

THE SITE

The competition site is a fantastic part of Lund. Here you will find quality housing, green spaces that are unique to their context, exuberant allotment gardens, and large fields for ball games. In the area, many people have found places to call their own. External agents and interests drive the planned development of the competition site. But what does the area itself want? The many people who spend their time in the area – in school, on the football field, along the stream, among the allotment gardens, in the bushes next to the railroad – who asks for their opinion? How can their voices and ideas become a creative force behind their own projects instead of obstructions in someone else's project? Instead of architectural solutions for these interests, we need a method that lets these voices be heard – now and in the future.

MONSTER

Appreciating the uncontrolled. The Monster is a concept created by man for the purpose of describing what cannot be defined or controlled. It is impossible to identify because it is in a state of constant change. It is considered menacing, but isn't it really just unclear? We would like to introduce this concept into the realm of architecture. The Monster can help us find new ways of thinking.



DECLARATION

We stand on the Monster's side and observe the architecture. From where we stand it is clear that many are trying to eliminate the Monster. We see clean, formalistic visions that, like casting molds, create perfectly square people and rigid societies. We see static, large-scale blocks and we see so-called Architectural Masterpieces (obstructions) that cannot handle that time passes and that the world changes. We see a quest for control.



Nonetheless, we also see friends and hopefulness. We see monstrous neighborhoods that have emerged over time. We see places that have become more complex than anyone could imagine, that have indescribable qualities, and that tolerate and welcome new buildings as well as demolitions. We see a belief in valuing that which is beyond our control.

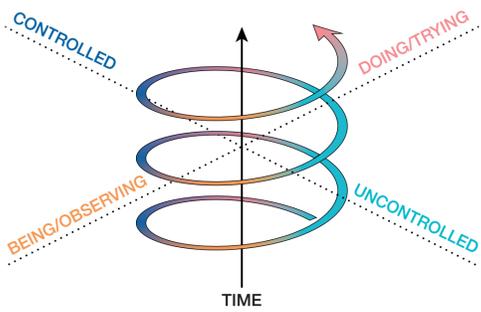


VALUES

Safeguarding complexity. A monstrous architecture is an architecture that safeguards complexity and avoids simplification. This means that development must occur in direct contact with the physical environment, because every distancing results in simplification and abstraction. Large-scale projects lead to rigid and insensitive environments in which many opportunities are overlooked. By searching for strategies that allow development to occur in small steps (in both time and space) instead, things can happen both quickly and continuously. Working with smaller scale means improved possibilities that projects are adaptable, as well as critical, and develop that which already exists on site today. By giving up control of the future we are letting in the present and that which already exists. Instead of fortifying established norms, this process can bring forth legitimate voices and make positive creative use of conflicts of interest that arise.

METHOD

In The Monster Plan, development does not only mean that a site changes and takes on new forms and expressions. It also means, to an equal extent, that the site has the chance to reevaluate itself and the forms it already embodies. The proposed method works like a pendulum, swinging between, on the one hand, deciding and influencing, and, on the other, familiarizing and understanding. With this process, development emerges in the form of Statements and Projects. The Monster Plan is thus a way of working, more than a finished solution.



STATEMENTS

As a way of raising and assessing the many interests that influence the area, this method is based upon clear statements. These statements are formulated out of an understanding for the place. Through statements, various interests and values in the area are exposed. The statements must then challenge each other, and the outcome is that some survive, while others die. Most of the time, however, a compromise is reached. Spaces and competency are provided on site so that these meetings may come to fruition – see the Monster Forum project.

PROJECTS

The Statements encounter the physical environment through projects, which generates new knowledge and insights about the site. The projects move development forward, little by little, through critical, speculative, and exploratory action. The projects that are presented here should be seen as possible ways of making the most of the engagement and understanding that already exists in the area today. They do not assume to be the best or most effective courses of action, but that is also the point. Instead of committing to the inevitably large costs of trying to do everything right from the beginning, we accept that all interventions will bring unexpected consequences. The negative consequences are limited by keeping the rigidity and scale of projects on a reasonable level. This way we leave the door open for a constant, adaptable, and creative search for the site's true form.

CURRENT STATEMENTS

KEEP THE RURAL FEELING CLOSE TO THE CITY!
In certain parts of the site there is a rural quality that is unique for Lund and this environment is highly valued and worth caring for.



BIG MONOFUNCTIONAL SPACES ARE UNREASONABLE!
When specific interests are allowed to dominate on too large of an extent it leads to ineffective use of space, the creation of barriers, and segregation.



BARRIERS NEED TO BE REEVALUATED!
The site is full of barriers, such as the railroad and Ringvägen, but barriers are not only negative. Once you start investigating them you will undoubtedly find unexpected qualities.



CARE FOR THE EXISTING!
Resources already invested in the built environment must be used to the fullest. We need to be better and faster at developing underutilized structures and, when needed, welcome new users.



CONFLICT IS A POSITIVE FORCE!
The new isn't born through separation and animosity but from the meeting of different desires. Conflicts of interest are seeds for the undiscovered, but need nurturing to bloom!



UNPAVED SURFACES SHOULD BE CARED FOR!
Once a surface is paved it has a hard time returning to a freer form. New construction should, therefore, primarily happen on surfaces that are already paved.



GARDENING ENRICHES OUR ENVIRONMENT!
The allotment gardens in the area show the energy contained within gardening and the chance to shape your own environment. This quality should become more democratic, accessible, and take on new forms.



HÖJE Å IS WORTH PROTECTING!
The stream, Höje Å, is a fantastic natural resource and functions on a regional just as much as on a local scale. The water supports a distinct ecosystem and is a destination for all of Lund.

