

AL718

Mälarporten, Västerås

Bricolage

Urban Activation Strategy



Presenting Bricolage - an urban activation strategy for the Mälarporten area in Västerås, Sweden!

While remaining conscious of the rich heritage already present in the city, the project aims to provide a way of renewing and reintroducing life into a disused, though crucial site throughout its regeneration.

Focusing on a vision of a vibrant, inclusive and biodiverse central waterside district, the strategy incorporates a vast and diverse program intended to provide something for everyone, from all walks of life, with guiding principles of Greenscape, Culture and Productivity and the variety that this provides. In doing so, Bricolage will provide a socially sustainable context that builds climate resilience, economic opportunities, and cultural expression for all.

Composite axonometry of site, reflecting uses of all of the site throughout the process.

Analysis

Since its early beginnings, Västerås position as a trading city on Malaren (1) has driven its growth and shaped its identity. The lake has historically acted as a key connection the city with the wider region, and this position was advantageous in the development of industry and commerce, a tradition that remains to this day. As a result, the city is an energy capital of Sweden and home to many high-tech manufacturers, logistic operations, and retail headquarters. (2) The city's centre (3) has been increasingly disconnected from the lake, with key city-wide infrastructure such as rail and road

serving as physical barriers against civic engagement with water. (4) Future connections are expected to enhance this condition with the construction of the new transit hub. As a city, Västerås is now seeking to reinvent and establish itself as a key player within the ever-growing capital region. Strong existing connections (4) to Stockholm, and the position of the site to the new transit hub, ensures that the Mälarporten area has the potential to be a large-scale urban activator for the entire city and surrounds.

