

## Enduring community

While advanced industrialised societies are growing older, the cult of youth is up and running. The number of people going through a process of changing their lifestyle from active ( and frequently driven solely by vocational environment) to an unexpectedly static one is constantly increasing. At this stage, retirees face a feeling of being a redundant, unadjusted or even rejected part of society. As a consequence, they tend to isolate themselves at home.

Depending on a cultural background, different attitudes towards the elder can be observed. Since some of the greatest modern Swedish values are independence and self-sufficiency in many cases it leads to alienation and loneliness. Looking back in history, people of all age groups had a dedicated place to meet and cultivate sense of community in a form of folkets park, even though this type of public recreation space with supporting facilities was created by the labour movement for workers and their families.

A remedy that could tackle the issue described above would be a space, where pensioners feel needed and are engaged in intellectually stimulating activities, spend time with people of assorted age. As opposed to being placed in a typical nursing house, retirees should have a will and a choice of how they spend their years of retirement, but above all they should have a sense of purpose in their lives as long as they remain consciousness.

The drawbacks of living in nursing facilities, such as boredom and loneliness can be counterbalanced by introducing functions, which give a sense of purpose.

Regardless of how autonomous and self-reliant contemporary population tends to be, gregariousness will always be a part of human nature and should be treated as a vital necessity, next to exchanging and passing experience over generations, by older and younger people sharing their lives.