

# Site: Hornsgatan/Götgatan

# Qualitative sound analysis

## Description:

**Beginning/end of Hornsgatan, communicational node.**

## Spatial quality

### Architecture

- Spatial opening of a narrow urban space (24 m wide).
- Crossing point between several pedestrian paths.
- Site surrounded by 4-5 story buildings and one that is 1-2 stories high (Stadsmuseet).

### Topography

- Flat ground slightly tilting towards the sea.
- Visual wideness/openness as well as narrowness.
- One of the sideways (Götgatan) tilts steeply upwards.

### Materiality

- Hard/ mineral ground and wall materials.
- Nature and greenery in the distance.

## Contents

### Activities

- Intense pedestrian use of public outdoor space.
- Transitional site.
- Traffic dominates.

### Functions

- Mixed functions of communicational, transportational, commercial and business related character.
- Residents are nearly non-existent.

## Temporal features

### Sound quality

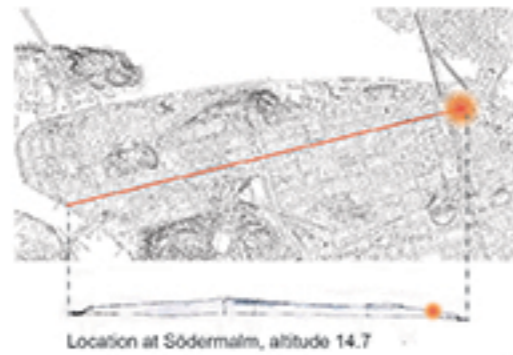
- Predomination of high intensity sounds (traffic).
- Temporal breaks of relative silence.
- Less dominant sound qualities are existent but not numerous.

### Mobility

- The site offers several possibilities to move closer to or away from its most sound exposed parts.
- The possibility to influence one's distance to various spatio-sonic qualities on site, are manifold.

### Accessibility

- There exist several options for pedestrians to access the site though one path is a steep uphill slope (Götgatsbacken) difficult but not impossible to mount for disabled persons.



Visual, sonic and textual observations,



Video recording 300' 101122, ca.12:30



Morphologic plan and section:

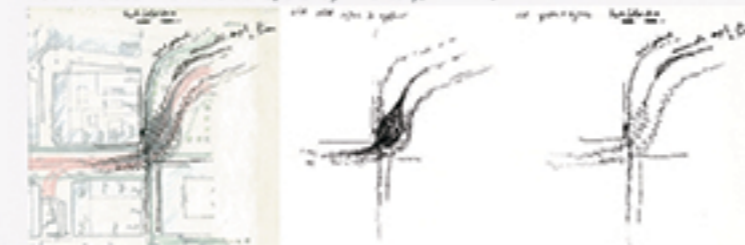


110622, 16:15

Color index describing observed qualities of space and sound:



Sound notation from the transparency inventory, 110901, 11:00

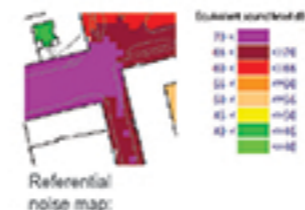


Sound recording, 110901, 11:00

Accessibility/ escapeability:



Mapped functions at groundplan, 2010, on an excerpt of the sociotope map

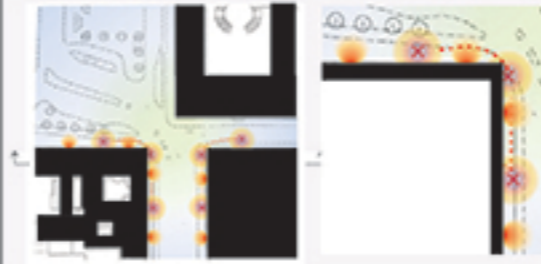


Referential noise map:

descriptions and analyses

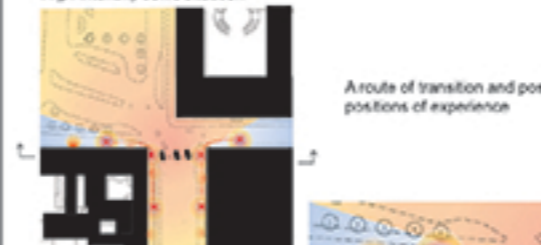
Spatio-sonic illustrations:

Low-intensity sonic situation



A route of transition and possible positions of experience

High-intensity sonic situation



A route of transition and possible positions of experience

Key to spatio-sonic illustrations

- High and persistent sounds generated on site by traffic
- Background sounds generated at a long distance by human, nature, animal or technical activities
- Low-intensity sounds generated at a short distance by human, nature, animal or technical activities
- Abstr. change between low-intensity and high-intensity sounds (Blue = background sounds, red = high-intensity and persistent sound coming from traffic, black = the corner of a building)
- Sounds generated by someone moving or standing still at a possible position of experience (clothes rustling, talking, breathing, walking etc.)
- Sounds generated by commercial, service related, cultural or other activities at the ground level of a building, for example people moving in and out of a store or restaurant producing a high level of man made sounds at a specific point.
- A possible position of experience
- A route of transition
- Gradual transition between high, persistent sounds and low-intensity or background sounds

The beginning/end of Hornsgatan is during daytime a busy spot frequented by motor-driven traffic as well as bicyclists and pedestrians. The site is characterized by a dynamic flow of traffic and people, tuning in and out of each other and the extreme states of low and high intensity sound qualities, with a consistent domination of the latter.

The site provides several paths/ directions that enable access or departure. Moving away from the corner Hornsgatan/Götgatan offers a possibility to experience variegated sonic qualities. This is possible due to the change of activities and morphology on site in combination with positioning oneself physically within the area.

Staying immobile for a long while at the corner of Hornsgatan may create a sense of discomfort as one is being exposed to a very intense sonic situation during a long time period, even though sonic pauses regularly occur. The temporal cease of traffic flow depends upon the rhythm and interruption of traffic lights as well as the amount of traffic present at the moment. A low intensity sonic situation at this point may either be experienced in these temporal breaks or through physical elongation.

Depending on your position, the specific spatio-sonic conditions changes and thereby offers a possibility to have a variegated sonic experience within the site at large when moving through various spatio-sonic situations that differ from each other in terms of quality.

For example, the spatial, visual and sonic contrast of the open square of Slussen/ Mälartorget compared to the enclosed character of the first section of Hornsgatan, introduce a sense of release or at least a sense of variation while walking through and taking part of different sonic states on site.

These specific conditions offer a rather dynamic spatio-sonic experience to the pedestrian users of this public urban space (if being in transition and by experiencing the contrast between opposite spatio-sonic qualities), a situation which can be adjusted and improved in regard to the users perspective and needs.