



RESIDENTIAL RESTORATION PROJECT IN KALMAR

- **Ecological and energy saving restorations of real estates within normal economic frames**

Kalmarhem Corp. will carry through the restoration of a residential quarter, namely Inspektoren. The residential quarter was built in 1956 and it involves five three storeyed houses containing 159 flats, all in all approximately 7.000 m². The big challenge of this project is to carry through the reconstruction with the biggest possible adjustment and adaptation to the environmental demands in the same time as the housing policy goals will be achieved.

Objectives of project

In connection with the restoration of an estate area from the 1950's:

* create and carry through different kind of methods for a total restoration in which reasonable improvements of the environment and energy savings are created without economic restrain of the



project;

* create and carry through method of measurements before, during and after restoration in order to establish general measures relating to environmental dumping, energy absorbing, noise and electromagnetic radiation.

* to give tenants increased influence during the restoration process;

* to give the tenants an opportunity to increase the level of environmental standards, in addition to general measures of environmental protection;

The project will involve transnational partnerships, including national entrepreneurs, municipalities and experts along with transnational housing firms with its horizontal partners.

Within the next twenty years, the needs of restoring houses and buildings from early 1940's to 1970's will be most urgent. Most of the houses and buildings are build in a manner that they are not responding to the modern societies

environmental and energy laws and rules. An important aspect of this project is therefore that these restorations will be implemented in a subversive way in order to reduce and lower environmental costs as well as energy consumption. It is also very important to look after that the rental charges stays on the same level, so they will not affect the communities expenditures.

To further broaden the project, we will now link some strategic and interesting transnational partners. They will participate in the development of this project whereas they contribute with their experience and expertise.

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KAUNAS WATER AND ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT PROJECT

Two years ago Kaunas Water and Environment Investment Project was started. The goals of the project have been to build a waste water treatment plant, to renew pumping stations, the network of urban water-supply and sewerage systems, and to implement a programme for water saving.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania has financed more than a half of the project. Other co-financers are Kaunas City Municipality, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EU-PHARE, SIDA, NEFCO and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. Some of the means needed will be gathered by increasing the tariffs for water supply and sewerage in the City of Kaunas.



Sewage treatment plant in Kaunas is scheduled to be in full operation in May 1999.

Almost half of the project means were used for the construction of a waste water treatment plant. The construction works began in 1992. At the present it is prepared to construct the mechanical equipment. It is foreseen that the plant operation will begin in May, 1999.

At present two urban water-supply pumping stations are already in use and the other pumping stations are under

preparation. A renovation project for urban water-supply and sewerage networks will be prepared by a Swedish consultative company, and it will be ready by 1 December, 1997. Means for the network renovation will be gathered from the increased tariffs.

A water saving programme for the city was ready in July, 1997. Water meters will be bought and an account system for

computers, "SKALA", has been installed in the closely joined stock company. This system has improved the work effectiveness.

Thus, the project is under successful execution and Kaunas can already feel some of the results. More significant changes are expected in May 1999, when the waste water treatment plant will begin its operation.



THE SIMON DACH HOUSE IN KLAIPĖDA

The Simon Dach House in Klaipėda, established in a reconstructed house from the beginning of our century, was opened in October 1996 as a German-Lithuanian meeting-place. The house is mainly funded by the German government and gets also support from the German Embassy in Vilnius and the Goethe Institute in Riga.

The house is named after the Memel-born German baroque poet Simon Dach (1605-1659), professor at Albrecht University Königsberg and author of many hymns. His most famous poem "Ännchen of Tharau", written for the marriage of Anna Neander, is a quite popular German folksong today. In 1912 the citizens of Memel erected a fountain with a statue of "Ännchen" and dedicated it to the great son of the city. The Simon Dach House is situated only some minutes away from this statue, which, right in the heart of the old city, has become Klaipėda's symbol and a tourist

attraction.

Despite the awful events during World War II and in post-war time, at the end of the eighties a comparatively high number of Germans and people of German origin could still be found in Klaipėda, formerly known as Memel. After restoring Lithuania's independence, those people were given the opportunity to assemble publicly without fearing political persecution any longer. In the newly-created democratic atmosphere the Society of Germans in Klaipėda was founded, which at the moment boasts a membership of over 400.

