

Karlskrona Amiralitetsplatsen >>>



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project

design square (and buildings)

Amiralitetsplatsen

location

Karlskrona, Sweden

designers

Patrick Verhoeven

Hanneke Kijne

Ellemijk Marks

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partners

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client

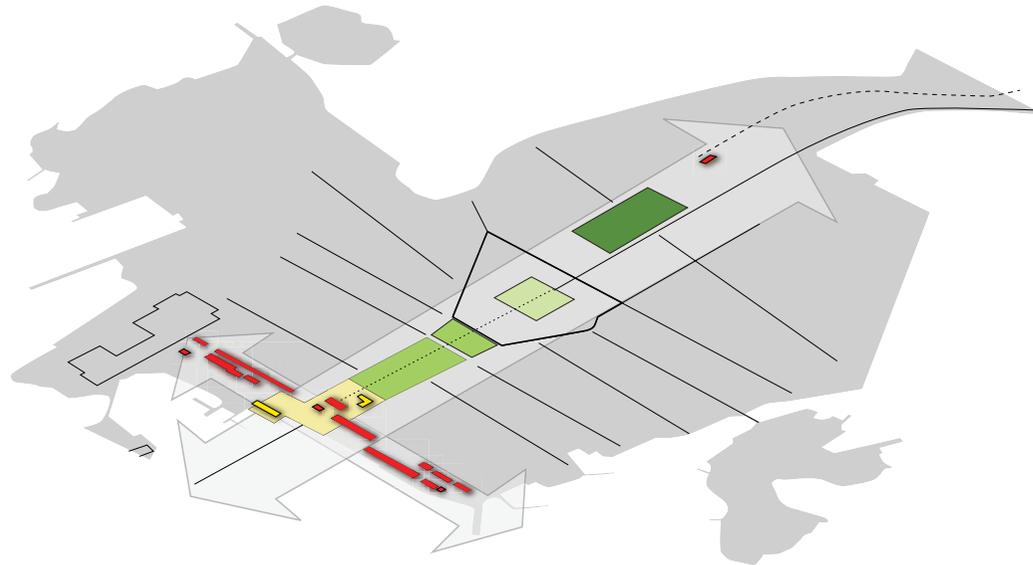
Municipality of Karlskrona

size

5 ha

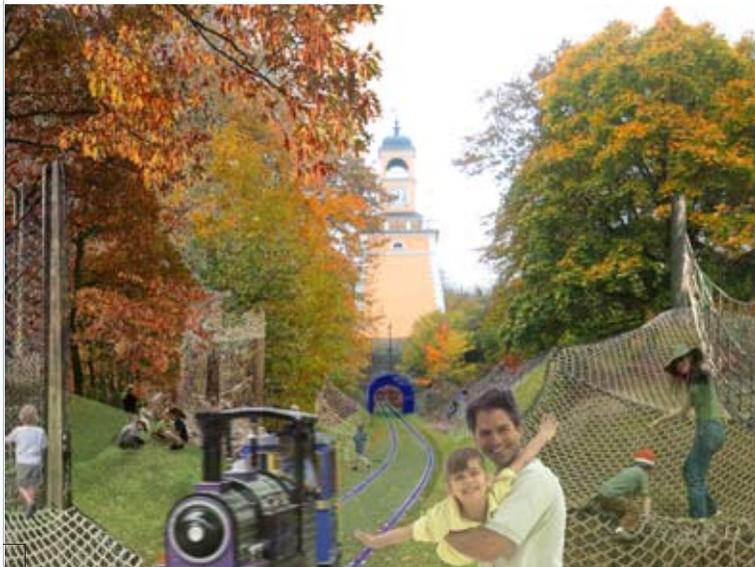
year of design

2008



Restoration of the front of Karlskrona towards the Baltic Sea

Karlskrona is in a unique location in the middle of the fantastic Blekinge archipelago. Karlskrona used to be oriented towards the water. Vessels nearing the port approached the civil and military areas of the city. Later, when cars and trains grew in importance, the city increasingly oriented itself towards the north: it turned its back on the sea in the south. The area covered by the project, Amiralitetsplatsen and the surroundings, became the forgotten rear of the city. This proposal reintroduces Karlskrona's front to the Baltic Sea and brings the city life to the area around Amiralitetsplatsen.

