



Stories, Projects & Products

nola<sup>®</sup>



# From the inside out

*The boundaries between inside and outside blur as Nola redesign the Greenhouse Bar at this year's Stockholm Furniture Fair. The bar will be furnished with products ranging from outdoor tables and sun loungers to public noticeboards and a small-scale mini-park. This new approach to presenting their products brings Nola into an environment that's more sustainable than a traditional trade fair stand.*

What will the trade fairs of the future look like? It's a question that's becoming increasingly relevant in an industry where the need to meet the demand for new products clashes with the drive to work towards a more sustainable future. That's why this year Nola chose to find an alternative to a traditional stand, opting instead to furnish the Greenhouse Bar at the Stockholm Furniture Fair.

"We wanted to create something more sustainable than a trade fair stand, as it would be torn down and thrown away after a few days," says Henrik Edlund, Nola's CEO. "We want to act responsibly as a company, but still be present at the fair. We're using our products to create meeting places within the public space, which works well with the fair's ambitions too."

In the café, Nola will show a range of large-scale products such as outdoor tables, podiums, noticeboards, waste bins and sun loungers. They're also making space for a mini-park, which brings plant-life indoors. Together, these products will present an overview of the company's ranges and products, while making them available for practical use at the trade fair.

"Nothing will be thrown away," says Agneta Stake, Nola's founder. "In a traditional trade fair stand, the company shows prototypes that customers can order and have delivered a short time later. Every product we show in the Greenhouse will be refurbished and sold immediately after the fair. In fact, we already have orders for several of the products that will be used at the fair."

Designers Mia Cullin and Anki Gneib are in charge of designing the café. Together they are furnishing it with products from the entire Nola range, not just seasonal highlights. The selection of products will include Mats Aldén's new High Sunchair and the Hexagon H22 Pavilion designed by Stockholm-based architecture practice In Praise of Shadows. Thomas Bernstrand's Perpendicular bench will also be present, complemented by the outdoor office Work Desk designed by SuperLab and Charlotte Petersson Troije.

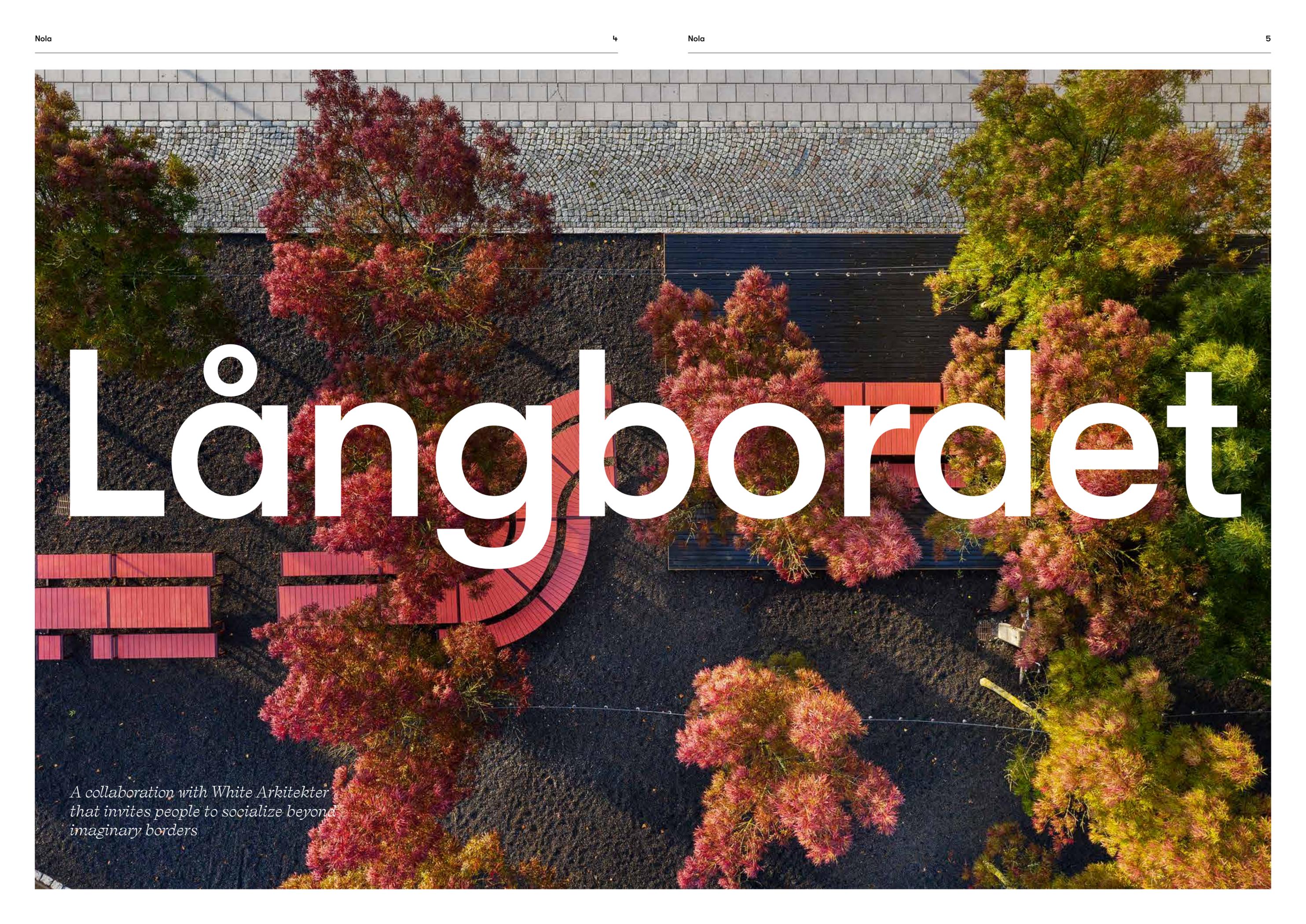
"This year, we won't focus as much on new products as we will on showing the extent of our product range," says Agneta. "Nola has a long, rich history to draw on. At the time when I founded Nola, there weren't many well-designed products for use in public spaces,

and filling that niche enabled the company to grow."

Many of the designers Agneta began working with in the 1980s and 90s are still active at Nola today. Like Thomas Bernstrand, the designer behind popular products such as Kajen, started working with Nola shortly after graduation from college. For Agneta, furnishing the Greenhouse Bar with their designs retraces their careers and circles back to where they got started. "Many of our young collaborators came on board when I met them at the graduation shows held in the Greenhouse space," she recalls. "We got to meet a new generation of designers, while they got to know Nola and develop new products."

**Bo Madestrand, Form Magazine**

*1. The Hexagon H22 pavilion designed by Swedish architectural firm In Praise of Shadows. In collaboration with Svenskt Trä, the pavilion was installed at the H22 City Expo in Helsingborg, where it provided space for meetings and talks.*

An aerial photograph of a park area. The scene is dominated by a large, dark, textured ground surface, possibly gravel or a specific type of paving. A prominent feature is a curved, red-painted wooden bench or seating area. The park is surrounded by various trees, some with vibrant red and pink autumn foliage, and others with green leaves. A cobblestone path or driveway runs along the top edge of the image. The overall composition is a mix of natural and man-made elements, creating a modern and inviting outdoor space.

# Långbordet

*A collaboration with White Arkitekter  
that invites people to socialize beyond  
imaginary borders*

*“Conversations along the table are casual, but intense. At one end, snickering teenagers talk about things they got away with, then laugh raucously for all to hear. A few seats away, schoolboys complain about a sports coach no one likes, and quickly hunker down when he suddenly appears and walks past. Further along the table, a group of locals are hanging out together, sitting far apart as they maintain social distancing. One of them glances towards the other end of the table, where children can be heard. It sounds like the grown-ups are throwing a party for them, but it’s hard to see that far. Like everyone else, they’re probably wondering how this long table actually got here, because it seems to meander for miles across the park.”*

Sentiments like these were scripted by Swedish architectural practice *White Arkitekter*, and submitted with their entry in a landscaping competition in Helsingborg. Situated on Sweden’s southwestern coastline, the city announced a call for projects that would transform a forgotten area into a meaningful place. Called *Furutorpsplatsen*, the site presented big challenges for the city, and for local residents too. “Issues such as exclusion and segregation, which are some of today’s biggest challenges in urban development, had to be overcome,” explains *Taiga Koponen* from *White Arkitekter*, an architect who worked on the project.

“The *Långbordet* project was completed quickly, putting everything in place in less than six months,” says *Taiga*. “The goal was to redesign a public place and make it safer for the residents by installing a temporary meeting place. As far as I know, *Långbordet* is still there, which is gratifying.”

*Långbordet* is now one of *Nola*’s most popular products, and its history began in this site-specific project in Helsingborg. *White Arkitekter* worked collaboratively with artist *Ebba Matz* to develop the concept. After they carried out interviews with locals, the inspiration for a long table was born.

“We got the idea for a long table because we wanted to create a design that all people can relate to, something with a familiar symbolic value, but with different functions,” says *Taiga*. “Because creating spaces for spontaneous meetings was a priority, a long table felt like the right concept.”

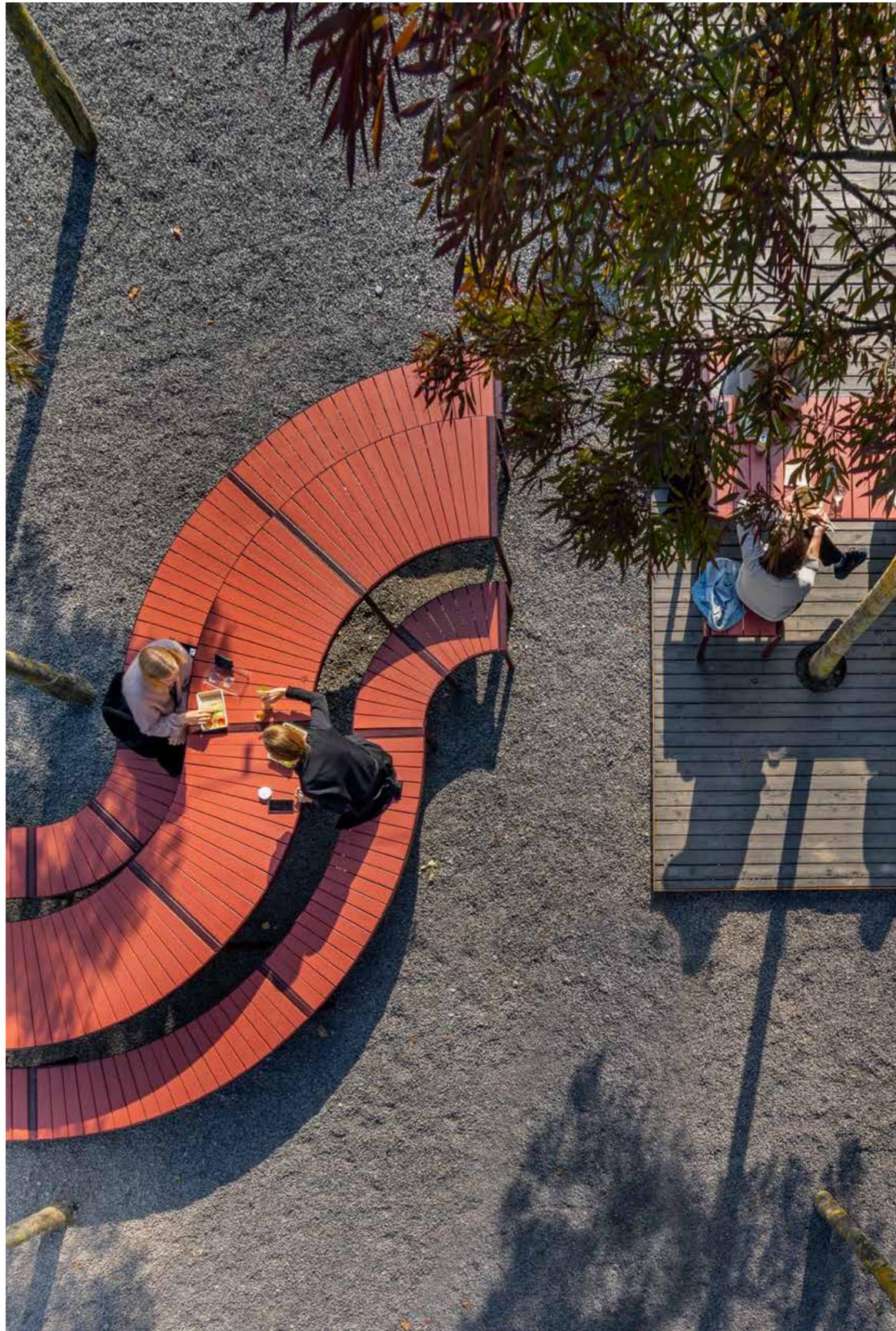
*White Arkitekter* contacted *Nola*, who didn’t hesitate to come on board. As a partner in the project, *Nola* played a key role in realising the design and artistic visions for the site, as well as manufacturing, delivering and installing the tables and seating.

