

CAMPUS PLAN

Umeå Arts Campus



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

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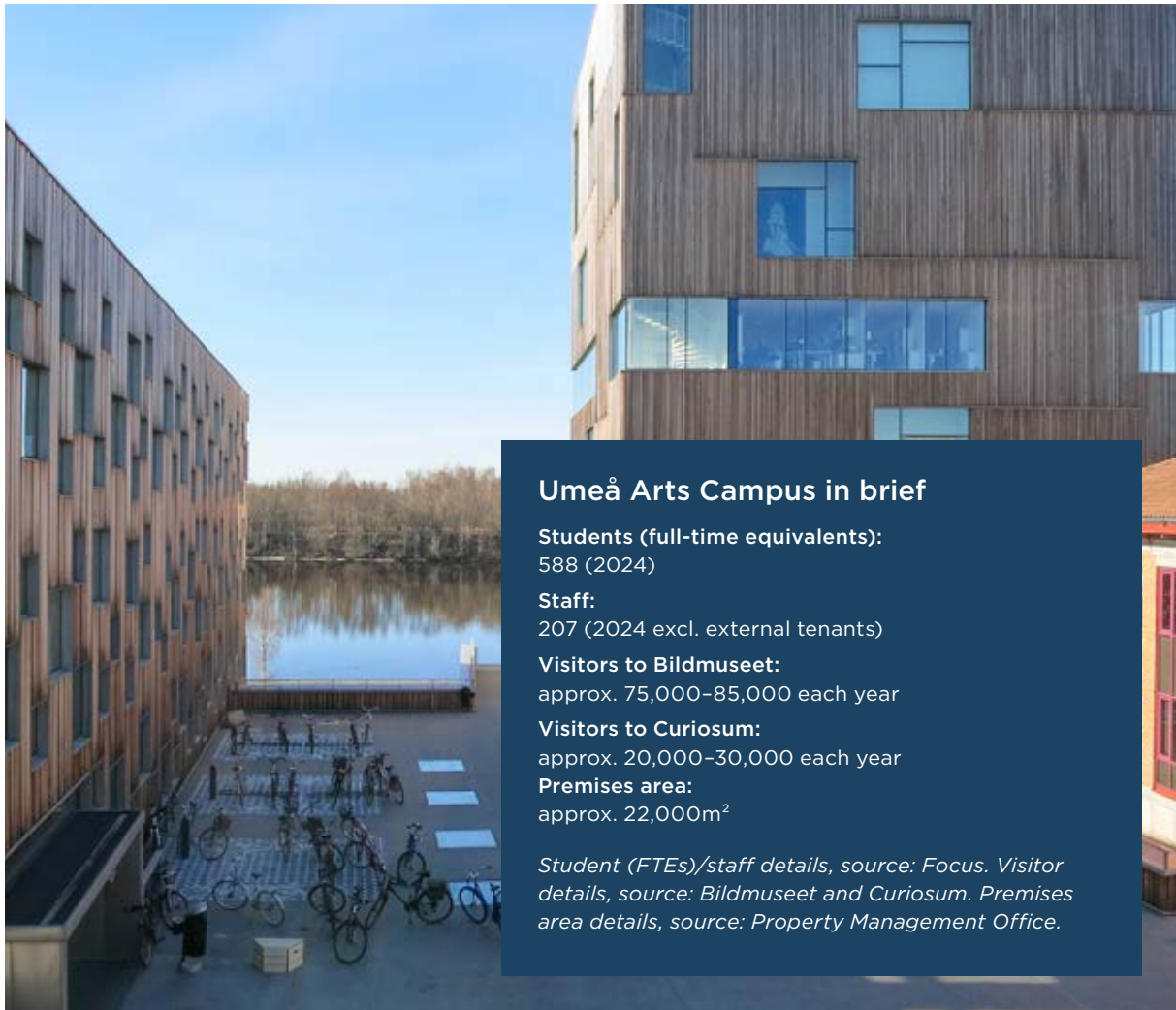


Image 1. Photo: Ulrika Bergfors.

Umeå University

Umeå University was founded in 1965, and is a broad university that carries out research and education within medicine, science, technology, social sciences, humanities and educational science. The University is - and will remain - a campus university, in other words a university where the majority of operations take place on the University's various campuses. In 2023, Umeå University had 38,000 students and 4,600 employees. Umeå University is the accountable authority for most operations on Umeå Arts Campus. As well as providing education within art, design and architecture, the campus is also home to two of the University's public facilities: Bildmuseet and Curiosum.

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Campus X

Campus X is a company that was established by the Wallenberg Foundations and the property and development company Fort Knox. It aims to create attractive properties close to universities, in order to ensure favourable conditions for education and research.

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Summary of campus plan proposal

Overall objectives

To create a vibrant, sustainable and attractive campus that provides stimulation for students, staff and visitors.

To continue developing Umeå Arts Campus as an important location, in which the river landscape, the architecture, the artistic education programmes and the public visitor attractions are unique components.

This means that the campus plan must establish guidelines and conditions for:

- Umeå Arts Campus becoming a natural, integrated part of a growing Umeå.
- maintaining or further developing the area's existing qualities and high architectural value.
- developing identity and orientation on and around the campus.
- creating good opportunities for health, wellbeing, exercise and recreation for all users.
- creating preparedness for changing premises needs, based on sustainable premises development.
- developing a process for joint sustainability work between Umeå University and Campus X.



Themes for the campus plan

1. A unique, vibrant, sustainable and attractive campus

- Developing the area's transitions with its surroundings.

Focus:

- North entrance towards Östra Strandgatan
- Riverside
- Öbacka Park
- A hierarchy of entrances is created.
- Developing outdoor spaces on campus.
- Architectural additions in keeping with the existing character and building structure.
- Roofs are seen as surfaces with potential in the physical planning.
- Future location of shared functions at the river level.

2. Sustainable property management

- The four-step principle is used when premises needs change.
- Some planning preparedness within the applicable detailed development plan.

3. A common focus on sustainability

- A cooperation forum for working with sustainability issues related to property and premises will be created.



1. Introduction

In order to clarify the intentions for the long-term development of the University's campus areas, an overall plan is being drawn up for the main campus, Campus NUS North, Umeå Arts Campus, Campus Örnsköldsvik and Campus Skellefteå. The campus plan for Umeå Arts Campus is a vision document that establishes the direction for future property development. The plan has a long-term time perspective, and aims – as far as possible – to ensure freedom of action for both the University and property owners from a planning perspective.

1.1 Objectives

Overall objectives:

To create a vibrant, sustainable and attractive campus that provides stimulation for students, staff and visitors.

To develop Umeå Arts Campus, where the river landscape, the architecture, the artistic education programmes and the public visitor attractions are unique components.

This means that the campus plan must draw up guidelines and create the right conditions for:

- Umeå Arts Campus to become a natural, integrated part of a growing Umeå.
- Maintaining or further developing the area's existing qualities and high architectural value.
- Developing identity and orientation on and around the campus.
- Creating good opportunities for health, wellbeing, exercise and recreation for all users.
- Creating preparedness for changing premises needs, based on sustainable premises development.
- An agreement for joint sustainability work between Umeå University and Campus X.

1.2 Process

The campus plan for Umeå Arts Campus is the result of cooperation between Umeå University and the property owner Campus X. A steering committee – consisting of the university director and the property and facilities director from

Umeå University and the property owner – has been the decision-making body. A working committee – consisting of the head of unit for campus development and the environmental and sustainability strategist from Umeå University, a representative from the property owner and consultants from White Arkitekter – has drawn up the plan's content. This work was carried out in 2024.

The campus plan has been drawn up based on the objectives and vision of the respective organisations, as well as ongoing planning within Umeå municipality. Knowledge has also been gathered during a workshop with representatives from operations, property owners and students. Visitors, students and staff have been interviewed. Dialogue regarding planning issues has been held with representatives from Umeå municipality. Analyses have been carried out to highlight the area's opportunities and limitations. Based on these, the campus plan's future development areas have then been identified and further refined.

Questions to which particular attention have been paid during the process are:

- How does Umeå Arts Campus interact with the surrounding city and the river landscape?
- How can the qualities of the built campus area be preserved while maintaining freedom of action when premises needs change?
- How can cooperation between Umeå University and the property owner in connection with sustainability issues be developed?



Image 2: Expansion of Laxen 46, and proprieties and property owners next to Umeå Arts Campus.
Photo: Lantmäteriet.

2. Conditions

The campus plan includes the Laxen 46 property. Since planning and development that takes place in the surrounding area may affect the property's opportunities for development, the campus plan also reports to some extent on proposals for solutions and considerations outside the actual campus area.

2.1 Steering documents

The University's steering documents for the plan were:

- Vision for Umeå University, reg. no. FS 1.1-96-19
- Campus plan decision dated 6 March 2012, reg. no. FS 400-668-12
- Environmental and Sustainability Policy, reg. no. FS 1.1-1040-24
- Property management plan, reg. no. FS 1.1-2161-22, approved 7 December 2022

In addition to the above policy documents, the University's property management plan includes principles for strategic property management, which provide a clear direction for the University's management of future premises needs.



Vision for Umeå University

The vision describes where the University aspires to be in the future. It is anchored in three guiding principles:

- Responsibility for the future
- Collaborative development of knowledge
- Competitive edge and pride

The vision is aimed at the University's employees and students, and forms the basis for operational planning. The above vision applies for the period from 2020 to 2025. During 2025, work will begin on drawing up a new vision.

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

The governance of the University's climate and sustainability work is described in its Environmental and Sustainability Policy, together with an action plan which includes objectives and University-wide activities. The current action plan applies for the period from 2024 to 2026, and includes two overall objectives and 13 subsidiary objectives.

Overall objectives:

- Umeå University must contribute towards the global Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030 being achieved.
- Umeå University must be climate-neutral no later than 2045.

Some of the subsidiary objectives are particularly relevant to the campus plan, and involve energy use, use of premises, outdoor spaces and travel.

Strategic property management

The University's property management plan has a focus on sustainable premises development. When new premises needs arise, these needs should therefore be assessed according to a four-step principle for sustainable and efficient use of premises, whereby step 1 is the most sustainable and step 4 should be seen as a last resort once the other three steps have already been tried.

