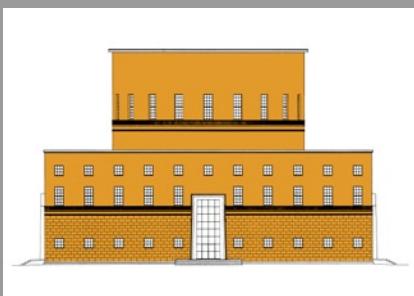




# /Asplund

Architectural Competition  
The Stockholm City Library

## Competition Brief







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Stockholm May 2006  
Translator: Impact 92, Gary Watson  
Photography: Lennart Johansson and Göran Sehlstedt



## We Look Forward to Receiving your Submissions!

The Public Library in Stockholm designed by Gunnar Asplund has functioned as the main library in Stockholm since it was inaugurated nearly 80 years ago. The library is a world famous building, breathtakingly beautiful and an icon for “the library” as a timeless concept. There are few public buildings in Stockholm that are as well frequented by people from the entire Stockholm region.

The value of Gunnar Asplund’s Public Library increases with every generation of Stockholm inhabitants that uses it. Stockholm is, however, an expanding city and the City Planning Administration estimates that there will be 150 000 more inhabitants by the year 2030. If this is the case, the city will not have a public library that lives up to the ambitions of a sparkling cultural city of knowledge. On the other hand, it would be disastrous to try to further adapt the Asplund Library building to present and future demands. In order to be able to maintain and develop the Public Library as the main library of the city and as a central public meeting place for learning and reading, new activities and functions must be added in a new extension to the Asplund building.

The City of Stockholm hereby invites architects to compete in an open architectural competition in order to be able

to provide the inhabitants of the city with a distinguished public building of high architectural quality. The Asplund Library should form an integral part of a beautifully composed whole. We hope that both international and national architects will be interested and we will, furthermore, pursue this process with the utmost transparency to ensure that the competition also contributes to creating a stimulus for a public discussion on how new architecture may enhance the qualities of the expanding city.

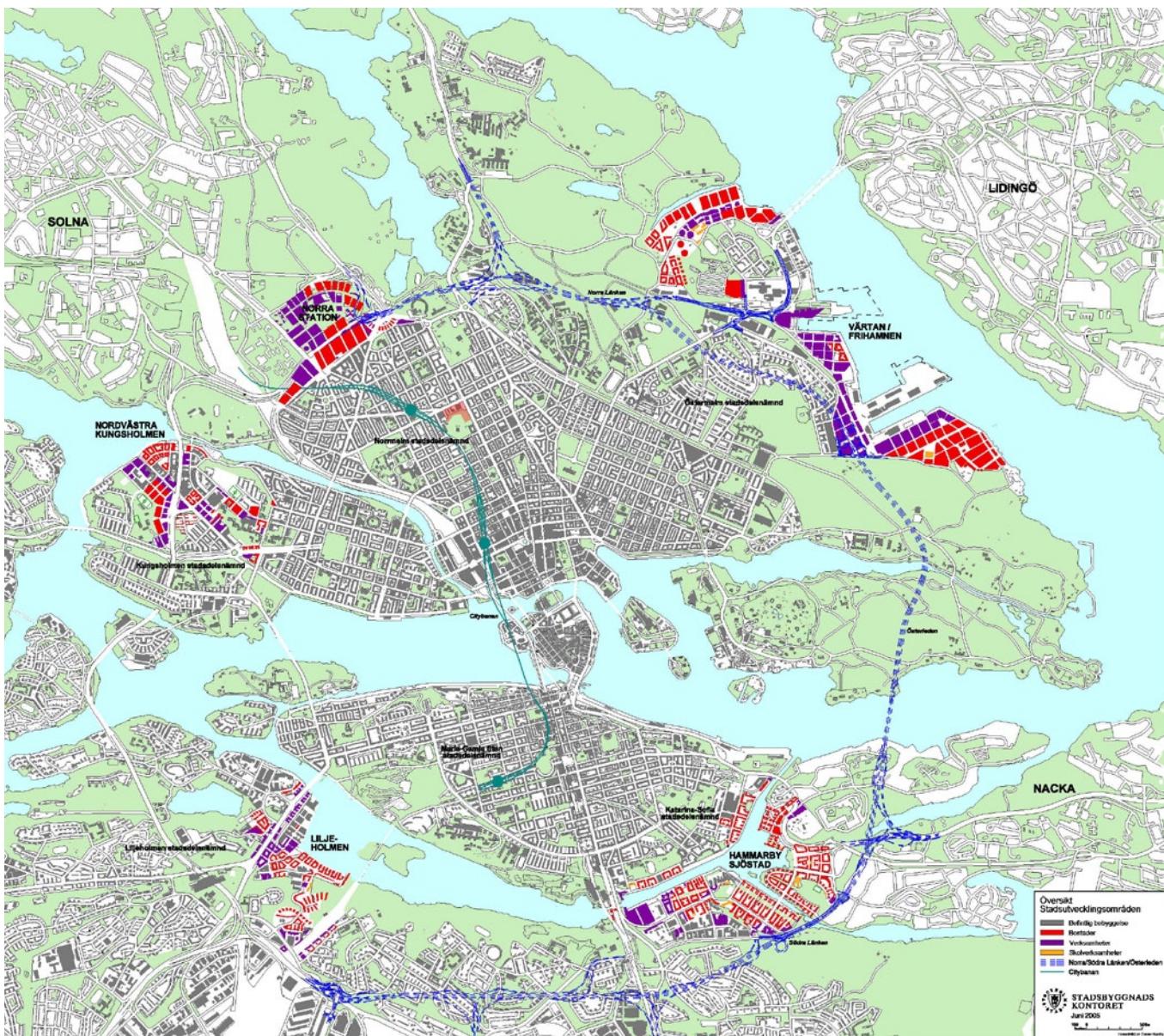
We welcome you to participate in the competition and we are much looking forward to the results.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annika Billström".

Annika Billström  
Mayor, City of Stockholm

The competition has been commissioned by the Stockholm City Executive Board and is being carried out by the City Planning Committee together with the City Real Estate and Market Halls Committee, the City Culture Committee and the City Development Committee. The competition is being organised in cooperation with the Swedish Association of Architects and fulfils the joint competition rules of the construction sector in accordance with the Swedish Act on Public Procurement.

# The Competition



Stockholm is faced with the challenges of strong development in the decades to come. The above map shows some of the developing areas around the inner city and how they connect to new infrastructure as main arteries in tunnels and a new city express railway system. This system will have three main stations in the inner city and connect to the underground metro network. One of these new stations is Odenplan close to the Asplund Library which will provide excellent access to the new library not only from Stockholm itself but also from the entire Mälard Region with its developing cities. A new metro line will also connect Odenplan to the new biomedical university development at North Station (Norra station).

**T**he City of Stockholm hereby invites architects to enter a two-stage architectural competition with regard to an extension to the Stockholm Public Library designed by Gunnar Asplund. The first stage is an open international competition.

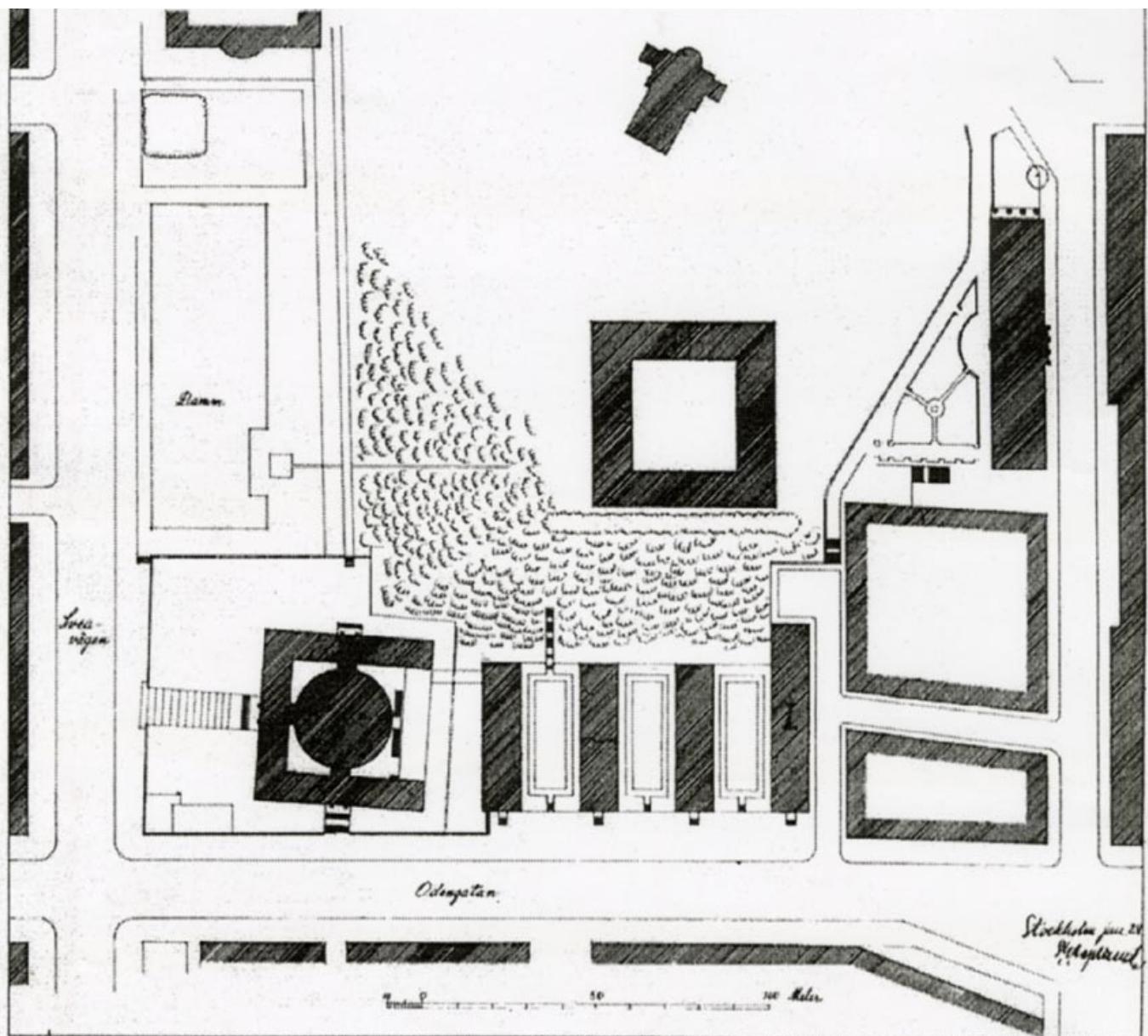
The intention is that the competition will result in a high-class architectonic composition and a combined library function with the Asplund Library forming an integral part. The idea is that the library will more than quadruple the space currently available to the general public and that an extension for the 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 and study.