“When we develop new products for public spaces, we think about how to increase the attractiveness of the environment,” explains *Agneta Stake*, founder and design chief at *Nola*. “We then consider the needs of each individual place, because they can vary

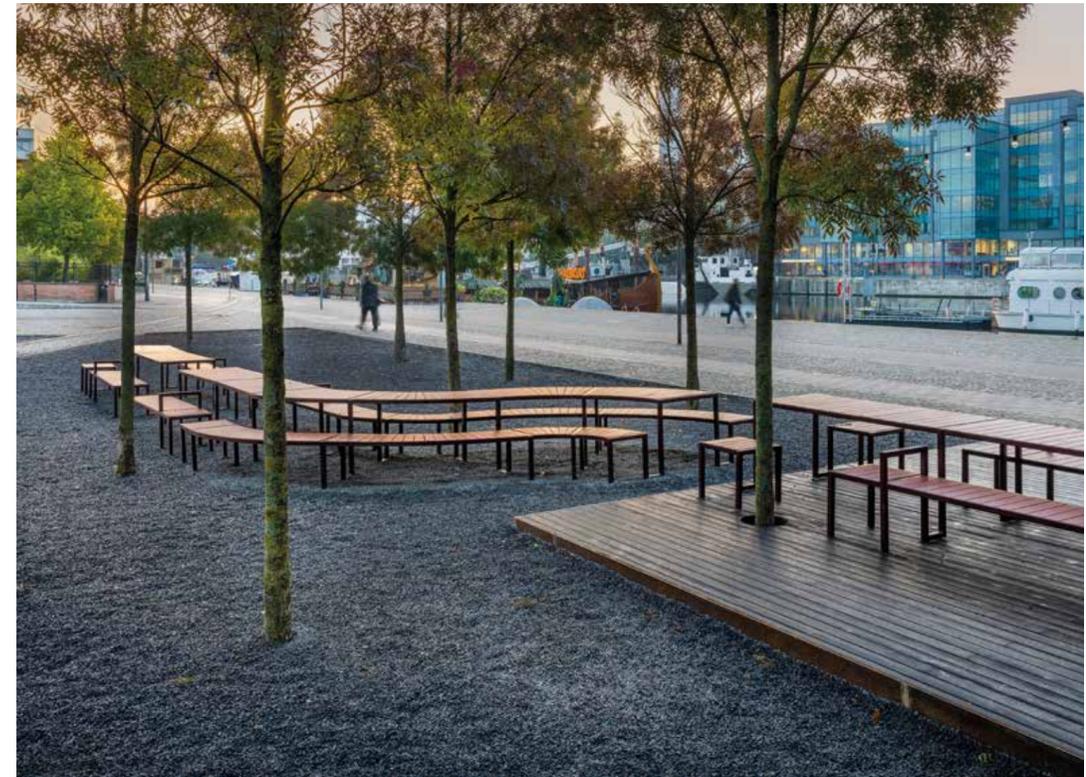
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greatly. For example, residential areas, public parks and urban streets have different needs. You have to identify the activities people intend to hold at the site and factor that into the equation as well.”

The table’s distinctive, winding ‘S’ shape was developed in collaboration with committed locals, who voiced their opinions at workshops White Arkitekter held near the site. Designing the table to interact with the space itself, and to reflect the area around it, were high on the agenda. That’s where the idea for an S-shaped table was born. Partly because the table’s shape meanders, and partly because ‘S’ stands for ‘south’. Residents identify strongly with living in the southern part of the city, and are proud of how the table literally stamps a big ‘S’ on the local map.

Residents also benefit from the proximity of nature, as plants, shrubs and trees grow around the table.

“The table winds in-between the cherry trees growing on the site,” says Taiga, “which means that you can actually sit underneath trees when you take a seat at the table.”

The table’s potential to create unexpected encounters between people who sat at it had to work. The table also needed to make room for activities ranging from picnics, parties and flea markets, to individuals taking a break, or working or studying. Accessibility and functionality were high priorities for both White Arkitekter and Nola, to ensure that the table and seating could accommodate prams, wheelchairs and walkers.

To make room for people of all ages and abilities to take a seat and participate in activities, openings were created in the long benches that flank both sides of the table.

Although the table’s design features make it overwhelmingly inclusive, the architects still wondered if design would be enough to combat the exclusion and segregation that urban planners set out to eliminate. “When we work with similar challenges in urban development projects, we look first and foremost at the broader perspectives,” explains Taiga. “And of course, sustainability from all aspects, not least socially as in this case. It’s a lot about finding features that activate locations and attract people throughout the day. People’s lives and activities can make areas safer, and with attractive designs, we can make them feel comfortable for a long time.”

“What helped to address the social issues at this site was the architects’ vision for togetherness,” adds Agneta. “They created opportunities for people to meet, talk, sit and eat together. Unlike individual tables and chairs or park benches, Långbordet provided a way to invite community members to socialise beyond imaginary borders.”

Although originally conceived as a temporary design, Långbordet lives on today, which is perhaps the ultimate proof of its success. The community table concept is applicable to many places, especially where there is an ambition to change social dynamics. Not only does the concept bring

people together, it makes it possible to activate dormant places.

That happened again recently when White Arkitekter installed a version of Långbordet outside their offices in Södermalm, a neighbourhood in the southern part of central Stockholm. The site had a history of being disregarded by locals, and subsequently became a gathering place for food trucks. Now that Långbordet has been installed there, it’s possible to sit down and enjoy a conversation with a friend or stranger when eating your halloumi burger or taco-wrap. Like the very first Långbordet, this version is also made in an S-shape, putting an ‘S’ onto this south central neighbourhood too.

**Frida Jeppsson Prime**

*1–2. Furutorpsplatsen in Helsingborg had previously been considered to be dangerous after dark. Långbordet was installed to combat social issues such as exclusion and segregation, make the area safer and make residents happier. The table winds between the cherry trees and provides space for conversations and spontaneous meetings between locals.*

*3–4. A version of the design was later installed at Hamntorget in Stockholm. Långbordet has now been included in Nola’s product range. The project was awarded Monocle Design Award for Best Public Furniture 2021.*

The background features a light grey gradient. On the left, there is a large green circle containing a white stylized 'U' shape. To the right of this circle is a purple shape resembling a stylized roof or a wave. The main text 'urban infrastructure' is rendered in a large, white, sans-serif font, with the letters overlapping and partially obscured by the background shapes. The word 'urban' is positioned above 'infrastructure'.

# urban infrastructure

*We work closely with architects, designers,  
landscape architects and city planners  
to create safe and accessible urban spaces  
for everyone.*



1. *Kajen Bench at Vasagatan, Västerås.*



**1. Vasagatan, Västerås**  
Landscape architecture, Västerås municipality

A mainstreet in Västerås has been refurbished with new benches in the Kajen series from Nola. Existing granite benches were upcycled and given wooden seats.

**Products shown:**  
Kajen Bench by Thomas Bernstrand.

**2. Torsgatan, Stockholm**  
Landscape architecture, Groot Utemiljöer

A courtyard on Torsgatan, Stockholm, behind the Stockholm Vatten-building from 1906, has been designed with activity, recreation and social interactions in mind.

**Products shown:**  
Långbordet by White arkitekter. Four Seasons & Loj Sun Recliner by Thomas Bernstrand.

**3. Östra Drottninggatan, Gävle**  
Landscape architecture, Karavan

Furniture ranges Frank and Parco plays a big role in the renovation and design of the pedestrian street Östra Drottninggatan in central Gävle, designed by the landscape architecture office Karavan.

**Products shown:**  
Frank Furniture Series by David Taylor. Parco Round Table & Child Seat by Broberg & Ridderstråle.

**4. Fredriksbergbadet, Västerås**  
Landscape architecture, Topia

In the summer of 2022, the Fredriksbergbadet outdoor swimming pool re-opened to the public, furnished with a curated selection of Nola products.

**Products shown:**  
Low Bed Bench by Mats Aldén. Parco Bench by Broberg & Ridderstråle.

**5. University of Liège, Belgium**  
Landscape architecture, Veronique Debont

Due to its capacity to attract people of all ages, fitness levels or training abilities, the Kebne outdoor gym series was a natural choice for the University of Liège to enhance student life on campus.

**Products shown:**  
Kebne Outdoor Gym by Kauppi & Kauppi.

**6. Faculty of Humanities, University of Gothenburg**  
Landscape architecture, LINK Arkitektur and KUB architects

The University of Gothenburg's Faculty of Humanities has moved to a new site in Näckrossparken. The new campus centralises the Faculty of Humanities operations, which had previously been spread across different sites.

**Products shown:**  
Parco Chair with Tabletop by Broberg & Ridderstråle.

**7. Fornudden School, Tyresö**  
Landscape architecture, Tengbom

Greater Stockholm's Tyresö municipality is growing and in 2018 the need for a new school became clear. Three years later, a new school was built. A large schoolyard was developed around the building to make spaces for play, movement and exercise.

**Products shown:**  
Parco Park Bench by Broberg & Ridderstråle.

**8. Kärntorp Square, Stockholm**  
Landscape architecture, Nyréns architecture

The growing district of Kärntorp in southern Stockholm, has been renovated to create a working and attractive meeting place for residents and visitors.

**Products shown:**  
Ultuna Park Bench by Daniel Ericsson & Bengt Isling. Specially developed table.

**9. Rosendal, Uppsala**  
Landscape architecture, Karavan

Rosendal is a new residential area near Uppsala. Around 3 500 new homes are being built here, creating a community with a broad variety of contemporary Swedish architecture.

**Products shown:**  
LowBed Bench by Mats Aldén. Tuben Furniture Group by Gunilla Hedlund.

**10. Centralplan, Stockholm**  
Landscape architecture, Sweco

When Sweco redesigned Centralplan, the open-air concourse outside Stockholm's central train station, they decided to commission a new line of benches for the site.

**Products shown:**  
Arkipelag Park Bench by Fredrik Toller.

**11. Mälardalen University, Eskilstuna**  
Landscape architecture, Eskilstuna municipality

The University campus has been developed into a welcoming and lively space where students can hang out and relax during the day and after lectures.

