

FD685 Västerås (SE)

Innergården (inn'er- + gå'rd + en: the inside yard, English translation: the courtyard) is an open space surrounded by housing. The courtyard is where we talk to our neighbors, barbeque with our friends, and let our kids play. In vernacular architecture, the yard was the extension of the house, where women spent their time socializing and doing various household chores, like laundry, cleaning, and cooking preparations. It is a public space that the people who live in the surrounding buildings care for, usually with open access. It has characteristics of both public and private space, and the duality in its character makes it attractive. Innergården aims to become the courtyard of Mälarporten and Västerås, where it all begins, where the planning and building process becomes a bottom-up process based on the needs of the people and the city.

Connecting the area

Mälarporten today is an industrial and services area dominated by car traffic. It is necessary to prioritize pedestrian and bike movement and connect Mälarporten with the rest of the city.

Kungsängsgatan

It remains as a significant road for vehicle traffic, with one to two separated lanes for each direction, bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides, and a parking lane, alternatively extra bus lane (image a, source google maps) Crossings at Kungsängsgatan extended and differentiated to prioritize the pedestrians (image b, source Walala studio, Better Bankside)

Verkslgatan

It is the main road to access Lillåudden. It remains a double-way street, with reduced width to one lane per direction, bike lane, sidewalks, and greenery along the closed facade of the water treatment plant.

Kraftverksgatan

The part of the street included in area D (traffic map) is converted into a shared street with pedestrian priority, at least during the summer months for social activities like summer city events.

Train tracks crossings

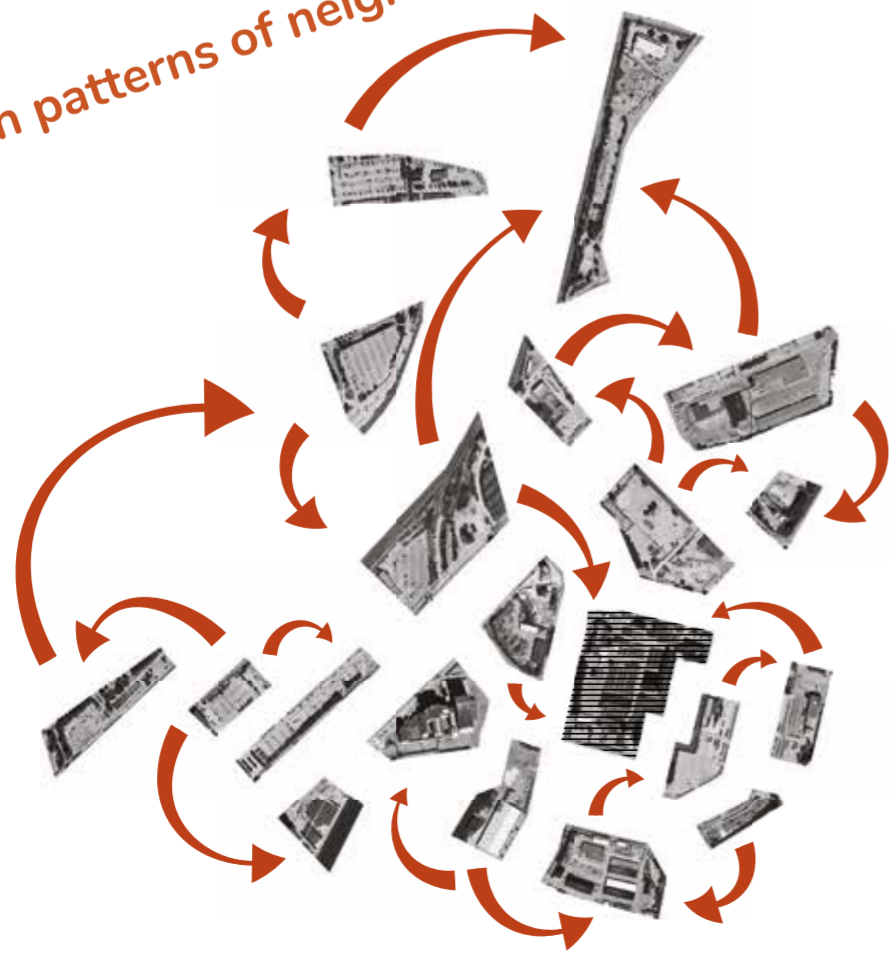
The train tracks act as a divider between the central area of Västerås and Mälarporten. The more connections, the better. On the map are circled the desirable direct pedestrian and bike connections between the two areas. Besides the new transportation hub connection, there should be at least two more connections.

