KTH UPD | 2013-2014 Master Thesis

Vittoria Albertini

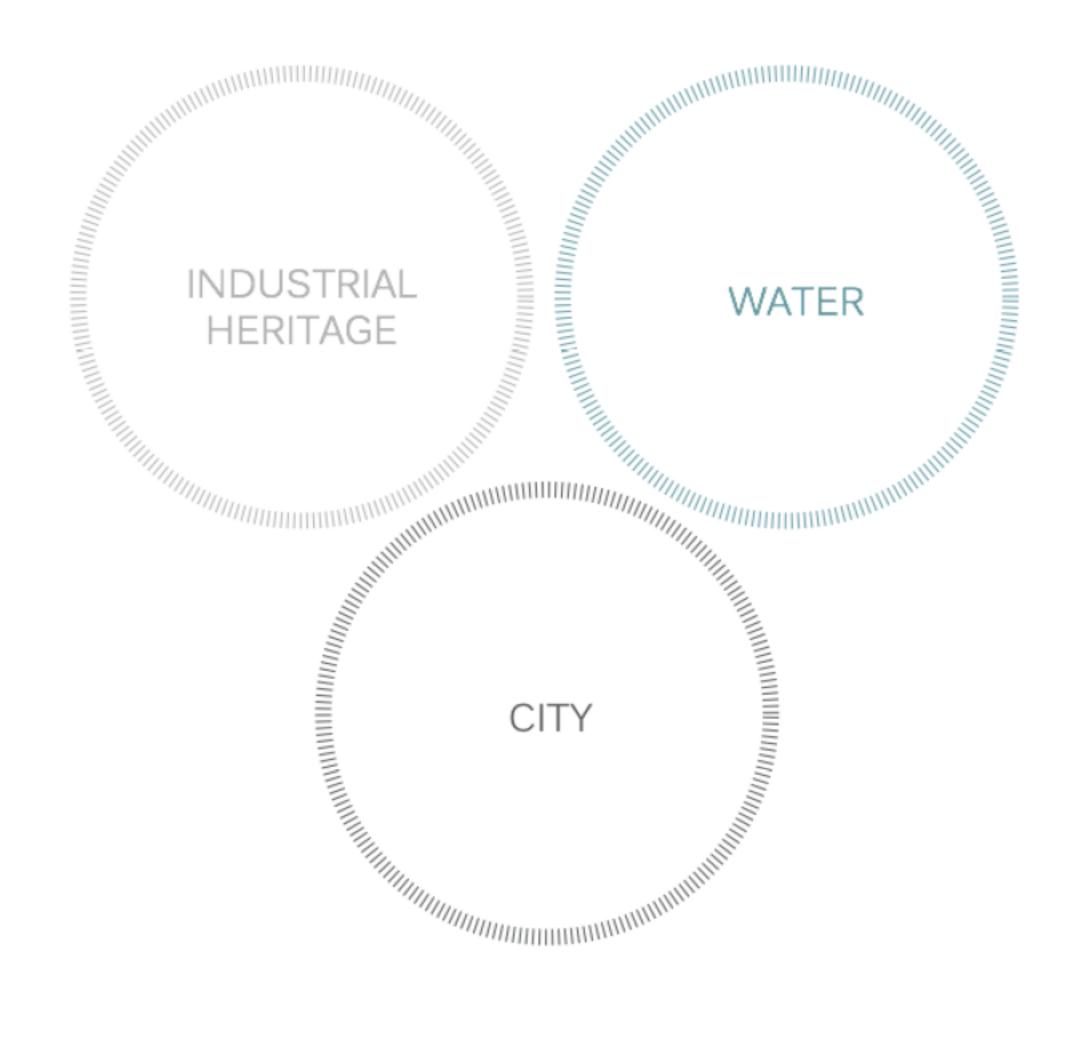
Supervisors:
Ana Betancour
Jaime Montes
Flavia Cozma