**Products shown:**  
Bill Post Message Board by Broberg & Ridderstråle.

**12. Bobergstorg, Stockholm**  
Landscape architecture, Sweco

Situated in northwest Stockholm, Bobergstorg forms part of the redevelopment of an industrial gas works complex.

**Products shown:**  
Harads Furniture Group by Bertil Harström & Johan Kauppi.

**13. Kungspassagen, Uppsala**  
Landscape architecture, Tyréns

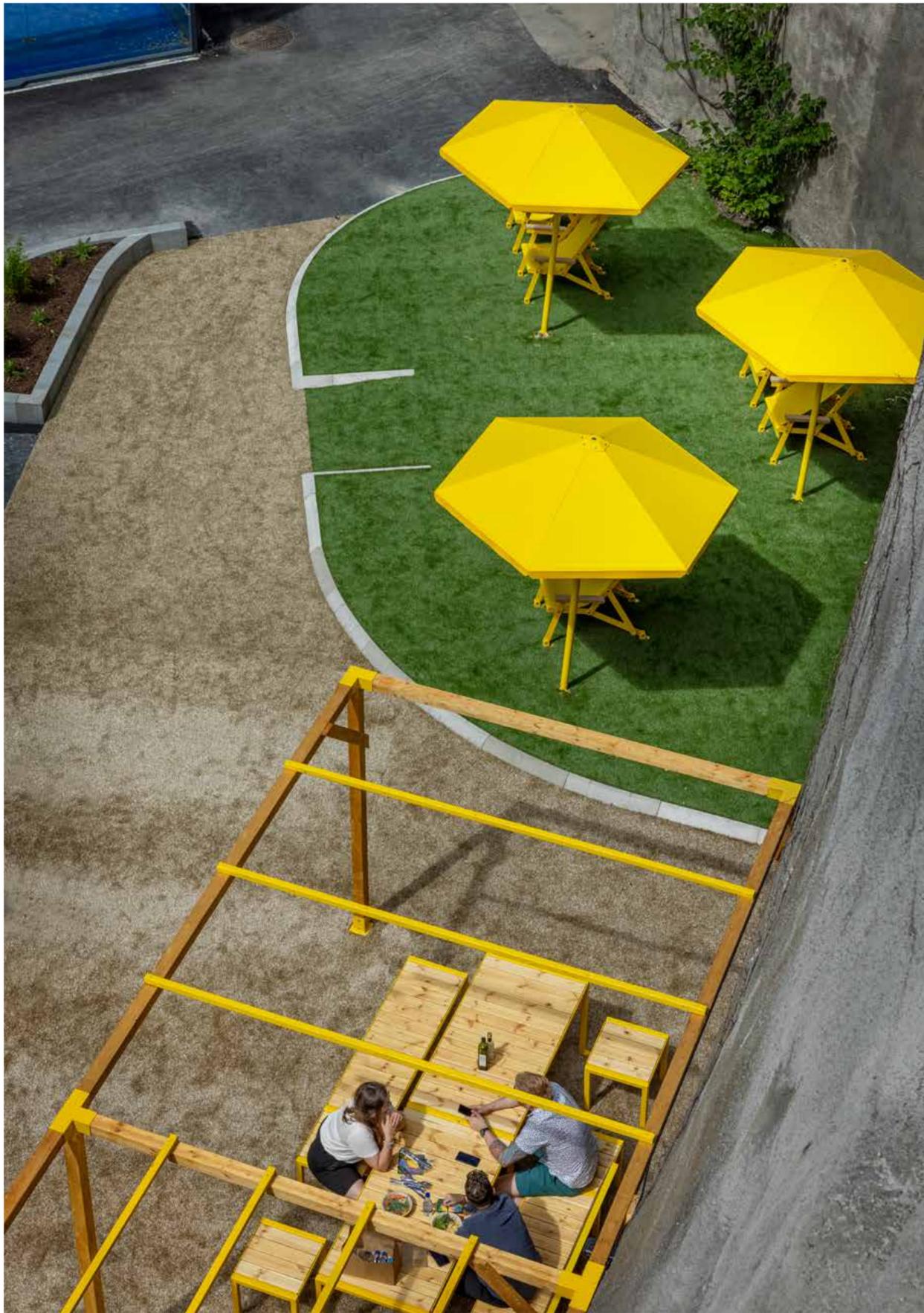
Nola are pleased to have supplied furniture designs and other outdoor products for the Kungspassagen roof terrace development in Uppsala, Sweden.

**Products shown:**  
Akalla Pergola System by Nola. Parco Tables & Benches by Broberg & Ridderstråle. Kajen Sun Lounger by Thomas Bernstrand.

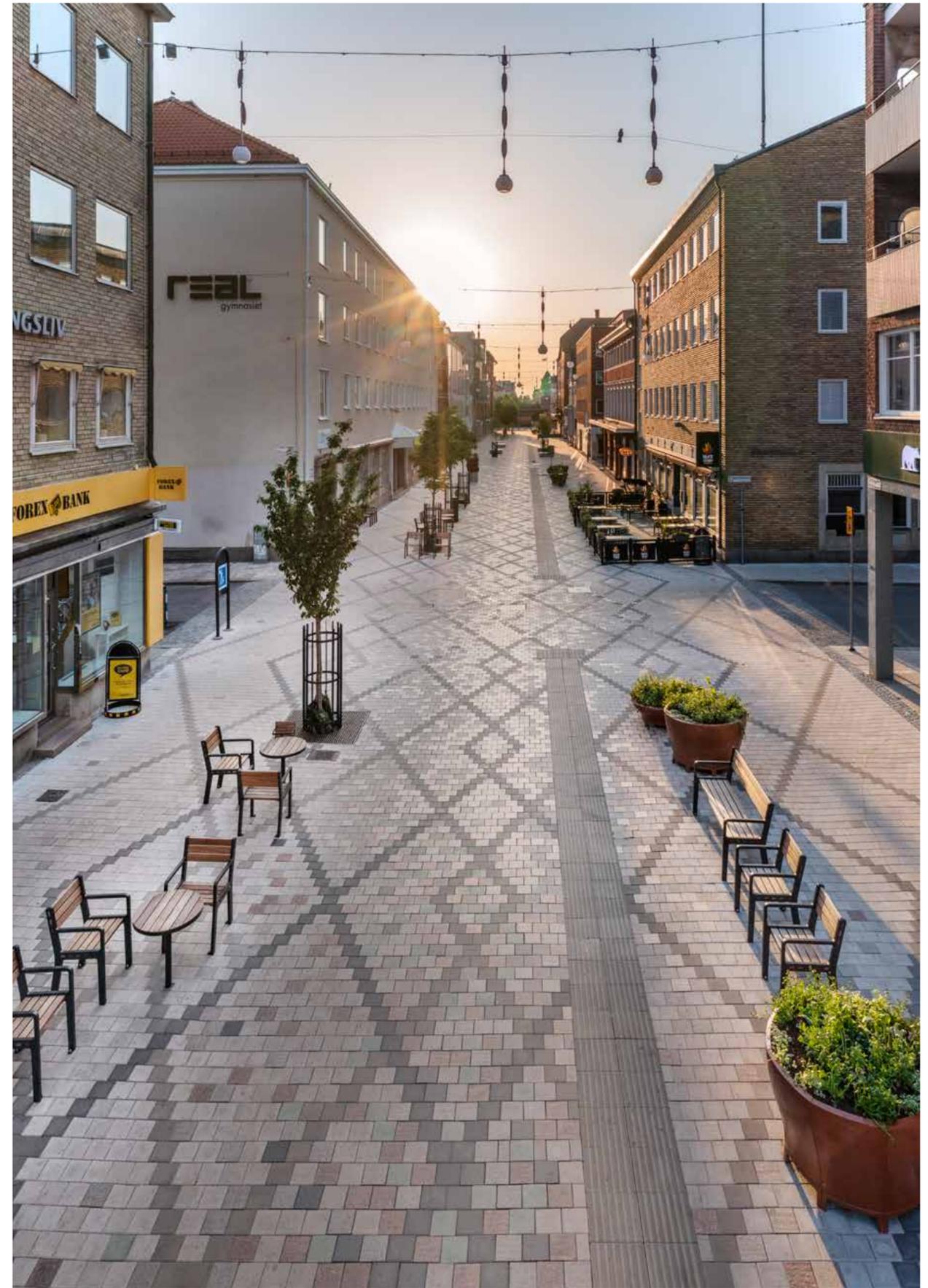
**14. Löga Skatepark, Västerås**  
Landscape architecture, Hom.Uggla

With a surface of 2 400 square metres, Västerås' new skate park is one of the largest in Sweden. Built for skateboarding, inline skating, kick-biking and BMX-riding.

**Products shown:**  
Low/High Furniture Group by Mats Aldén. Four Seasons Sun Parasol by Thomas Bernstrand.



2. Långbordet, Four Seasons and Loj. Torsgatan, Stockholm.



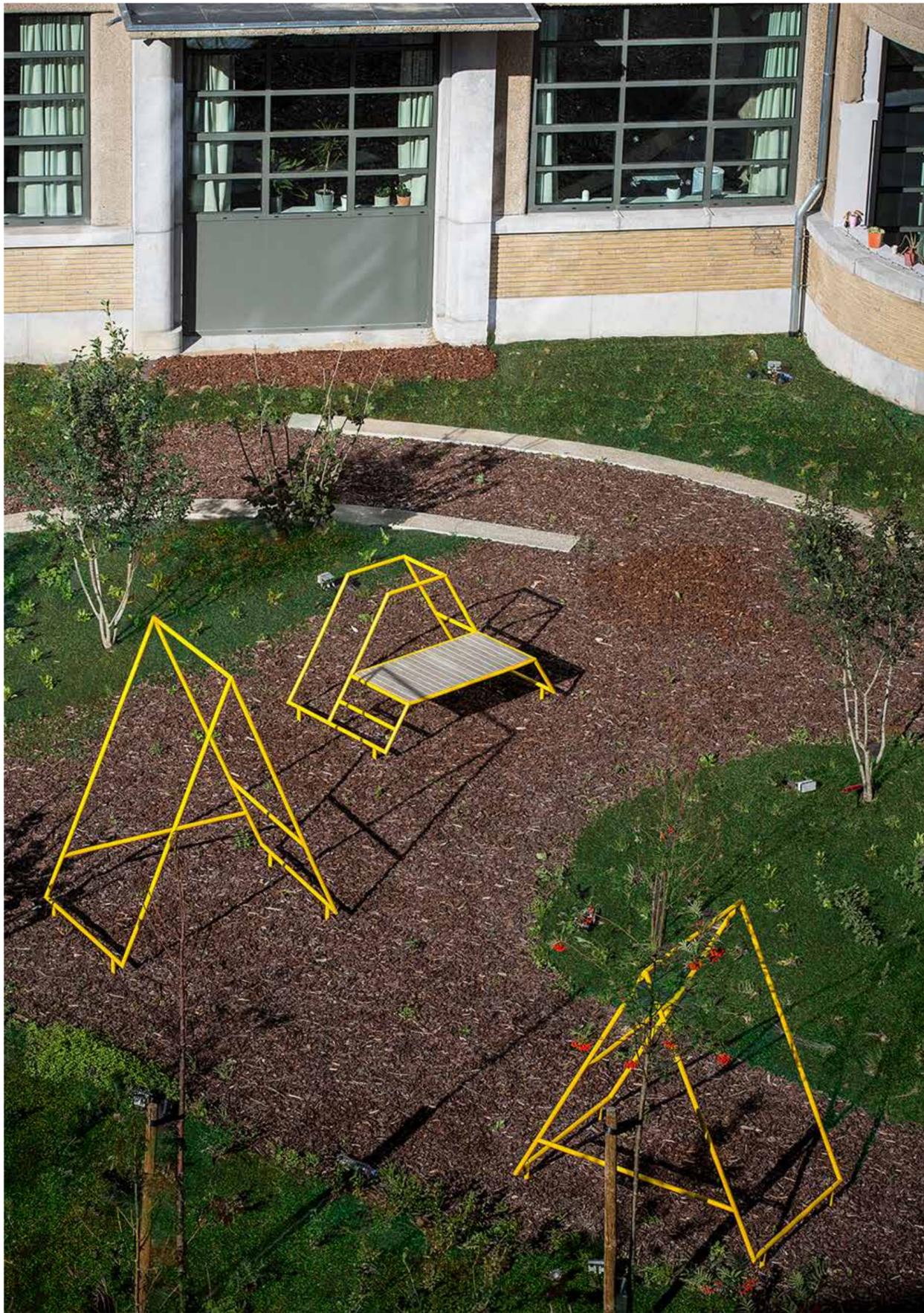
3. Frank and Parco furniture at Östra Drottninggatan, Gävle.



