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Bradley D. Shiel

Master of Architecture Thesis Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University Spring 2017

safe harbor

a refugee camp alternative

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Dedicated to the memory of Larry S. Shiel

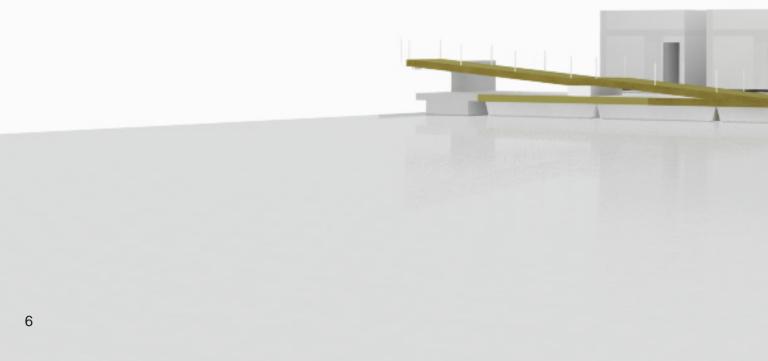
Acknowledgments

This Master of Architecture Thesis could not have been realized without tremendous support from family, friends, faculty and employer. Thank you to all who supported, joined or advised me at various times along this journey including Brian Craig, Juli Brode, my cohorts and many others.

Thank you to my professor, Dr. Michael McCulloch, who always provided the perfect amount of guidance using his versed knowledge of architectural precedence and social history combined with a sharp eye for design sensibilities. His patience with students, open mind and high expectations are an asset to the college and to the profession.

I would like to thank my thesis advisor, Megan Feenstra-Wall, who provided honest, candid and great advice. She was always there when asked for input and equally knew when some space was needed to develop an idea (and to sometimes allow me to fall on my face). I hope that I have the honor to cross paths with her many times in my career.

I owe a personal thanks to my secondary advisor, John Steiner, whose incentive to join him on the study away to Sweden prompted the ideas for this Thesis project. Your Swedish insight, enthusiasm and friendship has made this journey a great one.

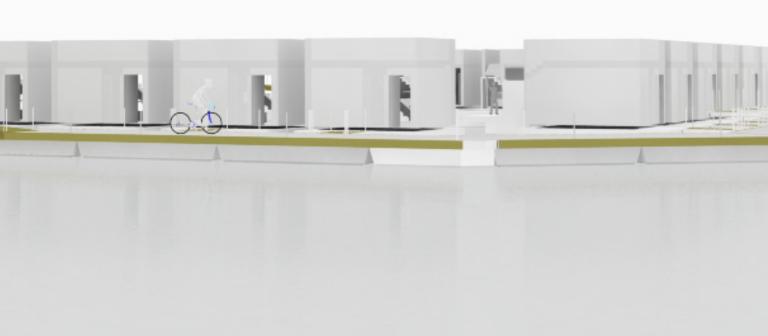


Abstract

This proposal suggests a refugee housing solution that could be distributed globally into existing port cities. Because available land is hard to come by, this proposed concept instead uses available waterways connected to these cities. The goal would be to provide architectural solutions to real or perceived lack of available housing, efficient and mobile solutions offering timely relief to those in need.

Malmo, Sweden is to become host to a prototype for this method of development. Historically, this city's ports were used mainly for shipbuilding. Today, approximately 50% of the existing port system sits vacant, yet has direct connection to the heart of the city. Malmo, known for its innovative approach to design and for a welcoming attitude toward refugees is now hitting a maximum population capacity on its available land. Existing waterways invite alternative means of expansion that can be quickly adopted and easily removed without leaving a trace.

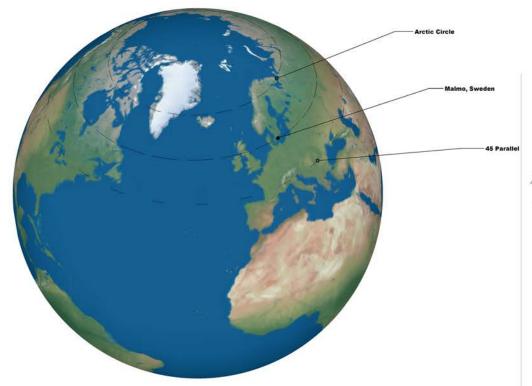
The goal of this proposal would be to offer a home to a growing refugee population, while holding onto forward thinking design, through this safe harbor prototype which can be adopted by numerous port cities throughout the world.



Site Analysis











Vicinity Aerial





Oresund Bridge/Tunnel - 1995





Industrial

Parking/Impervious

Site History

- 1400 The Largest Marketplace and Fishery in the Region
- 1800-1970 -One of the Largest Shipyards in the World
- 1940's As a Neutral Country During WWII, Accepts Tens of Thousands of Refugees Fleeing the War
- 1970 Recession Occurs Shipbuilding Slows
- 1986 Shipbuilding Ceases
- 1994 New Economy Established as Center of Culture and Knowledge
- **1995** Oresund Bridge is build Between Copenhagen and Malmo
- **2001** Bo01 Architectural "City of Tomorrow" Environmental Focused Expansion in Old Shipyards
- 2002 Iconic Kockums Crane is Dismantled and taken to South Korea
- 2005 Turning Torso Skyscraper, the Largest in Scandinavia, replaces Kockums Crane as Area Icon

Today, Malmo is:

Capitol of Swedish County Scania

Population: 300,000+

Historically Neutral society and has historically accepted immigrants until recently

Main reason given for stopping immigrant migration: Lack of Space (landlocked cities)

Weather: Despite it's northernly latitude, the ocean tempers the winters (little or no snow)
High Reliance on Bicycle as means of transportation - all year

A "Design Oriented" Society

Nearby Swedish Companies Ikea and Skype

Functionality and Quality First

Clean Simple Lines

Reserved use of color (Architecture, clothing, public conversation...)



Turning Torso New iconic landmark of Malmo



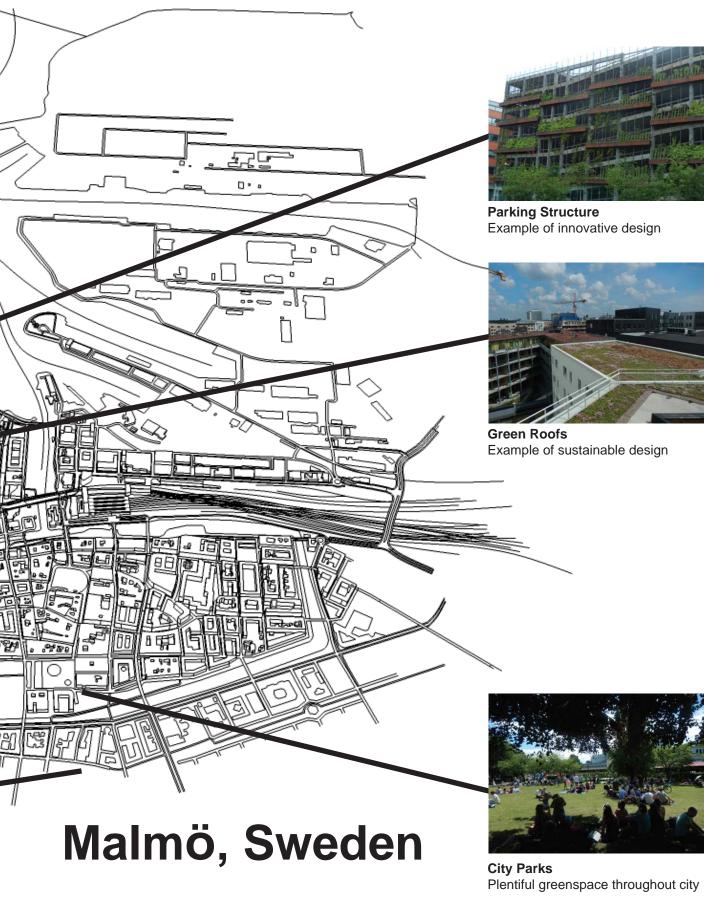
Kockums Shipbuilding Crane
Past iconic landmark of Malmo