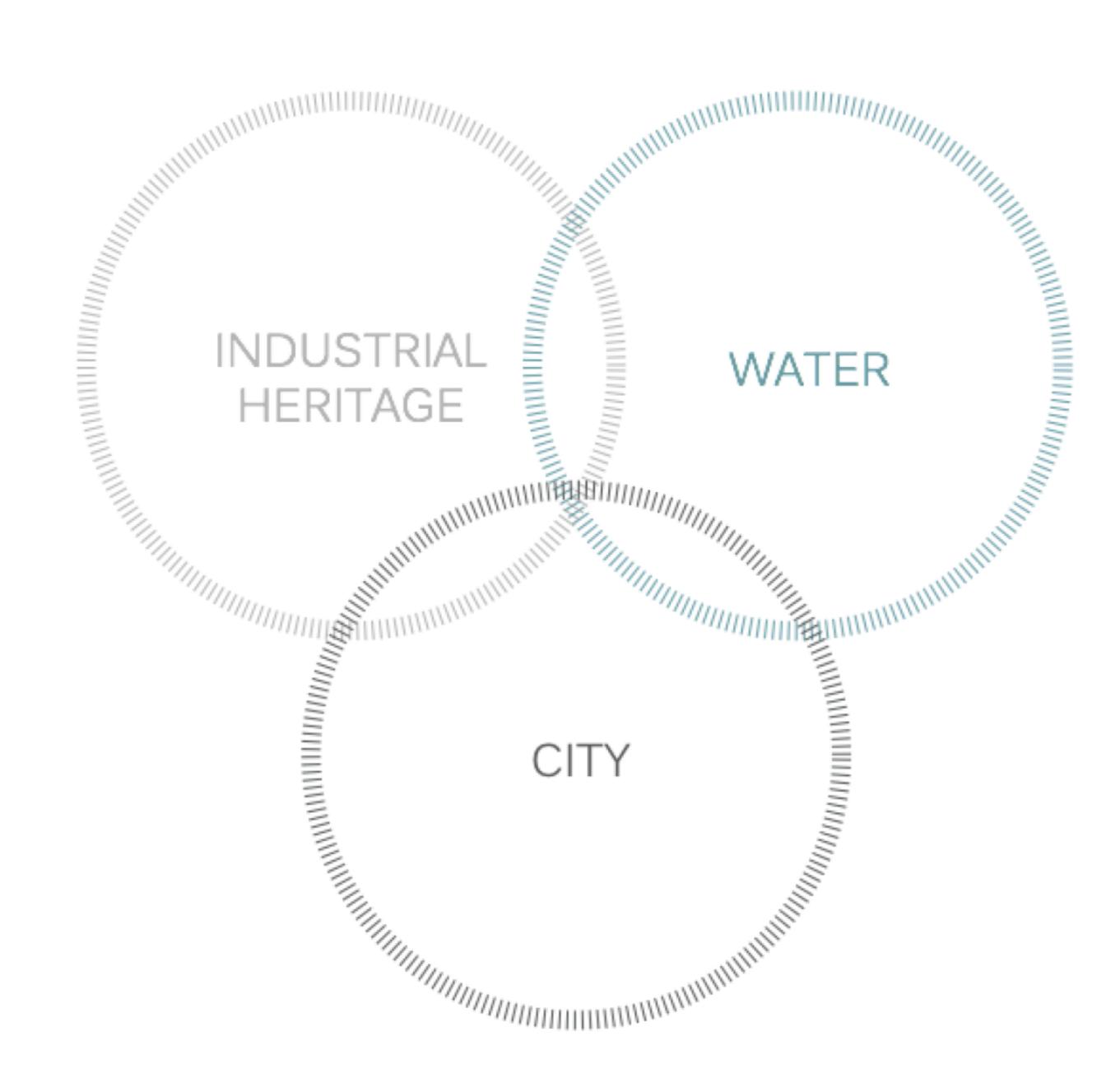
THE WALKABLE CITY: ALONG THE EDGE OF STOCKHOLM

"THINK OF THE MARGIN AS A TERRITORY
OF RESEARCH ON THE RICHNESS,
WHICH COMES FROM THE MEETING OF
DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS"

Gilles Clement

ABSTRACT





ALONG THE EDGE OF STOCKHOLM

Stockholm is an archipelago of islands connected by water that through history has been an important resource for the city and for the industries, which found an easy access for ships and therefore they settled on strategic positions along the edges.

This thesis investigates the topics of water, industrial heritage and edges in the city of Stockholm: these aspects are strong in their individual identity but they also interact in a powerful and interesting way.

This work intervenes where this pattern is still visible -due to the presence of water and industries- but not accessible because it lacks the third element of connection with the city.

The aim is therefore to investigate strategies that increase and reconnect the potential of these aspects that got disconnected through time.

Strategies will be investigated for the individual aspects, and when applied will improve them and make them interact. To obtain accessibility and usability, the edge will be transformed and redefined to enhance the experience of walking along it.

Among the former industrial sites, one with these three elements will be identified, as a prototypical case to explore the approach.

An analysis will be carried out and a proposal will be designed for the site of Lövholmen, which has these characteristics -the water, a strong industrial heritage and proximity to the city- that are now disconnected.

