

Defining Emergent Patterns of Urban Character within the City: Identification Preservation and Reinforcement

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How best can we perceive and reveal emerging patterns of unique Urban Character within the city, and in turn find and inform methods to preserve and reinforce this Urban Character?

Through this thesis work I look to identify a means for developing tools and methods aimed to reinforce and preserve unique threads of urban character emergent within the greater urban fabric. I approach this by discerning patterns of distinct spatial, material and contextual qualities through a process of exhaustive subjective visual research consisting of observation, documentation and evaluation. Within this process, vigorous photographic documentation and pattern recognition is conducted, from which the collected data is put forward to assembling a conceptual toolbox containing various design implements uniquely geared toward the area of study. This toolbox will facilitate the process of reinforcement and preservation of the valuable defining spatial qualities designed to enhance and embolden urban character under examination.

This thesis work employs the Annelund Industrial Area located in Malmö Sweden as a focus for this research. Historically situated on the periphery of the city, the area has served local industry activity, but as the city of Malmö has grown it has become increasingly more central and its use more multifunctional through the years. As a result, in recent decades the area has undergone a shift in its contextual significance and spatial qualities. Today the area is still in transition and stands as a diverse place beaming with activity and potential, although remaining widely underappreciated. The area in its transformative state hints to its own identity and urban character unique within the greater context of the city Malmö making it perfect for closer examination and the focus off this thesis work.

Utilizing the aforementioned practical and theoretical means this thesis work aims to identify the defining spatial characteristics of the Annelund Industrial Area that are of most import and value today and look to reinforce and preserve them for the future; accentuating the current identity of the area, and highlighting a unique charm found nowhere else in the city of Malmö.