peripheral tales - 6 houses awaiting a visit
producing spatial moments of places

DANIEL BACKLUND
peripheral tales - 6 houses in waiting for a visit  (producing spatial moments of places)
Peripheral Tales - 6 Houses Awaiting a Visit (Producing Spatial Moments of Places)

Situated along a country road in Värmland this project presents structures derived from a found sense of hospitality as well a proud mentality of showing the very best of sides to a visitor. The structures tells by various means one tale each - about being a host and to invite a guest inside.

I have placed 6 houses along a country road in Värmland - a region in western Sweden. By building new I have wanted to investigate the production of certain spatial moments; moments I have discerned from the presence of places, as the road passes them through this peripheral area. I have tried to let the structures accept this found and given essence and further materialize and represent it. The houses are supposed to be able to portray the occasion where an encounter of a passing guest and an awaiting host could take place. That being said, the host could very well be the building in itself. Working, I have asked myself: what if a visitor passed by, what would take place? - And what would the building express in waiting for that to happen?

Each one of them confronts the task differently depending on the site, its conditions, and also for what occasion they are prepared and built for. Three of the houses has become more adapted to a permanent living of a host, and are divided into a private and public sphere. The other three remains somewhat exclusive - meaning that their program and structure in-themselves acts as host.

tales:
1st. House of 4 marbled pilars (where the road passes a center of a town) - that about inviting inside a local as well a guest.
2nd. House of 2 porch benches (beside the road) - that of sparing a seat.
3rd. House for a kitchen table and its window (by the end of the road) - that about patiently waiting for a visit.
4th. House for the already made beds (along the road) - that about being prepared to household.
5th. House of a representative facade (visible from the road) - that about expecting the visit.
6th. House for a chimney and a long table (a bit further away from the road) - that of being able to embosom.

Student: Daniel Backlund, Studio 2, Supervisors: Marianne Aaro och Johan Mårtelius
The following pages represent examples of the first phase of the project. That of drawing existing buildings in the area where the project takes place - trying to grasp the identity mentality of choosen sites, and in a concrete way understand the buildings tectonic presence and their logic.
affärshuset med sin mot övriga stads kontrasterande och rika rymd. markerade entréer och kvalitativa material.
Gula hotellet numera "uffes blå" är kanske den mest besynnerliga av villorna. Monolitisk/bastant, såväl prälig och dekorerad.
Gamla kommunhuset 5.11 mot torget
skala 1:100

Skala till affären, entrén inskjuten, med belysning.
Gällingårdens fasad, sydväst

1.100

svartmålad fasad. panel.
betongplintar. singulariteter. privat.
entré via terrass på baksidan.

5m²
klädesaffärerna tillika bottenvåningen är markerad med skyltfönster, entrén inskjuten, med belysning, där putsten krackelerat har panel ersatts.

affärshuset med sin mot övriga citys kontrasterande och råda ytteri, markerade entrèer och kvalitativa material.
grannstugan

entré via veranda och kök, stort vardagsrum, litet sovrum, litet kök, finns åtminstone ett matbord vid fönstret och en stol.

svartmålad fasad, panel, betongplintar. Singularitet privat. Entré via tremsa på huskupa.
(photo) of painting Landevei by Harald Sohlberg, picture collected from: http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=162772, Dec 2018

(map) of Värmland, the line represents the distance from where the road departs from Deje and ends in Ransäter.
Plan shows; the reception, bar, backkitchen and owner's apartment, and the four corner entries with its pillars marking each access.

Plan shows two entrances from the front and the back. The two benches leans on the steelsheet walls by their side, while the fronts pierce the wall.

Plan shows the private part and kitchentable facing north and of the first reflective part spared for the guest and the special occasion.

Facing east the representive facade. Behind its corners lies the one entry for the resident and the other for a guest. In the middle a representetive fine room for an incounter.

