Positive Footprint Housing/Brf VIVA
Chalmers Campus, Göteborg, Sweden
Sten Gromark INTREPID/SE & AIDAH Environment

**Partners:** Chalmers University of Technology Dep of Architecture & Riksbyggen EF

**Timeframe:** 2014-2018

**Funding institution:** Formas SE & Riksbyggen EF

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**Project Description**

by Björn Andersson, Anna Braide Eriksson & Sten Gromark, Chalmers Architecture

AIDAH

*Positive Footprint Housing Experiment, Göteborg 2012-2016: A Critical Assessment of Procedures and Substance*

Currently there is a mounting demand on housing providers to contribute to sustainability in residential situations and to deliver practical demonstrations and experiments in this field. One such example in Sweden has been initiated as a research based project development process by a cooperative housing association in Göteborg, Riksbyggen EF, and a major actor on national level. During a period of three years a transdisciplinary collaboration, involving a wide range of professionals, master students and researchers at Chalmers Architecture and the University of Göteborg, a building project comprising more than a hundred flats has been defined. It is to be built during 2017-18 at Chalmers campus site. It has already attracted a record-breaking interest among potential customers. The project, the so called *Positive Footprint Housing*, claims a future realization of a number of radical implementations in a design strategy of significantly raised residential resilience of Brf Viva, as the name given. Examples range from a wide variety of components like sharing of electric car pool, minimal conventional parking lots, extensive application of roof pv-cells and electric power production distribution to the introduction of six low cost starter flats at 30 m² for young residents and structural flexibility of apartments of in total 132 units with extensive common facilities like a winter garden ‘orangerie’ for association meetings, cultivation and social events. During the process efforts to create social sustainable solutions have been both procedural and substantive in character. This contribution will take a critical stance towards this endeavor. It is building upon related conducted research with insights and observations of authors gathered from participation within this process of research informed residential projective realization. The focus has been set on unfolded and identified crucial social aspects of sustainability and related architectural residential solutions of alterability and flexibility. Our study shows the inherent vagueness of general sustainability formulations, especially concerning social sustainability, and the importance of doing research directly in the conflicting social fabric where sustainability goals are negotiated and given a concrete significance.

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**SWOT Analysis**

**Strengths**
- Concerted trans- and interdisciplinary effort for social sustainability and realisation of residential resilience

**Weaknesses**
- Not going far enough when the occasion is exceptionally offered

**Opportunities**
- Basic start point for a widened application of experiences and procedures on national level

**Threats**
- Being considered a green wash of standard production of residential offers

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Project rendering on site 2016 © Riksbyggen EF

Project Model March 2016 for Project launch, 138 units with cooperative tenure & extensive common amenities. Architects: Malmström & Edström © Photo: Sten Gromark

Project rendering 2016, Winter garden loggia and Orangerie © Riksbyggen EF

Project rendering 2016, Winter garden loggia and Orangerie © Riksbyggen EF