INTRO. How to start an urban, social and economic regeneration that is inclusive and productive at the same time? How to include the local population? How to include new figures in the process? How to fight segregation? How can a process be as sustainable as possible? How to create new opportunities? How to make Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid resilient? How to attract investors? How to allow growth? How to increase density? How to attract new people? How to connect these areas with the city? How to boost vitality? How to introduce variety? How to insert production? How to create circular economies? How to integrate new buildings in the existing context?

These are just a few questions we asked ourselves to reach the conclusion that “Growing Together” must understand the current context of Uddevalla Nord as a complex urban situation, dependent on numerous factors.

For this reason, it understands the necessity to create new relationships that put together all the actors of a regeneration to make it possible a growth on many levels. “Growing Together” therefore proposes an innovative architectural, social, economic, political, cultural and productive framework in order to generate a neighbourghood that is vital, active, inclusive, compact, sustainable and resilient. For this reason, “Growing Together” it is not just a project, but a multidisciplinary process that involves numerous actors, boosting the variety and the community typical of a healthy urban context. During the process, new uses and new architectures will be placed alongside an architectural renovation of the pre-existing buildings; they will provide a unique and fresh character to the three areas, making them recognizable and characteristic. This will then facilitate the creation of a community and a sense of belonging, but also a sense of respect of diversity and of individual features. “Growing Together” is a development capable of attracting new figures within the neighbourhood, and at the same time stimulating the growth of those already present, creating an innovative network of relationships that allows both a spontaneous development of the area, both a controlled development. It will also be an encouragement for innovative production practices, especially not only focused on urban farming, and construction processes based on highly sustainable and effective local circular economies.

PROCESS. “Growing Together” creates a network able to understand the current conditions of Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid proposing the necessary interventions for the effective regeneration of areas. These interventions will be developed mainly in three phases and they will be supervised by a control organism specifically created for the management of the process: the OSD (Office for Sustainable Development). The three phases will have a total duration of 20 years and will be divided into 4+8+8 years so as to provide sufficient time to settle and analyse the new figures and the new interventions. The development of Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid will therefore be gradual allowing adaptation and assimilation by the local population, the city and the entire region. In this way, the spontaneous creation of a sense of community and belonging is encouraged, new investors are constantly attracted, and there is time to effectively evaluate the effectiveness of the adopted interventions, allowing any adjustment. An optimal solution, able to reach full potential in a short time and in a stable, inclusive and resilient way.

PHASE 1.

OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (OSD). The OSD will be one of the first interventions to be proposed for the regeneration of Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid. The office represents the Uddevalla’s Administration in the process, and it will mainly have the task of monitoring the adequate development of the process throughout its duration, and its openness towards the population. This means that the OSD will be responsible for involving the local population through participatory processes and putting it in contact with the emerging figures and stakeholders that the same office will have the task of attracting, making the whole process as inclusive as possible. The OSD will also have the task of promoting the areas and it will search for the necessary investors to launch all the interventions, and especially to start the creation of a diverse, active and vital community. To do so, the OSD will be composed by the municipality, lawyers, architects, urbanists, sociologists and economists.

DIGITAL PUBLIC PLATFORM. To support the management of the entire process, and especially of participatory processes for the local population, the OSD will develop a public digital platform where it will be possible to access all the resources of “Growing Together” and to all the initiatives in progress, as well as to facilitate the direct relations of the local population with the new figures. The platform will also introduce a “points-rewards” system with the aim of encouraging local sensitivity and creating a sense of belonging and care for the place. You can get points by doing activities that stimulate the community, that are approved by the OSD, and that are recognized through the platform itself (they can range from the care of urban greenhouses, to the relocation of bike sharing services, to promotion of community activities, etc). The points obtained can then be spent to obtain reductions on the costs of all the new activities of Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid, including the rental of greenhouses, the rental of production spaces, the use of leisure or sports activities, the use of public transport or bike sharing, etc. The digital platform is therefore not only a means of local communication and transparency, but it is an instrument of involvement that helps and completes other activities in creating a new inclusive, vital, active and prosperous neighbourhood.

ATTRACTING FIRST STAKEHOLDERS. The potential results of “Growing Together”, promoted by the OSD, will serve to attract the first stakeholders needed to boost the beginning of the regeneration and create new internal synergies. These first investors will be involved in partnership with the public administration to generate the first, broader and more symbolic interventions of the entire process: the Uddevalla market, the sawmill and the hydroponic cultivation greenhouses. These three are necessary interventions for the development of “Growing Together” and which guarantee economic stability for the development of future circular economies, as well as acting as attractors for future potential lower-scale production activities. Therefore, they are medium-long term interventions capable to seduce stakeholders such as Swedish companies in the field of green buildings, green infrastructures, agriculture and forestry, recycling and waste.