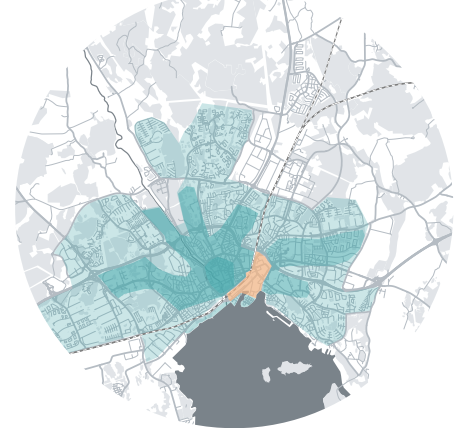
1. Green and Blue Structure



2. Economic Activity



3. Context



4. Rail and Key Roads



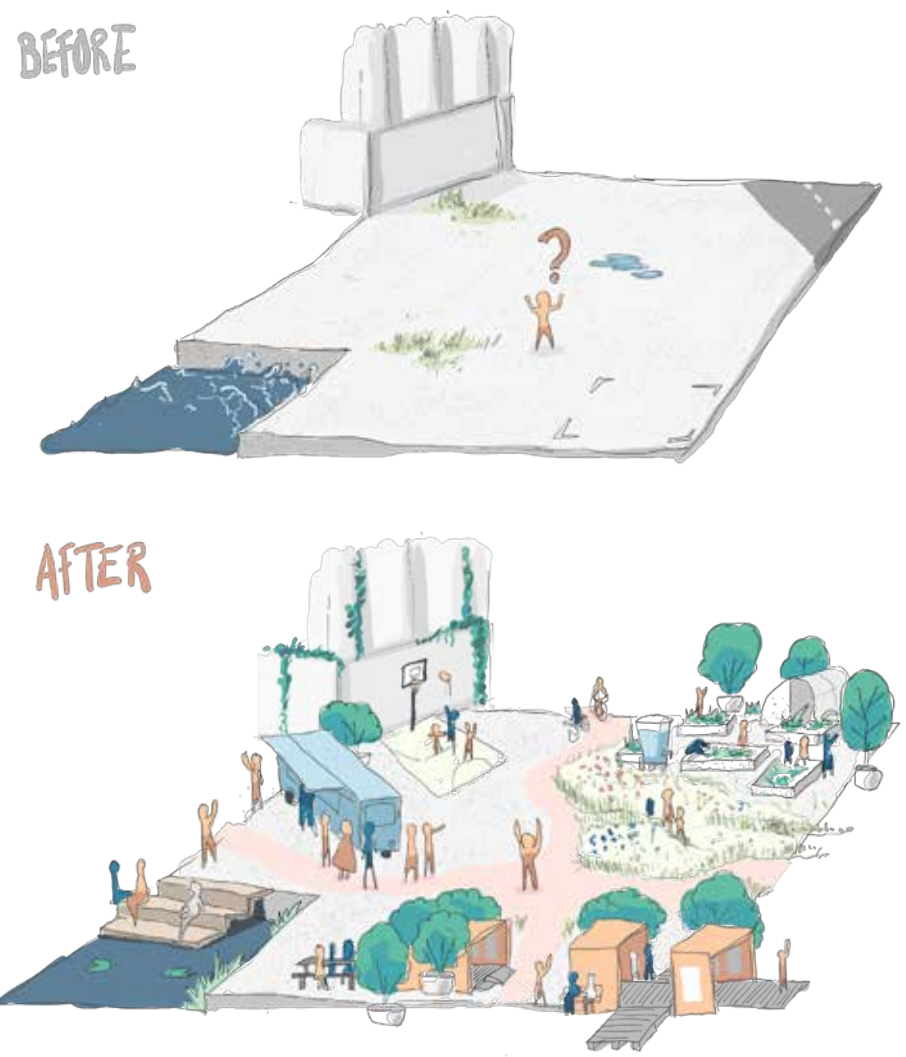
Vision

Västerås is a city that already has an established historical identity. Bricolage seeks to build upon these existing qualities in order to inform a forward-thinking identity, that embodies accessibility, inclusivity, civic dialogue and sustainability.

By utilising the heritage of technology and innovation already present, Bricolage seeks to create the conditions required for a Knowledge City on Malaren, as a place that draws and supports eager young minds from across Sweden and beyond in their ambition of creating a sustainable future.

Defined by the present industrial condition on the lakefront, the city centre's connection to water is stifled and inaccessible. Reversing this is crucial - the area must serve as a reconnection to water for the centre and the wider city of Västerås. This will be supplemented by establishing biodiverse green networks and parks to help build climate resilience in the face of change.

Bricolage will serve as the first step toward incubating a new, sustainable identity that comes to represent the future Västerås, as a city with a significant role within the wider region and within Sweden itself.



Strategy

Due to the nature of the brief and site, it is essential to establish separate but interlinked strategies that reflect both the temporal and the programmatic in an adaptive framework.

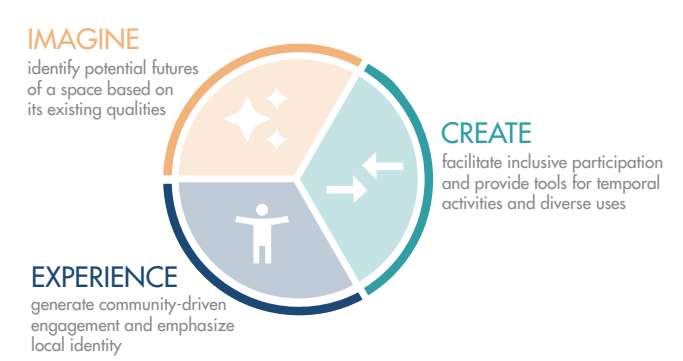
The Process Strategy is a perpetual exercise in civic participation, inviting the city to begin to *Imagine* the potential futures for places in the site. Next, begin to *Create* this future by using a toolbox of modular solutions. Finally, the *Experience* of the site is driven by the community's participation. Due to the temporal nature of the toolbox, the process is intended to be repeated, continually evoking dialogue about how the site continues to develop.