Luxury House BoatsRecently introduced to Malmo



Rosengard Currently used for refugee housing

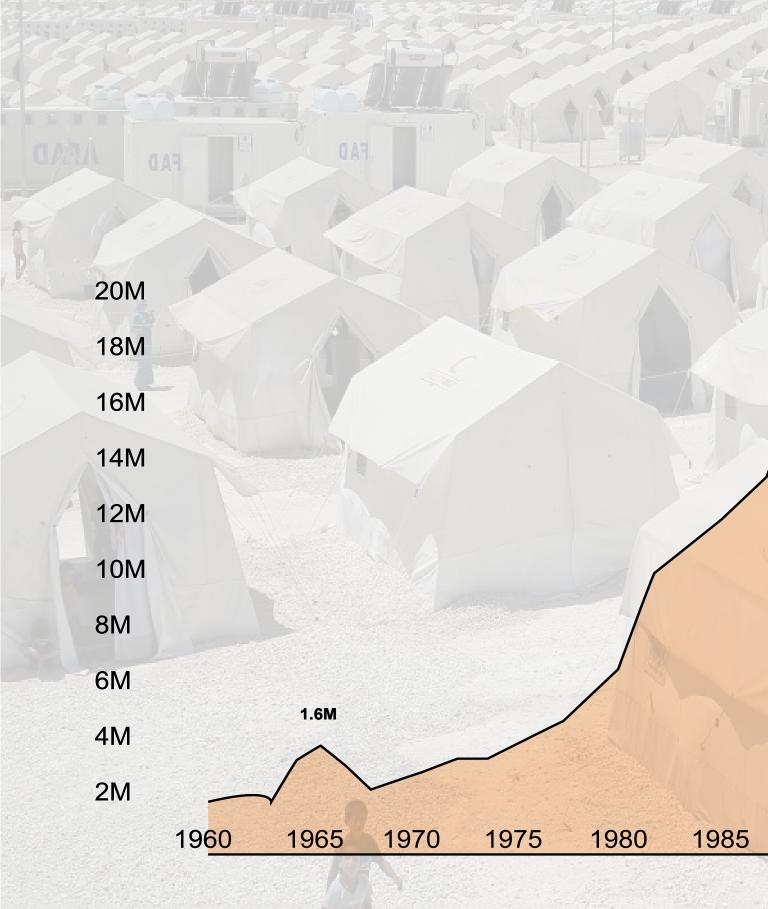


Program Analysis

This project seeks to provide a rethought infrastructure for those seeking sanctuary from their home country due to conflict, persecution or hunger. The goal of the project will be to create an environment that encourages positive, net-gain (both socially and financially) for all habitants of Malmo.

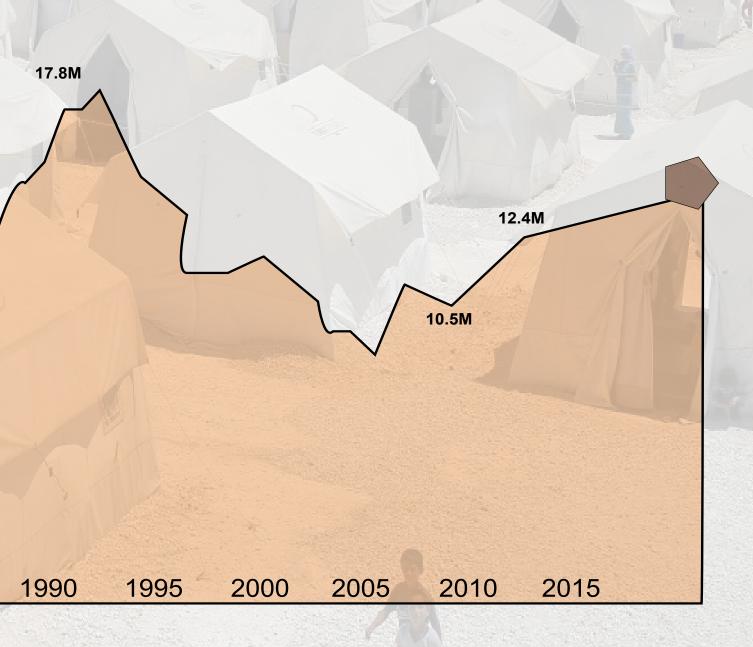
This project is not about building a better tent or container for habitation, instead it is a total rethinking about refugees as new citizens and host countries as partners, an alternative to standardized refugee camps. Safe harbor will create a seamless integration of urban fabric that encourages mutual benefits for all by using a city's existing infrastructure The need to respond very quickly to new demands for housing is a top priority.





Global Refugee Population: 1960-2015

1 out of every 113 people on earth are currently displaced



Country of Origin

Conflict Persecution Hunger

Three choices for Refugees:

- 1. Reunification
- 2. Resettlement in original region
- 3. Third Country resettlement



Re-use of Existing Infrastruture Rosengard, Malmo Sweden

Temporary Life
Modes of Living



Re-use of Existing Objects Shipping Containers, Germany

Country of Origin

Post - Conflict Threats Removed Livelihood Re-Established

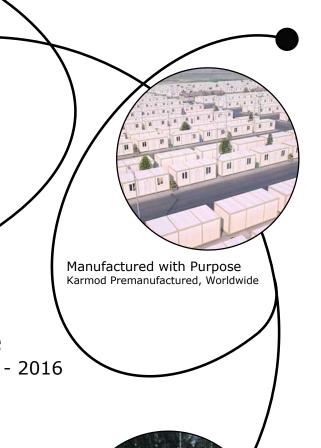
Integration into Host Society As allowed by Government/Society

New districts/enclaves



Atypical Temporary City Kilis, Turkey

Non-UN Run by Turkish Goverment



Typical Tent City Nizip, Turkey

New World Destination

Reinvention **New Opportunities**

Context Narratives



Discursive



Typical tent city, Nizup, Turkey Source: UNHCR website



Architectural solutions for displaced people have historically been typically "to expensive, too heavy, too hard to move...(and) take too long".1 Slow response times are often a result of inefficient political processes. These often lead to the typical impromptu tent cities and their dreadful results, such as the "Jungle" encampment in Calais, France. III guided political responses can also lead to the isolation of displaced people, which intensifies the catastrophe of unplanned temporary settlement. This was recently seen in the refugee program at Australia's Nauru Island. Architectural solutions in this realm have historically been looked at as isolated structural solutions. Additionally, there is a growing political global mindset that those who are displaced from their homeland are seen only in a negative light, and as a burden on the host country.

Architects have notoriously been guilty of rushing in to the "micro-scale" in their work on refugee settlements: of solving the design, portability and assembly issues of the perfect refugee shelter, but not considering larger social questions. There are many volumes of books dedicated to the design of individual structures. This narrow focus on developing a specific or universal dwelling often misses the bigger point that these dwelling units are not-so-temporary (average length of stay for a refugee in a displaced condition is 17 years).2 Further, these designs often overlook questions of community design, such as the larger point of shelter placement in groups, location and interaction with host community. Each of these elements is equally, if not more important, than the singular roof over one's head.

Some architectural firms, like Ennead out of New York, are beginning to talk about how to re-frame the dialogue around the subject of refugees by avoiding the one-size-fits-all approach to design.³ This approach is also critical for achieving the site-cultural-specificity that seems to be lacking in standardized or one-off designs found in such publications as *Design Like You Give A Damn*.

¹ Karrie Jacobs, "Rethinking the Refugee Camp," Architect, January 2017, 84

² Ibid, 81

³ Ibid, 81

Ennead is beginning to think about such subjects as direct design involvement with refugees. Instead of reproducing the xenophobic view that is becoming standardized globally, Ennead is also challenging the profession and all citizens alike, to rethink the refugee as a potential partner in a positive light within society.

Other visionary architects and urbanists, such as Laura Vaughan with the University of London, are also seeking a more seamless and symbiotic relationships between displaced people and the societies who provide them refuge. Vaughan calls for a relationship of shared experience and mutually beneficial amenities by creating, through design, common points of social transition to be shared as a common destination for all residents.⁴

This proposal aims to further this dialogue by providing an architectural/urban infrastructure prototype that responds to the massive and unmet need of temporary housing for globally displaced people within the context of underutilized oceanfront space within the host community of Malmo, Sweden. This project seeks to synthesize an adaptable and expandable inclusionary infrastructure, providing desirable public spaces and uses for the host country as well as for guest immigrants.



⁴ Laura Vaughan, "The Ethnic Marketplace as Point of Transition," London the Promised Land Revisited (New York: Routledge, 2015) 35



Ikea refugee shelter Source: IKEA website

Social/ Cultural



Bo01 City of TomorrowSource: http://media.lab3.se



Historically, Sweden has a globally neutral government and an open-boarder country, with no proof of nationality required to enter. This had lead to an overwhelming influx of refugees between 2011 and 2015. In early 2016, when border patrol was implemented, this changed dramatically. Currently, a valid passport is required for entry, thus halting all undocumented refugees from entering the country. Swedish Nationals, people native to the country since prehistoric times, have an inherently introverted society. Currently, these nationals comprise approximately seventy-five percent of the population of Malmo. A publicly silent people does not mean people without opinion. Swedish Nationals have diverse attitudes and politics as in any society, but there is a strong strain of introversion on public matters among Swedes.

