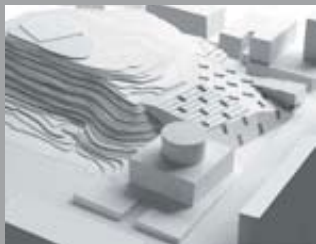


/Asplund



Architectural Competition The Stockholm City Library



Excerpt from
the jury's report

Results of the
public two-stage
architectural competition

Stage 1

Stockholm January 2007

This is a summary of the jury's report. The full report, both in Swedish and English, and press photographs of the proposals are available online at the Swedish Association of Architects website, www.arkitekt.se/asplund.

THE COMPETITION

The City of Stockholm is holding a two-stage architectural competition, the first stage of which is an open international competition to build an extension to the Stockholm Public Library designed by Gunnar Asplund.

The intention is that the competition will result in a high-class architectonic composition of which the Asplund library is an integral part in a combined library function. The library will quadruple the space currently available to the general public and an extension for the reading and learning of today and tomorrow will be built next to the present building with its special qualities and unique values. The library will become a lively public building open for all round-the-clock and will stimulate meetings, discussions, literary experiences and study.

The aim of the first stage of the competition is to find concepts and ideas to develop in stage two. The six proposals chosen shall be developed in stage two of the competition. Experiences gained and the six proposals provide the prerequisites and programme basis for the project competition in stage two. Prior to the second stage, the jury, in consultation with the City of Stockholm, will draw up a new competition brief with directives for the development of the chosen proposals.

As the second stage gets underway, the City of Stockholm will simultaneously initiate a planning process.

The City's intention is that the architect who wins stage two of the competition will be commissioned to develop and implement the project.

The competition began on 1 June 2006. The competition brief and all the documentation needed to carry out the competition task has been available on-line at the Swedish Association of Architects' website. Never before has a competition for all the world's architects been so accessible. About 6,000 architects from approximately 120 countries registered for the competition. The official language of the competition is English.

The jury approved 1,170 entries making this competition one of the world's largest architectural competitions of all time. The jury would like to thank all the competitors for their efforts.

All the submitted and approved proposals have been exhibited at Klarabergsviadukten 63 in central Stockholm during the assessment period and have also been available on the Swedish Association of Architects' website at www.arkitekt.se/asplund.

The six proposals will be exhibited at several locations in Stockholm during the spring, www.nyttstadsbibliotek.stockholm.se. The Stockholm City Planning Administration also

has information on the competition and the planning process online at www.stockholm.se/stadsbibliotek.

The jury consists of:

- Göran Långsved, ex-CEO, Stockholm City Development Administration and chairman of the jury
- Karin Jonsson, Project Manager, City of Stockholm's Executive Office
- Inga Lundén, City Librarian, Stockholm City Cultural Administration
- Sten Wetterblad, Executive Director, Stockholm City Real Estate Administration
- Ingela Lindh, Executive Director, Stockholm City Planning Administration, architect MSA
- Per Kallstenius, City Architect, architect SAR/MSA, Stockholm City Planning Administration
- Maija Berndtson, City Librarian, Helsinki
- Jan Söderlund, Professor and architect SAFA, Helsinki
- Christer Larsson, Director of City Planning, architect SAR/MSA, Malmö
- Kjetil Thorsen, architect MNAL, appointed by the Swedish Association of Architects
- Adam Caruso, architect, appointed by the Swedish Association of Architects

The jury has been assisted by a cross-party political reference group consisting of members of the Stockholm City Council: Madeleine Sjöstedt (liberal), chairperson, Cecilia Brinck (moderate), Py Börjesson (social democrat), Stig Dederig (left), Ann Mari Engel (left), Robert Lisberg (Christian democrat), Roger Mogert (social democrat), Jessica Nyberg (Christian democrat), Mikael Söderlund (moderate), Torkel Tigersköld (environment), Kerstin Wickman (environment) och David Wästberg (liberal).

Katarina Nilsson, from the Swedish Association of Architects is the secretary of the jury.

The jury has chosen six proposals for further development in the next stage. Authors of these competition entries will go on to compete in the second stage of the competition. The second stage of the competition will also be held anonymously.