1. **Reduce the need for space**, for example by using outdoor environments or other areas that are already available, or by replacing physical sessions with digital services.
2. **Intensify the use of space**, for example by using spaces and functions at the same time or at different times (including spread out during the day).
3. **Adapt, add to or rebuild** in a way that makes sharing easier.
4. **Build new** but climate-smart and sustainably, and in such a way that a high degree of use is made easier.

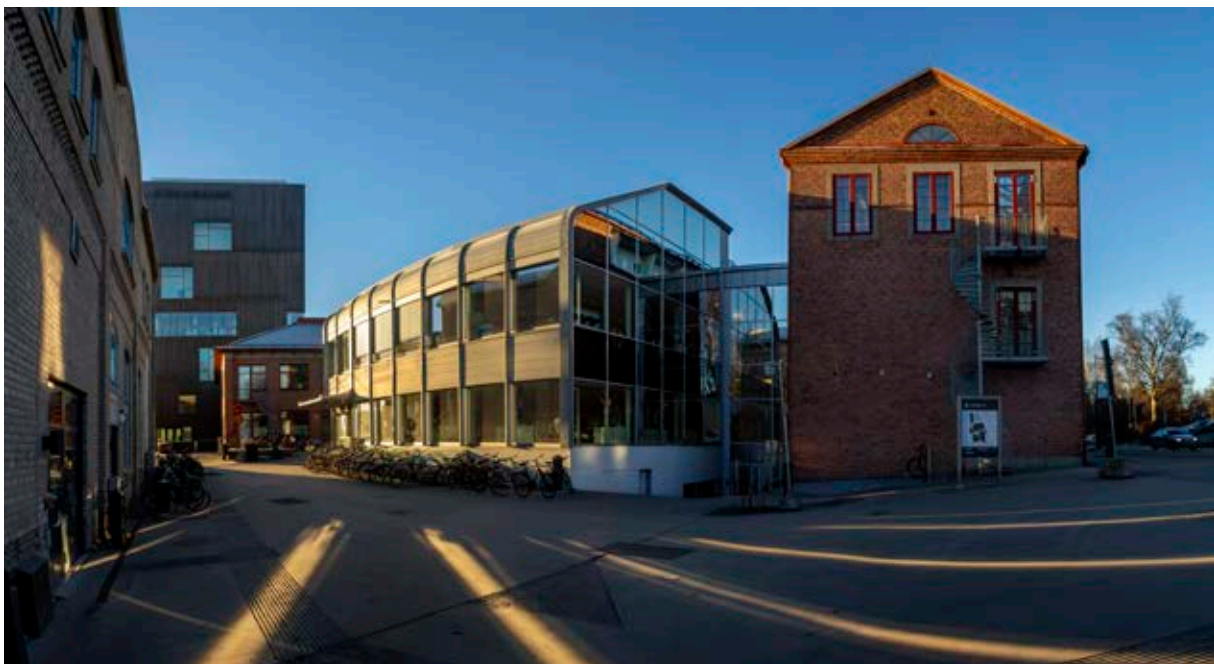


Image 3. Photo: Johan Gunseus.

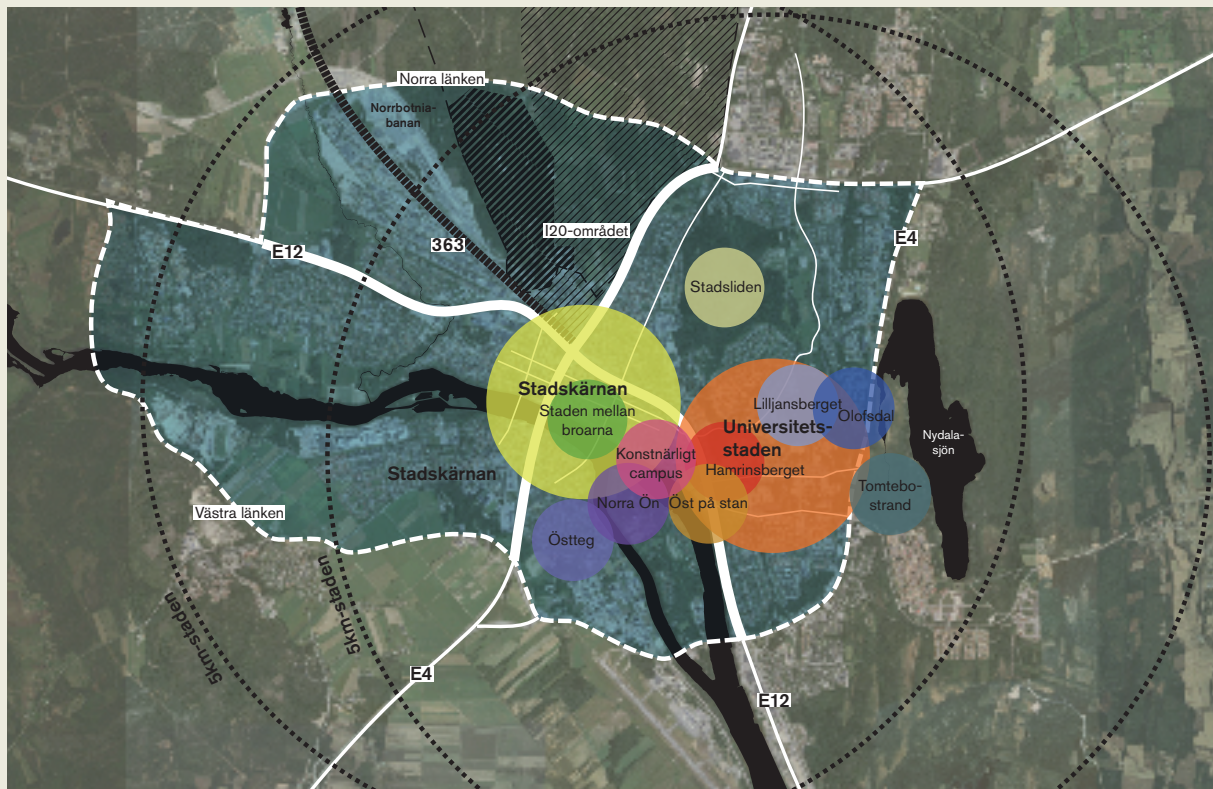
2.2 Comprehensive planning in Umeå

A growing Umeå with two city centres

Umeå's municipal comprehensive plan is based on a growth scenario in which Umeå has 200,000 inhabitants by 2050. Much of the development will take place in the eastern areas of the city, where the majority of the new districts are planned. The detailed comprehensive plan for the University District aims to transform the current hospital and university

area into another city centre, with the goal of creating a district for living, education, research, healthcare and high-quality, locally based business development. The district should also have a clear urban structure, with mixed content. Umeå municipality's comprehensive plan also includes an ambition to link the University District more clearly with central Umeå, which will affect both Umeå Arts Campus and the adjacent Öst på stan district - for further analysis, see 2.3 *The impact of the city's development on Umeå Arts Campus*.

The growing Umeå, concept image



THE FIVE-KILOMETRE CITY - THE HIGH-DENSITY CITY for a dense, compact, mixed-function city.



MORE CITY! - INFILL AS AN INVIGORATING FORCE relates to the city's expansion into a more cohesive urban landscape.



HIGH DENSITY IN NEW DISTRICTS aims to build densely in the initial stages.



GROWTH IN MAIN PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTES AND TRANSFORMING TRAFFIC ROUTES relates to the opportunities for infrastructure transformation arising from new ring roads.



FOCUS ON PUBLIC SPACES AND PARKS is about the importance of the living public space.



EVERYONE INCLUDED! is about a city for everyone.

Image 4: The comprehensive plan's six strategies (Umeå municipality 2010).



Image 5: Planned bridge to Umeå Arts Campus at centre of image. Image from “Design programme two bridge pairs”, Umeå municipality and White Arkitekter

The river landscape and the bridges

There have been several initiatives to develop the northern riverside in central Umeå during the past decade. A number of places and destinations have been created and linked together to form a large public space. The riverbank below Umeå Arts Campus currently lacks similar treatment. A similar initiative on the northern side of the river at Umeå Arts Campus would result in the public space alongside the river extending all the way to Öbacka Park, east of Umeå Arts Campus.

In the northern part of Ön, opposite Umeå Arts Campus, a new district is being planned with space for businesses and around 2,800 new homes. Natural areas and parks will create a green district, and the northern tip of Ön could become an attractive destination for visitors from the whole of the city. New pedestrian and cycling bridges - one at Umeå Arts Campus - will connect the new district with Öst på stan and, ultimately, Umeå city centre. A design

programme has been drawn up showing relatively low bridges that connect with the riverbanks to create simple, smooth movements in the river landscape. Öbacka Park, east of Umeå Arts Campus, will be affected by the new bridge, as the bridge abutment for the new pedestrian and cycling bridge will be built next to the park.

2.3 The impact of the city’s development on Umeå Arts Campus

Umeå Arts Campus’s position between the University District and central Umeå, combined with the new bridge from Ön, will give the campus a strategic, central location. The ongoing expansion of the University District around Umeå Östra station will also result in an improved service offering, as services have previously been largely lacking in Öst på stan.



Image 6: Existing routes. Photo: Lantmäteriet.



Image 7: The new pedestrian and cycling bridge and the planned development on Ön will create a greater flow east of the campus. Photo: Lantmäteriet.

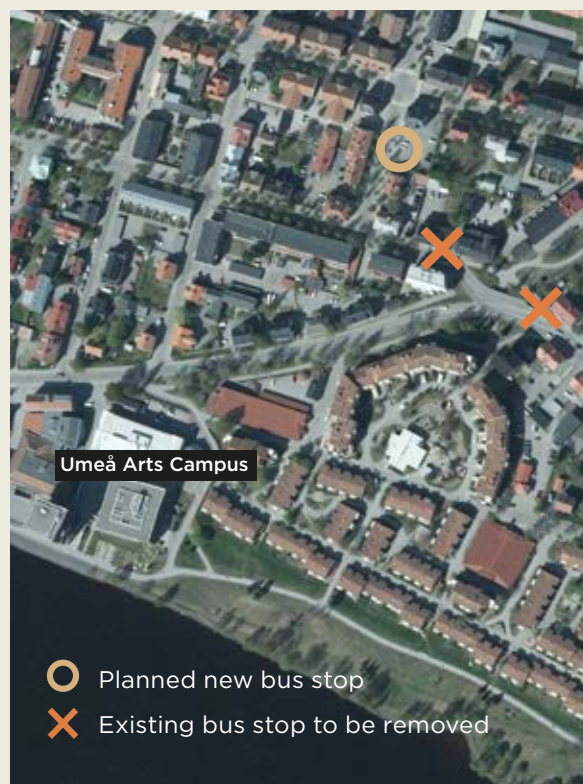


Image 8: Umeå municipality's proposal for new location of bus stop. Photo: Lantmäteriet.