The entire competition aims to find a proposal of high architectonic quality

- with a concept that is strong enough to withstand a dynamic implementation process
- that provides a basis for the detailed planning process
- and that provides the possibility of procuring an architectural service in accordance with the Swedish Act on Public Procurement for the subsequent planning and implementation of the project.

The aim of the first stage of the competition is to find concepts and ideas to develop in stage two. A maximum of five entries will be selected from stage one and these will subsequently be developed in stage two. The City's intention is that the architect who wins stage two of the competition will be commissioned to develop and implement the project.

# Asplund's Library



Asplund's plan from 1928 of the area around Observatory Hill with the library with its slightly turned final position, the Stockholm School of Economics and the park in-between facing Sveavägen. The four annex buildings facing Odengatan complete the library. The proposed university building can be seen at the top of the hill

## The Public Library as a Concept

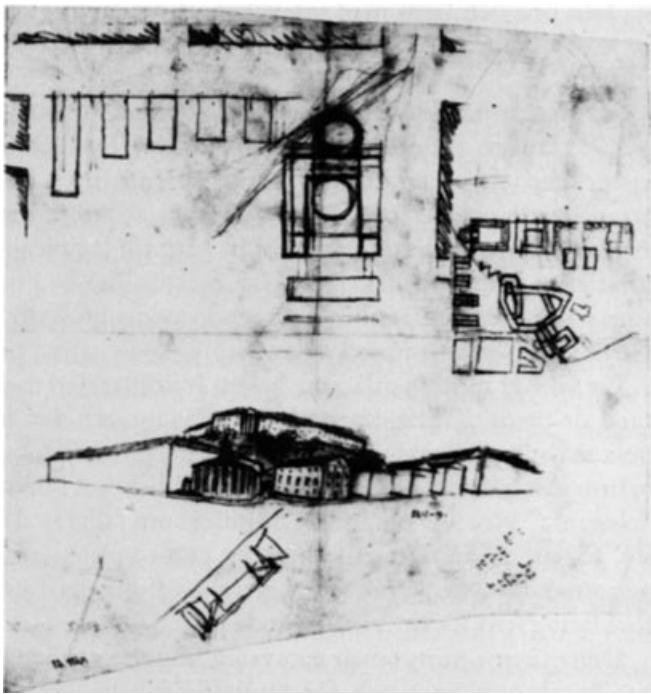
Around the turn of the previous century, extensive changes were made to the Swedish library system. One prominent figure was Valfrid Palmgren at the National Library of Sweden (Kungliga Biblioteket); a study trip to the USA inspired her to write the book "Bibliotek och folkuppföstran" (The Library and the Education of the People) published in 1909. This work contributed to the strong development of the Swedish public libraries. Palmgren was particularly impressed by the system of open shelves but also by activities geared towards children and young people. In 1911 she established the Nordic countries' first library for children and young people in Stockholm.

Work started in around 1910 to create a central library in Stockholm from which everyone could borrow books free of charge. One way of improving the level of education

and fostering the inhabitants to become democratic citizens was to enhance people's ability to read and to promote an interest in reading. The free public library principle was based on the libraries being accessible to everyone. The open shelves would encourage people to select books themselves with the assistance and support of well-educated members of staff. Particularly important areas were the Children's and the Young People's Sections.

## The First Drawings

Gunnar Asplund started his project by going to the USA with the City Librarian Fredrik Hjelmquist in 1920 in order to study public libraries in different cities. He transformed the lessons he learnt during his travels into drawings of the new Stockholm central library showing a cylindrical central space with four closed wings around it,



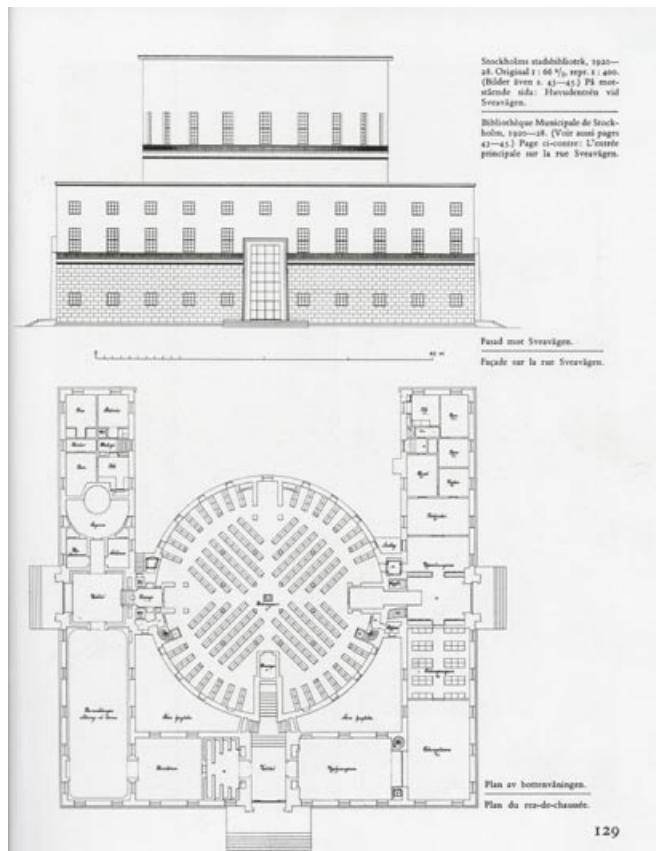
Asplund's first outline of Observatory Hill from 1919.  
The proposed large new university building can be seen at the top of the hill, whilst at its feet lies the library with a special temple at the crossing between Odengatan and Sveavägen. The four annex buildings are included on this first outline.

i.e. a concentrated building with a clear middle point where the "lending hall" was situated. Important features in the public library were clarity and accessibility. In addition to the Main Entrance, both the Children's Section and the Periodicals' Rooms had their own entrances. The first drawings had powerful classical features with a pantheon-like cupola and large column porticos.

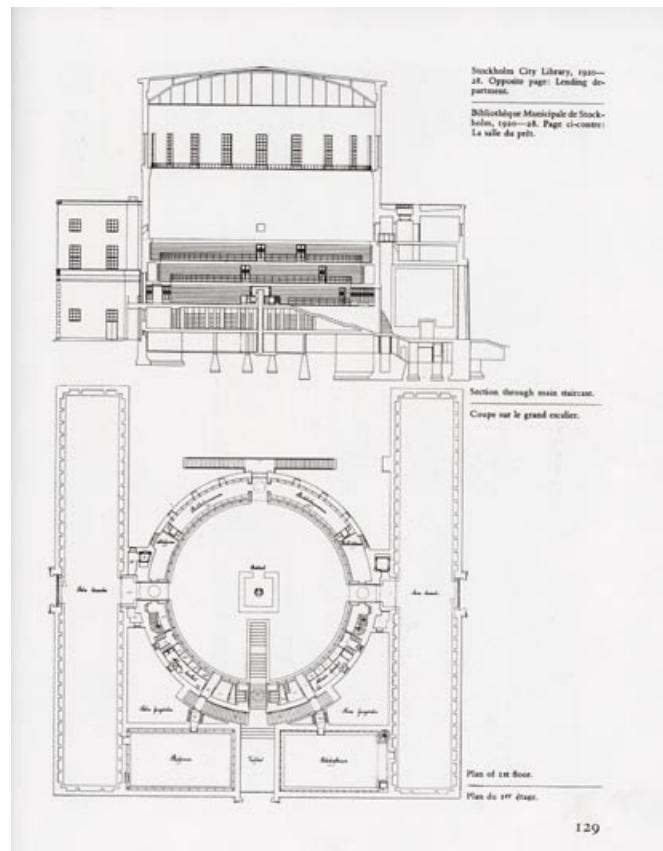
## The Completed Project

Gunnar Asplund presented the final drawings at the end of 1923/beginning of 1924. The design of the project had at that time developed into a cylindrical rotunda with its unique design bringing together the style of classicism with contemporary dawning modernism. The fourth west wing had by then removed from the project for economic reasons.

