

# STOCKHOLM THRESHOLDS



A photographic diary, based on a visit to Stockholm in October 2016.

A visual exploration of the city thresholds, their types, access differences.

An ode to the geological build-up of the city, which created a necessity for a more complex public connection between levels and places.

ALEKSANDRA KRAVCHENKO  
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**UNIT 21**



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# MAPPING I

## KEY

- Transport links
- Commune boundaries
- Topography identification
- Alkoholförbud radius
- Alkoholförbud secondary radius
- Alkoholförbud locations
- Systembolaget shop locations
- Threshold conditions in urban environment - study



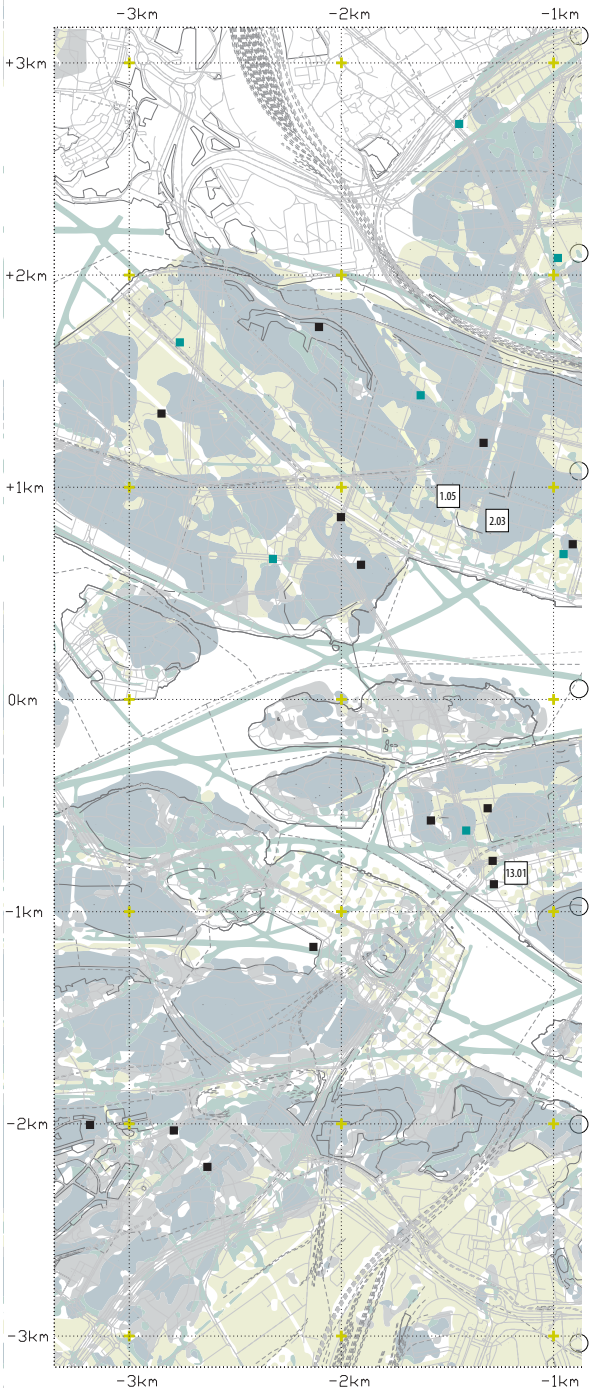




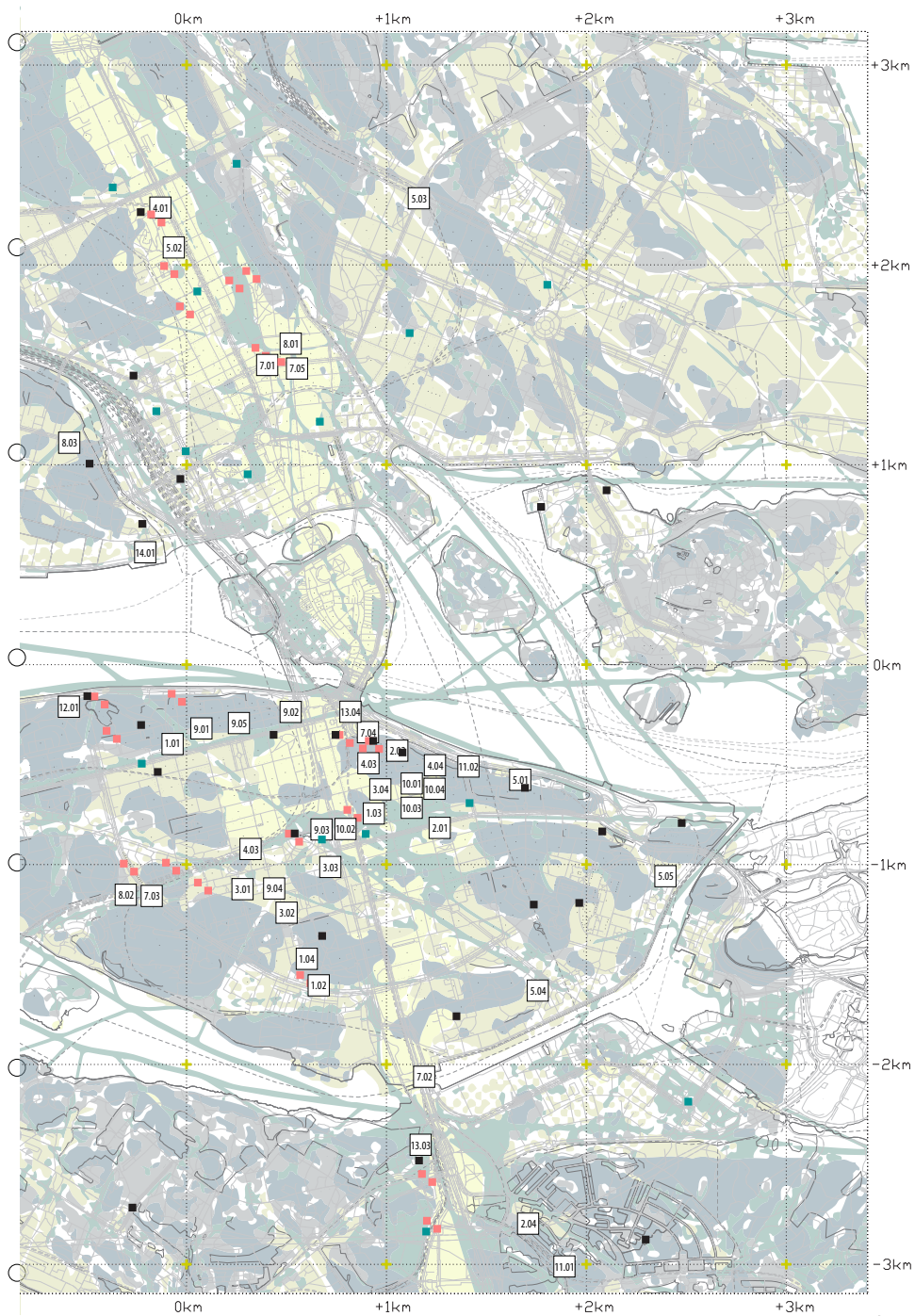
# MAPPING II

## KEY

- Transport links
- Commune boundaries
- Topography identification
- Alkoholförbud radius
- Alkoholförbud secondary radius
- Alkoholförbud locations
- Systembolaget shop locations
- Threshold locations visited
- Rock
- Clay
- Tunnels
- Transitional: stone, sand, gravel







# RAMPS



Fig.1.01

Ramps may mainly be found where a different programmatic urban element happens at a different level; often in locations, where a part of the hill was flattened at a later stage.

Fig.1.01  
Walking up to the entrance

Fig.1.02  
Walking down to the garden

Fig.1.03  
Walking down to the playground

Fig.1.04  
Walking down to the street

Fig.1.05  
New parallel ramp street formed

# RAMPS



Fig.1.02



Fig.1.03



Fig.1.04



Fig.1.05



# CONNECTING PARALLELS



Fig.2.01

Södertrappan was first a wooden stair, that was later replaced with a more robust stone stair by the noble family who owned the land on the turn of the 20th century and were unhappy with walking unnecessarily long routes to reach the water.

