



AERIAL NORTH VIEW - VIEW FROM PHOTOPOINT 'A'



The place for which this proposal is meant has a very rich social environment with a very strong cultural component. It is our intention to maintain these characteristics as determinant pieces in the development of the action.

While analyzing the place in its global scale, in the urbanistic point of view, we can realize that a dominant scale exists, as in the whole city, and the exceptions can be identified.

This exactness is also a reflex of the cultural values of the local society. It is also this coherence, among other factors, namely historical ones, that make this part of the city so special. This lung called "Observationskullen" breaking with the urban grid, constitutes the exception, strengthens the rule and brings the exception to life.

Contra Asplund, in his interventions on the Library's surrounding area, predicted the construction of several perpendicular buildings to Odengatan, with the intention to maintain present the observatory hill. On Asplund's preliminary drawings of the proposal is clear a search for a transparent view to Odengatan, recurring to volumes and empty spaces.

Today, however, the reality is not the same and, while interpreting the new library, that urban typology does not match the defined requirements for this kind of infrastructure in the XXI century. The fluidity between the spaces and the wanted scale induce to replace the annexes. Considering this objective as following coincidence becomes mandatory: the values that already exist must be maintained, and they must keep on being the main participants in this history.

This way we can resume this proposal as a return to the Asplund building original characteristics, maintaining its relation with the park, and to solving the program by building a transparent unit that reveals the Observatory Hill. As a response to the present program, and in a pragmatic philosophy, the rectangular implantation, as a result of the most relevant alignments and spacings seem to be the best solution. The proposal seeks the commitment between "logic", as the local conceptual foundation, and the needed complexity to obtain a unique personality and identity.

This "BoltNöBor" results of a visually light structure (wood lattice) ceiled in a transparent material (glass), build by the hill itself. In this context the proposal is based on a building which complexity is created by the punctual opacities in which we intend a holistic reading of the space which presence constitutes, with the Asplund building, the whole and discovers the Observatory Hill. In time, the hill should invade the construction, blending together and bringing the Park to the urban front. By then, the building will mutate constantly, just as the hill.

Schematically, the Asplund building must contain a non offensive program to the original structure that gives it nobility and centrality as deserved; the Bazaar buildings seem to be the appropriate spot for an entity of uses connected with the library, but still independent of all the other levels (as the Swedish Institute of Children's Books) and, in the new building the true extension of the Stockholm City Library.

In this perspective the theme that seems more adequate to occupy the Asplund Building, the one that gathers the conditions to better value it, is "The Arts". As this area is the result of the reunion of the collections that form the knowledge key spaces, with this theme, we will reach the "temple of books". The imaginary of the big library where the great works of mankind live and of the never ending wish of knowledge allows assuming the Asplund library as the "Great Room of Knowledge". Other uses as:

- the "Naves Zone" (optimal of occupying the north wing at the street level, with entry by Odengatan without any changes to the original space;
- the Cafeteria at the present south wing, at the park level occupied by the "Children's Section", assuming a respectful adaptation making the best of the natural beauty of the place;
- a learning zone, studios and teaching room placed in this proposal at level 1 (as attached file number 15 of the competition documentation), making the best of the position, connection to the Cafeteria and possible underground connection to the new building where the Lecture Halls/Auditoriums are;
- Administration at the superior level, assuring that the access to these zones will be used only by internal staff, because it would imply big fluxes if this level would be used as public areas.

The entrance by Sveavägen should be kept in order to lead to the temple, and the lateral entries, though serving specifically two spaces should keep the original connections to the rest of the Asplund building, providing the needed fluidity.

Regarding the new building there are other concerns besides the uses and the distribution. It is imperative to create an entry capable of inviting people into the library to read, as well as the connection to the Asplund building. The new main entrance, though it should be totally connected to Odengatan it's important that, in some way, it relates with Odengatan predicting a possible connection to the future underground commercial gallery.