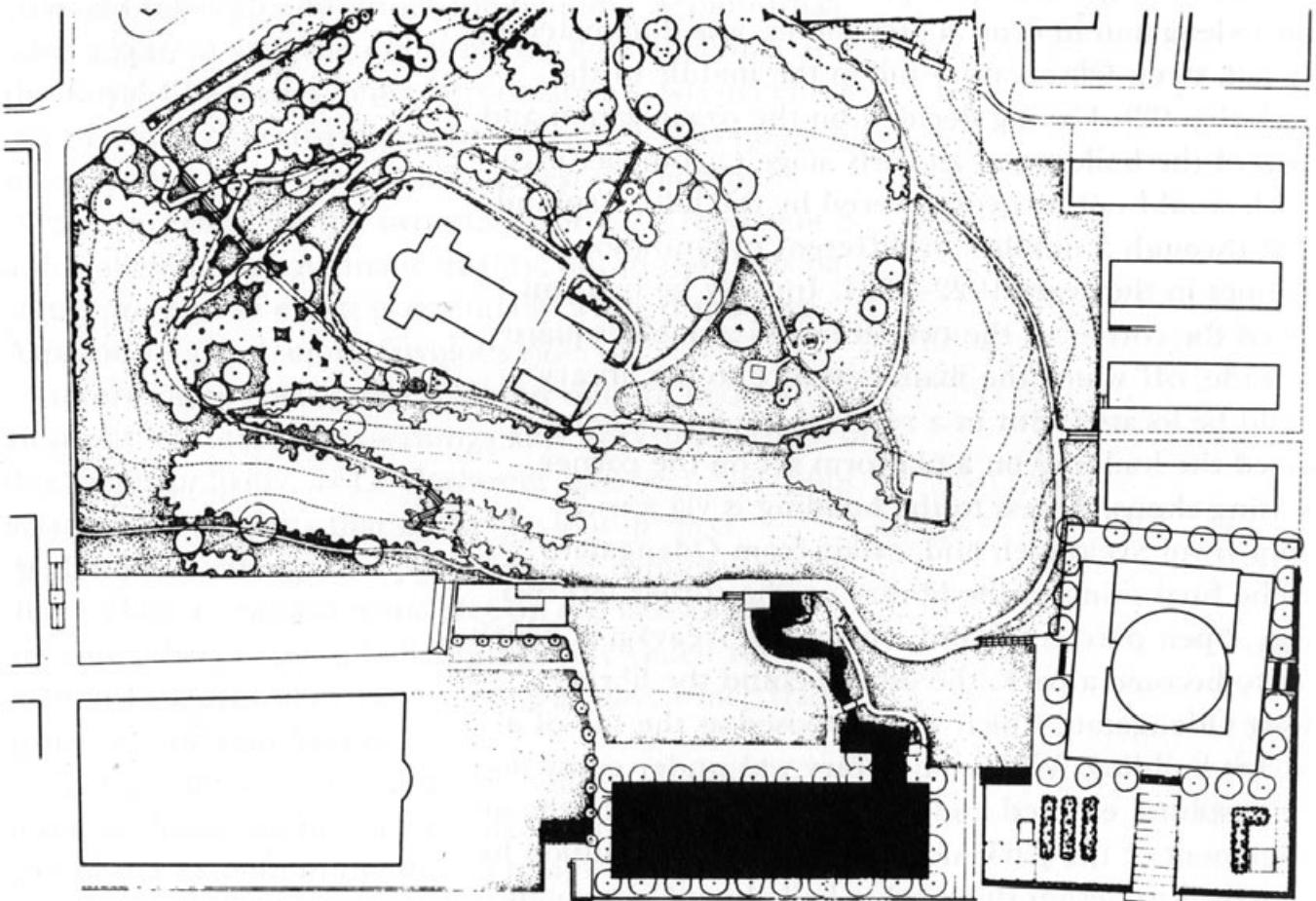
The library was inaugurated on 31 March 1928. The fourth wing, which was originally intended to house book depositories and a lecture hall, was erected in 1932 in a simplified design that included a special reading room and a staff room. In the completed library building, Gunnar Asplund did not only design the interior fittings and fixtures but also a unique collection of furniture and electric fittings some of which remain today in a renovated and renewed condition.



Asplund's final plan for the library from 1924. The fourth west wing had by then been taken away for cost reasons and the rotunda's majestic cylinder stood facing west, distinct against the three surrounding lower wings.



The final section from 1924. Asplund had now developed the former low dome over the central library hall in the first project from 1921 into the substantially higher cylindrical rotunda with its very distinct outer form.



Asplund's final site plan for the library with the park facing Sveavägen and the Stockholm School of Economics. Asplund's extensive sculpture programme for the area, featuring e.g. the sculptor Ivar Johnsson, was completed by landscape architect Erik Glemme. Three out of the four planned annex buildings would eventually be erected.



Photograph from 1938 showing the composition in its entirety with the park and reflecting pond in front of the library's south façade and the bazaar buildings under the terraces facing Sveavägen.

*Stadsbiblioteket från söder. Vykort från 1938 i SSM Fa14562.*

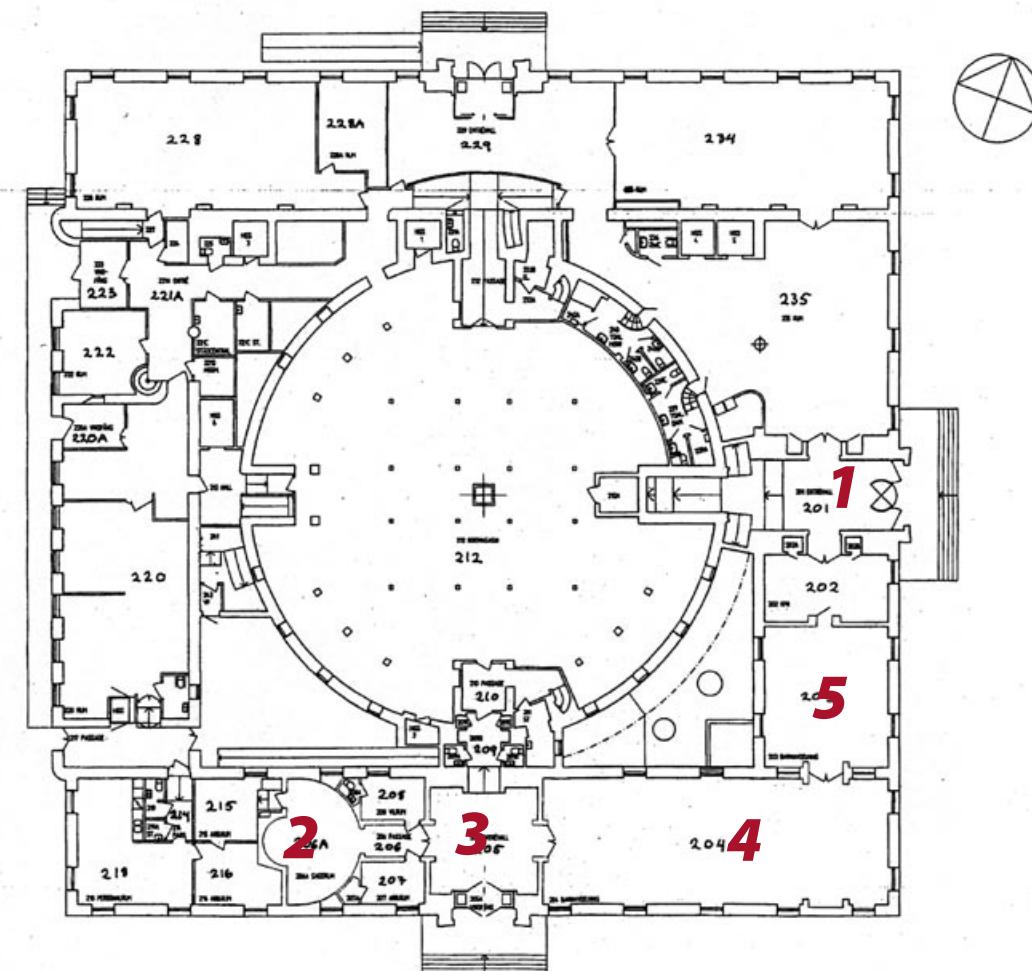
## Additions and Refurbishments

The library was too small right from the very beginning and Gunnar Asplund was involved in ongoing supplementary work (of among other things the light shafts) throughout the 1930s. His son Hans Asplund continued the work in the 1950s onwards resulting in the symmetrical staircases in the rotunda, new lifts throughout and the requisitioning of three of the four light shafts. Preparations were made for an entrance for the disabled through the bazaar building under the terraces on Sveavägen in the 1970s by building new lifts down to the level of Sveavägen.

Gunnar Asplund's original windows and glass sections

with their elegant thin metal framing and single glazing have been replaced over the years with varying results and at times downright carelessly. Today only a few of the original windows remain, for example the inner section of the porch in the Children's Section and in the northern bazaar building under the terraces.

Further changes have been carried out since 2000. The former lending counter in the rotunda has been replaced by a number of smaller information desks and the Audio Library and Enquiries Unit were inaugurated at the entrance level in the autumn of 2005. A return unit was also installed during the reconstruction of the entrance level floor.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (ground floor)

1. Entrance Hall
2. Storytelling Room
3. Children's Section – Entrance
4. Children and Young People's Section
5. Children's Section



1. Entrance Hall  
Main Entrance Hall with staircase up to the Rotunda and main lending hall.  
Fine wall reliefs depicting scenes from the Iliad created by the sculptor Ivar Johnsson.



2. Storytelling Room

Storyteller's chair and semi-circular background featuring paintings by Nils von Dardel depicting the Land of Nod.



3. Children's Section – Entrance

Old entrance to the Children's Section with the inner glass porch preserved in its original form.



