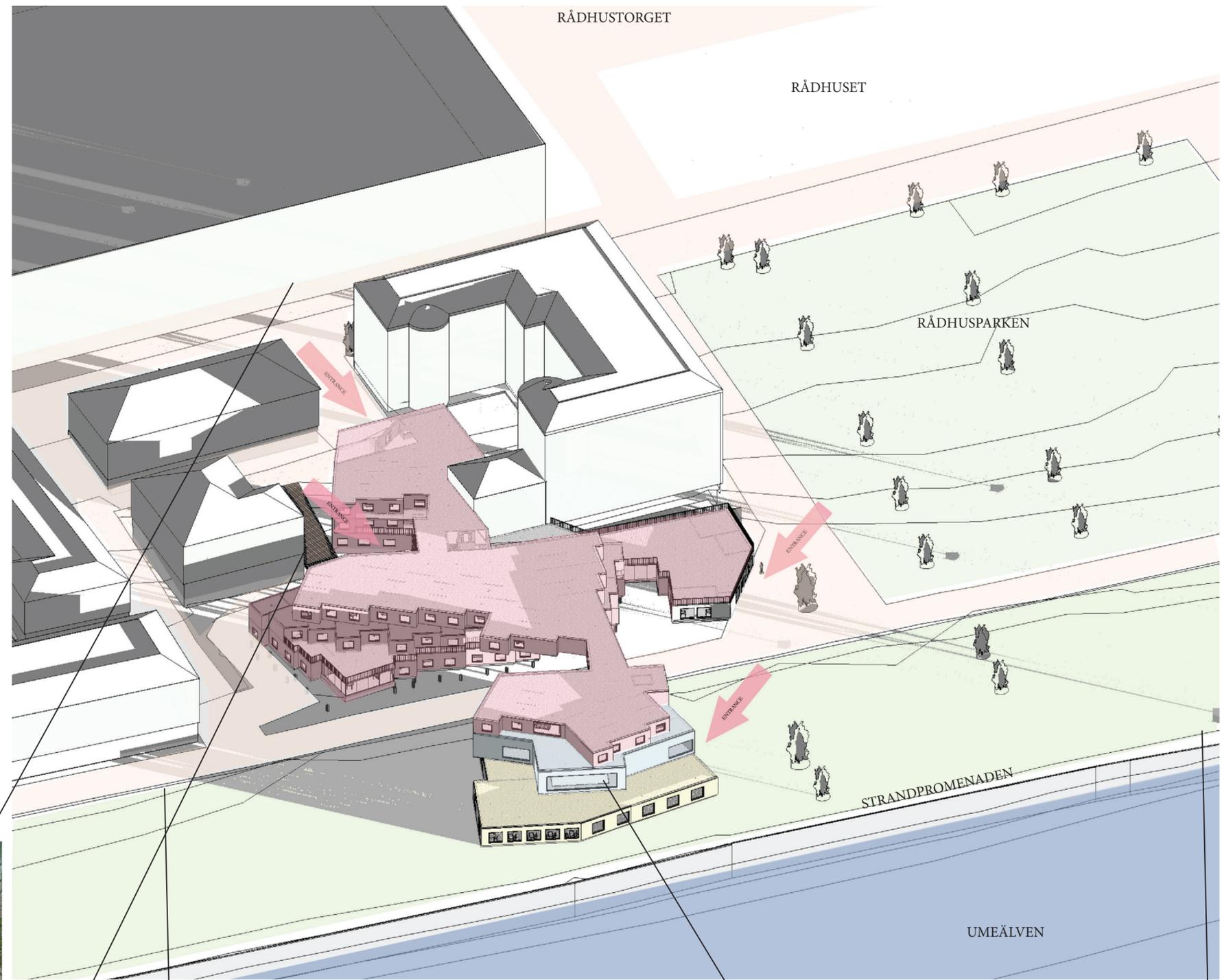
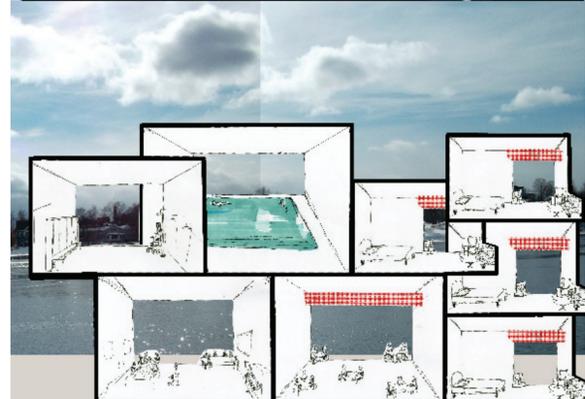
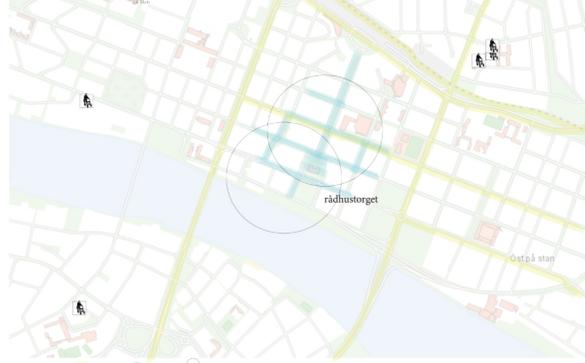