The opening of the edge and possibilities of walking will transform and reconnect the site - and the richness in it- with the city of Stockholm.

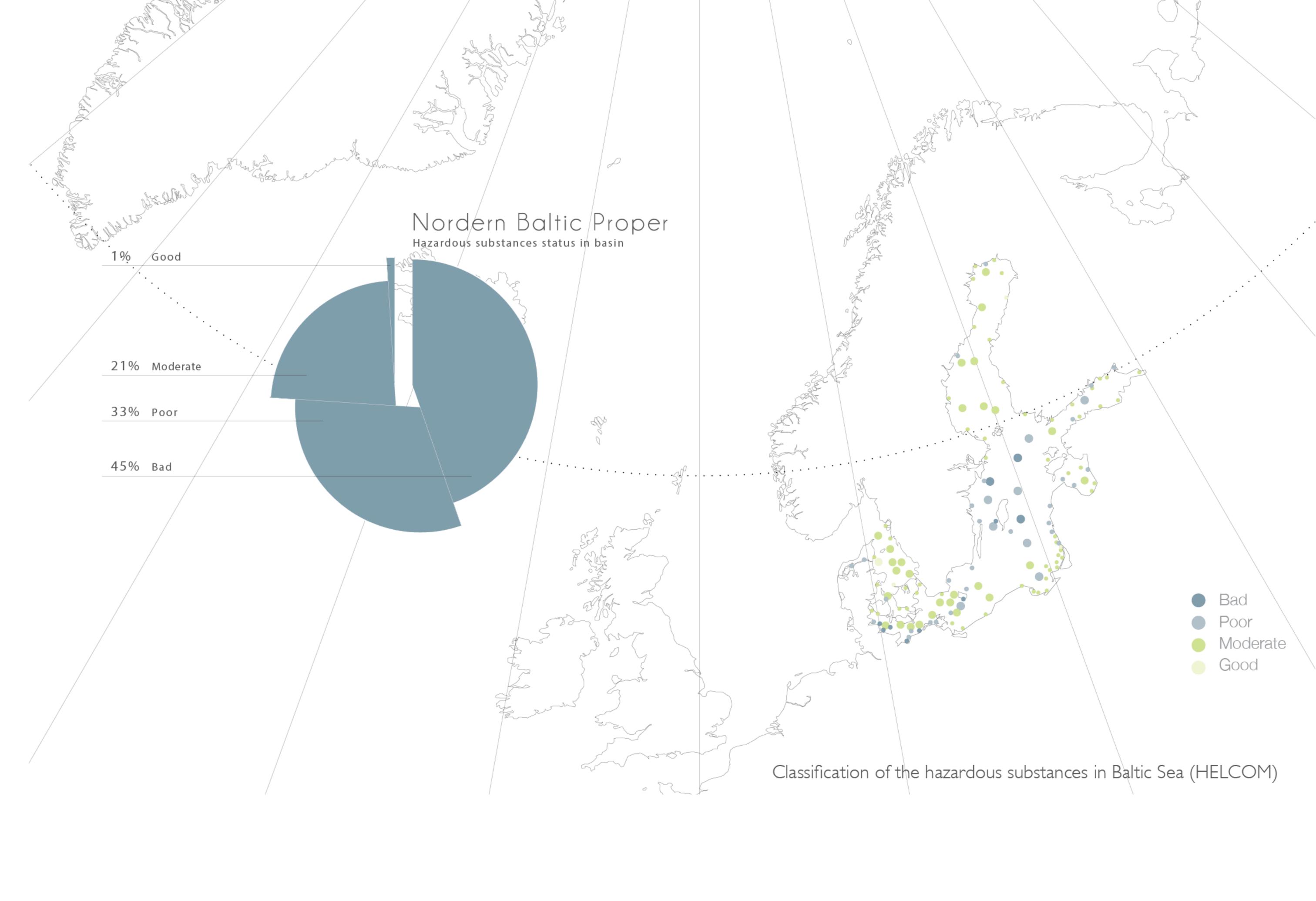
BACKGROUND: WATER

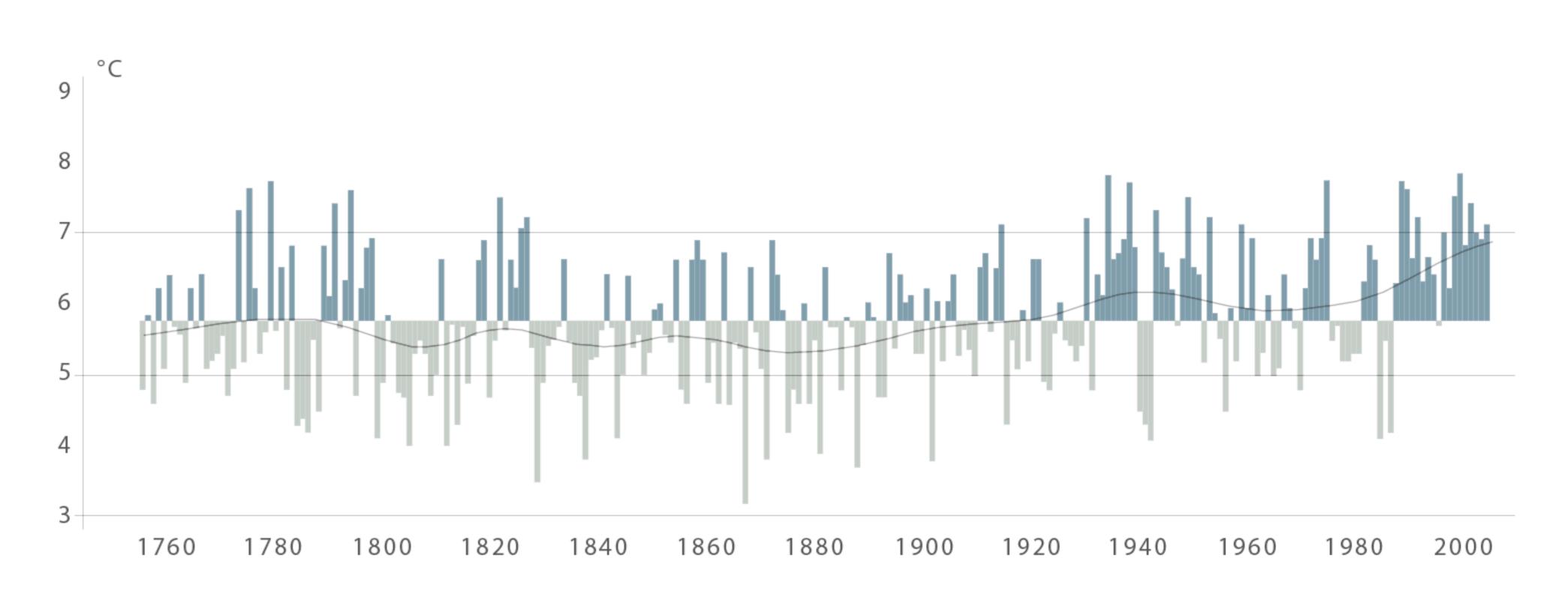
CHALLENGES

Climate changes we are witnessing and those that are predicted are largely due to human behavior. Ecologically destructive practices can worsen natural disasters. By destabilizing the climate we are altering the natural system, so that its ability to protect us is diminished.

Arctic sea ice volume has declined dramatically over the past decade. In 2011 the minimum was more than 50% below that of 2005. The consequences of losing ice coverage are expected to be immense: the cities will heat up leading to an increase of ocean temperatures with effects on weather system.

Another challenge is the water condition: the Baltic Sea is susceptible to pollution by hazard-ous substances. Various types of industrial activities, busy traffic, and intensive farming and animal husbandry, emit and discharge hazardous substances. Northern Baltic Proper received the lowest status classifications (bad or poor).





Annual temperature in Stockholm (SMHI)