The remaining roughly twenty-five percent of the population in Malmo are foreign born and largely congregated into peripheral communities of high-rise housing blocks such as Rosengard. These immigrants are largely living in buildings constructed as part of the original Million Programme in the late sixties and early seventies. This program included the initiative to build one million "quality" homes for Sweden's citizens, including refugees. These homes are still in relatively good condition.

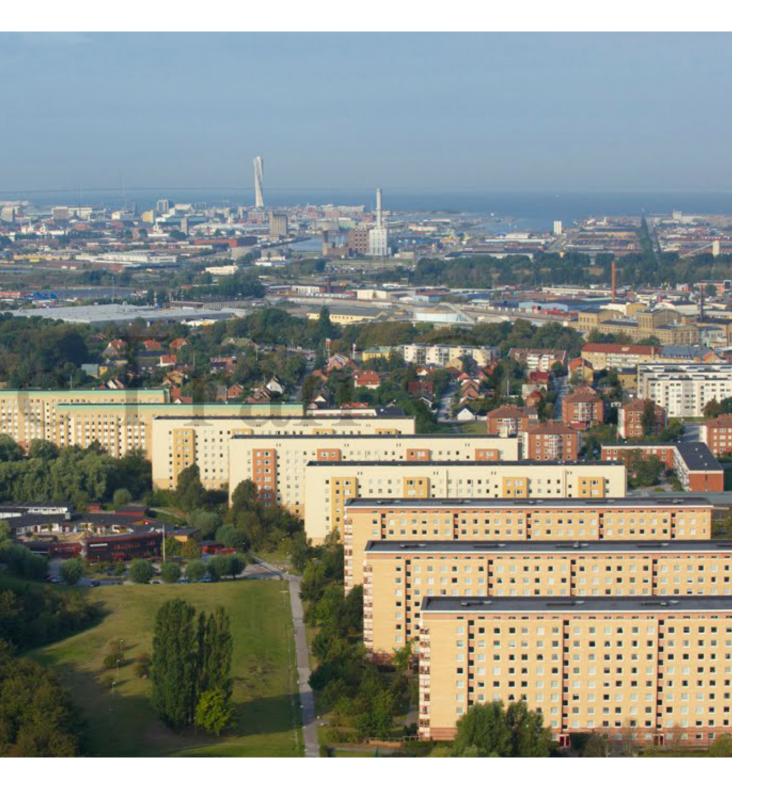
These condensed areas of refugee populations have certain negative stigmas associated with them from those not living in them, most of them unfounded, such as the impression of high crime rates. Depending upon who you ask, you will get dramatically different viewpoints on the subject of immigration and refugees in Malmo. People tend to impose or see things from their own biased perspectives. For instance, some Swedes believe that these areas are inherently unsafe. However, police in Malmo say that the true crime rate has been actually going down over the last few years, while the fear of crime is going up at the same time.¹

¹ Maddy Savage and Mohamad Madi, "Trump's wrong, it's 'quiet and safe' in Malmo", February 24, 2017, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39074420

Malmo has been steering and transitioning the economy from one lead by its shipbuilding industry (boom from approx 1850-1980) to an economy of education, green building infrastructure, energy efficiency and technology. Part of this initiative has led to inherently bias development. Bo01, or "City of Tomorrow" in the old Vastra Hamnen shipbuilding port is an example of this. The port has been transformed in an exclusively higher end district that outprices those with moderate to low incomes.

Sweden, and Malmo in particular, present an opportunity for re-writing the narrative on how refugees are viewed and treated. There is an opportunity to show the world a better way to treat refugees humanly by example. Envisioning the future of refugee resettlement through the redefined lens of Malmo's historic past, such as: allowing refugees into their country and implementing the Million Programme, Malmo is primed to implement a forward thinking approach to addressing the refugee crisis.





Rosengard
Source: http://3.bp.blogspot.com

Historical



Sankt Petri Church (St Peters Church)

Source: Author

Lagom. No English word exists that captures the essence of this word succinctly. It has been likened to the "Goldie Locks" idiom: not too hot, not too cold, but just the right amount of something. It is a historic cultural word in Sweden that is used to describe just that, not too much, not too little, but just the right amount. Everything in moderation. The society has embedded this notion in everything from its outlook on human rights, to neutrality in global politics to architectural design.

There is a sense of layers of history present in the older parts of Malmo, Sweden. The Old Town area in the city is built within an oversized moat which would've allowed transportation and protection in earlier centuries. Old town in Malmo is notable for Sankt Petri Church. The oldest parts of the church date back to around 1300, and many carefully planned and executed additions and renovations have happened over time.

Juxtaposed to the old town, Bo01, or Vastra Hamnen (and sometimes referred to as the Western Harbor) is a revitalized north Malmo district of old shipping yards, which had fallen victim to decay in the post-industrialized era with the outsourcing of shipbuilding to Asia. This revitalized area is still in transition and was designed by architect and urban designer Klas Tham. It boasts a "new urbanist" type of environment highlighted by the Turning Torso skyscraper designed by Santiago Calatrava. Notable design characteristics of this "new town" include winding streets, interesting niches and alleys and an eye for detail. Full public access to the waterfront is noteworthy. Sustainable design was a major component of the development.

Although upscale in nature, the general feeling still maintains a healthy lagom. Things feel "right" and there is just enough sophistication and attention to detail in order to make the place seem "real" and not just a fabrication of an idea without an overwhelming feeling of glitz and over doneness. The quality of materials, and thoughtful and usable public design, provide a palpable feeling of authenticity often lacking in American new urbanist towns.

In a relatively small society (9.7 million people, roughly the population of Michigan) that prides itself in having a truly open border and a "neutral" society, Sweden has been put to the test. In early 2016, the country's very identity of neutrality was being challenged by an influx of refugees that were reaching a point of over-saturation. To what point the housing or heritage was really being threatened is up for debate. What was real or imagined have become one, as the borders have been shut down to stop the flow of refugees. The country had been considered neutral for over 100 years prior to WWII. It was also a refuge for Jewish people being extricated from Norway during the war, however now is limiting access of refugees fleeing such war-torn areas as Syria.

In an attempt to invigorate the economy of the greater region, one of the major initiatives of the Oresund Committee (Established in 1993 as a political collaboration for the greater region) was the Oresund Bridge, which was built in 2000. The Oresund tunnel/bridge had been built as part of the economic spur between Malmo and Copenhagen, but recent border patrol checks now have nearly doubled the commute time. Many residents in Malmo work in Copenhagen and are not pleased that the intent of the 2.6 billion Euro connection is being rendered stagnant by bureaucrats.

The weaving of cultural history, current world events and general human impulses are having a direct impact on the built environment. Lagom is a historic notion in Sweden that translates into everything from border control to architecture. The philosophy of lagom may help guide a balanced solution to the refugee crisis.





Bo01 or Vastra Hamnen Source: <u>imagebank.sweden.se</u>

Human



Swedish Family welcomes Muslim Family into their HomeSource: UNHCR http://www.unhcr.org/uk/no-stranger-place.html



Midsummer, Folkets (Peoples) Park, Malmo 2017 - Informal Interviews with Swedish Nationals and Syrian Refugees
Source: Author Photo

All people have certain biological and psychological necessities regardless of the region from which they originate from. These needs invariably go beyond the basics of food, water, shelter and access to medical care. A sense of control over one's living environment, a sense of purpose such as a job or the ability to go to school are among the highest priorities. Over half of current refugees are children, and with the average time-frame of displacement being about 20 years,¹ this is an issue that must be acknowledged and addressed from the onset of any humanitarian effort.

United Nations (UN) refugee tent camp cities are inefficient, unsustainable, and lead to dependency.² The typical refugee's desire to feel valued as a contributer rather than a taker is well documented.³ Refugees are willing to earn their keep, and they can do so if they are able to settle in an urban environment. Existing established cities contain all of the amenities necessary to sustain a healthy, engaged relationship *within* a community. The size and scope of a refugee housing population and/ or integration within an existing city should be analyzed and determined by local governments, not dictated by federal government at a macro-level so that it doesn't evolve into a typical tent camp city.

Opinions vary among different societies and cultures as to how housing should be configured.⁴ This is important in realizing that there should not a *one-size-fits-all* approach to refugee housing for all regions. Specific refugee populations will have architectural norms that should be blended with the local vernacular to achieve a seamless integration and synthesis of ideals appropriate to each particular situation.

