

# Re-imagine a safe and inviting public realm: exploring possibilities around Tensta centrum

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## What

In Stockholm's suburbs, many districts are characterized by area segregation where the socio-economic conditions, attractiveness of public space, use of public realm and safety issues differ a lot from area to area. Tensta, a Stockholm suburb built between 1962-1971 was one of the first so-called million program areas however, the result was not successful, and the area had to endure a lot of criticism. Now it is one of the most stigmatized and vulnerable neighborhoods of Stockholm where residents are predominantly of foreign background with a high unemployment rate. This area has large issue in the social sustainability sector which partly comes from a general lack of housing, a feeling of being alienated from the 'Swedish society', common language issues and a negative branding of Tensta as a suburb in the media.

## Why

A public space that is considered unsafe, unpleasant and unwelcoming limits the possibilities of people from different background to meet and make the space more active and vibrant. Designing new meeting places both indoor and outdoor would be a high value design objective to improve public life in Tensta. There are too few places that offer activities for children and youths and few areas for organizations to organize events. Also a huge lack of potential green space which is resulting in an unsafe space where not many people choose to spend their leisure time. More precisely, public safety and an inviting public space can enhance economic values in the area as well as offers positive benefits in health and business.

## How

The ambition is to improve the quality of life and make the area more attractive, livable and safe where everyone feel invited. A well-maintained environment including proper plantations and functional lighting could help enhance the social sustainability which inspire residents to feel proud and belonging to the area. Furthermore, clearly defined and safe meeting points both for day and night is something that is highly valued in terms of promoting an areas interaction and integration.