BACKGROUND: INDUSTRY

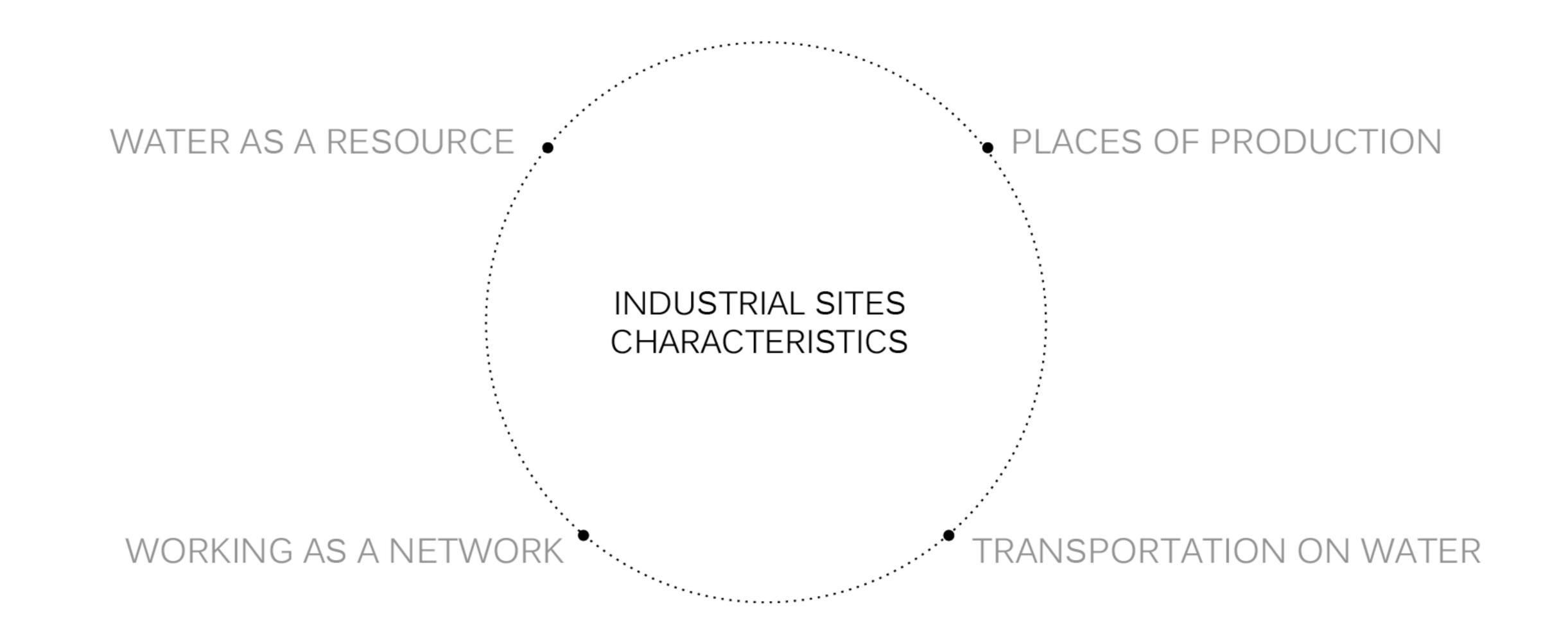
STOCKHOLM'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Industrial activities started in 1800 and made visible changes to Stockholm's landscape.

With the invention of steam engine, industries settled on water banks, taking advantage of resources and water networks.

In the past industries were situated at the edges of the city. They were sites of production based on a network of transaction and transportation.

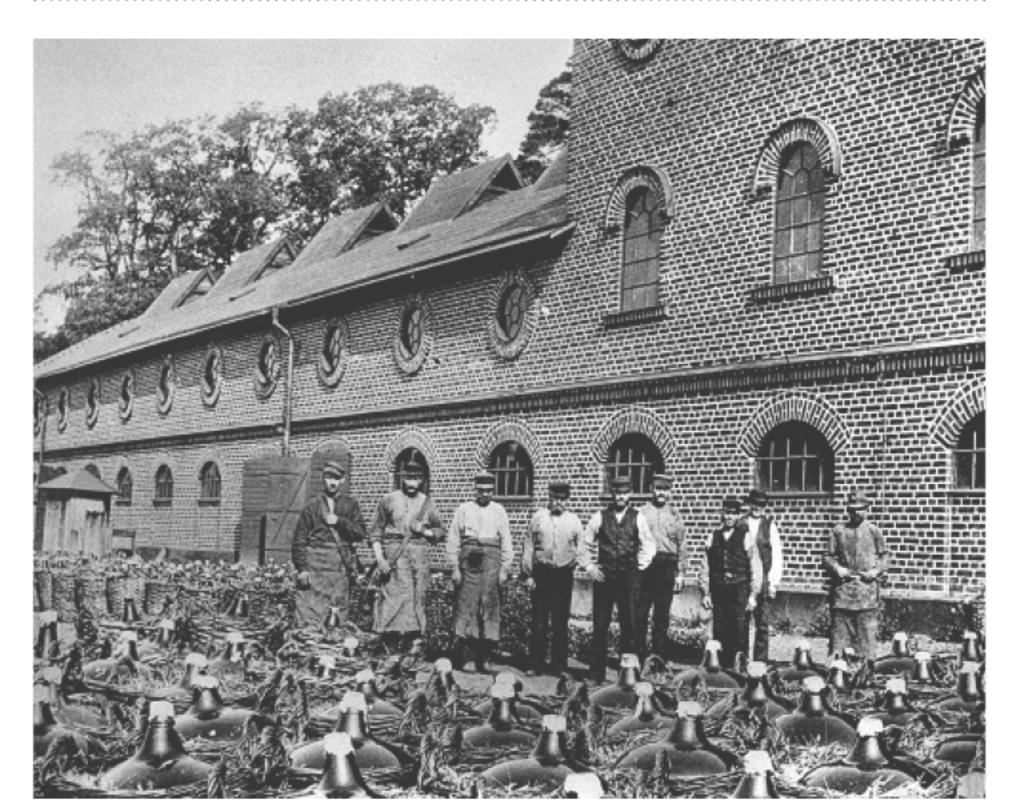
Today the city grows and industrial sites are being incorporated into it, but this pattern is still visible.



