Värmdö is located centrally in the archipelago, 20 kilometres east of Stockholm. This large municipality with its widely differing conditions has approximately 24,000 islands and is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Sweden. The municipality of Värmdö has a positive attitude to developments of new tourism activities and facilities. They have goals to strengthening businesses and associations that has interests in tourism.

Oxdjupet, which is located in between Rindö and Värmdö, is one of the most traffic intense waterways in Stockholm’s archipelago.

Tourism on Värmdö

In Sweden tourism is a growing industry, which many consider to have the greatest growth potential. The industry creates new jobs and increased profitability for companies in the sector. An expansive visitor industry also helps to strengthen the municipality’s identity.

Värmdö is a place widely renowned for its nature and military historical sites, and the closeness to the capital Stockholm creates great preconditions for further development of the tourist industry. The tourist destinations are easily accessible and visitors from near and far have found this place in the Stockholm archipelago, and the numbers of guests are increasing.

At the moment Värmdö has already a large amount of visitors - which can be sorted into groups:

- Vacation homes
- Leisure visitors from the Stockholm, Sweden and other countries
- Swedish and foreign business visitors
- "Boat people", who visit Värmdö every summer

Communications

By car you reach the site either from the south of Stockholm by road 222 passing Gustavsberg and then changing to road 274, or from the north of Stockholm via Vaxholm. If you take the route via Vaxholm you take road 274, the car ferry to Rindö and then a second ferry to cross Oxdjupet. In the current situation the ferries goes three times per hour between 6-18 o weekdays. In weekends the traffic is slightly sparse. Public transport is also possible by buses from central of Stockholm that stops 300 m away from the site. In connection to the site a new parking area, for both cars and buses, will be provided.
History – Myttinge defence line

The area Värmdö, Vaxholm and Rindö is full of military remains. Almost everywhere you can find traces from it. The main purpose for most of them was to defend Stockholm, the only sailing path deep enough to enter Stockholm. So therefore this place is of great historical value.

Öhligset's defence history is long and is reflected in the remains of fortifications from different eras. The so-called “Myttinge defence line”, or alternatively “Värmdö Battery Line”, from the years 1899-1903, encloses the old fortifications at Öhligset. The two kilometres long defence line stretches between the bay of Myttinge and the bay of Vreta. Its task was to protect Öhligset on the land side from occupation of the Russians during the First World War.

Along the route there are seven fort-like battery sites, bound together by a carefully walled stonewall. The wall has an old-fashioned character and meanders gently in the rocky terrain. Battery No. 3 and No. 5, the so-called Myttinge fort and Vreta fort, is blasted into a hill and surrounded by deep assault graves. These were equipped with cannons. Battery No. 1, No. 2, No. 4 and No. 6 were open and equipped with machine guns, that could be moved on rails. The seventh battery had four 12 cm guns, pointing at Öhligset. The Myttinge defence line was abandoned in 1925 but served as storage until the Cold War. Until recent times the batteries has been used by the military as practice areas. Today the future of all military remains in the area has an uncertain future, a war history that soon will be forgotten.

1 “Battery” – a military structure that hosts a group of canons.
The site

With its unique history and location this conference hotel is a place for a company that want to experience a different conference with the contact to history and nature. The facilities also suits perfect for the tourist that wants to see Sweden in another way.

The surrounding nature provides all kind of activities: military historical walks with or without guide, splitting wood, jogging, sunbathing, swimming, fishing and picking mushrooms and berries. Battery No.3 and No.5 are also known for hunting rare kinds of bats. Nighttimes guided tours and excursions in Värmdö are available where these flying mammals can be seen.

My chosen battery, No.7 has a fairly limited area and volume. When it was in use the space inside was just used as ammunition storage. The rooms inside consists of masonry vaults, 3 m wide, looking like corridors rather then rooms. This made me think about using the battery as an entrance, a passage to enter to the backside and at the back you will find the major part of the new conference complex partly hidden in the landscape.

The character of the shed is of great importance for the site's impression. It strengthens the battery's military history and quality. In addition to that the corrugated metal facade is very beautiful. The structure of the shed is of truly shed nature. There are several openings in the shed, windows and sliding doors. With its high ceiling and length, the shed had good properties to be used for conference and lectures. The shed is from the same time as the battery and was used as storage for military vehicles.

SITE PLAN

1. Parking
2. The shed - conference
3. The battery - administration
4. Restaurant
5. Accommodation
6. Main area illustrated
The project - a conference hotel

Today the Swedish Property Board (Statens Fastighetsverk, SFV) stands in front of an almost impossible task to decide what to do with all military structures that are no longer in use. Which ones shall be kept, which ones shall be turned into museums and which ones can be demolished?

This project is about revitalize military history of Myttinge and seek architecture language with it. The chosen battery, No. 7, is actually the smallest structure on the defense line, but not less interesting; the close location to Oxdjupet, its particular shape and its accompanying atmosphere of the shed.

The new added architecture associates with old military buildings; the close connection and the adaption to the terrain, trenches, view points, ancient walls, fireplaces and material choice. The accommodation architecture refers to old military “logement” and the administration is placed on the battery to overlook the complex.

To not be too dominant on the site the program is divided within several smaller buildings, instead of one large volume.

Administration (the battery): reception, office, staff room – 77 m²

Accommodation: 36 beds, four rooms adapted for handicapped people. Four house units with double rooms – 148 m²

Conference facilities (the shed): lecture room for 42 people, lobby and a big meeting room for 16 people – 230 m²

Restaurant building: kitchen, canteen, bar, lounge, group room, accommodation for staff – 470 m²

Sauna: Two saunas with two outdoor bathtubs – 55 m²

Parking: 13 parking lots, space for two buses

TOTAL BUILDING AREA: 1424 m²

REFERENCES

MATERIALS

SITE

RESTAURANT ILLUSTRATION

SOUTH FACADE

LONGITUDINAL SECTION
Construction/Materials:

- Roof: extensive planting, soil, separation layer, gravel, root-resistant fiber mat, insulation, water protection, reinforced concrete
- Wall: rough-hewn granite, stainless steel anchor pins, ventilated cavity, vapor barrier, reinforced concrete, steel blade columns in connection with glassed facade
- Floor: radiant heating, reinforced concrete, vapor barrier, insulation
- Interior: exposed concrete finish, central corridor walls in rough-hewn granite
- Courtyards: replanted birches and scrubs from the surroundings
- Terrace: oak boards