



# **GOTHENBURG HISTORY**

**PRESENTATIONS 2021  
IB20B**

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## Kungsportsavenyn

Kungsportsavenyn is an avenue that goes through the city district of Lorensberg.

Today Avenyn starts at Kungsportsbron and ends at Götaplatsen but it has not always been like that. In 1861, there was a committee elected to create different suggestions for how the city should look like.<sup>1</sup> To gain more perspectives, the committee had a competition and through this made a plan of the city layout. At this time Avenyn only went from Kungsportsbron to Lorensbergs Park, which today is no longer where it used to be. During the 1860's Lorensbergs Park was north of today's Götaplatsen. The Park was during that time a popular place as it had restaurants, theaters, and a circus along with other attractions.<sup>2</sup> At today's Götaplatsen, there were only grainfields as Gothenburg still was a relatively small city.<sup>1</sup>

However, the name Kungsportsavenyn was first mentioned in 1867, in minutes of the City Council.<sup>1</sup> This name quickly became questionable since it had a foreign sound and was not suitable for a main part of the city.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the boulevard changed its name many times.<sup>1</sup> In 1880, the

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<sup>1</sup> See "Göteborgs Paradgata Nummer Ett." *Om Avenyn / Avenyn i Göteborg*. Further references are to this edition and appear in the text.

<sup>2</sup> It later on was transferred to the backyard of Elite Hotel when Avenyn got extended.



name Gustav Adolfsgatan was suggested and used for a short period.<sup>3</sup> Later in 1882 the boulevard changed its name to Kungsporgsgatan. However, this name only lasted a few months as people did not appreciate the name. They would have to pay to change their addresses only due to the City Council wanting to change the name of the avenue. Therefore, the original name Kungsporgsavenyn was reinstalled.<sup>4</sup>

The avenue was a road lined with private, high houses and nice gardens. There were no actual shops towards the boulevard, only on the crossing roads. The most usual ones were small market cellars but it was not a common occurrence. In 1914, actual shops started emerging along the boulevard even though it was still quite unusual.<sup>5</sup>

It was first during the anniversary exhibition in 1923 that Avenyn was extended to Götaplatsen.<sup>4</sup> This was due to the main entrance to the exhibition being at Götaplatsen. Even tram-tracks were temporarily extended there to increase the availability for the visitors. This was also when the terraces around Götaplatsen were built up and they do, until today, host the Museum of Art and The Art Hall. However, it took ten more years for the statue of Poseidon to be finished.<sup>5</sup> Since then, Götaplatsen has not changed at all.

During the 1930s came the big evolution of Kungsporgsavenyn. Four cinemas, as well as new restaurants and cafés, were constructed along the boulevard.<sup>5</sup> Restaurang Kometen and Junggrens Café still stand today among others. However, this evolution was deemed unmodern and therefore the idea of transforming this avenue into a shopping district emerged. This resulted in a plan of demolishing most buildings and replacing them with bigger buildings with apartments at the top and shops on the ground floor. Still, these plans were not established and twenty years later, during the 1960s, these plans seemed unmodern. Thus, new designs and ideas needed to be created. It was at the beginning of the 1970s that many old buildings were demolished and newer buildings made, containing offices, shops, hotels, etc. During the same time, it was agreed upon to take away all the courtyards along the boulevard<sup>5</sup>, and today, that is where there are now outside seatings and wide sidewalks.

This is how Kungsporgsavenyn had evolved from the 18th century to what we know and experience today.

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<sup>3</sup> See “Kungsporgsavenyn.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Mar. 2021. Further references are to this edition and appear in the text.

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# Brunnsparken

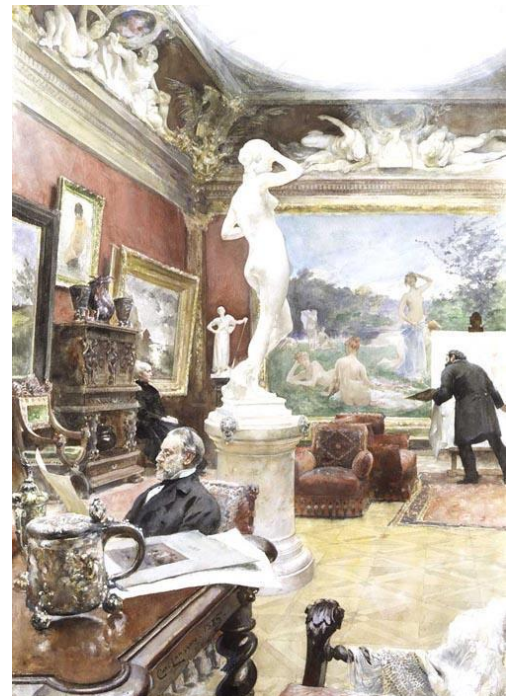
Brunnsparken is now located between the shopping centres Nordstan (Norra Hamngatan) and Arkaden (Södra Hamngatan). It is a popular meeting place for people of all ages. It is considered to be one of the busiest areas in Gothenburg.



Brunnsparken was originally planned to be built on an islet in Stora Hamnkanalen in 1822, but later got changed to the location we know it as today. It is the first public park built in Gothenburg and was built as a joint project by C W Carlsberg and his successors' to make Brunnsparken a sophisticated and elegant area. The park was designed in a French baroque style with symmetrical rows of trees and bosqueer. In 1834, a small stone well house

was built and the park was finally established. During the planning of the park, the trees first got their space in the shape of avenues. The rows of trees have had many different functions; they had an appealing aesthetic, acted as firebreaks, air purifiers as well as cooled down the facades. Today, the trees along the harbor canals are gone, but a row of trees along Fattighusån still stands.

There are many architectural features in Brunnsparken that make up the iconic area. On the far end of Brunnsparken lies palacehuset. Palacehuset was originally built as a sugar factory in 1750 with Carl Hårleman as architect. Krigskollegium then bought the buildings and used them as a grain warehouse. From 1825 to 1829, the building was used by the grain trader Niklas Björnberg . The College of War then used the building until 1841. The latter year, it was bought by Eduard Magnus and turned it into a 4 family villa. Which was later inherited by Göthilda Magnus and moved into the palace with her husband. They converted it into a one family villa but had invited artists to live with them for free. In exchange the artists would use their talents and decorate the house, by making sculptures and paintings. They ended up making so many artworks that there was no longer enough space for them all. And a third floor was then built and completed in 1855. They dedicated this floor to the artwork and named it the Fürstenberg Gallery. The first electric ceiling lamp in Gothenburg was in the house and the first national call that was made by telephone took place from this property during the couple Fürstenberg's time. They later donated all the art to the Gothenburg museum. The lion staircase



(lejontrappan) located by Stora Hamnkanalen, it's base consists of two granite blocks with bronze lions on each side of staircases railing. Ending with a small pier at the end of the staircase.

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## Chalmers

Chalmers was founded in 1829, the name of the university had a major influence by the director of the Swedish East Indian company as he had made a major donation which helped the institution start. His name was Willam Chalmers. "Chalmersska Slöjdeskolan", was the first opened one in Göteborg on November 5th 1829, which he intended for poor children who had learned how to read and write, this marked the beginning of Chalmers University of Technology,<sup>1</sup>. Chalmers University of Technology is a university in Gothenburg, the main focuses areas under the university are natural science, architecture and mathematics. Chalmers is one of the most prestigious universities in Sweden and is ranked within top 200 in the world. In 2018 MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) stated that Chalmers was among the top 10 in the world for engineering education,<sup>2</sup>. Chalmers has good collaborations with major industries in the Gothenburg region such as Volvo and Ericsson. 40% of Swedish graduates in engineering and architecture are from Chalmers. There are around 11 thousand students that enroll each year, that is fairly low compared to other top universities like Harvard which means it is hard to get admitted into Chalmers. Chalmers marks with very high achieving alumnis such as Gustaf Dalen who has won a noble price in Physics, Margrit Hall who was the first female architect in Sweden and Martin Lorentzon who is one of the founders of Spotify,<sup>3</sup>. The Graphene flagship which is Europe's largest scientific research initiative is coordinated by Chalmers. Chalmers which is privately owned has two campuses, the one founded in 1829 and another which is more recent in 1990s, Lindholmen collage campus in Hisingen. The house of Willam Chalmers "Chalmersska huset" is now used for conferences, meetings and seminars,<sup>4</sup>. Chalmers is taking steps trying to be a "5 Star Campus", they are developing Chalmers surrounding to make it look better to show Chalmers as a innovative world class university. The 5 star campus brings various projects to the campuses such as LIMA, it is a travel serviced offered to those who work at Chalmers. Another such project is "Hugo" which is an delivery robot which is going to delivery packages on the Johanneberg campus,<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Origin of Chalmers

<sup>2</sup> Reputation/ranking

<sup>3</sup> Famous students and

<sup>4</sup> Buildings/campuses

<sup>5</sup> Future for Chalmers

## *The Eriksberg Shipyard*



*In the 1950's, Gothenburg was one of the biggest shipbuilding cities in the world, but after the shipyard crisis in the seventies, the only remnant of the great days of the shipyards is the bright orange Eriksberg crane, towering over what once was the shipbuilding capital of northern Europe.*

In 1850, Christian Barchman together with companion C.F. Höglund founded a small galvanization and metal workshop on the mountain Eriksberg, on Hisingen. Soon they started focusing especially on shipbuilders, selling different metal parts for boats. As the business was not going all too well (bankrupt in 1864), the city of Gothenburg bought the land and the workshop in 1871 to construct a shipyard. This was the beginning of the Eriksberg shipyard. The first vessel, the steamboat *Aktiv* was delivered in 1873, and shipbuilding at Eriksberg was started. In the following decade, the company would expand greatly, however, it still remained small in comparison to the other large shipyards of Gothenburg: Lindholmen and Götaverken.