INNERGÅRDEN

GUIDE TO A NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD



Establish patterns of neighbourhood activation



movement of actions and mobile structures around Mälarporten!

Curate the public space

The municipality, together with local actors and international contributors organizes temporary activities on the various action plots. These activities explore themes like radical care, play, unlearning, building, urban nature and community.

List of proposed activities:

- urban gardening
- greenhouse
- climbing
- playground
- open air gym
- skatepark
- amphitheater
- info points
- workshops
- forum space of project Mälarporten
- common urban kitchen
- sauna
- art space
- temporary housing
- flea market
- food hall
- canoe kayak
- ship building
- festival space

Managing the environment

Mälarporten is an industrial area derived from nature, which gives it an even rougher character.

Adding more green

Green areas benefit the city in various ways by creating environmentally more sustainable and favorable psychological conditions. As part of the proposal, there are two green protective barriers to make the neighborhood more resilient. The first barrier is located along the train tracks to protect the activity plots from the noise and the pollution from the trains. The other one is located along with the water treatment plant for helping with the adverse effects from the factory and also to 'break' the long-closed street front.

The green element is also part of the activities, for example, urban gardening-related activities, and as part of introducing green elements immediately in the area using flower and grow boxes that do not require access to earth

Dealing with the rainwater

As heavy rains become more common, rainwater creates many issues for the people and the environment as it falls directly to lake Mälaren. This situation makes an effort to clean the lakewater more difficult and yields uncertain results. Part of the activation of the area is creating a water management landscape park following the unused train tracks that go through the project site. The purpose of this park made of green lines is to prevent floods and clean the rainwater before it reaches lake Mälaren.

