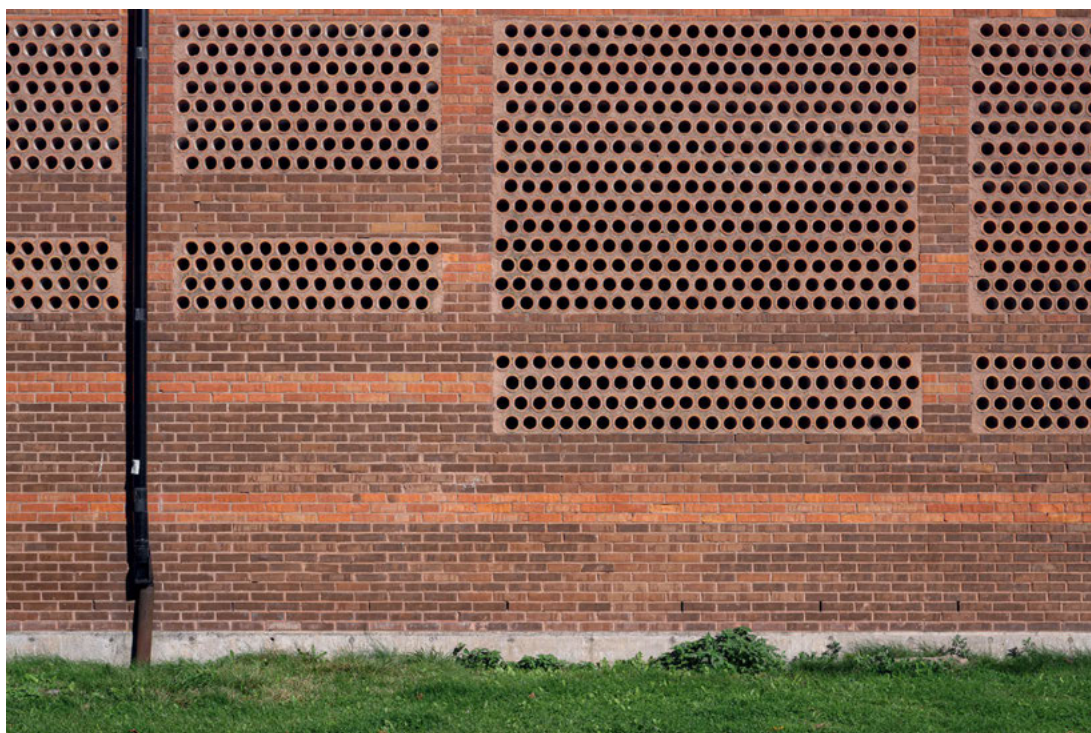


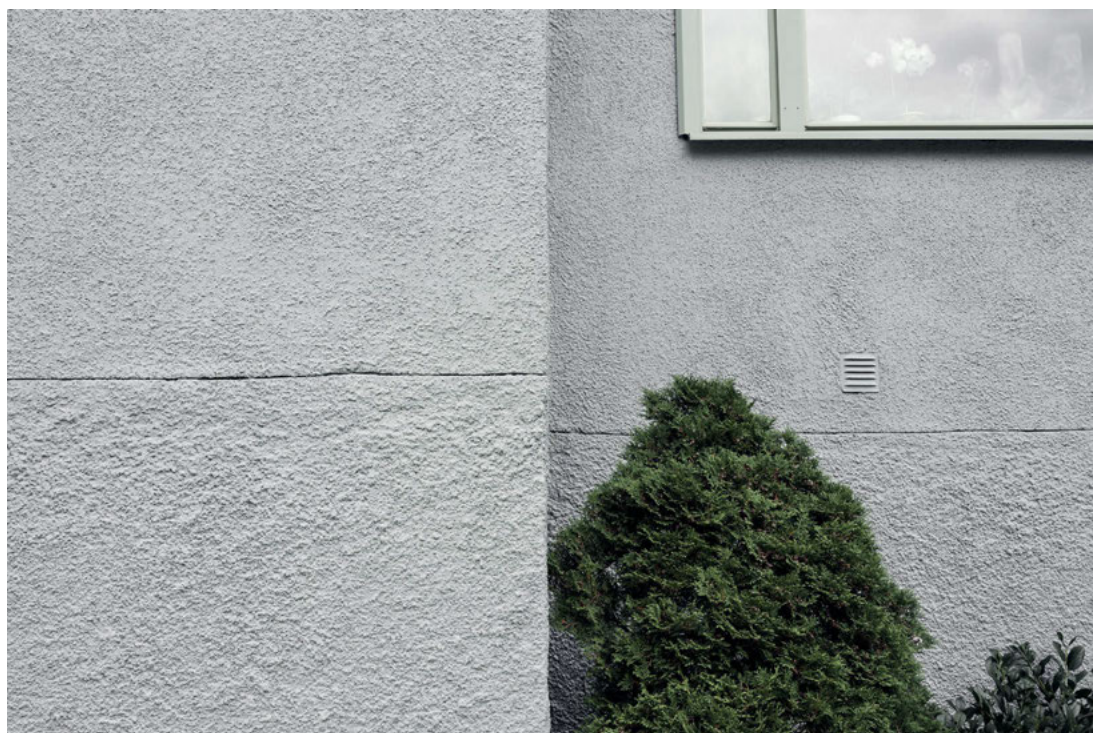
CONCRETE SUBURB

John Håkansson



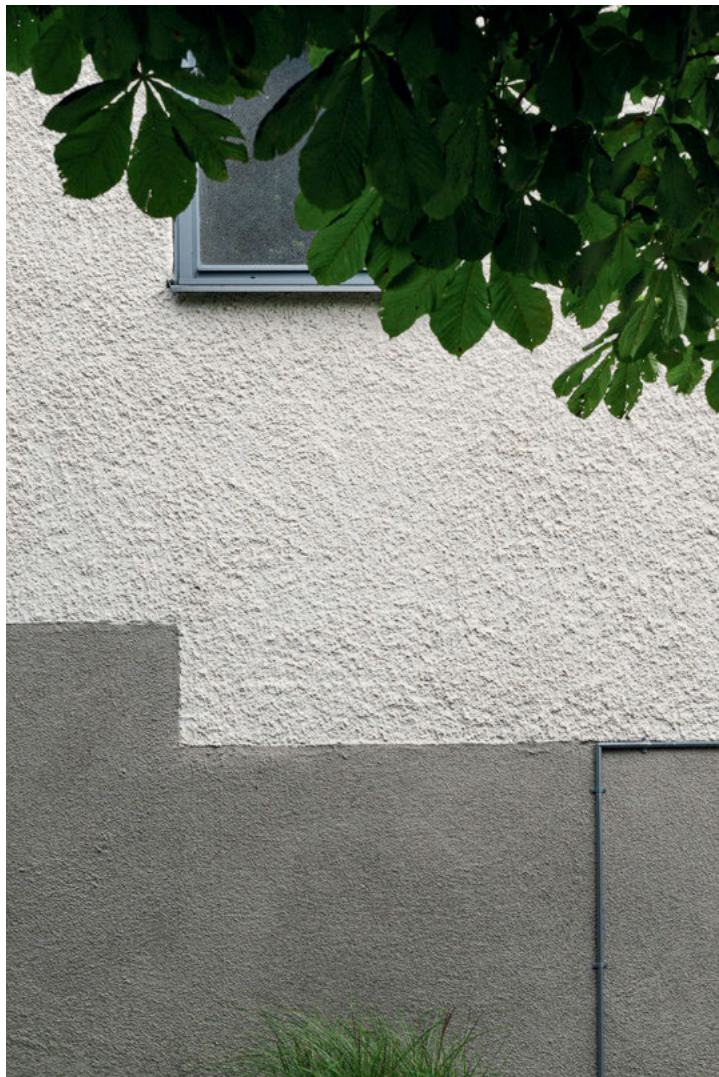




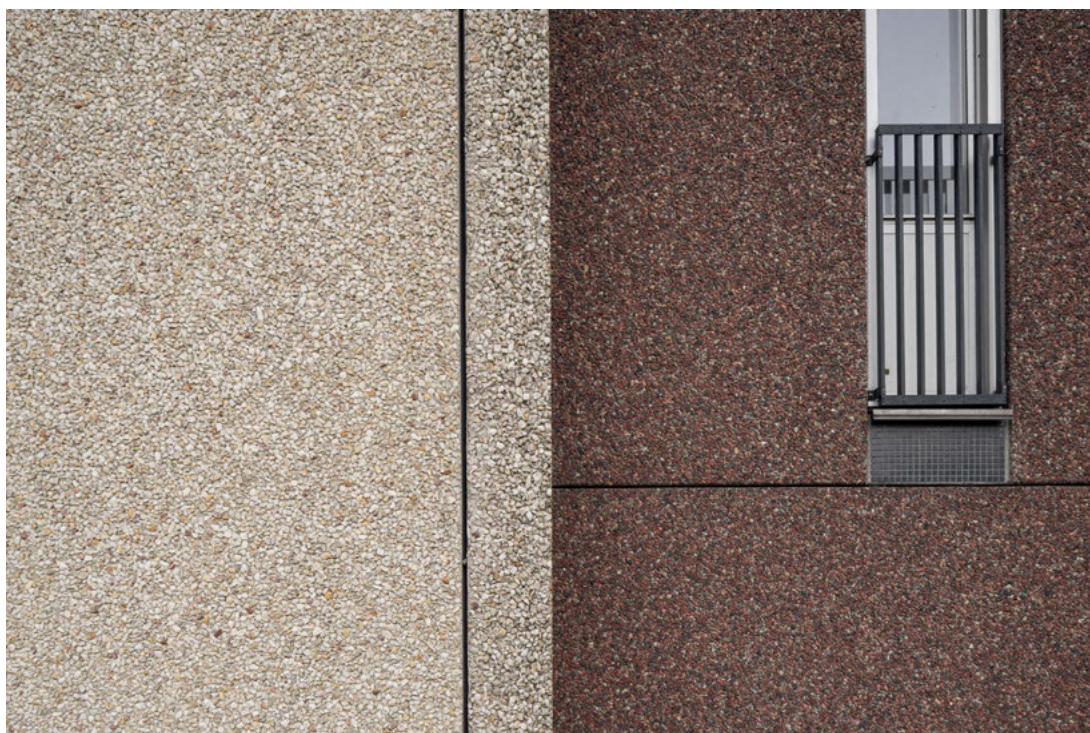






















This photographic project is about searching and collecting. I go to a suburb and photograph for a whole day, and from all the pictures I take, I choose a few that work. It might be just one: a picture of a corner with a bush. I live in a Stockholm suburb, so most of the photos are taken around Stockholm, but my ambition is to travel to other parts of the country. The work is in progress.

The title “Concrete Suburb” is a play on the concept of *concrete art*. This term was coined by the Dutch artist Theo van Doesburg in 1930 when he founded the group Art Concret. In their manifesto, the group argued for “concrete painting”: painting which should not refer to any reality or meaning beyond itself, and be entirely about its own plastic elements, its own surfaces and colors. One of the artists who signed the manifesto was the Swede Otto G. Carlsund, who introduced concrete art to Sweden with a large international group exhibition at the Stockholm Exhibition in 1930. The exhibition was an economic disaster for Carlsund, but concrete art eventually gained a significant place in the history of Swedish modern art, its golden age paralleling the building of modern suburbs on the outskirts of Swedish cities.