Fig.2.01  
Södertrappan

Fig.2.02  
Entering the building at different levels

Fig.2.03  
Pedestrian and automobile levels separated

Fig.2.04  
Residential and commercial streets separated



# CONNECTING PARALLELS



Fig.2.02



Fig.2.03



Fig.2.04

# THRESHOLD WITH PROGRAMME



Fig.3.01

Where difference in levels results in a somewhat grander stair, there is often a programmatic element involved - such as a car park, storage units or ventilation output for subterranean services.

Fig.3.01  
Services room in Södermalm

Fig.3.02  
Electrical services room in Södermalm

Fig.3.03  
Ventilation output from subterranean car park

Fig.3.04  
Offset shop entrances

THRESHOLD WITH PROGRAMME



Fig.3.02



Fig.3.03



Fig.3.04



# VIEWING PLATFORM



Fig.4.01

Where two different levels meet, the part adjacent to the stair may acquire a new use as a viewing platform, with a potential programme underneath.

Fig.4.01  
Stadsbiblioteket by Gunnar Asplund

Fig.4.02  
Skogskyrkågården

Fig.4.03  
Söderkyrkan

Fig.4.04  
Northern end of Södermalm, looking towards the water

# VIEWING PLATFORM



Fig.4.02



Fig.4.03



Fig.4.04

# PROMENADE



Fig.5.01



Fig.5.02

Transition between different levels may stretch along the width, as well as height, of the hill. This creates a condition for a promenade - an elongated romanticised journey through urban landscape.

Fig.5.01  
Levelled wandering route to the water

Fig.5.02  
Topography-like cut through the hill

Fig.5.03  
Pedestrian and automobile levels separated

Fig.5.04  
Stair between residential and public spaces

Fig.5.5  
Stair wandering down, with observation points



# PROMENADE



Fig.5.03



Fig.5.04



Fig.5.05

# MEDITATION



Fig.6.01

Stairs used as a meditative tool. Gradually increased stair rise manipulates the speed of experience, by creating a smooth transition.

Fig.6.01  
Stairs leading to the top of the hill at Skogskyrkogården, overlooking the cemetery

Fig.6.02  
Stairs next to pond in close proximity of Asplund's Chapel in Skogskyrkogården

# MEDITATION

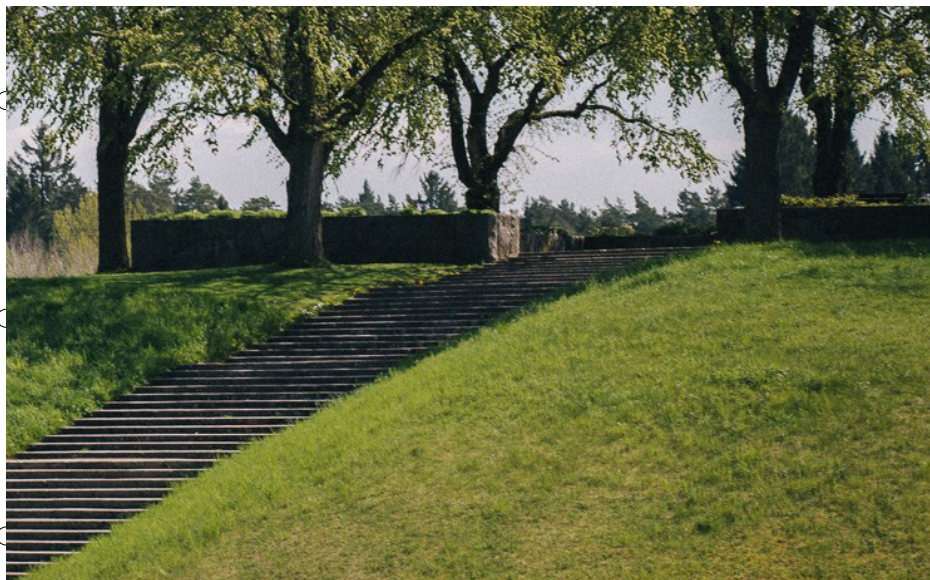


Fig.6.02



# STREET ABOVE STREET



Fig.7.01

Stairs used as a meditative tool. Gradually increased stair rise manipulates the speed of experience, by creating a smooth transition.

