a square
a park
a link

- 3 additions to recreational urban space in Malmö
“May the cities of tomorrow shine as a feast of landscapes”
1.1 REPORT LAYOUT

This work starts off with a chapter of THEORY treating the different issues that have characterized the report. A short passage deals with MALMÖ GREEN-STRUCTURE viewed in a historic as well as a present aspect since this report concerns urban recreational space in Malmö. Following : a REVIEW OF MALMÖ GREENPLAN 2003 which is the spatial planning document that supplies guidelines and recommendations regarding green-structure planning within the municipality.

Continuing, in order to justify the 3 new green-structure/recreational areas that I propose, it is important to understand the ESSENCE OF GREEN SPACE and how it affects us human beings. In the section GREAT URBAN SPACES I turn to four different sources within the urban planning/design research field, in my quest to find out what criteria and functions makes urban recreational space attracting and well defined for people. Some “key conditions” for creating these places are listed and as well as how we prefer and perceive our recreational space according to this frontline research.

The report then clarifies the PROJECT CONCEPT and gives the BACKGROUND INFO on the 3 areas that I am working with. This input of information regarding the deficiency of green space in Malmö, along with the chapters about our preferences of recreational space, form the three DESIGN PROPOSALS. The report ends with a concluding chapter called CLOSURE where I analyze how my design proposals correspond to the “key conditions” of my sources and how well my proposals fulfil the green aims and strategies from Malmö Greenplan 2003. Last comes a personal COMMENT and a list of ACHIEVEMENTS.
1.2 THE ORIGIN OF PARKS

Parks have a long history before being developed into the green oasis we are used to. Just like achievements in architecture and art relate to power and wealth, parks in their initial form consisted of agriculture fields. The more fields men and women owned the more power and wealth they had. Oriental sovereigns and roman emperors had a tradition of grand gardens surrounding their palaces where they cultivated crops, grains, fruits etc. Like all features belonging to the rich the gardens became a subject of finesse and details and before long they developed into a place of pleasure for the senses instead of agricultural purposes. The European ideal of parks yet today stem from the garden design performed in the Italian renaissance villas, the French baroque palaces and the English manor houses. However these gardens were in turn inspired by the Chinese gardens. Some of the common park features we see today can in fact be traced back to ancient Asian culture.

The city parks are a phenomena originating from the 19th century when they would serve as counterbalance to the heavy industrial areas that popped up all over European and North American cities. England was the first European country to develop heavy industry and therefore also the first great city parks. The rest of Europe followed. The cities experienced great expansion, people moved into the cities searching for work and living conditions worsened and became extremely poor. Epidemics, political revolutions and suffering were the result. The green parks adopted the function as "green lungs", enabling the city to breath again, and constituted both a physical and mental relief from the grey and unhealthy environment the industrialization brought upon people.

1.3 MALMÖ GREEN STRUCTURE : PAST & PRESENT

One of the most appreciated characteristic and quality of Malmö has always been the grand city parks. The accolades “The city of parks” stem from the early 20th century when Malmö became renown for Slottsparken, Kungsparken and Pildammsparken, remaining features from the days when the effects of industrialization were enlightened and great parks became the solution to the problem. These three major parks, along with newer city parks, district parks, neighbourhood parks, greeneries and larger natural and recreational areas within the municipality form the present green structure in Malmö.

Despite the vibe of green lush park-environment one may get from visiting the central parts of the city, Malmö is experiencing quite a vast expansion phase. It is growing both in size and population due to the newborn Öresund region, where Malmö and Copenhagen have entered into a symbiotic city-relationship made possible by the construction of the Öresund bridge in 2000 connecting Malmö to Copenhagen and Sweden with the rest of Europe, making way into the great range of services in the European Union. Malmö has become an attrac-
tive up-coming, expanding city attracting not only young people from surrounding municipalities, but as well a huge number of Danes who, on account of expensive Danish housing taxes, find it far more affordable to live in Malmö and surroundings.

This development has however affected the amount of green space available in Malmö. Since some decades ago Malmö, in comparison to other larger cities in Sweden, lies much below average when it comes to the quantity and access of parks and public green space. The grand old accolades can today be questioned.

Parks as we know them today is a form of recreational space made for human beings located within cities or in connection to residential areas. They are often based on a green environment [grass, trees, bushes, plants and flowers] but can also, depending on the theme of the specific park, consist of wetlands, concrete (skate parks), desert landscape etc.

This figure shows a comparison of the share of urban green space available to the citizens of Malmö, Helsingborg, Linköping and Örebro. As you can see, Malmö has fallen behind the other cities with the lesser amount of 30 square metres of green space per inhabitant. The column to the right shows an average value based on the share of the ten largest cities in Sweden. [This data is taken from SCB in 1990].
In Malmö, the first city development plan hinting green space planning was documented in 1811. King Gustav IV Adolf decided it was time for Malmö to expand and grow. The population was increasing fast and the city needed more housing and services to accommodate the citizen. The king even had thoughts about making Malmö the second capital in Sweden (Pehrsson 1986, 11). But the king was forced to exile and a bankruptcy led to the demolishing of the plans and the tree planting and avenues that were proposed never became reality at that time.

In 1822 the cemetery next to Gustav Adolfs Square was inaugurated, becoming the last resting place for the bourgeois. The cemetery is today located in the heart of Malmö, and even though it is a gated area it serves as a tranquil green oasis for people in the busy city life.

Today Malmö has, besides Kungsparken, Slottsparken and Pildammsparken, about twenty larger city/district/neighbourhood-parks with diverse history. The following parks are the oldest and most renown.