The municipality's ambition to link central Umeå with the University District is also fully in line with the University's interests and, in the long term, may create simpler and better connections between Umeå Arts Campus and the main campus. From the University's perspective, establishing a bus route connecting Umeå Arts Campus with the main campus and a bus stop next to (and serving) Umeå Arts Campus would be an important part of this work.

The new pedestrian and cycling bridge from Ön will affect flows around the campus, and will make it possible to approach the campus from an additional direction. The connections between Östteg, Ön and Öst på stan - and, by extension, other destinations such as central Umeå and the University District - will be improved. Connections with Ön's recreational area and onward transport to Östteg will also be improved.



Image 9: The riverbank below Umeå Arts Campus awaits improvement works. Photo: Åke E:son Lindman.

A planned renovation of Öbacka Park would provide an opportunity to meet the recreational and exercise needs that may be associated with Umeå Arts Campus as a visitor destination and a workplace, which the outdoor environments on campus struggle to meet. Initiatives to develop the northern riverbank at Umeå Arts Campus are not currently part of municipal planning, but would extend the established public space along the river and make it accessible, and this public space would then stretch all the way to Öbacka Park.

2.4 Operations at Umeå Arts Campus

Below is a brief description of each operation.

Umeå School of Architecture

Umeå School of Architecture has an international character, with employees and students from all over the world. At the same time, there is also a clear emphasis on the School's basis in local and regional conditions. Umeå School of Architecture is home to UmArts, Umeå University's research centre for artistic and interdisciplinary research within architecture, design and art.

Umeå Institute of Design

Umeå Institute of Design is one of the world's leading educational institutions for industrial design. With its competitive, professional and international degree programmes, it offers leading research and cutting-edge technical facilities. Around 30 different nationalities



Image 10: Operations at Umeå Arts Campus. Photo: Lantmäteriet.

are represented at the School each semester, resulting in a unique blend of creative energy and cultural enrichment.

Umeå Academy of Fine Arts

Umeå Academy of Fine Arts is one of five educational institutions in Sweden where students can study to become artists. The education it provides focuses on the individual needs of students, and reflects the creative diversity and critical discourse that exist within contemporary art today.

Umeå University Library

Umeå University Library is centrally located on Umeå Arts Campus. The library has books, magazines and electronic resources on contemporary art, architecture and design. It is

primarily aimed at students, teachers and researchers at the University's artistic institutions, but is also open to the public. The library has study areas and bookable group rooms. There is also a bookable resource room for students who need a particularly quiet study environment or adaptations for reading and writing.

Bildmuseet

Bildmuseet is one of Sweden's leading galleries for international contemporary art and is the largest public operation on campus, with approximately 75,000-85,000 visitors each year. Bildmuseet also carries out educational activities aimed at pre-schools all the way through to upper secondary schools, with pupils visiting the gallery regularly throughout the year.

Curiosum

Curiosum is Umeå University's science centre, and children and young people are an important target group. It also includes the academic incubator Expression, which works within the cultural and creative industries. Curiosum welcomes around 20,000-30,000 visitors each year.

2.4.1 The standard of the premises

The premises for Umeå School of Architecture, Umeå Academy of Fine Arts and Bildmuseet, which were created in 2010-2012, of generally of a high standard, with many workshops and meeting spaces.

Umeå Institute of Design's premises are located in several interconnected building structures of varying standards and ages, creating a somewhat inconsistent impression. Curiosum's premises are in a listed building, and have undergone two major renovations from the 2010s onwards.

2.4.2 Analysis of premises use

Despite the large number of meeting spaces and workshops, several operations have reported a shortage of meeting spaces and time in workshops. It should be noted that the meeting spaces and workshops on Umeå Arts Campus can only be booked by individual operations, i.e. they cannot be booked jointly for all operations.

Nor are some of the meeting spaces easily accessible from public areas. There is no overall knowledge about how the various premises are booked or their degree of usage.

2.4.3 Future premises needs

The transition reserve for premises on Umeå Arts Campus is low. Umeå School of Architecture has expressed the highest level of overcrowding. During the years since it moved in, the School has increased its intake of students. It no longer fits in its original premises, and has therefore rented additional premises on level 3 of Curiosum. As a result, more students are using the building than planned, and areas that were originally intended for one function are being used in other ways.

2.4.4 The user perspective

Users have identified the following points as being particularly important:

- Identity
- Outdoor environments
- Cooperation and exchange
- Service

Identity

It emerged during the dialogue with operations and visitors that the river, the architecture and nature are all part of Umeå Arts Campus's identity. It is therefore the physical location, together with the operations that take place there, that represents the campus. Bildmuseet in particular was highlighted for its identity-forming qualities, with the building itself being a prominent landmark.

Overall, however, it emerged that there is a need for Umeå Arts Campus - in terms of both the relationship between the various operations and the relationship between the campus and its surroundings - to become increasingly open and invite visits and shared use.

Outdoor environments

Users see great potential for development in the campus's outdoor environments. There are expectations in terms of more greenery and seating, but there is also an appreciation for the current design, which works well with the architecture on campus.

Cooperation and exchange

The various operations have their own buildings, and there are relatively few shared meeting places on campus. This could result in people not moving around or using each other's premises to any significant extent.



Image 11. Photo: Åke E:son Lindman.



Image 12. Photo: White Arkitekter/Anna Hellsing.



Image 13. Photo: Photo: Åke E:son Lindman.

The fact that these operations were established on campus at different times probably also contributes to this.

Service

The respondents perceived the level of service on Umeå Arts Campus as low. However, the restaurant operations are viewed as positive by many, and are in line with the University's goal of increasing the offering of nutritious, fair trade and climate-smart food and catering options. Different target groups have different needs and different levels of purchasing power to a greater extent here than on the main campus. There are also few services in the

immediate area, but the ongoing expansion of the Umeå Östra station area has led to a supermarket opening there.

2.5 The campus area's structure and development potential

2.5.1 The relationship with its surroundings

Umeå Arts Campus is located within the Laxen 46 property, which occupies a total area of 14,500 m². The planning regulations for the property are governed by the detailed development plan 2480K-P09/37. Umeå



The results from the “Best place” exercise at the workshop held in April 2024. Green = best, Yellow = has potential for development, Red = has significant deficiencies.

Image 14: The south-facing area of grass between Umeå School of Architecture and the river is one of the most popular outdoor spaces on Umeå Arts Campus. It is a popular meeting place for students, and is also used as an exhibition space for large-scale experiments. The area does not belong to the Laxen 46 property, and is owned by Umeå municipality.

University's main campus is within walking and cycling distance, as is central Umeå.

The urban structure around Umeå Arts Campus is characterised by three main east-west routes: Storgatan, Östra Strandgatan and the route along the river, referred to here as Älvstråket. The transverse north-south streets between Döbelns Park and the intersection between

Östra Strandgatan and Storgatan have unclear connections to Umeå Arts Campus, as they do not lead further into the area and down towards the river. This currently affects orientation for those who approach the campus from the north.

Östra Strandgatan is a relatively busy street. The streetscape has a disparate design. Along much of the route west of the campus, there

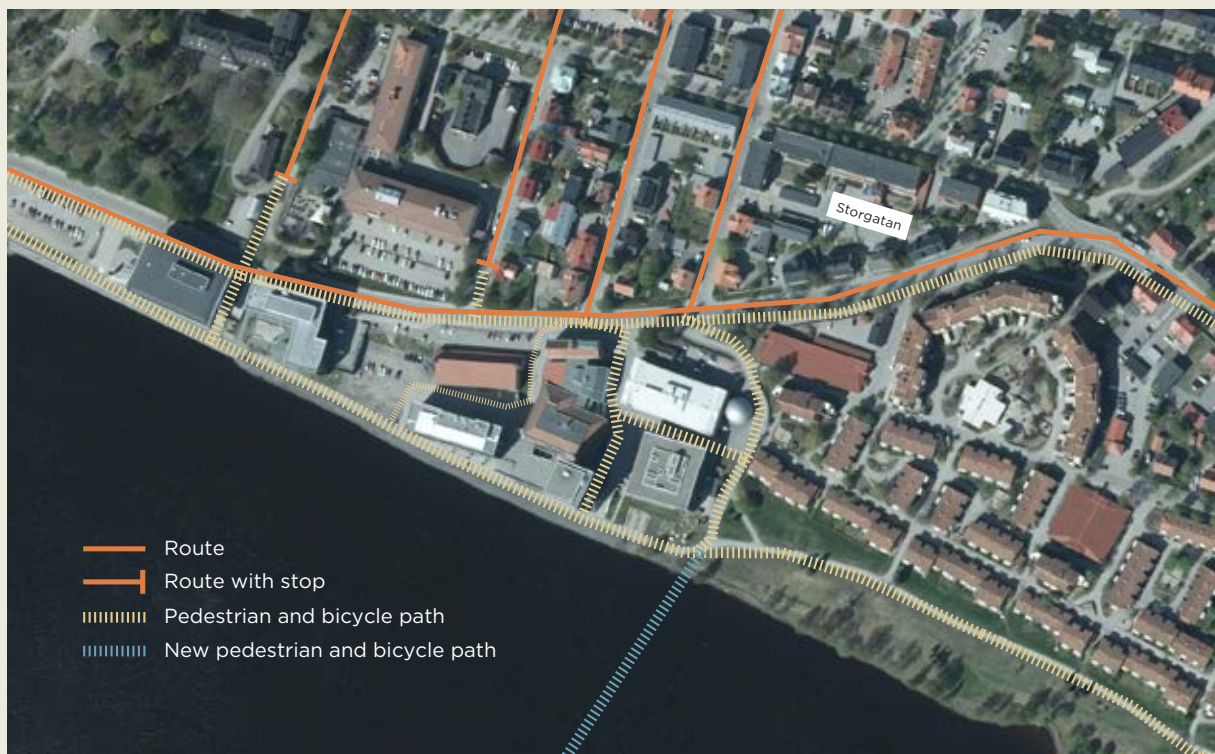


Image 15: Traffic movements in the surrounding area. Photo: Lantmäteriet.

