View, Bedrock, Forest, Forest Edge - a Recreational Facility at Avholmsberget

Klara Andersson
Handledare/ Johan Celsing
Supervisor
Examinator/ Per Franson
Examiner

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The Dellen lakes consist of two lakes, Norrdellen and Sördellen, which are situated in the area of Hälsingland, about 300 kilometres north of Stockholm. The lakes were created by a kilometre-sized meteorite which hit the Earth about 90 million years ago. The explosion made some of the bedrock melt and a new type of rock was created, named Dellenit. The northern lake is both larger and deeper than the southern lake, with a maximum depth of 65-70 meters.

The area of the Dellen lakes is surrounded by hills which in the distance get a blueish colour, and on some days the blue hills together with the water and the sky create an almost monochrome blue world in the far distance, only interrupted by the red farmhouses scattered in the open landscape.

The site at Avholmsberget is located about 210 metres above sea-level, and 150 metres above the Dellen lakes. There has been a restaurant/café on the site since 1965, and the attraction has been widely appreciated by both tourists and locals. The past years the restaurant has struggled to make a profit, and it has been on sale for some years now. The lack of possibilities to stay overnight at Avholmsberget has been mentioned as a major issue throughout the years, and recently (2015) there was a proposal from a potential buyer to convert the site to a larger tourist attraction with rental cabins, a hostel, a gourmet restaurant, ice cream café and conference facilities for courses, retreat and/or artistic activities. The municipality was positive to this development, but the project was cancelled before a detailed development plan had been established.

The existing buildings on the site consist of the top cabin from the 50’s, the restaurant building which has been extended and altered several times, and a big garage. In my design proposal the top cabin is left untouched. The restaurant building is altered in many ways, which goes back to its history of alteration after alteration, and the lower part is demolished in order to create a simpler building volume with a stronger formal relationship to the top cabin. The garage is demolished in order to give space for the new buildings.

My proposal includes four new buildings, which relate to the existing restaurant building in size, angle of roof, facade material and the placing of the buildings. The program of the proposal is a small recreational facility with a restaurant, conference facilities, a reception, hotel rooms and a bath. The size of the program is approximately 1200 m².

- Staff and information building: 200 m²
- Hotel rooms (10 á 25 m²): 250 m²
- Bath building: 210 m²
- Conference building: 300 m²
- Restaurant building: 230 m²

Do not build on the most beautiful spots, let those places remain untouched.
Try to build mainly where the landscape has already been altered by humans.
Keep the scale of the buildings similar to the existing buildings.
Use the characters of the landscape in the interiors of the buildings in order to strengthen the character and create a strong sense of materiality.

The site
- Dellensjöarna
- Avholmsberget

The program is presented in the following way:
- Recreational facility
- Restaurant
- Conference facilities
- Reception
- Hotel rooms
- Bath

- Conditions/rules

The site is of great environmental value and the landscape has been mostly untouched. The site is a rare gem that deserves to be protected.

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The site is for sale 2017-

Big conversion and extension of the existing 1996-1997 kitchen and other spaces. The building was extended with 100 m², for a of Hudiksvall and became private owned by 1990 to son.

Change in ownership of the ground, from fa-

The road up the mountain was being asphalt-

1971

The small mountain top cabin (toppstugan) 1954 - Time line

Electricity.
The road up the mountain was constructed 1964

The original building, built by Bjuråker mun-

Change in ownership of the ground, from fa-

The municipality of Hudiksvall was established, 1970 to which the former municipality of Bjuråker now belonged.

The municipality of Hudiksvall was established, 1970

The first building on the site (except for the top
cabin) was built by the municipality of Bjuråker 1967

Not all spaces should have the same type or amount of light, and dark

This architectural parameter can be found in the interiors of the buildings.

The unexpected. The sensation of surprise is

Mist, fire and water

Mist, fire and water are said to be very atmospheric substances, and incorporating them into my project has been a goal. They stimulate imagination and curiosity, not go against it. The difference between the interiors of the buildings next building will offer.

made the surprise stronger. Even if you have en-

You meet the buildings from the outside you
can not tell what the insides will be like, and the surprise is mainly located at the transition from exterior to interior. A toned down, less obvious surprise, makes the transition easier grasped and felt by both mind and body, is priority, and the details only aim to enhance this expres-

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bath building: in situ concrete structure

staff and entry building: glulam beams

- detail 1:20, the detail is used in the conference building and staff building, and with minor alterations in the hotel room building.
- detail 1:20, the detail is used in the bath building.
arriving
- the visitor

As a visitor you will reach the location by car or bus, and the first thing you will meet is the staff and information building by the parking area. Walking towards the entry of this building, you will already get a glimpse of the extraordinary view far ahead. Inside, you can find information about the area, check in or make a reservation for any of the facilities.

As you move along the path, straight towards that view ahead, you will walk between two buildings, with their wooden façades close by your own body, entering a more intimate space.

Further down the path you will reach a small square with tables in the gravel and two big pine trees. From here you can see the entry of the bath building, and you also have the possibility to enter the conference building or take a path up to the hotel rooms.

If you choose to walk further ahead you will reach the end of the path and have to go either right or left. To your left you will have the main entry to the conference building and by the door there are benches overlooking the lakes through a curtain of trees. You also have the choice to walk along the restaurant building, turn the corner and get an even more breathtaking view over the lakes. Continuing along the façade of the restaurant you will get a glimpse into the kitchen before you reach the terrace and can go inside.