**kungsparken**

Kungsparken sprung from the new garden ideals from Paris and Vienna which reached Sweden in the 1850s. Kungsparken became the first of the grand city park to open in Malmö 1872. It was designed by a Danish landscape architect O. Høegh Hanse. The park was first given the name Slottsparken, but in 1881 after King Oscar the 2nd had attended an agriculture trade fair in Malmö the park was renamed to Kung Oscars park which by the citizens since then have been simplified to Kungsparken. The design of the park is clearly made after the natural and romantic ideals succeeding the French baroque style, with winding paths and lush plantation. In the heart of the park a fountain is placed, and other features in the park were pavilions, the residential home of the gardener and a restaurant built in 1881 in Swiss style, today the location of Malmö Casino.
pildammsparken 1915 & 1926
kungsparken 1827 & 1881
slottsparken 1896
folkets park 1891
beijers park 1904
beijers park

In the fast growing mode Malmö found itself in at the end of the 19th century, tensions arose quickly between the working class and the bourgeois class leading the society. This opposition characterises the city's modern history and in the discussion about city parks there was a constant conflict between the bourgeois wish for a yet another romantic and neat park in which they could enjoy their social strolls, and the working class’ need of a park for recreation, relaxation and a chance to breathe fresh air. The idea of a forest park or a people's park was introduced to accommodate the working class.

The Beijer brothers started to construct Bejers park in 1885 since they thought it necessary with a new park to function as counter weight to Kungsparken both socially and geographically. The park was not opened for the public until 1904, when it belonged to the city and was designed in a romantic style. Today however the park has become a true forest park since the city of Malmö, according to a development project in 1996, decided that Bejers park should be turned into a science/nature park for educational purposes. It is a now a popular place to visit for children and school classes that come to experience the different nature environments.

folkets park

And the working class did eventually get their peoples’ park when the Labour movement managed to lease and later buy a bit of parkland in 1891 formerly owned by Frans Suell, the founder of Malmö harbour. Folkets park was just one of many features that established Malmö as the leading working-class movement city in Sweden and Folkets park was to be followed by many equivalent parks (Pehrsson 1986, 35).

Folkets park turned into a park with exact opposite functions to Kungsparken, it was an amusement park for the people inspired by Tivoli in Copenhagen. It was a park with a theatre scene, music pavilions, cafés, dance halls designed in oriental style and it served not only as a meeting spot for the movement but as an escape from reality. Today Folkets park is owned by the city and is used for all kinds of activities, but it bears strong evidence of its controversial years and many of the old buildings remain.

slottsparken

Slottsparken was the result of the Industrial and crafts fair that was held in 1896. The fair was held on land south of Kungsparken connecting to the city through the old cemetery and the park was erected in its place. Slottsparken was in its time one of the most versatile and planned projects design by yet another Danish landscape architect by the name of Edvard Glaesel. The design is similar to Kungsparken with winding paths and trees and bushes in irregular formations. Two roads for vehicles were built in Slottsparken heading from the east entrance to the west entrance. It also contained two bird-ponds and a museum that later turned into the city library, a function it still holds today. Slottsparken was opened for the public in 1900.

pildammsparken

The third of the grand city parks in Malmö is Plågdammsparken, also initiated by the renowned Baltic fair in 1914. It was a fair of technology and design and attracted almost a million visitors from nearby countries. After the fair had ended a Danish landscape architect, Erik Erstad-Jørgensen, was hired to design a park in the area.

The first part was nearly finished in 1915. World War One came in between the construction phase. A new city engineer, Erik Bülow-Hübes, took position in Malmö. He had an interest in park planning and design and suggested radical changes to the design. The political brilliance of Bülow-Hübes shines through in his design of Tallrken (the plate) which is a large flack round area intended for public ceremonies and festive occasions. From this centre the four cardinal points are featured in the form of passages surrounded by tall trees strengthening the monumentality of the park. The second part of Pildammsparken was finished in 1926.
Today the great diversity of green space areas in Malmö forms the city’s green network. Besides the three grand city parks; Kungsparken, Slottsparken and Pildammsparken, there are district- and neighbourhood parks, green yards connected to schools and employment areas, allotment gardens, residential gardens, sports fields, avenues, the beach and the coastline, all which contributes to the green network.

The importance of having a vision as well as a plan for the development of green structure within the municipality soon became clear. Most larger cities around the world have now established some sort of programme or plan for how the nature- and park-structure should develop along with the city, and these are normally referred to as greenplans.

The former Greenplan for Malmö, adopted by the municipal council in 1984, had a main purpose to put attention on the existing parks and recreational areas and attend the need of creating more green space. It emphasized the aspects of aesthetics, social and recreational green space. The current Greenplan for Malmö 2003 (in this report shortened the Greenplan) is a collaboration between the parks- and highway department, the planning department, the leisure department and the estates department and has a main focus on recreational and biological aspects. The Greenplan is a long-term strategy to secure and improve the existing green space within the municipality and as well it suggests and surveys possible new areas for the future.

Malmö is in a fast expansion period due to the opening of the Öresund Bridge in 2000 which connects Sweden to the rest of Europe and opened up the possibilities for the Öresund Region regarding trade, culture and tourism. The following year Malmö hosted the Swedish Housing Fair Bo01 that exposed a complete new residential area in the city, Västra Hamnen, built on brownfields and former industrial land northwest of Malmö city centre.

