city - a homogeneous c structure reduces the impact of wind





# Learnings from - Bo01, Malmö, Sweden





# **Encourages sustainable mobility**



- » Design well-integrated public transportation systems where it is easy to change between modes, and where everyday functions around located public transportation stops
- » Encourage walking and biking by prioritizpedestrians and bicyclist in the street design and designing interesting and attractive streets with good microclimate
- » Make it easy to get to and from the area by foot and bike (many entrances to the area, continuous paths)
- » Be early with testing future systems for mobility and parking and offer shared systems (bike and car pools etc.) as services in the area
- » Make a phasing plan for mobility and parking (do not "build in" yesterday's habits)









### Nya Hovås, Gothenburg, Sweden - Case, Getting around and about - easy to make the "right" choice







**5**/

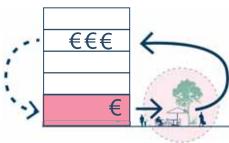
# High quality urban living



- » Attract a variety of people by providing different housing options (large and small apartments, single family houses, co-housing, baugemeinschaft) in close proximity to each other
- » Ensure that everyone has access to green recreational space close to home
- » Provide high quality courtyards as green meeting places for the community
- » High quality housing with dual aspect apartments as standard, to ensure good daylight conditions and noise protection
- » Design for active ground floor and make sure that services are located within walking distance from housing



Investments in an active ground floor cre more attractive neighbourhood, for the re and as a destination.



It increases the value of the spaces above, whether office or housing, and makes it me attractive to run a business on the ground





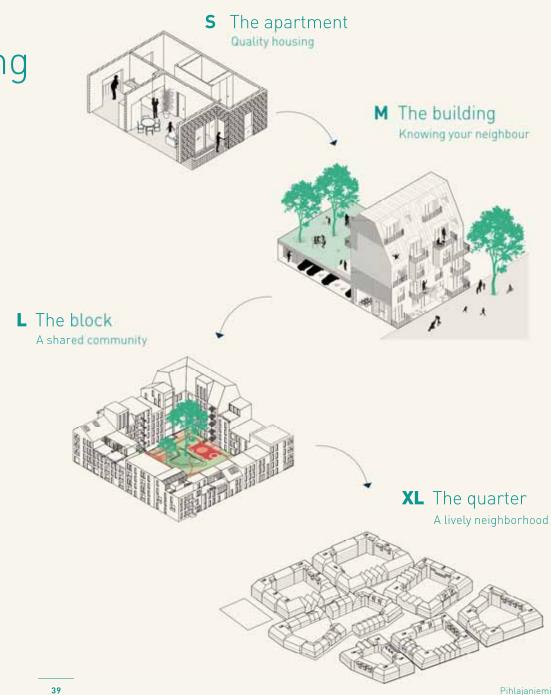


### High quality urban living Layering of scales

Imagine the conditions of the neighbourhood in the manner of layering, from the apartment to the meeting places of the quarter.

High quality urban living is the sum of the conditions in the different layers and scales of the neighbourhood, and cannot be solved only in the single apartment or in the design or the street.

In order to create a good neighbourhood for living, high performing design need to be considered in at all scales.



# Programmed for a mixed use network



- » A neighbourhood with different types of housing, for different age groups and social groups
- » Activites for all ages
- » Keep in mind groups that often are less present in the public realm - elderly, kids, young women
- » Ensure a robustness in the plan and in the architecture, that can adapt to different functions over time
- » Activites for a high quality every day life



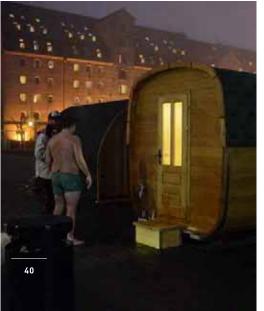






### Mixed Use Network

Create not just a mixed-use building or block bumixed-use network which supports a variety of user-groups, functions and types of public space.