Vinterviken



Lövholmen





BACKGROUND: EDGES

HOLGER BLOM - WALKING ALONG THE EDGE

Holger Blom developed his idea of developing Stockholm as a ring city: traffic routes were replaced by a large park in the center and built in rings all around, and the city was easily accessible.

He has a strong idea of gardens as social tools for city development.

Rålambshovsparken with Norra Mälarstrand boardwalk is an example of the new people-friendly park in urban environment.

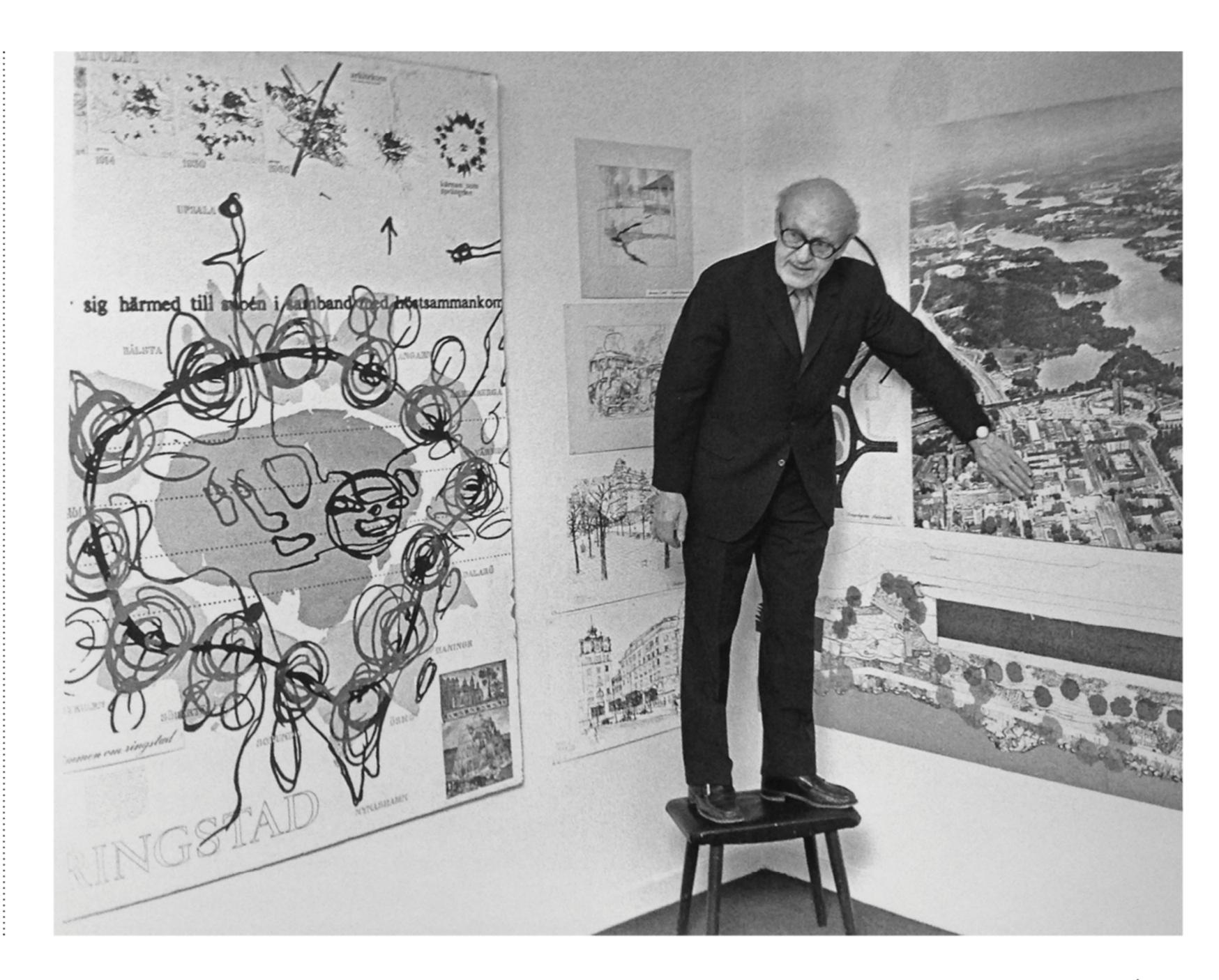
Blom wanted to realize the idea of connecting the park with the city through boardwalks, valorizing the experience of walking.