Introducing refugees into an existing society allows for additional opportunities of creating new housing and public spaces that can be shared between the host country and the new residents. Public space

^{1 &}quot;Introduction," UNHCR, 3/2017 http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/introduction

² Alexander Betts et al, "Refugee Economics" Published by the Humanitarian Innovation Project, University of Oxford (6/2014) 3 Betts et al, "Refugee Economics"

⁴ Karrie Jacobs, "Rethinking the Refugee Camp," Architect (1/2017): 78-86

as a mediator between host country and refugee populations is an intriguing concept which has been studied in depth.¹ Refugees are often proven to be very good at innovating due, at the very least, to their ability to adjust to circumstances out of their control along the journey to their host country.² In addition, these people bring unique skills, knowledge and cultural specialties which can be implemented into the host society. Refugees bring culinary skills and preferences, for example, from their home regions that can be shared with a host society, creating positive cross-cultural interactions.³

Standard UN refugee camps are increasingly difficult to fund and should be the exception and to the extent possible, only a temporary measure.⁴ 60 percent of the world's refugees live in ordinary buildings in ordinary cities.⁵ There is a reason for this. Cities have established population and an infrastructure that is already in place. It is important to utilize these existing amenities at a scale appropriate to support its influx of refugees.

Ultimately, the true success of any refugee settlement is in its ability to address the human requirements that go beyond basic biological survival. The healthy, temporary integration of displaced people into existing cities at a scale determined by local governments is a realistic and feasible concept. This thesis proposes an approach which responds directly to these issues.



¹ Dr Laura Vaughan, "The Spatial Syntax of Urban Segregation": Social Housing and Segregation in Sweden, *Progress in Planning 67* (2007): 251-263 2 Alexander Betts, Louise Bloom and Nina Weaver, "Refugee Innovation" (6/2015): Published by the Humanitarian Innovation Project: Oxford 3 Dr Laura Vaughan, "The Ethnic Marketplace as Point of Transition" in *London the Promised Land Revisited*, edited by Anne Kershen (New York: Routledge, 2015), 35-54

⁴ Kristy Siegfried, "Alternatives to refugee Camps," World (10/2014): Published by the Humanitarian Innovation Project: Oxford

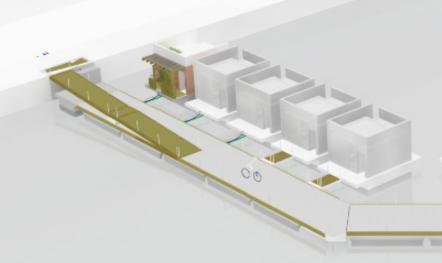
⁵ Jacobs, "Rethinking the Refugee Camp."

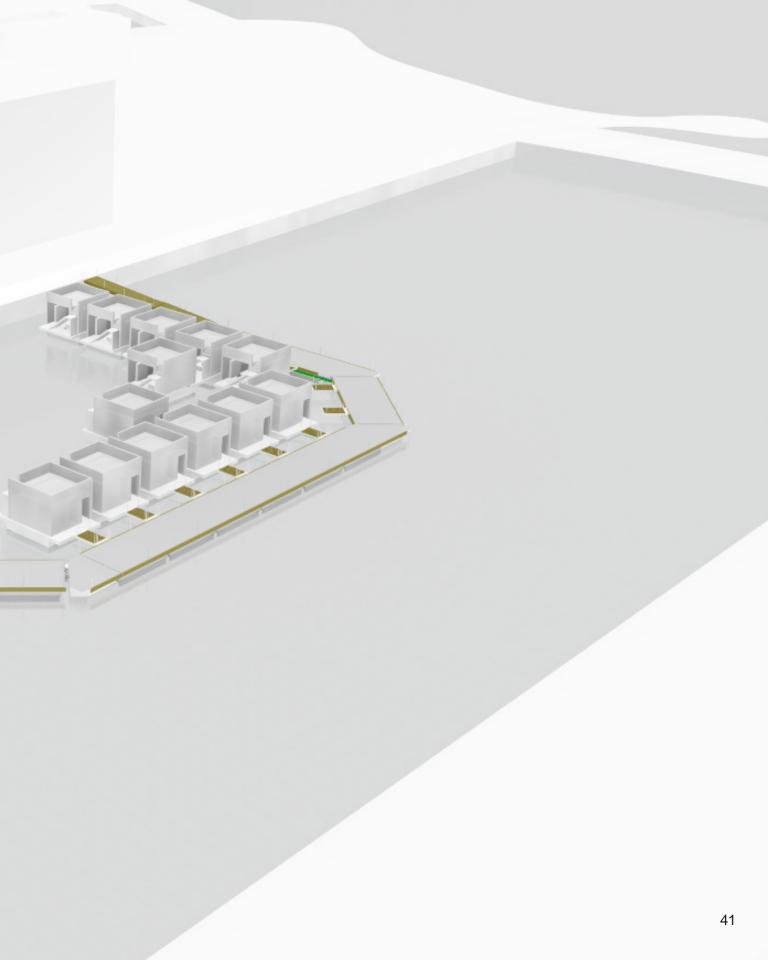


Marketplace
Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/67471595@N00/320374440/

Design Proposition

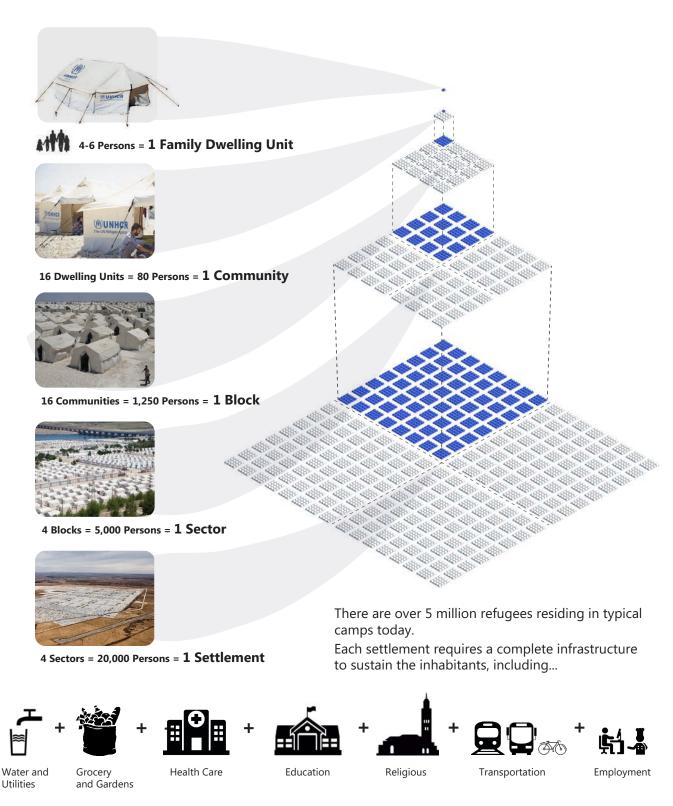
The goal of this proposal would be to offer a home to a growing refugee population, while holding onto forward thinking design, through this safe harbor prototype which can be adopted by numerous port cities throughout the world.





A Typical UN Refugee Camp Settlement

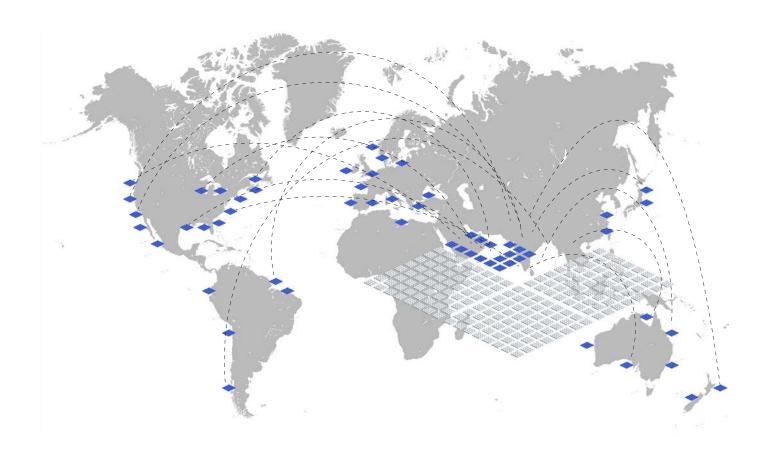
Standard United Nations Refugee Agency Camp Planning Terminology



This infrastructure already exists in port cities throughout the world.

Alternative Global Port Communities

Distributed Urban Communities Instead of Isolated Camps



We signed up to help...