# Mixed use network Plan for different activites over the day



5.000 people will live in the district!

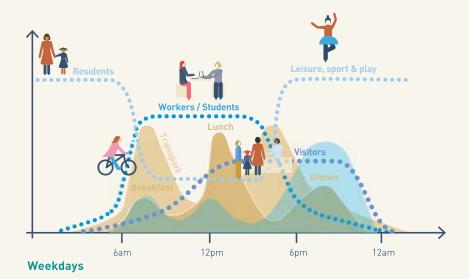


Many will come for work and school



... and even more will visit to use the public spaces and other amenities!

Typical daily rhythms for the mixed use neighbourhood:





Weekends

7

Dense at human scale

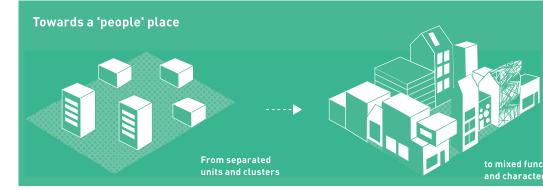
# Dense at human scale



- » Ensure both high urban quality and high density by building in block structures
- » Build in varied scales and typologies for a mix of functions and housing typologies
- » Take care of the microclimate by building for maximal sunlight and minimal wind exposure
- » Different levels of private and public space for a variety of activites





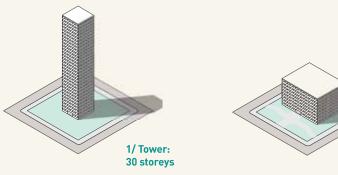




### Do it smart

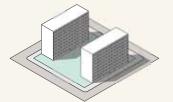
### Dense at a human scale

### Different ways of delivering density



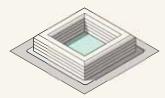
Few active edges, long shadows. wind turbulence, long distance from live/work to outdoor space.

Often set back from street facade, few entrances and low activity at ground floor.



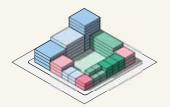
#### 3/ Apartement slabs: 9 storeys

Outdoor space with little ownership, little life between buildings, limited ground floor activity.



### 4/ Block: 5 storeys

Defines streets, possiblity for an active ground floor, sheltered courtyard for outdoor recreation.



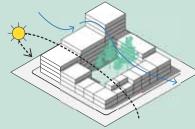
2/ Office block:

8 storeys

#### 5/ Mixed block: 2-8 storeys

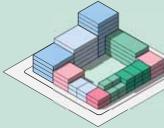
From an urban quality perspective, the mixed block has a lot of benefits and options for diversity. It is a robust and flexible framework that can deliver high density and high level of diversity and quality at the same time. See next page.

### Benefits of the mixed block



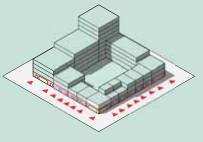
#### Climate friendly!

Adaptable scales to accomodate sunlight and create a silent coutyard that is sheltered from



#### Functional mix!

with different functions next to each oth and exchangable parts to adapt for future



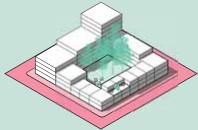
#### Active streets and quality at eye level!

Opportunity for an active ground floor and many Opportunity for many architectural style doors towards the street. Walkable scale and vertical variation create lively, interesting streets. diversity at eye level and stimulating hu



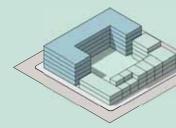
#### **Architectural diversity!**

expressions and variation in scale, crea senses and walkability.



### Private and public clarity!

Defined semi-private courtyard, shared and protected, that invites for social connections in neighbourhood everyday life. Many units with ground floor edge zones for private outdoor life. building into a block.