An explosion in growth came after 1915, when Dan Broström from the wealthy seafarer family Broström got in charge of the company. The shipyard expanded, and stood stable in the uncertain shipbuilding market because of its direct ties to the Broström family. This family alone owned a third of the entire trade-fleet of Sweden, and so their demand for repair and new ships was constant.

Following the World Wars, Europe was in ruins, and as one of the few countries with minimal damage, Sweden's shipyards were blossoming - orders from the entire world came flowing in. Ships damaged during the war and new orders were built and serviced at Eriksberg. In 1958 the shipyard had 4500 employees, and was the biggest in Scandinavia. In 1969, the big crane was built, still standing to this day, over what once was a dock capable of building the largest tanker ships in the world, but now is a picturesque sailboat harbour.

In the 1970's, it started going worse and worse for the shipyards, as competition now came not only from the other large European shipyards in Rotterdam and Kiel (to name a few) but from Asia, with Japan as the frontrunners. The Asian yards were able to build cheaper and give more advantageous deals that the Swedish ones simply could not compete with, and in 1979,



Eriksberg shipyard closed down. It was the end of an era, as the motor of the Swedish economy was discontinued.



How was it then, life as a worker in the big shipyards? Well, as people were hired and fired as the economy rose and fell, it was always insecure, but the shipyards tried to keep their workers, to train them into skilled shipbuilders and to take care of them even outside of work. Working as a shipbuilder involved great risks, as much work was done at high altitudes and with minimal safety precautions - something that a growing trade union

movement tried to fix. Nevertheless, the workers had a great camaraderie among them, and many participated in activities together, there was an arts club, an orchestra and even a choir! Many of them lived in the same area, at the mountain Eriksberg close to work. A little village grew up, around the mountain, a little village but a great community. Their community house “Aftonstjärnan” is still there, still open, and still a place for community and union for all to visit.



*Today, this is all that is left of an era of Gothenburg history, a large orange crane and a cozy harbour.*

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Grönsakstorget 1910 – Fotograf Olga Rinman

## Grönsakstorget

Grönsakstorget began as a curtain between the Duke Johannes bastion and the Duke Carolus bastion in the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1807, walls and fortifications began to be demolished. Flottweg, a German sugar factory master, had an ornate garden built instead. In the 1860's, E. Polemann, a merchant, took over the garden, and in 1876 turned it into a market for flowers, as well as fruits and vegetables. The market grew popular and many of the goods were transported long distances. On Saturdays and Wednesdays, commerce opened early, at 5 o'clock. Other days, the market opened between 6 and 7. Elvira Kjellberg became famous in the years between 1888 and 1928 for her dedication to the market. It is reported that she sold in all weathers and when she left the market in 1928, she sold pears at 75 öre per liter. Below the square, in Vallgraven, was the landing pad for the trade of potatoes, salted herring, anchovy, and shells. In 1888, the city paved the entire square in asphalt due to a lack of hygiene and sanitation. At the same time, the surrounding streets were paved in dressed stone. The total cost of paving came out to 26,500 SEK, around 3,185 USD.

In 1850, a white classicist house was built for B. Thulin, a merchant. The building was intended to be used as a residence, shop, and warehouse. Heinrich Kaufmann, the city architect of the time, designed the house and

made the iconic green copper dome. By 1891, the house was sold to Göteborgs and Bohus Läns Sparbank, and the Corner tower was given its copper dome. In 1975, the house accepted Eckerstein's Bookstore, which was previously based in Haga. 1991 found Första Sparbank taking over, and then later selling to Arbetsförmedlingen. Later, in September 2004, the building was converted to house the Consulate General of People's Republic of China. Formerly, the Westsam house was adequate, but East Indiaman's launch forced the move.

In 1918, a bronze fountain was suggested to increase the beauty of the square, as well as a vaulted roof over Lilla Korsgatan. Neither plan ever went past the planning stage. However in 1921, outside the Sahlgrenska hospital, a terrace with a summer restaurant was built and in the hospital park, a music pavilion was placed.

In May 2020, the Liberal Youth League and others wanted to bring attention to a Swedish publisher, Gui Minhai, imprisoned in China. They wanted to rename the square "Gui Minhai Square". This proposal was denied on the grounds of 'Good Name Place Practice', where established place names should not be changed. Other formalities demand that a person is dead for at least 5 years before a place be named after them.