Fig.6.01

Stairs leading to the top of the hill at Skogskyrkogården, overlooking the cemetery

Fig.6.02

Stairs next to pond in close proximity of Asplund's Chapel in Skogskyrkogården

# STREET ABOVE STREET



Fig.7.02



Fig.7.03



Fig.7.04



Fig.7.05

# TUNNEL



Fig.8.01



# TUNNEL



Fig.8.02



Fig.8.03

Among the examples of pedestrian / cyclist tunnels, there is Brunkbergstunneln, leading across the ridge of Brunkebergsåsen.

# BREAKING UP THE STREET



Fig.9.01

Predominantly on Södermalm, there are examples of a street being broken up by a stair.

This regulates and dictates the pace at which one walks, as well as creates certain views.

Fig.9.01

A cafe located on one of the stair landings, northern Södermalm

Fig.9.02

A stair and a ramp in northern Södermalm

Fig.9.03

A steeper stair with one large landing vs a stair with a smaller slope

Fig.9.04

Stair between the older and the newer houses

Fig.9.05

Dug out areas for a flat entrance throughout vs a steep stair down to a parallel street

# BREAKING UP THE STREET



Fig.9.02



Fig.9.03



Fig.9.04



Fig.9.05



# LOWERED PLANE



Fig.10.01

Around central Södermalm, there is a number of public realm spots, developed in the 1960s-1980s, where a social activity happens at a different level.

This differentiation allows for an access strategy, as well as a new type of boundary, which does not involve fences.

Fig.10.01  
Playground in central Södermalm

Fig.10.02  
Public area on Medborgarplatsen

Fig.10.03  
Promenade and play separated

Fig.10.04  
Stair between play area and the street

# LOWERED PLANE



Fig.10.02



Fig.10.03



Fig.10.04

# ACCESS LEVEL



Fig.11.01

Access at a level different to street level grants a threshold of dual character - both urban and psychological.



# ACCESS LEVEL



Fig.11.02

Fig.11.01

Disabled access to an office building that dates back to mid-1990s.

Fig.11.02

Former terrace above the street becomes appropriated as a site for a restaurant.

# RIDGE



Fig.12.01

One of the most interesting threshold conditions encountered, perhaps, is Skinnarviksberget.

While granting the visitors access to the ridge and one of the most beautiful views of Stockholm, overlooking Kungsholmen, it also is a difficult journey to the top, and the ridge itself is the destination.

Fig.12.01  
Panoramic view of Skinnarviksberget

Fig.12.02  
Gathering point at the bottom of Skinnarviks-  
berget

# RIDGE



Fig. 12.02



# BRIDGE TWO BUILDINGS



Fig.13.01

Bridging two buildings/streets at a level above ground is a condition created as a necessity at a later time to that when the buildings themselves were erected.

The examples found on the north of Södermalm, as well as on the mainland south of it, illustrate an interesting change in materiality and transparency of these links.

Fig.13.01  
Residential bridge in northern Södermalm

Fig.13.02  
Residential bridge in northern Södermalm -  
view from a lower street level

Fig.13.03  
Link between two commercial buildings

Fig.13.04  
Pedestrian bridge to the rooftop restaurant and  
public viewing platform on Södermalm

## BRIDGE TWO BUILDINGS



Fig.13.02



Fig.13.03



Fig.13.04

# PASSAGE



Fig.14.01



# PASSAGE



Raising the bottom floor above the ground in this case implies creating shelter - the space in-between the indoors and the outdoors.

