

# Past, present and future projects in laminar wood by Wingårdh Architects, Sweden

Fredrik Lyth  
Wingårdh Architects  
Göteborg, Sweden



## A selection of projects in wood during the past 20 years



Müritzmuseum - Science and Visitors Centre, Waren, Germany

The town of Waren is in the northern part of Müritz. It is a major tourist attraction just over an hour's drive from Berlin or Hamburg. We were selected to design its visitors centre after a competition.

There was an attraction in the thought of a wall composed of wood elements burned to the appropriate charcoal level. Finally, a maintenance free treatment for an exterior exposed wood design! The result of the slightly downward curving cones is an exterior that absorbs light like a black hole in space. A high, central room is surrounded by a series of exhibition themes, but also by a slit giving direct access to the surrounding park and a walk around the small Lake Herrensee.

Up in the central room, Germany's largest freshwater aquarium protrudes with a large shoal, advertising the aquarium section one floor below. On the entry level a glassed in bay window juts out, with lots of binoculars in an eagle's head, while the lower floor has the exhibition's piece de resistance, a seamlessly inserted window in Herrensee's water and its population of carp. In reality, it is a cleaned pond separated from the murky lake waters.

The bay window, glass in the water and the park bar are all, like the entryway, parallel slits cut through the cones. The roof protrudes powerfully out over the south facing, double height glass facade. All the surfaces here are honey yellow, varnished, grain rich larch reminding one of the care that a much-loved wooden boat receives.

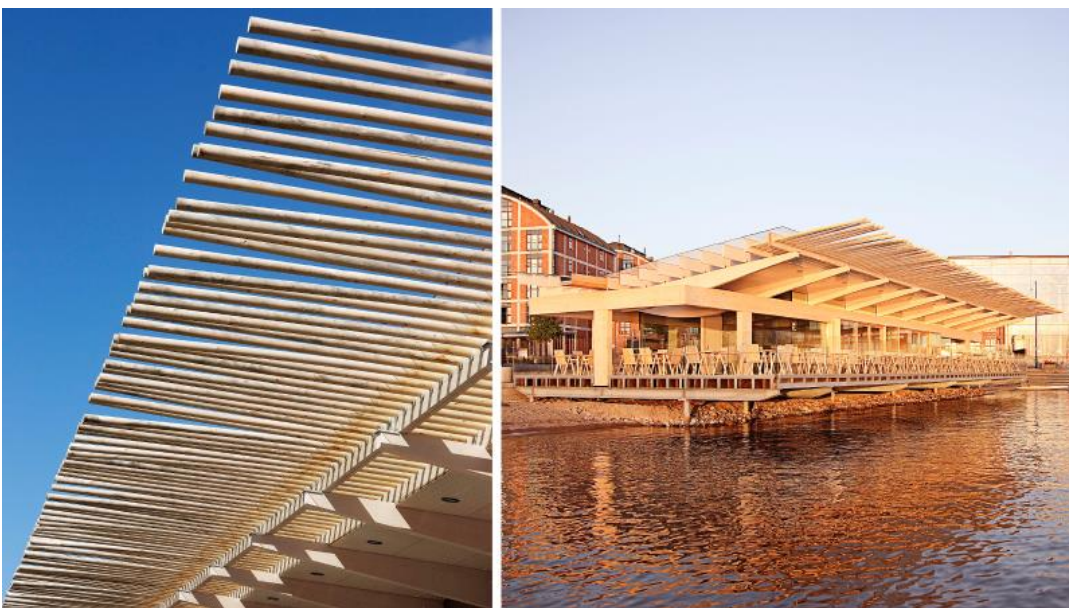


Universeum, Science center and aquarium, Gothenburg Sweden

At Universeum visitors can wander through both temperate and tropical biotopes and several different ecosystems, following the water cycle from mountain precipitation through rivers and streams into freshwater and saltwater aquariums. The complex produces its own energy nearly to the point of self-sufficiency and has advanced systems for recycling water and waste products. These systems serve a highly pedagogic purpose: the building itself is an integral part of the educational project.

The natural surroundings of the science center climb down the mountainside, while the technology displays are accommodated in the wooden box which is the face of the complex towards the city. The structure is the simplest conceivable, with nothing to obstruct the screws and drills when the exhibitions come to be changed. The ecological message is in-built. The building can be renewed on a shoe string, it is naturally ventilated, its energy requirement is minimal, the water is recycled within the building, and the roof can be equipped with solar collectors when this is financially feasible.

A composite building, with each part a viable structure in its own right. Like nature itself. "Universeum turns towards the light as a tree turns to the sun".



Piano pavillion, Lathi, Finland



Standparken, Sundbyberg Sweden

Standparken's location on the sunny side of Bällstaviken was the starting point of the design. The contact with the water, the sight lines, the free state of the air, the connections to the surrounding area and the raised trees gave the houses their positions. By placing the houses in a cohesive parkroom and refining the seafront, a landscape space is created that connects Sundbyberg with Mälaviken.