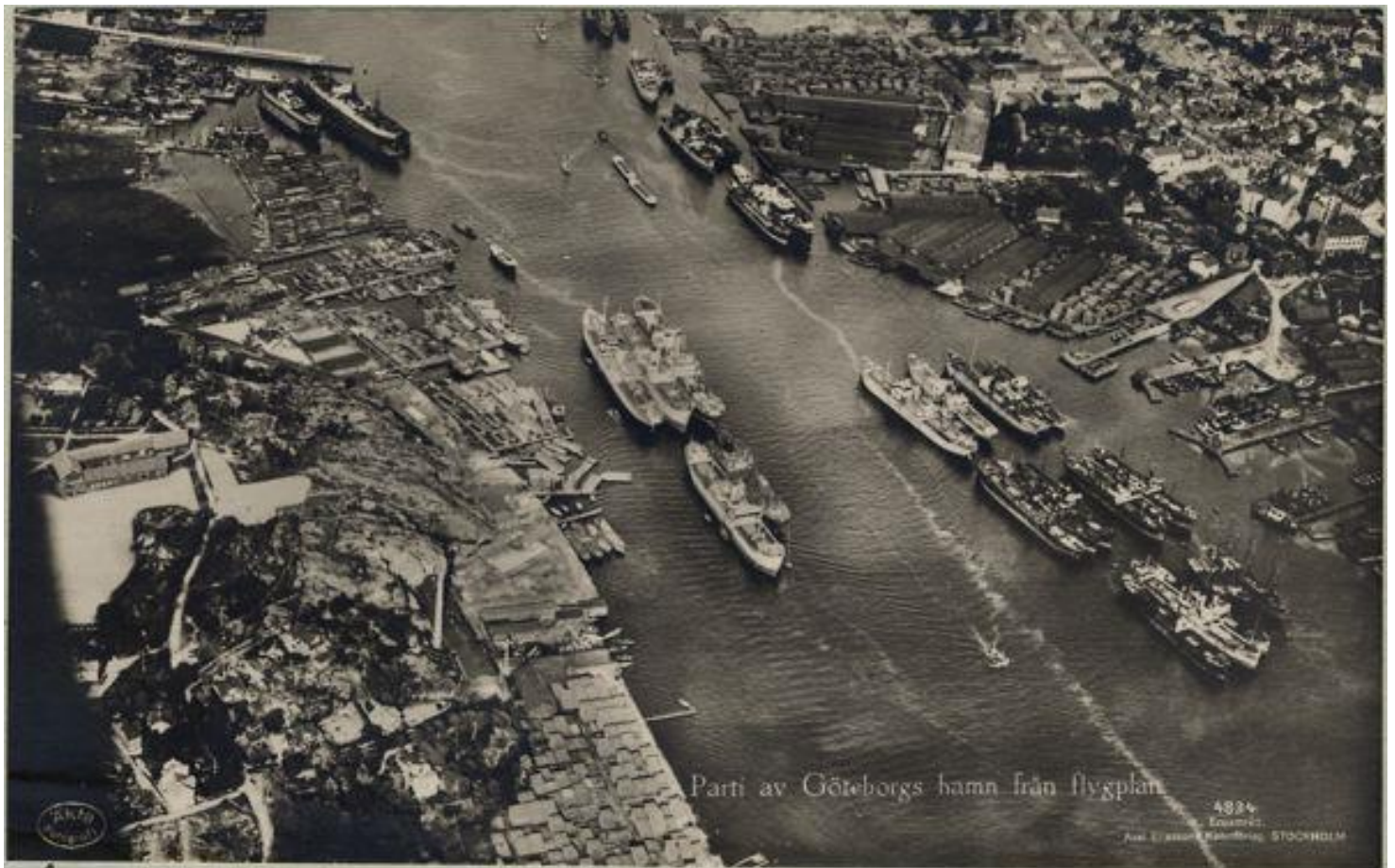


## GÖTAPLATSEN

Götaplatsen is a historic and iconic place here in Gothenburg. This said Götaplatsen is one of if not the most notable places in Gothenburg with the gleaming copper statue and the massive buildings surrounding it. An iconic view point is sitting on the stairs of the art museum and looking down to the avenyn and the city below. In 1924 Götaplatsen first got its name so it is fairly new but at the time the area was part of Lorensberg later Lorensbergsparken. Götaplatsen was designed by architects Sigfrid Ericson and Arvid Bjerke and construction began in 1921 to be completed on the 300th anniversary of Gothenburg. When the art museum and art gallery were created in a classicalist style. Götaplatsen features the famous Poseidon statue that is very well known. The statue was built in 1931 by Carl Milles. Götaplatsen features three main and iconic buildings as well as this statue. There is the Gothenburg theater that was inaugurated 1934. The following year the concert hall was built in functionalist style on the other side of Götaplatsen below the art gallery. Years previously in 1924 the Famous art museum opened to the public. The leader of the city with regards to the Poseidon statue had this to say. "To erect a statue of Poseidon in the city of shipping, Gothenburg, one of the idols of ancient Greek mythology and the ruler of the sea, can only please every true Gothenburger." Götaplatsen is a very famous meeting place and public space with a lot of different activities and events in the art museum and in the concert hall. Götaplatsen is a very famous and important street in Gothenburg and will not soon be forgotten.

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## Gothenburg's harbour

In this information sheet there will be a timeline of how Gothenburg's Harbour developed from the 17th century until today as well as what their goals for the near future are for the harbour.

In the 17th century Gothenburg's Harbour did not yet exist. The first harbour built in Gothenburg was Stora Hamnkanalen. Although it was a harbour, the waters were shallow, therefore there were barges that used to transport goods to and from the ships to the harbour. The biggest exports were timber and iron.

In the middle of the 19th century there was a lot of exportation, and the harbour grew. Consequently, there were major ships built. Now it was necessary to build more quays in order to load the goods.

Later in the 19th century Swedish exports grew at a fast pace. Between 1888 and 1902, Masthuggskajen was built for the oceangoing vessels. This is evidence that Gothenburg's harbour is growing and becoming of importance. This was also about the time of the Industrial age.

The harbour was not only used for the exportation of goods but was also used to emigrate. It was most common in the 1860's to emigrate from Gothenburg to the US via England. In the 1880's there was a need for larger ships. This period was also known as the Emigration era.

The harbour now needed to expand due to its quick growth, and it did. It extended to Hisingen. The construction of Sannegårdshamnen in the 19th century was the central harbour for coal and coke. Post war world II, the oil harbours became fuel harbours and Sannegårdshamnen became the main harbour for exports to Europe.

Frihamnen opened in 1922. It is in the northern part of Hisingen's side of the river. Its name has 'fri' which means 'free' in English. This is because at Frihamnen it was accessible to bring goods to shore without paying any fees. Later, there were only cruise ships up till 2017.

Ryhamnen was built in the 1930's. It was used by big oil companies for storage. Later on, it is what is known to us today as the Energy Port.

Lindholmen was the first area in Hisingen to industrialise. Back in the day Lindholmen was a part of Lindholmshaman in 1938. It used to be a quayside warehouse and it also was a harbour for ocean-going vessels with big cargo. Like cars. Nowadays, Lindholmen is a site of Lindholmens Science Park and Gothenburg Film Studios, according to the Gothenburg Port Authority.

Postwar, the Port of Gothenburg continued to expand. A new area Lundbyhamnen, was a dry cargo harbour in 1951. It later closed down and is presently a "residential area and a centre for education, high-tech enterprises and conferences", according to the Gothenburg Port Authority.

The import of crude oil increased, there was no more capacity at Ryhamnen so they constructed more harbours. They started off with the oil harbour at Skrivsshamnen in the 1950's. The Port of Gothenburg expanded in the west.

Post war world II, imports and exports were in the boom. Skandiaterminalen was the solution to container traffic. Skandia Harbour is the largest of its kind in Scandinavia, with the majority of the Swedish container market.

The Port of Gothenburg was always expanding, and in the late 1970's Älvsborg Harbour was built. It is usually things like paper, steel and cars that are the main export in this harbour, according to the Gothenburg Port Authority.

Today the Port of Gothenburg offers one to go on cruises and guided boat trips. In addition, the Port of Gothenburg is Scandinavia's largest port and is the core of Sweden's foreign trade. They plan on continuing expanding and being sustainable in the near future. To do this they plan on investing in methods that will minimise the CO2 emissions. Adding on to what has been said, the Port of Gothenburg is also developing Scandinavia's largest Energy Port with the help of renewable energy and fuels.

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## Haga

Haga nowadays is part of Gothenburg City center, but it wasn't always like this.

When Gothenburg was founded in 1621 the wall surrounding the city did not include Haga. It wasn't until 1647 that queen Kristina gave the orders of expanding Gothenburg outside of the city walls, mainly, to provide housing for workers such as fishermen in an area close to the water. When Gothenburg's first city plan was drawn in 1660, Haga was included, officially making it Gothenburg's first suburb. In 1665 the area housed a mere 200 residents. One of the most famous areas in Haga is Skansberget (formally called Ryssåen) with its old garrison "Skansen Kronan". At the foot of the Skansberget, citizens were given permission to build one-story-houses. The suburb continuously grew all the way down to Vallgraven. During this time it was very precarious to build your house in Haga, as the city was prepared to have the area torn down in the event of a war, so that the enemy would not be able to use the houses as protection. Actually, unfortunate citizens were forced to abandon their homes in 1667, during the "Scanian war". Towards the end of the 1600s, a caponier was built between the city's moat and Skansen Kronan, which divided Haga in two parts, a western and an eastern side. The caponier was put out of use in 1868 and today you can

promenade “Kaponjörgatan” which is paved on top of where the old caponier used to be.

The new city plan presented in 1811, saw the expansion of Haga’s northern side, with the nowadays famous “Haga Nygata” acting as the divider between southern and northern Haga. The garrison “Skansen Kronan”, built in 1687, served both as a prison and as emergency accommodation for a rapidly increasing population, during the 1800s. Today, it is one of Gothenburg’s most important landmarks. Renowned for its well preserved houses, visiting Haga today is one of the best ways to experience old Gothenburg. Many of the houses have the characteristics of a typical Gothenburgian “landshövdinghus”, with the bottom floor made out of brick and two floors out of wood. These were very popular to build during the late 1800s as full brick houses were too expensive and it had become illegal to build houses out of only wood, because of the fire hazard. In the year 1857 for example, a big fire spread across eastern Haga, resulting in the destruction of 19 houses and the loss of homes for 340 people. Although many of the landshövdinge-houses were destroyed or renovated during the 1970s and 1980s, many have preserved the original style. During the same period in time, many old other parts of Gothenburg were torn down and new houses in a more modern style were replacing them. The same was planned for Haga. However, an opposition arose, Hagagruppen which succeeded in preventing the demolition of around 60 houses.

For centuries Haga had been regarded as a poor working-class district with low quality of life. But with the development and expansion of the city, Haga started to obtain the attractive image it has today, particularly after its renovation in the 70s and 80s. Situated in the middle of the city between Linnéstaden, Vasastaden and Kungshöjd, it has some of the oldest buildings in the city. Many of the houses are protected as cultural preservation and the main pedestrian street “Haga Nygata” is home to some of Gothenburg’s most charming cafés and stores. With time, it has become one of the city’s most picturesque and idyllic tourist attractions, an ideal place to spend a beautiful summer afternoon.

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## Hagakyrkan

The Haga Church is a very famous building here in Sweden, located in Gothenburg. Many people still go there to pray and continue practicing their religious beliefs but it is not often since Sweden is no longer a very religious country. The Haga Church is one of many Churches here in Sweden but more specifically it is one of the few churches located in the city and is notoriously known amongst the people of Gothenburg.

To start with, it is very common amongst the folk and there is a tram stop named after it called “Hagakyrkan” located in the central city. The church belongs to the Gothenburg Haga Parish within the Diocese of Gothenburg of the Church of Sweden. It was open on Advent Sunday, 27 November 1859. The making of the church started in 1859. By then the church and the pulpit was designed by the architect Adolf W. Edelsvärd.

Moreover, the first organ placed in the church was installed in 1861 by the Danish firm Marcussen & Son for the price of 20 000 Swedish crowns. It was rebuilt in 1911 and 1945 - 1951 by the Magnusson organ building firm. It was restored to be close to its original condition in 2002 - 2004 by Åkarman & Lund in the same position as it is now. Also, the first organist of the church was called Per Johan Ållander who was given the job in 1861 and the first cantor was Carl H Olsson who was hired in 1863. The meantone organ by John Brombaugh was installed in the north balcony of the church in 1991 - 1992.



