

REGION SKÅNES

**STRATEGY FOR
A DESIGNED
LIVING
ENVIRONMENT**

- ARCHITECTURE, FORM AND DESIGN

DEFINITIONS OF CONCEPTS

Collaboration on issues requires a more or less shared conception of concepts. For that reason, some of the main concepts are defined below.

Designed Living Environment

This concept of a Designed Living Environment (Sw. Gestaltad livsmiljö) was first developed in Swedish Government Official Report SOU 2015:88, and encompasses the objective of creating a comprehensive view of the forming of an entire human living environment. Designed Living Environment focuses on the principle that building a community must centre around people; more people should be able to live in inclusive, well-designed environments that have long-term sustainability.

Designed Living Environment focuses on what architecture, form and design do; in other words, how these, in different ways, form a community, and the everyday lives of those who live in it, and how they can contribute to discussing and solving the challenges their community faces. Architecture, form and design provide tools and methods that can contribute to giving individuals the opportunity to take part, and find their place, in society.

Architecture

According to Wikipedia, architecture denotes all human construction and forming of the physical environment. It is a multi-disciplinary subject area that appears to be in between art and science. Architecture includes the physical features of an area, cities, buildings, interiors, furniture, and individual objects. According to the oldest still extant work on this subject (Ten Books on Architecture by Vitruvius), the core of architecture is the balance between Beauty (Venusitas), Sustainability (Firmitas), and Function (Utilitas).

The previous policy, Forms for the Future (1998), defined architecture as a practical and artistic organizing of the space and structure of a city and living environment. Architecture can be said to create a harmonious and well-functioning whole, consisting of

buildings, outdoor space, and in-between space, with this whole being sustainable, and benefitting many people. The value of architecture is formed in relation to the cultural and social context in which it functions. Giving form to a city or a rural area is an activity that is space-specific, in which the unique conditions of each place set the framework for how it is to be formed.

Form

Form is a broad and ambiguous concept. It may refer to the physical forming of products, in which knowledge of the material involved takes centre stage. This definition, however, limits that act of forming to physical objects. However, form can also be an overarching concept that includes not only design and architecture, but also artistic and practical handicrafts.

Design

The word “design” comes from the Latin designo, which means to point out, depict, and present. Design is an English term that originally meant a plan, sketch, or drawing. The Swedish Industrial Design Foundation (SVI) defines design as “a work process intended to develop solutions in a purposeful and innovative manner, based on the needs of the user, and with both functional and aesthetic requirements taken into consideration. Design is used in the development of goods, services, processes, messages and environments.

In Future Forms (1998), design is given a broader definition than form, and is more closely connected to industrial processes. A designer’s creative ability to design is not only used in product design, but also has a strategic business function in the design of qualified product development processes in which manufacturing, resource consumption, marketing, and users are all taken into consideration. Design can also include the design of services. The underlying perspective used in a design process should be that of the user.

REGION SKÅNES VISION FOR A DESIGNED LIVING ENVIRONMENT

In Skåne, the location, the people, and people’s needs are the basis for designing living environments. Using the Designed Living Environment concept, Region Skåne adopts a holistic view of the design of living environments, in which architecture, form and design are viewed as a cohesive and unified area. By supporting the Designed Living Environment concept, Region Skåne is leading the way.

A DESIGNED LIVING ENVIRONMENT

The Designed Living Environment concept touches on many policy areas. Designed Living Environment focuses on what architecture, form and design do, in other words, how these, in different ways, form a community and the everyday lives of those who live in it, and how they can contribute to solving the challenges their community faces.

With its Designed Living Environment strategy, Region Skåne is striving to achieve the following objectives:

- Region Skåne has a high level of ambition regarding long-range capital investment in which architecture, form and design promote health, and create additional value both for the individual, and for Skåne
- Region Skåne will act based on its vision for a Designed Living Environment. This will enable invested resources to yield greater long-term effects, as well as giving Region Skåne a clearer identity and role in this area.
- Region Skåne will act to enhance Skåne's attractiveness for those who live, work, and visit it, by including architecture, form and design in various processes, such as urban and product development.
- Region Skåne, in its role as coordinator, will encourage architecture, form and design companies, to promote economic growth as well as contribute to greater innovation and increased jobs.
- Architecture, form and design have a central role to play in the realization of the Regional development strategy – The open Skåne 2030.