#### Exchangable parts and sizes!

Different portions of functions can be m the block and buildings exchanged over Above is an example of integrating a lar

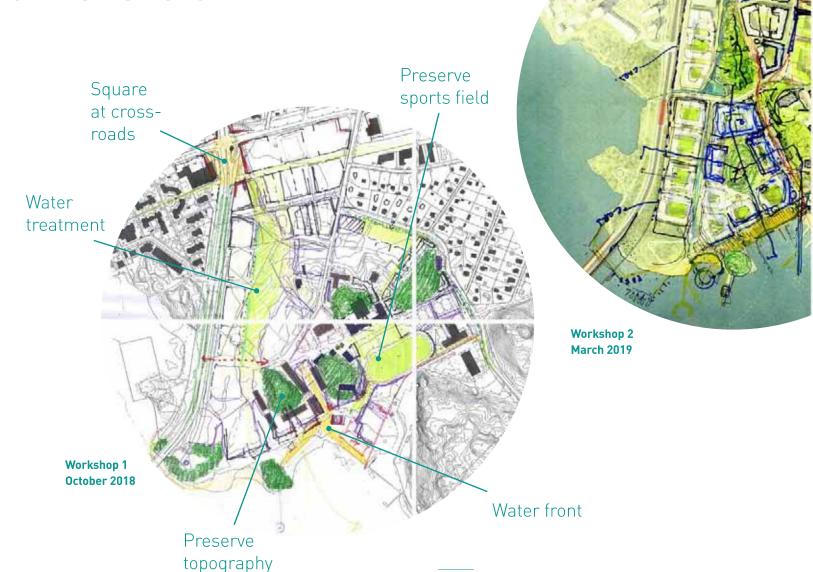


# 4/ Public space at the centre

Public space plan

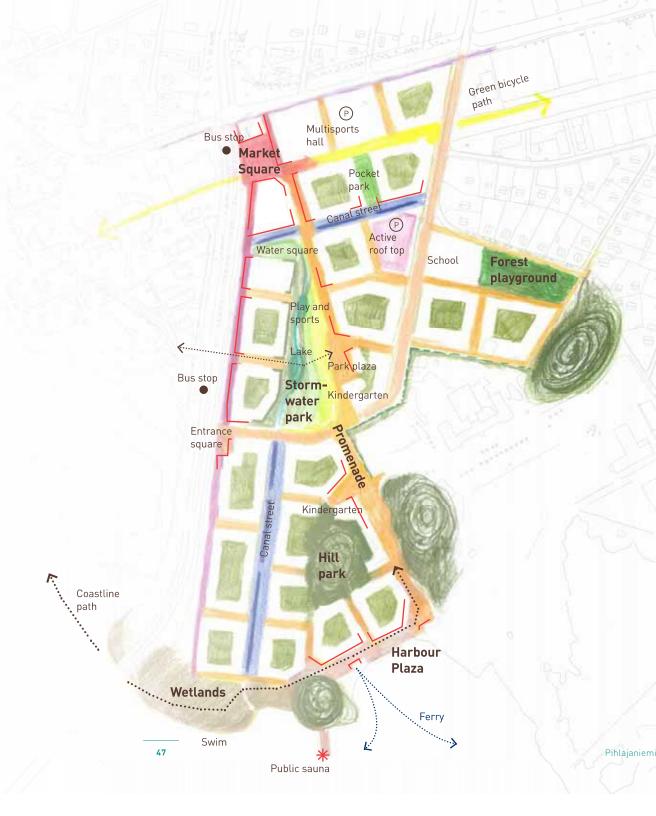
Public space at the centre from

the first sketch



# 6 new significant public spaces and a network of great community places

An area where public space is at the centre, where people from all over the city can meet and interact, from day one



# Offer a rich network of green and blue experiences

A neighbourhood that offer many different green experiences and invitations to live with the water