MARKET. The city of Uddevalla, like the entire region, lacks a general market, that is, a place where local products and imported products are concentrated. A commercial place also capable of driving new activities, and above all capable of generating new vitality. The Uddevalla market will therefore be an experimental place, that can produce resources thanks to its high-efficiency multi-storey hydroponic greenhouse structure, and at the same time it will be the regional centre for fruit and vegetable goods. A place that acts as an attractor and that is located on the border between Bulid and Hovhult, thus also working as a connector between the urban context and what will be the agricultural context of Bulid. A centre of commercial exchange that includes also new farms-to-table gastronomic commercial activities that will attract people not only from the city, but also from its surroundings and neighbouring cities, a place therefore able to increase the passage of people to Uddevalla Nord and thus stimulate new activities and interests.

HYDROPONIC GREENHOUSES. The Bulid area will in part be converted into an agricultural area able to provide a continuous fruit and vegetable production to stimulate a local circular economy and to supply the market. For this reason, hydroponic crops will be placed in high-tech multi-storey greenhouses, able to increase production and reduce water and fertilizer consumption by 80%. The organic waste that will inevitably be produced from this
The presence of all these new nodal elements stimulates the consequent need of new uses in the surrounding urban environment. The OSD will therefore involve the initial investors and the local population in experimental participatory processes to initially organize the inclusion of these uses by pop-up interventions. These will be financed at the beginning by the first stakeholders and they will be placed mainly in the areas of Dalaberg and Hovhult so as to be more in contact with most of the population. These interventions will be freely usable, and they are going to be linked with the platform to create the local network. The pop-up structures will then introduce a principle of urban variety and a community reactivation in the area, opening the door to more stable and lasting interventions.

**PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES.** The OSD, together with a team of architects, urban designers, sociologists, anthropologists, agronomists etc, will regularly hold meetings and workshops with the local population of the three areas to start a participative decision-making process and to put them also in relation with investors. These processes will define the main decisions around the general guidelines of the process. The population is therefore actively included in the development of the interventions with the aim of establishing a collective sense of belonging and a shared knowledge of the neighbourhood.

**TEMPORARY ACTIVITIES.** To stimulate the reactivation of the district and a renewal of its architecture, various local artists will be invited by the OSD with the task of generating new temporary symbols for the neighbourhood. These will characterize the areas and will act as reference points in a situation devoid of typical elements. The interventions will act mainly on the existing buildings so as to start in the meantime an urban renewal which will then develop architectonically in the subsequent phases of the process.

**CREATING COLLECTIVITY.** These first interventions attract new actors within Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid, encouraging the spontaneous emergence of new activities, both public and private, that start to create a local sense of community and belonging. These will be channelled into popup spaces and they will start a regeneration of the areas based on the increase of vitality, interest, exchange, knowledge and production. It is then created a collective conscience that stimulates the interest towards the improvement of the area and that is fuelled by the increase of the general well-being and of the potentiality of the district. In this way “Growing Together” lay the foundations to propose deeper interventions that will significantly improve the local conditions and that will also modify the architectural and urban aspect of the neighbourhood.

**FLEXIBILITY.** “Growing Together” has a high degree of flexibility as it does not only depend on the number and type of interventions proposed, but above all it depends on the creation of an internal multidisciplinary infrastructure. This means that the process can carry out the regeneration of the neighbourhood even if one or more interventions are not implemented or not entirely developed. In fact, the whole process is structured so that even if everything seems strictly dependent, it is possible to establish new relationships independently of the others because the process exists on different levels, making Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid highly resilient.

**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY.** “Growing Together” is not only a process that creates and strengthens the social, political, cultural and architectural condition of Uddevalla Nord, but it is also economically highly sustainable. The interventions will always be made by seeking an intense collaboration with the stakeholders, introducing a system managed by the public administration and by popular participation and carried out by private, or in public/private partnership. In this way the process can develop gradually, weighing very little on public pockets, making the whole operation feasible and sustainable despite its temporal and economic extension. There will therefore be a system of relations not only between the population, but also between investors and the public administration. In short, it is created an efficient and resilient urban system, capable of spontaneously develop and revitalize Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid from all points of view.