Challenges cannot be met by a single person, company, or university. Public-sector bodies, such as Region Skåne, must act as co-ordinators and good examples. In this context, architecture, form and design offer methods to increase the participation and shared creativity of individuals

Importance of the area

The concept of Designed Living Environment focuses on how architecture, form and design, in different ways, can form a community and the everyday lives of those who live in it. This area is also important as a means of strengthening democracy, and meeting the challenges a society faces. Architecture, form and design offer tools and methods that can contribute to sustainable societal development, and to giving individuals the opportunity to take part, and find their place, in society. It is important to carry on a public discourse regarding what will be built and produced, and how our cities, rural areas, public spaces, and homes should be designed. This also entails using events and exhibitions to stimulate public debate, which, in itself, is important in a democratic society.

The Designed Living Environment perspective brings with it a holistic view of the design of a living environment, one that views architecture, form and design as a cohesive and unified area. This perspective makes people and their needs the basis of how living environments should be created, and can be applied to generational meeting places, meeting places to counteract social isolation, calm and stress-free environments, green spaces, or products and services that are designed based on people's needs. This perspective includes not only architecture, form and design, but also art, historical context, and social values.

An intersectoral area

The Designed Living Environment touches on many policy areas. These can be community planning, residential matters, culture and artistic expression, the environment, social issues, education, research, transport, trade, as well as accessibility and consumer policies. In recent years, global challenges have assumed a greater urgency, with

societal development becoming increasingly complex. The ongoing urbanization and globalization has led to adverse effects, such as greater gaps in health, accessibility, demography, and segregation. This focus on urban development has brought with it a challenge for rural areas. Small communities are experiencing greater difficulties in advancing, and the gaps between cities and rural areas are increasing. At the same time, cities make possible many technical and environmental solutions that act to satisfy the needs of a growing population in a resource-efficient manner.

Why a strategy?

Region Skåne is responsible for healthcare, as well as the development of the private sector, public transport, community planning, infrastructure, and culture. An important underlying principle in all these areas is promoting the health and everyday well-being of the population. By taking measures in all these areas of responsibility, Region Skåne can promote improved and more equal health, as well as increase human well-being from a long-range perspective. Architecture, form and design can also encourage a preventive way of working.

Region Skåne therefore has a great responsibility where architecture, form and design are concerned. Many stakeholders expect Region Skåne to play a clear and active role. This strategy highlights Region Skåne's responsibility, and opportunities, to coordinate and prioritize strategic methods. This strategy is meant to be a policy document for both internal and external work. It is also meant to act as an orientation map, and show direction and shared goals. The strategy for Designed Living Environment also aims to strengthen this area, and provide what is needed for beneficial and sustainable living environments from financial, cultural, social, and environmental perspectives.



STRATEGIC AREAS OF PRIORITY

By setting a good example as a public sector stakeholder, Region Skåne can create legitimacy and relevance, advance, bring together stakeholders, and conduct strategic development efforts as part of Designed Living Environment. Region Skåne has formulated four strategic priority categories in order to realize its vision:

- The concept of a Designed Living Environment should permeate the activities of Region Skåne
- Increase awareness of Designed Living Environment and its importance in community development
- Increase cooperation between the public sector, private sector, third sector, and higher education
- Increase opportunities to implement and finance measures that will develop the area of Designed Living Environment

The concept of a Designed Living Environment should permeate the activities of Region Skåne

The architecture, form and design area should be viewed as a cohesive and unified area that both influences, and is influenced by, several policy areas. Working strategically with Designed Living Environment requires increased internal coordination that will enable Region Skåne to work more intelligently with regard to both content and resource use. This, in turn, will lead to Region Skåne having more credibility, both as a government agency and as a stakeholder.

