

# The Principled Description of an Artisan's House and Various Alternatives

## Part I

A few points have to be taken into consideration, when viewing these descriptions:  
- The pictures are based on principles. In other words, the supporting frontal vertical beams have not been drawn, as well as the decorations nor the supporting beams of the eave overhang on the front.



*The building viewed from the south*

- The frames of the upper window construction located on top of the working space is to be done from 'natural wood' - In other words, round wood. Työhuoneen yläpuolella oleva valoikkunan puitteet tullaan tekemään "luonnonpuusta" eli pyöreästä puusta. Its solutions at the lower base have been left undrawn.

Everything related to the ventilation of the foundation, the ventilation of the rooms, the sound and thermal insulation of the walls has been omitted from the picture.

This has been done for technically illustrational reasons, while also making it easier to explain how various spaces function.

Another reason for this is that the architect and the municipal building engineer is more acquainted and knows these issues better than a carpenter, in this case, Yours Truly.

The building presented here or why it changes owing to discussions and construction technical reasons, acts as a prototype construction.

### **Glass as a recycled material**

Above the first floor of the construction, the source of light for the working area can be seen. This is a skylight which stretches the whole extent and in the middle of the work space. The panes are salvaged glass obtained from old windows.



*We salvaged approximately 130 windows from the offices of the city of Parainen with my brother, because they were to be renewed for some reason. All windows had triple-glazing with shades included.*

*Insulated glass doors from which 19 went to the carbage yard. Nobody needed them.*



*Pictured above are windows which were destined to the scrapyard because nobody was in the need of them. The picture is from a healthcare center where the windows were to be changed owing to a constructional fault (in the 1980s) letting water into the construction and the insulation.*

My brother - who among other things is a boat builder - needed new and luminous facilities. So, we started to collect windows from various construction sites. He also needed doors, so we collected them from an apartment building where all 34 balcony doors were to be changed. We got them for free, ofcourse. He took 8 off them and I took 7 of them on behalf of my job. The rest were delivered to the rubbish yard.

The walls of his boat-building workshop is going to be 3 storeys of glazing facing towards the south, and 5 storeys of glazing facing towards the north. In addition, he is going to have to buy lumber for the supporting frames, as well as nails and material for covering material.

During the summer heat he is can protect himself from the sun by drawing the shades down on the wall from which the sun is shining. During other times of the year, sunlight is received from all walls.

**Within a half-years time, and within a radius of one kilometre, we found all these materials.**

**Hint:** If somebody wants to build himself working facilities, (s)he should remember that old windows can be obtained free of charge. The final cost will only be the cost of a trailer and fuel, meaning transportation.

Now one has surely come up with a few questions:

**1) Why do companies give the windows away for free?**

This is because they will have to pay disposal expenses of the windows according to kilogram. In addition, they will have to meet the expenses concerning transport.

