

technology and motor skills | the effects of less movement and less physical challenges

background

We got the task to design the library of the future, as nearly all books are available in digital formats and the physical space of a library is changing. Future technologies can change our behaviour even more than cars, smartphones and the internet already did. Studies found that the gross and fine motorskills of children are decreasing for decades. Many see the reason in limited movement and distraction from our technology that was meant to help us.

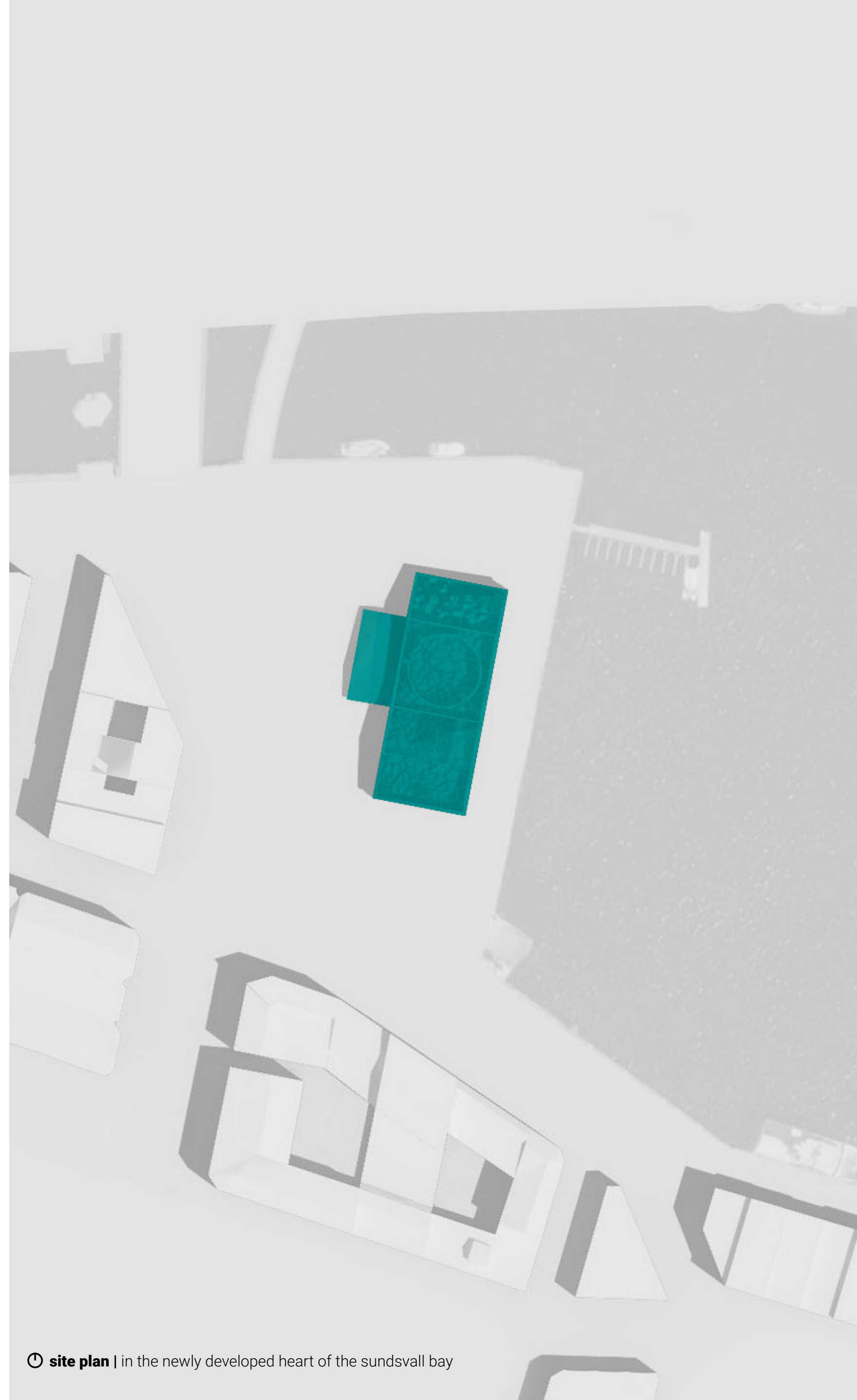
aim

There are two main ways to conquer this development, less technology and more technology. I chose the second to use the probably inevitable development for positive things. Virtual Reality (VR) is a trend word in many disciplines today and while still getting refined, it seems like the next big thing. VR is specified as environment that is not connected to the real environment, like monitor headsets. Other parts of this technology are Augmented Reality (AR) is when the real environment

gets features from a digital helmet for example and shows them on top of the real environment. Mixed Reality is the furthest step, where digital features interact with the real world. Whether it's helmets or chips in our head, our reality will change and the question is if the skills get worse or if we can use the technology to improve them. The center creates a dedicated environment just for VR/AR/Mixed Reality.

technology

The center has two level, the ground floor is analogue without any VR but with a workshop and relaxing space. The second floor is made for digital usage. To minimize the artefacts of reality, the space is very clean and simple. However, the timber roof has skylights that give a sense of the time. There are no other windows. Being in the north the walls are highly insulated with 50cm wood fibre insulation in a gluelam-timber framework. The entire building is designed to meet passive house standards.



site plan | in the newly developed heart of the sundsvall bay