Examples of measures and processes

- Ensure that Region Skåne's strategy for a Designed Living Environment is implemented in Region Skåne's activities, for example, through policy documents, such as Regional development strategy – the Open Skåne 2030, Regional culture plan for Skåne, An international innovation strategy for Skåne, Action plan for cultural and creative industries, Strategies for the polycentric Skåne, and Guidelines for artistic expression.
- Develop forms for Region Skåne's work with procurement procedures so that opportunities in the area of architecture, form and design are utilized to a greater extent. This is especially important with regard to forms for innovation procurement.
- Link expertise from architecture, form and design to Region Skåne's processes. This is especially important

for the three highlighted innovation areas: smart materials; smart sustainable cities; and personal health.

Increase awareness of Designed Living Environment and its importance in community development

There is a great need for increased knowledge on how structures and forms affect people and society. Coherent knowledge and research regarding how to create good environments are also needed. By acting as a source of inspiration and cohesive energy, Region Skåne will promote an increased knowledge of Designed Living Environment in Skåne. This can be done, inter alia, by initiating research and development projects, and by highlighting good examples. In addition, events, exhibitions, and debates should be arranged to increase awareness of the importance of architecture in community development. Region Skåne should ensure that discourse on architecture, form and design is both current and continuous. Region Skåne should gather a store of knowledge and business intelligence to enable it to identify the needs and social challenges that need to be addressed. As a process leader connected to sustainable urban development, Region Skåne should encourage measures based on people's needs. By acting as a good example, Region Skåne can inspire people to increasingly view architecture, form and design as a cohesive and unified area.

Examples of measures and processes

- Disseminate current knowledge that emphasizes an intersectoral perspective, one in which there is an interplay between architecture, form and design values. Region Skåne should support stakeholders that work to highlight the importance of this issue. This also includes holding workshops and seminars.
- Present examples of how architecture, form and design can contribute to meeting the challenges societies and communities face. These can refer to processes, as well as products and services. By applying, for example, innovation procurement and creating test environments, various solutions can be tried, and new knowledge can result.
- Show how architecture, form and design can promote health and create attractiveness by managing and improving Region Skåne's properties and infrastructure.

Increase cooperation between the public sector, private sector, third sector, and higher education

In Skåne, there is a closeness amongst stakeholders working in the areas of architecture, form and design. By creating strategic alliances and systems, Region Skåne should promote better utilization of the opportunities that this closeness presents. Increased mutual respect for the knowledge and roles of each stakeholder will help to create attractive and interesting living environments. Region Skåne should help to strengthen cooperation amongst the municipalities of Skåne in the areas of architecture, form and design. As a regional actor, Region Skåne should also engage in inter-regional, national, and international cooperation.

Examples of measures and processes

- Develop collaborations with existing networks, and encourage cooperative projects between different sectors. Two examples of this are Skånskt bostadsnätverk (the housing network of Skåne), and the cooperation amongst Swedish municipalities and county councils in the area of cultural and creative industries.
- Build up long-term knowledge in this area, for example, by seeking out opportunities for formal agreements. A good example of this is Region Skåne's agreements with third sector and popular education organizations.
- Seek out possible inter-regional and international partners connected to architecture, form and design, in order to identify candidates for cooperation.

Increase opportunities to implement and finance measures that will develop the area of Designed Living Environment

Region Skåne distributes regional and State funds to municipalities, cultural institutions, cultural performers and practitioners, incubators, and clusters by supporting stakeholders using development and project grants. Region Skåne can encourage new cooperative undertakings and projects that include architecture, form and design as a strategic area. Region Skåne should develop its monitoring, and work to introduce financing opportunities via, for example, the various EU programmes. Region Skåne should also act in an advisory capacity with regard to new forms of financing relating to the Designed Living Environment area.