145 countries signed the 1951 Geneva Convention promising p This responsibility falls on all 145 countries throughout the wor individual ports, most located in existing urban environments.

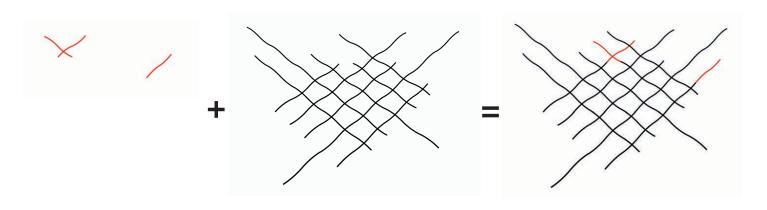






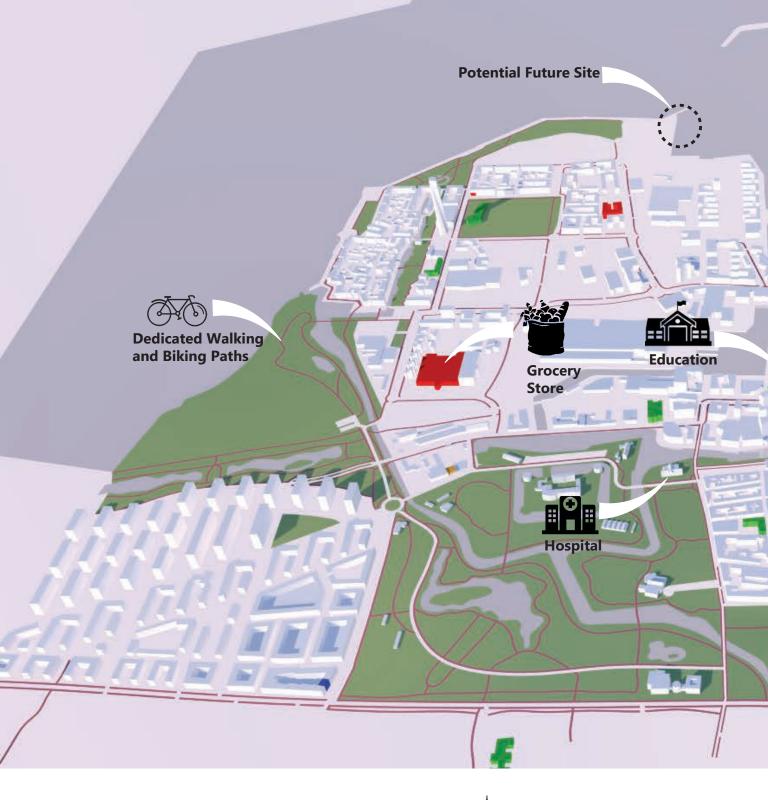
Current path of most refugees into Malmö

Malmö, Sweden The Safe Harbor Prototype



Isolated Refugee Camps Existing Global Port Cities

Distributed and Integrated Concept





Water and Utilities

Grocery and Gardens



Health Care



Education



Religious



Transportation

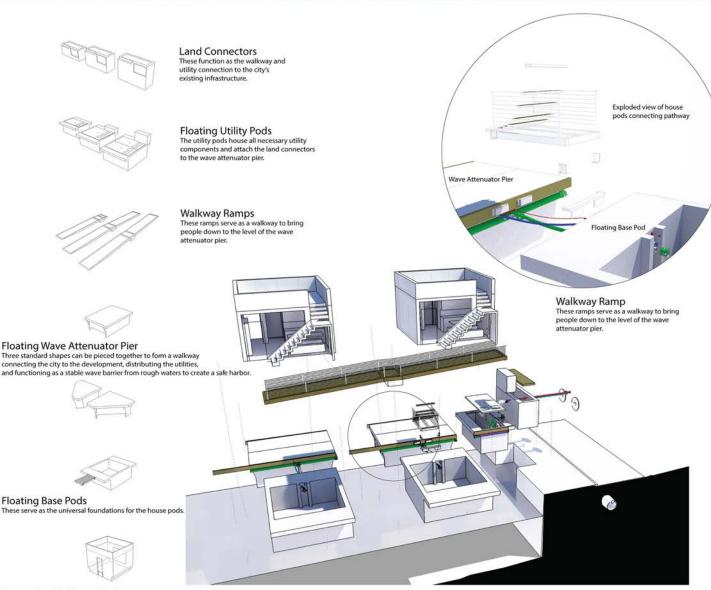


Employment



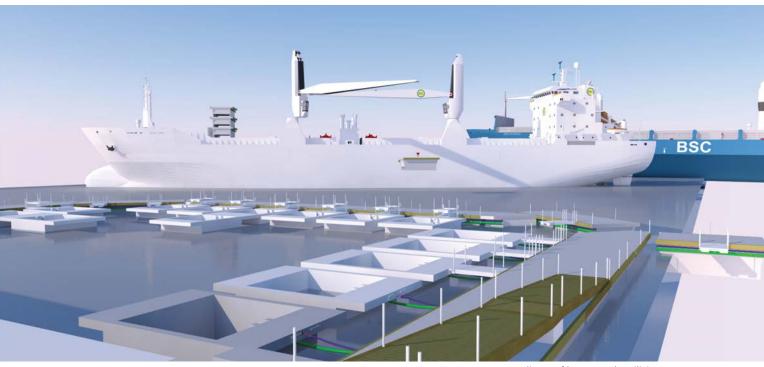
Urban port sites in Malmo allow access to transit, schools, employment center and public amenities.

Floating Architecture Concepts Adaptable Kit of Parts

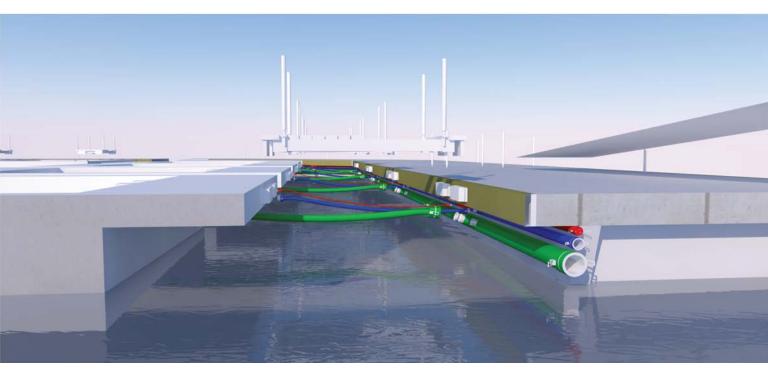


Customizable House Pods

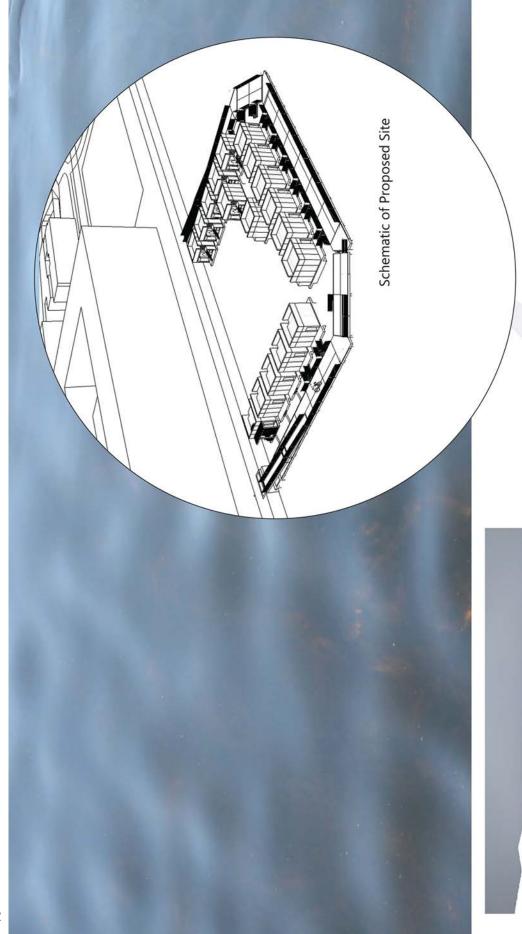
These house pods range from 250-400 square feet with optional roof gardens. The units are intended to be locally designed and built to serve the needs of the occupants as well as fit in with the host city's architectural vernacular.