**PHASE 2.**

**ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND PREFERENCES.** The digital platform, participatory processes and pop-up activities could be also used as a database and a worktable for an in-depth analysis of local preferences, through the studies of the data produced by the digital platform. This analysis provides a concrete study of the population’s needs according to the areas and the blocks in which they are taken. This information can be used to plan in detail the new series of interventions and to foster the search for new stakeholders to transform the popups into consolidated interventions. The first phase then acts as a testing period to reduce the risk of failure for the more stable interventions, and to encourage solutions that are more effective in the short to medium term, thus providing a greater impulse to local regeneration. Furthermore, it starts a synergistic process that combines the tools of bottom-up processes with top-down ones since it is completely based on local needs and it is processed by a public entity.

**ATTRACTING STAKEHOLDERS.** The concrete analysis facilitates the search for new stakeholders who will be called upon to develop the consolidation of the area by introducing productive, commercial, residential, urban farming and leisure activities in a more stable and lasting form. Local businessman, local shops, entrepreneurs, small offices, and young start-ups are then invited to take part of “Growing Together”. The new activities will also meet the needs of the transient population.
derived from the sawmill, the market, the greenhouses, the cement plant, the recycling centre and the OSD. They will then create an exchange between the local people and the temporary ones, creating also an opening of Dalaberg and Build towards the rest of the city helping to attract new people to the area. In this way internal segregation is fought, as well as new jobs and new possibilities will be created, starting a vital sharing of activities necessary for the development of an inclusive, safe, varied and flourishing urban context.

**DENSIFY IN HEIGHT.** The areas of Dalaberg and Hovhult, despite their modernist morphology, possess a consolidated structure, rich in potential for public and private spaces. For this reason, regenerative interventions are mainly in height to densify the areas, thus excessively affecting the use of public land and maintaining the original morphology of the place. Many of the new activities, especially the productive and urban farming ones, will therefore be developed above the existing buildings using additional structures made of laminated wood produced mainly in the sawmill. Every new intervention on top of a building will be served by public elevator and circular ramps. This in no way prevents the construction of brand-new elements in the whole neighbourhood, but it works as a general guideline to follow when possible to improve the current situation without removing it and restart it, making the whole process unsustainable and utopic.

**GREEN PRESERVATION.** Densifying in height would also mean preserving as many urban green areas as possible. These are in fact a peculiar feature of Dalaberg and Hovhult that should be preserved as they generate a local identity and they foster new housing, production and commercial models. The relationship with the nature of the place is then taken as a strong feature of “Growing Together”, a distinctive urban fabric that connects and relates all the interventions and that makes the three areas unique. The synergy between the constructed elements and the naturalistic area is the key to reach the maximum potential of Uddevalla Nord.

**CIRCULAR CONSTRUCTION ECONOMY.** Densifying in height above the existing structures would also be economically more convenient and would also save construction time. In fact, given the geometric regularity of the pre-existing structures, it is relatively simple to construct additional structures that support new the interventions, or that allow the expansion and the improvement of the actual situation. These structures, when possible, will be made of laminated wood from the Build sawmill, and will use cement products from the Northern cement factory. In this way the construction and transport costs will be reduced to a minimum, together with waste and polluting emissions. The entire process is then very economically and environmentally sustainable, while continuing a construction tradition that is now very rooted in Sweden.

**URBAN FARMING.** High productivity urban greenhouses will be placed mainly above the existing structures based on the preferences data obtained by the platform. In this way, block by block, it is possible to extrapolate the approximate and potential percentage of the people who will use the greenhouses; thus, it shows the appropriate number for the general and local demand. The greenhouses can be booked through the platform itself; the population will then be able to produce vegetables on its own, facilitating local self-sufficiency in the fruit and vegetable sector. The greenhouses will each be cultivated with only one type of vegetable, to facilitate the maintenance process and easily establish the harvest’s timing. There will be greenhouses of different sizes for each vegetable, which will be used for cultivation cycles according to the required production needs. The produced vegetables can then be used for personal purposes or sold at the Uddevalla market. If a greenhouse remains vacant, the OSD will take care of the harvest and sell it directly to the market. Furthermore, the OSD will work in partnership with the owners of the Build greenhouses and with the support of the population, to carry out regular maintenance. A principle of agricultural circular economy is generated, reducing waste, optimizing land potentiality and seeking agricultural sustainability at the urban level.

**PRODUCTIVE SPACES.** New production spaces will be placed mainly above the existing structures, and will provide equipped and technological solutions for the attraction of new start-ups, small businesses and offices. New forms of coworking will also be promoted to increase productive possibilities and to open to local inhabitants, which can easily access through the platform and its “points-rewards” system. These activities will further attract new actors in the neighbourhood inevitably requiring a greater number of services and increasing urban density.