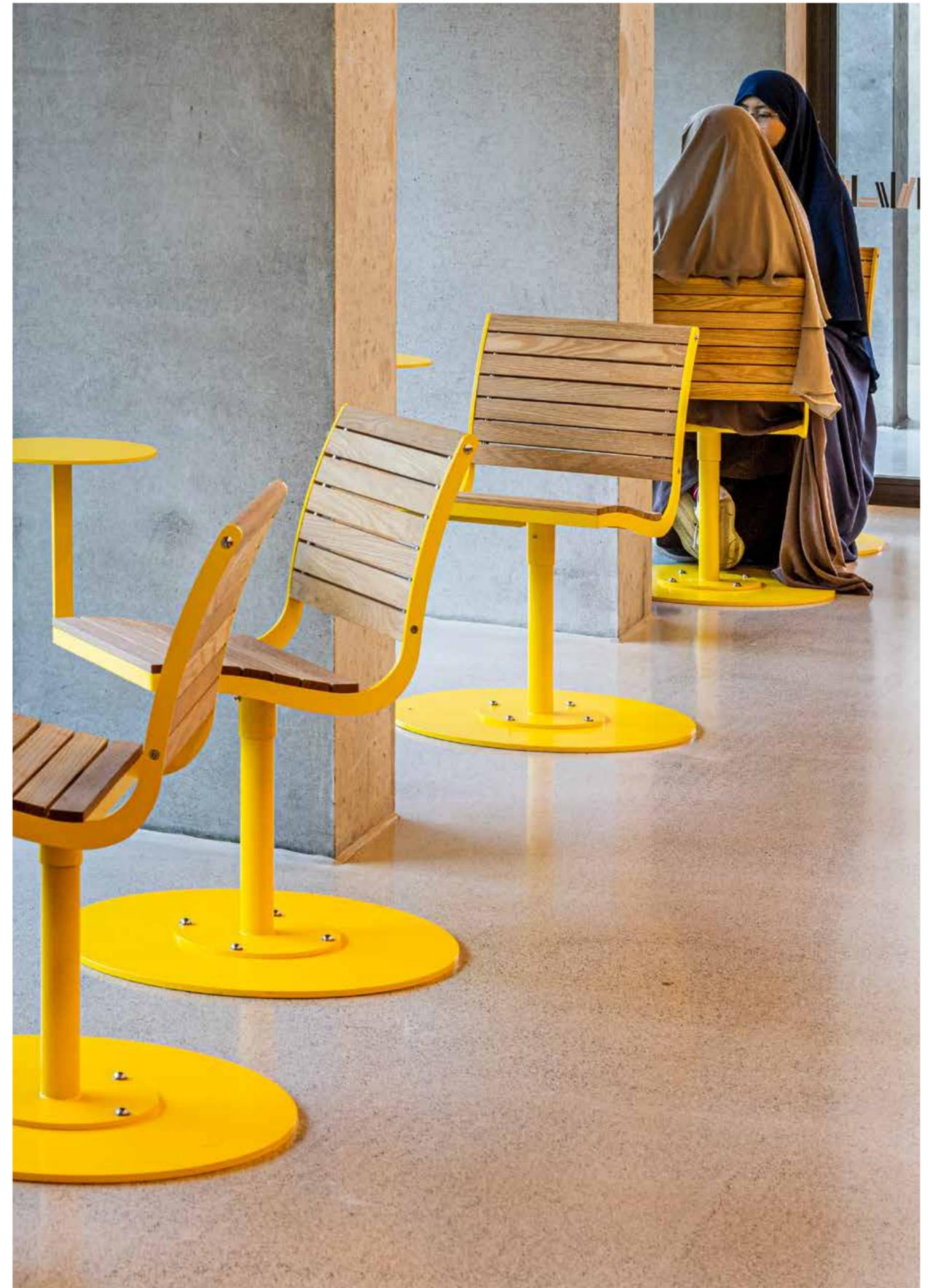


4. Parco bench and LowBed sunbed Fredriksbergbadet, Västerås.



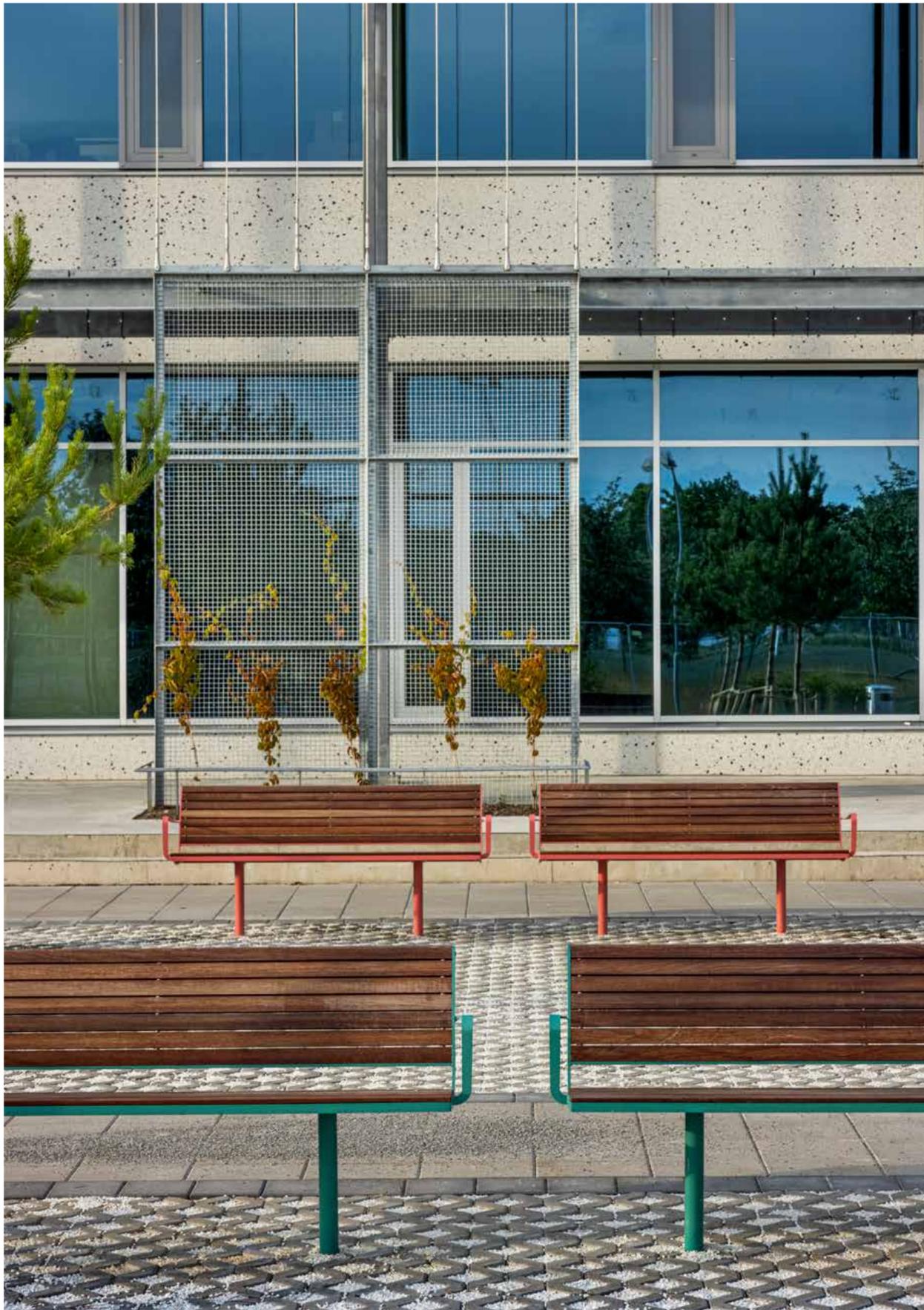


5. Kebne outdoor gym at University of Liège, Belgium

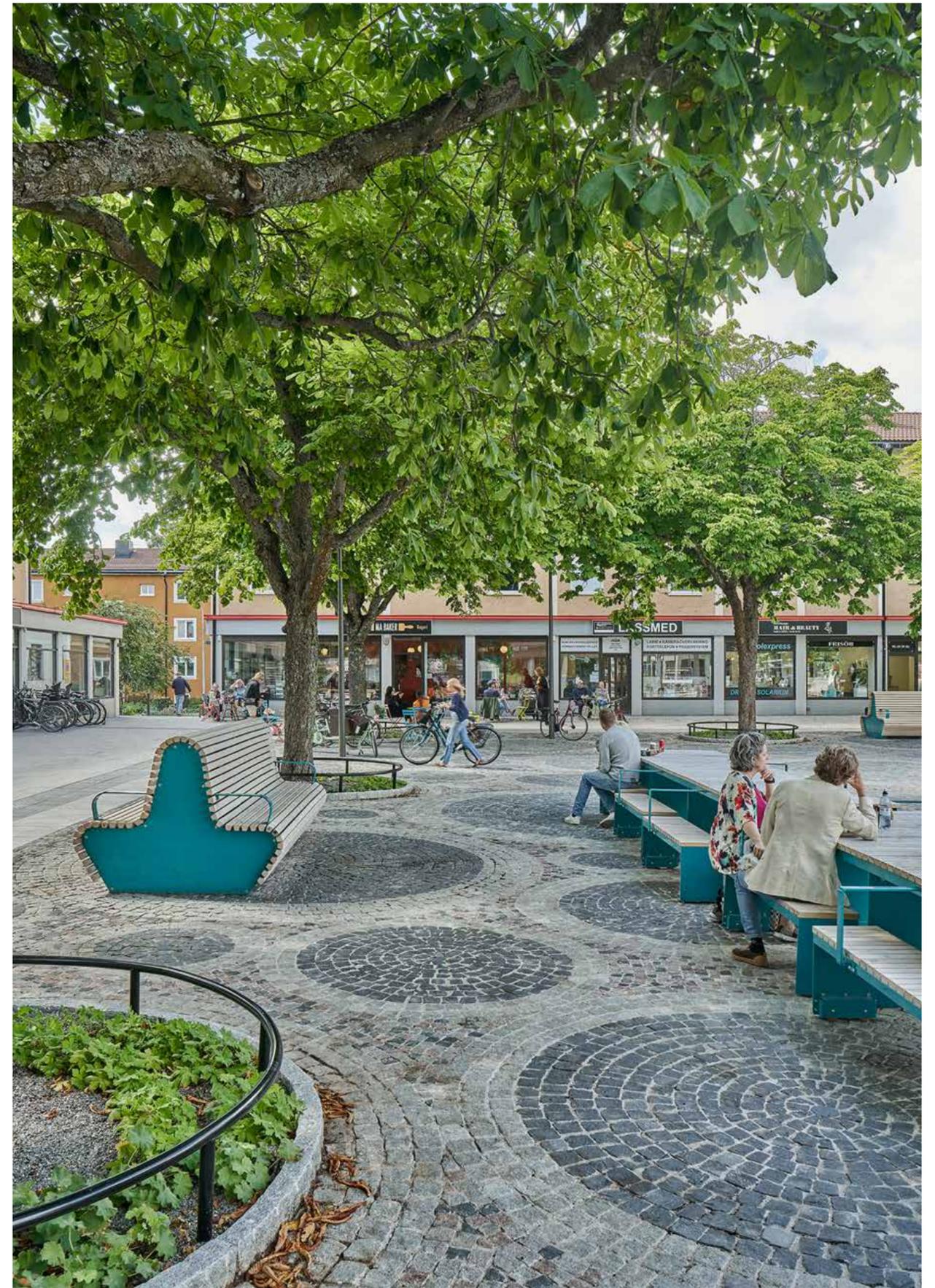


6. Parco chairs. Faculty of Humanities, University of Gothenburg.



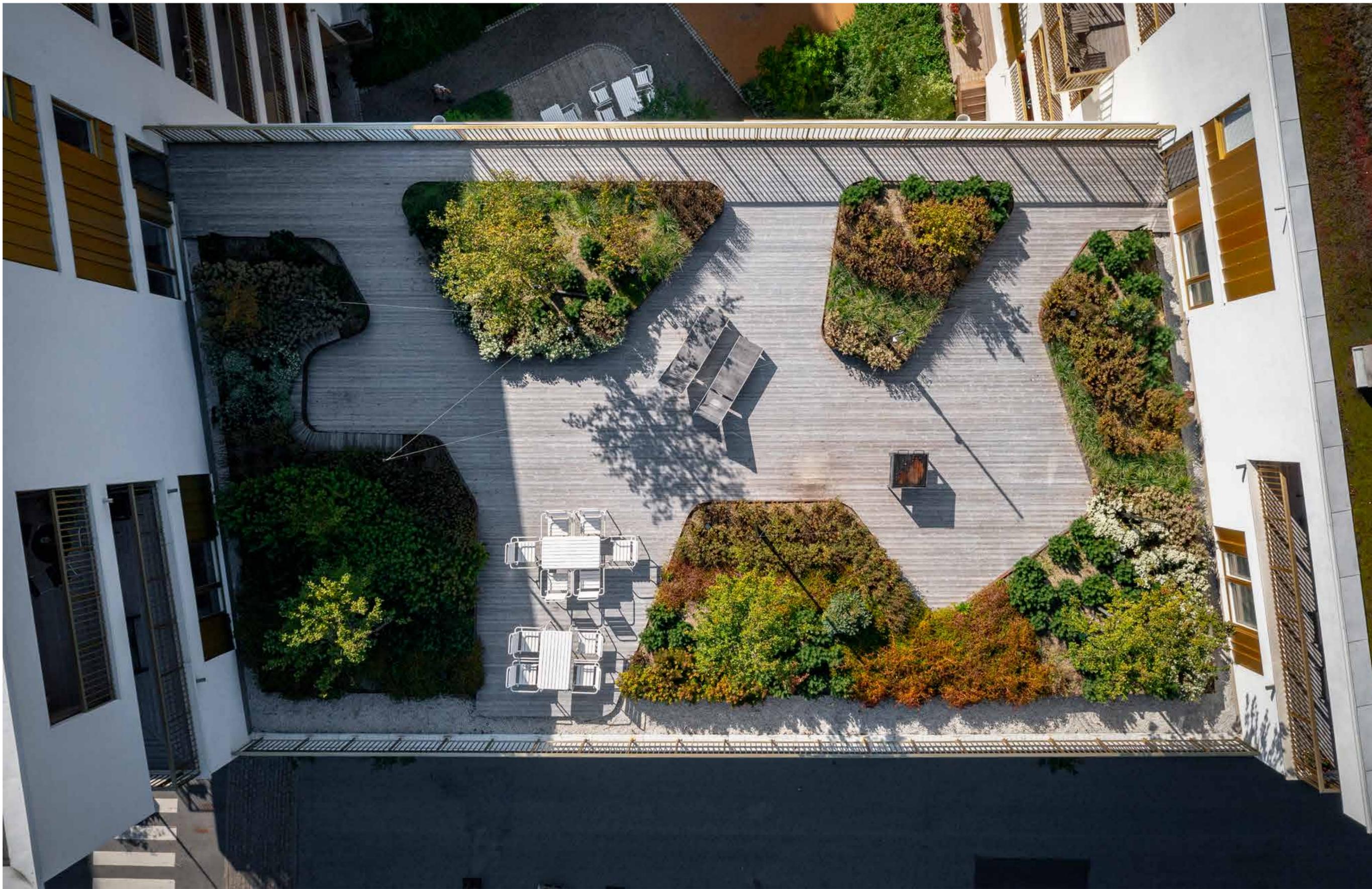


7. Parco benches at Fornudden School, Tyresö.



8. Ultuna bench in Kärrtorp Square, Stockholm.



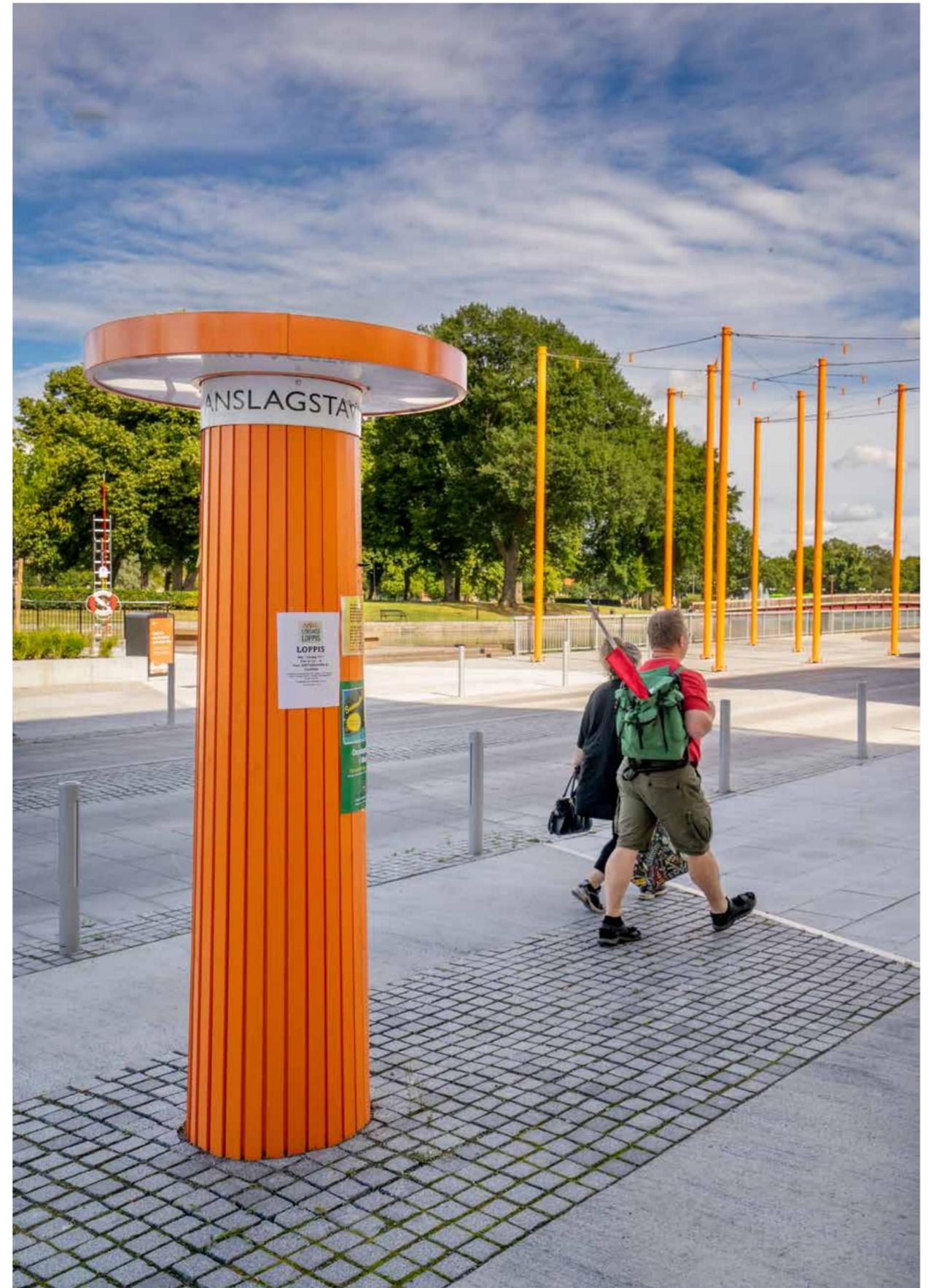


9. *Tuben furniture groups and LowBed sunbeds in Rosendal, Uppsala.*





10. Arkipelag bench at Centralplan, Stockholm.



11. Bill Post at Mälardalen University, Eskilstuna.





12. Harads at Bobergstorg, Stockholm.





13. Akalla pergola, Parco tables & benches, Kafen sun lounge and ZigZag litterbin, Kungspassagen, Uppsala.



14. HighSofa and Four Seasons. Löga Skatepark, Västerås



# Sustainable Design is a Shared Responsibility

*A brilliant maintenance  
collaboration between Kalmar  
municipality and Nola.*

*The secret to creating public space products with long lifespans is making them part of a regular maintenance routine. Outdoor products require continuous care, necessitating discussions between manufacturers and public space stakeholders even before they are produced. At Nola, design plays a key role in making products that require minimal maintenance while still offering maximum durability.*