These sites were revitalized into the city’s most modern mixed-use developments with flash apartments, office blocks and café surrounded by the coast line and Scania and Dania parks, the later designed by prominent landscape architect Thorbjörn Andersson. Västra Hamnen is also where one of Malmö’s theme-playgrounds can be found. This one is called the ecology playground and attracts kids and families from all over Malmö. Maybe even more renowned is Stapelbäddsparken, one of the best outdoor skate parks in Europe designed in 2005. These recreational areas are only part of a larger activity area that is under development in Västra Hamnen.

With all the pressure on exploiting land within the city, the parties behind the Greenplan saw it necessary to renew the guidelines for existing and future green space and recreational areas, enabling the planning department to rely on a modern and updated Greenplan. The Greenplan for Malmö 2003 is an important instrument in order to fulfil the vision of a functional green structure throughout the city, and it should function as a well-surveyed basis when it comes to decision-making in the development of Malmö. The Greenplan does not suggest concrete solutions, nor design proposals; it describes the vision and point out the goals.

The vision stated in the Greenplan is to have a functional green structure throughout the municipality, like a spiders web, connecting greeneries and parks to larger recreational areas outside the city.
1.4 REVIEWING MALMÖ GREENPLAN 2003.

The Greenplan is a non-legislative planning document that based on surveys and analysis presents a proposal for future green structure within the municipality. The Greenplan functions as a basis for the spatial planning and guidance for decision-making, and should not be confused with a land-use plan. It does however have great influence in the future development of Malmö since it is of importance to have a green structure throughout the city. In the process of producing comprehensive land-use plans as well as local development plans, the Greenplan is a key-instrument and is to be weighed against other interests within the community.

Greenplan for Malmö 2003 constitutes of two development schemes, one proposal for future green network in Malmö, and one layout-proposal for different biological habitats within the municipality. In this report I will however focus on the first proposal since this is the area in which my own study is made.

The Greenplan features a green policy with aims and strategies. The intention with the policy is that it be integrated into the different programmes and work-activities regarding all green space planning within the municipality.

a) GREEN POLICY & AIMS

**green policy**

The policy presented in the Greenplan is for Malmö municipality to offer the people of Malmö a good living environment with a variety of accessible high-quality green areas. A rich and varied natural and cultural environment with high levels of recreational and biological values shall characterize the city, the urban areas as well as the rural areas.

**recreational aims**

- To create a varied range of parks and nature- and recreational areas that along with special leisure areas and residential greeneries fulfil peoples need for green space.
- To bring about a connecting green structure with easy accessibility throughout the municipality.

**biological aims**

- To create a richer more varied range of species and habitats within the municipality.
- To reinforce the different landscape types in the municipality and develop different characteristics within each of these landscape types.

**general aims**

- To increase the total area of green space in Malmö
- To secure existing green land of value from being exploited
b) THE GREEN-MODEL

A public map over Malmö city marks all recreational areas with the same green colour. It is common not to differentiate between the different types of green space such as parks, allotment gardens, greeneries, cemeteries etc in these kinds of public maps. This gives a fairly non-detailed picture of the green structure within a city. It is much more interesting to be able to read out the recreational value of the different areas. In the Greenplan it is therefore important to define the different green space areas so that a range of activities and usage can be identified within the city.

The green-model is a tool used in the Greenplan to classify different categories and sub-categories of green space in the aspect of recreational use.

Applying this classification system, all existing green space in Malmö was defined into eight categories and 23 sub-categories, which are listed in the Greenplan. The 2 most important decisive factors in the green-model are land-use (stating whether it is a park, a schoolyard, a private garden, a sports ground etc) and level of publicity and access to the green space. Yet a third factor is the area of the green space.

The eight categories are; parks, nature- and recreational areas, special leisure areas, cemeteries, green space linked to institutions and employment areas, green space linked to residential areas, agriculture land and last, small, narrow leftover lots.

The green-model also comprises a set of guidelines addressing the accessibility of green space areas in both distances from home as well as traffic barriers on the way there, measured in traffic-density and speed. These guidelines are set for five of the 23 sub-categories and are based on a general assessment of what would be reasonable accessibility for citizens to reach/access their nearest green space area with consideration to traffic barriers etc.

The green-model has two functions:

- Classification of green space
- Guidelines addressing accessibility
Research has shown that the usage of green space areas is related to how easy access people have from their homes in terms of distance and barriers. For the day-to-day use of greeneries, a 5 to 10 minute walk, equivalent to about 300 metres, without significant barriers is a tolerable distance. For a neighbourhood park a walking distance of 500 metres, approximately 8-minute walk, is tolerable, for a district park the distance is one km from the home (approximately 15 minute walking). For a city park it is 2 km walking distance (approximately 30 minutes walking) and for larger recreational areas a distance of 3 km is tolerable which takes about 15 minutes by bike. By this rationale, an area lacking greenery nearby can be compensated by having a neighbourhood park within the 300 metres range (Malmö Greenplan 2003, 16).

The list shows the eight categories & the 23 sub-categories.