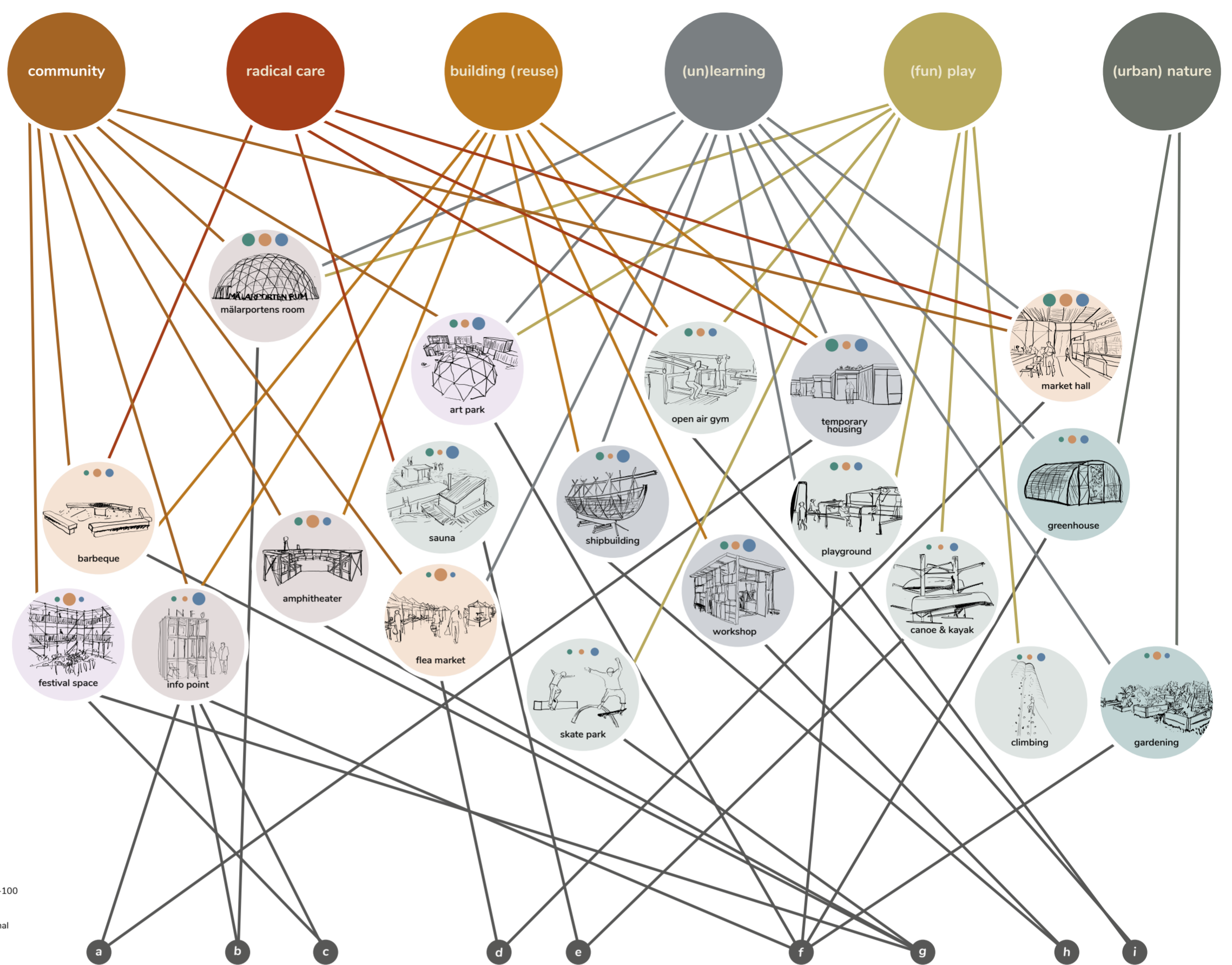


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Diagram of public activities

This diagram organizes the activities based on the concept that they mainly relate to the available plots in the project area. The activities transform the public space into a place for creating a neighborhood. They require the participation of the local population. They are open to everybody with no discrimination based on sex, ethnicity, or economic background. People are encouraged to organize the activities and propose new ones. The municipality supports the activities providing the necessary infrastructure. The activation of the spaces requires the collaboration of the municipality, local entrepreneurs, local associations, and invited collectives, artists, and educational institutions. They are no-waste. The developers in the area collaborate with the municipality and the people for resources. Parameters that are important for the activities are time, people, and seasonality. Most of the activities can be designed and constructed in a year or less. The weather conditions in the area limit the open-air activities significantly. For that reason, there would also be provided temporary spaces that allow the activities regardless of the weather conditions. The activities are realized through collective processes. The activities, the available plots, and the collaborators are connected in an online platform with open access. Systematic documentation of the process is required for producing and sharing knowledge. Evaluation of the activities and replanning accordingly is an essential part of the project. The materials used for the structures should be locally sourced and recyclable. The activities that complement each other (same color bubble) are interchangeable and can be located in proximity. The concepts are a way for understanding the activities and what they have to offer to the people. The concepts are also research themes that relate to sustainable urban planning and provide different understandings of the public space. This diagram is an idea of a guide for activating the public space.

- planning and execution time**
 - <6 months
 - 6 months to a year
 - one year+
- people participation**
 - small group 5-50
 - medium groups 50-100
 - large groups 100+
- seasonality**
 - occasional + seasonal
 - seasonal
 - all year long



- plot a**
availability: 2021-2027
now: parking lot
future: activities with short planning time, extension of park activities, and experimentation with temporary living spaces, like small living containers or trailer parking, extra green movable elements along the tracks
- plot b**
availability: 2021-2022, 2025-now: parking lot
future: info point for information regarding project Mälarporten and Innergården. Place to start the concept and create a temporary unofficial discussion room
- plot c**
availability: 2021-now: underused park, few urban furnitures
future: activities of plot c when it becomes unavailable, artistic events of smaller scale (e.g. for kids)
- plot d**
availability: 2021-now: parking lot
future: flea and food market space every Saturday during summer, further development to temporary market hall
- plot e**
availability: 2021-now: part of Mälaren, water unsuitable for swimming
future: floating structures hosting activities like sauna, temporary pool with clean water until the issue is resolved
- plot f**
availability: 2021-now: parking lot, brownfield, abandoned train rails
future: rainwater park following the abandoned rails, green protective barrier, urban gardening activities, urban kitchen, physical activities connected with the athletics center
- plot g**
availability: 2021-now: municipal plot, structures removed by the municipality
future: festival space for the summer, amphitheater, and temporary skatepark
- plot h**
availability: 2026-now: part of silo factory
future: workshops area, possibility to extend activities to adjacent plot, temporary use of building planned for demolition
- plot i**
availability: 2021-now: underused park
future: extend park area by converting the street to shared street type, connect with train station area with pedestrian road