Fig.14.01  
Stadshuset, Kungsholmen

# KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN



Fig.15.01

# ○ KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN



## **1.Kungsgatan:**

- a.Dug through Brunkebergssäsen in 1911
- b.1.5km long from Birger Jarlsgatan to Kungsholmsgatan
- c.large concentration of cinemas, theaters & concert halls, dating back to late 1800s-early 1900s: Lundbergska Huset, Oscars Teatern, Centrumhuset, Myrstedt&Stern, Konserthuset
- d.two bridges over Kungsgatan – Malmkillnadsbron and Regeringsgatans bron
- e.building style: transition between 1920s neoclassicism and functionalism
- f.north of Kungsgatan – older part, south of Kungsgatan – newer part

## **2.Malmkillnadsbron:**

- a.Malmkillnadstrappans coordinates 59° 19 54.7 N, 18° 3 59.6 E
- b.Malmkillnadstrappan 89 steps
- c.Next to Centrumhuset
- 3.Centrumhuset:
  - a.Cirillus Johansson, 1929-1931
  - b.30000sqm
  - c.Swedish film industry rented top floor until 1985
  - d.Unusual brick construction一一
  - e.Structure – steel
  - f.Use - sales rooms and offices, with an underground parking street
  - g.Due to prime location in the City, it has housed a lot of neon advertisement
  - h.The architect himself considered Centrumhuset an advertisement for brick – a rarely used material in the late 1920s
- 4.Regeringsgatans bron:
  - a.Material – granit
  - b.Kungstrappan by Wester+Elsner 2004



# KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN

Close-up



Fig.16.01



Fig.16.02

Fig.16.01-16.07

The natural level of Brunkebergsåsen is the level of Malmkillnadsgatan, or the bridge shown in the images

# ○ KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN

## Close-up



Fig.16.03

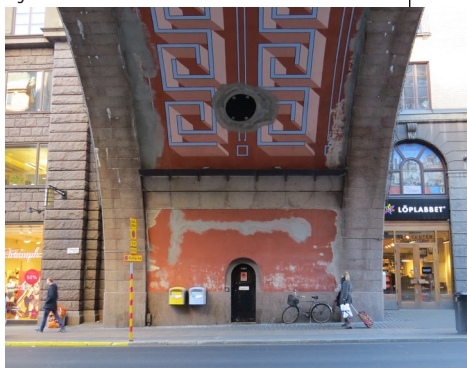


Fig.16.04



Fig.16.05



Fig.16.06



Fig.16.07

# KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN

Malmskillnadstrappan



Fig.17.01



Fig.17.02



Fig.17.03



# ○ KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN

## Malmskillnadstrappan



Fig.17.04

Malmskillnadstrappan is the stair, connecting Kungsgatan and Malmskillnadsgatan, which is also the reminiscence of the ridge of the Brunkebergsåsen.