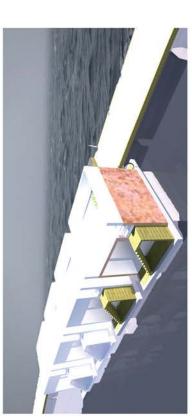


Delivery of house pods utilizing port access

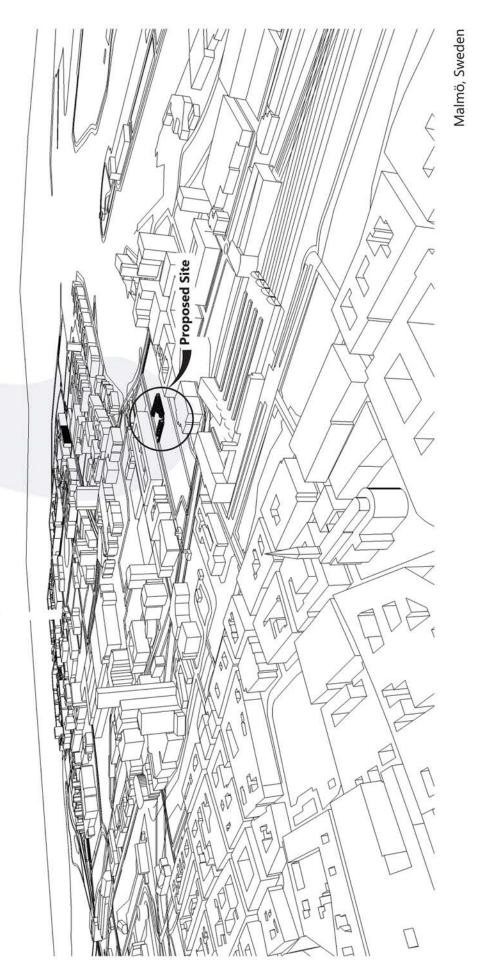


View of utility connections





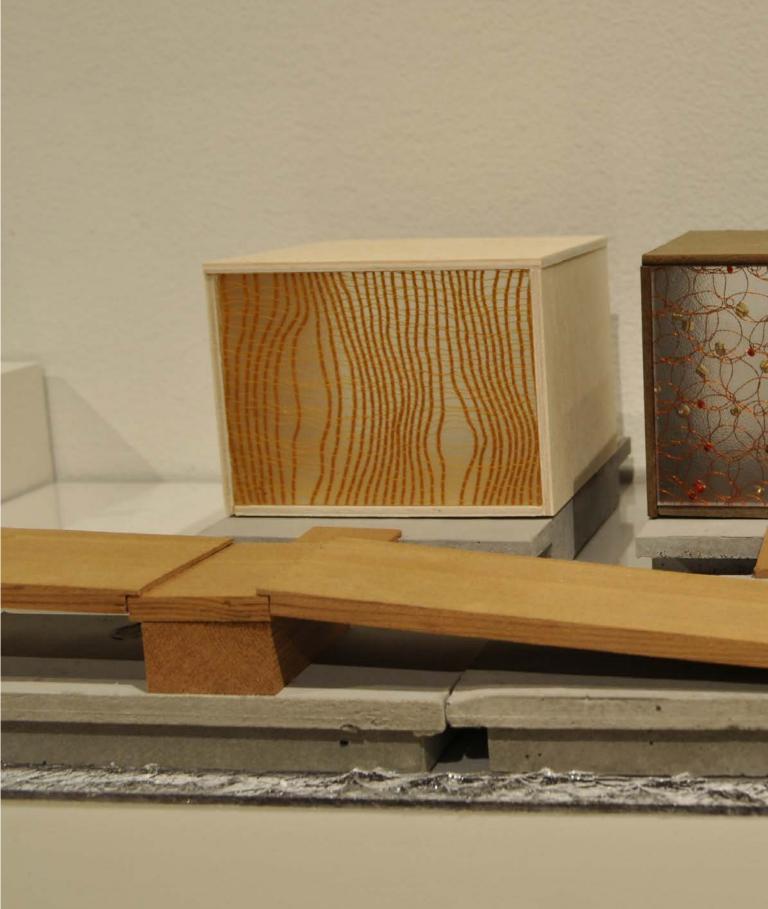
Rendering of Wave Attenuation

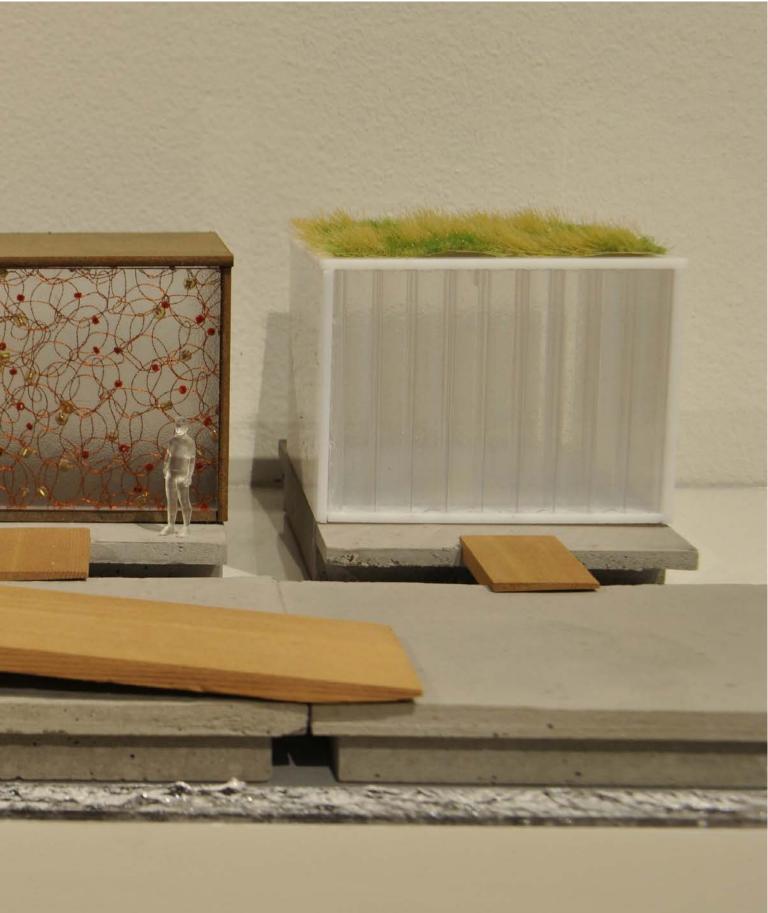


It is much bigger. But I hope that we can move into a real house soon again" - Billar, 11 years old from Syria on Ikea temporary shelter - UNHCR "This shelter feels more like a house than the tent we lived in the first night.













Gallery Show

2017 Masters Thesis Exhibition The Fed Galleries KCAD May 2, 2017 – May 18, 2017





A Refugee Camp Alternative Master of Architecture Thesis by Bradley Shiel

The proposal outlined here suggests a transformal refugee housing solution intended to be distributed globally into existing port cires, because available instead uses available waterways connected to these cries.

Maimo, Sweden is to become host to a prototype for this method of development. Historically, this city's ports were used mainly for hispbailding direct connection to the heart of the city, Maimo, known for its important approach to design and for a welcoming attract toward refuges is now hitting maximum population capacity on its available and. Ensing waterways invite alternative means of expansion that can be quickly adopted and easily removed without leaving a trace.

The goal of this proposal would be to offer a home to a growing lefugee population, while holding onto forward thinking design, through this safe harbor prototype which can be adopted by numerous port offer throughout the world.







Port City Plug-N-Play

There are many underutilized ports in cities located around the world. Pick a port city from the maps below and try your hand at laying out a safe harbor of your own using the kit of parts provided.









