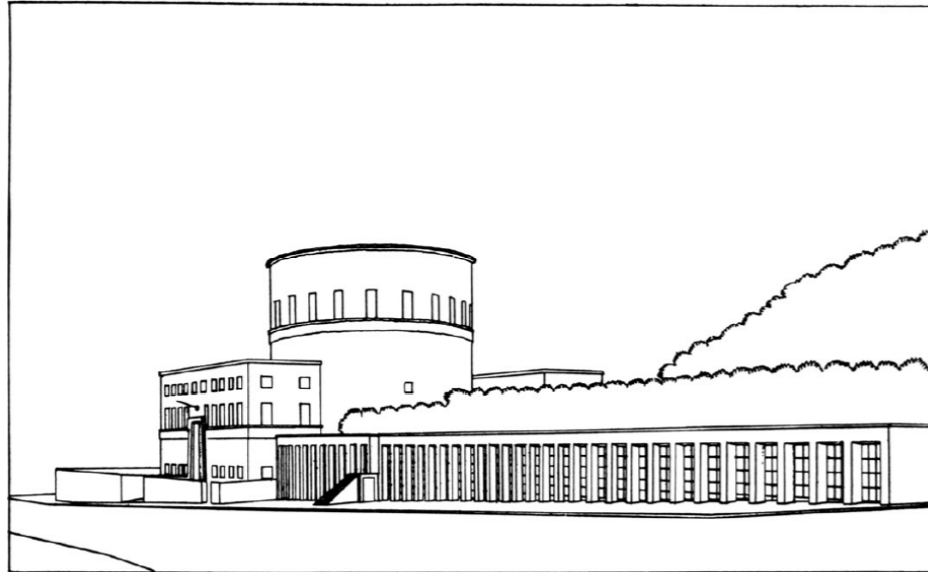


# A Home for Ideas

Reimagining the Stockholm City Library

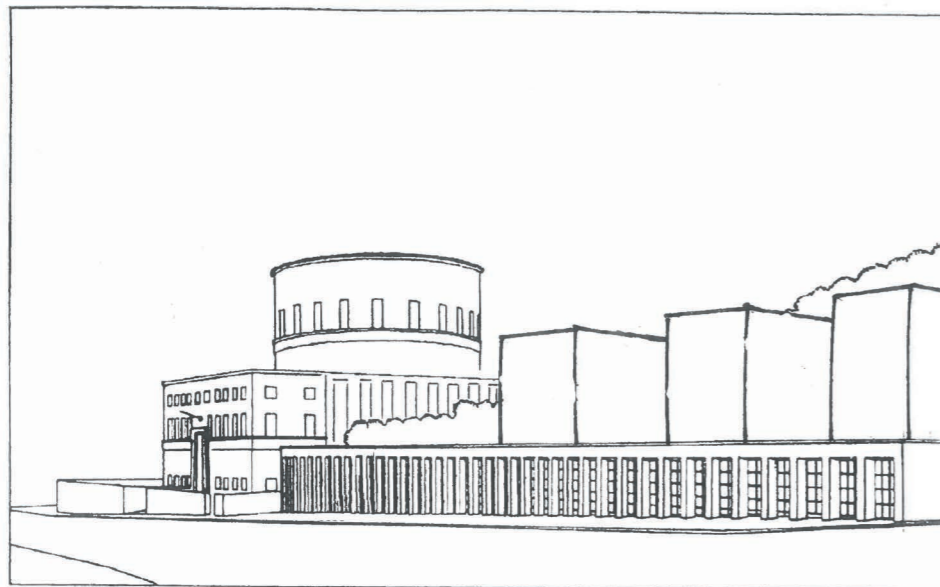
## POSITIONING & PROPOSAL



01

The Stockholm City Library, designed by Erik Gunnar Asplund and completed around 1928, sits just outside the bustling center of Stockholm. The design task was to adapt or add to the existing building, in a way that it's to meet the needs of a modern public library in Sweden. My design proposal emphasizes the relationship with the surroundings, as the building is nestled between a park and the city. I carefully consider what's already there, what works well, and what needs adaptation. While the current building holds significant historical value, it presents a somewhat monumental, static appearance.

windows and monumental appearance, creates a separation from its surroundings, my building aims to be open and welcoming. It sees the library as an integral part of the city and local community, blurring the boundary between where the library starts and ends. These contrasting buildings will complement each other, with one representing the traditional library, and the other emphasizing the role and needs of the modern library.



02

To accommodate modern library functions, such as maker spaces and lecture spaces, I propose an additional building next to the Stockholm City Library. This addition would allow for a more flexible and modern design while respecting the historical and architectural significance of existing buildings on the site, such as the three annex buildings and the bazaar. The new design functions primarily as a separate building, contrasting with the existing Stockholm City Library. While the current library, with its high-placed

I drew inspiration from Asplund's earlier design proposals and the existing bazaar which connects the library with the city. I also borrowed some features from the existing library. In my design, I repeated the visual motif of the Stockholm City Library's base (bazaar). However, my building is intended to be less imposing than the monumentality of the original Stockholm City Library. Hereby, the monumentality of the existing building is kept or even strengthened, while it keeps functioning as an institute of knowledge for the city. The new addition enhances the connection between the park and the city, while also providing a sense of belonging, focusing on the importance of the library for the local community.