Plan shows two entrances which availibles two beds each. By the doors; clothes storage, and in the middle; a fireplace to share with another guest.
Where the road passes the center of Deje this structure is placed. The addition places itself among the other central villas of the town and by the marketplace and shops. It finalizes an already existing typology of houses containing business and apartments, private and public. Its position in the town demands more of the structure - a demand to give back for the space it occupies.

Four corners with four marbled pillars marks as entrance for host as well as guest, local as well as visitor. They put an additional exclusive layer - showing their intention of making an effort inviting you inside.

The building is further split into two sides. One public containing a bar and reception for two rental rooms upstairs, and one side reserved for the host.

(picture) photo of a pillar, church of Øvre Ullerd, photo by author, dec. 2018.
view from the site, facing the shipping dock of a center building.
Plan shows; the reception, bar, backkitchen and owner's apartment, and the four corner entries with its pilars marking each access.
Plan shows two rental rooms, the owner's apartment and two balconies to the south sea side.
Section through the bar and back-kitchen, one of the rental rooms as well as the bedroom of the owners' apartment.
West faces the market place and the east facade another central villa.
Northern facade facing the central road. The left corner entrance leads to the reception and bar; the right - to the owners apartment.
(2nd.) house of two 2 porch benches

that about sparing a seat - just beside the road

North of Deje, beside the road at village Hagen, *House of 2 porch benches* sits next to the busstop, a site where someone already has laid gravel, perhaps planning for something to be built. Adapting the very first of elements in all the neighbouring houses this structure build itself around an idea of a porch and it’s room for safe rest, while still keeping an eye and control of those passing by. An outer wooden construction holds thin steel sheets keeping the distance from the outside to a minimal, still being a house and shelter. Big out-cuttings serve as transparent and lighting element to it’s inside room. The two benches pierce the walls, making themselves visible from the outside. The three thin concrete legs makes it seem it is somewhat temporary, or that it could almost move away by itself. Thus it belongs to the other neighbouring artefacts that is movable, such as the tractor or the mailboxes.

(picture) photo of a porch at Hagen, village north of Deje, photo by author, may, 2019.
view standing on the ice facing the other side of Klarälven.
Section through the two benches facing each other, and the opposite pair of roof windows. In the background one sees the out-cutting of the steel sheet - making one entry.

PLAN

Plan shows two entrances from the front and the back. The two benches lean on the steel sheet walls by their side, while the fronts pierce the wall.
Facade facing the road, presents the outer construction holding the steel in place, next to the bus-stop it waits for someone passing.

Facade North/South

The gables shows the fronts of the roof windows and its construction and the facade ends with the legs/fundaments of the house.
This tale begins by the end of the road, where a branch reaches lake Visten. Alongside a neighbouring small cabin this house is to situate itself. Passing the neighbour it is possible to see a kitchen-window and a smaller table outlook the road. It is around such a room this structure is built - a house for a kitchen-table and a chair. The kitchenwindow is placed with a direct view to the road, and by sitting in the chair or lying in the bed in the next room one would see the flakering light of a car. From the outside, a guest could instead see reflections in the window roofing steelsheets of a glistening sun through the pinetrees - marking the prescence of a structure and host that is watching you. One side is kept as a private sphere while a passage to the other side availables another that is spared for the occasion of a visit. A fireplace and a corner cabinet frames a dinner table. The two bedrooms next to this room and the kitchen has a view to the lake by two windows.

The house does not wish to make too much of a fuss, however it stays firmly on the ground and are proud to show its existence by its building elemets - and moreover its ability to invite a guest inside.
Plan shows the private part and kitchentable facing north and of the first reflective part spared for the guest and the special occasion.
Section through the kitchen and table and the fine room saved for a visit. In the background one see openings to the bedrooms.
Facade shows the private entrance and the one for a guest.