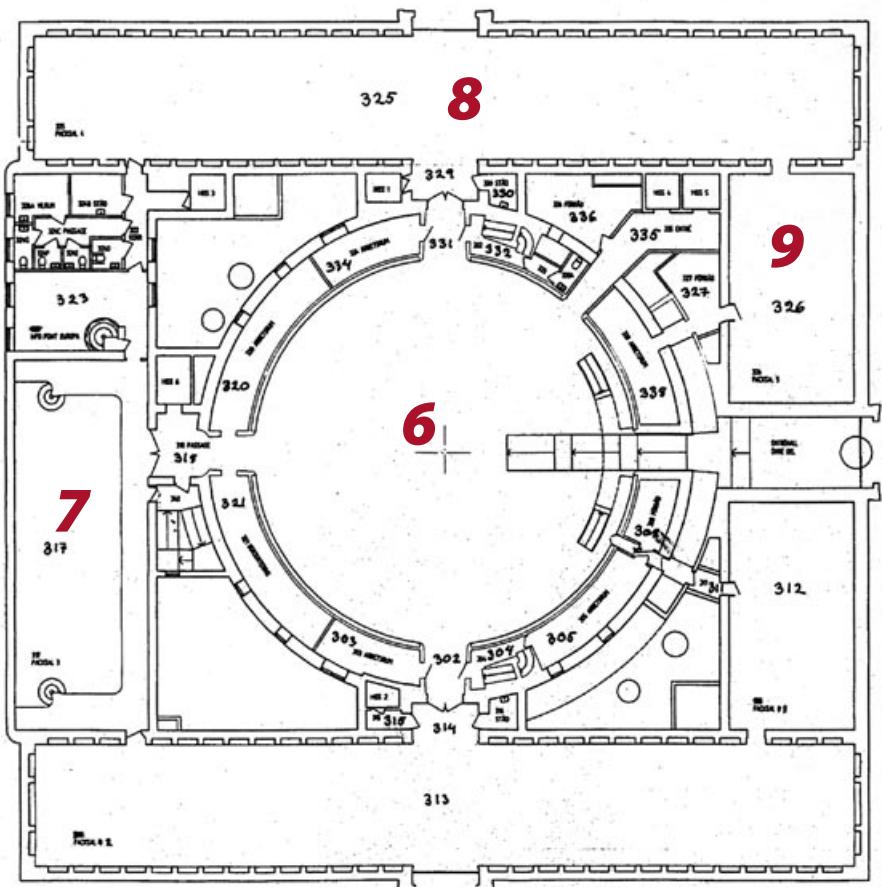
4. Children and Young People's Section

Entrance to the Children and Young People's Section with text (Barn och Ungdom) and wall relief over the top.



5. Children's Section

Room with ceiling painting of Alf Munthe, depicting the firmament surrounded by the twelve signs of the Zodiac.



**3<sup>rd</sup> floor (main floor)**

- 6. The Rotunda
- 7. The West Wing
- 8. The North Wing
- 9. The North-East Wing



6. The Rotunda.  
The large lending hall facing the main entrance from Sveavägen.



7. The West Wing  
Modernist spiral staircase from the Gallery with a lectern on the railing.



7. The West Wing

The West Wing seen from the Gallery with its original book shelves on consoles located like screens in front of the brick wall.



8. The North Wing

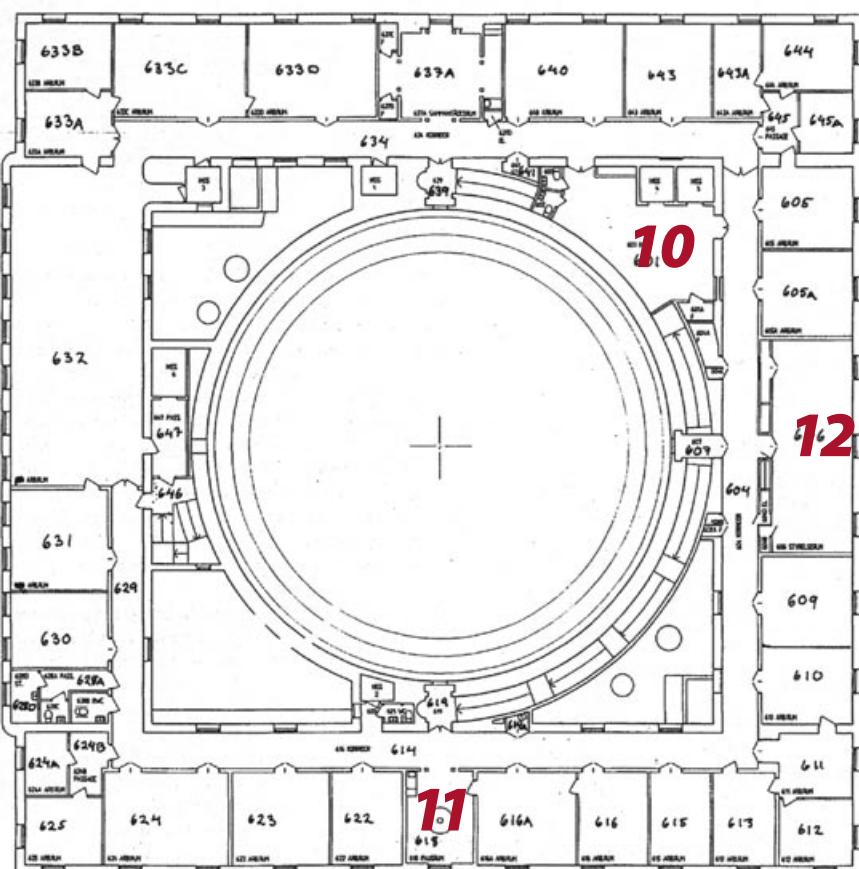
The North Wing with its original shelving system in brick-built recesses and original ceiling light fittings.



8. The North Wing  
Original drinking fountain made of brass and black marble.



9. The North-East Wing  
The North-East Wing with some of its original furniture and a tapestry on the south wall by Hilding Linnqvist.



#### 6<sup>th</sup> floor (upper floor)

- 10. Exhibition of original Asplund chairs
- 11. Spiral staircase up to the roof terrace
- 12. Board room, previously the City Librarian's office



10. Exhibition of original Asplund chairs

Exhibition of chairs designed by Asplund especially for the library in the lift hall inside the light shaft refurbished in 1973-74.



11. Spiral staircase up to the roof terrace  
Original iron-crafted spiral staircase leading up to the roof terrace.



12. Board room

Board room, previously the City Librarian's office, with its original furniture and ceiling light fittings by Asplund. The room has faux marble-painted walls with pointed arches painted half way up below blue panels and painted columns wrapped in clinging vines.



12. Board room

Two-seater sofa and side table on casters – timeless elegant Asplund design.

# The Area around Observatoriekullen (Observatory Hill)



Extract from the famous Swedish geologist de Geer's map from 1897 showing Stockholm's glaciofluvial eskers. In the upper part of the map, there is the large Stockholmsåsen (Stockholm Ridge) and Observatory Hill.

## The “Quartier Latin” of Stockholm

The landscape of Stockholm and city planning patterns are marked by Stockholmsåsen (Stockholm Ridge); the esker that stretches through the city in a north-south direction.

The original shape of the ridge is only visible at the Skogskyrkogården cemetery, Observatorielunden (the grove around Observatory Hill) and Haga park in the National City Park.

The ridge is highlighted in the Stockholm City Plan as an important characteristic feature in the city landscape. The Stockholm Observatory, designed by Carl Hårleman, was built at the top of Observatory Hill with a view over the city in 1753. An English park was developed around the Observatory in the 1790s based on drawings by Carl Fredrik Adelcrantz. When the central grid plan was being expanded at the end of the 1880s, the northern part of the hill was excavated to make way for Odengatan.

In the 1860s, the area around Observatorielunden started to be developed as a campus for various educational establishments. The development began on the south side of the hill when the Institute of Engineering as it was called then, today the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, moved into a building designed by Fredrik Wilhelm Scholander on Drottninggatan. The first building for the newly established Stockholm University College was erected on Kungstensgatan in 1909. In 1930, the college's student union building was erected on Holländargatan.

## National Interest and Cultural Values

Through centuries of development, the area around Observatory Hill has become something of a district symbolising knowledge and education in Stockholm. Most of the buildings were designed by the foremost contemporary architects.

Each and every one of the buildings is of high cultural value. Moreover, the collective value is enhanced by the relationship between the buildings and between the buildings and the topography in such a way that this must be taken into account when changes are being planned for the area. The topography and the visibility of Observatory Hill are significant and together with the park landscape are important to safeguard. The top of the hill and the part that faces Sveavägen reflect the original shape and vegetation of the area. The very significant cultural values of the area are reflected in the way the area and individual buildings are protected. The entire city centre is of national interest as regards the preservation of cultural heritage and this early university college district of Stockholm with the Observatory, Public Library, park and university buildings is highlighted as an area that reflects the historical growth and expansion of the city. The site for the competition lies in the northern part of this area.

An intangible and immaterial value is also included in

this national interest, in other words the historical use of Observatory Hill as a campus for various educational establishments. The Asplund building is a very important part of this intangible and immaterial value in its functioning as a public library.

## Asplund's Work in the Area around the Library

Around 1920, Gunnar Asplund was also involved in city planning issues that had to do with the plans for a university campus in the area. The City of Stockholm had made a site available for Asplund's Library on the corner of Sveavägen/Odengatan. In one of his first drawings from 1919, Asplund included the library, public buildings and the narrow, parallel blocks\* on the streets at the foot of the hill. At the top of the hill he drew the new university as a giant temple of knowledge next to the Observatory. The library had a primary position at the intersection. Together with Ivar Tengbom, who designed the Stockholm School of Economics, he developed the plan which led to the final location of both the School of Economics and the library. Asplund finally decided to place the library so that the middle point of the rotunda approached the mid-axis of the Observatory and corresponded to the middle point of the old and the new prime meridians. The park and its

\*These narrow, parallel blocks are the library annexes.



