A case study on slow growth within the existing urban fabric.

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The world is in transition. Europe is a Europe of transition. And so is the city; an incomplete, ever-changing and complex construct.

While life is built upon the concept of change, organic order and vitality, society currently finds itself struggling not to fall behind time. The Industrial Revolution led to greater productivity and bigger economic turnovers. Developments picked up speed and lives have changed radically ever since. Digitalisation amplified the sharp acceleration of our time, characterised by a significantly high knowledge turnover while driving developments that are increasingly out of control for humans. Living in a fast-moving environment implies difficulties in making predictions about the future which in turn will lose their validity faster.

Carrying this topic forward to the field of architecture, a contradiction between a future that grows increasingly fugacious and the long-term planning and building processes displays. This led to the main question of how to allow flexibility, eventualities and uncertainties within a static system, as the field of architecture at first appearance is. The aim of this thesis work is to strive for a design strategy identifying long-term and short-term values which react upon existing modes of life and structure of collectives.

The case study is located in Sweden’s third biggest city, Malmö. The earliest and most industrialised town of Scandinavia struggled from post-industrialism and currently finds itself in times of fast growth and development. To be more precise, the study is based in Sofielunds industrial area, a unique district in Malmö. Characteristically is a wide variety of actors producing goods, services and culture. The development of the neighbouring area “Rosengård” and two new future train stops “Rosengård” and “Persborg” initiated a process of change and will inevitably affect the industrial area of Sofielund.