1. Parks
   - Greeneries (0.2-1 hectare)
   - Neighbourhood parks (1-5 hectare)
   - District parks (5-10 hectare)
   - City parks (>10 hectare)

2. Nature- and recreational areas
   - Larger nature & recreational areas (>35 hectare)
   - Smaller nature areas (<35 hectare)

3. Special leisure areas
   - Sports ground
   - Allotment areas
   - Golf courses
   - Other special leisure areas

4. Cemeteries
   - Cemeteries and graveyards

5. Green space linked to institutions & employment areas
   - Recreational areas for hospitals & nursing homes
   - Recreational areas for day nurseries
   - Schoolyards
   - Recreational area for old & disabled peoples homes
   - Recreational areas for employment areas

6. Green space linked to residential areas
   - Residential gardens
   - Neighbourhood gardens
   - Rural residential gardens

7. Agriculture land
   - Fields and pastures
   - Smaller habitats

8. Small, narrow leftover lots
   - Grass-verges
   - Protection zones

Research also shows that the traffic intensity is of importance when accessing green space areas. A road carrying 3000 vehicles per day and an average speed limit of 30 km/h is the limit for greeneries and neighbourhood parks. In district- and city parks a limit of 8000 vehicles a day and a speed of 50 km/h is tolerable, more than this amount and the sensed barrier-effect is increasing considerably, especially for children and elderly (ibid). However if the walk runs through an enjoyable environment, for example a green corridor connecting two parks, the distance is believed to be shorter and the effort less.

Barriers can constitute of both actual physical barriers like heavy trafficked roads, railway, water element, large industrial areas, but also abandoned areas and very noisy areas can discourage people to take that particular walk to the park. By planning an enjoyable pathway to recreational areas the usage and accessibility of them will increase.
c) THE DEFICIENCY ANALYSIS

Based on the green-model and its guidelines, a deficiency analysis has been made mapping which parts of Malmö lack a range of the different green space categories and which areas are better connected. The deficiency analysis is based on the previously mentioned five sub-categories; greeneries, neighbourhood parks, district parks, city parks and larger recreational areas. The different green space areas have been mapped and a buffer zone around them have been set according to the guidelines. The areas of the city that falls outside these buffer zones are lacking this particular sub-category of green space. The distances have been calculated without consideration of curving and scrolling streets, thus making the actual lack of green space even more severe.

A merge of the results show that areas with a deficiency of 4-5 sub-categories are represented on the countryside and in Malmö harbour. Residential areas that are affected by this level of deficiency are found in suburban villages around Malmö.

Areas with a deficiency of 3 sub-categories are found in near-by Tygelsjö, in the villages on the countryside, in the harbour and Sorgenfri industrial area.

Lack of 2 sub-categories occur in the old city parts, Bunkeflostrand, Limhamn, Sofielund, Sorgenfri, Valdemarsro, Jägersro industrial area and in the harbour.

Lack of 1 sub-category exists in scattered areas throughout the city affecting large parts of residential areas. The highest level of deficiency is to be found in inner-city parts, Limhamn, Bunkeflo, Rosengård, Sofielund and Kulladal.

This graphic shows a map of Malmö city over-viewing which areas lack the most sub-categories of green space. The intensity of colour shows the level of deficiency, white areas have no deficiency and red areas lack 5 sub-categories. The map also spots amount of inhabitants where one black dot symbolizes a hundred inhabitants. [Malmö Greenplan 2003, 29].
d) THE GREEN NETWORK

The structure of the green network consists of larger green space areas (parks etc.) connected to each other with links (avenues and bike/pedestrian tracks etc.) which together form green corridors. The links are primarily used for transportation but can sometimes have their own green value. Malmö is today working to improve this network by adding to and enhancing the structure and the Greenplan presents a proposal with new green areas and stronger green corridor connections. Today the existing green corridors are not well connected and, as presented in the deficiency analysis, large areas in the city lay between the green network grid and lack sufficient green space.

e) EXISTING GREEN CORRIDORS

The frame for the green network in Malmö is based on green corridors (stråk). These are longer, coherent passages through the city where one can move freely without barriers. Most of them have a starting point in a park in the city and can be traced out to the outskirts of the city where they are meant to connect to the natural areas on the countryside or to other green corridors.

The deficiency analysis shows that some of the existing corridors lack a smooth transition into the landscape and that the corridors come to an abrupt end at the city limit. Another problem according to the deficiency analysis is that many of the existing green space areas in the city are not connected to any of the corridors, which cause a scattered green structure.

There are presently two well-connected long corridors; Kuststråket and Risebergastråket. In addition to these two there are a few minor not as well-connected corridors but with the potential to be developed and strengthened; Pildammsstråket, Lindängestråket, Rosengårdstråket, Bullofaastråket and Kirsebergstråket. There are also two important green bike tracks within the municipality, Tygelsjöstigen and Utflyktstigen. [Malmö Greenplan 2003, 37].
**Policy**

**General**
- To increase the total area of green space in Malmö.
- To secure existing green space areas of value from being exploited.

**Aims**
- To secure existing valuable green space areas and protect them from exploitation.
- To erect new green space areas.
- To avoid exploitation in already functional green space areas.
- To apply the “precaution principle” in all actions that affects the green values.
- To apply the “compensation principle” if exploiting valuable green space areas.

**Strategies**
- To secure existing valuable green space areas and protect them from exploitation.
- To erect new green space areas.
- To avoid exploitation in already functional green space areas.
- To apply the “precaution principle” in all actions that affects the green values.
- To apply the “compensation principle” if exploiting valuable green space areas.

**Recreational**
- To create a varied range of parks and nature- and recreational areas that along with special leisure areas and residential greeneries fulfil peoples need for green space.
- To secure existing valuable green space areas and protect them from exploitation.
- To erect new green space areas.
- To avoid exploitation in already functional green space areas.
- To apply the “precaution principle” in all actions that affects the green values.
- To apply the “compensation principle” if exploiting valuable green space areas.

**Aims**
- To create a varied range of parks and nature- and recreational areas that along with special leisure areas and residential greeneries fulfil peoples need for green space.
- To bring about a connecting green structure with easy accessibility throughout the municipality.

