

The art of waiting

Note Design Studio creates site-specific installation for Stockholm subway

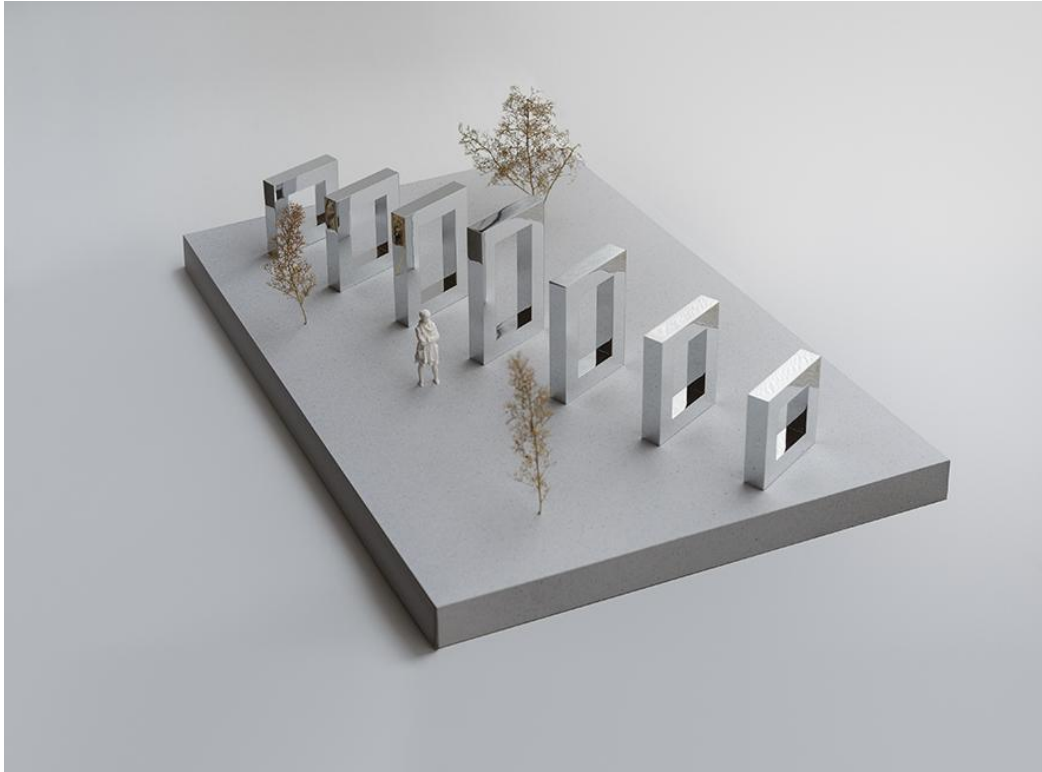


All photography by Erik Lefvander

- Note creates monumental 'windows' installation exploring the poetry and purpose of waiting
- The studio's first site-specific artwork will feature at Nacka station, at the heart of Nacka city.
- Note has been commissioned as one of three creative collaborators working on the transformative transport infrastructure project

Award-winning Stockholm design studio Note has been behind a huge number of high-profile design projects over the last 11 years, but never before has the team turned its talents to the creation of public art. Now, commissioned by the municipality of Nacka, Sweden, Note is unveiling its first site-specific installation.

Waiting Windows is a large-scale architectural meditation on the act of waiting – a sculptural study of the 'dead time' between the anticipation and the event.



Due for completion in 2027, the expansion of the Stockholm subway is one of the biggest transport infrastructure projects to have been undertaken in Sweden. One of the major impacts will be the creation of a rail link between Central Stockholm and the neighbouring Nacka municipality, with three new Nacka stations added to the blue line from Kungsträdgården: Sickla, Järla and Nacka C. The improvement of the network coincides with extensive development in Nacka, fulfilling the project requirement that provision is made for 50,000 new inhabitants in the coming years – including the creation of 14,000 apartments and 10,000 workplaces.

To mark the magnitude of the project and celebrate the fact it will make Nacka Sweden's biggest municipality, three groups of artists and designers have been commissioned to create public installations that respond to the development. As part of Nacka's initiative entitled 'The Art of Urban Creation', Note was asked to create an outdoor public artwork close to the new Sickla station – quite a departure for a studio more used to function-first projects in the fields of architecture, interiors and product design.



Working to an open brief, the studio began to reflect on the state of waiting – both in the sense of waiting for a train in the station, and of 100,000 Nacka residents waiting for the delivery of a life-transforming link to the centre of Stockholm.

“Waiting is a poetic frame of mind, but it’s often considered something of a void in our daily lives. We have to do it, but if you allow yourself to actively occupy that moment rather than be passive, then it becomes something else altogether – something that’s not to be seen as wasted time. On a subway platform, you’re witness to small slices of everyday life as trains slip by – each passing window acting as a pinhole camera snapshot of the lives happening inside.”

— Daniel Heckscher, Note Design Studio

This notion of passing train windows was the starting point. Set on a wooded hillside traffic island beside Nacka City Hall, 350 metres from the entrance to Sickla, the installation comprises an array of oblong frames in polished stainless steel, varied in size, and set in a gentle curve evoking the shape of a Stockholm Subway station. By day, the ‘Waiting Windows’ reflect their surroundings and trigger chance encounters between people interacting with the artwork, and at night, the windows will be lit from the top of each frame. A single window, also illuminated at night, is positioned at a smaller site nearby to serve as a viewpoint for the main installation.



“We chose not to make Waiting Windows a ‘digital’ piece. Our lives are already full of digital worlds in which people don’t meet other people physically. Note’s spatial work is always about leaving with the sense that you’ve experienced something real and tangible. This installation will not have any guidelines to how it should be use, no background text as you might find in a gallery. It’s for the people of Nacka to decide its purpose and meaning.”

— Daniel Heckscher, Note Design Studio

Note’s Waiting Windows has been made possible with the support of leading Swedish property developer JM and the global retail developer Unibail Rodamco Westfield, both of which are instrumental in the imminent transformation of Nacka City.

“Through co-creative projects and by including art and culture from the beginning, I believe we will end up with a city that doesn’t simply exist, but also touches us deeply.”

— Fredrika Friberg, chief creator, Nacka municipality

Notes to editors

For more information about Waiting Windows and Note Design Studio, please contact Emma Collins at emma@zetteler.co.uk or on +44 (0)20 3735 5855.

About Note Design Studio

Founded in 2008 by Johannes Carlström and Cristiano Pigazzini, Note is a Stockholm-based design studio working across the fields of architecture, interiors, products, graphic design and design strategy. Now comprising a team of 14 designers, Note has grown to become one of the most internationally admired names in Scandinavian design, working with a wide range of international design brands and winning a steady stream of design awards.

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