This famous church has a beautiful inside with big white pillars and golden brown fences for the second floor's indoor balcony. There are many seats for multiple people inside that are used for the public during a prayer. The church's roof is stretched far up and is designed beautifully at the top. Not to mention the pretty walls that are decorated with glass windows and christian items such as the Holy Cross. In addition, the outside of the church is a brown / black shade with a pointy top that is colored light mint green and it has been so since the old days.



The reconstructing of this church was not in the sense to modernize it but rather to make it look the same as it did in the old days but more stable for the public to use it without the threat of it maybe collapsing on them. Therefore, everything you see inside and outside of that church is nothing out of the ordinary and has been the same since it was originally built.

The architect Victor von Gegerfelt began a fundraiser in the early 1840s that raised 24,000 riksdaler, but since the funds were insufficient, it was agreed at a parish meeting that these would be returned. The fundraising that would lead to the completed church did not begin until November 3, 1852. Haga Church was established as an annex church to Gothenburg Cathedral, but when Haga parish was founded on May 1, 1883, it became the mother church. Erik Klingstedt, a court preacher, was the parish's first priest. The then-rector of Gothenburg, Johan Henrik Thomander, was a major driving force behind the church's construction.

The sacristy was not completed until 1956, following Sigfrid Ericson's design and Erik Holmdal's extensive drawings. The artist Albert Eldh created the paintings for the choir windows, with the middle one added in 1924, the two in there in 1934, and the two remaining in 1935. The base is made of hewn granite from Västergötland's Rda parish. The masonry is made of flensburg bricks and is clad in yellow tiles on the outside. Finely hewn sandstone was imported from Edinburgh for the portals and windows. Four small spiers ring the 49-meter-high church tower, which is finished at the top of finely hewn sandstone. The spire itself is adorned with a gilded copper cross. A small roof rider was installed over the choir in 1887 as part of an upgrade to the ventilation system. Also, the church seats 300-400 people, but it can hold up to 550. It is 46 meters long and 16 meters wide, with a 49-meter-high tower that culminates in a three-meter-high gilded copper cross. The length of the cross arms is 26 meters. The four evangelists are represented by the wooden sculptures around the pulpit, which were created by sculptor Carl Ahlborn.

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## Hvitfeldtska Gymnasiet

Hvitfeldtska has its origins in Gothenburg Kongl (The Royal Palace). High school was founded by Queen Kristina in 1647 and in 1850 merged with the lower grades ("lower classes") into a common elementary school.

Throughout history the school has changed its name many times. In 1850 - to the Higher Primary School of Gothenburg, in 1878 - to the Higher General Education School of Gothenburg, to the Higher Latin School in 1905. The current name Hvitfeldtska gymnasiet was added after the new school reform in the early 1960s, which led to the abolition of upper secondary school and the older student degree. From 1964, girls were given access to the school.

### 17th Century

Queen Kristina founded Gothenburg High School by decree in 1647, and a simpler wooden schoolhouse was built on the cathedral floor, at the intersection of Kungsgatan-Västra Hamngatan. At Göteborgs Gymnasium, prospective priests in particular would be trained. After the peace in Roskilde in 1658, Göteborgs Gymnasium also had a power-political purpose. It was important to educate young men from the new counties according to the Swedish great power model so that they could actively work for a Swedishization of the former Danish and Norwegian areas. The most important subject in the 17th century was Latin - the language of the scholars. During the day, students would use Latin as both a language of instruction and communication. When Margaretha Hvitfeldt (a Norweigin-Swedish philanthropist, estate owner, noblewoman and the main benefactor of Hvitfeldtska gymnasiet) donated her fortune to teaching boys in Bohuslän in 1684, a further foundation for the school was laid.

## 18th Century

Gothenburg's Gymnasium suffered a severe blow in a fire in 1721. The school burned to the ground and with it, its large library was destroyed. The old walls of the schoolhouse were preserved and around these a new building was erected. A nationwide collection in all of Sweden's churches in the spring of 1722 and some private donations guaranteed the new building, which was finally completed in 1727. To raise money for the operation of the school, students could walk around the houses and sing, especially at large holidays such as Christmas. The new century (19th century) brought a new view of the purpose of the school. Now it would not only be a school for future priests, officials and teachers, but the school would also provide a more general civic education.

## 19-20th Centuries

In 1823, the old schoolhouse on the cathedral floor was demolished and the business was temporarily moved to four rooms in the East India House. In 1826, the educational institution got new premises at Västra Hamngatan 15 and in 1862 it was possible to move into a larger and more modern building at Hvitfeldtsplatsen, the Higher Latin educational institution. It had largely been paid for with funds from Margareta Hvitfeldt's fund.

Drawing of the façade of the North building was designed by Ernst Torulf in 1915. The current (northern) school building was taken into use on 16 January 1919 and the same year, on April 30, was inaugurated, even though it says 1917 on the façade. The building was designed by architect Ernst Torulf. In the auditorium - inaugurated on April 29 in 1919 - an over 50 square meter painting by Carl Larsson, "Outdoors Blows the Summer Wind", painted in 1903, was set up.



Bibliography:

[Hvitfeldtska gymnasiet - Latinläroverket |](#)

[HVITFELDTSKA GYMNASIET GENOM TIDERNA - PDF Free Download](#)





*(An overview picture of Järntorget in 1967 of the number 9 train from Saltholmen)*

*Picture taken by: Holger Germå*

## **Järntorget - “The Iron Square”**

Järntorget or The Iron Square is a location that is found on the outskirts of the center of Gothenburg. It is located west of Haga and connects Linnegatan<sup>1</sup>, Nya Allén, Första Långgatan and Järntorgsgatan to one meeting point, Järntorget. Järntorget is most known for its nightlife that includes restaurants and bars that are located all around the area. Along with the public transportation that passes through.

Today in the middle of the square there is a fountain that replaced the once standing scale. The scale was used for weighing one of the most exported goods in Sweden, iron, which was later on shipped off to other countries from the nearby harbour. From 1755 to 1892 Järntorget was an important place for the export of iron. It became known as the Iron Square because all the iron that was shipped out of Gothenburg passed through there. Iron has been weighed there for many years and centuries but it was not until 1867 the square got its name the Iron Square or in Swedish “Järntorget”.

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<sup>1</sup> A street that is known for its restaurants and bars.

<sup>2</sup> “The five continents” which includes; Asia, America, Europe, Africa and Oceania.

<sup>3</sup> Similar to a pedestal that supports a statue or vase.

However, before the square got its name it was not seen as more than a place where people would travel past to get to the city or a place where they would go out for a drink. Furthermore, even though the square had gotten a proper name it had another name by the end of the 19th century that reflected what was happening on the site. For example, it was once called the "Furniture and wood Square" or "Möbel- eller trätorget" due to the fact that people during this time would sell their furniture and wood work they had made on the square in Järntorget. But those names never became an official name unlike Järntorget.

Again the square is named after the once standing scale, however after the demolishing of the scale it was replaced by a fountain named "De fem världsdelarna"<sup>2</sup>. The fountain has a plinth<sup>3</sup> placed in the middle that is decorated with stamps. The stamps that represent the stamps that were once used by the iron merchants when trading goods, such as iron on the site.

In addition the Iron Square has also been an important factor in politics due to the Social Democratic Party main office there. Throughout the years there have been different protests that have occurred on the square similarly to Gustav Adolf's Square.

Today Järntorget is most known for its public transport that connects most of the people that live in Majorna to the centre of Gothenburg. Already in 1923-24 the first tracks for the tram were laid down.

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#### **Picture:**

<http://www.xn--tidlsspnnandehistoria-c2b42b.se/mina-artiklar/j%C3%A4rntorget,-ur-ett-historiskt-perspektiv.-28202814> (19/5 - 2021 at 11:56)



(A photo of Järntorget during 1920s)

## Järntorget

Järntorget is a square in the city of Gothenburg. Nowadays Järntorget is a very important place for public transport in the western part of Gothenburg.

Järntorget name means “iron square”, Järntorget got this name in 1867. Järntorget is called “iron square” since during the years 1785 to 1892 there was a lot of iron, the iron had to be checked and weighted. Before Järntorget became a square it was just an area that looked like a swamp. Where all the main roads such as Masthuggsvägen, Smala Vägen and Breda Vägen met.

Järntorget had many names that people gave to the square due to the buildings it had. This happened twice, one time was when Järntorget was called Masthuggstullen as there was a customs house. Once the custom house was demolished in 1850 the name changed again. This time it was called Bierhallenplatsen from the name of a famous restaurant.

Unfortunately, Järntorget has been devastated by many fires in its history. Most of the largest fires occurred during the 1910s to the 1950s. One of the largest fires, which resulted in more than 1 million kroner damage was the one of 1935. When a fire broke out in a wooden building north of Järntorget. The fire spread throughout the area of Järntorgbasarerna and burned everything. All the companies that were there got destroyed.

Järntorget was rebuilt in 1923–1924, when a turning loop was built. Line 9 started at the end of July 1924 and the Långedraglinjen then got its final stop on the southeast side of the square, among the trees at the newspaper Ny tids redaktion.