All houses have pointed pitched roof with a discreet eaves. The materials are few and carefully detailed. The buildings are made of solid wood with facades clad with wood-shingles, giving them a solid and characteristic expression. Large wooden clad balconies with short sides of glass to the water provide both views and seclusion.

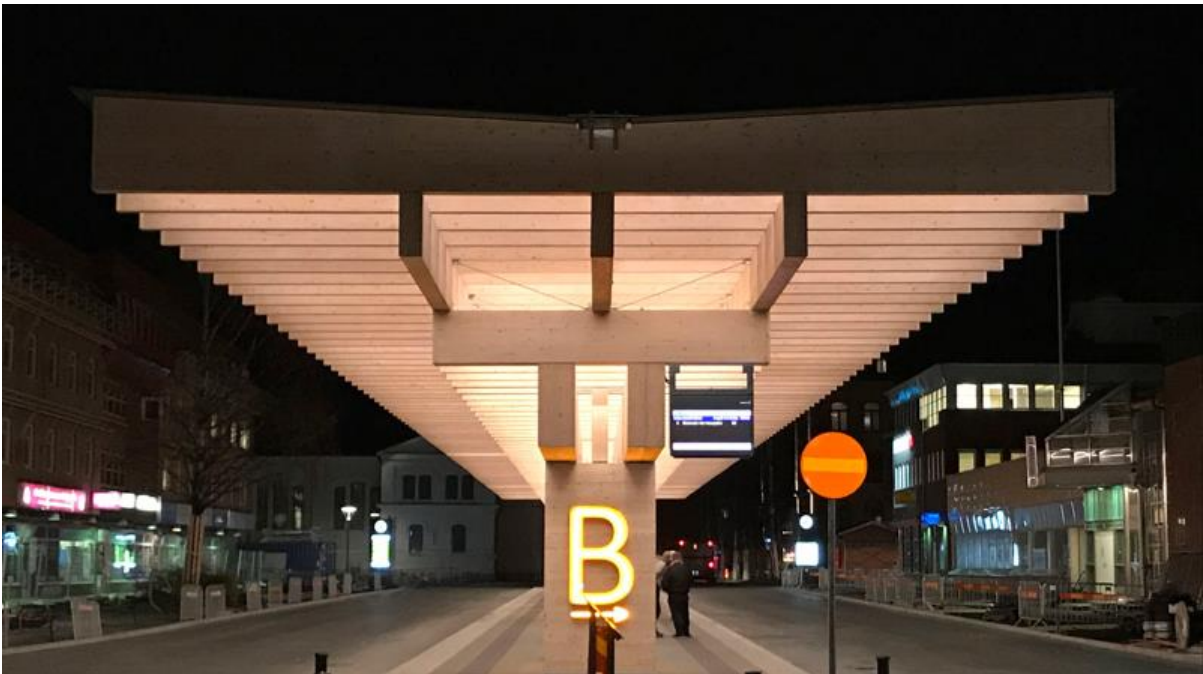
Large glass doors with sliding doors to the balcony or roof terrace extend the apartments and give them a sunny patio with water contact. Wood is also returned inside and creates a comfortable material feel in contrast to the white walls and ceilings of the rooms. Floors, doors, windows, windows and details in the kitchen and bathroom are all of wood.

The houses were built of elements supplied with the Canadian cedar shingles factory-assembled. The element joints were cladded in place. The natural variation of the wood-shingles is a way to handle aging and the difference between the joints and the factory assembled façade in a conscious way.



Naturum Laponia Snowtrap

The dramatic climate in Stora Sjöfallet National Park, with the country's largest amount of snow and hard winds, has formed the house. The round, closed shape opens in summer, while the courtyard gives a dramatic picture of the snow behind big glass. The building's steady construction allows both weather, winds, plants and animals to interact with humans. The extreme conditions have shaped the building in the same way as they once formed the Sami building tradition. Not that they are similar, but they are created by the same reality.



Vasaplatsen bus stop – Umeå, Sweden

A structure in laminar wood for weatherprotection.



Naturum Tåkern, Visitor center, Mjölby, Sweden

Like a solid block cut from the reeds.

The thatched building is folded to form an outdoor room open to the birds and the sky above. The folds generate forms that are at home in their natural surroundings.

The Lake Tåkern Bird Sanctuary, with its enormous wetland, is a kind of paradise – and not just for the birds, but also for those who come to enjoy the wealth that nature has to offer. A small portion of the lake's reeds are cut every year in the early spring, and the 2011 harvest from Väversunda farm was used to clad the building – some 36 million reeds in all. The steep pitch of the roofs gives the thatching an estimated lifespan of more than fifty years. A meandering path up to the tower makes all of us, regardless of our mobility, become aware of the life that is also thriving up in the trees.



Jönköping station - Jönköping, Sweden