THE JURY'S WORKING METHOD

The large number of proposals demanded painstaking and goal-oriented work by the jury. The first step was to perform impact analyses of the various theoretical solutions put forward. The jury studied representative proposals of different types and familiarised itself with the various concepts. It then looked for proposals that embodied the qualities and the complexity called for in the competition brief.

THE JURY'S ASSESSMENT

In the opinion of the jury, all the competition proposals represent a large number of valuable designs and ideas that have provided a sound basis for ensuing discussions. The solutions offered demonstrated a very broad spectrum of ideas, many of which were of a very high quality. The proposals have provided insights and provoked thoughts as to how this very difficult and challenging task can be achieved. The jury has ascertained that a new extension must be of such a stature, distinction and architectonic originality (i.e. artistic worthiness) as to justify its position next to the Asplund building while at the same time being in perfect symbiosis with this major icon. The new building must provide a new and distinct relationship to the hill, which should continue to be the dominant element of the townscape even in the future. This can be done in several different ways regardless of whether the annexes are preserved or not.



Photo: Infobild/Lennart Johansson

Aerial photo of the competition site

The general premise in the brief is that proposals that include the partial or complete demolition of the existing annexes must add new qualities that can compensate for the loss of historical, cultural and landscape values. One of the starting-points of the jury's work has therefore been to identify the cases in which these criteria have been fulfilled. By studying the received proposals and the skilled visual presentations produced by the competitors, the jury has closely examined the advantages and disadvantages of the different ways of handling the clarity and visibility of the new extension in the city landscape. The expectation in the competition brief is for an extension that has its very own special architectonic value that interacts with the world-famous Asplund building and that can put Stockholm on the stage of world architecture. The jury has furthermore ascertained that the extension must leave its own mark on the townscape and clearly elucidate its function as a new public building in Stockholm.

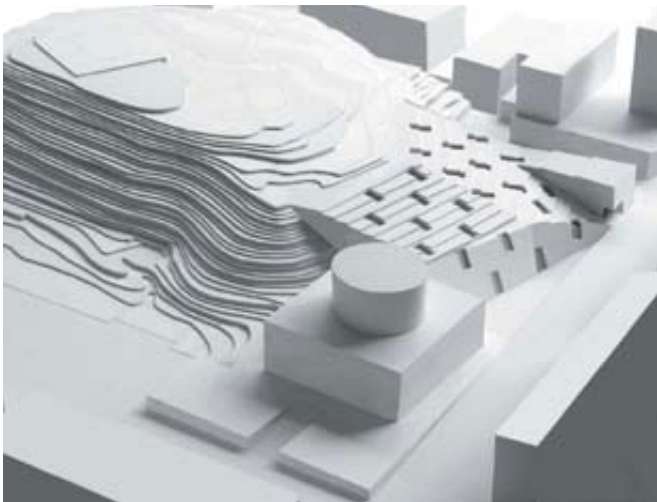
The proposals received represent a wide spectrum of feasible library solutions at varying stages of development. In the same manner as Asplund's original library, the new library is to be a public library, perceived as open, welcoming and accessible. The building shall also be a public meeting-place and its functions clearly discernible.

THE JURY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SIX PROPOSALS

The following six proposals have been unanimously selected by the jury to go through to the next stage of the competition. In May 2007, the architects concerned will receive new, detailed instructions to develop their respective proposals. Discussions and consultation will take place to provide further guidance in stage two of the competition.

Blanket 0329

This proposal is based on a man-made ending of Stockholmsåsen in which the library is located. Without trying to imitate the landscape, it makes its own interpretation of the hillside, which respects the hillside's shape and height by creating entirely new urban facades. The proposal subordinates itself to the Asplund building and is in many ways an urban hybrid between landscape and building which is easily recognisable with a character all of its own without any known predecessors.



The large inner terraced room is very beautiful with its leaning pillars and varying shape, into which the light filters through skylights. The fact that the building is sunken reinforces not just the design of the room but also illustrates the architects' awareness of the importance of restricting the scale of the building.

The Book Hill 0823

This project attempts to achieve two main objectives—to make the ridge accessible and to replace the impractical annexes with a well-functioning, continuously built-up library component. The aim of the project is not to create a new classical urban space. The meandering roof landscape/urban floor is a townscape that links the traditional street space to the park and can guide people up onto the ridge. The library is omnipresent during the walk up the slope, which reinforces its expression as a public library.