In accordance with the vision of the city for a sustainable, productive and inclusive future identity for the city, the program was established along three guiding principles:

- Green; related to the natural, and biological metabolisms in site.
- Productivity; related to the economic, the innovative and the collaboration.
- Culture; related to gathering, expression and creativity.

These principles are intended to overlap and inform dynamic and diverse ways of using the site over the entire period.

Process Strategy



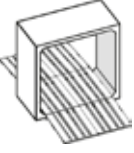
Program Strategy



Phasing

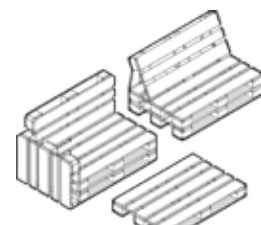
AL718 Toolbox

A range of modular Tools that reflects the temporal and dynamic quality of the site. As needs grow or change, the Toolbox allows users of the site to expand and build upon the project in a simple way. This is only a sample of the types of tools to be found in the site.



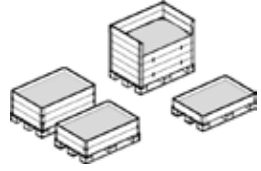
The concrete staves form one or different exhibition galleries depending on the way they are positioned. The flexibility of the concrete pieces allows public galleries to adapt to the different exhibitions that may take place. To promote better accessibility and level the floor, wooden pallets and wooden panels unify the exhibition area.

Shipping containers are dynamic, each new journey a new load. At (name) the containers remain dynamic and changing as needed. Positioned in different shapes and places in (name) they house urban farming workshop rooms and many other functions such as co-working space and meetings rooms. They may also house different stores, restaurants and Fritidsbanken lending sports equipment and toys for local users.

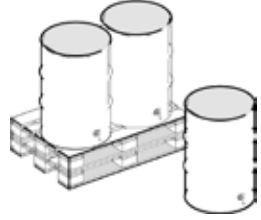


Pallets essentially serve to unite loads and facilitate transport. In (name) pallets serve as a unifier of different zones, such as the floor of the exhibition galleries, bleachers on the sports courts and of course in its original function, facilitating the transport of plant beds and water tanks in the urban farming area.

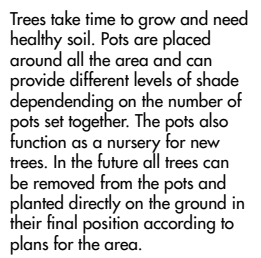
Raised plant beds facilitate the cultivation of vegetables in extremely urbanized environments and/or with polluted soil. They can be easily transported and assembled with different dimensions, which allows a higher variety of crops. The plant beds can be used in different areas of (name) when necessary. Plant beds allow for more efficient cultivation in relation to water consumption. They are available to anyone interested in growing their vegetables or joining a group of urban farmers.



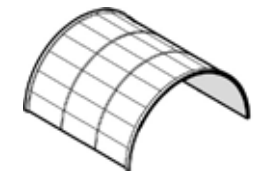
One of the most important equipment for urban farming in (name). Barrels and wooden pallets form an efficient and flexible tool to store water used in plant beds.



Trees take time to grow and need healthy soil. Pots are placed around all the area and can provide different levels of shade depending on the number of pots set together. The pots also function as a nursery for new trees. In the future all trees can be removed from the pots and planted directly on the ground in their final position according to plans for the area.



Part of the urban farming area system, the structure is used to conserve heat and extend the growing season, considered short in Västerås. The heat also provided good conditions for composting. The residues from the sewage plant can be used as a complement to the nutrients needed in the plant beds. The tunnels have the best conditions for seedling and sprouts in the early season.