Recent aerial photo taken before the trees have come into leaf from above the library and Observatory Hill. One view of the proposal should be mounted on this photo.

reflecting pond at the foot of the green slope of the hill, the bazaar buildings and the Main Entrance of the library were designed by Asplund forming a harmonious ensemble, which constitutes a indispensable part of the holistic value of the Asplund Library. Around 1930, when the first two annex buildings were being designed by Erik Lallerstedt based on Asplund's first sketches; the idea was still that the northern part of the hill would have terraces up to university buildings at the top.

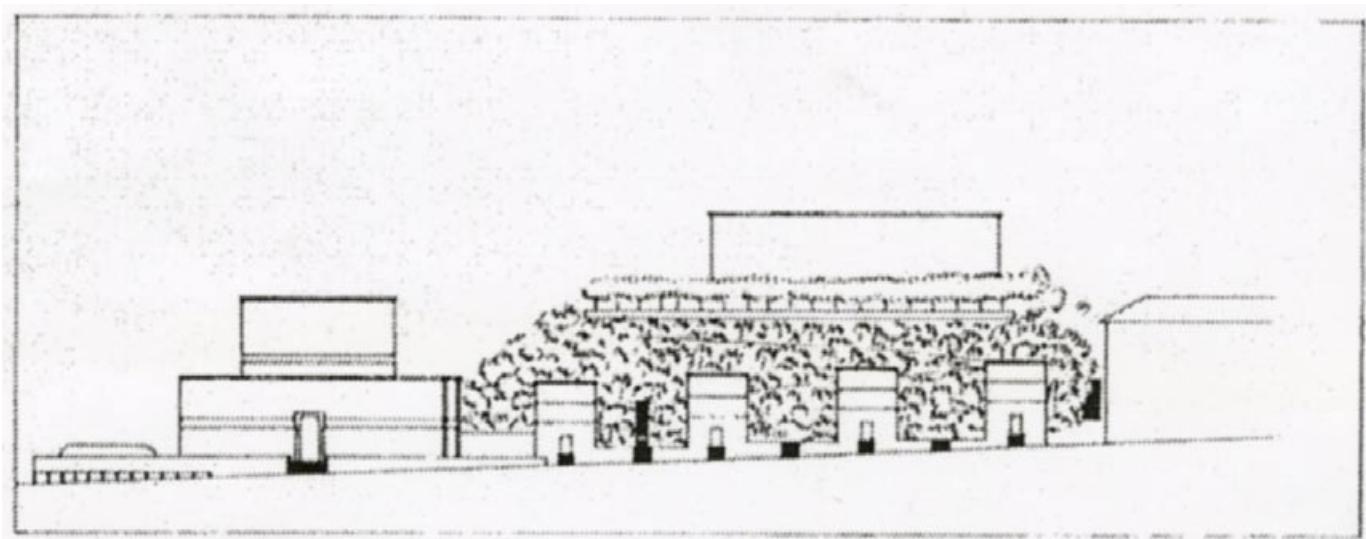
## **Construction Work in the Area around the Public Library.**

The buildings for the law and arts faculties were erected in the mid-1920s. These later received the collective name Juridicum and have a characteristic temple gable facing south designed by Erik Lallerstedt. The School of Economics was built at the same time below Observatory Hill on Sveavägen in a strict neo-classical style, designed by Ivar Tengbom. The buildings on the northern side of the hill were demolished before the Public Library was built. This side was excavated when Sveavägen was being built and then once again to make way for the library and the annexes. The first two annexes were designed by Erik

Lallerstedt (Annex 2 and 3) in classical style with their characteristic gable entrances facing Odengatan. They were erected to house the biochemistry and social science departments of the university college in 1931-32. What all these buildings that were erected during the 1920s had in common was the fact that they were designed by the most prominent architects in the country and were characterised by classicistic plaster architecture that alluded to the classical educational ideals at the same time as the design was influenced by emergent modernism. Stockholm University College was nationalised in 1960 and became Stockholm University moving out to its current site at Frescati during the 1970s. Most of the old university college buildings around Observatory Hill have, however, maintained their educational function.

## **The Construction of the Underground**

When the western section of the Stockholm underground metro system was being extended between 1948 and 1951, it was constructed very close to the surface using a cut-and-cover technique in a concrete tunnel under Sveavägen and a bend quite close to the southwest corner of the library and up to the station at Odenplan. The Asplund Park and



Gunnar Asplund planned the library together with the contemporary plans of Erik Lallerstedt for a new university campus around the hill and on top of it. This elevation facing Odengatan by Asplund from 1928 (part of the plan showed on page 5) shows the thin gables of the four annexes with the background of the new university building on the top of Observatory Hill.

These plans for the university continued in the early thirties. The university moved out from the area in the 1970's but the academic character of the Observatorielunden area has prevailed. The new library extension has a role to complete the area according to the original intentions of Asplund and Lallerstedt.

pond were demolished for the construction work only to be subsequently rebuilt in their original state above the tunnel. The final annex (1) was designed as the Arts Library by Paul Hedqvist on the site that is called Spelbomskans torg (Spelbomskans Square). This building was erected in 1952 and the foundations were laid astraddle the concrete tunnel of the underground. The design was adapted to the other two annexes but the style and features are unmistakably 1950s.

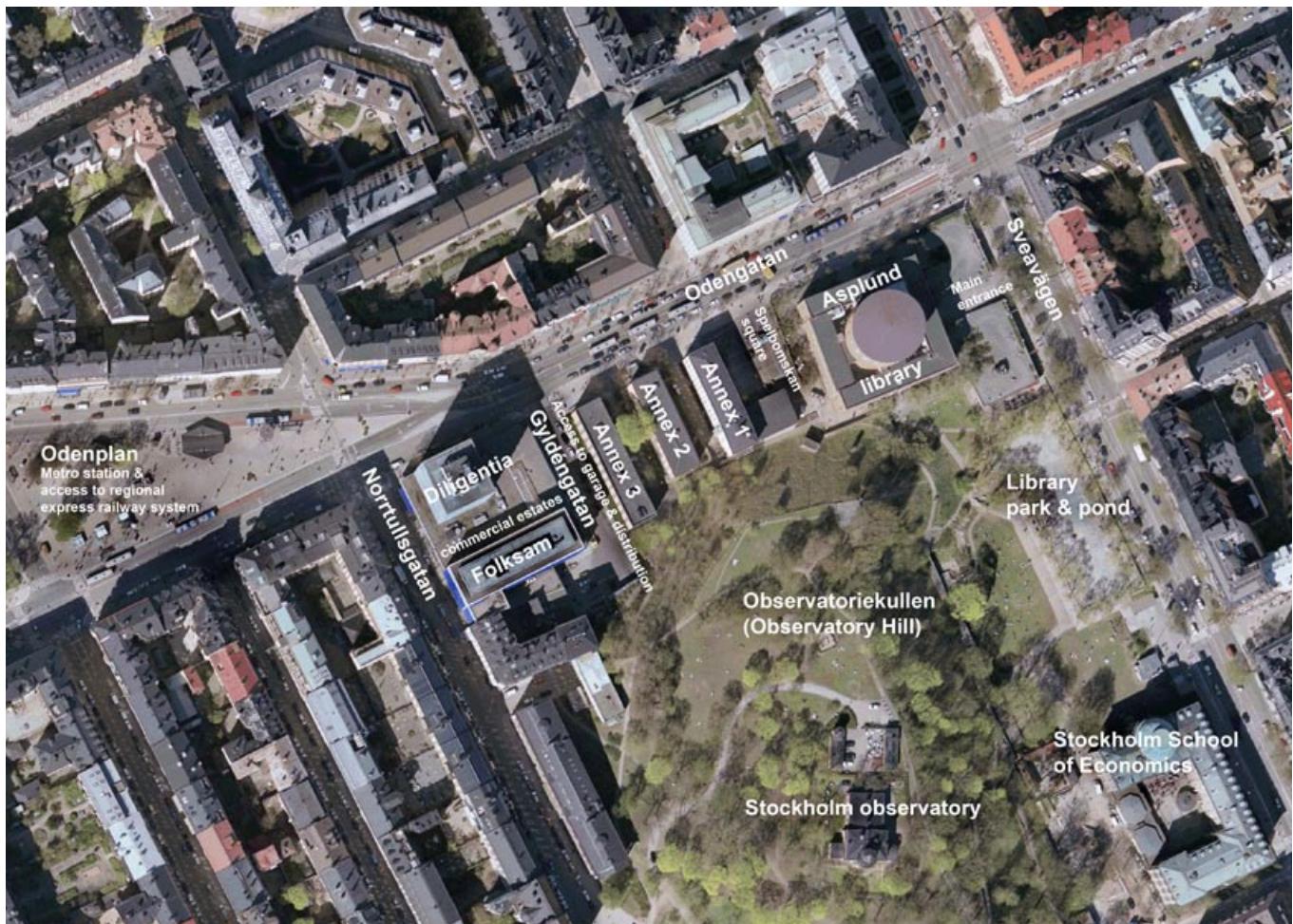
## The Corner Buildings facing Odenplan

To the west of Gyldéngatan there used to be closed 1890s residential quarters. They were demolished in 1960 to make way for the two properties that are today owned by Folksam (the inner part) and Diligentia (the corner building – The Medical Centre - facing Odenplan). They are in varying condition and have no connection in terms of value to the rest of the area around Observatory Hill. In conjunction with the major renewal work at Odenplan and the possible link to the library, these buildings may also be subject to extensive development work above all as they will provide multi-level connections for the large flows of people from the planned new stations. If the new library is developed

across Gyldéngatan, it would be possible to co-develop with and connect to the project work carried out on these two adjacent buildings.

