The Slow Regard of Silent Things
Konsten att ta in tysta ting

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We are passing into a knowledge society, the digital age, the next phase. This means there is a shift in the role of libraries and they are changing. They are evolving into a space for communication and conversation rather than monologues. Today libraries are unmistakably social, and as libraries are changing into meeting spaces, social and vibrant. Books, literature and knowledge are becoming less tactile, they mainly belong in the cloud now... Perhaps a void has been created, perhaps some things are getting lost in translation. Maybe what we need to discuss is not the survival of literature itself, since the Internet enable us to spread literature and knowledge like never before. So maybe what we need to discuss is the physical book, the tactile feel of them, the weight, paper and ink and what that does to us. Do we need it? Does it benefit literature? Is the book an important object outside of the museum?

Why do we even need libraries anymore? Not a new question but a question with as many answers as thinkers, and so here is one. We need libraries because as Neil Gaiman said “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers but a librarian can bring you back the right one.” And second, we need libraries to expose us to things we have not chosen ourselves. We need them so we can accidentally come across things, stumble and find, explore. Maybe a library is about the serious hard core browsing of books, that itch in your fingers, that urge to take a book from a shelf and flip though it. To explore and find, maybe that is why we need libraries Because no matter where you are, in a room full of books you are at least half way home.

It is time for a library that does not hold all the knowledge. A library that rather deals with very well thought out collections, where you cannot check on the internet before you arrive and find out exactly where the book you want is placed, where you will actually have to browse, to find it, work for your accomplishment and there by add value to it. Perhaps find something different, something you weren’t specifically looking for. A library with a carefully changing selection of knowledge, like curating books.

It is time for a library that allows its visitors to shut the buzz of the city out for a while. To centre back to themselves, a library that complements the other social and vibrant libraries in Stockholm by offering something different, a piece of what is so easily lost in translation, namely, calm, the chance not to be social and vibrant but inward and reflective.
7 minutes from Stockholm's central station, one street down from Drottninggatan, two minutes from Kungsgatan, bordered by Danses hus with Norra Bantorget right across the street this old school playground sees a lot of movement. People constantly passing but rarely staying. It feels like a waiting place, a passing place. A big empty space filled with gravel, bordered by trees and shaped by the Neo-Renaissance architecture of its only building slightly softened by a fountain. A place for cutting corners. But still with that undeniable energy that constant movement creates...
"That’s why stories appeal to us, they give us the clarity and simplicity our real lives lack."

The Name of the Wind, Patrick Rothfuss (2007)
THE CORRIDOR
THE CENTRE

A space defined by the four courtyards contained in it and its flexibility created by slim, low bookcases mounted on wheels. The seating in this area is centred around the courtyards where daylight is available and the view shows nothing but sky and greenery. Additional seating is provided by light stools that can be moved around easily. The space is fitted with daylight panels to fill the whole space with bright light.

BOOK COLLECTION - PART 1

In this room, the airy bookcases of the centre room give way to more solid, wooden bookcases with more light. Airily spaced with reading spaces between them to create a warmer more enclosed space.

THE OXFORD READING ROOM

Rows of desks, dark wood, solid bookcases, warm light and plush leather armchairs are features defining this room.

THE MAZE OF BOOKS

This space is defined by its bookshelves. Reaching from floor to ceiling in narrow passages, surrounding the visitor, encouraging them to go on, to find its secrets, to turn the next corner.
THE ABSTRACT READING ROOM
The room is fitted with walls that has LED fixtures inside them, making the light source the walls themselves. These walls are arranged in to ambiguous shapes so the user may interpret the use for themselves.

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
A room centred around the amphitheatre filled with books, where children can explore new titles and story times can be hosted. Additionally the space is floored with tatamimats providing a soft floor to sit down and read on. The bookcases around the walls exhibit the books with the cover turned outwards to make it easier for the children to browse the books.

THE CORRIDOR
A thin long room lined with bookshelves from floor to ceiling. At the end of the corridor four openings in the ceiling provide daylight to guide the visitor along. In this space seating can be found interwoven in the bookcases.

THE DOMES
Three geodesic domes programmed as greenhouses, café, display of digital books and the librarians dome. The domes serve as the link between the library and the city but also between the natural and the digital. This is the place to discuss books, get reading tips, work, study and enjoy the greenery all year round.
Beauty lay not in the thing but in what the thing symbolise.
Tess of D'urberville, Thomas Hardy (1891)

“The framework of a house, the very framework of the world.”
Courrier sud, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1929)
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How to move between floors?

- Take a bit of time, clear transition.
- Important for different to have this same experience.
- Several different routes.

| Circular | Light can be hanging or wall.
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<tr>
<td>Sunken</td>
<td>Light the whole?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low ceiling</td>
<td>Sunken ceiling in one area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open space</td>
<td>One large window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light panel</td>
<td>Make it look like daylight.</td>
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Use smooth forms instead of sharp edges.

Also one bigger & a few smaller to create bigger ones at light & dark.

- Use a system of several courtyards.

- Divide the space into boxes of light & shadow.

- Use these to organize space. Make those in higher bookshelves in darker area.

- Places "pavilions" above ground. Library underground.

- Place program around the courtyards (reading, quiet, listen).

- Monitors

- Lights
MODELS