**Strategies**
- To maintain existing green space areas with recreational values.
- To develop through quantity or quality existing green space areas with recreational values.
- To erect new green space areas in deficiency areas.
- To reduce the inaccessibility from roads and other barriers.
- To enhance the availability of green space areas that today has limited access (i.e. golf courses and allotment gardens).
- To create a green network covering the municipality.
- To extend, strengthen and tie together existing green space areas through new greeneries and green corridors.
- To erect new green corridors in areas like along water streams, bicycle tracks, riding tracks etc. where they have opportunity to develop.
- To increase the accessibility of the green space areas within the city from the suburban residential areas by creating green walking paths and bicycle tracks.

**Biological**
- To create a richer and more varied range of species and habitats within the municipality.
- To reinforce the different landscape types in the municipality and develop different characteristics within each of these landscape types.

**Aims**
- To create a richer and more varied range of species and habitats within the municipality.
- To reinforce the different landscape types in the municipality and develop different characteristics within each of these landscape types.

**Strategies**
- To maintain existing green space with biological values.
- To enhance the biological status in existing green space areas by complementing with new habitats and species.
- To start from defined landscape types when creating new green space areas and developing habitats.
- To develop and connect the characteristic areas with similar habitats within the different landscape types.
- To start from existing and documented habitats within the region when establishing new areas as well as enhancing existing ones.
- To create good conditions for habitats which today are underrepresented in the municipality.
f) STRATEGIES

There are a number of strategies listed in the Greenplan to fulfil the general, recreational and biological aims. The strategies consist of different kinds of actions in direct relation to the aims they mean to fulfil, in order to enhance and strengthen the green network.

"Precaution principle"; to show great consideration of green values when applying any changes in the urban environment that affects the green space. And not to implement changes in the environment until the consequences for the existing green space areas are calculated.

"Compensation principle"; in urban environment changes lost green values should be replaced with equal amount of area or green value to attain “status quo”.
1.5 THE ESSENCE OF GREEN SPACE

Who would not rather enjoy lunch, after a busy morning at work, in an environment that makes one feel rested and relaxed? This option is fully exploited in cities where parks and greeneries form an important part of the city’s infrastructure. It proves that the need for urban green space is not some past idea from the modernist era, but in fact an essential factor for comfortable living. Today we are very well aware of the benefits nature has on the living environment and human beings. Nature areas, parks and greeneries in the city affects peoples health and living conditions positively, increases biological diversity, adds to the city character and cultural identity, attracts tourists and adds quality in many other areas [Boverket, 1994, 14-16].

**a) how we use it**

Children use the outdoor environment not only as transport links between homes and schools, this is also the place for play, recreation and being around other children. Parks and recreational spaces are a source of learning and development, and all the activities that children participate in stimulate future creativity. Normal and preferred activities for children constitute of playing “hide’n seek”, rope games, climbing trees and playground equipment, playing ball-games, building and constructing things, bicycling, skate-boarding, rollerblading etc [Johansson & Küller, 2005, 142-143].

For most children brought up in a city it is the neighbourhood park that contributes for the first and essential contact with nature [de Castro et al. 2001, cited in Johansson & Küller 2005, 227]. It is here that children primarily experience the different elements and processes of nature, a natural class-room for teaching [Schultz, 2002, cited in ibid.].

Teenagers highly value green areas as well, however their movements and preferences differ from children’s. The main reason for teenagers to visit parks is to hang out with friends. They are drawn to beautiful surroundings and larger natural areas, places with childhood memories. Another reason for visits are to feel better or to be alone with thoughts and decision-making [Patsy Owens cited in Boverket, 1994, 20].

Outdoor stays on a regular basis has positive affects on elderly, research shows that their health condition and social life considerably improves by outdoor activities [Johansson & Küller, 2005, 108]. While outdoors, elderly people prefer to go for walks and go shopping. Visiting friends, gardening, bicycle trips and walking their dog are other activities that elderly perform while outdoors. The main reason for these activities were to get fresh air, exercise and a wish to see nature and verdure [ibid., 109].
b) “biophilia hypothesis”
In 1984 Edward O. Wilson presented the “biophilia hypothesis” suggesting that there is an instinctive bond between human beings and other living systems developed throughout the ages. The term biophilia literally means “love of life or living systems” and Wilson uses it to describe “the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life”. He further proposed the possibility that the deep affiliations humans experience with nature is rooted in our biology and thus, though refined by the passing of time and culture experiences, it is the product of biological evolution [www.wikipedia.org].

c) environmental psychology
Environmental psychology deals with the way people are affected by our living environment. This branch of psychology stems from the relation between architecture and psychology which has very much to do with one another. All architects have a mission to design places on the basis of form, function and construction, regardless of what kind of sense the space is bound to emit. Research-fields lies within aesthetical areas such as the boundaries of the place, design and colour scheme, all which is supposed to affect the psychological atmosphere and peoples wish to visit. Variations in shape, colour and content increases the interest of a place and help in decreasing monotonous space. If an area holds a high quality design and/or planning it makes people feel satisfied and they will want to return. Research speaks of the term “place attachment” signifying the sense of belonging that people have for their homes and neighbourhood environment [Johansson & Küller, 2005, 19].

This can be compared to Jan Gehl’s theory presented in his book Life between buildings where he claims that it is peoples activities rather than the design of buildings, that make a certain place interesting [cited in Johansson & Küller, 2005, 24]. This meaning that a positive social climate is another way of increases the sense of belonging and satisfaction.

