

Degree project title: Islands of Inlandsbanan

Author: Karin Frykholm

Supervisor: Alex van de Beld

Examiner: Tomas Tägil

Presentation in english.

This project propose to reimagine the hinterland railroad “Inlandsbanan” as a new public domain. Located in the middle of Sweden, and stretching 1289 km through its northern hinterlands, the railroad manifests itself as a spine of the country. Though appearing to be centrally situated, the railroad is set in the backlands of Sweden, in its periphery which has rendered it obsolete and mostly unused. However, rather than being a monument of failed regional politics, the peripheral trajectory of Inlandsbanan presents a possibility: an infrastructural system, ready to be reactivated and hence linking the periphery with itself.

The project propose that the disused railroad is inhabited by ten experimental public places, or rather “islands”, that reflects the identity of different parts of the hinterlands. Three of these ten islands will be elaborated in detail, each one of them representing one of the main categories: production, leisure or energi. The intent is for the places to reimagine encounters between passengers and the *environment*, understood as plant and animal life, atmospheric conditions of wind, rain, snow and existing buildings. A series of additions to an infrastructural system like Inlandsbanan can be one way to re-introduce the repressed hinterland landscape to the concern and attention of the traveller. Travelling along the hinterland railroad, experiencing the different islands implemented, the visitors are not defined as merely passive observers but rather as active explorers.

As a starting point of this project, a series of questions are asked: What is the content of an infrastructural system such as Inlandsbanan? What are the public and spatial qualities along the tracks? How can we produce a new type of public domain along the train tracks? What would this new domain look like when applied on Inlandsbanan?