Havstinget
The Seacourt

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Examensarbete inom arkitektur, grundnivå 15 hp
Degree Project in Architecture, First Level 15 credits

31 maj 2014
HAVSTINGET
I am born and raised in a village named Dyvik, located in the central northern part of Stockholm Archipelago. I have always spent a lot of time in the archipelago, especially since I have been sailing all my life. The Archipelago is where my roots are, and I have always wanted to make a project that evolves around what made me who I am today.

The Stockholm Archipelago has an amazing nature, and wildlife, but also an exciting cultural heritage. The vicinity to both the city and the sea has made the place full of history and culture. I wanted to create a structure where the residents of the Archipelago could meet and discuss the problems of their region, explore the rich cultural heritage, and experience contemporary archipelagic art and craftmanship. I wanted to capture the spirit of the Archipelago without getting stuck in certain typologies or framework. A structure with exhibition halls of different sizes, auditoriums for meetings, lectures, and concerts. A workshop where the craftmanship could be thought to coming generations. A marketplace where people could sell fish, vegetables, or art and crafts. A meeting place.

A political and cultural landmark.
The building is placed on a small cape, at the most southeastern part of the small island Byholmen, just off the island Södermøja. The location is central in relation to the major central archipelagic communities. This is important if the structure is to act as a meeting place, despite the isolated location of the archipelago.
My project stands on three legs. The first one is the cultural, but for culture to thrive, a fair population who can develop and pass on the traditions is required. To settle in such an isolated and barren location as the outer Stockholm Archipelago, you have to be able to provide for yourself. Produce and trade independent of the Capital. So the second aspect of my project is the commercial one. I want my building to function as a meeting place where the archipelagic residents can meet and work and trade. Or rent an office space or a conference room. I want my building to be an incentive for both archipelagic residents and Stockholmers to contribute to a healthy corporative environment in the Archipelago.

The third and last concept I chose to program my building around is the political aspect. Since the Stockholm Archipelago reaches across 7 municipality boarders, the residents of the archipelago is in constant minority when it comes to political decision. I want to change this by creating a political instance, that can work across municipality boarders and always see to that which is most important for the archipelago and its residents. Much like the Sápmi in northern Scandinavia. One of my biggest reference is Sametinget in Kiruna where the Sami people, who are also in constant minority because of modern boarders, can gather and unite, and take decisions directly concerning their local environment. In a way I proclaim the residents of the archipelago an aborigine people. I choose to name my building Havstinget. The word Ting is an old viking phenomenon. Its part of the rich cultural heritage of the archipelago since it was inhabited by vikings long before Stockholm even existed. The concept means that all the people of the region gathered once a year to settle conflicts, hold executions, sell their products on the big market, socialize, and participate in different cultural activities.

PROCESS MODELS. METAL AND CARDBORD

PRESENTATION MODEL. MDF, SILVER CARTON, AND PLASTER
The structure of the building consists of big planes of reinforced concrete which are leaned towards each other in 90 degrees. But the whole structure is tilted 10 degrees which gives the entire building a feeling of a capsized shipwreck. There are horizontal and vertical layers of planes, but due to the general leaning of the building the horizontal planes become cliffs that gently slides into the sea. The vertical planes form a shelter from the rough weather conditions in the archipelago and makes it a lot nicer to dwell on the terraces formed by the horizontal planes.

The general plan of the building is elongated and sequential. Half of the building is located on the cape, and the other half stands on a bridge-like structure extended into the sea. The structure is more of a landscape than a general building, and quite a small portion of the building is classic indoor spaces.

The indoor spaces are divided into two sections, the first on consists of office spaces, a conference room, the smaller Auditorium, café, restaurant and a workshop, and is located on the edge of the cape. The second one is at the far end of the structure and consists of the larger auditorium and all the exhibition halls.

Byholmen is a small island that forms a natural cover for Södermöja village on the northeastern part of Södermöja. The distance between the village and Byholmen is nearly 30 meters. A bridge is constructed in the same style as the building. A road is then built along the cliff facing the picturesque village before leading straight into Havstinget.

The archipelago is exploited in an alarming speed. Every year new gigantic mansions pop up and the shoreline protection law, which should ensure that all the shorelines are protected for both man and animal is easily bypassed if you have a lot of money. The archipelago is on sale for the rich and powerful, and corrupt local politicians laugh all the way to the bank. At the same time families and old couples can no longer afford to stay due to a faulty taxation system.

There is a lot harder to make a living in the archipelago than it used to be. Since it is such a seasonal location many of the small shipyards and stores go into bankruptcy and almost nobody lives on fishing or farming anymore. The commercial atmosphere needs to be stimulated.

Despite many actions the last few years to improve the environment, it still need huge efforts to get back to the levels and standards there used to be. The government still advises people to not eat too much fish caught in the archipelago, which makes it impossible to run the type of industry on which the archipelago communities were founded. But there are positive trends, and many species are returning such as the herring, the seal, and the seahawk.

It is getting harder for young and less wealthy people to use the archipelago for vacation purposes. The camping sites and hostels become fewer, and is replaced by expensive resorts and spa hotels. If you don't have a boat or a cabin or a lot of money it's hard to spend your vacation in the archipelago.
3 SYMBOLS

The inspiration for the design of the building comes from the aspects and form I have experienced when sailing. The shipwreck, the cliff and the island.

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The surface of the building will be strongly affected by the rough climate of the archipelago. After a few years the surfaces will adapt the shades of that of a real cliff. Then there will be a layer of beautiful lichens and moss in white and bright yellow.

The classic Stockholm archipelago island is characteristic in many different ways compared to other Swedish archipelagic areas. It has a significant dome shaped silhouette, often quite tall. I wanted to preserve these silhouettes in the distant silhouette of the building, its powerful spine fitting in to the landscape by taking on the soft form of the island.