During the late 1990s and the early 2000s, the turning loop was removed, and Järntorget underwent a reconstruction. Järntorget has over time become one of the most visited places in Gothenburg.



## *Kronhuset*

Located behind Gustav Adolfs torg lies a building called Kronhuset, originally 'Giötheborgz Tyghuhs'. It is 6 stories tall built in a Dutch design with red bricks protecting the wooden interior. Its bottom floor is an open area which is unusual at this time. This was achieved by putting the weight of the building on the exterior walls instead of having supporting pillars sprinkled throughout the building. It is because of this that Kronhuset has its unusual exterior walls.



In Stockholm 1640 the decision was taken by a war institute, krigskollegiet, to build a 'tyghus', a storage facility, in Gothenburg on the grounds of an old cemetery. It is said to be designed by the royal architect Simon de la Vallée who's designs would be simplified in the final proposition.

The building was built between 1642-1654 in two stages. The first stage, led by Olof Hansson Swart, ended in 1643 when they ran out of money. At this point they had only built the first floor. Five years later they started building again, now with Swedish bricks instead of Dutch and Johan

Wärnschiöld in charge. The building was finished in 1654.

### *Purpose over the years;*

Originally the building was used as a military storage facility which was filled with everything needed for the war against the Danish. This included; canons, viecles, uniforms, and grain storage. Thanks to the open bottom floor it was easier to move around big military equipment. In 1660 the king Carl X used the bottom floor as a place of parliament. Quickly after the king grew gravely ill and died. His 4-year-old son, Carl the XI, was then proclaimed king at Kronhuset the 1st of March 1660. The building has also served as a church between the 1670s and 1890s. Kronhuset survived the fires of 1746 and 1758 while the surrounding barracks, also used for the storage of military equipment, burned down. In 1929 the city of Gothenburg gained the ownership of the building which then became a storage facility for the Gothenburg museum. Today Kronhuset is rented out as a concert hall by wind orchestra.

As one of the best preserved buildings from the 1600s in Gothenburg, it is now a popular tourist attraction.

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## Linnégatan



The name Linnégatan was established in 1882, and was then referred to in the City Council's documents as "Nya gatan, or the Avenue from Järntorget to Slottsskogen". But as early as 1878, the route of the street had already been determined in the city blueprint, and so we can call that year the "year of birth." The street is named after Carl von Linné who visited Gothenburg in 1746 in connection with his "Västgöta journey". From 1870 to 1882, the section of the street between Järntorget and Tredje Långgatan was called Första Tvärgatan.



It was largely thanks to the landowner Adolf W. Melin that the street was laid out. He contributed 50.000 SEK (approximately 3.5 million SEK in today's value) to the paving of the street. During the 1890s, the street was laid out with three-lined sidewalks, wide carriageways and a riding arena in the middle, which ran from Slottsskogen to Heden.

The Olivedal district is dominated by Linnégatan. The houses along the streets are unusually high for Gothenburg, which means that the street is not perceived as particularly wide. Many of the houses along the street are from the beginning of the 20th century, but several of the old houses were demolished in the early 1980s<sup>[1]</sup> and replaced by postmodern houses with some inspiration from the old houses. In connection with the move of a lot of people to this now residential area, entertainment flourished on Linnégatan, being known today for its many restaurants and cafes. The former front gardens are now used for large outdoor cafes, some of them permanent.

*Same building, different years. The first picture is from the 60s, the second from the late 70s and the last one is 2017.*





Where Linnégatan has been drawn flowed a stream of water that originated in Finnsmossen and flowed through the bird ponds in the direction of Linnégatan towards the river. It was the watercourse that flowed through Slottsskogen and filled the bird ponds along the then Karlsrogatan with water. The brook made its way through a level difference of 12 meters between Linnégatan and Järntorget. At the end of 1878, it was decided that it would be filled in and that the water would be led away.

In 1900 bicycle lanes were built at a cost of 1.500 SEK. In June 1901, the City Council decided to build an “electrified tram line” between Järntorget and Slottsskogen which opened in 1902. The street’s gas light was replaced by electric lighting in 1924.

Viktoriaskolan [2] (built 1875 - 1877) is the street’s oldest building. This school has, however, ceased operations in 1975 and the building nowadays is used by Hagabion (a company). In this street we can also find Linnékyrkans or Linnaeus Church. The shrine was built according to drawings by the



architect Gustaf Elliot and was inaugurated in 1903 for the Baptist Church. It held its last service in 1971. Nowadays it’s called Linnéhuset or Linnaeus House and it focuses on the rehabilitation of young people with drug problems. The street’s only wooden building is Villa Ideborg. It was built in 1898 and has been declared a protected building by the municipality.

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## Footnotes

[2]: in 1980 some houses in the street were demolished and rebuilt even though the demolition was prohibited. In this case it was allowed since the attic of the round house in the corner Landsvägsgatan / Linnégatan (see the pictures presented before) burned down in 1978, leading to the entire block having to be demolished despite the fact that most houses were in good condition.

[3]: Viktoriahuset was built to be the first stone house in the area. It was designed by Bror Viktor Adler.



# MASTHUGGSTORGET



- Masthuggstorget is a square in Masthugget, part of the city in Gothenburg. The name refers to the manufacture of boat masts that took place in the area, and the square got its name established in 1769.
- Masthugget is an area in the western parts of Gothenburg that mainly includes the so-called Stigberget which continues down to Göta river and the harbor and also forms the border to the north, as well as the so-called Masthuggsbergen upwards Slottsskogen which is a wooded area to the south.

## **Sjömanshemmet "The Sailors' Home" (1886) (teared down at 1942- reconstructed 1943)**

- In the 12th block Kostern at the western part of the square was the Sjömanshemmet, inaugurated on September 9, 1886 in the presence of King Oscar II and Queen Sofia. The home was constructed in memory of their silverwedding anniversary on June 6, 1882. It is a Renaissance-inspired building designed by Gothenburg architect Adrian C. Peterson.
- Captain C.E. Schale had then been the director of the home for twenty years and the number of night guests in recent years differed between 500 and 2,000 per month. The guests are mainly sailors, but there are also tourists and whole school classes.

- The building was a part of the municipality's Conservation Program in 1987, and it is written that the building is an interesting example of the social ambitions of the time and the architecture of the 1940s.

### **Electric trams and bus traffic**

- **1902** The electric tram starts to drive including by way of Järntorget/Första Långgatan to Majorna.
- **1927** Järntorget's bridge was introduced
- **1931** Johansson starts bus service to Masthugget on the 5th of May

The tramway's hesitation meant that a private contractor was given the permission to operate bus traffic through Masthugget. His name was Oscar Johansson, and in May 1931 he started bus traffic on a line between Järntorget and Amiralitetsgatan via Fjällgatan and Bangatan.

Soon, he was willing to open more bus lines, but the tramway now felt threatened, and instead decided to begin opening its own lines.

- **1936** Gothenburg's Tramways take over bus service to Masthugget (Line F)
- **1940** trolleybus traffic to Masthugget starts

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→ Picture from [gamlamasthugget.se](http://gamlamasthugget.se)



## Nya Allén

Nya Allén is a central Gothenburg street that is approximately 1830 meters long. It is a tree-lined esplanade that connects the Haga, Pustervik, Vasastaden, Lorensberg, and Heden districts. Over Fattighusån, the stretch is between Järntorget and Stampbron. The avenue comes to a halt at the top of Sprängkullsgatan, before resuming about 150 meters west, roughly at the top of Skolgatan.

For the history of Nya Allen, Olof Wijk was the driving force behind the formation of Nya Allén, but Carl Wilhelm Carlberg is also said to have been enthusiastic about the idea. The avenue is entered on a map he drew and included with the plan to demolish the fortifications. He also proposed a similar avenue outside of Drottningporten, to the east, in 1774. I live near Nya Allén's house.

May was given a postponement of the demolition work by the King in February 1817, "until the city could fulfill the same in the constitution." Between the moat and the future Nya Allén, 13 "places" were auctioned off on April 28 of the same year.

Plantations or gardens were to be used for Nos. 4-7, while cultivated fruit "as well



asfields and meadows" were to be used for Nos. 1-3 and 8-13 meadows, a section of the future avenue that runs alongside his land. Following that, the city had the authority to begin planting. The tenants were then responsible for planning the property and caring for the trees. a report to the magistrate in September 1821, in which the tenants claim that horses, cows, sheep, turkeys, geese, chickens, and ducks were released on their grounds, causing extensive damage.

The first stage of the avenue was completed in December 1823, with the demarcation of a section for which Kristinedal gardener Ekholm was compensated with a 100 riksdaler bank. According to city engineer Herman Hallberger, in order to avoid rough ground south of Sederlindska meadow, the road should be pulled a little further south over Tegelbruksängen. On January 2, 1824, this move was implemented, resulting in a considerably larger field for the potential Garden Association. A decree was issued in July 1824, stating that all gravel and other fillingmaterial to be extracted from the city must be used for Nya Allén. In August of that year, an anonymous donor revealed that he had donated 1,000 riksdaler banko to the avenue house.