**COMMERCIAL SPACES.** The data analysis of the first phase could be used to make truthful commercial forecasts that respond to fixed and transitional needs. The commercial spaces are mainly placed at ground level to enrich the urban human scale and create a vital and active ground level, generating inclusion and security. These spaces will create a more complex and varied urban morphology, stimulating public community contact, creating a collective feeling based on knowledge, respect and contact. Commercial activities may also be implemented on the ground floors of existing buildings in order to strengthen the revitalization of the human scale and to activate the buildings. These interventions can only take place if the tenants of the ground floors decide to move; their homes can then be rented or bought by local small entrepreneurs to start new businesses.

**RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION.** The existing residential buildings will be renovated through a series of interventions to improve its intrinsic and spatial qualities through widening the architectural variety of the neighbourhood and increasing the aesthetic impact. The possible interventions will be selected with participatory processes organized by the OSD that include the inhabitants in the decisions. They may vary from the placement of balconies on all facades of the building, up to the extension to the outside of the same building. Varying the architectural offer of the area, introducing new rhythms, new geometries and heights, as well as new residential possibilities, will contrast the feeling of monotony and repetition that degenerates into boredom and alienation. Improving the conditions of existing buildings instead of directly building new ones promotes a greater sense of belonging. This is because the absence of the demolition and construction processes where inhabitants will be transferred from a situation to another; this transfer in fact destroys the bonds of belonging built over time, stimulating a feeling of indifference to the new place that it could potentially degenerate in deeper internal segregation. However, also new residential buildings will be built where appropriate, if they do not enter in conflict with local needs and if they create new possibilities.

**LEISURE SPACES.** Hand in hand with other activities, leisure spaces will also be placed on the ground level between residences and on top of pre-existing buildings. These are fundamental for building a local contacts network and rooting the feeling of local community.

**PEDESTRIANIZATION.** Thanks to the presence of multi-storey car parks that mainly enhance the three driveways of Fjällvägen, Hovhultsvägen and Dalabergsleden, it is possible to propose an integral cycle-pedestrianization of Dalaberg and Hovhult. Local bike sharing services will also be placed to promote sustainable mobility in the area. Pedestrianization favours the consolidation of the human scale, encouraging an increase in contact between local community generating a sense of safeness and wellness. Moreover, it fully integrates with the increase in density of the urban area which makes it a compact and extremely varied neighbourhood ranging from the most vital and active, to the most peaceful and calm.

**MULTI-LEVEL HUMAN SCALE.** The urban variety that is created, together with the pedestrianization, allow a significant enrichment of the human scale on several levels. The shops and public activities activate the ground floors, allowing a new configuration of public spaces new plazas, elements that are totally absent in the actual urban fabric, will born between the residential buildings, becoming new places of commerce and exchange; at the same time urban greenhouses and productive activities, combined with the presence of public roofs and elevated shops, allow the creation of vitality and a human scale even at the level of the buildings. In this way the buildings are partly revitalized and the accessible public spaces are doubled, encouraging a spontaneous colonization of the neighbourhood. The interventions push towards
the creation of innovative and potential-rich possibilities that would transform Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid into an avant-garde urban context capable of interacting with the population on several levels. It expands the possibilities without consuming new soil and without demolishing the existing buildings. A highly sustainable and effective solution that allows the district to reach its maximum potential.

PHASE 3.

ATTRACTING NEW PEOPLE. The stable and active community, economic and commercial prosperity, vast production activities and the urban farming characterization of the area will attract new inhabitants and new entrepreneurs. This growth in demand can be used by the OSD to generate a new type of offer and bring “Growing Together” in its final phase, or better, in its new starting point for future developments.

ATTRACTING NEW STAKEHOLDERS. The increase in demand creates fertile ground for further densification by expanding activities and adding new buildings. In a consolidated and vital context, new buildings would in fact have a much greater impact and financial gain than if they had been inserted in a “conflictual” context like Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid at the beginning. In this way new buildings could stimulate new changes and make the area evolve reaching its maximum potential. This potential allows the OSD to attract new medium-large investors wishing to densify an area that is now economically strong and with a stable and satisfied community. Conditions that are very favourable for an investment by Swedish companies in the field of agriculture, organic research and bio energy, developers, but also for sports infrastructures and constructors. Furthermore, stakeholders in the field of sustainable mobility and vehicle-sharing will be attracted by the numerous mobility interventions that will be promoted in the district.