Large amount of studies from researchers all over the world shows that there are four, of humans, preferred variables in the environment. Two of treats the structure of the landscape, how much the topography varies and the “openness” and “enclosure” of it. The third variable is the much-appreciated element of water. And the last one emphasizes on the extent of nature-like environments vs. man-made environments [Kaplan, Kaplan & Wendt, 1972; Kaplan & Kaplan, 1982; Purcell & Lamb, 1984; Herzog, 1985, 1987; Kaplan 1987; Kaplan & Kaplan, 1989, cited in Johansson & Küller, 2005, 210]. It appears that this last variable of nature-likeness is the most significant of the four.

Two other highly adopted theories are the “prospect-refuge theory” presented by Jay Appleton in 1975, and the model of predicting preference by the Kaplans [1982, 1989] both cited in Johansson & Küller, 2005, 215. Appleton defines two different kinds of landscape elements, one indicating extensive view [prospect] like on the top of a hill, and the other indicating refuge, a place pos-
sible for hiding. Environments where these two elements co-exist ought to be the most preferred [ibid.].

The Kaplans’ research focuses on how people handle information in an environment and they consider human preferences the result of people wanting to understand and explore the landscape. They have presented a preference matrix with a combination of four characters; complexity, coherence, legibility and mystery (ibid., 216).

Complexity refers to the amount of objects in the area one has to take in, coherence refers to the sense of order, legibility refers to orientation and mystery concerns the potential for exploration. Coherence and legibility increases the understanding of the environment whereas complexity and mystery awakes the sense of exploration.

Of these four informational factors, coherence and complexity involve direct perception of the elements in the scene in terms of number, position and grouping. They can be perceived on a 2-dimensional plane, whereas legibility and mystery can only be perceived in a three-dimensional plane (Kaplan & Kaplan, 1998, 13).

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<td>coherence</td>
<td>complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-D</td>
<td>legibility</td>
<td>mystery</td>
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kaplans’ matrix of preference
**d) benefits of trees**

City vegetation has an equalizing affect on the climate within a city. On hot summer days trees and plants help in reducing the “lid-effect” that the hot-air layer creates over dense urban areas. And in a similar way, on winter days, the trees and green vegetation helps prevent the heat-radiation from the ground and keeps the warmth in the city. On cold days parks, for this reason, normally have a 2-3 degree higher temperature than in the rest of the city (Stockholms gatu- och fastighetskontor, 2003, 13).

Trees moderate wind and wind speed, large trees in combination with lower shrubberies have a significant effect on reducing the winds movement in the city. Awareness in tree planting can help create better recreational spaces for people. Trees’ and green plants’ ability to absorb and transform carbon dioxide to oxygen is well known. It decreases the global warming process and improves the quality of air in the city. According to the publication Träd i Stockholm a tree produces the same amount of oxygen that corresponds to a persons need, and 25 trees can absorb a cars’ carbon dioxide emission (ibid., 14). However these figures should be regarded merely as an indication.

Not as well known is the fact that vegetation has the ability to absorb street-dust and functions as air-purifiers in the city. Traffic is the largest contributor to air pollution in cities. 97% of street-dust (stoft) comes from cars’ tyres and dust from the street paving. Large deciduous trees with the a leave mass have the best absorption ability, especially during summer months when the trees have blossomed out. An average large tree can absorb about 9 kg street-dust in a year (ibid.).
2. GREAT URBAN SPACES
GREAT URBAN SPACES

The quest for urban planners and designers of today is of course how to design urban space with high quality, fine aesthetics, lasting sustainability and still manage to keep the cost low. What factors in the urban environment attracts people? How do you design space that fulfills peoples needs, may it be to escape reality or be part of it? What are the requirements in planning space that are suitable for people regardless of season or the passing of time?

How we use urban recreational space changes with the passing of time which sets new rules and guidelines for planners to relate to. Nowadays people make appointments and have meetings in urban outdoor spaces, meet and eat lunch there. People go for a run or walk their dog. They go sunbathing on sunny days and ice-skating in winter, they attend festivals and cultural activities. Not to mention the large amount of educational school activities and sports activities that takes place in city parks. People live differently today in comparison to urban life some fifty years ago and this reflects on the usage of today’s urban spaces. Urban spaces should be designed not only to fulfil aesthetic requirements, but they should also be up-to-date user-friendly. The planning debate needs to focus more on the relation between users and function.

The aspect of ethnicity is another strong factor that needs attention. In a city with so many ethnic groups as in Malmö today it would be incorrect not to question if we share the same recreational needs and ideal? What kind of function and features accommodate different ethnic groups? I think it is fair to assume that regardless of what cultural heritage we carry with us, people simply enjoy the outdoor environments of parks and user-friendly recreational space. And public seating is a common feature in urban settlements all over the world.

In some aspects I agree with Ulla Berglund who in her report “Perspectives on Nature in the City” (Berglund, 1996, 11) presents a scurrilous portrait of planners and landscape architects as persons hiding behind their professions. It is easy to loose focus on what really matters in the design process and screen off from the common everyday issues that people experienced, like the lack of parking spaces, a high level of bicycle thefts, an insecure bike/pedestrian track to school for the kids, the lack of green spaces etc.

Thus the answer to the question of how to design great urban space is not to fall for the temptation of designing something resembling the latest modern design in the architectural press, but to catch the true feel of what goes on in everyday life around any particular area and to eliminate the actual problems. And to stick to one simple planning instruction documented by William H. Whyte who wittily remarked “what attracts people most it would appear, is other people” [www.pps.org. Retrieved; 6 June 2007].