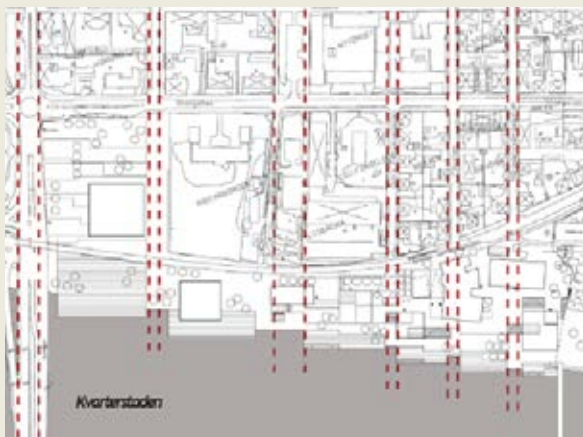


Image 16: Early structural sketch from the planning of Umeå Arts Campus with extended routes and lines of sight.

The original ambitions have been hard to implement in some respects, as the older buildings on campus are located behind the routes. This probably dates back to the time when the area closest to the river was industrial land to which there was no public access. The lack of continuous routes now makes orientation more challenging when approaching the campus from the north. From "Umeå Arts Campus, a summary of sketches, images and drawings - from master plan to individual building", Umeå University, Balticgruppen, White Arkitekter, Henning Larsen Architects.



Image 17: Meeting with the river at the extension of Älvstråket. Photo: Åke E:son Lindman.



Image 18: Umeå Institute of Design's gable ends occupy a prominent position in the streetscape, and could be used for signage. Photo: White Arkitekter/Anna Hellsing.

are paved areas and car parking. The buildings along the street interact with the streetscape in different ways. East of the campus, Östra Strandgatan has a clearer and more consistent design, with recessed façades, trees and a cycle path that is separated from the road. Östra Strandgatan is currently regarded as the back side of Umeå Arts Campus. The changing character of the street, the extent of the paved

areas and the unclear campus entrance (see also under section 2.5.2) all contribute to this. Umeå Institute of Design's gable end provides a possible exposure area amid the streetscape to both the east and the west.

South of the campus, running parallel to the river, there is a walking and cycling path that is also used for recreation. The location along-

side the river is one of its great qualities, but the steep riverbank is made of blasted rock and therefore feels unfinished. It is important that the future design of the steep riverbank connects the river with the campus. The adjacent Öbacka Park, east of Umeå Arts Campus, is simple in design but provides an important green space for recreation.

Visiting Umeå Arts Campus

Umeå Arts Campus is home to two major public attractions, Bildmuseet and Curiosum, placing high demands in terms of orientation and accessibility. From a democratic perspective, public premises need to be accessible to everyone.

The easiest way to reach Umeå Arts Campus is on foot or by bike, either from Östra Strandgatan or from the steep riverbank. Orientation is poor from the north, as described above. There is bicycle parking both on campus and by the river.

Umeå Arts Campus can also be reached by bus. The nearest bus stop is on Storgatan, roughly 400 metres away. The walking route from the bus stop passes under a viaduct with steep descents and a number of kerbs, which can be challenging for people with disabilities such as visual or cognitive impairments. Umeå municipality plans to move the bus stop to Fabrikgatan, which will not improve the situation in terms of either distance or orientation.



Image 20: Car parking on Umeå Arts Campus. Photo: Lantmäteriet.

Visiting groups - primarily schoolchildren and young people - regularly come to the campus by coach to visit Curiosum and Bildmuseet. There is a parking area for these coaches directly north of Umeå Institute of Design. Its position is not ideal from an operational perspective.

Those who visit Umeå Arts Campus by car approach from Östra Strandgatan and park in the signposted car park north of the Umeå Energi building at Laxen 31. The entrance to the campus is hidden from the car park, making it hard to find.

2.5.2 Outdoor environments

The outdoor environments at Umeå Arts Campus are relatively limited, and are linked by a uniform concrete surface. The connection to the river is ever-present, thanks to well-designed lines of sight.

These outdoor spaces handle various flows and traffic movements, which dominate the design and result in relatively few places being designed for lingering. Some of the outdoor spaces are also exposed to strong winds. The causes of this should be investigated further in connection with any development of the outdoor environments.

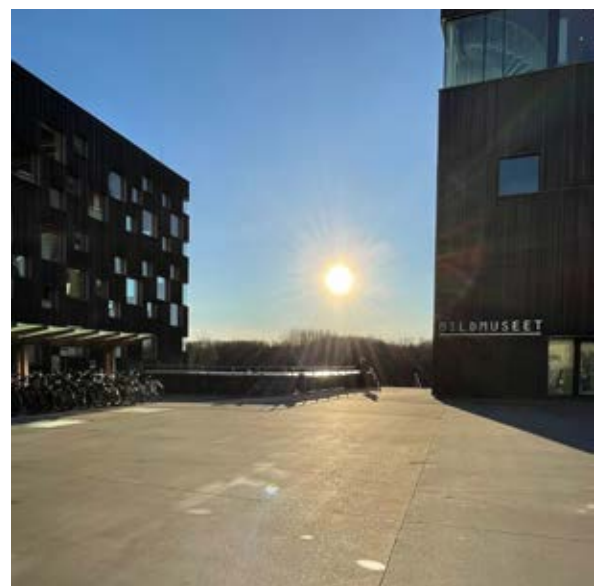


Image 22: Conceptually designed outdoor environment. A concrete floor links all the buildings on Umeå Arts Campus together. Photo: White Arkitekter/Anna Hellsing.

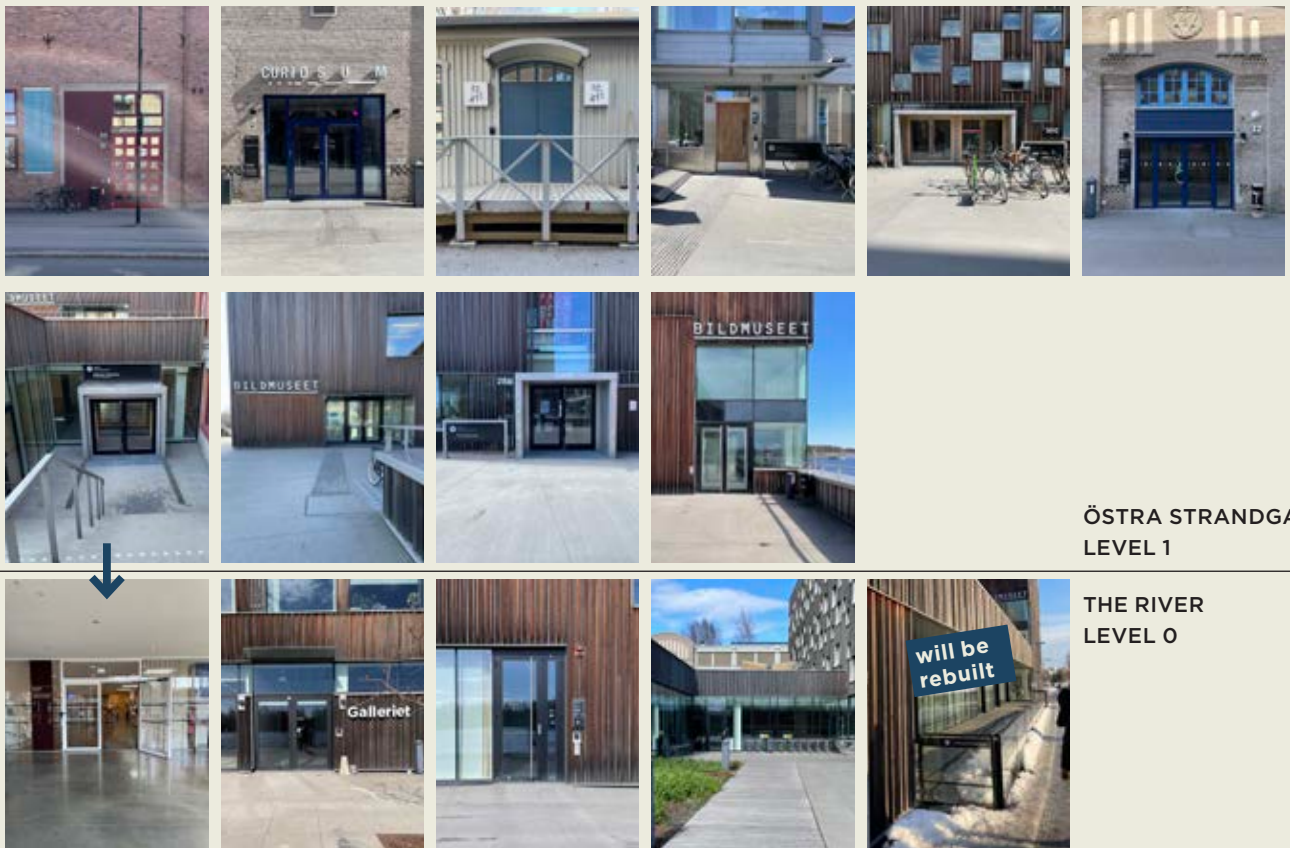


Image 24: Entrances and signage on campus. Photo: White Arkitekter/Anna Hellsing.