Examples of measures and processes

- Encourage enabling intermediaries to give support to a greater extent, in the form of advice and financing, to stakeholders in the areas of architecture, form and design. Examples of intermediaries include Almi and Form/Design Center.
- Reinforce those stakeholders in architecture, form and design where Skåne is already in a strong position. This can be done by expanding knowledge and the capacity of the industry, as well as that of practicing artists and sculptors, for example.

IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVES TO CONSIDER

In order to act in accordance with this strategy, and serve as an example of Designed Living Environment, Region Skåne must consider the following perspectives.

Democracy and social inclusion

Complex societal challenges demand new methods of cooperating, thinking, and acting. The importance of finding functioning forms for improved dialogue and social inclusion in those processes that relate to the living environment of those living in a community has increasingly assumed a central role. The Government Bill Politik för gestaltad livsmiljö (Policy for a Designed Living Environment) states as follows. "Using the perspective of Designed Living Environment as a basis enables architecture, form and design to actively contribute to the work of countering segregation. Methods that are developed during creative processes can contribute to increased inclusion and greater democratic participation."

Gender equality and social equality perspective

Promoting gender equality and social equality means taking into consideration the equal human rights and value of every individual. This is a legal requirement that cannot be ignored. The Discrimination Law identifies seven different grounds of discrimination; gender, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, functional impairment, sexual preference, and age. Region Skåne has produced an action plan for gender-equal growth and regional prioritization.

Child perspective

The child perspective needs to be more clearly represented in community planning and Designed Living Environment designed for, with, and by children. It is important that knowledge and awareness of architecture, form and design be given a greater presence in school curricula, and in other places in society. This includes, inter alia, giving children

and adolescents tools to explore their local environment and interpret it, so as to eventually be able to participate in, and influence, it.

Community planning

Planning determines how land and water areas should be used, as well as how the built environment should be used, developed, and preserved. Planning also determines the extent to which general interests will be considered, as well as how national, regional, and local objectives and interests should be dealt with. Sustainable urban and community development concerns not only physical structures, but also influences social aspects, such as lifestyle, health, patterns of movement, economic circumstances, as well as the opportunities of individuals to talk part in influencing their living environment. Community planning is complex, and needs to be able to take into account many different perspectives as part of the community construction process. Through the municipal plan monopoly, municipalities are responsible for the physical planning, but there must be joint planning between construction, infrastructure, public transport, and green area structures that extends across administrative boundaries. Region Skåne, together with its 33 municipalities, has therefore developed the model Strukturbild för Skåne (Structural view of Skåne), in order to work with these issues regionally.

Cities and rural areas

Skåne has a unique proximity between cities and rural areas. With 247 communities separated by short distances, there are many points of contact between cities and rural areas. For people living in Skåne, this means proximity between home, nature and cultural experiences, work, and education. This makes for an attractive living environment. The proximity between cities and rural areas also facilitates the development of goods and services in a green growth and circular economy. At the same time, the global urbanization process is also making its presence known in Skåne. The population is growing most in cities and towns, and half of all workplaces are in the three largest cities of

Skåne. The focus of community development has, up until now, been on urban environments, and this has led to the development of an urban norm. As a result of this, rural areas are often presented as problematic and dependent on support. This view must change. The importance of developing the unique values and potential of both cities and rural areas, and an understanding of their mutual dependence, must be emphasized.

Cultural-historical values

The preservation of cultural heritage, and cultural environments, has a great importance in achieving sustainable and attractive living environments. Cultural-historical values therefore need to be integrated and utilized in the processes of planning and building. Community planning concerns both how the future community should be located and structured, and what measures should be taken in order to preserve and develop the existing environment and buildings. Architecture that is well thought-out, in combination with art, and takes into account aspects of the cultural environment, must be used to a greater extent in order to create carefully considered designed public environments for all.