“The Puerto Ricans who come to our cities today have no place to roast pigs outdoors...”

Jane Jacobs remarks on ethnic space in her classic Death and life of great American cities. [Jacobs, 1962, 110].
According to internet-based organization Project for Public Spaces there are certain factors one should strive for while planning and designing in order to achieve a great urban space that draws people to it. Research and case studies shows that there are certain “key conditions” in making a great park or an urban space and the Project for Public Spaces organization lists these on their webpage; 

1. Parks that are integrated with a **public transport** node are often well used due to the constant flow of people, and the winning concept of waiting and meeting that takes place in and around a transit node fulfills the obvious factor for being a great urban space; the presence of people.

2. **Management** is of importance so that the park does not deteriorate and turn into an unpleasant place, which leads to destruction and vandalism. This makes the environment unsafe for children and women and in the long run it highly affects the economical aspect of the project.

3. A **flexible design** can be of importance in order to accommodate activities in the park throughout the year. It can enable a variation of amenities, which can act as a meeting point during celebrations such as festivals, shows, markets etc.

4. **Attractions** can provide a strong identity to the park like a park theme, a renowned sculpture or a certain activity related to the park.
Swedish professor Patrik Grahn has performed extensive research to increase the knowledge on the significance of green-structure and the influence it has on people. His research is based on how people use and experience green space and what kind of activities we partake in when we visit parks and other recreational areas. His research is an attempt to understand the relationship between usage of parks and park qualities, if and how it corresponds to each other. Members from 136 organizations have been asked to describe how and why they engage in park activities, reviews as well as interviews of park qualities were made. After statistical analysis of this data, Patrik Grahn found that all the activities that people participated in could be divided into 8 different park qualities or characters.

**Rich in species** [Artrik]
**The pleasure garden** [Rofylld]
**Space** [Rymd]
**Wild** [Vild]
**Social history** [Kultur/Historia]
**Play park** [Viste]
**The common** [Allmännngen]
**Festive ornamental character** [Samvaro]
1. Rich in species
...signifies a park or area with a rich flora and fauna. The variety of plants and animals make people curious and open for discovering. Especially in early springtime people long for the first signs of blossom or the first singing of the birds and are attracted to places where these can be encountered. The rich in species character is normally found in nature environments however botanical gardens and such belong to this category. The feature of water in ponds and lakes are elements that enhance the character.

2. The pleasure garden
...is the character in which people's need for tranquillity is fulfilled. It is an environment where the sound of the wind, the water, the birds and insects stands out rather than the noise of traffic. The place is calm and people do not want to be disturbed by noise, litter, weeds or other disturbing people.

3. Space
...is the character enabling people to step into their "inner self". The word space indicates large vast areas where there is no audible or visual disturbance and people can sink into their thoughts and ponder freely. It is a place away from city-life and there are no rules, signs or limits to obey, nothing except one's thoughts. It should be an environment without barriers and one should be able to wonder about or go for a run for several hundred of metres in order to fully isolate oneself from the surrounding world.

4. Wild character
...treats our fascination with wild life. These kinds of areas are characterized by natural habitats and if man-made, they will not look like it. Plants, bushes and trees grow freely and if any path leads the way, it will be winding around the nature elements. Large rocks with moss on them, trees of different age and height, wild flowers, weed and grasses grow where it suits them best and a non-organized structure, all of this can characterize the wilderness. It is an area where nature has had its own way, being controlled only by the influence of climate and weather factors.
Keywords: Overgrown. Water. Boulders. Winding tracks. Mystery.

5. Social history character
...is to be found in the kind of park or urban space where one can contemplate our historical legacy. It is a character found both in built environments as well as in nature, like around remnants of old buildings, cemeteries, monuments or old trees and they teach us about our cultural heritage. It is claimed by some that the heart and soul of a city not necessarily is connected to the festive and public parts of the city, but to its historical legacy. This environment is not found amongst any crowd or entertainment, on the contrary it aims at having people ponder and the sentiment can even seem a bit solemn.
Keywords: Culture. Place. Monument. Fountains. Flower arrangements. Statues.

6. Play park
...is a place made especially for children. It is often a surrounded area where adults can let their children go free without the need to be watched over. The environment is robust and durable in order to cope with the different kind of activities that take place. Some play parks are equipped with permanent play features such as sandpits, swings and slides whereas other areas tempt children to play with nature's own play equipment; trees, shrubberies, rocks etc.
Keywords: Place to change. Robust. Intimate. Nature. Durable plants. Shrubberies to hide in.
7. The common
...symbolizes of a green, open and central place, large enough to fit a circus, a flea-market or for instance an orchestra playing. It is a place for occasional ballgames, flying a kite, sunbathing or for just getting together around a pick-nick. These kind of common places have been the preferable form of socializing for people during centuries and are therefore of cultural and historical significance.

Keywords: Openness. Mown grass. Secluded. Shelter.

8. Festive ornamental character
...is the kind of place that attracts people for festive and pleasure reasons. It can be the main square in the city where a lot of festive activities take place and a lot of people are moving about. It can also be a fair or amusement park. The sound of people and bustling life is significant and it is the only character one does not wish to have close to ones home, but instead visit on occasions.


