

Breaking the Island

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Master Landscape Architecture



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Application of Structuralism to the example of the former oil harbor Karlskrona/ Sweden

The Master's Thesis „Breaking the Island“ is focusing on the transformation of a former oil harbor in Karlskrona, Sweden, a city spreading over 30 islands. It reclaimed many lands for economic growth in the early 20th century. The project site is one of those lands, created by filling the gap between the mainland and the main island in need of an oil harbor. The actual industrial decline turned it into a wasteland. As the main entrance to the city center, this faceless reclaimed land weakens Karlskrona's identity of being a city in the sea, further effecting the social and economic development. This land also poses ecological threats to the city and the ocean.

Based on Structuralism theory, the landscape around Karlskrona is abstracted into three information layers: the layer of mountain, city center and the ocean. She supposes that the industrial layer breaks the original relationships between the site and the three layers, thus weakening the city's identity. The site is, therefore, broken up into three parts, with each piece adopting the landscape quality from the essential layers, to rebuild the original structural relationships. This strategy also helps to create a clear spatial rhythm into the city, highlighting its quality to be an entrance. Meanwhile, the site's ecological resistance and the marine environment can both be improved in the design. The whole industrial site is then transformed into a Creative Cultural Park for IT companies, supporting the urban strategic conversion from an industrial city to a knowledge city.



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- 1 View on the island from a boat
- 2 Layout plan
- 3 bird's view on the island



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