Cohousing in Sweden for the second half of life

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Cohousing in Sweden

- Collective housing since 1800
- Small collective houses/units in Sweden (1980 onwards)
- Collective houses for people in the second half of life (1993 onwards)
- Ways to success
- The First International Collaborative Housing Conference in Malmö 2010
Alternative living 1800 – 2000

- Robert Owen (GB)
- Charles Fourier (F)
- Godin’s familistère (F)
- Oneida (USA)
- Apartment hotels (USA)
- One-kitchen houses (Europe)
- Collective housing (Sovjet)
- Kibbutzim
- Collective houses/family hotels (S+DK+N)
- Servicehouses for elderly
- Collective/ enlarged families
- Bofælleskab/ cohousing (DK)
- Cohousing
- Eco-villages
- Small cohusing (BIG)
- Cohousing for elderly

Källa: Dick Urban Vestbro, Kerstin Kärnekull
The small urban collective house based on collaboration

- A building with 15 -50 apartments in different sizes and with residents of all ages
- Generous shared common rooms “paid for” by taking some square meters from each apartment
- Residents share common areas, equipment and take turns solving daily tasks like preparing evening meals
- Minimum waste of resources and energy
Collaborative/cohousing housing in Sweden since 1980

- Stockholm (17+4)
- Göteborg (3+1)
- Mölndal (1)
- Lund (3+1)
- Malmö (1+1)
- Falun (1)
- Landskrona (1)
- Helsingborg (1)
- Växjö (1)
- Borås (1)
- Örebro (2)
- Linköping (1)
- Eskilstuna (1)
- Västerås (1)
- Huddinge (1)
- Värmdö (1)
- Södertälje (1)
- Järfälla (1)
- Upplands-Väsby (2)
- Uppsala (1)
- Gävle (1)
- Luleå (1)
- Jönköping (1)

Red = collaborative housing for the second half of life
Färdknäppen, Stockholm, the first cohousing for the second half of life (1993)
43 flats 1 – 3 rooms and a kitchen and 350 square meters common space
51 tenants 45 – 89 years old
25 % men, 75 % women
Färdknäppen, ground floor with common rooms and garden
Färdknäppen, main entrance, an important communication centre
Färdknäppen, the living room with a library, daily newspapers, a big television set, an internet computer, a sewing machine. The entrance hall in the background.
Planning, preparing and sharing the main meal of the day, five days a week, is the main activity around which many other activities originate and develop.

The eating is voluntary!
Färdknäppen’s kitchen is designed for working together
Färdknäppen, the dining room
The dining room and a balalaika orchestra
The yearly revue – half of the tenants act, half are spectators
The Christmas jig-saw puzzle
Spanish lessons
Preparing straw (by scraping) before weaving straw mats
Children, grandchildren and friend’s children take part in the Christmas preparations, now a fifteen year old tradition.
A gingerbread Christmas crèche
The garden group in action
The common garden (in the middle of Stockholm). There is also a roof terrace.
Coffee break in the garden
A garden party for five 60-year old tenants and their neighbours
A wedding
How to succeed in Sweden:

- Participatory process in which residents plan and design together – thus shaping the physical design and the social rules and expectations at the same time
- Extensive common facilities, designed for daily use with a common kitchen and dining room as the heart and small private flats with kitchens – community and privacy!
- The resident’s are responsible for the management, taking decision at community meetings
- The landlord (if rental) must believe in the idea
- Consultants, especially the architect and the builder must know and understand co-housing and respect the ideas
- Conversion is as good as new building!
Co-housing organisations in Sweden

• Kollektivhus Nu (Collective Housing Now)
  – An national Swedish organisation with collective (cohousing units) and individual members
  www.kollektivhus.nu

• Föreningen Framtiden (The cohusing association “Future”)
  – An organisation for people interested in new cohousing units in the Stockholm area
  www.boframtidens.se

• Bo i Gemenskap (The BIG-group)
  – 6 researchers, journalists and architects engaged in the cohousing debate since 1976
  www.boigemenskap.se
The First International Collaborative Housing Conference

- In Malmö, Sweden 5-9 May 2010, arranged by the Swedish Co-housing Association “Kollektivhus NU”
- The purpose is to exchange experience from various models of cohousing, collaborative housing and ecovillages
- The aims are to improve our knowledge about such types of living and to stimulate housing companies, politicians and others to take collaborative housing seriously.
- The conference starts with two days of study visits to collaborative housing units in Denmark and the Southern region of Sweden.
- Following the study tours, two and a half days will be devoted to workshops, lectures, social gatherings and cultural events.
Themes (preliminary)

- Collaborative housing - a concern for whom?
- Sustainable lifestyles, saving by sharing
- Health and quality of life in collaborative housing
- Strategies for the mobilization and recruitment of residents
- Forms of ownership/tenure, economic and legal issues
- Public-private partnerships
- Planning for collaborative housing, design and technical factors
- Cooperation and conflict solving in the context of co-housing
A special website will be created under the existing website: http://www.kollektivhus.nu/

For further information, please contact:

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Welcome to Malmö May 2010!
Kerstin Kärnekull

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• Curriculum vitae
  – born December 25, 1942, in Flen, Sweden
  – Resident Fatbursgatan 29 B, 118 54 Stockholm, Sweden, a cohousing project for the second half of life called Färdknäppen.

• Education
  – 1967 Royal Institute of Technology, Faculty of Architecture, Stockholm

• Practice
  – 1968 – 1970 Trädgårdsarkitekt Erik Anjou (as a landscape architect)
  – 1970 – 1975 HSBs Riksförbund (Union of Housing Co-operatives)
  – 1972 (6 months) National Board of Urban Planning
  – 1981 – 1995 SABO (Swedish Association of Municipal Housing Companies)
  – 1995 – 2005 BFAB (The Institute of Further Education in Construction and Housing Management)

• Research
  – Since 1976 member of the research group BIG, short for Bo i Gemenskap (Living in community) www.boigemenskap.se.
  – 1986 – 1995 Head of Research and Development, SABO