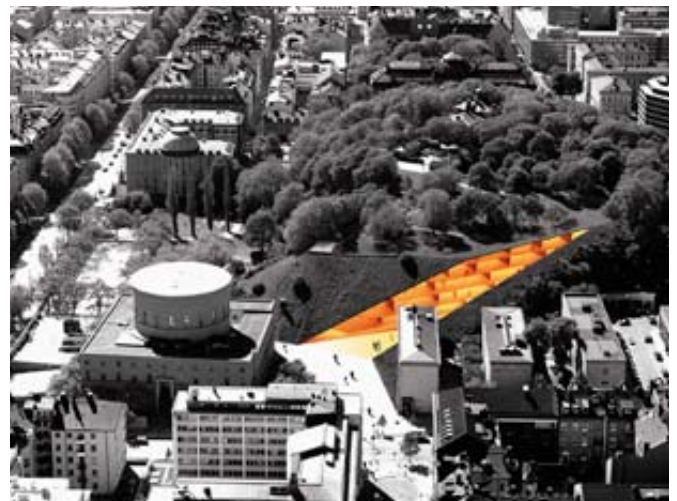
The building is an object in its own right and does not therefore compete with the Asplund building or with other projects in the vicinity.

The terracing creates opportunities for views and for providing much of the library with natural daylight.

Cut 0139

The cut into the ridge is a very strong and unique concept that reinforces the effect of the ridge as it will enhance the perception of its entire height. Even though basically all the buildings on the site remain, the Asplund building is placed in a new context and its monumental character is strengthened.

The project is successful in its attempt to contrast with the Asplund building, creating a kind of Yin-Yang situation. The differences complement each other and reinforce the character of each of the various buildings. The new building has such a unique expression that it becomes the project's defining characteristic. It will represent both itself as a building and the library as an institution.



A visitor to the new part of the library will have to walk through a square, pass glass facades and landscape before entering the library. This will give him/her an idea of the library's construction and what is going on in the library before even entering the building. The entrance area also leans a little towards the entrance and further sharpens the senses prior to the visit to the library. This can be interpreted as a variant of the entrance into the rotunda from Sveavägen, as designed by Asplund.

The new library's U-shape allows visitors to follow what is going on in other parts of the library, which is very positive.

Delphinium 0003

This proposal creates an entirely new composition together with the Asplund building, Stockholmsäsen and Läkarhuset.

The north face of the ridge is detached and becomes a key part of the library—the rounded outdoor area associates to the rotunda in the Asplund building. The excavated face can be transformed from an abandoned interspace to a high-quality park that will be omnipresent in all parts of the new library extension.

The narrow, tall building towards Odenplan relates to the 1960s complex to the west in both volume and height, whilst at the same time providing a backdrop to the Asplund building.



The largest volume of the extension is pushed up against the south-west corner of the site, which is well motivated since it then has a relationship to the existing taller buildings facing Odenplan and does not compete with the Asplund building.

There are parallels to the Asplund library in the lightness and richness of detailing, even though it is much more abstract than the existing building. The ethereal lightness of the new extension reinforces, if anything, the concrete expression of the Asplund building. The project offers a good solution to where Stockholmsäsen meets Odengatan.

Dikthörnan 1031

The concept of this proposal is to "harden" the north-east corner of the hill and make this eroded side into a backdrop to the Asplund building in a very elegant fashion. Most of the new library extension lies under the hill and two of the annexes are retained. Acting as a backdrop to the existing urban landscape and creating a new park that relates to the existing one facing Sveavägen, the area is given many new qualities. The possibility of walking on a new intermediate level in the park, on the roof of the new library extension is very attractive.



The connection to the Asplund building over the corner is very elegant. Despite its setback position, the proposal exposes its facades both towards Sveavägen and, via an extended entrance area, towards Odengatan.

Nosce te ipsum 0424

This proposal lies primarily behind the existing composition, keeping three of the annexes and locating another one on Spelbomskans torg. The concept itself is simple, shows respect for the existing composition and should therefore be considered. The project does not alter the existing urban composition to any great degree but instead manifests the broken facade towards Odengatan by adding another annexe.

The project "samples" Asplund's architecture in a witty and conceptual way and uses projects drawn by Gunnar Asplund himself, incorporated into the presentation. If implemented, these references will of course not be the project's distinguishing characteristic but will need to be given an expression that is feasible to implement using current construction methods.