Producing maintenance-free products for outdoor environments is ambitious, both in the design brief and in the commissioning process. Perhaps the first step is addressing what 'maintenance-free' actually means and questioning what the term implies in terms of sustainability. Materials that can be classified as maintenance-free, such as certain types of metal and concrete, are often made using production processes that counteract the benefits afforded by their long lifespans. Wood materials generally result from low-impact production processes, but wooden products are rarely maintenance-free. On the other hand, wood can often be treated with technologies that make it more durable and longer-lasting.

"It is absolutely crucial to consider the entire life cycle of a product, from the purchase of raw materials to their manufacturing, distribution, assembly and use, and ultimately the care, repair, recycling and re-use. The combination of these factors determines whether the product is sustainable or not," says Henrik Edlund, Nola's CEO.

Durability has always been a key component of Nola's methodology, from both environmental and quality perspectives. Through

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choosing sound materials and insisting on quality design, Nola creates right conditions for making outdoor products last a long time. That said, it is actually the care and maintenance of the products that determine their definite lifespan, and this responsibility is shared by all.

"Many would argue that it's irresponsible to buy furniture solely on the basis of having the lowest purchase price," continues Henrik. "Overlooking quality or the importance of maintenance and repair can be costly further on if the products wear out to the point of needing to be replaced rather than merely repaired."