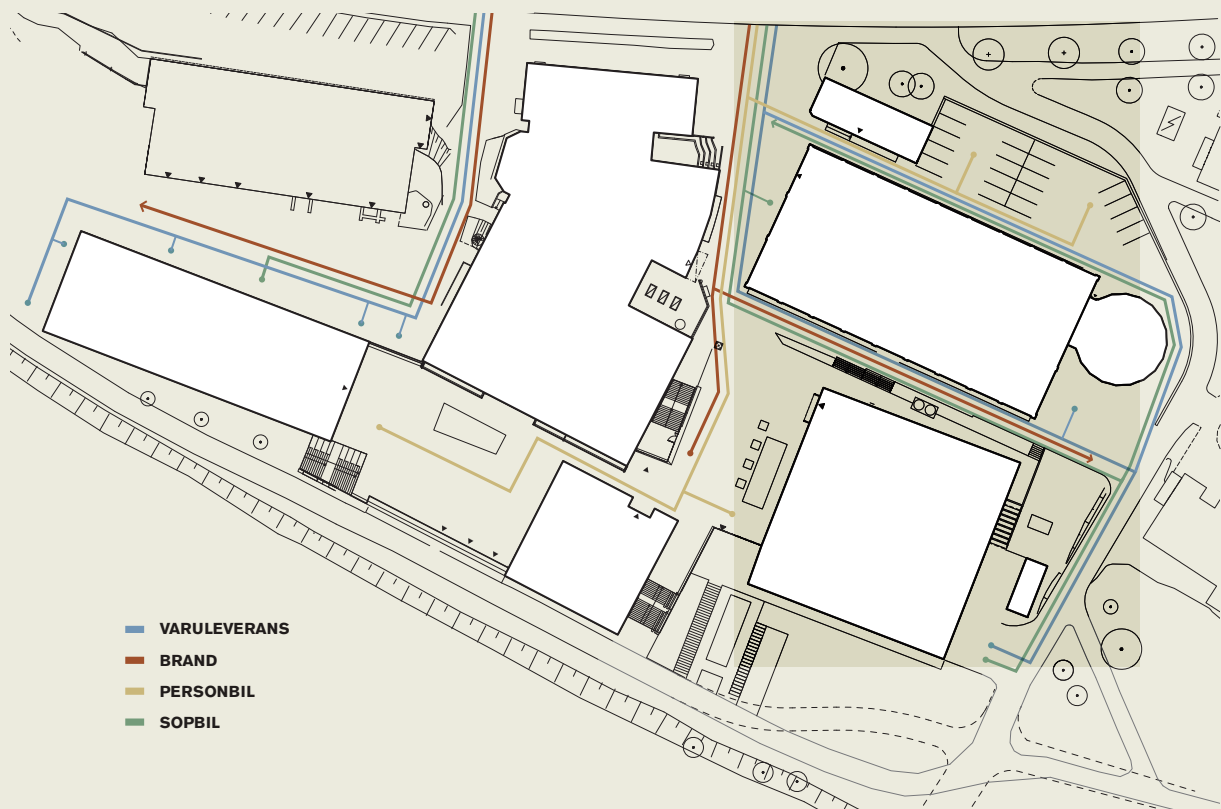


Image 23: Transport movements on campus.

STREET SIDE

Older industrial buildings
1910s–1920s
Rebuilt and extended
Classical
Robust

EXTERIOR

Brick; light red, grey cement
brick with reddish joints, shadow-
forming pattern brickwork
Painted, vertical wooden panel
Natural anodised,
perforated aluminium
Coloured steel and aluminium
sections in windows and doors.
Mullioned windows, arched
upper section
Saddle roof; clay pantiles, felt
roofing, light grey band-covered
sheet metal



RIVERSIDE

Contemporary
Cubist
Industrial
Robust
Sustainable
Continuous movement
Open spaces
Views

EXTERIOR

Untreated Siberian larch in
vertical lamellae with varying
depths and cross-cut short sides.
Blasted, acid-free stainless steel
Glass apertures with varying
sizes and positions that frame
the landscape
Black steel sections
Flat roofs

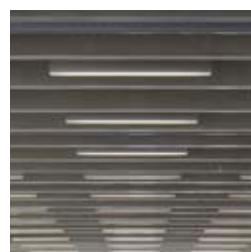


Image 25: Photo: White Arkitekter/Anna Hellsing.

The pared-back environment and the inter-connecting concrete floor make the whole space particularly sensitive to additions such as bicycle parking, signage, litter bins and lighting pillars, which can easily trivialise the experience. The aim of further developing the outdoor environments should therefore be to create social and ecological qualities with a minimum of such additions. The focus should instead be on improving the microclimate, adding greenery and creating places to linger that harmonise with the whole.

Entrances, orientation and signage

The natural entrance to the campus from the north is located between Umeå Institute of Design and Curiosum. The entrance currently lacks a clear design concept, and there are differences in height that make access difficult. As a main campus entrance, the area needs to be clearer and safer, making it obvious where visitors have come and welcoming them.

From the river side, there are several entrances and external steps. Some of these entrances lead to individual buildings, while others lead to individual or shared functions. The external steps lead up to the upper entrance level on Umeå Arts Campus. The natural location for a main campus entrance from the south, based on access and status, would be at the steps between Bildmuseet and Umeå School of Architecture. However, these steps are hidden from view and are the third set of steps in a row with a similar design for those approaching the campus from the west. In the long term, with the connecting bridge and a flow to and from Ön, a clearer campus entrance from the east will also be needed.

Once on campus, signage clearly indicates that Curiosum and Bildmuseet are public operations, as they are distinguished by their own signs/logos. Other entrances are uniformly signposted and follow Umeå University's external signage

Overall building structure, Umeå Arts Campus

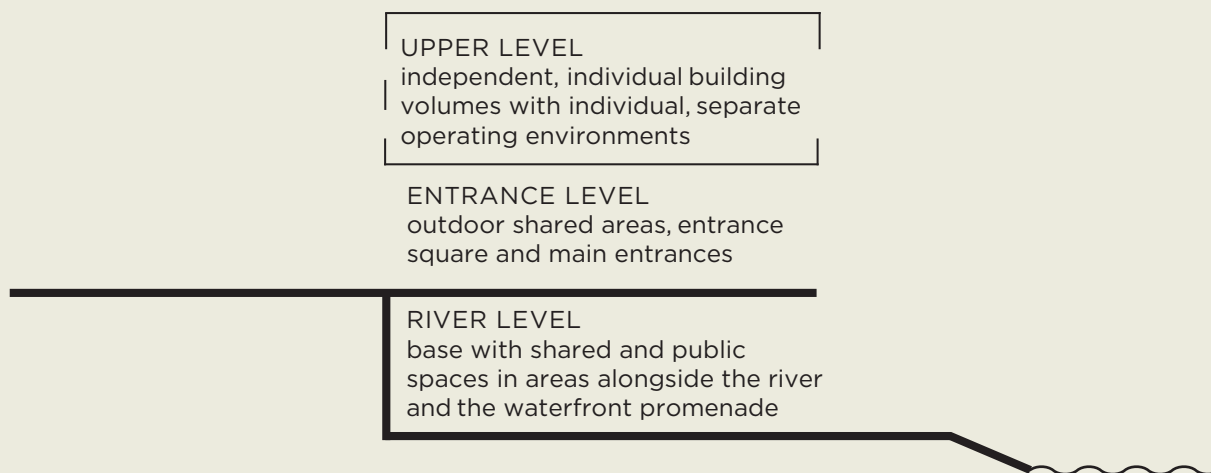


Image 26: The meeting between up and down, blocks and river landscape.

programme for Umeå Arts Campus. The external signage needs to be reviewed to clarify destinations and improve orientation.

2.5.3 Building structure

Umeå Arts Campus is located on former industrial land next to the river. Almost all the campus buildings are of a high quality, with high architectural value.

The major expansion of Umeå Arts Campus took place during the 2010s, and it is the distinctive buildings from this period - with their cubist expression and their vertical larch façade panels - that have come to dominate the impression of the campus. The campus actually consists of several layers, with a number of buildings having been built between 1900 and 1930, some of which are listed buildings. A few more buildings were added during the 1980s and 1990s. In summary, the buildings can be divided up into two different characters, each with its own material palette. The older buildings are all located in the northern part of the campus, facing Östra Strandgatan, while the more recent additions are located towards the river, giving the campus different “faces” to the north and south.

The overall building structure on Umeå Arts Campus developed during the campus expansion in the 2010s. It is built on a large interconnected concrete base that physically joins the buildings at riverbank level. Here, shared facilities are arranged along an internal route that runs parallel to the waterfront promenade and the river. Much of the river level is accessible to the public. The operations’ main entrances are located in the individual buildings at street level, directly adjacent to the entrance areas formed between the buildings. The individual operations’ premises are located on the ground floor and the floors above, housed in individually designed building volumes that make up the silhouette of the campus.

The older buildings have broken roof levels and gabled roofs. The newer buildings have flat roofs with a terraced system of joists. In relation to the current sustainability challenges, where climate adaptations are needed to deal with both heat and heavy rainfall (see also under section 2.5.4) and there is a greater need for (local) electricity production, there is the potential to make additional use of the roofs in future for vegetation, energy production or outdoor spaces.

2.5.4 Climate risks

As part of the work on the campus plan, an initial evaluation has been carried out of future climate risks for Umeå Arts Campus based on the EU taxonomy. This evaluation suggests a high risk of precipitation changes, as well as risks of significant future temperature variations. This could mean more frequent and faster changes between snow, ice, rain and hail, as well as greater fluctuations in outdoor temperatures. The lower landscape of the Ume River is also included in one of the risk areas identified by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency as a national risk area for landslides, erosion and flooding.¹ Further investigation is needed here.

Umeå municipality has also produced a map showing how heavy rainfall could affect the built-up area. The map shows the maximum water depth expected in the event of a hundred-year rainstorm. For the area around Umeå Arts Campus, a water depth of 0.1-0.5 metres is predicted in such a situation. The position of buildings and infrastructure, as well as elevation, should therefore be planned so that surface water can drain away without causing damage in extreme precipitation situations. During the last few winters, Umeå has seen more snow. When continuing to develop outdoor environments on campus, it is therefore important to plan for snow deposits. The greater differences in temperature also mean that icy surfaces will become more common.

¹ <https://www.msb.se/sv/amnesomraden/skydd-mot-olyckor-och-farliga-amnen/naturolyckor-och-klimat/identifiera-sarskilda-riskomraden/>

3. Campus plan

The future direction for the physical development of Umeå Arts Campus has been divided up into three themes:

- A unique, vibrant, sustainable and attractive campus
- Sustainable property management
- A common focus on sustainability

3.1 A unique, vibrant, sustainable and attractive campus

The consistently high quality of the campus environment will continue to be a guiding

principle. This applies to the outdoor environments, the identity-forming architecture and the interiors. This does not mean that what exists today must be preserved exactly as it is, but rather that the current qualities - together with operational needs - should serve as a benchmark for the additions and changes that need to be made over time. Environments with high cultural value require particular consideration, and will be dealt with accordingly.