## New Qualities and the Value of the Site

The extension of the Public Library is thus part of a major renewal process that affects the entire area around Odenplan, which will be given a more prominent role as a regional meeting place and become a new focal point in the further development of the city centre. This means that there will be major changes to the area on Odengatan and the northern side of Observatory Hill. The expectations of a new distinguished public building clearly visible in the townscape will mean that the important existing values of the area will have to be weighed against the qualities that can be added by a new project. The site for the competition may therefore include proposals that entail major changes within a given framework to both the existing buildings and the land around them. It is incumbent upon competition entrants to state in their proposals how they relate their proposals to the major values of the area and the values that a new extension would bring.



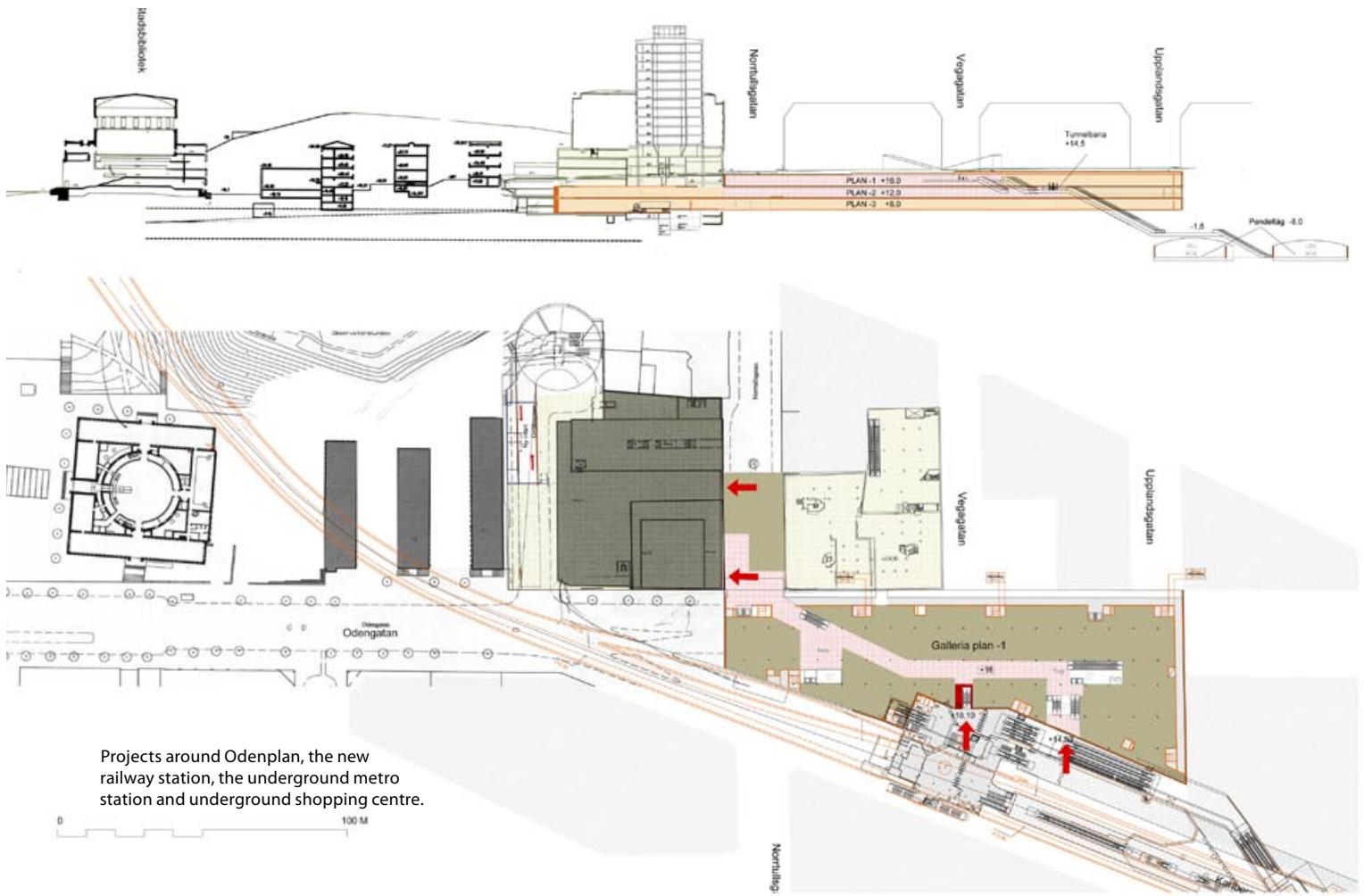
Aerial photo with some of the English names of land areas and buildings.



Recently taken photo of the library from Odengatan. One view of the proposal should be mounted on this or in the photo below.



Recently taken photograph of the library and the annex buildings from Odengatan. One view of the proposal should be mounted on this or in the photo above.



## The Area around Odenplan

### The Origins and Development of the "Triangular Square"

Odenplan, which is a triangular-shaped open area in front of the Gustav Vasa Church, originates from the major extension of the city centre that was implemented in the 1880s. The right-angled grid system for the blocks of buildings that had been established in the city was expanded northwards. The triangular shape of Odenplan was created by the fact that Karlsbergs allé (avenue) already at an early stage linked Karlberg Castle to Observatorielunden and ran diagonally through the new district. The area was developed with apartment blocks during the 1890s with the remaining avenue as a major motif. The western part of the area was completed in the spirit of Camillo Sitte with the erection of Gustav Vasa Church in 1906, designed by Agi Lindgren and inspired by late Italian Baroque style. The underground station was completed in 1950 close to the surface. The area became subsequently increasingly curtailed due to the increasing volumes of traffic with e.g. many parking spaces for a number of Stockholm bus routes. In 2002, major renewal and renovation work was carried out to restore the site to its original shape with, for example, granite paving and a better connection to the church.

### Concurrent Projects in the Area

The area around Odenplan is facing major changes being carried out far into the future. The most important project for the continued development of the area is the

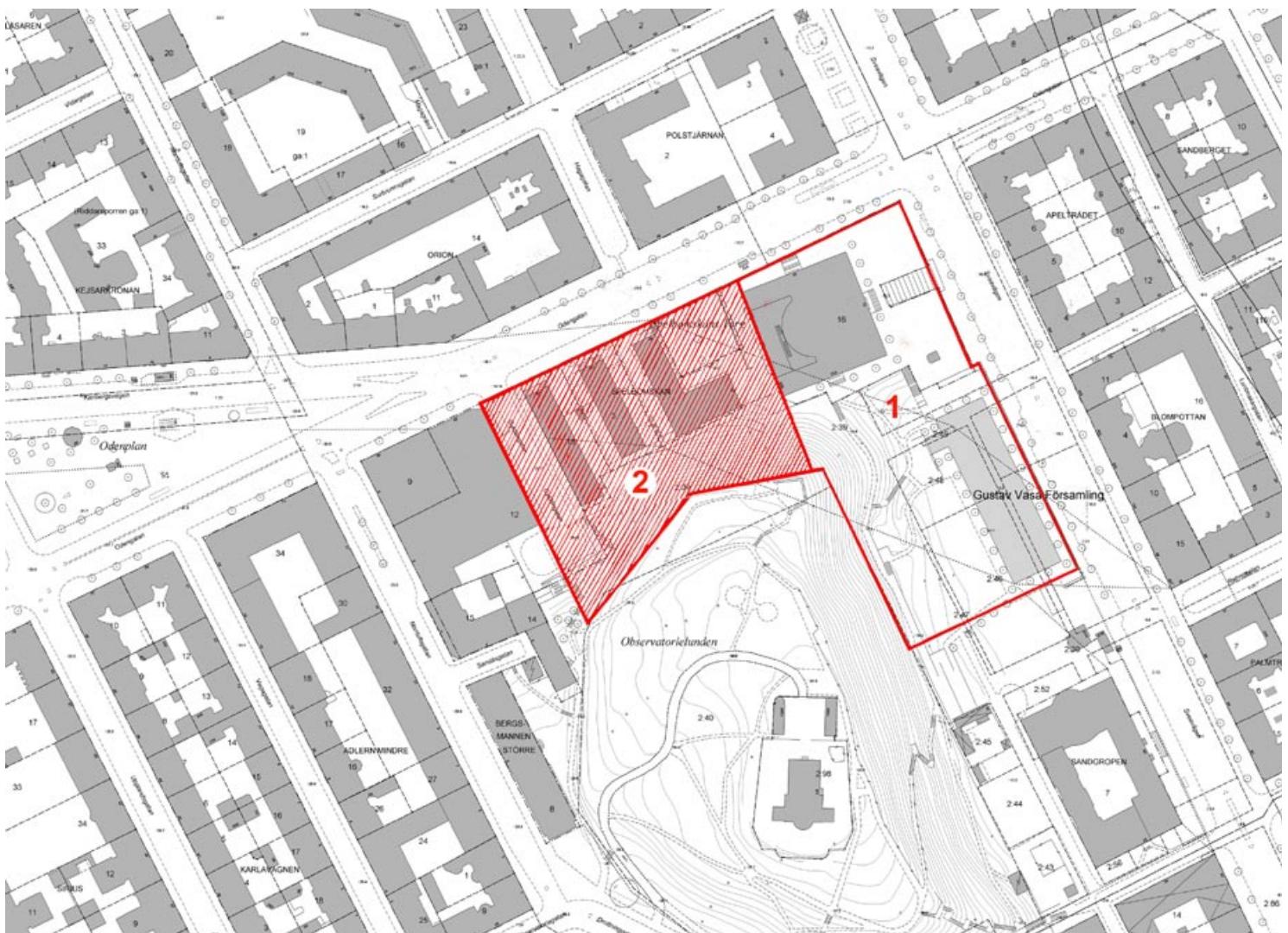
construction of the new City Express Railway system with a major station linked to and situated under the underground station at Odenplan. This City Express Railway system will connect the new library with a number of cities in the region of Mälardal Region.