When collaborations between clients and manufacturers are meaningful, they can result in truly sustainable environments that are durable both economically and ecologically. The Swedish municipality of Kalmar, for example, has an ambitious and well-considered maintenance programme for its outdoor wooden furniture. Staff from the municipality's Parks & Recreation department regularly maintain the wooden furniture Nola produced already in 1997 for the town square. Even today, these products remain as attractive as they were the day they were installed.

"Kalmar municipality manages their investments well and understands their responsibility for the furniture's lifespan," explains landscape architect Anders Linder, who commissioned the furniture for Kalmar's historic centre. "For example, we choose not to bolt the benches to the ground, which means that we can store them inside during winter months and carry out maintenance and repairs at that time." Kalmar municipality is dedicated to regular routines and

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preparing detailed condition reports as they perform maintenance and make repairs. "It's not a new invention," Anders points out, "but a matter of course for long-term planning."

Anders is referring to a bench called Arcadia, no longer in production. Those looking for similar outdoor products will however find a wide variety of wooden designs in the collection. To ensure a long lifespan, like Arcadia, every product from Nola comes with material-specific care guidelines and instructions for how to disassemble them to ensure the best possible maintenance, storage and repair.

"We have a role to play in the product's lifespan, but it takes collaboration to make it work for the long term," explains Henrik.

*"It's absolutely crucial to consider the entire life cycle of a product, from the purchase of raw materials to their manufacturing, distribution, assembly and use, and ultimately the care, repair, recycling and reuse."*

"If the products are well-cared for, they will become more beautiful over time. In our view, durability is as much a question of form as it is of quality. We put a lot of effort into producing furniture that can be appreciated for a long time and won't be replaced just because people get tired of the appearance."

At Nola, design has always been deployed as a powerful tool that can guarantee a product's durability from the outset. By working with some of the industry's most talented designers, innovation and aesthetics work together to create products of the highest quality.

"Whether it's a centuries-old town centre that needs to be revamped or a newbuild in a modern neighbourhood, we have products that can cohabit with the surroundings and remain relevant over time," says Henrik, reflecting on the past and imagining the future.

**Frida Jeppsson Prime**

1. Stortorget, located in the heart of Kalmar, contains park benches produced by Nola. The benches are robust designs made from steel and wood which are easy to maintain, giving the seating a long lifespan.

2. "We have a role to play in the product's lifespan, but it takes collaboration to make it work for the long term," Henrik Edlund, CEO of Nola.

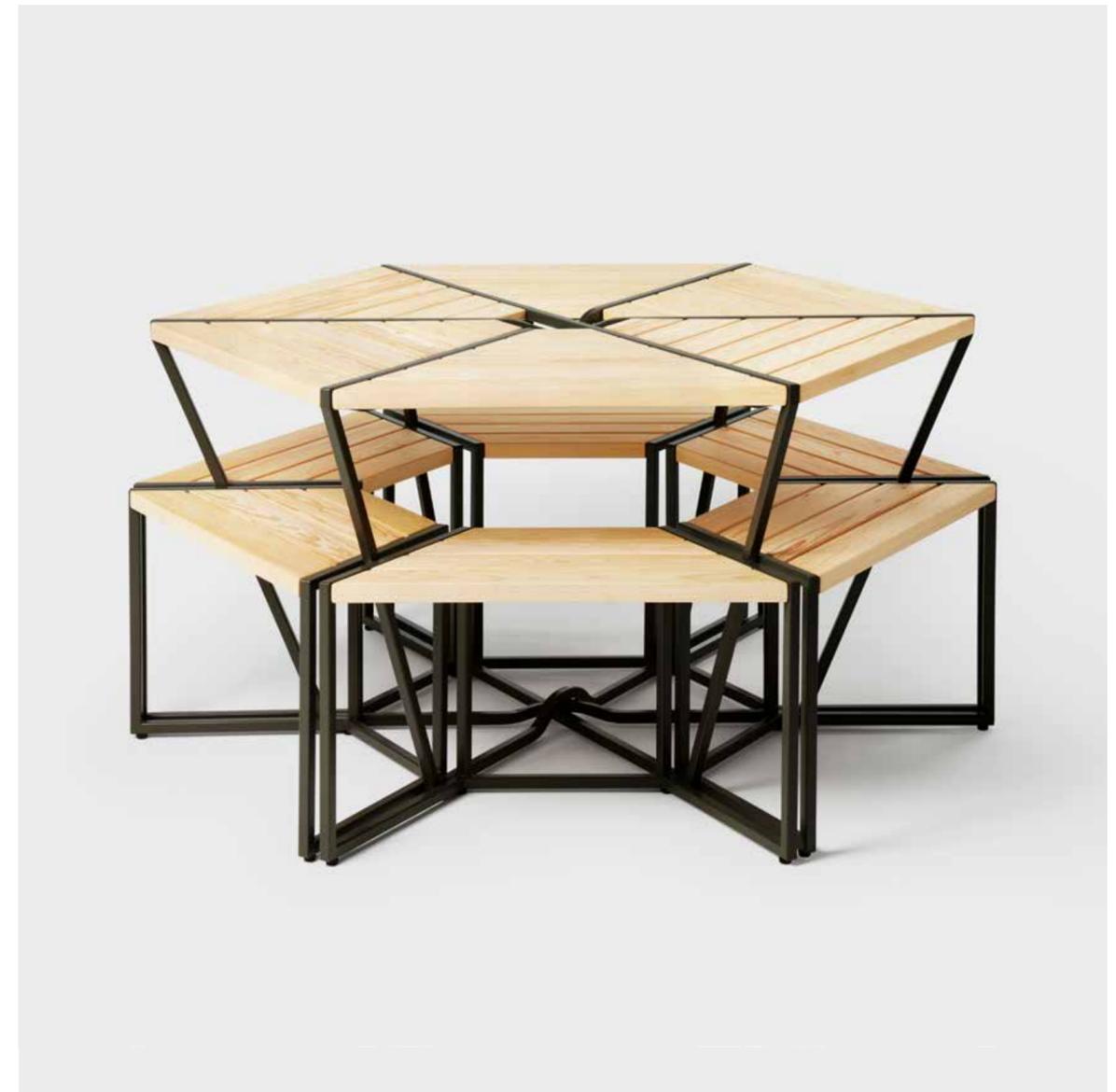
3–4. Kalmar Municipality's workshop where the products are repainted and re-varnished, and where wooden parts can be replaced with new ones if needed.

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**Never  
bored  
t's!**

*A piece for every space. Nola's news for 2023 include a spectacular galvanized rocking chair, a hexagonal-shaped furniture group, a tubular furniture system, and much more.*



### **Hexagon H22 Furniture Group** *Design In Praise of Shadows*

*The Hexagon H22 furniture group was inspired by the outdoor pavilion of the same name, both products designed by the Stockholm-based architectural practice known as In Praise of Shadows. The furniture group is comprised of a hexagonal table complemented by six compact seats that slot underneath the table when not in use. The motif in the centre of the tabletop evokes a wrought iron design and highlights the geometry of the table construction. Each product in the furniture group is crafted from Swedish pine with metal parts made from zinc-plated, powder-coated steel.*



## Gard Laminate Table & Bench

*Design Odin Sollie*

Gard table and bench are now available in highly durable laminate, still in the same distinctive style. Their frames recall the sleek wire furniture of the Mid-century period, contrasting lightweight metal rods with solid tops. The long version of the table can be delivered with an extra 40 cm in length to provide extra accessibility to wheelchair users. The table and bench are also slightly taller than industry standards. Together, the table and bench are a natural choice for food courts, cafeterias and residential care facilities, indoors as well as outdoors.

## Verv Rocking Chair

*Design Fanny Axnér  
& Siri Boekhout*

The Verv rocking chair is designed by Fanny Axnér and Siri Boekhout, both recent graduates from Stockholm's Beckmans College of Design. They developed Verv collaboratively with Nola as an alternative to stationary seating. Whereas the majority of seats are static, Verv enables those seated to sway backwards and forwards as they rock the chair. Research conducted in retirement centres shows that these subtle, so-called 'micro-movements' are beneficial to overall mobility and well-being. Verv is crafted in steel and designed with generous proportions that make it accessible to a wide range of body types and levels of mobilities. Verv is designed with reinforcements that prevent it from tipping over when rocked.



## The Tube Furniture System

*Design Thomas Bernstrand*

With its round shape and tactile surfaces, the modular *The Tube* system appears to snake its way through spaces as it provides seating for interiors of all sizes. The system consists of two parts, a straight section and curved section, each made to connect and create a wide range of shapes and configurations. Designed with flexibility in mind, the seating can be upholstered in a choice of fabrics and colours. The base is fitted with robust fasteners that secure it permanently to the surface. The Tube's base is elevated several centimetres above the floor, making it easy to clean under and around the seating. The design makes it easy to remove upholstery for washing, ensuring that the seating remains in good condition over time.