With the opening of the Simon Dach House, the Society of Germans obtained a respectable home with all kinds of facilities. Furthermore, it houses the editorial office of the society-owned monthly paper "German News for Lithuania", which appears both in German and Lithuanian, and a library with German books and periodicals from Germany and German minorities in other

parts of the world.

Apart from it, the Simon Dach House seeks also to develop an open cultural centre for everyone interested in German history, culture and today's Germany, no matter what nationality he/she is. It organizes concerts, exhibitions, lectures and readings, invites artists from Germany, shows German videos (feature films and documentaries). The Simon Dach House provides information about Germany and helps Lithuanian partners to get in touch with various institutions in Germany.

Last not least, the Simon Dach House sees itself as a mediator of different ethnic minorities living in Klaipėda. It tries to establish contacts between them and helps to find ways of integration into the Lithuanian society.

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NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS BETWEEN LÜBECK AND KOTKA

A new type of partnership for senior citizens in Baltic cities conveys better knowledge on social and cultural aspects of current life in our European towns to the participants. This senior citizens partnership ("Senioren-partnerschaft") is going to be continued in Finland in 1998,

and one of the topics will be the life of senior women in our cities.

The first idea to create a new partnership of senior citizens in towns around the Baltic Sea arose in the end of 1995. The existing partnership between Lübeck and Kotka helped us to contact our Finnish friends, and so a new project was

put into practice: in October 1996 a group of Finnish visitors came to Lübeck to discuss in a colloquium the different aspects and problems of social and cultural life of senior citizens.

The background of this new partnership:

1. Demographic investigations show a

continual change in European societies, and statistics predict that in 2030 the senior citizens (50 years and over) will constitute nearly 40% of our population in Germany. We want to discuss the consequences as to political and social life in the whole society.

2. Political topics concerning the everyday needs of older inhabitants of the cities are social and political topics as well. We want to know and understand, how senior citizens live in countries around the Baltic Sea. And we want to find out, how certain problems are solved elsewhere. Maybe we can support each other by crossing our geographical borders.

3. A very important subject is the exchange of knowledge and experience with younger generations. There are different kinds and possibilities of communication among people of the same age and between the old and the young. We communicate via exhibitions, senior-theatres, "markets of knowledge" organized by senior citizens, visits to history classes at school etc. We want to give each other new ideas how to communicate generation-wide.

4. And last but not least we want to have fun together, and we want to learn a bit about Baltic states. Here are some of the items of the last agenda in 1996: we showed our guests, how senior citizens live in Lübeck; we had discussions with political senior citizens delegates, members of the "Seniorenbeirat", and we debated voluntary working in social organizations; we visited an exhibition on art and craft objects created by senior hobby-artists.

Our next colloquium will be held in Kotka in Finland, if we solve the serious problem, how to raise money for the expensive journey. We are a mixed group of very engaged pensioners and of younger, still working people. We always welcome new members, and if you are interested in more information, or if you even want to join our next meeting, please contact:

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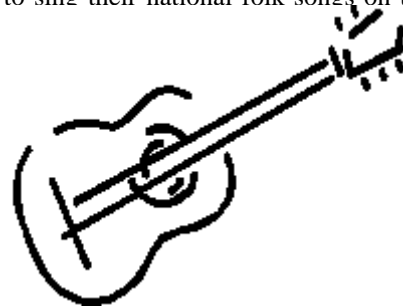
INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL PÄRNU 98 ON 10-13 JULY 1998

For the second time culturally active persons in Pärnu are arranging a grand event for everyone who cares about songs and singing.

The first choir festival in 1996 with over a thousand choir singers from Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Finland, Norway and other countries was an excellent affirmation for Pärnu that such events are unique opportunities for amateur choirs. Owing to the success of the 1996 festival Pärnu has enough courage and potential to arrange a new one.

Similarly to the first choir festival the city offers the choirs an opportunity to perform in the best concert halls and open air stages in Pärnu. There are no restrictions as to the repertoire - everyone has a chance to present their originality. Trips to different parts of Pärnu County will be organised in order to make the performances of the choirs more varied.