METHODOLOGY

WALKING

Walking is a way to experience the place and to perceive the environment around us. It will be used as the main method for mapping, understanding of the environment and application of strategies.

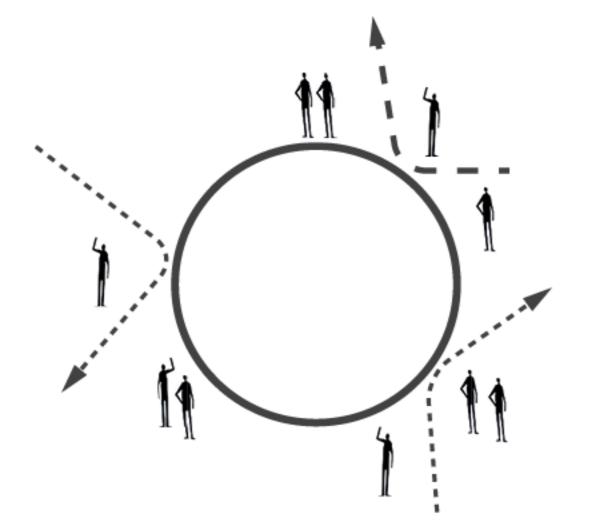
There are theories about walking as a science:

Strollology is a term invented by Lucius Burckhardt that involves scientific descriptions of walks, to learn to see the landscape as it is. Strollology is the science of walking that should be used as a tool for learning about a landscape or place. It encourages intervention that enhances user experience and understanding of the connection between environments as one passes through. It focuses on deeply rooted details: both visible and invisible qualities of the environment. It is also arguing that design decisions that appear invisible shape as well the experience as well as built interventions.

The Situationists intend walking as an adventure, an exploration and a way to approach to urban planning.

HOW CAN WALKING BE USED AS A WAY TO UNDERSTAND AND EXPLORE THE LANDSCAPE?

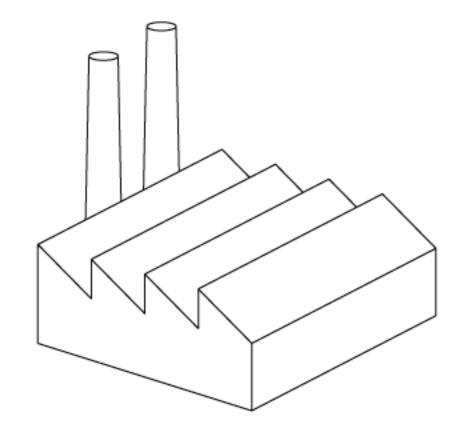
RESEARCH QUESTION



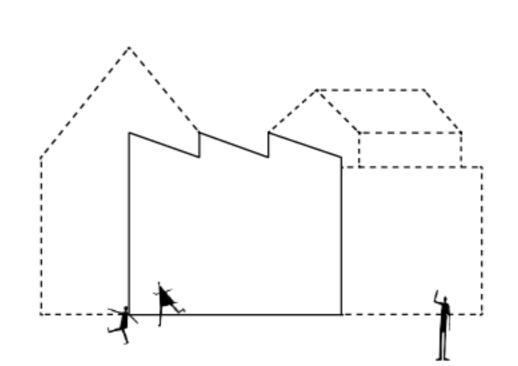
From inaccessible site and water edge



To permeable site and walkable water edge



From center of industrial production



To center of cultural and recreational production



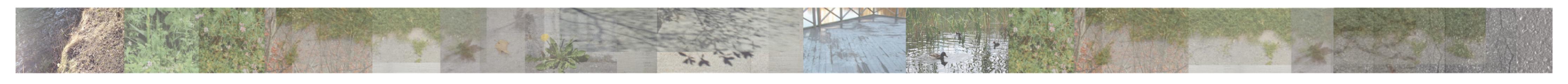
From polluted and decayed To reclaimed environments areas



HOW TO TRANSFORM AND RECONNECT FORMER INDUSTRIES TO THE CITY BY QUALIFYING AND EXPANDING THE EDGES?



