

LIVING IN VATTENRIKET - on the water, by the water, with the water.

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Today densification of existing urban fabric is the main strategy for how to sustainably meet the needs of a growing population. But what does this development mean for ecological values inside of the city? Historically, we have thought of cities and the human kind as apart from nature, as a defense from wilderness and natural forces. Today we can no longer think only of ourselves as vulnerable to nature, instead we need to see cities and natural processes as one.

Floods is one of the most disastrous examples of how powerless cities can be to nature. The occurrence of floods is the most frequent among all natural disasters and areas with the highest urbanization rate in Europe tend to coincide with the areas that flooded most. In the past twenty years in particular, the number of reported flood events has been increasing significantly.

This thesis will investigate how the life and processes of water and the city can co-evolve and enrich each other, and how the natural processes of water can be used to connect urban, social and ecological structures in the city. The subject have been examined in one of the most flooded and ecologically important areas of Sweden, Kristianstad.

The outcome of the thesis is examining how different kinds of flood-measures can be combined and used to meet the needs of both a growing city, a strongly performative river and a rich wildlife.