Facade - Northeast
Facade shows the kitchen table window. Its presence is marked by elements such as the metal sheets reflecting a sun glimmer.
(4th.) house for already made beds

that about being prepared to household - a house along the road

Where the land between the road and the river is at its smallest
distance, this house fills the gap, and becomes close neighbour to the
bus stop and the houses of Förby. The house consists of 2 entrances,
7 closet rods and shoe racks, 2 fireplaces, and 4 beds. The four beds
give shape to the structure and the interior is a visual background for
them. A smooth surface in a darker green keeps the room calm and is
contrasted by the outer expression of an assembly of constructional
and functional elements. The four sheets covering the roof and two
sheets building the ramps is another contrast marking the building’s
presence. Its height is to not only give a spatial extraordinarity to the
place to sleep but also rise and play another vertical role and shape in
an otherwise plane landscape - consisting of the horizontal road, and
river and the land in between.

It’s duality in numbers of 2 and 4 is a reminder that it is a place for
rest as an individual or pair but also for sharing with other passing
visitors.
View standing on the ice facing the other side of Klarälven.
Plan shows two entrances which available two beds each. By the doors, clothes storage, and in the middle, a fireplace to share with another guest.
Through the section one sees the view from the opposite bed to the other, as well as the shared fireplace the neighbouring guest.
Facade shows two windows facing the beds, the roof elements, the two pipes, the drainpipe in the middle, and the entrance ramps on each side.
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When the road is close to the village of Ransäter, it narrows the old railway trail that nowadays is a hiking and cycling trail. On site, someone has felled some pine trees and laid them to the side to be used later. With the remaining trees as a background this house faces the road with its gable. As host and structure it is able to embosom those travelling on it. It provides 4 strong walls, two chimneys and a long table. The building present itself with showing these main elements from the outside. It could appear very closed at a first glance. It’s four entrances however, is pushed out slightly in a manner that aims to make it’s inside leak out and make itself available. 4 wooden frameworks marks these entrances, and are held in place by steel cables, that re-connects them to the whole composition and the house.

(photo) photo of painting; Skymningsglöden, by Björn Ahlgrensson, photo by author, Rackstadmuseet dec. 2018.
view from the road
Plan shows the private part and kitchen table facing north and of the first reflective part spared for the guest and the special occasion.
The facade faces two of four entrances and the chimneys by its sides. The framework holding the doors is visible, as are the edges of the table, when the doors are kept open.
The facade facing the hiking trail and road; the chimney from the outside and the sides of the two marked entries is visible.
(6th.) house of the representative facade
that about expecting a visit - a scenery visible from the road

Upnorth the road reaches the village of Ransäter. This area stands as a cultural important area, known for its grand estates and mansions - whose scenery for centuries has been seen for those passing through. It is by such a scenery this building present and gets structured. By a plateau on a plane field this new house is placed. As it’s neighbours it presents and show itself in an elegant manner. It’s representative facade faces the road, and knows its power to both intrigue as well as intimidate a visitor. Some openings are just reliefs on the surface, ones are openings, and one is an actual door. They are all set in place to provide a feeling of order and structure. And showing clues of the construction, one sense their exist another layer behind. Passing the the two openings by its sides, (one for the guest, and one for the host) this layer is fully revealed as the facade becomes the construction.

And its importance is further emphasised by holding the actual entrances. By the main axis ones directed to a dining room for hosting a gathering. And by its flanks one finds the other functional rooms.

A sensed responsibility to show a side of representation, still retaining a private sphere behind, where the order is kept, however changed as it’s purpose is changed.
view from the road
Facing east the representative facade. Behind its corners lies the one entry for the resident and the other for a guest. In the middle a representative fine room for an encounter.
Facade visible from the passing countryside road. It represents an order, fronting a felt responsibility to hospital passing guests.
Facades shows the entries for guests and the owner on separate sides. The structure is exposed and is painted in red, differing from the brighter colour than the front.
Section through the halls and the fine room of representation and a table for sharing between guests and residents.