From October 1823 to April 1824, 1,400 trees, mainly elms, were planted along the street, 1,150 of which were donated by councilor Fredrik Georg Kall (1745-1825). His elm seedlings came from "Kallens plantage," a larger garden that stretched between the current Storgatan, Teatergatan, Vasagatan, and Södra vägen - plot no. 96 in the 12th root. The trees were also given to Gamla Allén by Kall.

[https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nya\\_All%C3%A9n](https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nya_All%C3%A9n)



# Oskar Fredriks kyrka

*A gathering place for fellowship, spirituality, music, conversation and all stages of life.*

Oskar Fredriks kyrka is a church that has been owned by the Gothenburg Oscar Fredriks parish. It is a township in Carl Johan's pastorate in the diocese of Gothenburg. The church was consecrated in 1883 on Easter Sunday. The name of the church and the parish are the full name of King Oscar II. His name was also written in the guest book after his visit in 1898.

Oscar Fredrik's church was designed by the cathedral architect Helgo Zettervall (1831-1907) at the end of the 19th century. Helgo was born in Lindköping and got his education at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. In 1860, the same year he graduated, he was assigned as a cathedral architect in Lund. Later on he led the rebuilding of the churches of Lund, Linköping and Uppsala.

The church is built in the Neo-Gothic style inspired by the large cathedrals in continental Europe. It is considered to be one of the best representatives of such style in Sweden. The whole project of the cathedral, that Zettervall and the

country's experts were working on, was an experiment. It contrasts with the traditional form buildings a lot. They used new methods and materials, some of them hadn't been tested at all that time. It is made out of red facing brick and originally was supposed to have nearly 1700 seats.

*“None of the arts is closer to mysticism than the architecture which - geometrically, abstractly and dumbly musically - lives in rhythm and in time...”*

- Helgo Zettervall, cathedral architect -

The restorations of the Oscar Fredrik's church have been made three times before: in 1915, 1940 and 1974. During the work in 1940, the decor of arches and capital was painted over. In 1978, the older murals were manufactured again and the pulpit was moved back to its original place. In the middle of 1940s the artist Erik Abrahamsson created the altar cabinet in the Oskar Fredrik's church. The original altar ornament is located in the southern chantry. In 1969 the grandstand organ was built by Olof Hammarberg's organ building in Gothenburg, which replaced the old one that was made by organ manufacturer in 1893, the same year the church was consecrated. The grandstand organ was replaced by the new one, but the original facade remained unchanged.

Everyone can visit Oscar Fredriks church on weekdays from 9 to 15, and on Sundays from 11 to 15. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13 to 15, and on Sundays church's staff is on site if you want to talk to someone.

Visiting address: Oscar Fredriks Kyrkogata 1A, 41317 Gothenburg

Sources:

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## Posthuset/Posthotellet

The Old Post Office of Gothenburg was located on Drottningtorget. It was designed by an architect from Gothenburg by the name Ernst Torulf, who has also designed Hvitfeldtska. The opening date of the post office was in 1925, however since 2012 the building has undergone changes and is now a hotel called Clarion Hotel Post.

In 1910, the National Post Board which was located on Packhusplatsen, was looking for a new post office as the old one had started to become too small. There were several options of places to build it but at last it landed on Drottningtorget. Before the Post Office was built in its new location, the buildings that were already there had to be demolished in order to make room. There was a poorhouse called Bracka which was removed when the building of the post office started in 1917. At last in December of 1912, the newfound area was purchased and then taken over in the beginning of October of 1925. As of then, the area purchased was 5,583.1 m<sup>2</sup>. The great building was divided into three different floors. It needed heaps of spruce poles to stabilize and secure the building. The final bill had been estimated to be around SEK 2.4 million, however the true final bill was at a price of SEK 8.4 million.

The building of the Post Office took seven year to complete which in its turn served in its favour as the largest post office of the Nordic Countries at that time. When completed, it was Gothenburg's most valuable building. In addition, it became the largest building in Gothenburg. The inauguration of the post office brought together people who had been essential throughout the construction. Besides a few representatives of the Nordic countries, Building Board's director general Tengbom was there along with the general post director himself, general

Julius Juhlin. On March 1 1992, the Post Office became a building monument. Meaning that the building and its facade may not be changed.

Today, the Post Office no longer exists however the building does. The building is now a hotel that is owned by the company Home Properties. They transformed the post office to a hotel which goes under the name Clarion Hotel Post. Due to the building being made a monument, it has not undergone too many changes to make it unrecognizable from what it was in the past. The architect behind Clarion is the firm called Semerén & Månsson. An essential change when transforming the building was that the area was increased by 65%. Due to this, the building is now as big to fit 500 rooms, 3 suites, a large event room that can hold around 1000 people, along with 19 conference rooms. The two restaurants and bars, bistro, and bar and grill, are very popular for both hotel guests, but also the people of Gothenburg. A rooftop pool was also built that overlooks Gothenburg city that has become a very popular spot. This renovation expanded the area to 39,700 m<sup>2</sup> with a total cost of SEK 1.4 billion.

The hotel being located as central as Drottningtorget, gives the guests opportunities to explore and experience the beauty of Gothenburg.

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## Sahlgrenska sjukhuset

Sahlgrenska sjukhuset wasn't always the Sahlgrenska which we know today, in fact the current building is the latest one of four. A familiar idea is that Sahlgrenska all started with the man it was named after, Nicholas Sahlgren. Although he contributed significantly to the start up of the hospital, donating around 150,000 daler. In reality, that only paid for around 20 beds, insignificant compared to the richer man Chalmers who later paid for the rest of the funding.

Sahlgrenska sjukhuset was neither as big as the towering hospital today. In fact when it first opened on March, 11, 1782 on Sillgatan, which is known today as Postgatan, there were only 24 beds. 14 of them were available for those who paid for them and 10 for those in great need. The first patient went by the name of Peter Söderlund who suffered from dysentery (an inflammation of the intestine), and was cleared as healthy, proving the hospital to be successful, putting aside the great cost of all of the resources and equipment required. The staff was few, with a total of 15 including hospital boys, nurses, maids and housekeepers. Sahlgrenska started off as a private hospital and 2 years into the running, in 1784 received collection from Baptisms and services. Everybody agreed that it was in their best interest to make the hospital public, a county hospital which took care of all of the unwell. It wasn't until 1789 that Sahlgrenska was put into the hands of the people who controlled the finances of the city.

Life in the first hospital was simple, with a small and quaint atmosphere and lack of chaos, contrasting to many of today's hospitals. A normal day consisted of the routine of airing out the rooms, tidying up and making the beds at 6am. At 7am, discharges and enrollment, prescriptions and the designation of food, would all be decided. 11am, when imperative surgical procedures would take place; there would be maths classes available as well as babysitting and after midnight, the nurses would check up on the patients every hour. At this



time, Sweden was still fairly religious and every recovered patient was required to recite prayers in the morning, as well as traditional Sundays.

It wasn't until 60 years later, in 1823, that Sahlgrenska was moved to the second location called the Ortedahl house on Östrahamngatan in the district of Nordstan, which exists currently as the museum of medical history. The relocation enabled the expansion of the hospital from the previous 24 beds, to 80 beds, as well as a floor for midwives and staff. There was also a library and garden included in the facility. Today, on show in the museum of medical history is the progress of medical equipment and procedures procured from the past Sahlgrenska facilities.

Eventually this building became more and more crowded, with more recognition of the hospital and its taking care of the poor and ill in the military in 1846. Due to the lack of space, another change of location was decided, this time the building would be located opposite Grönsakstorget, however it wasn't until mid 1855 that the move was made official. The last change in facility was in April 1900 to the current location Ängården, again due to upping the capacity.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahlgrenska\\_University\\_Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahlgrenska_University_Hospital)

<https://www.sahlgrenska.se/om-sjukhuset/historik/>

<https://medicinhistoriska.sahlgrenska.se/in-english/>





### **Sahlgrenska University Hospital (1855–2021)**

The Sahlgrenska University Hospital was first founded in 1772. It is a system of hospitals, encompassing the Sahlgrenska, Mölndal and Östra hospitals. It was named after Niclas Sahlgren due to his donation to the hospital. The Sahlgrenska University Hospital works closely with the Sahlgrenska Academy and University of Gothenburg. It is the biggest hospital in Sweden, and one of the biggest in Europe, with 17,000 employees. The hospital is responsible for the emergency treatment of the 700,000 Gothenburg inhabitants and specialised care for the entire region of West Sweden.

In 1855, the hospital was moved to a new location, and renamed “Allmänna och Sahlgrenska sjukhuset i Göteborg”. The building was located at the bastion of Carolus Dux, by Västra Hamngatan. The hospital was inaugurated on the 1st of April, housing a little over 200 beds.