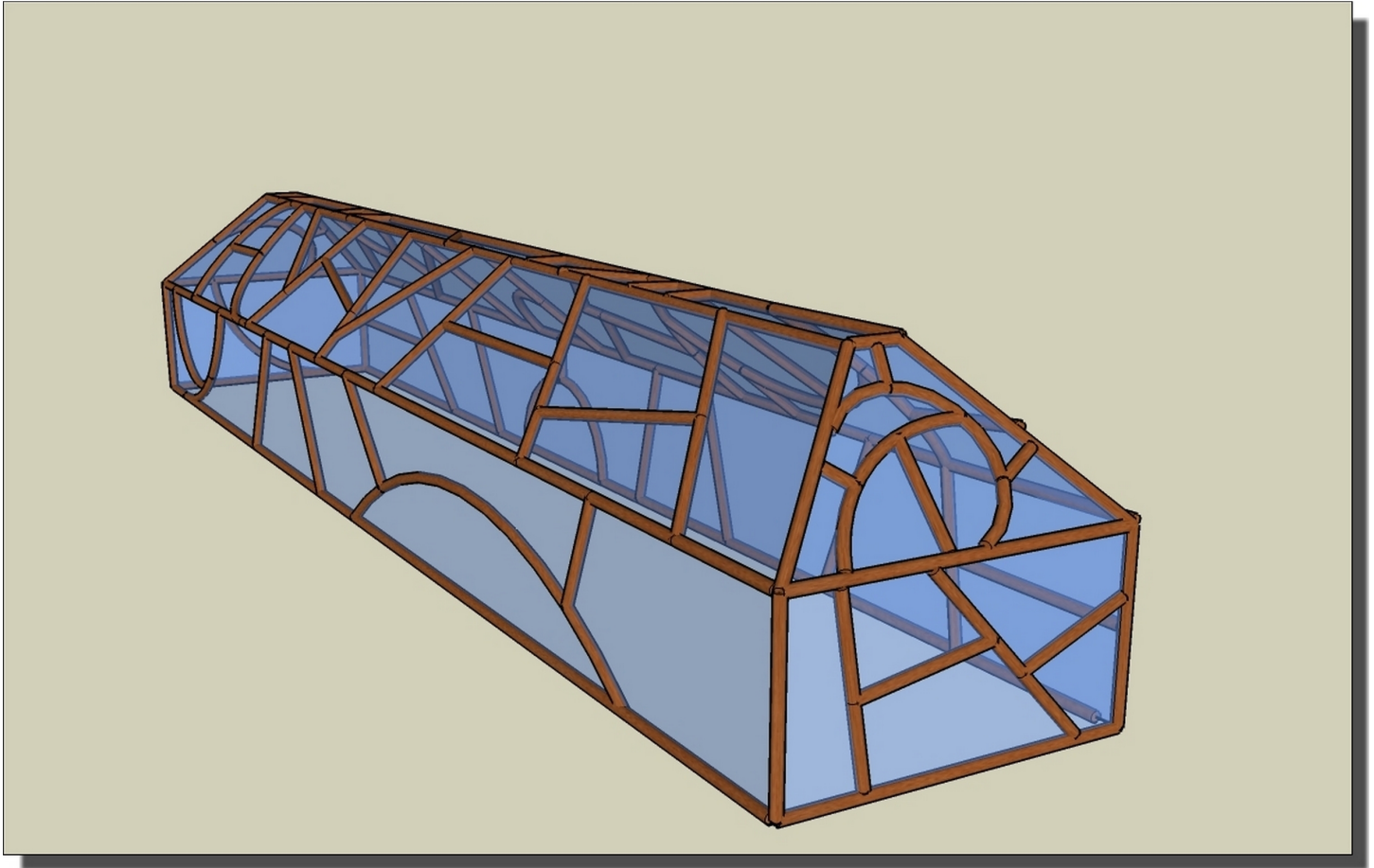
**2) Are we going to build a Handcraft Village using old windows?**

Under no circumstances are we using old window frames for anything.

We salvage the glass material, choose wood and branches curved towards one direction, and make the the windowframes out of them.

We preserve the round feature of the wood and make a plywood model of the required glass shape. The glass is then later on cut into form. We will make skylight 3 or even 4 storeys high. There is enough glass for this.

The result could look like this:



Does this look difficult?

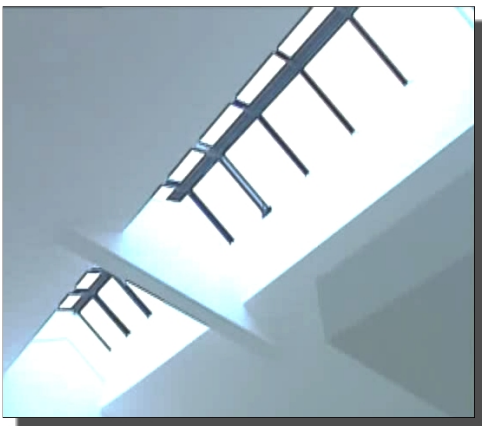
Answer: Yes, it does - But everything is relatively easy when one is willing to learn. Wood is a fun material.