## Erba Planting Table

*Design Mia Cullin*

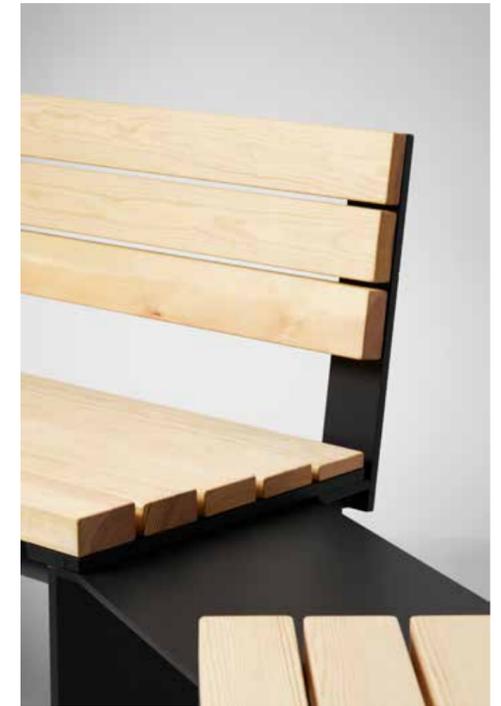
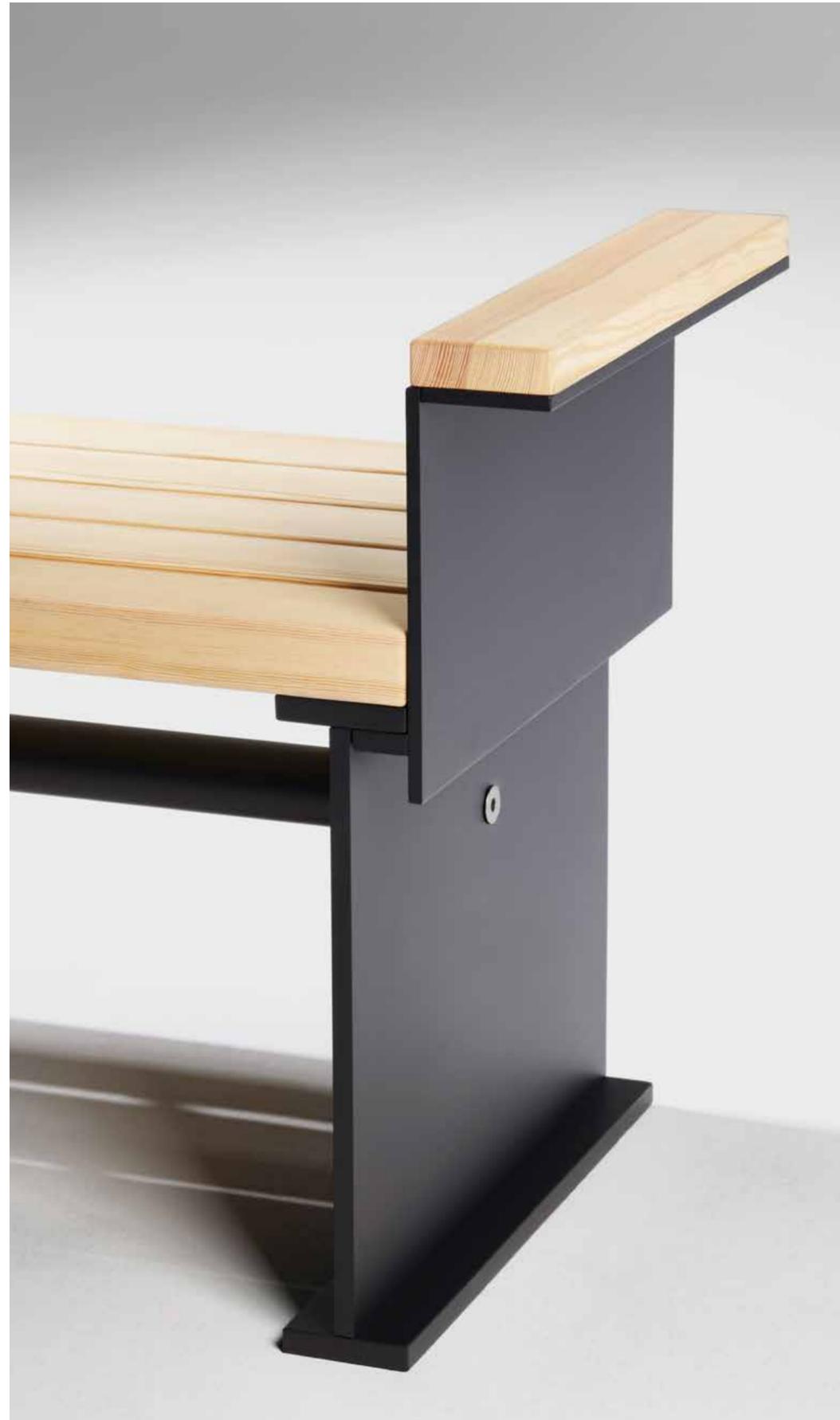
Home gardening is a growing sector with relevance to schools and retirement homes as well as communal gardens and residential yards. Meeting the demand for attractive, functional gardening equipment, *Erba* provides a workbench for nurturing plant life, storage for utensils and a trellis for hanging tools. *Erba* is available in two heights — sitting and standing — with a footrest and seat that encourage an ergonomic posture while working. *Erba* helps make sowing seeds, growing shoots and harvesting plants a source of inspiration for individuals and communities alike.



## Cane Europa Park Bench

*Design Broberg & Ridderstråle*

*Cane Europa* is a striking complement to the existing *Cane Park Bench*. This version is more robust, crafted in larger proportions that withstand wear and tear and exposure in locations such as station platforms, waterside piers and open landscapes. Like the original version, *Cane Europa* is designed with classic wooden ribs that form the contouring seat and backrest. Proportioned as a two-seater, *Cane Europa* can be placed individually, positioned back-to-back or aligned in rows to create a longer seat. An optional tabletop is available, as well as armrests that meet accessibility requirements. *Cane Europa* is environmentally certified by the Swedish Building Materials Assessors.



## Perpendicular Furniture System

*Design Thomas Bernstrand*

As its name suggests, the *Perpendicular park bench* is formed by components aligned at concise angles. Sleek wooden slats form a seat and backrest positioned at angles that make seating more comfortable and ergonomic. The steel parts join together without any visible welds, giving the bench a sleek appearance. The benches can be complemented by optional tabletops on either side. With its streamlined proportions and sleek details, *Perpendicular* is a perfect addition to modern architecture. The park bench and backless bench, together with the side tables, can be interconnected to form lengths in a variety of sizes and configurations.



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# A City for Every- one — a City for No One?

*'A city for everyone,' sounds like a nice idea, and one that could even be too good to be true. At first, it seems like a utopian concept, and probably something that many urban dwellers would want to sign up for. But paradoxically, a multifunctional city with an ambition to work for everyone could end up doing the opposite. Attracting nobody, thus becoming a city for no one.*

"We sanitise urban impressions like never before", says Louise Lindquist Sassene from ÅWL Arkitekter in Stockholm. Louise is an architect whose everyday workload addresses issues of inclusivity, social justice and accessibility. She has extensive experience of urban development and community building. Louise believes that social and economic inequalities should be factored into urban planning more than they are currently. She has a vision for creating city centres that serve the needs of people travelling in from the suburbs, and that offer affordable amenities for those with lower incomes.

Several cities in Sweden have adopted the "A City for Everyone" slogan. From big cities such as Stockholm and Gothenburg, to smaller communities such as Sunne in central Sweden, the 'city for everyone' concept plays an important role in planning and development. In all cases, it's about accessibility and promoting well-being, and by

*"In a city meant for everyone, the concept of diversity is important. That's why we offer a wide range of diverse products, both in terms of functionality, as well as aesthetics"*

extension, addressing concerns about safety and security. These issues often work in tandem with construction guidelines and directives for inclusivity and accessibility. In practice, they actually raise the minimum standard to a higher level and form the basis for a democratic city.

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*"Of course, when we try to create something for everyone, there's a risk that the result will be a city for no one," explains Louise. "If you want to draw parallels with the develop-*

ment of learning environments, there are a lot of discussions about efficient use of resources right now. A classroom should be suitable for several different subjects and a range of activities. In practice, this means

"Of course, we want our products to be accessible, safe and designed for use by all people, regardless of their age or level of mobility," says Henrik Edlund, Nola's CEO. "That said, in a city intended for everyone, the concept of diversity is just as important. That's why we offer a wide range of diverse products, both in terms of functionality, as well as aesthetics. Together, they can contribute to creating places with clear and strong identities."

Creating a city that everyone should be able to get something out of may seem like

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an obvious goal. But in practice, how do you plan for a wide variety of wishes, needs and opinions? Louise is asking herself the same question. How can we ensure that someone from the suburbs with just ten euros in their pocket has as good, or equal, experience of the city as a resident with a completely different socio-economic situation does? This is a big challenge to face, and one which several cities are trying to resolve in order to live up to the vision for a city for all.

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that architects decode and neutralize the rooms, when we really want them to encourage movement, togetherness and provide a creative platform. It's a worst-case scenario. We may be taking our obsession for perfect spaces to the extreme."

Reading between the lines, Louise seems to be saying that the goal for designing places for everyone probably hasn't been publicly questioned until now. "Consider what I just said about learning environments and apply it to cities," says Louise. "If the places be-

come so multifunctional that they can no longer be understood, or no longer attract visitors, what happens then? We need clarity and courage to move forward."

"Politicians and property developers need to be clear about the intended use of the environments and then dare to stand up for the purpose they have been designed for," says Louise. "A choice always has consequences, but conscious choices are better than chance. By targeting a particular group, another one may risk being excluded. That can balance out if you find space for that group in a place with different functions or where other activities prevail."

The municipality of Gothenburg has taken the mandates for inclusivity and varied experiences for different target groups to a higher level. With the *Åldersvänliga Göteborg* project, an initiative for senior citizens, the planners and developers wanted to create a city that is not only attractive to live in, but also nice to grow old in. The project was implemented by harnessing senior citizens' experience, knowledge and commitment, and making their voices heard.

The *Åldersvänliga Göteborg* action plan contains many activities, but something that stands out are the 'Talking Benches' integrated into the project. They're accessible

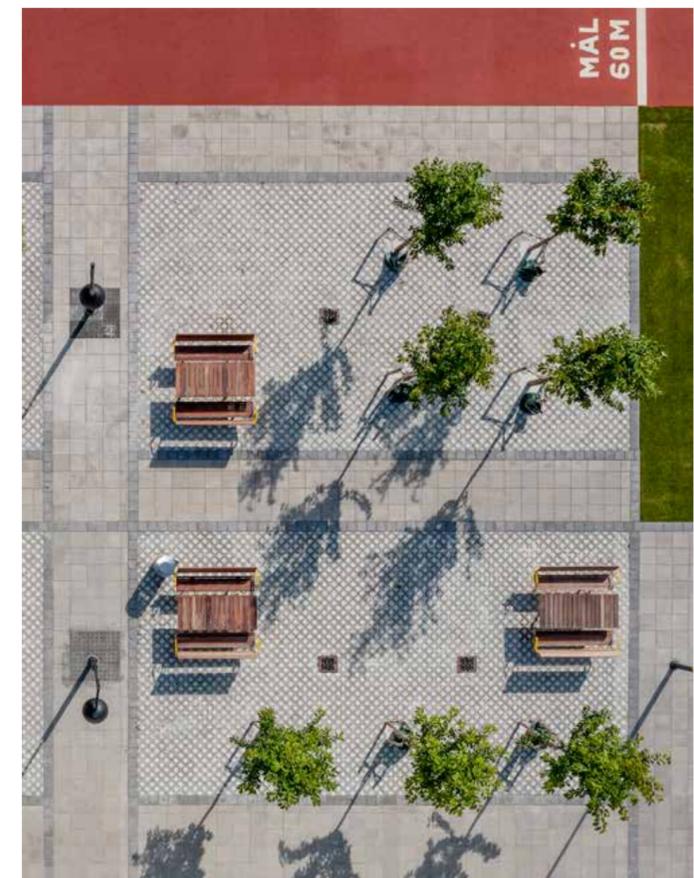
*"In the city itself, and in learning environments, visual impressions, materials and tactility play big roles. Playful, creative places with multiple creative expressions contribute to orientation and can increase security also."*

to people of all ages and mobilities, with a message encouraging those seated to have a conversation with others around them. The benches are inspired by England's 'Chatty Benches' and were installed in popular spots. The purpose is to increase senior citizens' participation in the surroundings and create opportunities for interpersonal meetings in public places. The Talking Benches act as meeting places for spontaneous activities as well as planned ones.

"It is very rewarding to see how our Access bench helps create interesting and attractive urban environments that all people can be part of," says Agneta Stake, founder and product development manager at Nola. The Talking Benches are much appreciated by city residents and attract old and young alike. By looking at differences and specific needs, rather than more general ones, Gothenburg has succeeded in creating an attractive city. A city for all.

"The physical environment can boost our sense of well-being or dampen how we feel as human beings, Louise explains. "In the city itself, and in learning environ-

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ments, visual impressions, materials and tactility play big roles. Playful, creative places with multiple creative expressions contribute to orientation and can increase security also, things that are important for all people," she concludes.