### **Green living** - atmosphere







### Green urban living

front gardens along edge zo





### The Market square

- » The entrance to the neighbourhood from the city and a new local meeting place for surrounding areas
- » A place for the everyday, with a variety of daily attactors, such as supermarkets, sports and healthcare
- » Hirvensalon Puistotie runs along the side of the square but slip lanes and turning lanes are removed from the intersection to make the layout more efficient, give room for the squre and signalize a more urban environment
- » Pedestrians and bicyclist should cross at street level
- » In a long term perspective, opportunities to build on the land east and north of intersection should be considered



### Market square - atmosphere



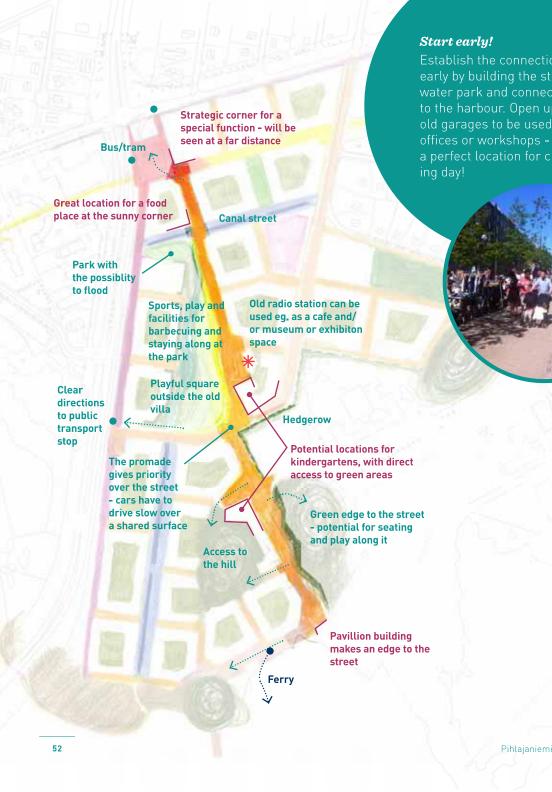






### The Promenade

- » The most important N-S connection, as it runs through the whole neighbourhood and connects with the rest of the city through public transportation in both ends
- » A series of smaller places for play, physical activities and social activites connected by unifying design elements into a linear park
- » As the promenade comes closer to the water and meets with the Harbour Plaza the character changes to become a more urban shared-surface street
- » Most of the promenade has pedestrian prioritization where cars can access it is on shared surfaces that makes the cars go slow
- » Consider important corners along the way for special functions that can help activating the park and promenade



# The Promenade - atmosphere















# Storm water park

- » The lung of the neighbourhood! Connecting the market squre in North with the water in South, as well as the two residential neighbourhood East and West of it
- » The park is divided into different sections with different types of vegetation and different activites
- » Use the old villa, the Radio Station, for an activity that can help bring life to the park, such as a café and/or a small museum
- » The walk from the sea should naturally lead up to and through the park
- » Build the park at an early stage, as a destination, an asset for the first residents and a connector to the river walk in south



# Storm water park - atmosphere













# The forest playground

- » Turn the existing grove into a play area for the neighbourhood and at the same time the playground for the school
- » Preserve existing trees and nature as much as possible and add play structures in between, include the hill to the east if possible
- » Make sure the park is, partly or fully, publically accessible outside school hours
- » Consider inprovements to Rykmentintie to add safe biking possibilites and to make crossing to the villa area safe
- » Consider a public transport stop in close connection to the park and school



### Forest playground - atmosphere



### The Hill park

- » The highest point of the area, with views over the sea and towards the city invite people to come up here by creating designated view points and places for staying acitvities, such as barbecue areas or forest play
- » The nature of the hill and the vegetation should be preserved, and new interventions should be respectful to this
- » Ensure one accessible path up the hill, but consider more playful ways to access climbing, slides, stairs, paths...
- » The place is already there! Invite people up to enjoy the nature from early on by putting up sign leading to the highest point