Firstly the frame is made, in other words the wood is not fabricated separately to a certain form. I will not explain here how a crooked branch is sliced, dried and the plane surface evened, how the groove for the glass is cut, the glass is cut, the whole entity is glued together etc.

It is better to have a local course organized around the subject in the dead of winter and everybody will have a good time.

Then, (If you bear with me for a while longer, I will get to the root of the issue):

Because the ceiling is approximately 70 cm thick (and supposing the strawbale is approximately 40 cm 'thick'), the window on the roof develops a 70 cm high wall which should reflect light.



*The skylight of the building in this picture is slightly narrow and the walls reflect the light well because they are painted white.*



The glass which has been left over after the cutting is then grounded to glass gravel. This glass gravel is then mixed again into the plaster substituting the fine sand, which again is used to plaster the lower walls beneath the top window. During the drying phase, if the wall is washed during in the right time, the glass crystals will come visible and reflect light even better.



The roof window solution would be about 1,4 meters wide.

**The actual targets we want to reach with these long explanations are:**

- All solutions have to be special so that the traveller will narrate of them to their friends and acquaintances.
- I, among others, will be telling a lot about how the houses are constructed, about its special features etc.

- This narration is aimed to get the traveller to ask that magical question which all salesmen are always expecting to hear, which is: **"How much did this cost?"**

This question is the 'Mother of All Purchasing Signals'!

At that moment I will ask for 'our responsible for the construction economics'- person, Jack or Jill, whoever happens to be available.

**Jack, or Jill in reality is a local unemployed worker in the construction field.**

S(he) sells the idea further. S(he) realizes that the building material expenses themselves are under the common prices, and therefore we can perform the more difficult tasks - if the price is right.

With this I mean that even though the Handcraft Village is in question, the houses themselves become exhibits of a residential/vacation exhibition.



The warehouse of the Turunmaa renovation cooperative.

I work for the Turunmaa renovation cooperative in Finland.

The cooperative is not a recycling center, but we collect windows, doors and other building material which have been built before 1960.

What is not produced anymore, is sold for restoration purposes.

We have about 3000 windows, hundreds of doors, of which most have been produced around the beginning of the last century.

we do not accept new windows, but I constantly look for people who want to build a leisure house, green houses or similar constructions, and we tell them from where and when they can acquire newer building material for free. Otherwise the materials end up in the garbage yard.



Old windowputty is being melted

The **Turunmaa renovation cooperative** organizes courses where masters from various fields teach their renovation and restoration skills to people interested.



A mirror-door from the 1800s is being restored.

### More on lights and glass



Ever so often, also natural light is wanted into the shower facilities, storage areas - but one does not want to be observed while in these spaces, or that the firewood or other stored material is directly visible.

A wall constructed using bottles come sometimes be a good solution. However, this has to be adapted with thought and good taste. The colours and the surface used have to be taken into consideration

The construction is done in the following way:

- The bottles are sorted according to color.
- The bottles are cut using a diamond blade.
- Two (or more) bottles are joined together with a strong adhesive tape.
- The wall of bottles is test-constructed to achieve a desired combination of colors.



- The bottles are protected with a fine plastic film and plastered into the wall horizontally.



The plastic is removed, and the between of the bottles are evened off and the wall is finished off.



## Fairy Tale Forest



- First and foremost, we will build a fairy tale forest:
- We clear the area of twigs and remove all the dry branches of the trees upto the height of 2 meters.
  - Check the general safety, especially taking the children into consideration and perform the required procedures.
  - Build the fairytale houses.



- Build a traditional fence around the fairy tale forest, so that the children will not get lost.

The houses in the Fairy Tale Forest:

- A troll house
- A castle for the troll king
- The house of Red Riding Hood's grandmother.
- The witches gingerbread house.
- etc.

Materials as pictured.