[Keywords from Boverket, 1994, 22-23]

These eight different park characters can be resembled to an artist’s palette where they can work alone or in various combinations with each other. A larger recreation area is more likely to comprise of different kinds of park features and therefore contain more characters. According to the research of Patrik Grahn, areas with different characters attract more people since they fulfil more needs. It is quite possible to enter the park of many characters either your aim is to spend time with other people or if your need is to be alone (Berggren-Bäring & Grahn 1995, 215).
Rachel and Stephen Kaplan have been studying the relationship between people and nature since early 70s and are regarded as pioneer researchers in environmental psychology. In their book “With people in mind” (1998) they have contributed by analyzing problems or difficulties that humans experience in different types of nature environments and with a pattern-based matrix describing solutions to prevent these experienced difficulties. They have also pinpointing human preferences regarding urban environments leading to five different themes (Kaplan & Kaplan, 1998, 32):

**Preference 1 : Coherent areas**
Coherent areas are achieved by having a similarity of vegetation or functions in the environment, which makes it easy to distinguish areas. Borders and edges, like hedges, fences, walking paths or a change of texture, are key features in this character and help the viewer to grasp the scene and have an overview of what it consists of (ibid., 40).

**Preference 2 : Smooth ground**
People grasp the layout of their surroundings by determining the textures of the different planes; ground, vertical and over-head. Since ground plane is where we move around it is of special importance when it comes to texture. The texture provides information so that people can understand the organization of the space, and therefore move in different directions which is a key feature of feeling comfortable in a particular environment.

Although too much smooth area expresses a feeling of monotonous space, smooth ground areas that are broken up and divided by different textures and forms creates an calming and at the same time interesting environment. Being able to see smooth ground on the other side of a perceived barrier opens up the senses for exploration (ibid., 42).
Preference 3 : Mystery
This character refers to the common notion that the hinting of more information creates an intriguing sensation. There are many way in achieving this kind of mystery in nature environments. Foliage can function as both a hiding and a revealing element, tree trunks lets the spectator hint the surrounding scenery and a winding path is the hallmark of mystery in landscapes. The sensation of mystery can also arise with the interplay between light and shadows as well as with fog and mist, however the latter is a hard to design [ibid., 43].

Preference 4 : A sense of depth
The depth in a view provides the 3D. As opposed to viewing a flat image, like gazing over long-stretched fields, a landmark or a multi-layered environment creates a sense of depth in the landscape that is important in understanding the view and wanting to explore the landscape. Topographic variations are also helpful in creating the sense of depth [ibid., 46].

Preference 5 : Openings
Openings in the landscape are comforting both to look upon and to enter. They enable free space to move around in, a better visual overview and on many occasions the place to rest after activities. Openings are likely to be mystique since they do not reveal at once the scope of its space. For many people openings symbolizes safety and happenings, like a well-deserved coffee break during outings [ibid., 47].
Yet another theorist is English landscape architect and garden historian Tom Turner, who constitutes the abstract member in this constellation of sources. He argues the idea that green is not the only colour important to us in well-planned urban spaces. He is in favour for a city landscape that is patterned and multi-coloured both in real life as well as on the plans. It is his opinion that humans go through different kind of emotions and there should be places to go to accommodate these moods.

Red symbolizes excitement, like in a busy city square or on a festival. Blue envisages serenity and coolness often achieved at water sites, a common feature is fountains and waterfalls. Water has many expressions and can in summer speak of fulfilment, in autumn it can be solemn, in winter it stands for growth and a promise of the new beginning and in spring the frozen pools of rainwater envisages serenity [Turner, 1996, 189].

Yellow space should stimulate one’s curiosity like on unknown territory and nature parks or where two different kinds of textures meet. Orange space is a combination of red and yellow and should be gay with movement, laughter and fun. Shopping streets and markets belong to this colour nuance. So do waterfronts and sports-fields when they are busy (ibid., 190).

Purple space is mysterious, powerful and scarce; calm yet with something unknown and un-revealed in the area. Gorges, pits, caverns and narrow paths through obscure woods are purple. Brown spaces should be wholesome and satisfying like the breath of freshly dug soil. The attraction of brown space is earth it self and it can therefore be found in agricultural land and within the urban settlement in places with soil, wood, brick and stone, like in forest parks and in the old parts of the city (ibid., 191).

Grey space is solemn and can, not surprisingly, be found around cemeteries and memorials. These places encourage us to reflect. White spaces are places for projection of one’s soul and can be found or experienced in places of great extent, scale or prospect. Lastly green space, a mix of yellow and blue, calming the curiosity of yellow space and restraining the sublime attributes of blue. It can be parks found in the middle of busy urban areas but lack the stress and the noise. Green space should be relaxing in every way (ibid.).

“By turns, we feel solitary, gregarious, adventurous, amorous, aggressive, bored and excited. These, and all the other moods, some of which can be symbolized by colours, deserve accommodation in the public realm of a town. So we need harlequin plans for harlequin space, to suit our harlequin lives”.

[Turner 1996, 189].
3. PROJECT CONCEPT

The project concept is to work with three different urban space forms in Malmö; a square, a park and a link, and

a) enhance them to better fit in to the city landscape,
b) improve the green structure and recreational range in Malmö according to the aims in Malmö Greenplan 2003 & c) pursuing these tasks with the research of PPS, Grahn, Kaplan and Turner in the back of my head.

This concept is sprung from the idea to work with parks and green structure in Malmö since there is a deficiency of the different categories of green space analyzed in the Malmö Greenplan 2003. The three areas that I came to work with are areas that I, during the inventory stage, decided were suitable for re-designing and incorporating into the green structure network. By making them more public and enhancing the recreational use, it would benefit the whole area and the people living there.

a square : Drottningtorget
a park : Kv. 22
a link : Sofielund industrial area