"Smedsudden Waterfront Hostel"

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The two years of study and travelling in Europe is a totally different experience for me, a student from China who has never stayed in Europe for such a long time. To design a youth hostel is a conclusion or an exploration for my personal understanding of travelling.

Key words:

1. Reading the site

Nordic landscape, or Swedish landscape is very different from that of the south. The quiet atmosphere and rich relations to water make the Stockholm city so attractive. One of the key parts of the identity of Stockholm’s attractiveness is its long shoreline. As a hostel located on this shoreline, how to respond to the specific spot and the whole shoreline is very important.

The bridge Västerbron spans the park Rålambshovsparken and divides it into three parts. The site is at the southernmost and smallest part, having a distance from the main part, becomes a relatively hidden place. Even though it’s small and hidden, but its special topography makes it like a cape and has richer relation to the water. The “cape” is divided by the park road into two parts. The site is at the east part. The west part, which is very popular for the local to have sunbathing during summer time, is a smooth grass slope to the water, ending with a nice sand beach. And the east part is much smaller, with higher altitude and more plants.

The history of the site is hidden, as nowadays it is very different from the past. But still some clues can be found. There used to be some villas, small factories and also boat workshops on the site. One important villa called Sjövillan accommodated a colony of Swedish artists from 1917 to 1923. It is maybe the waterfront landscape and privacy of location attracted these artists. But unfortunately the villa is destroyed by fire in 1936. Now all the buildings are gone except a café. Therefore, the memory of site is not only about living near the lake, but also the artist’s activities. To create a small monumental place will be valuable both for the hostel and the park.

Throughout the last three centuries, the landscape in this cape area change a lot. It shows clearly how human civilization development can change a specific site. Different from the original waterfront landscape with small houses, the huge bridge Västerbron and huge apartment buildings Erlander house and “Bacon hill” act as a part of the landscape just because of the superhuman scale: the new generated river view under the huge bridge arch, and the strengthened mountain feeling of the topography under the apartment houses.

2. Practice on programming

The park has a nice waterfront landscape and is a part of the larger landscape system beside the lake Mälaren. It’s important to realize that the park is more known and very popular for local people, so that it is not too touristic with some tourist attractions. Then it’s reasonable that the hostel targets travelers who are tired of crowded tourist spots and seeking for some local places.

The tourist in Stockholm has the clear difference of peak season and off-season. In some days of summer, there are always some big festivals to be held (also in the park Rålambshovsparken), making the demand for hotels and hostels exceeds the supply. But in winter time, only about 40% of beds are occupied. The idea of floating guest rooms on the water will contribute to enjoying the cozy waterfront during summer and removability during winter.

3. Formal logic

There is a very straight ramp as a road of former master plan for the factories and workshops on the “cape”, going up to the top of the topography from the entry of the site. This ramp is apparently different from the loose road system in the park. It has its own feeling of territory with a row of big trees strengthen the formal characteristic of straight, and seems to lead to some destinations. But actually there is nothing special at the end of the road. Therefore, the new hostel design is to continue the story of this road, and also to follow the formal characteristic: to design volumes and outside space with compact formal language. As a result, the hostel gets its own characteristic of territory, but still open to the public in such a local park.

To get the similar characteristic with the existing café house, the new volumes take the similar width of gable, slope angle of the pitched roof. The primary form also conveys anonymity. The two volumes on land also share the simple building logic with the café: two clear parts, the foundation and the house above. By comparison with the changing topography, the simple foundation becomes more artificial. A small monumental place in the middle of the north-south axis, in the same form of the foundation, will reminds people of the building activities and people’s life in the past time.
The site is in the park Rålambshovsparken on Kungsholmen in central Stockholm, which is owned by the Stockholm City. The park has a nice waterfront landscape and is a part of the larger landscape system beside the lake Mälaren. It's important to realize that the park is more known and very popular for local people, so that it is not too touristy with some tourist attractions. Then it's reasonable that the hostel targets travelers who are tied of crowded tourist spots and seeking for some local places.

The bridge Västerbron spans the park and divides it into three parts. The hostel site at the southeast and

Facilities in the park

- boating club
- SITE
- sunbathing beach
- open-air theater
- playground for kids
- restaurant
- skateboard ramps
- metro line station

A hostel in a popular city park which is more known for local people, will be attractive to the travellers who is tired of crowded touristy spots.
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The bridge Västerbron spans the park and divides it into three parts. The hostel site at the southeast is

The Green space system

Staying by water is not only about staying at one spot, but also about enjoying the all the continues waterfront areas.

Facilities in the park

A hostel in a popular city park which is more known for local people, will be attractive to the travelers who is tired of crowded touristy spots.