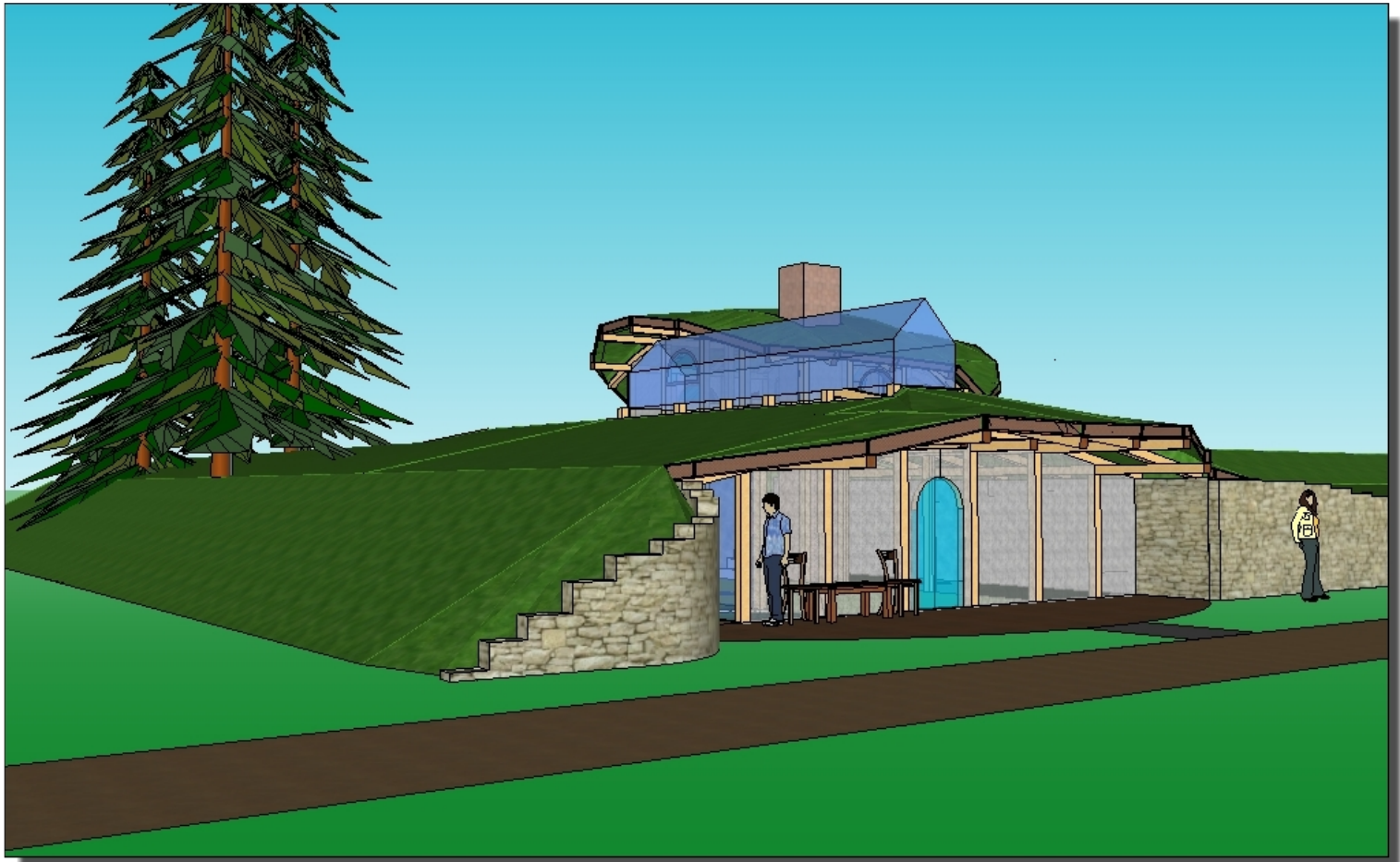


## Summer theatre - The event slope

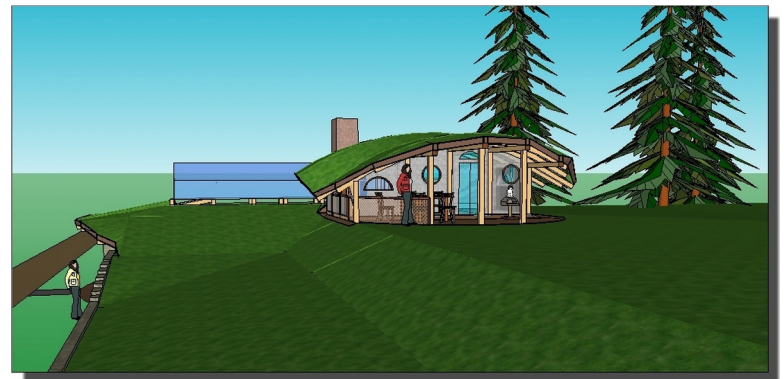


In these pictures is the Krookila estate's summer theater - the bleachers for the events. As one can notice, making the bleachers has not required that much work. On the other hand, better facilities can be designed