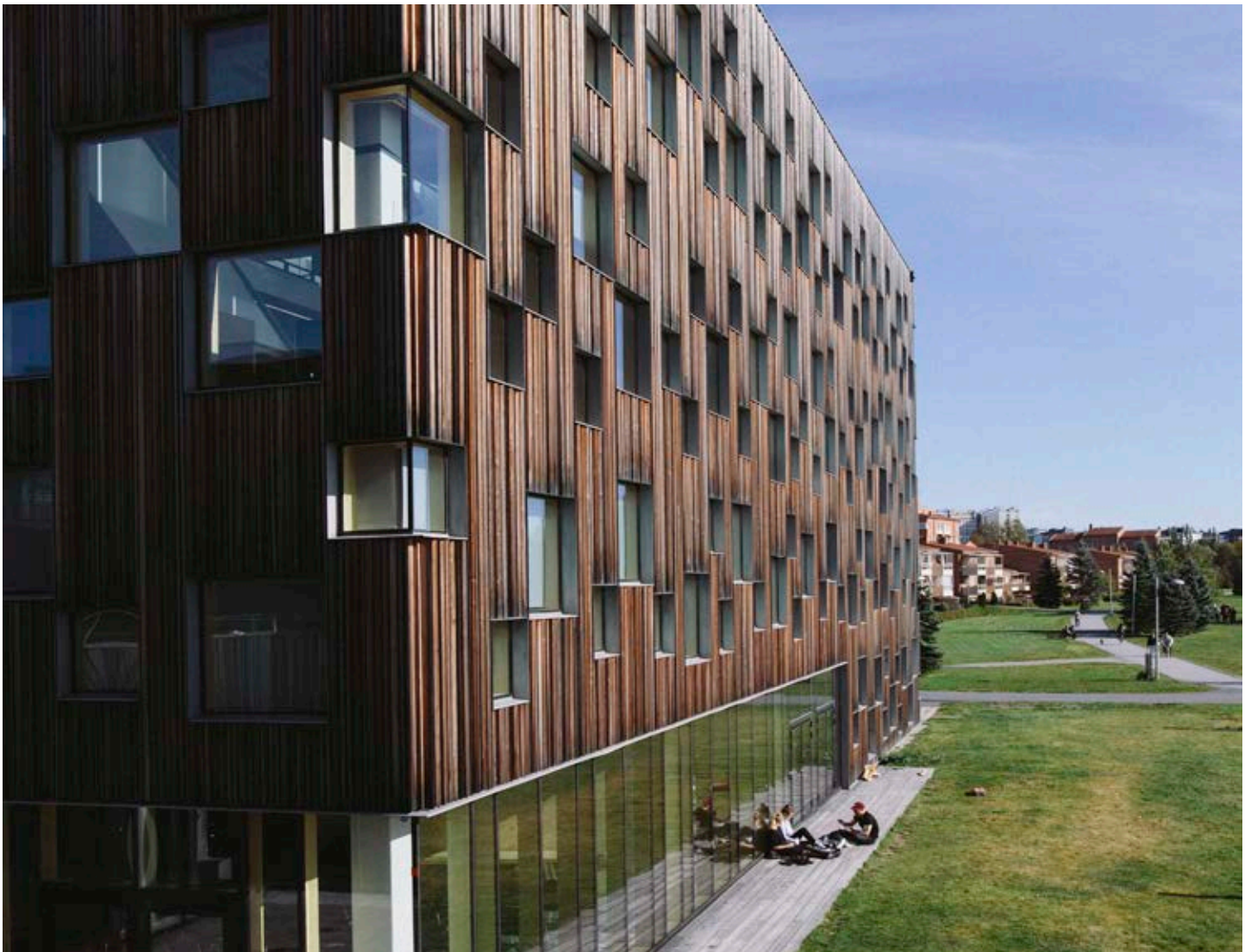


Image 28: Photo: Elin Berge.



*Image 29: The outdoor spaces on campus and the transitions with surroundings need to be developed.
Photo: Lantmäteriet.*

3.1.1 Developed transitions with the surroundings

By developing the interface with the campus's surroundings, a clear and attractive design is created for what constitutes the "outward face" of the campus, and this clarifies the campus's identity in relation to the surrounding city. Developing the physical structures goes hand in hand with developing external signage and lighting.

On campus, the outdoor spaces need to be reviewed since both their functions and the expectations placed on them have changed.

The outdoor areas will be added to and developed with respect for their original design and based on the restrictions that exist, in terms of both size and the form of driving surfaces and substructures. These conditions make it hard to achieve the campus plan's goal of creating good opportunities for health, wellbeing and recreation for everyone on campus. The needs for exercise and recreation, for example, that a large workplace generates must be addressed in the campus's surroundings instead. Such a development will involve additional stakeholders, and needs to take place in dialogue with other property owners and the municipality.

Given the large number of visitors, accessibility aspects such as orientation and signage must be given special consideration, both on campus and in the surrounding area.

Outdoor spaces must be developed with the aim of adding new functions and creating attraction value that encourages use all year round.

An enhanced frontage towards Östra Strandgatan

It is proposed that the section of street running past Umeå Arts Campus should be developed into a frontage for the campus via several different measures:

- The streetscape should be more clearly defined by trees, similar to the section east of the campus.
- The car park north of Umeå Energi should

be reviewed in terms of design and lighting, in order to create a more welcoming environment for both visitors coming by car and passers-by, using simple measures.

- The passage between the car park and the north campus entrance should be redesigned to include bicycle parking. Fewer bicycles would thus need to be stored on campus.
- Umeå Institute of Design's gable ends closest to the street should be used for campus-wide signage, and possibly for lighting.

A new, safe stop for coaches will be located east of the north campus entrance. The existing crossing will be moved and adapted to handle increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the north-south direction, which is expected to be a result of the new bridge.



Image 30: An enhanced frontage towards Östra Strandgatan, illustration plan.



Image 31: View towards the east, Umeå Institute of Design's gable end.



Image 32: View towards the south, the north entrance to Umeå Arts Campus.

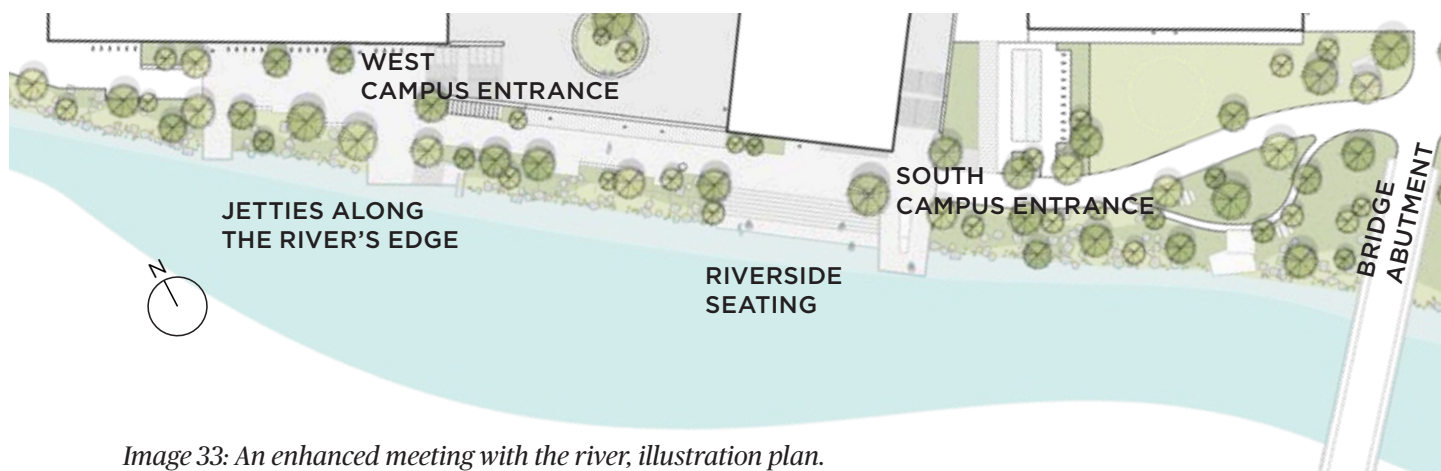


Image 33: An enhanced meeting with the river, illustration plan.



Image 34: View towards the west, Bildmuseet and the south campus entrance.

An enhanced meeting with the river

Älvstråket will be developed past Umeå Arts Campus, as far as Öbacka Park. The waterfront promenade will be developed in collaboration between Umeå Arts Campus and the municipality, with the ambition of offering closer contact with the river and creating an extension of Öbacka Park's greenery. This section will have

a diversified design, with spaces to attract all the city's residents while also forming part of the outdoor space for students and employees. There will be more space for exhibitions and full-scale projects, and the restaurant will have an enhanced outdoor seating area. Artworks can be integrated into the design, thereby becoming part of it.



Image 35: View towards the west, space for recreation and exercise in Öbacka Park.

Öbacka Park: space for recreation and exercise needs

Öbacka Park and the new bridge abutment could be developed into a more attractive destination and a recreational area that would attract a variety of user groups: local residents, students and employees from Umeå Arts Campus, as well as Umeå residents who pass along Älvstråket. The park could be used for many different activities, such as an outdoor gym, a basketball court, a playground, boules courts, and sauna and bathing facilities, as well as enhanced recreational spaces for study and relaxation.



Image 36: Öbacka Park, illustration plan.