Since the nature on the site is so fantastic, I wanted to let that be the main attraction, and to try to make the new buildings a bit toned down and function as a quiet background for the nature to play against. This goes for the exterior of the buildings, and explains their simple forms and abstract appearance. The interior is something completely different, it is rich, full of materiality and expression, and aims to enhance the character of the nature by matching it in choice of materials and atmosphere. The contrast between the simple outer appearance and the rich inner appearance of the buildings create a contradiction that can generate a feeling of surprise.

concept
- nature, exterior, interior

All the buildings look very similar from the outside. Simple geometric forms, clad in vertical wooden planks which will turn grey over time, and the details are hidden in order to create this very abstract appearance. The wooden planks on the walls continue over the roof and creates an abstract wooden volume, with the gutters and metal plates completely hidden.

exterior
- simple and abstract

The interiors of the buildings are very different from each other. Each interior is linked to a character of the nature surrounding that particular building, resulting in four different themes; the view, the bedrock, the forest and the forest edge. In each of these themes the material palette go in almost monochrome, and one material dominates the entire space and often cover both floor, walls and ceiling, so that one is completely embraced by one single substance.

Three of the buildings incorporate an actual element from nature. The conference building, with the character of the forest has fire in the form of fireplaces. The bath building with the character of the bedrock has water in the form of a pool and a steam bath. The restaurant has the element air, which can be experienced in the dining room with double ceiling height and a huge glass facade looking over the lake.
The most obvious, but also the most breathtaking, character of the site is the view from the mountain over the Dellen lakes. A long wide view, overlooking an entire landscape of water, fields and blue-colored mountains far away. A big space to enter, to feel small but also big. The weather highly influences the mood of this space and creates an ever-changing background. Blue sky, overcast, thunder, full-sun, misty mornings, colourful sunsets.

- character: the view
- building: restaurant

White, glass, wood, textiles. The restaurant building is an existing building which has been transformed. The existing appearance from the inside is dark with a low ceiling height, making the spaces feel cramped and not so welcoming. Giving the dining room double ceiling height and big high windows towards the main attraction - the view over the Dellen lakes - is a way to give the restaurant a lighter appearance. White painted surfaces and fabrics further add to this expression. The upper floor of the building has been converted from a dwelling to two secluded dining rooms, and the new restaurant kitchen is made similar to the existing restaurant kitchen. The interior of the building relates to the character of the place: a feeling of spaciousness and lightness. A big high white space meeting the open landscape ahead through an almost invisible boundary of glass.
- character: the bedrock

Exposed bedrock forming a ridge of huge stone formations with boulders of bedrock. An austere environment where the stone dominates, hard, grey and heavy. Smooth and rough edges, cracks and small cavities. Some of the boulders are partly covered by a mix of moss and old fir needles from the surrounding pine trees, but stone is still the main visible substance.

- building: bath

Concrete, water, mist and stone. A building for relaxation and bath. Spaces of darkness, creating a more intimate and forgiving atmosphere, with some rooms with different forms of light, as a contrast against the darkness. From the entry you reach a space before you can enter the changing rooms where there is light but you can not see straight out through the windows. The light falling through the window gives a pattern on the surfaces of the room similar to that of water. The next space of light is the steam bath, where there is a slit in the roof creating a narrow skylight, with the light falling on a high concrete wall with a rough surface, highlighting the texture of the wall with its peaks and valleys, and where the steam makes the rest of the room appear diffuse. A protected but yet dramatic space. Another interesting space of light, near the steam bath, is the pool. Here no daylight will enter, the light in the space is artificial and comes from lighting fixtures at the bottom of the pool directed upwards, creating a changing pattern of light on the walls and ceilings, moving along with the water. A handrail is located just above the water surface, encouraging the visitor to hold on to it while floating in the pool, watching the changing pattern of light playing on the stone tiles covering the walls and ceiling. A relaxing and meditative space. The last light space is the lounge room, and it is the space with the biggest amount of daylight, entering from big sliding windows towards the bedrock outside.
A character very common to the region of Hälsingland is the tall pine forest, which can also be found on the site of Avholmsberget. A room where you can see quite far due to the long trunks and the high position of the branches of the pine trees, but where smaller plants and young trees sometimes hide the view. The sloping ground hides the view even further. The ground is covered in moss, giving it a smooth, soft expression.

- character: the forest

- building: conference

Wood and a hint of brass and concrete. Conference rooms of various sizes with a view over the forest, clad completely in wood. A corridor at the core of the building, connecting the conference spaces. A rhythmic journey where you will pass by the dark, more intimate fireplace spaces for gathering, feeling heat, smelling the scent of the fire and hearing the soothing sounds, then reaching to a more neutral space where every surface is covered in wood, and then again reaching a new fireplace space.
A fourth character on the site is the forest edge. This border where the pine tree forest ends and the open view over the lake begins. A transition between two zones, with its own character.

- **character: the forest edge**
- **building: hotel rooms**

Black wood, glass and steel create a contrast to nature with the use of large windows and the forest as a backdrop. The hotel rooms have an entry from the outside, a bathroom, bedroom and a private terrace.
results from literature study

process: sketches, drawings and inspiration

thesis booklet