This will result in a substantial increase in the number of passengers, perhaps a tenfold increase i.e. 100 000 passengers per day; passengers in transit and passengers changing from one means of transport to another. In addition, there is a planned underground link with the new biomedical university development on the Norra station area with a possible further extension to Solna Centre.

The area around Odenplan has great future potential as a regional public transport junction and a meeting place for streams of people. The catchment area will comprise a large part of the Mälardal Region. The construction of the City Express Railway system is planned to start as early as in 2007 and will be completed in 2013/14 according to estimates.

An underground shopping centre will be built and linked to the underground and the City Railway with commercial premises at street level in some of the buildings facing Odengatan i.e. the Diligentia property. Part of the competition assignment is also to propose links that as far as possible will accommodate the streams of people who in the future will be moving between the open area, the stations and the new library. The pedestrian environment between the library, Odenplan and Observatory Hill should be taken into consideration in the competition proposals.

# The Site for the Competition



The borders of the competition site. Projects should be proposed in Area 2.

## The Borders of the Site for the Competition – Existing Buildings and their Uses

The site for the competition includes the central library buildings, the connecting parts of the slope of Observatory Hill, the park area on Sveavägen and part of the pedestrian zone along Odengatan.

The site for the competition is divided into two areas as can be seen from the map:

1. The first area includes the original Asplund main library and the adjacent park beside Sveavägen. The unique values to be found in both the library building itself and combined with the park and Observatorielunden shall under all circumstances be respected. The only measures that may be proposed for this part of the site are measures that maintain a relationship between the existing buildings and the park in this area with the proposals for new buildings in the second area. It is possible to submit proposals for the renovation of the external environment as long as they respect these values.
2. The second constitutes the area that includes the Annexes, the northern slope of the hill and Gyldéngatan. It is here that the extension with a possible connection with the Asplund main library shall be proposed. This area also includes the air space above Gyldéngatan, which is part of the Folksam property. The underground car park with its entrance via Gyldéngatan from Odengatan is not included in the competition assignment and its function shall be guaranteed in the competition entries. It will form the base for the distribution system in the new extended library.

# The Public Library Today

The Public Library is used as a collective term for the Asplund Library and the adjacent Annexes. The Asplund Library was completed in 1928 and has since then functioned as the main library for all the libraries in the city and as the city district library for the inhabitants of the Vasastan/Norrmalm city districts. Annex 1 closest to the central building houses the International Library and the Periodicals Library. The two other slab blocks on Odengatan house the Swedish Institute of Children's Books (Annex 2) and the joint functions and management of the Stockholm Public Library (Annex 3). The annexes have in recent years entirely or partially been used for the public and administrative operations of the Public Library and for the County Library operations, mobile libraries, outreach activities etc., in order to cope with the general acute lack of space.

## Adjacent Buildings

Folksam is in the process of surveying its property with the aim of developing it commercially. This development may have to be coordinated with the winning entry of the competition. The commercial development of the ground floors also affects the corner building owned by Diligentia that faces onto Odengatan as well as the possible link to the underground shopping centre project next to the underground and City Railway stations. Connections can be created between the new Public Library and the stations at Odenplan by linking these projects and properties.

## Observatorielunden and the Park

The park around the pond that lies in the first area of the site for the competition is part of Asplund's original composition and shall remain as an integral part of it. The upper parts of Observatorielunden have excellent qualities but are not much frequented since they are not easily accessible. This part of the park is a resource for the new library and its visitors that should be made use of to a much greater extent than it is today. Proposals should include considerations on how to facilitate access to the upper parts of Observatorielunden.



The competition assignment includes demonstrating whether either all or part of the annex buildings can be included in the new library facility.

# The Library and its Activities



The Public Library currently has approximately 3 000 visitors per day or 1.2 million visitors per year. The library is thus the fourth most visited cultural institution in the city. Annually, the Public Library has nearly the same number of visitors as the popular outdoor museum, Skansen.

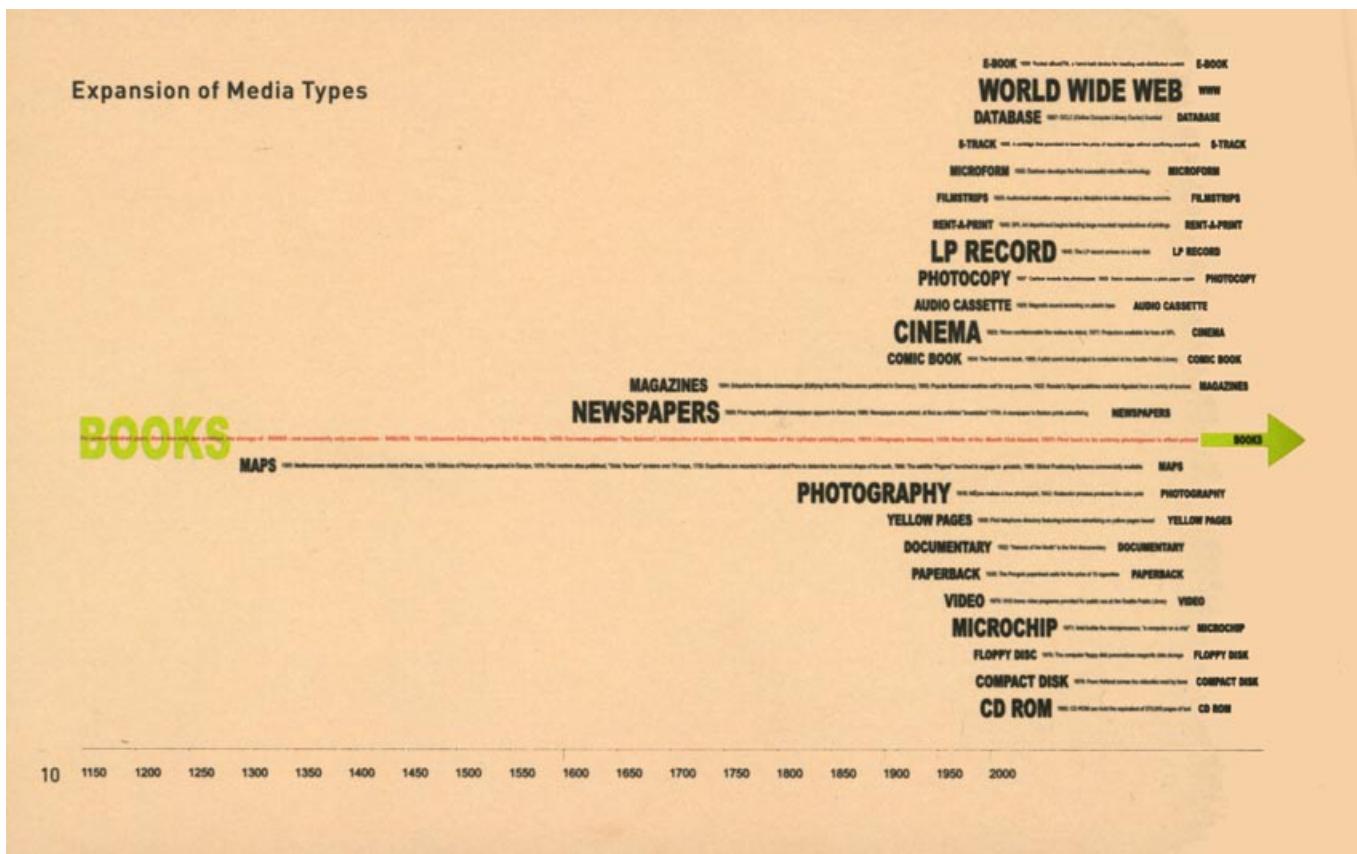
The primary task of libraries has historically been to collect, structure and store books, which is why libraries were built to support these functions. In modern times libraries have become more accessible to the general public and gone from being the conveyors of accumulated knowledge to being a source of inspiration.

Printed books will always be highly valued and an important source for knowledge and entertainment. The media are, however, quickly developing and the number of different types of media is constantly increasing. A modern library therefore does not only house books and maps that formed the collections of the historical libraries. Today, many different types of media should be available, many of which are electronic, or e-media. The media are also used in different ways today. Visitors search for information via computers, magazines, newspapers, books, in discussions and with the help of library staff. In the future, different types of media will interact with each other to a greater extent than they do today. Libraries therefore need more tools at their disposal. The traditional way of storing, displaying, conveying and using media is not sufficient. The library of the future must provide far greater possibilities for different types of media to interact and for the visitors to use more types of media at the same time, both individually and in groups.

The library will also become more important as a meeting place, a public open room; these are prerequisites for the development and deepening of democracy. Respect, silence, enlightenment are words that are associated with the library of 1928. This still applies to a certain extent today but library functions have increased in number and have become more multi-faceted. The activities consist to a large extent of meetings, information and discussions. The vision for the new library is that it should facilitate communication, be accessible, visible and contemporary. The activities require support in the shape of new architectonic premises in order to be able to achieve this.