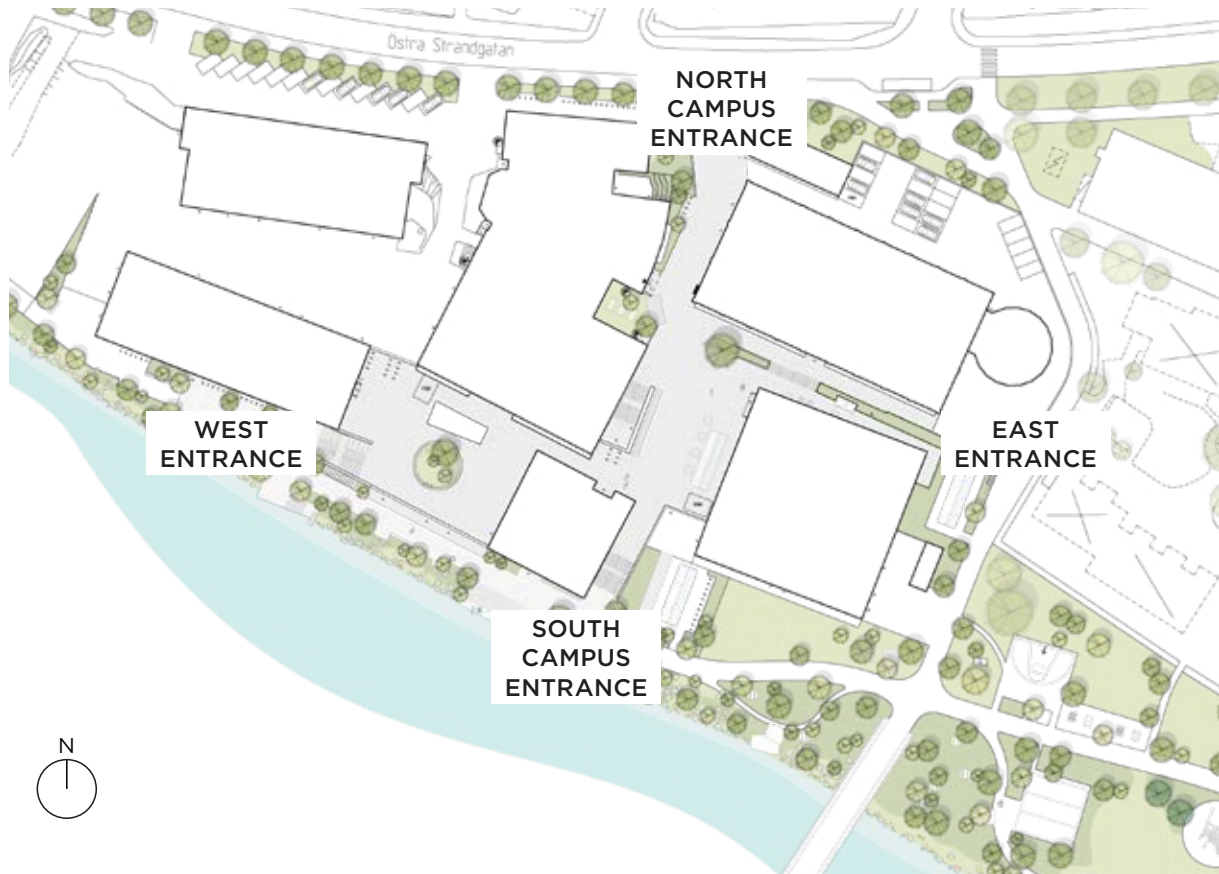


Image 37: A hierarchy of entrances, illustration plan.

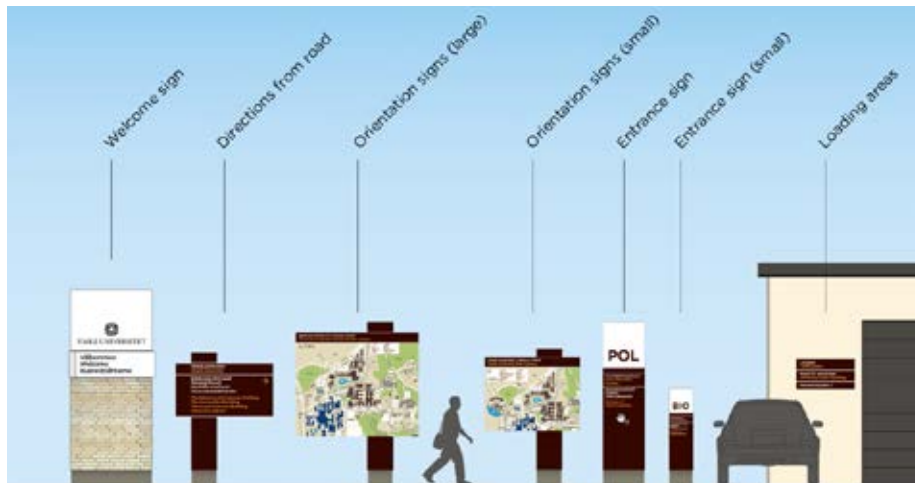


Image 38: Signage concept for campus entrances on the main campus, Umeå University's signage programme.

A hierarchy of entrances

The campus entrances will be organised into a hierarchy, improving orientation and strengthening Umeå Arts Campus's identity within the urban environment. There will be four entrances, one in each direction. North and south campus entrances will be established as the main entrances to the campus area.

The **north campus entrance** will be transformed into an inviting and welcoming place. The northern part of Umeå Institute of Design will be enveloped in greenery, which - together with the new trees along Östra Strandgatan - will create a clear transition from street to campus environment.



Image 39: North campus entrance.

The **south campus entrance** will be developed into a distinct location that links the campus together with Älvstråket, thereby announcing itself clearly.

The **east entrance** will be developed to deal with the new north-south flow, but will have secondary significance just like the existing **west entrance**.

Clear markers/campus signage are being developed to clarify the extent of the campus area. These will welcome visitors, guiding them to the right place.

There will be bicycle parking at all the campus entrances, with the aim of encouraging students to leave their bikes at the entrances wherever possible rather than taking them onto the campus.



Image 40: South campus entrance.

3.1.2 Enhanced outdoor spaces on campus

On campus, outdoor spaces will be developed based on their own conditions, with the overall ambition of creating more seating and introducing more greenery.

On **Umeå Institute of Design's entrance side**, inside the north campus entrance, seating and greenery will be created in a location with a good microclimate. This greenery could be designed as a herb and grass meadow to increase biodiversity.

The space between Umeå School of Architecture, Bildmuseet, Umeå Institute of Design and Curiosum will be developed from simply being somewhere that people pass

across into somewhere that also offers opportunities to linger. Seating will be created along the steps down to the river level, and opportunities will be created between Umeå School of Architecture and Curiosum for planting a large warden tree with seating. These measures will also reinforce the location as a meeting place, as people can find places to wait without having to stand "mid-flow".

Between Bildmuseet and Umeå Academy of Fine Arts, greenery and seating will be added to the bare floor where traffic movements allow. This could take the form of a sensitively designed central area with greenery and seating all around. The possibility of creating an outdoor seating area adjacent to the student kitchen should also be investigated.

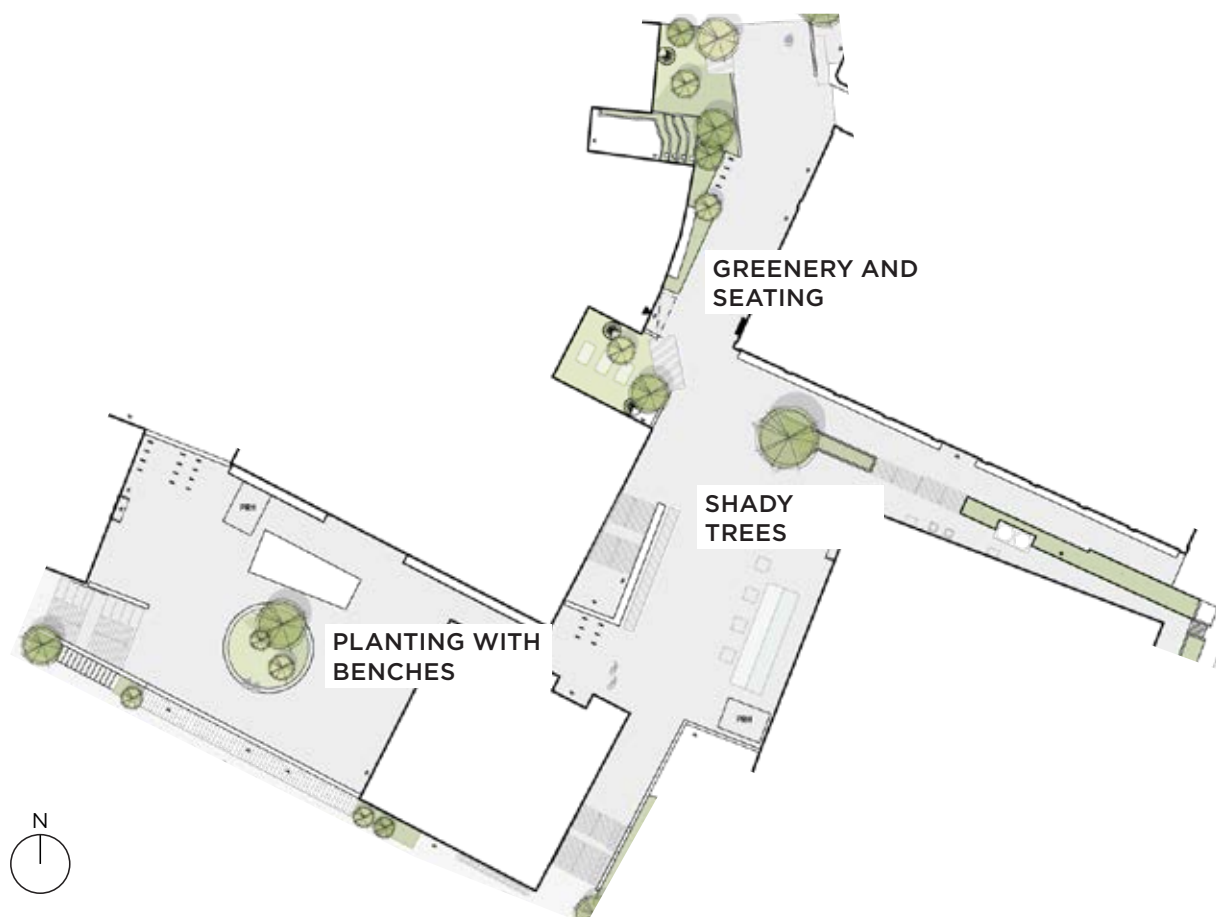


Image 41: Enhanced campus space, illustration plan.



Image 42: View towards the south, greenery and seating.



Images 43 and 44: Left: View towards the southwest, view of the river. Right: View towards the east, place-shaping greenery at the entrance to Umeå Academy of Fine Arts.

Summary of enhanced outdoor spaces and transitions with surroundings

Developing the area's transitions with its surroundings.