### Hill park - atmosphere









# The harbour plaza

- » Make use of the unique southfacing waterfront and create a place where you can stop by for a coffee on your walk along the sea the plaza is a great location for cafés and restaurants
- » Make sure the ferry connections gets here at an early stage. This is an unique mode of transportation!
- » Consider a civic attraction in the harbour area - e.g. a swimming hall, church, community building - to attracts a greater variety of people
- » To create a good micro climate on the plaza, make sure not to design a surface too big and make use of the building layout to create sunny corners and reduce the



## Harbour plaza - atmosphere







### The wetlands

- » In contrast to the urban harbour plaza, this is a place for experiencing nature
- » Enhance the wild nature and the reeds with light interventions, such as wooden decks and bridges for walking and swimming, discrete lighting and benches for resting
- » Reduce the noise level from the road by carefully chosing of planting and design interventions
- » Establish the promenade along the water at an early stage, to link the area to surrounding neighbourhoods



## The wetlands - atmosphere

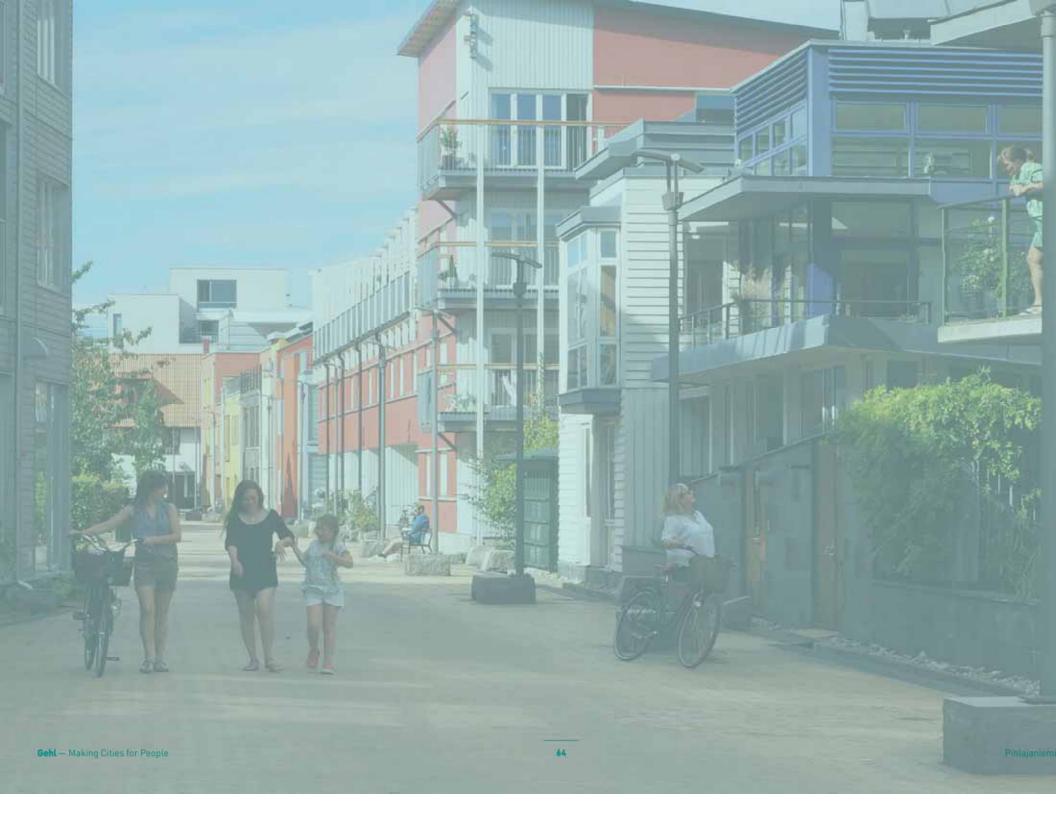












# 4/Streets for people

Street network

## An integral part of the city



Street network

A well-connected network of streets for people

Note - section will be further updated.