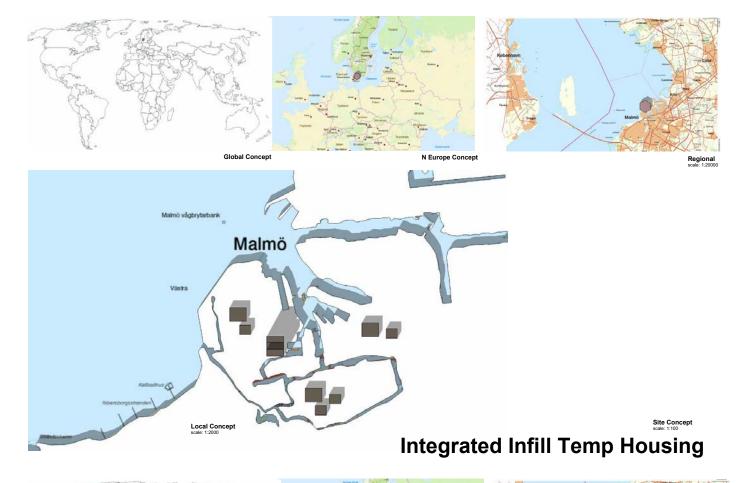




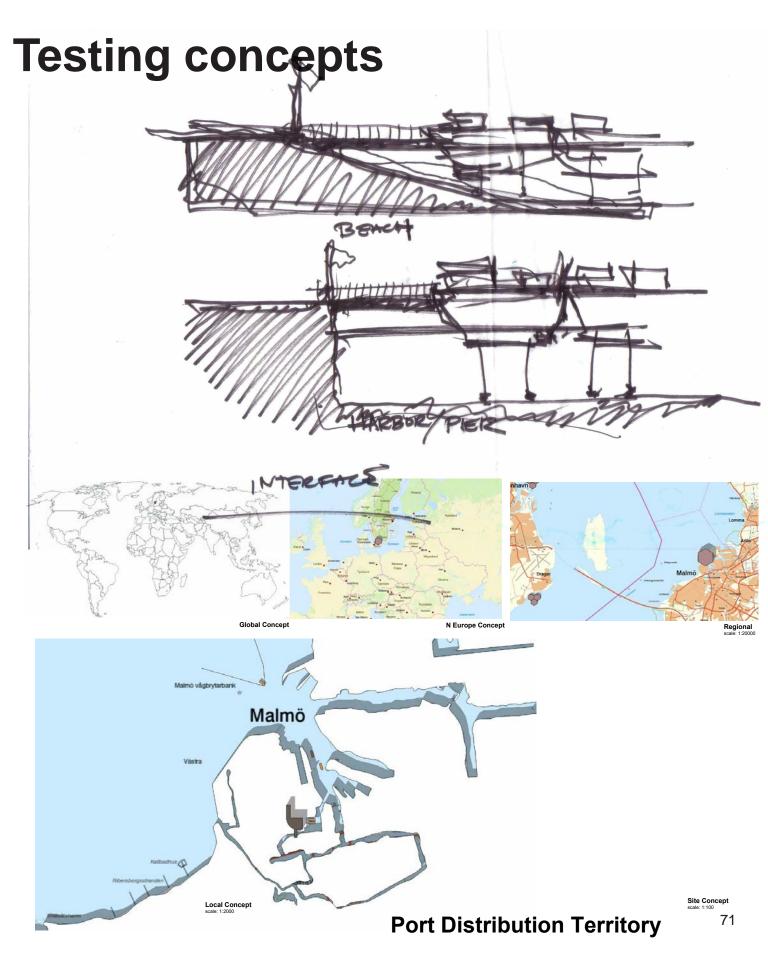








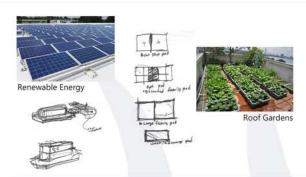






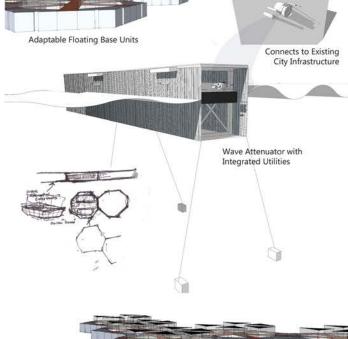


Floating Architecture Concepts Adaptable Kit of Parts

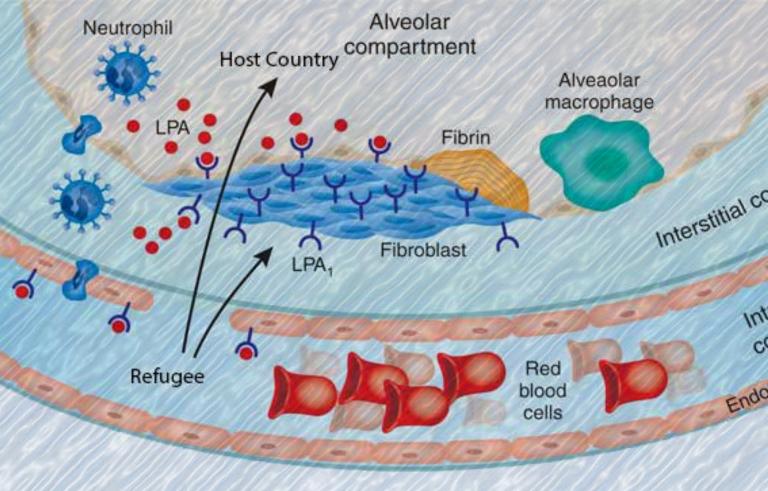




Refugee Housing







Interstitial Spaces

International Airports
International Waters
Places Between Boarders
Airlocks
Territories

... Abandoned shipbuilding locks



Concept collage using Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Floating Piers