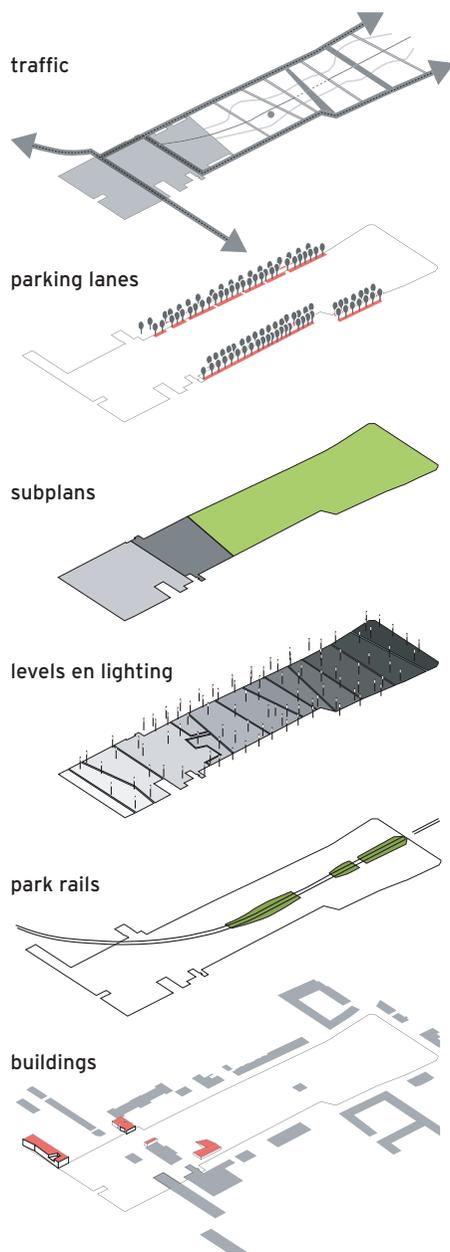


An attractive entrance

Amiralitetsplatsen is part of a larger north-south sequence that forms the basis of Karlskrona's baroque city plan. An old railway line from the station to the water cuts across the axis. Stortorget is the highest point in Karlskrona. Amiralitetsparken descends at an angle from the Stortorget to the sea. The park ends in Amiralitetsplatsen, which as a result feels very large and anonymous.

The meeting between the city and the water and the entrance to Örlogshamnen are diffuse and impersonal. The square needs to be intensified and the orientation towards the water needs to be tackled: this is now much too weak.

This proposal intends to make Amiralitetsplatsen a clear part of Amiralitetsparken and create an attractive entrance to Örlogshamnen -



and, at the same time, give a new guise for Karlskrona towards the sea. The proposal encompasses two new buildings, the restaurant on the square and the events building in Örlögshamnen, and two new expansions, the guardhouse and the visitors' centre. The boundary with the military area will be given new shape. The boundary and the buildings use a shared syntax to enhance the unity of the region.

The north-south sequence contains three subareas: Amiralitetsparken, Amiralitetstorget and the extension of the strip that leads to Ceremoniplatsen. Although they have different characters, they all have the same clear syntax.

The differences in elevation will be enhanced in the park and the square. Stone kerbs will be laid at heights of 10, 20 and 40 cm along all cross-connections

in the park and square. These differences in height will also be used as seating and lighting strips. One of the cross-connections is in the continuation of the old city wall. Two types of light fittings are used: tall, slender lighting masts with yellow light along the avenues and at random in the park, and blue light strips along the stone kerbs. The old railway tunnel will also be illuminated with blue light.

Amiralitetsparken needs to be a park where children can enjoy themselves. At the moment the playground is hidden in a corner. We wish to make the railway area the centre for play activities: a range of climbing and other playground equipment will be installed in this area. In addition, there is an opportunity to reactivate the railway with a small train that can transport children through the park.



detail concrete seatingelement with light strip



event building



extension of guard house



cafe