<sup>01</sup> Drawing by Asplund: Stockholm, Public Library, perspective of back of library with proposed Odenhallen (market), 1926'

<sup>02</sup> Adjusted Drawing: Stockholm, Public Library, proposed Odenhallen and the exiting annex buildings combined

## APPROACH & RELEVANCE



03



04



05

My design proposal is supported by extensive research on this building, as well as other works by architect Erik Gunnar Asplund and the comparison to other modern public libraries.

I've been investigating the research questions by making models (see some examples on page 4), analyzing other projects, and reading relevant literature. I've been switching back and forth between these research methods and documented this whole process in my Project Journal. This way, I could share my progress and thoughts with my tutors and also reflect on my own design and decision-making progress.

### Relation between my graduation topic, master track and master program

The design for the new Stockholm City Library is all about architecture and its connection to the surroundings – right between a park and the city. To tackle technical challenges in the design, I'm using building science. By incorporating sustainability and smart solutions, my work not only contributes to architecture but also joins the broader conversation about creating structures that are environmentally friendly and the reuse of existing buildings (heritage). My graduation work fits well with the MSc AUBS program, which focuses on making sustainable

urban and building systems. My research on the future of libraries, dealing with heritage while meeting modern needs, aligns with the program's goal of finding eco-friendly and smart solutions for the often complex built environment.

### the relevance of my graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework

By imagining an expansion for the Stockholm City library, my research provides valuable insights into the broader framework of architectural and urban development. It goes beyond just the physical appearance of the building; it explores the essential considerations and potential changes needed for a modern public library. While tackling the challenges of the current situation, my work challenges the usual role of a library in today's society. The significance lies in exploring what the future of a modern public library should involve, particularly when dealing with an existing monumental building. The research aims to show how to adjust and improve an already important monument while preserving and respecting its significant value. In doing so, my work not only adds to discussions about architecture with existing buildings, but also joins broader talks about the changing role of libraries nowadays.

<sup>03</sup> Image of a 1:200 model

<sup>04</sup> Image of a 1:50 model

<sup>05</sup> Image of a 1:33 model

## DESIGN PROCESS



06

The analysis of the libraries, together with the P1 Design project 'a room for a library', has led to initial thoughts about the idea of a library, in its modern and public form. It has raised questions such as: Who uses the libraries? Why do they utilize them? What types of spaces do they require? How does a modern library relate to its traditional form? What should be the balance between public and private spaces in a library? What is the role and significance of books in a modern library?

In my view, these questions relate strongly with architecture of spaces. As Asplund delves into how sensory experiences and routing impact the utilization, hierarchy, and perception of spaces. I argue that the public libraries should enhance the connection with the outside world, while also embracing the private sphere to evoke a sense of home and belonging for individuals. How this could result in a physical design is explored for this graduation project, answering the main question:

*How can de Stockholm city library, by Erik Gunnar Asplund, be developed and transformed into a contemporary, public library, serving the needs of a diverse, twenty-first century society?*

The main question is addressed by answering the following sub-questions:

- *Who is the library for? \**
- *What are the responsibilities and expectations of a contemporary public library nowadays?\**
- *What is an appropriate response to the existing building?\**

<sup>06</sup> Image / model P1: A room For a library

# TOWARDS P5

The act of making models, forced me to think about the essential parts of my design. I had to consider how various elements would be supported and how materials would come together. This consideration influenced my design decisions.

As I spent more time creating physical models, I learned to observe buildings closely. I realized that by looking carefully at existing structures, I could learn a lot about the intentions of the architect. This observation influenced my design choices and inspired creative solutions to challenges I encountered.

From the beginning of the project, our tutors stressed the non-linear nature of architectural design, often requiring us to backtrack and rethink our approach to reach a successful outcome. This was especially evident in my own process.

I spent a significant amount of time exploring various solutions using a variety of techniques: models, hand drawings, and digital modeling. It was a constant balancing act between technical considerations such as structural requirements, exterior expression interior qualities and flow, as well as the institution's identity and its relationship with the neighborhood. Each aspect demanded research, seeking references,

and understanding the essence of buildings and cities, which I gained through the studio.

Maintaining a project journal to document all iterations of my design and the thoughts behind them proved to be valuable.

Although it was sometimes frustrating, this method greatly increased productivity. Reflecting on these versions and articulating ideas, supported by a collective body of knowledge, allowed me to fully grasp the qualities I aimed to achieve and led to the final version of the design.

In the past period, I focused on finalizing the design, including plans, elevations, sections, and details. This culminated in my P4 presentation, where I covered various topics like research, architecture, building technology, and storytelling.

For the upcoming period, I'll be adapting my design based on the feedback from my P4 presentation. I'll be refining my drawings and previous models to enhance the overall design. Additionally, in these final months of my graduation year, I plan to create a 1:100 scale model of my entire design. This model will be showcased during my P5 presentation, helping others understand the functionality of my design. Finally, I'll dedicate the last period to creating renders of significant elements of my building, such as the colonnade and the courtyards.