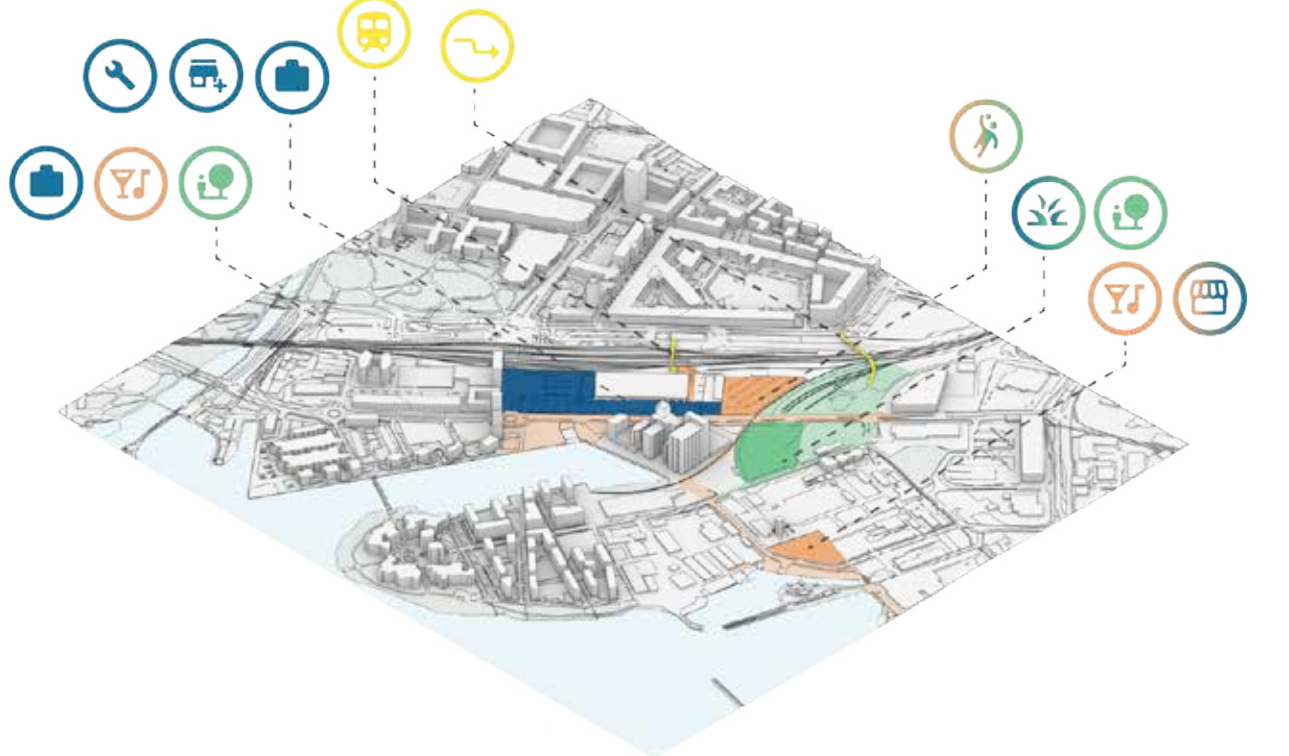
Introductions (2021-2022)

The commencing phase is characterised by inviting the city to sample snippets of the various programs located together within the Train Station Carpark. This Smörgåsbord of activity is intended to allow people to become acquainted with the process, the ongoing and proposed changes within the Mälarparken area, and how the activations will work throughout the timeframe. There will be the possibility for people to let their voices be heard, and suggest how the program could change and grow in the future, and inform future permanent program in the area.