WHERE IN OUR SOCIETY DO WE PLACE OUR OLD?



PRIVATE living areas  
 BATH  
 PUBLIC canteen  
 Where people move around

why?  
 I did work for some years as a caregiver and have been following the reports on neglect etc. that has been on the news these past few years. After doing some research I have decided that I do think that the idea to take care of our old collectively is a good idea, but it seems like the impact and importance of the task has been forgotten. Today, less and less money is being spent on the eldercare.  
 I decided to make a project in Umeå, which is the city I live in. I also wanted to add a public function to open up for meetings across the age borders.  
 The number of people over 80 years in Umeå has been increasing by over 30 percent over the last ten years, during the same time the number of beds in nursing homes has been shrunken by 10 percent. There are no plans for the development of housing for old over the next few years.  
 The trend is to put nursing homes out on the countryside, which I think is good for some, but definitely not for all. A consequence by doing so is that we never will see old in our city centers. They won't be a part of our society. It is easy to forget the parts of a society we never see. And why improve things that are forgotten? In the end this project is a rhetorical question: Where in our society do we place our old?  
 In Umeå, the nursing homes closest to the city center are located almost a kilometer away. In addition to that there are barriers to cross: the E4, the river, and the railroad. Quite broad and not so nice to cross if you have very tired legs or bad vision. I wanted to place a nursing home within the city center, as there are none at the moment. When I chose location for my project I was looking for a spot within a 200 meter radius from the city core and found a site by the river. More specifically the site were Umeå's new cultural house is being built at the moment. It is right in the middle of the city but offer beautiful views of the river. It is close enough for visiting a store or a walk along the river or in the park. At the same time it is a highly desired and expensive site and I want it to be given to the old.

how?  
 I decided to place service apartments on the second and third floor of the building. The people who lives on these floors are the most mobile ones and the ones that will be using the bath and canteen.  
 The second group of dwellers are people who suffers from dementia. I wanted to have a dementia department in the building because sometimes people that move into an open apartment goes confused and will have to move into a closed accommodation. I did not want this move to be into another building or part of the city. As this department will have to be locked I placed their apartments on the first floor, so that people won't have to pass through it in order to get around in the building. This department has a kitchen where the dwellers takes all their meals together and a common space. I tried to make the corridor broader and not so long in order get away from the corridor feeling and to make it possible to see more what is going in further ahead in the corridor and to use it for rehabilitation activities.  
 On the first floor there are also offices for nurse and boss, a guest apartment/room, garbage room, dressing rooms and storage for the therapist and the dwellers. There are 2 exits, one facing the park and one the back of the building where there is like a small courtyard. There is also a door out there from the dementia department. It is a secluded space but people can still pass by using the stairs leading from the upper courtyard. The idea with the courtyards was to have a bit more secluded spaces where the dwellers in the building could sit outside in the summer but still not be entirely invisible or locked away from the public.  
 The third floor stretches over the road in a tunnel. From this part of the building you will only have to take the elevator down one floor to get to the bath.  
 The bath is made up by one single swimming pool, big enough to hold swimming school, baby swim, therapeutic swimming and exercise swimming. The reason I chose a bath as a public function was that it is an excellent means for gentle exercise, but water also has some other great qualities. It can ease and prevent pressure ulcers in the skin. Water can also set off the same calming feel good hormones in the body that are set off by a friendly touch or stroke. So it can work therapeutically on the mind as well.  
 The floor in the pool is possible to rise and lower in order to suit different activities, a wheelchair can be rolled out on the pool floor and then the floor is lowered. There are dressing rooms facing the river on each side of the pool. If you take the elevator down one more floor you reach the river entrance hall where there is enough space to hold a reception for the bath, and a space that can be used for exhibitions, Sunday sermon, music gathering, meetings, physiotherapy and such things. On the same floor the canteen/lunch restaurant is located. They have their load/unload dock at the back of the building.