This entrance appears as a big pause in the structure, an exception capable of introducing curiosity and, simultaneously, to enjoy a permanence. Because it is a hall covered by the building itself, it should result as a meeting point and, in time, find its own identity.

From here the access is immediate to the main hall that appears as the main distributor with communication to every level by two stairs and elevator nucleus, one for staff, uploads and downloads, and another one, more central, for the public.

The great occupations of this new structure are the subject areas. At level 0, by the entrance, is the "Children's Fiction" with easier access, the "Foreign Language" with a visual connection with the hill and the "Aesthetics" to Odengatan. The dining rooms of the restaurant are also at this entry level with two entrances, one from the joints of the building and an independent one from the exterior, by the Asplund building, making the best out of the urban (Odengatan) and natural (Observatory hill) view.

At the level 1 are proposed the "Fiction" and "Nature and Technology" collections, as well as the second zone of the "Foreign Languages" by the street. Still on this floor, at the southwest corner, with access by the Odengatan, it is proposed to be located the "Logistics Centre/Loading Platform" and the "Caretaker's Office and Property Services". The "Logistics Centre/Loading Platform" is the only opaque zone by the facades.

The last level of the structure includes the "People and Countries" and the "Civic Studies" collections. These rooms are surrounded by a terrace of contemplation where people can read, study, reflect or even for events. In all the subject areas, mentioned at the competition brief, are created children's and young people areas that can be easily identified by depressions in the pavement. Subject areas are represented as an open space, at this stage, however different environments should be created for different kinds of work.

Due to the kind of the proposal in each area there is a more intimate reading zone, a kind of small "cocoon" that sticks to the facade.

All the levels of this structure are connected by stairs that, with no hierarchy, connect different areas allowing a variety of fluxes avoiding routines.

As an idea, this structure levitates over a tank that includes the satellite program of the subject areas and the functioning of the library.

This level shall not be understood as a basement, because, really, it's a big hole covered by glass volume. The subject areas are the big zenithal light entry for these spaces.

In this level we see the "Depository and the Media Management" (with vertical connection to the "Logistics Centre/Loading Platform"), the "Lecture Halls/Auditoriums", the "Visit Oriented Activities/Offices" with direct connection to the main hall, and the confection area of the restaurant that is exactly beneath the dining rooms.

Still on this floor (underground) is proposed a possible connection to the Asplund Building, as well as an exterior connection by the open air space between both buildings as will be mentioned. The eventualty of predicting a direct connection to the noble floor of the Asplund Library looks invasive. However the direct connection to the main room of the "temple" is important, this proposal assumes that, with the available information at this phase, the connection should be done by the exterior, as mentioned, but with a discreet, yet efficient cover.

Due to the number of proposed entrances, as listed below, it's important to assure that the sorting machine goes through the whole building.

- Asplund Building
- New main entrance
- Restaurant
- Park by the Asplund Building
- Loading Platforms

In this proposal the sorting machine will go through all the structure inside the latticework horizontal and vertically (walls and floor). This way will be possible to pick and to deliver media at any entrance.

In sum, for this unit we propose an auto portant structure with a transparent skin that creates different plans in a perspective of making the best use of the natural light, in a sustainability optic reducing the residuals in its construction and using 100% recyclable and reusable materials and which usability makes the existing values present and strong.

Areas	MUA	Gross Area
Asplund Building	5.000m ²	6.000m ²
New Building	16.500m ²	18.000m ²
Bazaar Buildings	1.000m ²	1.500m ²
Total	22.500m ²	25.500m ²

This concept minimizes the circulation areas, achieving gross area values lower than the briefing requires.

ESC.: 1/1000 0 10 50m

SITE PLAN



SWEDISH INSTITUTE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

ODENGATAN

0 5 25m

SVEAVÄGEN ELEVATION



VIEW FROM PHOTOPOINT 'C' VIEW FROM PHOTOPOINT 'B'