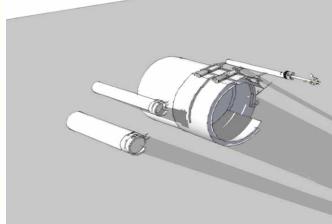




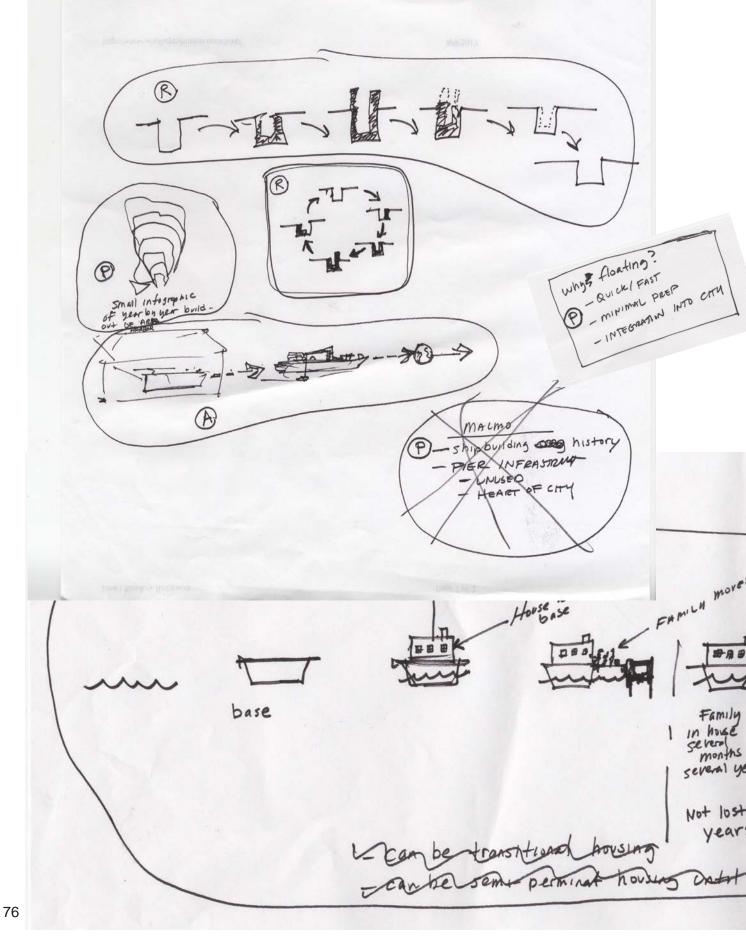
Transporting Pods to new location

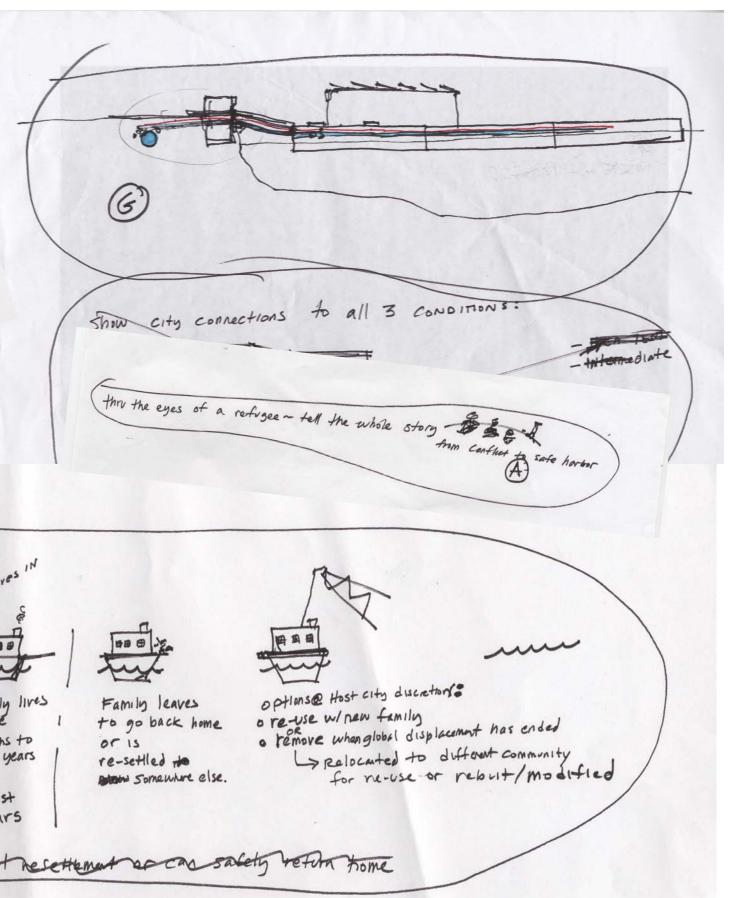


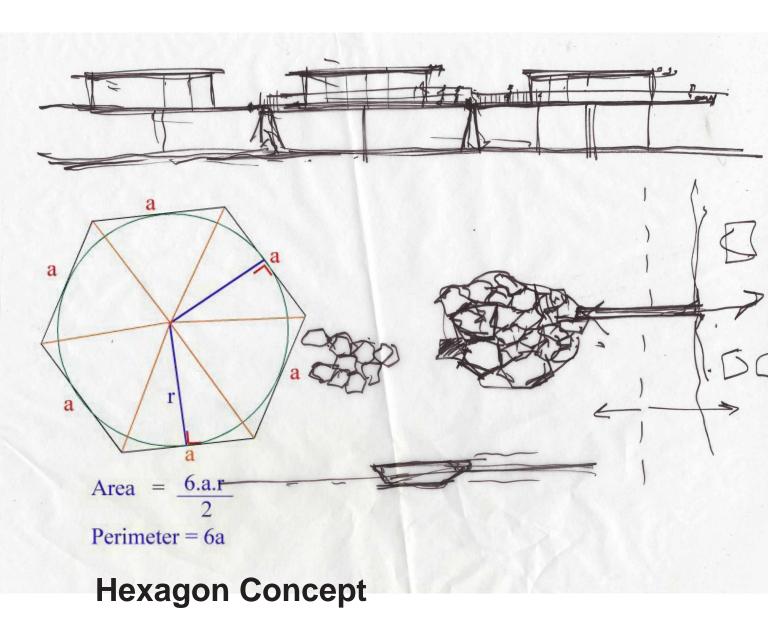
Floating Piers/Pods



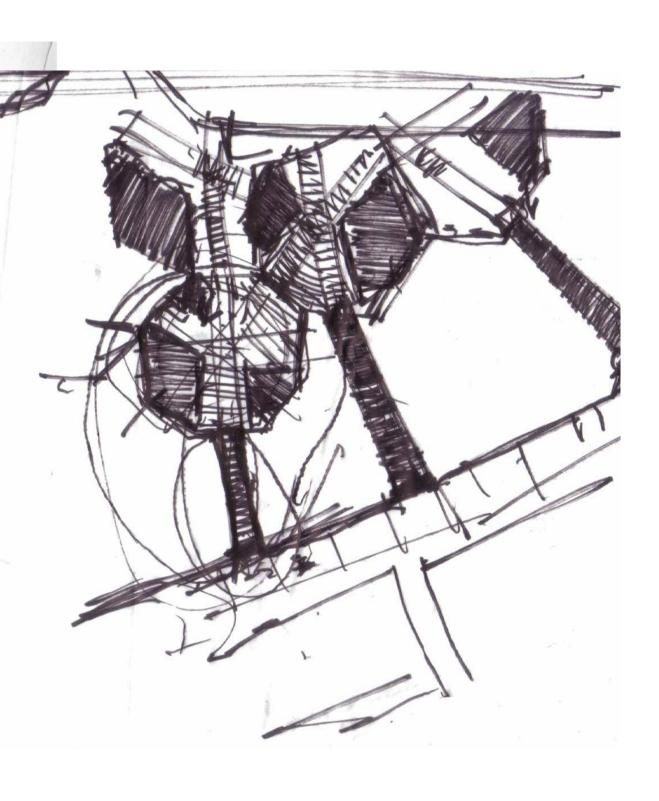
Infrastructure connection concept at land



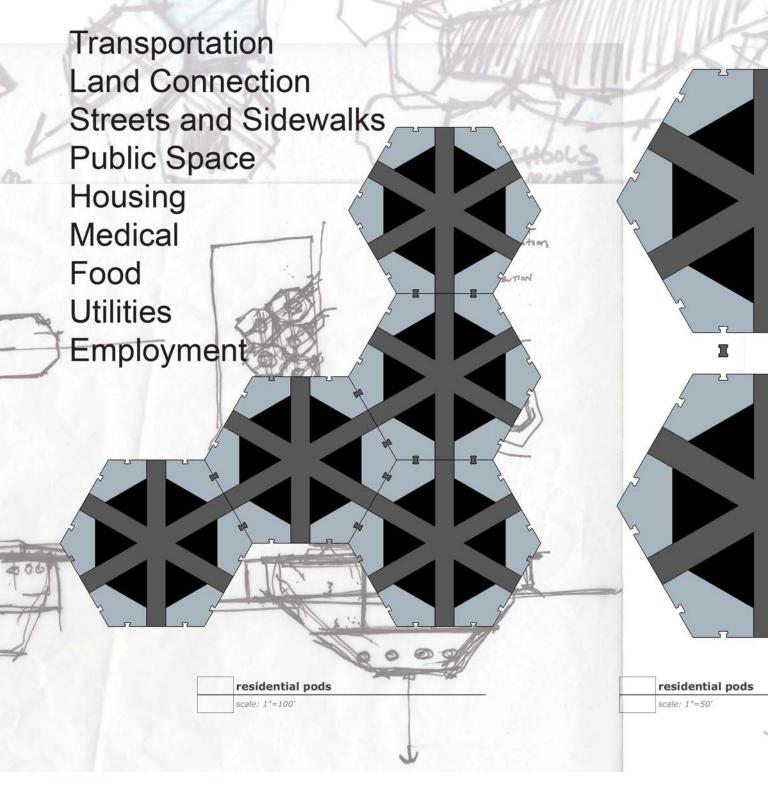


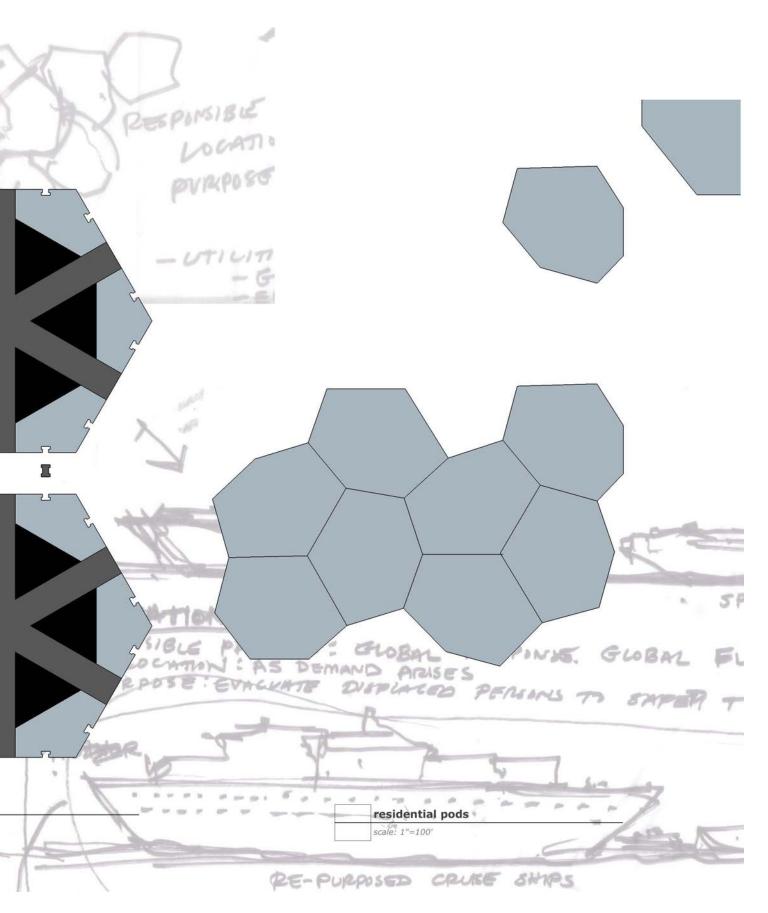


Interlocking Infinitely Expandable/Retractable



Pods Types {Program development 1a}





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