

Progressive Intervention on Urban Blocks

The area we chose is located in the city center of Malmö, characterized by narrow streets, small blocks, and 3–4-storey buildings forming a coherent and continuous urban pattern. This area provides a good example of medium to high built density within a human-scale environment, which makes it suitable for analyzing how progressive interventions of different densities could affect spatial structure and livability. The district combines residential, commercial, and cultural functions, maintaining strong connectivity with the surrounding urban network. Its compact morphology and mixture of uses allow for meaningful exploration of density transformation, such as how low-, medium-, and high-density proposals might integrate into an existing historic context. In summary, Gamla Väster provides a rich, legible, and realistic case study for testing progressive urban interventions, offering valuable insights into how density, form, and context interact in a historic European city center.



The low-density proposal: half of the existing buildings are replaced by single-family houses. The new plots are larger and include private back gardens, emphasizing privacy, sunlight, and greenery within the historic fabric. The street layout and overall morphology of the area are maintained to preserve continuity with the existing urban grain, while the reduction in built density provides a more open and domestic spatial atmosphere.



The medium-density proposal: the urban fabric becomes more compact with row houses (terraced houses) organized along the existing streets. Each dwelling includes a small front garden that acts as a semi-public transition space between the street and the house, maintaining the intimate and pedestrian-friendly character of the neighbourhood. The design balances increased density with human-scale living quality, enhancing social interaction while respecting the historical rhythm of façades and plot sizes.



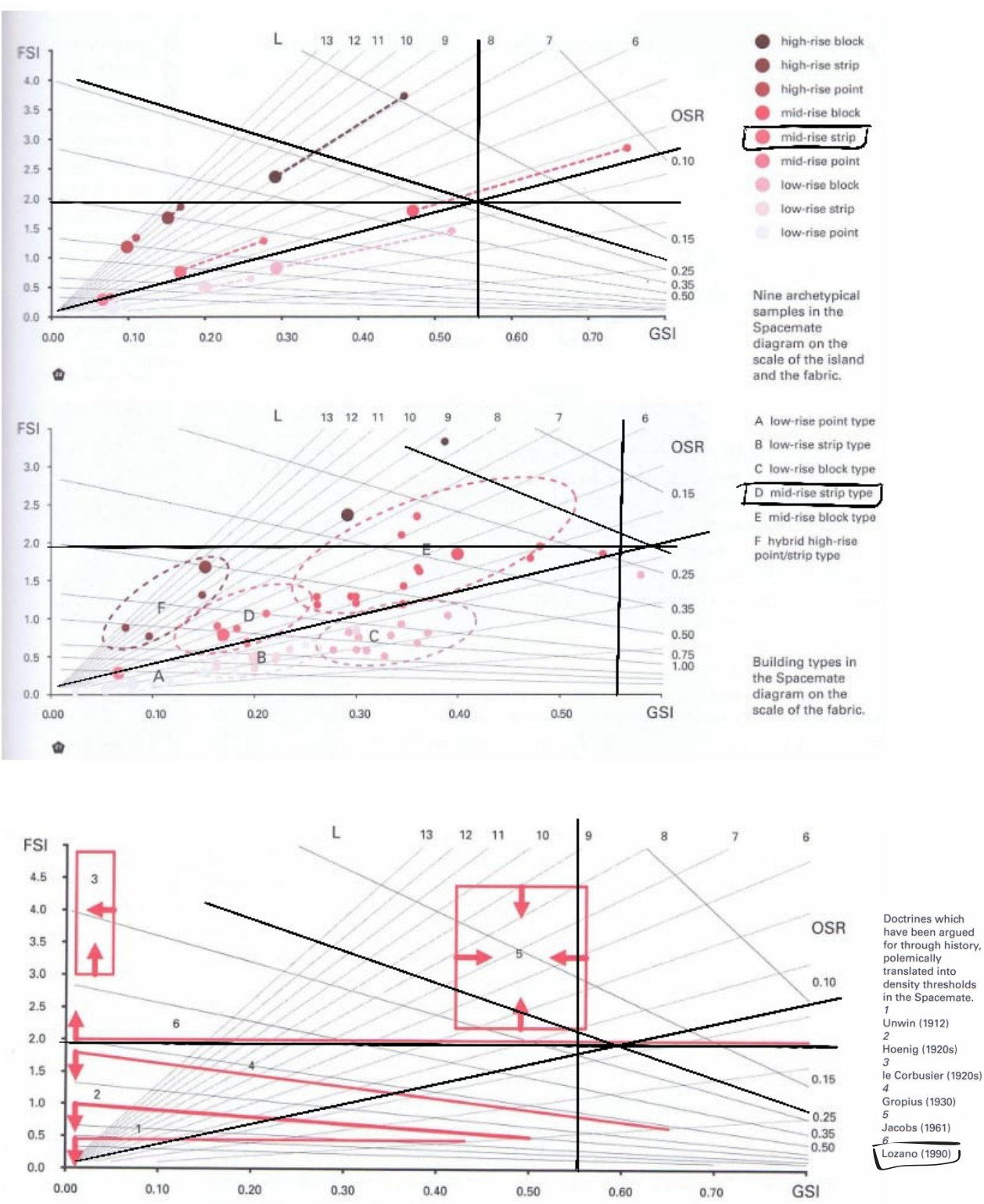
The high-density intervention: introduces a hybrid mix of multi-family buildings (4–6 storeys) and single-family housing. This combination allows for greater vertical density while maintaining a variety of scales and typologies, ensuring visual and spatial continuity with the existing context. The intervention demonstrates how different housing types can coexist harmoniously to achieve high density without sacrificing human scale or livability.

Metrics of Density - Gamla Väster



A	20,0604 ha
FSI	1,96014 (m ² /m ²)
GSI	0,56004 (m ² /m ²)
OSR	0,22445
N	3,5
L	0,0227164 1/m
w	44,0210 m
b	4,11346 m
T	9,34431 %

Gamla Väster was chosen because it represents one of Malmö's most characteristic historical neighborhoods, with a compact and coherent urban fabric. The area features narrow streets, small plots, and 3–4-storey buildings, offering a clear example of medium urban density in a human-scale environment. Its mixed uses, strong connectivity, and well-preserved morphology make it ideal for studying the relationship between density, form, and quality of life. The neighborhood provides a readable and measurable case for applying the Metrics of Density method, illustrating how historical urban structures can balance compactness, livability, and spatial diversity.



The point is located within the “mid-rise strip” zone. This type of urban fabric is moderately tall, compact, yet not overly dense, providing a balance between intensity and quality of life. There is also a relatively good availability of open spaces such as courtyards and gardens. Gamla Väster represents a well-balanced, historically shaped urban fabric that combines high-quality public space with moderate density.