By 1867, however, concerns were already being raised about the capacity of the hospital, since the city and number of inhabitants was growing exponentially. By 1900, the hospital had been moved to a new, larger location. The building which housed the hospital between 1855 and 1900 still remains, and is now known as “Sociala Huset”.



“Allmänna och Sahlgrenska sjukhuset i Göteborg” was then moved to a new location, in Änggården, where it still exists today. On the 24th of August 1899, Oscar II put his signature on the last brick of the hospital, writing "Detta slutstycke insattes 18 24/8 99 af Oscar II". The hospital was not officially inaugurated, however, until the 17th of April, 1900, with an initial 350 beds. Later on, in 1936, the hospital was renamed to “Sahlgrenska Sjukhuset”. By 1959, a new addition had been built, called Centralkomplexet. Centralkomplexet was 18 floors high, and contained an additional 628 beds. During the 1900’s, many new additions and clinics were added, including a psychiatric clinic, a women’s clinic, a cancer treatment clinic and many more. In 1997, Sahlgrenska sjukhuset merged with Östra sjukhuset and Mölndals sjukhus to form the Sahlgrenska University Hospital. This was in order to gather resources, strengthening the healthcare system in the region. In 1999, 22 years ago, the hospital celebrated its 100 year jubilee.

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# SKANSEN LEJONET

Skansen Lejonet, also known as Sconce Lion in English was built in the late 17th century. The fortress is the twin counterpart of Skansen Kronan. Both of these monuments were built according to the plans of Erik Dahlsbergh, who constructed them for defense against the Danish, who were attacking Gothenburg from the south. The building also had a multi-purpose as the Alvsborg fortress. Gustav II Adolf, the king at that time, decided to strengthen the city and therefore ordered the construction of Skansen Lejonet and its twin fort Skanskan Kronan.<sup>1</sup>



The city was surrounded by a massive wall. The only structures that remained outside of this wall were the two forts Skansen Lejonet and Skansen Kronan. The original city walls were used for protection of the city but this wall's purpose was replaced by the two forts, as it had such a strategic position on a hill. Originally both fortresses were outside the former city walls but now lay inside the city since the city had been expanding.<sup>1</sup> Ever since 1968, Skansen Lejonet has guarded Gothenburg and today it is one of the city's best-preserved monuments.<sup>2</sup>



GhmB:12328:bild2

Gothenburg was founded as a heavily defended town in 1621. This was in the midst of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and the declining significance of the Catholic Church. It was fought mainly in modern-day Germany and Central Europe.<sup>1</sup> Gothenburg was Sweden's only direct connection to the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea which made it a very strategic location.

<sup>1</sup> See "Gothenburg History: Walking Tour." This Is Gothenburg, *Further references appear in the text*

<sup>2</sup> See Reddy, Kovuuri G. "Skansen Lejonet: The Lion Redoubt, Medieval Fortress, Heraldic Lion of Gothenburg." Medium, Medium, 15 Oct. 2020, *Further references appear in the text*

A large zigzag-shaped structure spanned outside Gothenburg for hundreds of years. It was barely standing after the construction of the two forts, Lejonet and Kronan. They can be walked from the Central Station to the Svingeln bus and tram-stop. Alternatively, one can take the pedestrian pathway to the fortress. It was once on the outskirts of the city, but in 1612, Denmark destroyed the fortress on the West Coast. When Sweden regained its territory, it needed to build defenses against new attacks. Erik Dahlbergh was responsible for the construction of Sweden's defenses. He drew and built Skansen Lejonet and the twin fort Skansen Kronan. During the proposal of building the two forts, it was said that the mountains around the city would also ensure the safety of Gothenburg. He oversaw the building of the Skansen Westgate, which was built in 1687, and the Skansen Lejonet, which was also constructed in the same year. Born to a peasant family, Dahlberg rose to nobility with his military skills. He was able to shoot both far and near using his star-shaped fortification. The redoubt at Karl XI was opened in 1689. Its capabilities were never tested in a battle. The other two redoubts were spared.<sup>3</sup>

The construction of the two forts, Skansen Lejonet and Skansen Kronan was completed in 1694 and 1698 sequentially. Skansen Kronan can be found in Haga and has a very nice look over the city. In all its years of building, not a single shot has been fired from the fort. The hill which surrounded the city was offered as a defence system during medieval times. Skansen Lejonet is located by Central Station in Gothenburg. The landmark is very close to the city center; however, during the medieval times, it was rather on the outskirts of Gothenburg.

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<sup>3</sup> “Skansen Lejonet.” *Skansen Lejonet in Gothenburg - A Fortress in Gothenburg with a Lion on the Top.*  
*Further references appear in the text*



Göteborg  
Slottskogen, Skridskodammen.

©MA:8958:40

Slottskogen 1901 – Fotograf Olga Rinman

## Slottskogen

Slottskogen is rich with history, from buildings transported across large distances to resting places for the drunk, its past tells the story of society's classes being entitled to a park(1) which allows the people to wander and enjoy the novelty of the King's grounds(1). Before the 18th century, Slottskogen was called Älvsborgs Kungsladugårds ägor (1) and its constituents were hay meadows, pastures, orchards and deer enclosures(1) and had several influences on its shape later down the line<sup>1</sup>. In 1864<sup>2</sup>(1) there was a large increase in population in Gothenburg which led to a man called Albert Ehrenswärld (1), a governor, to work with August Kobb(1) in order for everybody to be able to enjoy the park, regardless of social class as only the middle class and above were allowed to visit the park(1). August Kobbs portrait is chiselled into rock in Slottskogen<sup>3</sup> as a memorial for what he has done for the people.

As you walk around the park and gaze at the trees you may notice the restaurant Villa Belparc. This restaurant was open until 1936 and was called Funkishuset (3). It was later taken down and rebuilt and had a 1930s functionality design<sup>4</sup>(3). This new building was called Vita Bandet and garnered attention up until 1985(3) where a man called Thomas Peterson became the owner of the restaurant and renamed it to Villa Belparc(3).

After you have enjoyed the architecture and eaten a meal at Villa Belparc, you might go for a walk and notice multiple houses. One of these buildings is Polismakten(5), a small white house with a tiled roof and red rimmed windows. This building was built in the beginning of the 20th century(5) and was used up until the end of the 1930s(5). The small house usually held people who were overly intoxicated for several hours(5) so that they could sleep and rid themselves of their alcohol(5). Polismakten is now a museum for polis uniforms, swords, batons, whistles and small police car toys(5). The other buildings are Landscape cottages(5), one of these is called Gräfsnäsgråden. These two houses include a dance floor/ring which people would dance to folk music

<sup>1</sup> These influences are Hyde park in England and Skansen in Stockholm(1).

<sup>2</sup> Although it was only recognised as a park in 1874 (1)

<sup>3</sup> Before you go up the hill to the seals on the main path past the pond, the rock face next to the incline has August Kobbs portrait

<sup>4</sup> This means that it had a flat roof with straight sides (3)



while wearing traditional folk clothes(5). The buildings are called “Annexet”(5) which is the most recent building and “Gården”(5). The house is also used as a library, training ground for costumes/apparel shops and for dance groups(5). The oldest parts of the building come from the 1800s(5) and was an assistant household to the Gräfnäs castle by the lake Anten in Västragötaland<sup>5</sup>(5). Smålandsgården is another structure built in the 1800s which contains old furniture, tapestries and utensils(5) and has a brown exterior with a white chimney as well as a second hut-like structure off to its right and a large red sundial tower<sup>6</sup>(5). This can be found by walking right ahead from linneplatsen, over the hill following the largest paved road and then turning left to go past the dance floor at Gräfnäsgården. This leads to a small paved road which splits into two, take the path on the right. The guilds men and women would have a meeting once a month(5) where they would discuss ideas and eat(5). Dalslandsstugan is a grey building which can be found if you walk straight ahead instead of veering off the right when on your way to Smålandsgården. This structure is from 1827(5) and was originally in Steneby socken in Dalsland(5), however in the 1930s the Dalsland guild bought the structure and moved it to Slottskogen(5). Hallandsgården can be found by walking up the hill by Villa Belparc and following a path that is in the general direction of Smålandsgården. Eventually you should reach a red hut that has two entries and a tiled roof. This hut is 200 years old(5) and it comes from Knipereds village in north Halland where it was built sometime in the 18th century(5). Its occupants were multiple generations of chair carpenters(5) and in circa 1946 the hut was moved to Slottskogen(5) where it served as a place of gathering for local halläningar(5). Currently it has 150 members in its guild(5) who work in order to keep the traditions, culture and manners of the hallänsk people alive(5).

Another large attraction to the Slottskogen is the zoo which includes Humboldt penguins, seals, elk, deer, sheep, goats, Gotland ponies and Oeland geese(6). The park introduced 10 deer from Scotland into the area in 1893(8) and In order for the deer to not run around, the park built an enclosure for them. Those deer were also the first animals that were going to be presented for the coming zoo (8). There was also going to be a zoologist area before the deers in the park but that never came to be, so all that was installed was a pond for ducks (9). The purpose of the zoo is to educate individuals and children about the animals that are around them(6) as well as to make sure some native endangered species do not become extinct(6).