A permeable city district that prioritizes pedestrians and bicyclists with a fine grain network of attractive and livable streets

Gehl - Making Cities for People

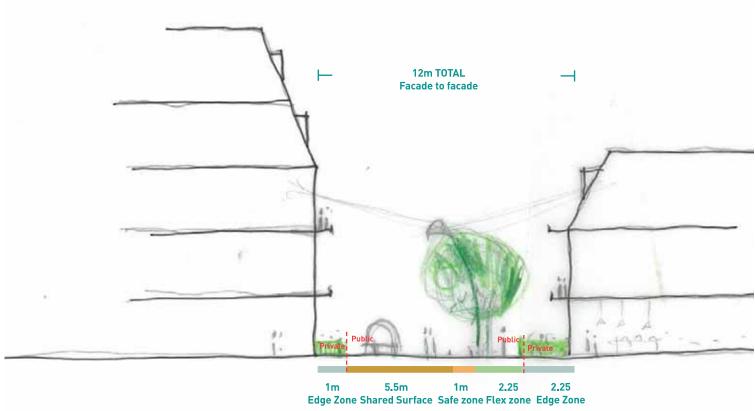


### **Neighbourhood streets**

# Calm residential streets with invitations to stay and spend time

Note - section will be further updated.





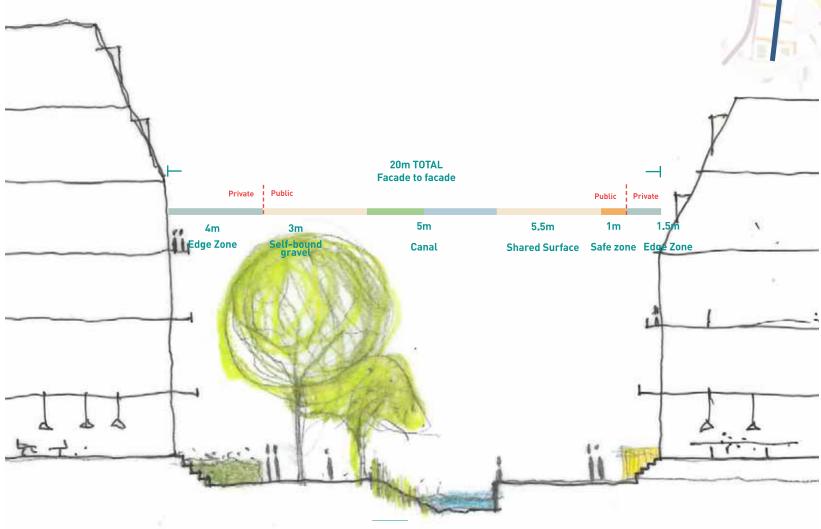
### Neighbourhood streets - atmosphere



### **Blue canal streets**

### An address at the water

Note - section will be further updated.



## Blue canal streets - atmosphere









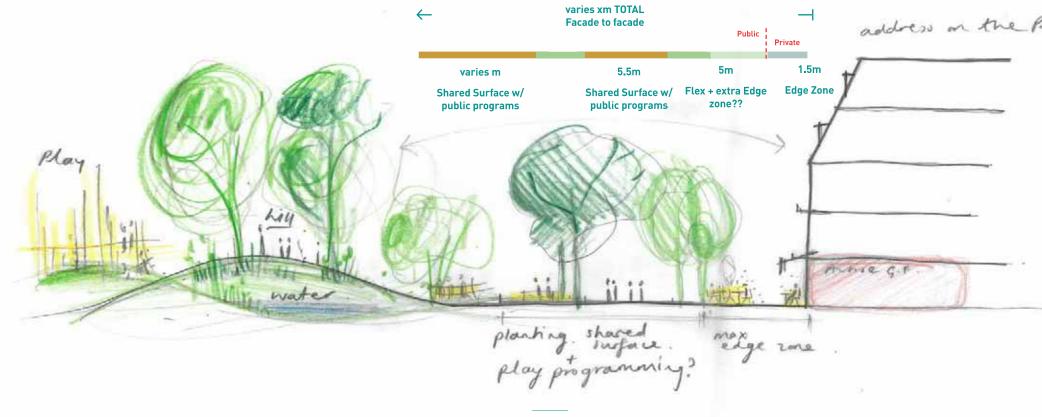


### The promenade at the park

A lively route connecting the neighbourhood from north to south

Note - section will be further updated.