**Frida Jeppsson Prime**

*1–5: It's rare for everyone to want the same solution. A topical example of this can be found in Rosendal, a new residential development outside Uppsala. Nola and landscape architect firm Karavan have worked collaboratively to develop the site, creating spaces for individuals, small groups and large-scale community activities.*

*6: Louise Lindquist Sassene, architect at ÅWL, specialises in social sustainability and pedagogical environments. She has extensive experience of urban development and community building.*

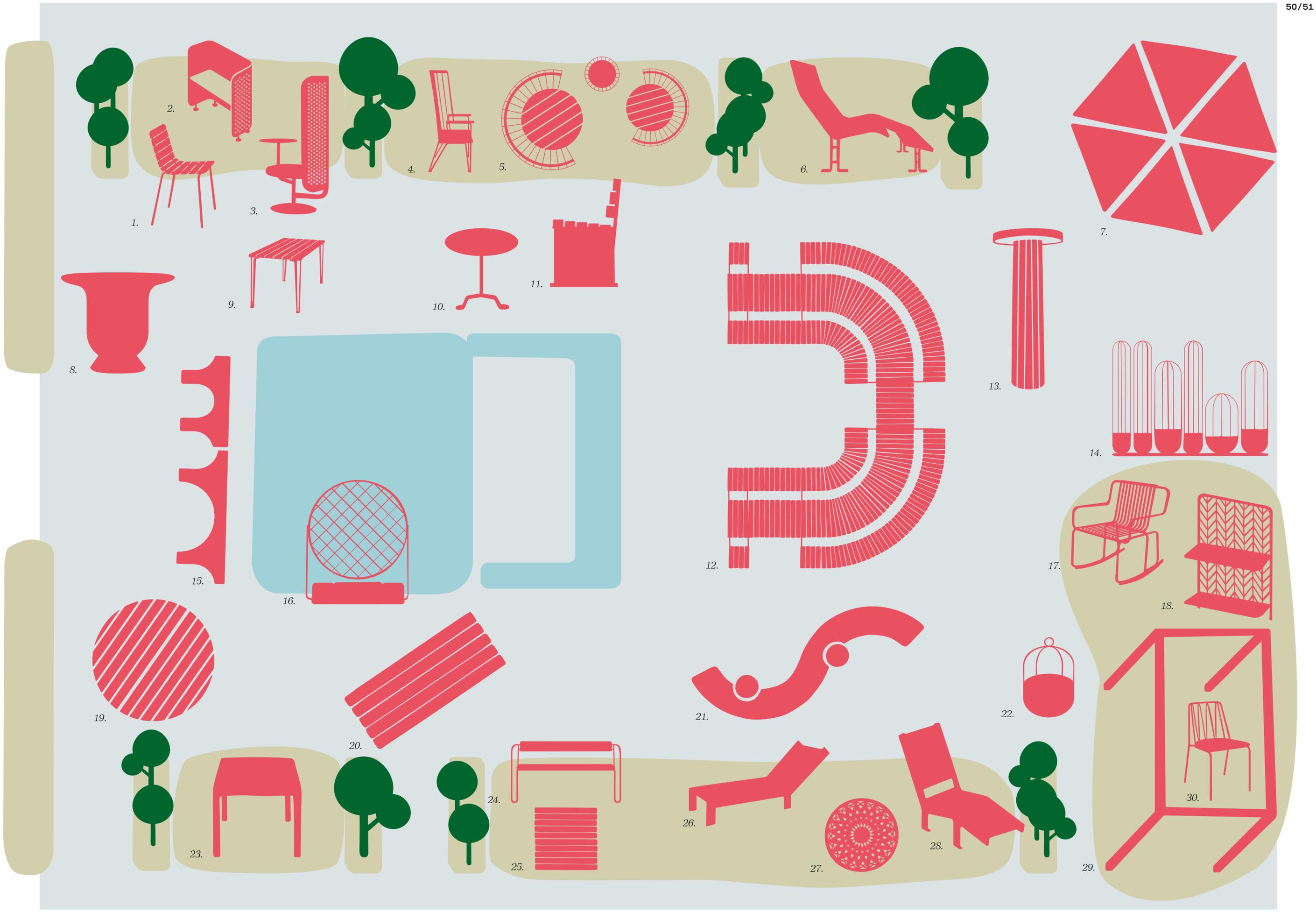
*7: The open-air theatre in central Malmö's Pildammsparken is considered to be a themed playground. It's a place for everyone, where people of all ages can relax, play, listen to music and watch performances.*

*8: At Fornudden's school in Tyresö, Nola has been involved in creating a new schoolyard with creative and colorful furniture that encourages play and movement.*

*9: The Talking Benches are highly appreciated and attract both old and young citizens. By looking at differences and specific needs, rather than general ones, Gothenburg has managed to create an attractive city. For everyone.*

# Greenhouse nola podcasts

*Welcome to Greenhouse Bar by Nola, a place for new ideas and conversations. Designers Anki Gneib and Mia Cullin have created a space for rest, work, meetings, and whatever you feel like doing.*





1+25: 11an Table + Chair  
Design Axel Bjurström

A modern furniture group with low-key design language, tight stands, and wooden slats.



2: Work Desk  
Design Superlab & Charlotte Petersson Troije

A workstation for outdoor environments, from a park or schoolyard to the rooftop terrace.



6: Kajen Sun Lounger  
Design Thomas Bernstrand

The designs in the Kajen family are a popular choice for maritime and waterfront settings, yet they enhance urban environments and public parks too.

3: Work Lounge Swivel Chair  
Design Superlab & Charlotte Petersson Troije

An embracing swivel chair with a soft cushion made specifically for outdoor work.



4: Gard Sofa  
Design Odin Sollie

An iconic Swedish shape transformed into a classic, a statement-piece wherever it's placed.



5: Basket Table & Armchair  
Design Ola Gillgren

The Basket's open, mesh-like structure provides the supersize comfort of a generous armchair, while being lighter than a solid seat. The range consists of three sizes and a table. Wooden seats or fabric seat cushions can be ordered for outdoor versions.



9: Gard Table & Benches  
Design Odin Sollie

The Gard high-backed sofa is joined by a table and a bench in the same distinctive style.



7: Hexagon H22 Pavilion  
Design In Praise of Shadows

Made entirely of Swedish wood, this pavilion is as much a conversation piece as a shelter.



8: Klocka Planter  
Design Anki Gneib

Inspired by a historic belltower, this planter tells a new story of time and space.



12: Långbordet Furniture System  
Design White arkitekter

A long table created specifically to connect people, places, and ideas and to form urban rooms.



10: Mustasch Table  
Design Broberg & Ridderstråle

Simplicity at its best, a small table for both indoor and outdoor use with café-sized proportions.



11: Perpendicular Modular Seating System  
Design Thomas Bernstrand

Streamlined proportions and details define this bench which complements modern architecture.



13: Bill Post Message Board  
Design Broberg & Ridderstråle

A notice board far from the ordinary with more surface area and an unmissable appearance.



14: Cacti Planter  
Design Anki Gneib

From Mexico and Frida Kahlo's cacti to your home street, garden, or office terrace.



15: Via Bench  
Design Anki Gneib

This bench needs no backstory, its presence speaks clearly of urbanism and architecture.



16: Gro Trellis  
Design Mia Cullin

The Gro Trellis provides an integral framework support for stems, stalks, robust greenery and small branches. The Trellis has a classic shape that gives each planter individual expression.



17: Verv Rocking Chair  
Design Fanny Axner & Siri Boekhout

A playful yet relaxed and comfy seat made for micro movement especially among the elderly.



18: Erba Planting Table  
Design Mia Cullin

With the growing interest in gardening and planting comes this table for the commune or park.



19: High Round Seating  
Design Mats Aldén

A flexible seating system for urban spaces, parks, rooftop terraces, squares and more.



20: Alnön Table & Bench  
Design Thomas Eriksson

A portable and lightweight piece that can be easily adapted to any space or requirement.



21: The Tube Modular Seating System  
Design Thomas Bernstrand

A snaky modular system that provides seating arrangements for interiors of all sizes.



22: Cacti Ampel  
Design Anki Gneib

A hanging plant basket which belongs to a larger family of planters and bird feeders.



23: Areal Table & Bench  
Design Broberg & Ridderstråle

Inspired by a bird's eye view over the countryside, the surfaces of these designs mimic the rural landscape.



24: Sigill Bench  
Design Note Design Studio & Gunilla Allard

Sigill is a park bench for the future that builds on the styles of the past. Sigill can be moved, stacked and stored with ease.



26: LowBed Sun Lounger  
Design Mats Aldén

LowBed is designed to promote relaxation, making a perfect complement for poolside patios, outdoor terraces, balconies and waterfronts.



27: Cake Mini Table  
Design Monica Förster

Small shapes that cast bold shadows, these tables are made in a variety of heights and sizes.



28: High Sunchair  
Design Mats Aldén

Similar to a deck chair, this lounge is a low-slung seat for relaxing in the fresh outside air.



29: Parklet  
Design Nola

A pocket parklet system making space for the temporary, imaginary, and unexpected.



30: Rousseau Table & Chair  
Design Anki Gneib

A furniture group presenting a compelling meeting of classic styles and contemporary form.

# This is Nola

*Nola was born during a period of time when design for the public realm was uninspiring and heavily over-looked by architects and producers alike. Agneta Stake initiated creative collaborations across the design field, creating the forward-thinking and socially aware Nola we know today.*

Just over forty years ago, entrepreneur Agneta Stake reinvented Nola as the company we know it today. Right from the start, Agneta charted a new course for the company, insisting on quality design at a time when public space was characterised by uninspiring products. Agneta initiated collaborations with architects and designers who shared her vision to improve the look and quality of public space design. Agneta's forward-thinking approach paid off, and throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Nola received a variety of design awards.

As Nola became distinguished by prize-winning designs, the company demonstrated its ability to innovate. Agneta encouraged designers to experiment with materials such as cast iron, cast aluminium, steel and wood, revealing the new shapes and surface textures they could create. A variety of collaborative projects took off, many of them in Stockholm.

Nola was chosen by municipal gardener Fredrik Wachtmeister to participate in the redevelopment of Kungsträdgården,

a project that rebranded a historic urban park. Similarly, Nola developed products for Stockholm's Berzelii park in collaboration with landscape architect Ulf Nordfjell, followed by redevelopment projects at the central train station, and at urban thoroughfares such as Kungsgatan, Drottninggatan and Sergels torg. Several decades later, most of these sites remain unchanged, highlighting Nola's position as a market leader in urban redevelopment.

Today, Nola continues to work collaboratively with top designers and architects to improve public space and create safe and attractive environments. These elements came together recently in the redevelopment of Stockholm's Centralplan, where Nola worked in collaboration with Sweco Architects. As taxi lanes and pedestrian paths were redeveloped on the site, Fredrik Toller designed the Arkipelag units to create seating and planters. As a result, the site offers an 'archipelago' of seating, creating a small urban oasis within a busy city thoroughfare.

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Nola strives to be at the forefront of public space design, and that means meeting the demands of urban centres in constant change. That's why they're still strong on innovation, and able to react to societal shifts unfolding in urban life. As they design new products, they're expressing a vision for making urban sites sustainable, more secure and with the ability to last a long time.

Recent examples include a new parking lot for electric scooters, which meets the need for parking while making a direct response to new street and sidewalk regulations. At the same time, Nola launched a green alternative to parking, designing a flexible 'mini-park' with the same dimensions of a parking space. They also presented a striking urban pavilion made entirely of Swedish wood, where people can come together and relax outdoors.

"As Nola continues to contribute to shaping today's urban centres, the experience we have gained over the years helps us anticipate the needs of future communities. Always moving forward, we continue to nurture and maintain the attractive environments we've already put in place. That's the future. That's Nola," says Agneta.

**Frida Jeppsson Prime**

1. Agneta Stake founder and design manager of Nola.

2. When Kungsträdgården was redesigned in 1998 a new park bench was developed, based on an older model in cast iron and painted pine. The new bench was the product of a unique collaboration between Nola, the architect Aleksander Wolodarski and the former city gardener Carl-Fredrik Wachtmeister.

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Nola Stockholm: +46 (0)8-702 19 60  
Repslagargatan 15 B  
Box 17701 118 93 Stockholm, Sweden

Nola Malmö: +46 (0)40-17 11 90  
Neptunigatan 74 211 18 Malmö, Sweden

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www.nola.se