There really is more to Slottskogen than meets the eye. It might just seem to be a park, but it is home to the first park in Gothenburg which everybody regardless of social class was allowed to visit and enjoy while also inviting different cultures to peruse on the grounds and see the wildlife while enjoying a meal in a famous restaurant.

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<sup>5</sup> The house was moved in 1967(5) to Slottskogen where it is still present

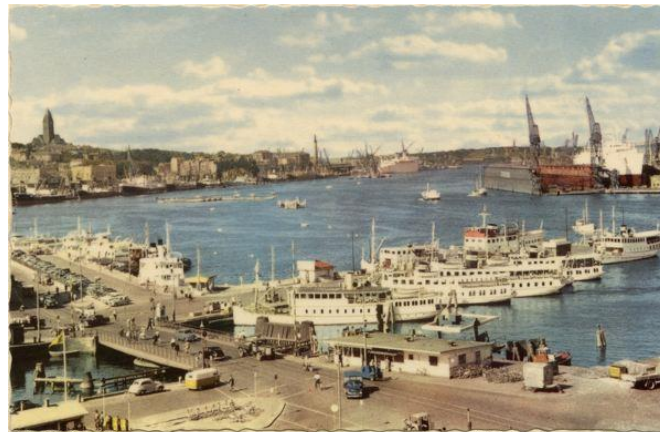
<sup>6</sup> These were gifted to Gothenburg at 1905(6) by a Småland’s guild.

# Gothenburg History - *Stenpiren*



*Stenpiren* (early also include Skeppsbron), is a pier along Göta Älv (river), built of stone outside Skeppsbrolplatsen and Stora Hamnkanalen's opening in the district Inom Vallgraven in as a part of Göteborgs hamn.

## History



Vk:2000:340

Tillhör Göteborgs Stadsmuseum

By the middle of the 19th century, with the industrialization wave in Sweden and the creation of steam power, it becomes necessary to construct a modern pier along the Göta Älv (river). *Stenpiren*, the first contemporary pier was built during the years 1844–1845 and got its current name in 1883. At this place, there used to be a wooden jetty half the width as now, and all ships and boats used to depart from here.

When *Stenpiren* became too crowded, on just the west side of it, *Ångslupspiren* or *Träpiren* was built in 1922, which was demolished beginning on February 4, 1954. In 1973, *Götaverken* (the biggest shipbuilding company at that time) needed more turning space at

its dry dock, plus, when the sailing channel had to be moved, Stenpiren was cut by 42 meters. Its current quay length is 215 meters and the water depth is 3-6 meters. In 1900, its length was 151 meters, its average width was 16 meters and its area was 2,416 square meters.

## NOW



*Comparison between 1930s and 2018*

The pier was refurbished and transformed in 2015 and became another public transportation hub in Gothenburg since then. Ferries, buses, and trams meet here, and it also connects the city to the water around the area that is close to the piers and promenades.

If you visit Stenpiren right now, you would see a terminal building with huge glass walls and a large 'floating' roof, which is designed to provide protection for passengers waiting outside. Inside the terminal building, you can buy tickets, relax in the waiting hall, make some smaller purchases or sit down for coffee. Stenpiren nowadays creates a new pleasant meeting place for people in the city of Gothenburg by the river.

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Picture: Google Earth, [Ortnamn](#)





## VASASTAN

It all started when Gothenburg became a city. Before what we today know as vasastan it mainly consisted of different plots of land owned by small farmers. In 1922 a description of the place presented it as a small rural area that was used mostly to travel through from one farm to another as well as hold cattle.

When the walls came up to protect the central Gothenburg, what would come to be Vasastan was left outside and became a place for thieves and other outcasts to hold camp.

It wasn't until around 1860 that decisions were made to build up and advance the territories outside of the walls that the well-known stone houses were put into place.

In 1961 Sweden's first competition regarding who was to design the infrastructure was held, but with all of the propositions the jury couldn't find anyone good enough and so two of the propositions were made second place and came to be a part of the inspiration that was used to build the area.

In 1866 the plan was done and was focused around having square stone houses with wide streets in between. These decisions were based on how it looked in Paris and Wien at the time and was an attempt to gain a district with many small boutiques on the floor levels of the houses.

Today Vasastaden is part of central Gothenburg and has a geographical area between Vasaplatsen and Haga<sup>1</sup>. It is today mainly a residential area and contains both restaurants and schools. One of which is the Schillerska high school and was founded in 1866.

Most of the houses that stand today are the same since they were built and have escaped ex, fires and other disasters because of their sturdy stone facades.

On the English Wikipedia site the houses are described as “Built in stone in a neo-renaissance and Baroque style”<sup>2</sup> which speaks about the various stone sculptures and detailed design on the facades.

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1

[https://auth.goteborg.se/lrr/redirect?TAM\\_OP=error&ERROR\\_CODE=0x38cf0427&URL=%2Fwps%2Fmyportal%2Fenhetsida%2Fstatistik-och-analys%2Fgeografi%2Fomradesindelningar&HOSTNAME=goteborg.se&AUTHNLEVEL=&PROTOCOL=https](https://auth.goteborg.se/lrr/redirect?TAM_OP=error&ERROR_CODE=0x38cf0427&URL=%2Fwps%2Fmyportal%2Fenhetsida%2Fstatistik-och-analys%2Fgeografi%2Fomradesindelningar&HOSTNAME=goteborg.se&AUTHNLEVEL=&PROTOCOL=https)

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Vk2000.193

## ÖSTRA NORDSTAN

Östra Nordstan is part of the district Nordstaden in Gothenburg. The area was firmly called the 4th block and consisted of five plots of land. After the fire on February 3-4 in 1794, Nordstan was expanded to seven plots of land and three more were added after the 19th century so they became ten. previously, the city was divided then included the 5th to 10th root in Östra Nordstan. In 1960, Östra Nordstaden consisted for the most part of buildings that were almost 100 years old, and more than 25 percent of them were used as warehouses, Housing accounted for 5 percent. Until the end of the 1950s, the city center had been renewed at a relatively slow pace



through point redevelopments. In the following years, total clean-ups - also called demolition rage- were applied by larger city parties instead. The largest project during this time was Östra Nordstaden, which was renewed during the years 1965- 75. At that time, about 100 houses were demolished to make room for seven buildings, which are joined together by glazing, among other things. Several of the large banks, which had previously been located at Södra and Västra Hamngatorna moved to the new city center facility.

Östra Nordstaden now consists mainly of business and office premises as well as hotels and car parkings. The Swedish Customs has had premises in Östra Nordstaden for many years when the Old Customs House was left, where now Casino Cosmopol is located. Nordstan was built in several stages, and on September 28, 1972, the first stage was inaugurated by Governor Erik Huss. At least 6,000 people had gathered in Götgatan. Most of Nordstan was completed in 1973, then as a completely new district where the old one had been. In addition, neighborhoods and houses were interconnected with roofs between them. The cost of decontamination and construction of new blocks amounted to approximately 2.8 billion SEK in today's monetary value.

<https://gamlagoteborg.se/2018/01/09/ostra-nordstan/>

## East Nordstan



In the beginning Nordstan was called the city's fourth quarter. This area originally consisted of five long-distance blocks. These 5 blocks later turned into 10. During 1794 in February there was a fire and the blocks were expanded by 2. In the early 19th century there was a rampart, this made the fourth quarter consist of 10 blocks. The eastern North town was full of small industries, different types of handicrafts and many simple hotels for the people that were traveling. There wasn't as much housing there, since the town was full with other things.<sup>1 2</sup>

During the 60's, there was a proposition about how Gothenburg would look, they wanted to change the whole town. They thought of the Eastern North Town as a self provider due to the high quantity of their own small industries. In that proposition was that the Eastern North Town would be demolished. There were many demonstrations because the people that worked there did not want their working place to be demolished. Since the town mostly consisted of buildings that were over 100 years old, they wanted something different, something new. The whole renewal of the city's center had been very slow so they started to focus on bigger parts of the city instead, such as the Eastern North Town. The Eastern North Town was renewed between 1965 and 1975. Over 100 houses were demolished and by doing that they made 7 large buildings that were joined together.<sup>3</sup>

In 1973 most of the new North Town was done and it had become a whole new district like the old one was never there. The whole cost was almost 2.8 billion Swedish crowns. In 1986 the parking lot's ground floor was changed into different stores and in 2008-2009 other big parts of The North Town went under different repairs. Such as Åhléns got a lot bigger and so did Stadium and Elgiganten. Today it has over 200 stores and restaurants in an area of 70 000m<sup>2</sup>. It has become the centre of Gothenburg where everyone meets up and have a good time. And the NorthTown is a good place to get jobs since there are over 6000 workplaces.<sup>4</sup>

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