### The promenade - atmosphere















# The Avenue Option 1 - pipe in park

Note - section will be further updated.

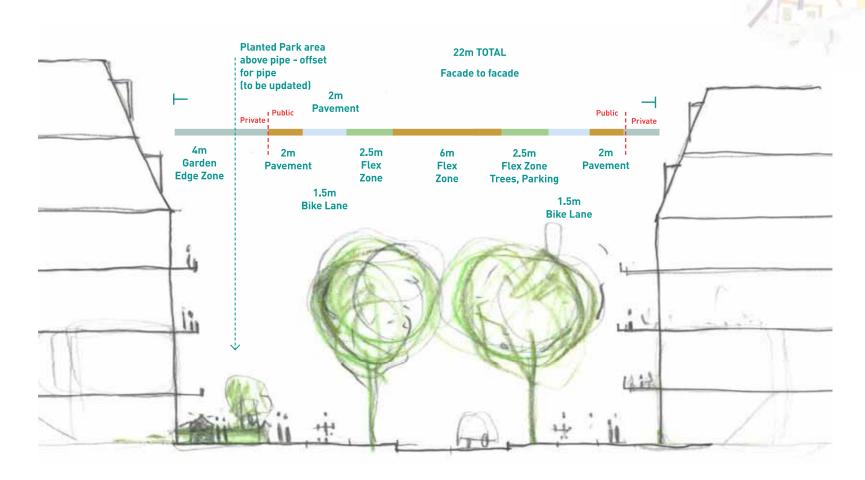




### The Avenue

### Option 2 - pipe in frontgardens

Note - section will be further updated.



## The Avenue - atmosphere











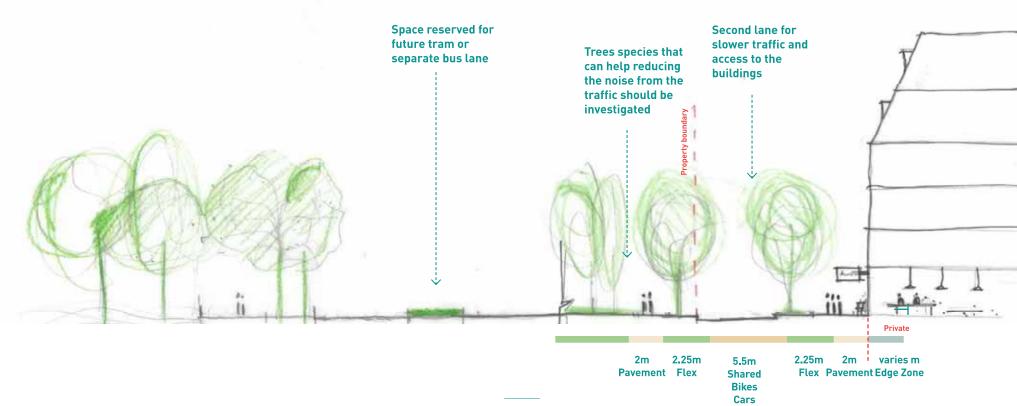


### **Boulevard**

### Option 1 - parallel street

Note - section will be further updated.

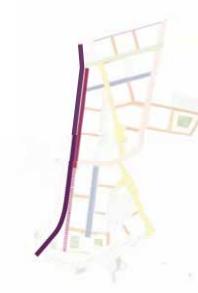




### **Boulevard**

### Option 2 - no building setback

Note - section will be further updated.



# Space reserved for future tram or separate bus lane



### The Boulevard - atmosphere