The form of the building comes from a diorama I made, I got the idea of a square shape with a big window at the end facing the river. I created the apartment units with this thought in the back of my head. I wanted to add a smaller scale feeling to the building and I think this recessing and protruding element of the building helps to define each single flat. To me it makes the scale of the building more humane, that you can single out the individuals in a way. So it is not only a big institutional block.  
 The building is made in wood, for me it's a soft material and it is also a continuation of the old wooden buildings on the site and the newer buildings on the arts campus downstream the river.



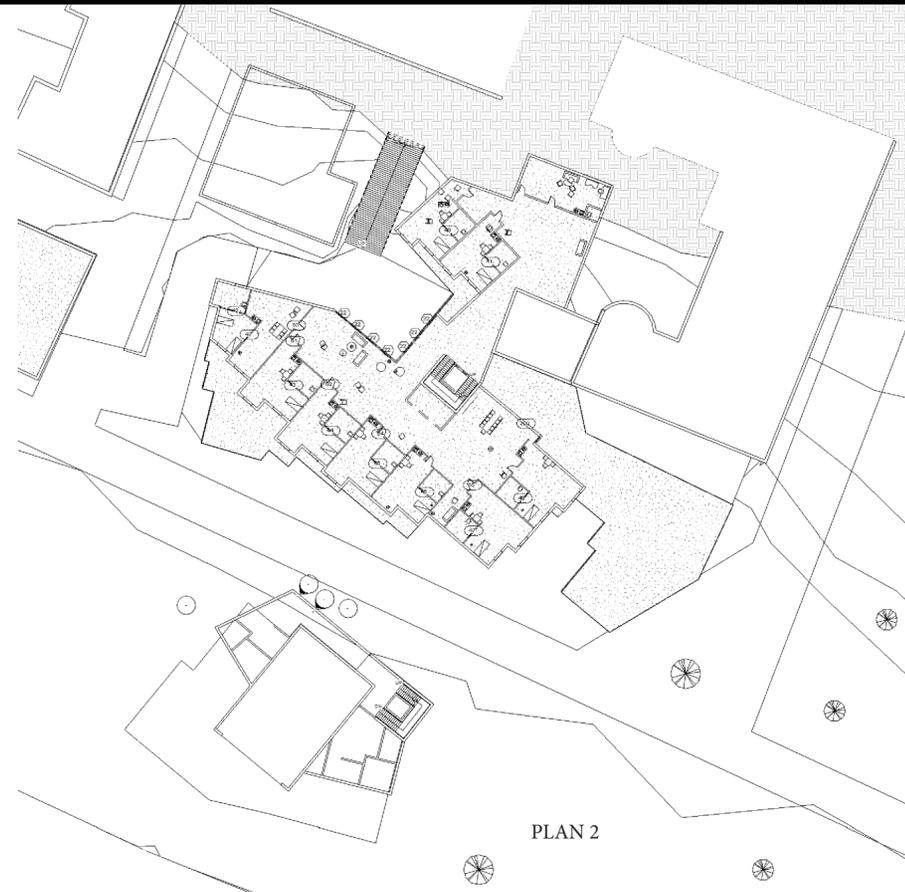


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planer



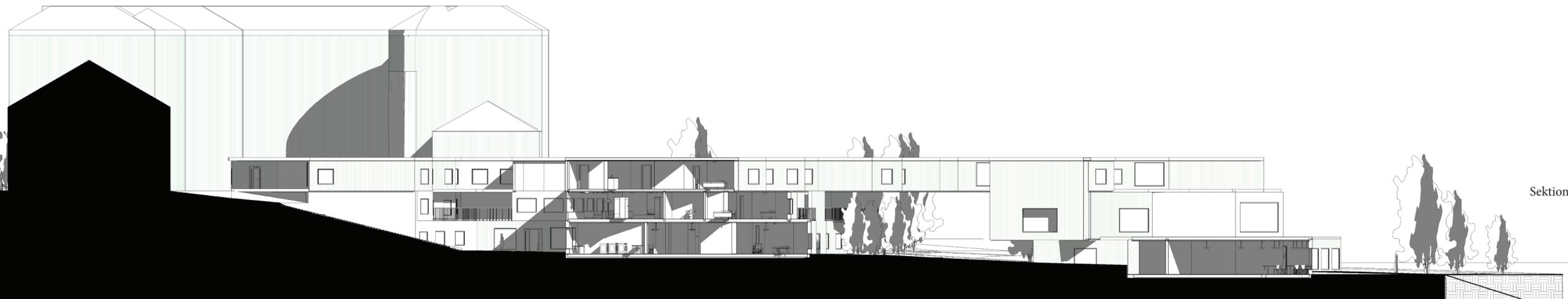
PLAN 1



PLAN 2



PLAN 3



Sektion 1:250