Public art

Region Skåne appropriates funds for artistic expression and design in connection with building, expanding, or renovating its properties. This approach not only applies to permanent art, but also to artistic input in various building processes. Public art, which everyone has access to, is a part of our democratic society. The fact that Region Skåne allocates resources for artistic work makes locations and rooms for patients, their relatives, and the personnel better environments to spend time in, while at the same time,

being an important labour market policy measure. In 2016, guidelines were adopted that describe how Region Skåne is to work with permanent artworks. These guidelines are based on the fundamental values of Region Skåne, and emphasize an intersectoral perspective where architecture, function, and artistic values interact with each other.

The report Den offentliga konstens roll för boendemiljöer (the role of public art in residential environments), published by the Public Art Agency of Sweden, emphasizes the importance of public art in today's Sweden. "Sweden is facing new investments in new residential environments to an extent not seen since the Million [apartments] Programme [1965-75]. Renovations, new construction, and increased density bring with them the risk of major challenges to our society. A high level of quality that ensures the sustainability of communities is therefore not only crucial in the actual construction processes, but also applies to those aspects that affect the living environment of the residents. Public art has an important role to play if these environments are to be given an intelligent design, and the aesthetic and social values are to be strengthened"

Creative environments

The international innovation strategy for Skåne emphasizes, inter alia, the importance of developing new creative environments. There is a major need to apply knowledge regarding how new creative environments are developed and designed all over Skåne. This issue centres on how residential properties and public spaces should be designed in order to contribute favourably to the cityscape, create attractiveness, and optimize flows. Examples of situations where this will soon need to be addressed include the expansion of Media Evolution City, the expansion of Krinova, as well as Science Village Scandinavia.



NATIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR A DESIGNED LIVING ENVIRONMENT

IN 2018, NEW NATIONAL OBJECTIVES WERE ADOPTED FOR ARCHITECTURE, FORM AND DESIGN.

Architecture, form and design must contribute to a sustainable, equal, and less segregated society with carefully designed living environments, in which everyone has an opportunity to affect the development of their shared environment. This will be achieved by:

- **Not allowing short-term financial considerations to win out over sustainability and quality.**
- **Developing and disseminating knowledge about architecture, form and design.**
- **The public sector showing a good example.**
- **Aesthetic, artistic, and cultural-historical values being utilized and improved.**
- **Environments that are designed to be accessible to everyone, and**
- **Cooperation and collaboration being developed, both within Sweden and internationally.**

These objectives are based on the Government Bill Politik för gestaltad livsmiljö (A policy for Designed Living Environment) (Government Bill 2017/18:110), in which the introduction of a new policy objective is proposed for architecture, form and design; and a new cohesive national architecture policy is created. The Government Bill is based on a Swedish Government Official Report that was presented in 2015, Designed Living Environment – a new policy for architecture, form and design (SOU 2015:88).

REFERENCES



An international innovation strategy for Skåne 2012-2020



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



Designed Living Environment – a new policy for architecture, form and design



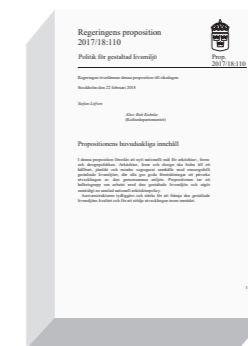
Gender-equal regional growth, Region Skåne



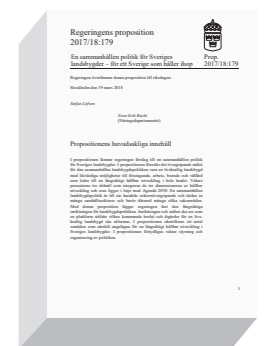
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Strategies for the Polycentric Skåne, 2013



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A DESIGNED LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN SKÅNE

In Skåne, the location, the people, and people's needs are the basis for designing living environments. Using the Designed Living Environment concept, Region Skåne adopts a holistic view of the design of living environments, in which architecture, form and design are viewed as a cohesive and unified area.

By supporting the Designed Living Environment concept, Region Skåne is leading the way. Region Skåne's strategy for a designed living environment – architecture, form and design was adopted by the Regional Development Board and the Cultural Committee, in September 2018.