for the performers/actors, when they do not need to follow a historical setting, using existing buildings, regardless if they fit or not.

And the when the local bachelor bank gets broke every now and then, the bachelors can be auctioned off from here. ;>)

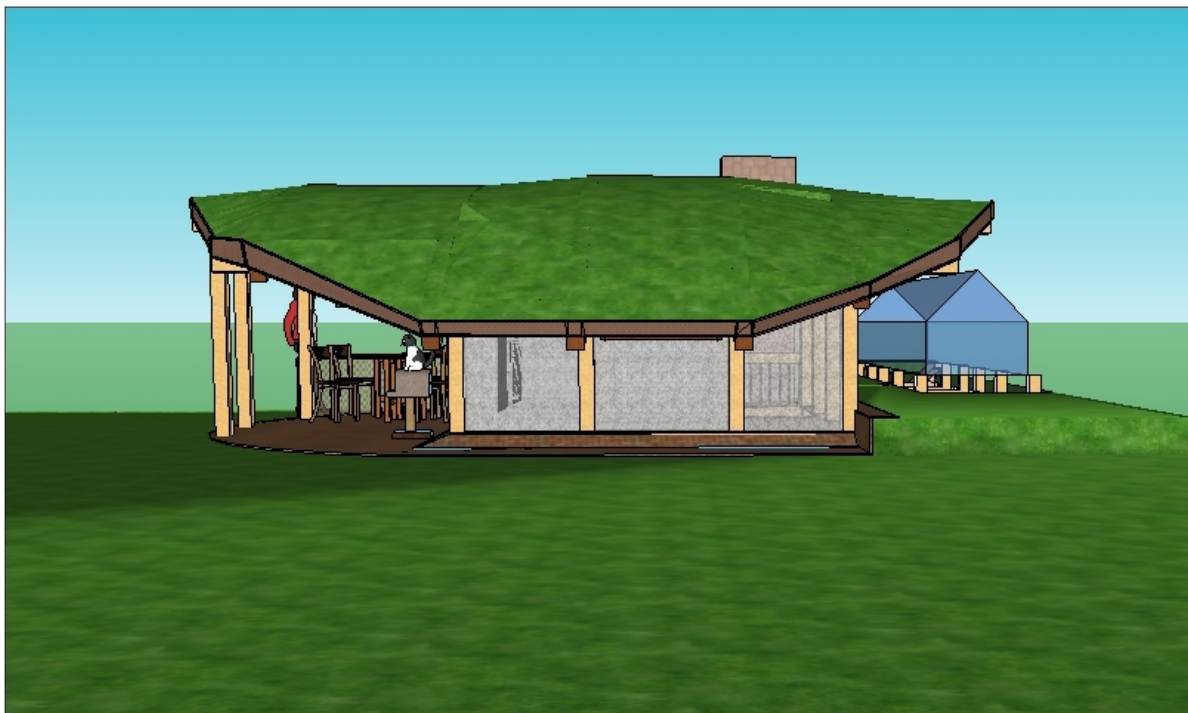


Above: A view from the south-west.