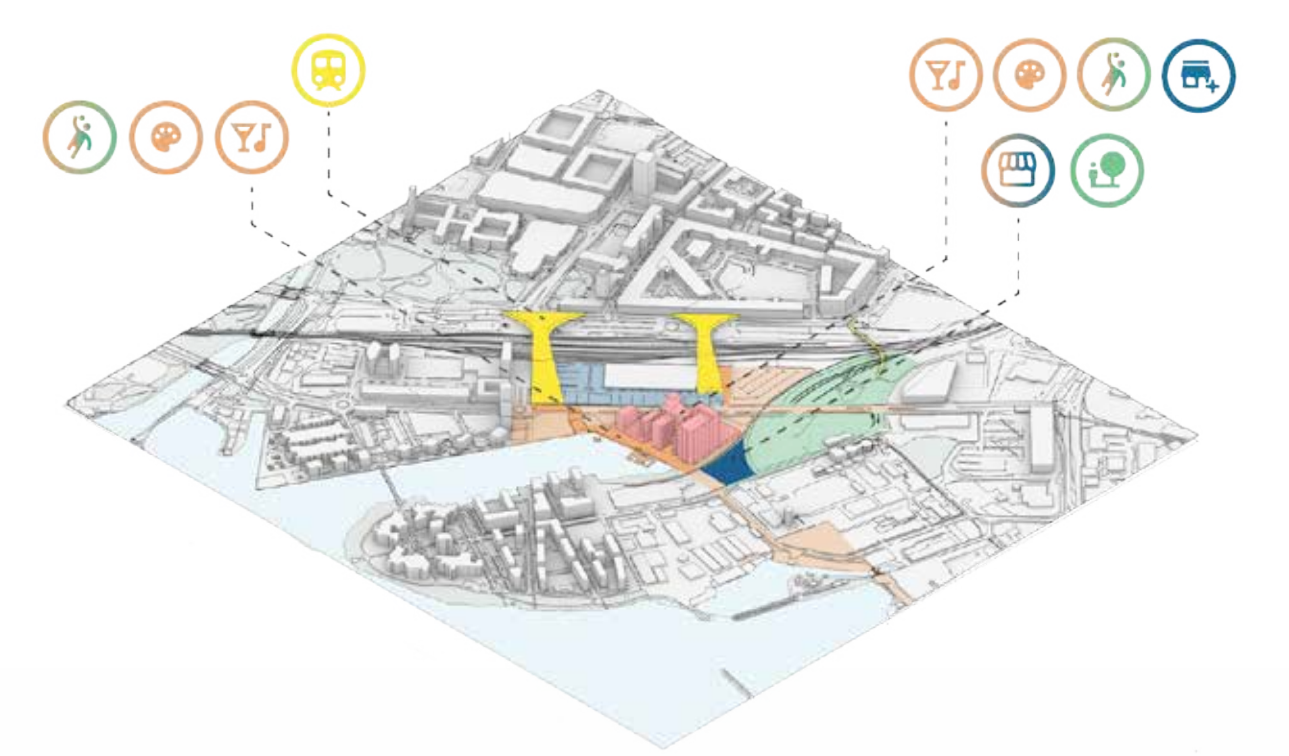
Expansions (2023-2024)

The initial interventions continue to expand, with the Green Heart beginning to expand for more users, allowing for a greater share of locally grown food. The Recreation area becomes active, with flexible and diverse sports courts available for all people in the city to use. More space becomes available in the Productive zone, allowing for more offices, co-working space, workshops and fabrication.



The Silo (2025-2026)

Perhaps the most vital stage of the entire project: The new Transit Hub opens, and new ways of accessing the site are enabled. The silo structure is converted into vertical farming, co-working and cultural spaces, and forms the nexus of the whole site. Additionally, the waterfront promenade becomes active, forming a crucial connection across the site. Lastly, the open space adjacent to the Silo is transformed into a Market space, for Restaurants and Retail of foods grown in the adjacent Green Heart.