NEW HOUSES. The construction of new residences is one the first steps to face the new demand. These will be mixed-use and full of common areas open to the community. The new residences will increase the local density and create new spatial relationships that will enrich the urban morphology of the neighbourhood, creating internal synergies between new, regenerated and public space. These new buildings will complement new residential solutions built above the voids left on existing buildings, continuing the intervention phase of the second phase and thus reducing the consumption of public land and green areas and leaving the main local characteristics unchanged.

EXPANDED ACTIVITIES. As the demand for houses increases, so does the demand for more commercial, productive, leisure and urban farming activities. These will be integrated into the new residential buildings, and at the same time they will be expanded on the existing buildings. The creation of new houses and the expansion of activities allows to occupy the urban voids left without use and to densify the area to the maximum potential, obviously leaving the green areas and the consolidated public spaces unaltered as much as possible. All the new activities will be further upgraded with high efficiency solar panels on top of the new interventions; they will be partly financed by regional subsidies and with the economic support by solar panel’s manufacturers that would be selected by the OSD. The panels will improve the general energetic sustainability of “Growing Together”, reducing emissions and consume.

WATER TOWER. The Dalaberg water tower will be regenerated to become the symbol of the cultural area of “Growing Together” and the connection point with the research and development center. The water tower will retain its original function as a water reservoir, which will however be used primarily to irrigate urban greenhouses. New tanks will be installed, where it is the necessity, above the existing buildings, supported by an additional lamellar wood structure. These reservoirs will mainly store rainwater collected from systems located in regenerated buildings and public squares.

CULTURAL CENTER. The increase in local density requires the addition of broader categories of uses, to respond to the growing needs of the population. Besides the increase in general activities, the construction of cultural centres and schools is proposed to further strengthen the concept of community and to generate a greater variety of uses and possibilities, as well as new workplaces. These will therefore be physical hubs where the community will be able to evolve, making “Growing Together” more resilient and in continuous transformation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPING CENTER. The OSD will work in collaboration with the agricultural investors of Bulid, Universities or other research companies, to promote the construction of a research and development center for urban farming. This center will mainly seek innovative solutions to increase and improve the production of urban greenhouses, experimenting on “Growing Together” their solutions and thus elevating Uddevalla to the forefront of the sector, further characterizing the entire area and attracting new figures.

TRAMWAY. An electric tramway that connect Uddevalla Nord with the city centre could be a very sustainable improvement that could increase exchanges and connections useful to make the neighbourhood more inclusive, open vital, active and productive. It would then connect “Growing Together” directly to Uddevalla’s city centre, opening the doors for an expansion of the process beyond its borders. Moreover, it would introduce a sustainable mobility system not yet present in Uddevalla, but that could mean a general progress for the city. The entire axis will in fact become an equipped urban park, the central spine of the neighbourhood, connecting Dalaberg Hovhult and Bulid and creating paths in connection with the existing sports centre and new naturalistic routes.

GREEN MOBILITY. The pedestrianization and the tramway lead to an experimental green mobility which will be improved through sharing: in fact, various local electric bike and scooter-sharing stations will be located within Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid. New electric car sharing systems will be also fostered, to strengthen a possible green mobility that could be expanded to the city. These sharing services, as well as the tramway and all the other “Growing Together” activities, will be an active part of the “points-rewards” system of the digital platform, providing an additional motivation for the local people to use them, know them and establish a sense of belonging capable of strengthening the community itself.

STRATEGIC SITE. “Growing Together” therefore does not interact only with the immediate context but tends to expand to the strategic site of Europan up to the city centre. It is a process that introduces to Uddevalla an innovative way of conceiving the urban environment, which resides in the connection between all its elements and its figures in order to achieve greater completeness. A way that naturally tends to expand and include a greater number of components, thus becoming the starting point for possible new developments in the city of Uddevalla and in the entire region.

CONCLUSIONS.

“Growing Together” transforms Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid into a new compact neighbourhood that could work as a starting point for a further enrichment of the entire city. It is based on an innovative socio-economic-politic-cultural-architectural structure that increase the district’s attractiveness, breaking the patterns of segregation and increasing the economic and social sustainability of the area. A process that involves all kind of stakeholders to place new characteristic uses in the area and renew the existing buildings with the aim to transform the neighbourhood into a lively area but also containing quiet, more intimate and naturalistic environments. A process that create a new network between people and between urban environments, that uses existing premises and utilize urban gaps to produce new opportunities and to experiment new social and economic development. A process that creates local circular economies around construction processes and urban farming. A process that is highly sustainable and relies on local recycling and biomass power plants to reduce to the minimum the emissions. A process that transform Dalaberg, Hovhult and Bulid into resilient, sustainable, lively, active, productive, fresh, self-sufficient, dense, green and prosperous areas.