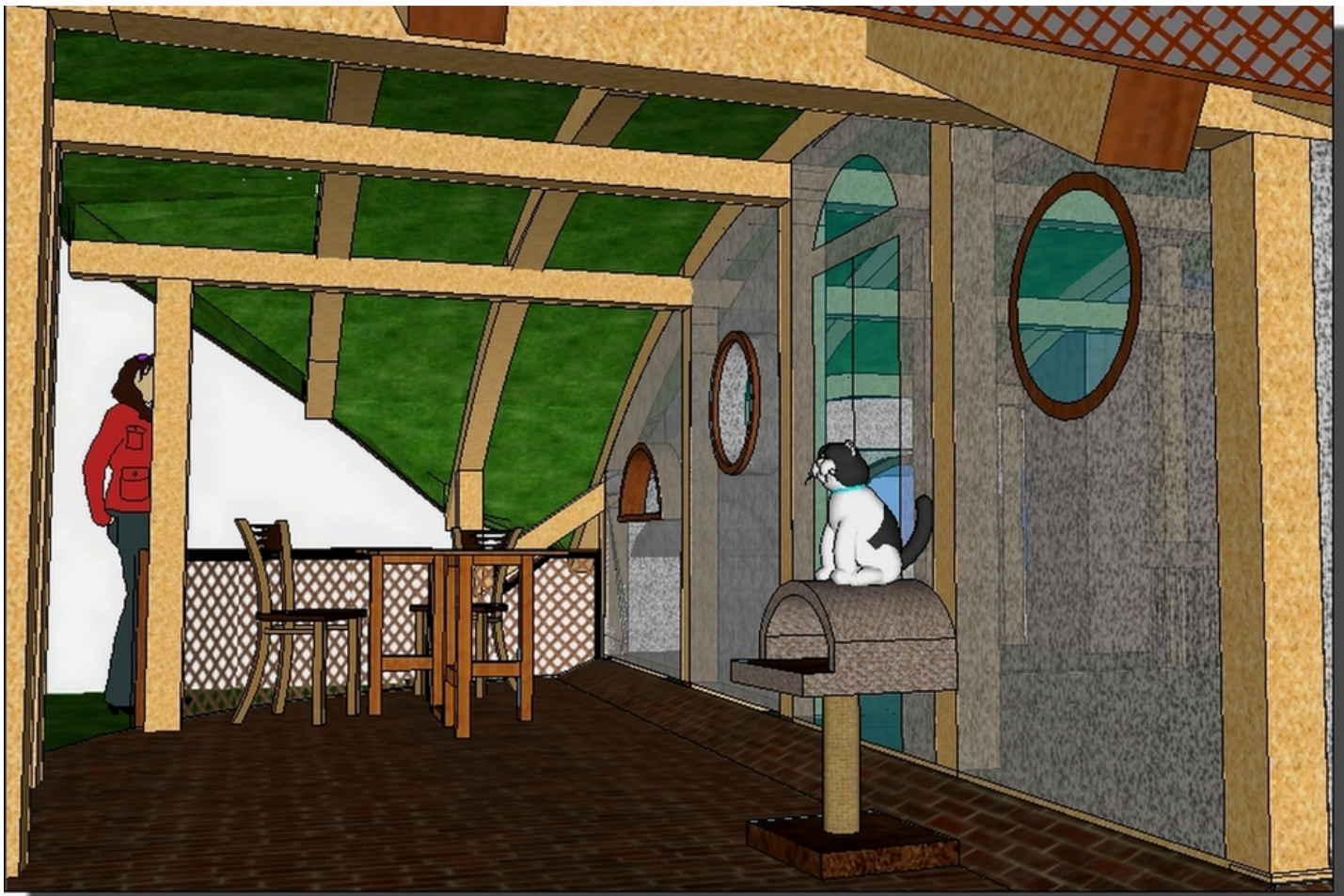
<- A view from the south-east

A view from the east.



A view from the north.





The cat upstairs.

The terrace upstairs occupies a covered area of approx. 14 m<sup>2</sup>



**We have a collection of links concerning our activities - including the text-files - in the internet.**  
You can also obtain them in various languages by writing to:  
**provillage2010@gmail.com**  
6.6. 2009 Henry Björklid

To be continued...