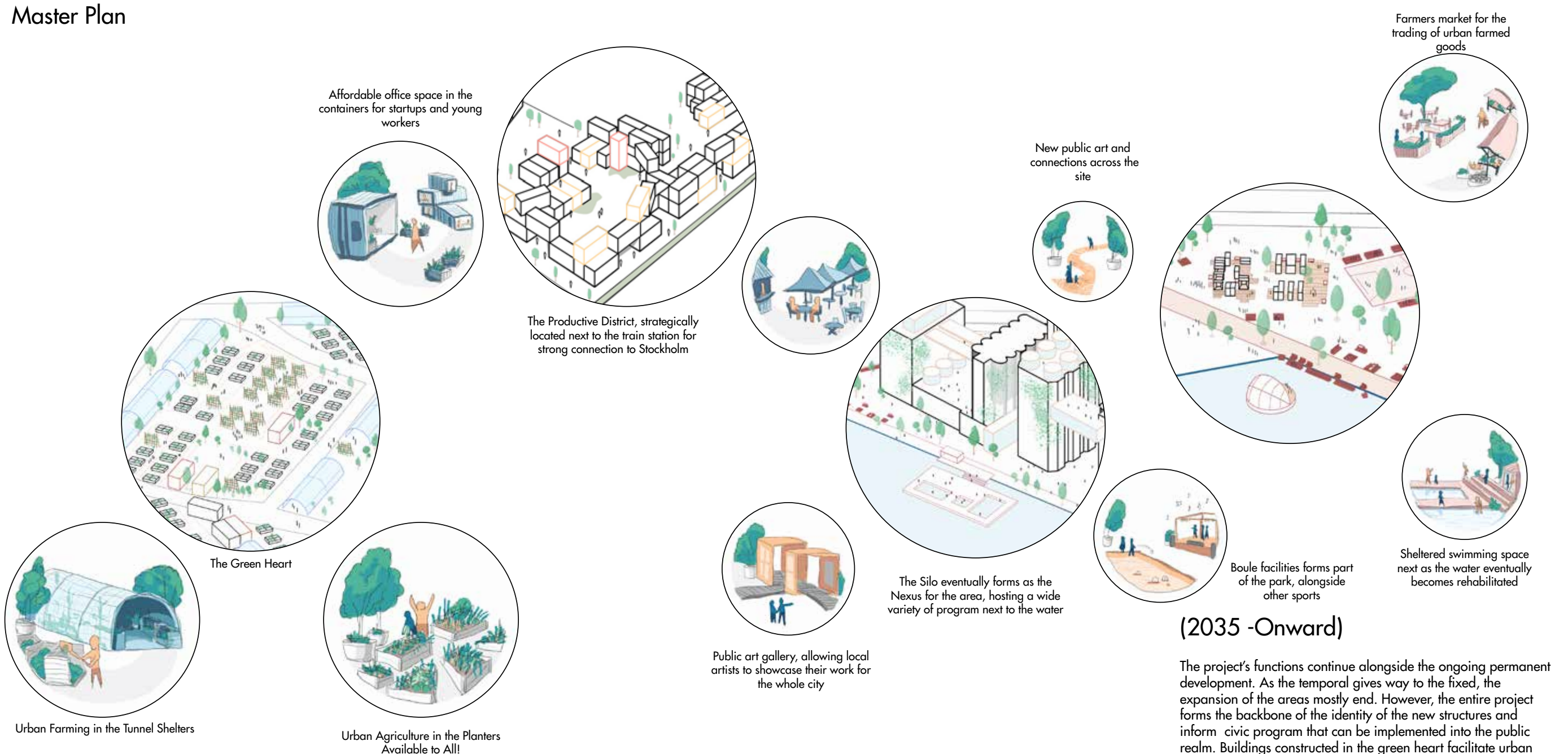


Perspective at Waterside

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Master Plan



(2035 -Onward)

The project's functions continue alongside the ongoing permanent development. As the temporal gives way to the fixed, the expansion of the areas mostly end. However, the entire project forms the backbone of the identity of the new structures and inform civic program that can be implemented into the public realm. Buildings constructed in the green heart facilitate urban agriculture, and homes in the cultural zone have spaces reserved for music and art.