Smedsudden was an island called smedsholm. The villa Sjövillan was built in 1917 and accommodated a colony of Swedish artists from 1917 to 1923. It is maybe the waterfront landscape and privacy of location attracted these artists. But unfortunately the villa is destroyed by fire in 1936.

The tourist in Stockholm has the clear difference of peak season and off-season. In some days of summer, there are always some big festivals to be held (also in the park Rålambshovsparken), making the demand for hotels and hostels exceeds the supply. But in winter time, only about 40% of beds are occupied.


Erlander house and "Bacon hill" erected in 1960.
Sparreholm Castle, built in the 1760s, stands on a neck of land in the lake Båven outside Flen.

The boundary between landscape and artifacts is so simple but effective. The minimal but still powerful artificial disturbance to the environment is a good strategy for a small castle in a nice natural landscape.

DESIGN STRATEGY

SITE PLAN REFERENCE

A'-A' SITE SECTION 1:200

SMEDSUDDEN WATERFRONT HOSTEL

Master Thesis, Yunbin Zhang, Studio 3, School of Architecture, KTH

Supervisors: Pål Röjgård Harryan, Alexis Pontvik

SITE PLAN 1:200

The west-east axis follows the direction of the Mälaren lake.
The west-east axis goes through the site space before and after the entrance.
The south-north axis links all the volumes. Different hierarchies of outdoor space.

Throughout the last three centuries, the landscape in this cape area has changed a lot, which shows clearly how human civilization development can change a specific site. Different from the original waterfront landscape with small houses, the huge bridge Västerbron and huge apartment buildings Erlander house and "Bacon hill" act as a part of the landscape just because of the superhuman scale: the new generated river view under the huge bridge arch, and the strengthened mountain feeling of the topography under the apartment houses.

Therefore, to design a hostel to have a dialogue with the nowadays landscape is the main concern. The scattered small volumes will not only act as a huge comparison with landscape, but also remind people of the small houses in the history on the site.
The Boundary between landscape and artifacts is so simple but effective. The minimal but still powerful artificial disturbance to the environment is a good strategy for a

The west-east axis follows the direction of the Mälaren lake

The west-east axis go through the site

Space before and after the entrance

The south-north axis links all the volumes

Different hierarchies of outdoor space

Throughout the last three centuries, the landscape in this cape area change a lot, which shows Erlander house and “Bacon hill” act as a part of the landscape just because of the superhuman scale:

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Sparreholm Castle, built in 1760s, stands on a neck of land in the lake Båven outside Flen.

The Boundary between landscape and artifacts is so simple but effective. The minimal but still powerful artificial disturbance to the environment is a good strategy for a small castle in a nice natural landscape.

Image reference
1. Entrance
2. Reception
3. Common space
4. WC
5. Luggage room/Storage

1. 6-person Domitory
2. 5-person Domitory
3. 5-person Domitory
4. WC & Shower
5. Common space
6. Balcony
1. Entrance
2. Reception
3. Common space
4. WC
5. Luggage room/Storage

1. 6-person Domitory
2. 4-person Domitory
3. 5-person Domitory
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EAST ELEVATION 1:100
SOUTH ELEVATION 1:100
A-A SECTION 1:100
B-B SECTION 1:100

SMEDSUDDEN WATERFRONT HOSTEL
Master Thesis, Yunbin Zhang, Studio 3, School of Architecture, KTH
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UP
DN
1. 6-person Domitory
2. 4-person Domitory
3. 5-person Domitory
4. WC & Shower
5. Common space
6. Balcony

1. Standard double room
2. WC
3. Common space
4. Outdoor platform

1. 4-person Domitory
2. 6-person Domitory
3. WC & Shower
4. Common space/Bench under roof

SMEDSUDDEN WATERFRONT HOSTEL
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The boundary between landscape and artifacts is so simple but effective. Sparreholm Castle, built in 1760s, stands on a neck of land in the lake Båven outside Flen. Throughout the last three centuries, the landscape in this cape area change a lot, which shows clearly how human civilization development can change a specific site. Different from the original small castle in a nice natural landscape, the minimal but still powerful artificial disturbance to the environment is a good strategy for a small hostel in a history site.

The south-north axis links all the volumes differently. Different hierarchies of outdoor space and different directions of rooms and areas follow certain axes. The west-east axis follows the direction of the Mälaren lake, which is the main water body in the area.

The new generated river view under the huge bridge arch, and the strengthened mountain feeling of Erlander house and "Bacon hill" act as a part of the landscape just because of the superhuman scale: the scattered small volumes will not only act as a huge comparison with landscape, but also remind the topography under the apartment houses.
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SITE MODEL 1:1000
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