- A hierarchy of entrances is created
- Developing outdoor spaces on campus

Focus:

- North entrance towards Östra Strandgatan
- Riverside
- Öbacka Park





3.1.2 Architectural additions in keeping with the existing character and building structure

The campus buildings are of a high quality and a high architectural standard. They will thus serve as a benchmark for future changes in terms of degree of ambition and detail. Any additions must therefore be adapted to the size and materials of the existing buildings. The two characters described in section 2.5.3, with their respective material palettes, form the starting point for this.

Future changes will also contribute towards maintaining or developing the current building structure with its shared river level, its entrance level and free-standing volumes above. The views and lines of sight towards the river must be preserved.

An investigation is currently being carried out into the roofs' potential and suitability for increased use. Any additions to the roofs must also be carried out to a high quality, and in line with the buildings' appearance.



Image 45: The views towards the river are worth preserving. Photo: Åke E:son Lindman.

3.1.3 An enhanced river level

The new, central position of Umeå University Library and the newly established restaurant with its own entrance and outdoor seating area demonstrate the potential to develop the original idea of shared and public functions at the river level even further. In the event of future premises changes, the possibility of creating additional shared or public functions that face the internal route at river level should therefore be considered. Here, for example, shared workshops and more exhibition spaces could be created, and perhaps also a student venue if needed.

This level could also be developed as a social meeting place if the shared areas were furnished to a greater extent than is currently the case. This would also meet students' needs for more neutral study and social areas and dining facilities.



Image 46: The roof has potential for greater use. Photo: Lantmäteriet.

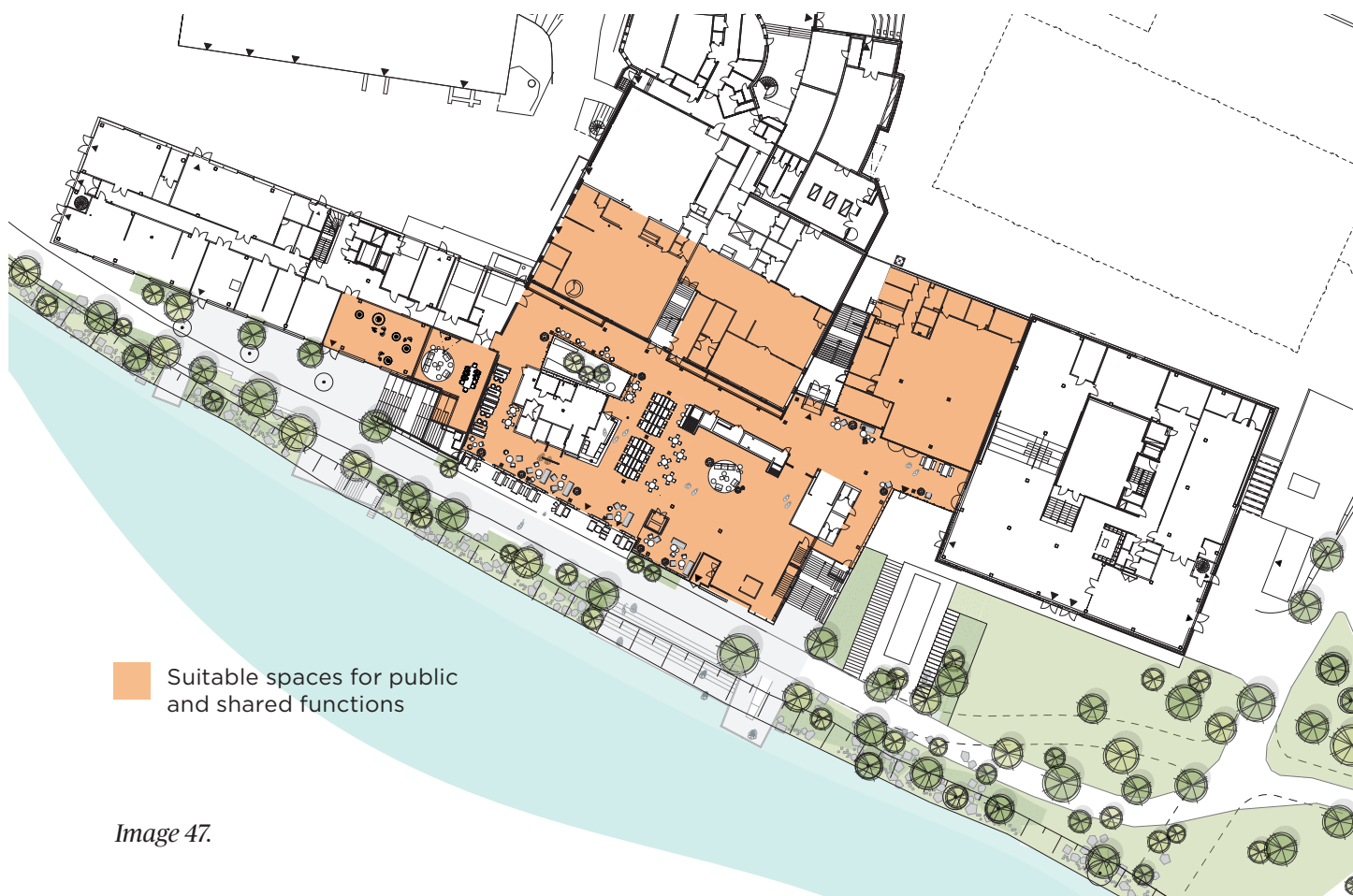


Image 47.

3.2 Sustainable property management

The continued premises development of Umeå Arts Campus is taking place in accordance with the sustainability strategies formulated in the University's property management plan. This means that arising premises needs must be assessed in accordance with the four-step principle - *see section 2.1*. Although the focus in the future will be on using existing premises more efficiently, future expansion opportunities still need to be secured. Having planning preparedness makes it possible to take action if any operation needs to expand significantly due to an increased assignment, and is also necessary in order to have the opportunity to take on new operations or to be able to replace buildings that have reached the end of their useful life in the future. Here, property management and property development go hand in hand.

Principles for future property management and property development at Umeå Arts Campus

Reduce the need for space. This can be achieved by changing working methods or replacing physical elements with digital services. An activity-based approach with "free seating"

could, for example, be one way to address the "officisation" of premises that several operations at Umeå Arts Campus have suffered from in recent years, despite the fact that attendance per employee has fallen significantly.

Intensify the use of space. By using spaces for multiple functions or by using them for a larger part of the day, their use is intensified. One way of intensifying the use of premises on Umeå Arts Campus if new or greater needs arise could be for the various operations to make greater use of each other's premises than is currently the case. This may need to be supported administratively by harmonising booking systems to make it easier to book premises located in different booking systems and to clearly visualise access to vacant premises. It may also be a matter of needing to coordinate scheduling.

Facilitate sharing and shared use. Sharing is particularly important for premises that are resource-intensive, have been expensive to create or have a low usage rate. Sharing may need to be made easier by adapting, extending or rebuilding premises. It may also be relevant to review the possibility of sharing in connection with a need for refurbishment. This could be relevant for the workshops on Umeå Arts Campus, for example, in the future.



Image 48: The existing workshops for artistic education on level 0, which would be existing workshops that could be shared.



Image 49. Large spaces on Umeå Arts Campus that could be investigated for shared use in the future.



Image 50.

Ensure expansion. The availability of building rights on Umeå Arts Campus is relatively limited. There are detailed development plan building rights on the basement level east of Umeå School of Architecture and on two floors at Umeå Institute of Design. In addition, the possibility of an extension to Umeå School of Architecture has been examined when drawing up the campus plan. Such an extension has been deemed possible in relation to both the existing building volume and adjacent buildings, but would require a new detailed development plan.

Build sustainably. Any future expansion must be carried out sustainably, with low climate impact, and must be designed so that a high degree of utilisation can be achieved. Using wood in construction could be a natural development based on the extensive use of wood as a surface material, which characterises the major expansion of the 2010s.

Create a knowledge base. An initial step towards sustainable property management would be to produce a knowledge base using compiled information about current use of premises. This could be done by collecting data via sensor measurements, for example. Such a knowledge base would give a clear

picture of how premises are used today. It would also make it possible to compare usage between operations, and would provide a good starting point for informed discussions on how premises should be developed in the future.

Ensure a transition reserve. In accordance with the property management plan, a transition reserve is needed on campus in order to deal with relocations and evacuations. Parts of level 3 in the Sliperiet building are currently used for this purpose, which works well as the floor has a general layout and can be divided up into multiple units. The sealed auditorium at Umeå Institute of Design can also be seen as a reserve. However, the vacancy rate is currently less than four per cent, which is stated as a guideline value in the property management plan.

Need for further investigations. When a review was carried out of the premises on campus as part of the campus plan, it was clear that both Umeå School of Architecture and Umeå Institute of Design need more in-depth reviews of their premises with the aim of ensuring that they meet needs better and function more effectively in the future. This is dealt with as part of the Property Management Office's ongoing work.

3.3 A common focus on sustainability

Closer cooperation between property owners and tenants regarding sustainability issues is essential in order for the University to meet its sustainability goals, including within the areas of energy and social sustainability. Closer, strategic cooperation between property owners and tenants is therefore being developed within the field of sustainability. The form this collaboration takes, the areas it will cover and who will be involved in the work will be decided on

separately, but the focus will be on the significant environmental and sustainability aspects.

There is also considerable interest in developing sustainable solutions within operations on campus, in relation to both our own operations and the physical environment. This commitment is worth capturing and channelling into ongoing sustainability efforts. From an operational perspective, the single most important sustainability issue is sustainable property management/use of premises, as described in section 3.2.



Image 51. Photo: Mostphotos.

Sources

- Comprehensive plan Umeå municipality, 2018
- In-depth comprehensive plan the University District, Umeå municipality, 2013
- Design programme two bridge pairs, White Arkitekter and Umeå municipality 2021
- Building regulations for Öst på stan - an approach to the district's characteristics, Umeå municipality, 2014
- Umeå Arts Campus, a summary of sketches, images and drawings
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- Report on the current situation and needs analysis for Umeå Arts Campus
 - On-the-spot interviews, White Arkitekter 2024

Image sources

Cover image: Bild i Norr - Mikael Lundgren.

The image source (unless White Arkitekter) is stated for each image.

The illustrations are inspirational sketches, and do not depict the final design.



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