PLANE EXPERIENCE



Vinterviken Lake Lövholmer



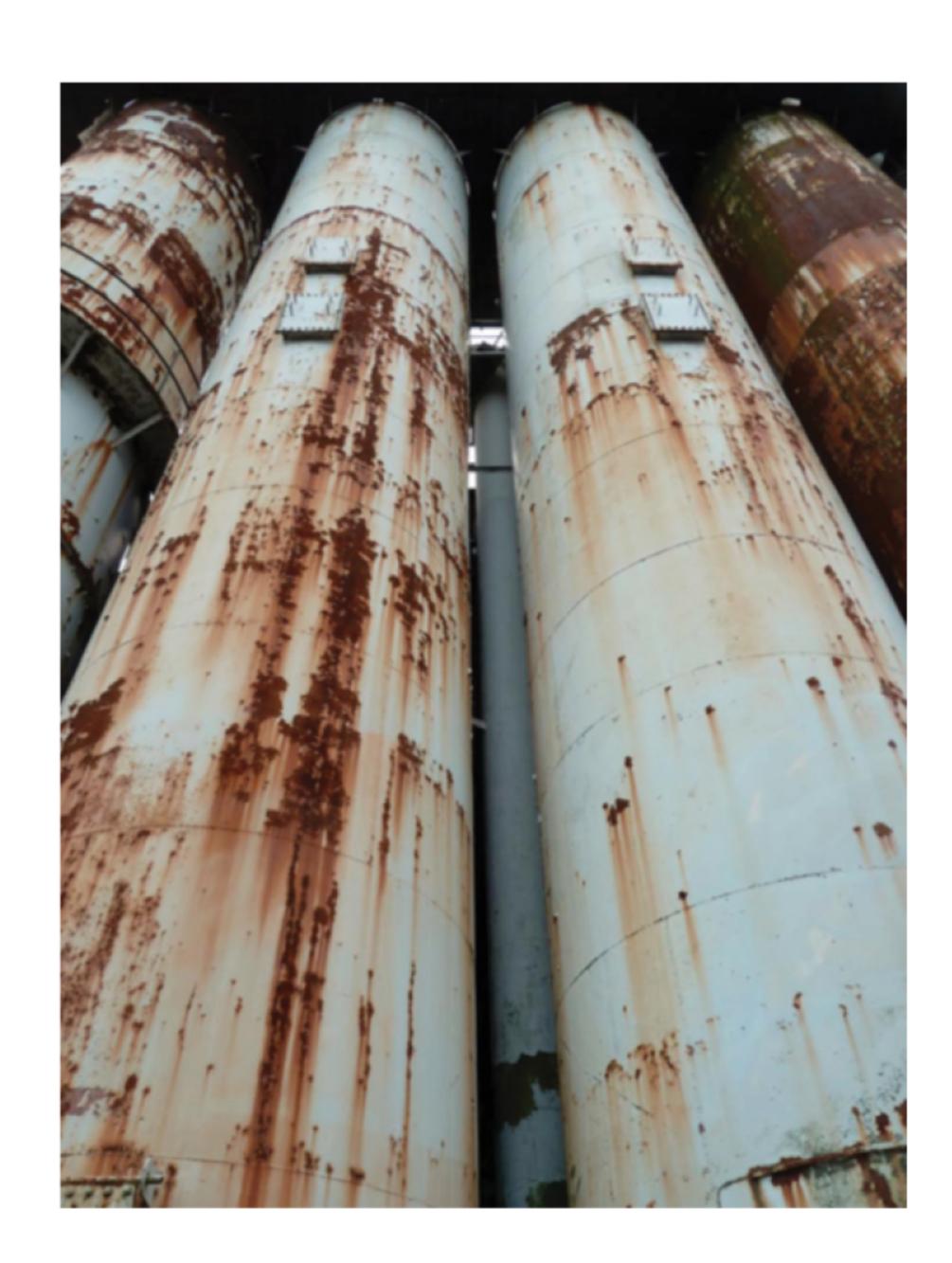
A SITE FOR TRANSFORMATION

Lövholmen is an industrial site belonging to Liljeholmen area. It is located three miles from center on the wateredge.

The area was in the past an important industrial site, situated just outside the city, by the water and the railway.

Today, there are several abandoned industrial buildings along the shoreline and one factory transformed into an exhibition space. It is located very close to Vinterviken, a former industrial location where Alfred Nobel used to perform his dynamite experiments. The path connecting the two former industrial sites is rich in historical heritage and qualities.

Lövholmen holds a big potential for its strategic location on the wateredge, the industrial heritage and the possibility of opening up the waterfront and connect it to a larger walkable edge.





ALONG THE WATER EDGE

RECONNECTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE, THE EDGE AND THE CITY IN LÖVHOLMEN



Vittoria Albertini

KTH UPD | 2013-2014 Master Thesis