The programme of the festival is arranged in the same way as during the first festival with the Day of Town and the Day of the County and Song Festival; the latter will also serve as a festive farewell event. The intention is also to continue with the competition of folk-songs. Last time there were eleven choirs from Estonia and the same number from abroad taking part in the event and competing for the title of the best performer of folk songs. Hopefully there will be many more choirs willing to sing their national folk-songs on the



IMPORTANT CHANGES IN ŠIAULIAI

Šiauliai International Airport Opened

Šiauliai International Airport was opened on 28 August 1997. The biggest airport in the region has been reconstructed by Philips. In the first stage of reconstruction comprising ten years the airport will be able to accept at least 50 planes a day. Philips installed the most up-to-date lightning, navigation, communication and meteorological systems as well as equipped the Air Traffic Control Tower, which has been designed, built and installed by local construction companies. Šiauliai International Airport is now waiting for customers.

Free Economic Zone

In 1993 city authorities initiated the establishment of a Free Economic Zone in the neighbourhood of Šiauliai airport.

The Parliament passed the Law on the Fundamentals of Free Economic Zones and a special Law of Šiauliai FEZ in 1995 and 1996 respectively. On 9 January 1997, USA-Lithuanian Joint-Stock company "Šiauliai skrydis" won the international tender for the best business plan of FEZ development and was approved by the Government as FEZ administration company in September. The main shareholder of "Šiauliai skrydis" is the Baltic Fund which is registered in Delaware, USA.

A Brand New University in Šiauliai

On 1 September 1997, a brand new University in Šiauliai opened its doors to the students. This university has appeared by joining Šiauliai Pedagogical Institute and Kaunas Technological University Šiauliai Branch. Šiauliai University has now about 13 new specialities, 28 departments and more

than 3 000 students. The idea that inspired the establishment of Āiauliai University is based on the aim to attract young people of the region, grant them a University degree and prepare specialists for local labour market.

Holiday of Friendship in Āiauliai



On 24 October 1997, Āiauliai and Pärnu celebrated the 30th anniversary of friendship and co-operation between the cities. Jelgava, the sister-city of Āiauliai in Latvia, was also invited to this holiday of friendship. Politicians and public officers shared experiences, played basketball and football and were happy just being together.



NEWS FROM STOCKHOLM

Cultural Capital of Europe 1998

Stockholm has been designated the Cultural Capital of Europe 1998. During that year there will be many interesting and exiting cultural arrangements taking place in the city. The final programme was presented in October 1997. Information on activities can be found on the homepage: www.stockholm98.se

Sail Stockholm 1998

During the summer of 1998, when Stockholm is the Cultural Capital of Europe, many of the world's largest and most beautiful tall ships will visit Stockholm during Sail Stockholm 98. At least 50 ships are expected to participate in the event that takes place on 16-20 July. Sail Stockholm 98 will create attention and many spectators will visit the bedding area during the event. Companies, organisations and the public are invited to participate in the event, sailing between harbours or on day-cruises.

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The Stockholm Days in St. Petersburg

During 21-23 April 1998, the City of Stockholm will organise an exhibition in St. Petersburg. The exhibition has two goals. The first is to support business contact between companies in the Stockholm and St. Petersburg regions. The second is to increase the knowledge of Stockholm among the general public in St. Petersburg and to support new and old links between these two cities.

The event is a joint project between the City of Stockholm and Bonnier Business Press Z.A.O. The exhibition will take place at the Manezh, an exhibition hall on the very centre of St. Petersburg.

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The Stockholm Environmental Business Days, in Gdańsk

To bring Polish and Swedish companies in the environmental sector

together and to celebrate the first millennium of Gdańsk, the City of Stockholm organises the Stockholm Environmental Days on 7-10 December 1997.

The Stockholm Environmental Business Days will arrange workshops in order to match companies with similar interests and to organise seminars on topics such as EU regulations and financial sources in the field of environmental protection.

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*Next summer the largest and most beautiful tall ships will visit Stockholm
photo: Jan Asplund*