Fig.17.05

Fig.17.01-17.05  
Malmskillnadsgatan meets Kungsgatan

# KUNGSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN

Oxhuvudet elevations

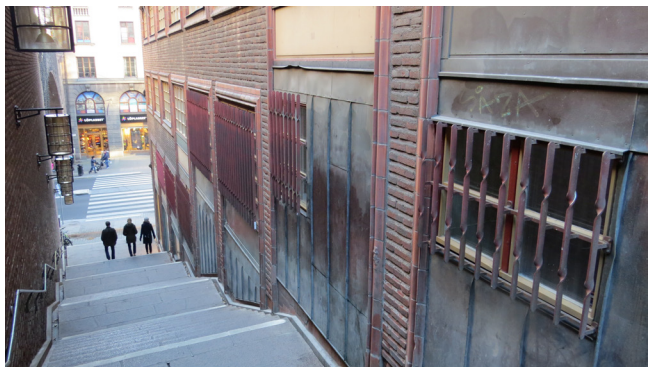


Fig. 18.01



Fig. 18.02



Fig. 18.03

# KUNSGATAN / MALMSKILLNADSGATAN

Oxhuvudet elevations



Fig.18.04



Fig.18.05

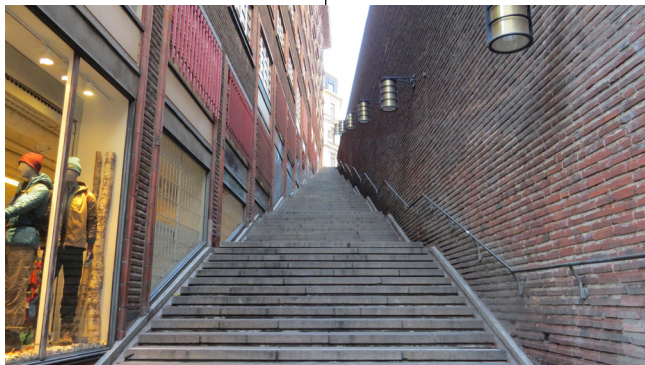


Fig.18.06



# HISTORY: BRUNKEBERGSÅSEN

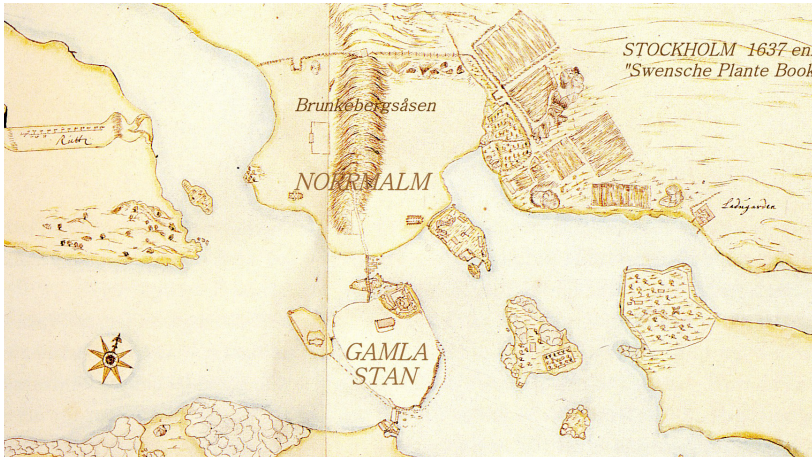


Fig.19.01

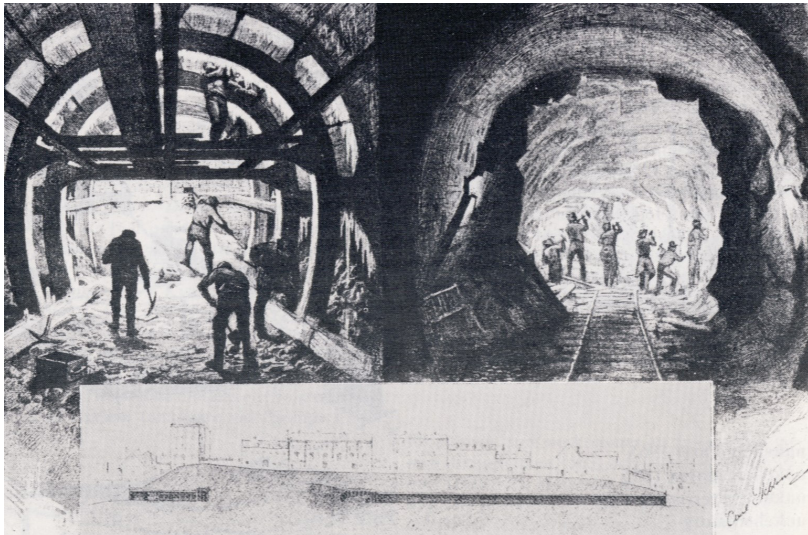


Fig.19.02

Images of Brunkebergsåsen and Brunkebergstunneln completed in 1896.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brunkebergstunneln\\_1886.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brunkebergstunneln_1886.jpg)

Fig.19.01

Brunkebergsåsen - the hill preventing mobility

Fig.19.02

Brunkebergstunneln being dug in 1880s

# HISTORY: BRUNKEBERGSASEN



Fig.19.03



Fig.19.04



Fig.19.05

Fig.19.03  
Malm skillnadsbron finished

Fig.19.04  
Simultaneous construction of underground

Fig.19.05  
Malm skillnadsbron under construction

# HISTORY: MALMSKILLNADSBRON



Fig.19.06 Example of a threshold also being an advertising spot



Fig.19.07 Hilly Malmkillnadsbron in the winter at the turn of the 20th century



## HISTORY: MALMSKILLNADSBRON



Fig.19.08 Malmskillnadstrappen connecting two parallel streets with a different vibe