## **The Library Wishes to Change and Develop by:**

- deepening and broadening its role as a meeting place for ever-increasing numbers of inhabitants of Stockholm. The library is a unique space that does not require anything in the shape of membership, business or money. Visitors come in search of experiences, entertainment or they just want to feel a sense of community, start discussions with others, listen to others, find peace and quiet, contemplate. It is the complex, the contradictory and the diverse that constitute the wealth, uniqueness and challenge for both the activities as such and the future physical design of the library.
- reinforcing its role as an active and important source of inspiration. Libraries should be door-openers showing



Overview of the development of the various media that have been part of the library over the years.  
Rem Koolhaas and OMA, Office of Metropolitan Architecture

visitors new ways of learning and experiencing, as well as maintaining and reinforcing their own cultural capital in a variety of ways.

- reinforcing its role as an active navigator in the overwhelming supply of material and knowledge and the

diversity of media for students, pupils and others wishing to educate themselves. Some people wish to study in a more secluded space whilst others prefer to study in the general buzz of the open area.

The Library	2005	2014
Books	844 000	770 000
Books and media on public display	40%	60%
Books and media stored in depositories	60%	40%
Public areas (MUA)	3 700 m <sup>2</sup>	16 600 m <sup>2</sup>
Study places	250	600
Reading places	10	400
Seats	50	200
Visitors per day	3 000	7 000
Members of staff	80	120

# The New Library

The new Public Library shall provide a considerable increase of public space where a much greater number of different types of media can be on immediate display for the visitors and where the access to reading and study areas is substantially increased. The public spaces will increase from the current 3 700 m<sup>2</sup> to 16 600 m<sup>2</sup>. The library requires in total approximately 24 000 m<sup>2</sup> compared to the current 14 000 m<sup>2</sup>. Of these, 7 500 m<sup>2</sup> are currently in the Asplund building and 6 500 m<sup>2</sup> are in the annex buildings. The competition assignment includes studying the possible use for library purposes in the annexes combined with the new extension and the Asplund building to form a holistic concept. The areas that can be accommodated in the Annexes, if kept wholly or partially, can therefore be subtracted from the areas specified in the programme for the new extension.

The bazaar buildings facing Sveavägen, which currently make up an area of 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> in total, are also included in the competition assignment and may accommodate certain public functions for the library which would benefit from being located there and from being coordinated with other commercial activities. A technical study of the link to the library basement from the bazaar buildings will be performed prior to the second stage of the competition. Here, excavation could free up an additional 400 m<sup>2</sup>. See also under **Entrances from Sveavägen**.

The idea behind the holistic concept is that the Asplund building will be refined in its original form and be restored to its original condition as far as possible, bearing in mind the needs of the functions of a modern library.

From a preservation point of view, the Asplund building's function as a library, as a "temple of books", is equally important. The competition assignment also covers how the new extension might best be designed in terms of entrances, flows of people and public spaces that support this function of the Asplund building. The combined library function of the Asplund building, the new extension and the way the Annexes might be reused is the focus of the competition – the end result should be of world class.

## Fundamental Principles

Users, media and staff are the three most important factors in the design of the library. They form different patterns and flows. If the library is going to be perceived as a whole, provide quality and be effective, the relationships between these flows must be both carefully studied and integrated with each other. The way users move around the library, the employees' interaction between their work in the public spaces and work in the offices, the route the different types of media take from acquisition to placement in collections, for reading in the building, being out on loan, being returned, being placed in a depository and being sorted are decisive when it comes to ensuring that the library functions well.

The public spaces should be very flexible and be easy to transform either temporarily or permanently for new public uses.

The area specifications are based on a detailed programme that has been drawn up for the functions of the future library. The specifications in the brief show the main

areas and their relationship with each other. It is possible to a certain extent to interpret and adapt the layout of the proposals to the site and existing buildings. Proposals should include reasons for any major deviations from the area specifications.

The area specification of the premises constitutes approximately 24 000 m<sup>2</sup> MUA (main usable area)\*. It is required to house the functions in an area of 23.000 m<sup>2</sup> in total by making the functions effective and through shared space and functions.

## Main Parts

1. Public spaces	16 600 m <sup>2</sup>
2. Depositories and media management	2 700 m <sup>2</sup>
3. Administration	3 500 m <sup>2</sup>
4. Possible external tenant (The Swedish Institute of Children's Books)	1 200 m <sup>2</sup>

All the areas are stated in MUA (main usable area)\*. The 24 000 m<sup>2</sup> MUA of the plan of the premises corresponds roughly to a gross area\* of 29 000 m<sup>2</sup>.

\* Gross floor area is defined as the total floor area of a structure, in square metres, measured from the outside walls not adjusting for the actual useable area. Main usable area is the difference between the gross area of a structure and the space consumed by internal structures, such as walls, staircases, etc.

Those entering the competition may propose a larger extension than is required by the library. It should then be possible to rent out these extra areas on commercial terms. They can be suitably linked to the development of the adjacent buildings and they are not included in the total cost of the project.

It should be possible to modify and develop the library.

The library shall be regarded as a communicator, speaking to the individual visitor.

It should be easy to use the library by having a layout that is straightforward, welcoming and that encourages both accustomed and not so accustomed visitors in their learning and experiences, and offers them a varied environment.

The library shall be varied and provide options, both silent and lively environments and reading and study areas for individual work or group work.

The library's media collections shall be displayed by subject area in accordance with their content.

The library shall use the available information technology to support communication with and between users and staff to the full.

The library shall provide a fully developed self-service system for the circulation of books and other media, on-line library catalogue, registration, guidance etc.

The library shall be cost-effective to run, straightforward and economical to maintain, and easy to staff.

<b>PUBLIC AREAS</b>		
Entrances	500	500
The News Zone	300	300
The Learning Zone	1 550	2 400
Studios	150	
Teaching	200	
Lecture Halls/Auditoriums	500	
Subject areas/ open media collections		
Fiction	1 500	12 200
Children's Fiction	900	
Foreign Languages	1 900	
The Arts	1 800	
Aesthetics	700	
Civic Studies	1 700	
Nature and Technology	1 400	
People and Countries	1 800	
Young People	500	
Visit-oriented activities/offices	1 500	1 500
Other public areas, toilets, etc	200	200
Café	300	1 000
Restaurant	700	
<b>DEPOSITORY MEDIA MANAGEMENT</b>		
Depositories	1 000	1 000
Sorting machines	150	1 000
Media management	850	
Logistics/loading platform	200	700
Caretaker's office and property services	500	
<b>ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF</b>		
Management	200	2 000
Marketing	300	
Virtual	200	
Outreach activities	100	
Regional library	300	
Staff areas	900	
The Swedish Institute of Children's Books	1 200	1 200
24 000		

# PUBLIC AREAS

## A New Main Entrance

The new main entrance of the library shall be very visible and an eye-catcher in the city area around Odengatan/Odenplan. It shall be generous and inviting, and be designed in such a way that it attracts people from the future streams of people on the nearby streets and squares as well as the stations at Odenplan to come and visit the library. It is at the new main entrance that visitors will meet the new library and where space and functions shall create a sense of curiosity and provide an overview. The joint reception area and the enquiries desk for visitors to all the activities ongoing at the library should be in the main entrance. Here, visitors will also borrow and return media via advanced user-friendly self-service counters.

Side entrances will also be required. The primary task of these side entrances will be to make the library more accessible. It shall be possible to borrow media at the side entrances as well.

## The Link Between the New Library and the Asplund Building

The assignment includes proposing a link that ensures the best possible spatial and functional connection between the buildings, all whilst being sufficiently respectful of the Asplund building.

## Entrances from Sveavägen

The present main entrance on Sveavägen shall remain as the Asplund building entrance. It forms the main axis of the building and is an indispensable part of the original architectonic composition of the building. It is central to how visitors approach both the building itself and the large library hall and must therefore retain this function. In accordance with the original programme, Asplund also designed the building with separate entrances on the lateral axis to the Children's Section and the Periodical's Areas. Only the entrance facing Odengatan is still in use as a side entrance. It has also been adapted for disabled people. As can be seen from the compilation of drawings in the electronic attachment, the two lifts that were installed in the 1970s in the previous north eastern light shaft were built all the way down to the floor level of the northern bazaar building under the terraces to facilitate access but were never put in use or connected to the bazaar. Should this become an issue again, the design should be completed in such a way as not to compete with the Asplund entrance. The library may make use of both of the bazaar buildings for public activities and may then profit from this perfect location on the corner of the Sveavägen/Odengatan junction.

## The News Zone

This area shall function as a communication channel between the library and the outside world. News shall be provided via television screens, Internet, daily newspapers from the whole world, a selection of the library's magazines/periodicals and computers for anyone wanting to communicate with the world outside.

## The Learning Zone

The need for study spaces is increasing at the same pace as studies are becoming increasingly flexible and distance learning is demanding more of individual students. This is where support and guidance as regards choice of studies, education and labour market will be provided. Several study places shall be equipped with computers. Parts of this section shall be open round-the-clock, seven days a week regardless of the normal opening hours of the library.

## Studios

Multimedia rooms for creative innovation geared towards the spoken and the written word, to be used privately or in groups. It shall be possible to turn the 2 to 3 smaller rooms into one large studio or vice versa.

## Teaching Rooms

Four rooms for computer-based courses. The rooms shall be available to all the activities within the entire Stockholm Public Library organisation.

## Lecture Halls/Auditoriums

Two flexible rooms with high technical standard that can easily be adapted to suit different activities such as lectures, discussions with writers, mingling and communication for 300 and 100 people in each room respectively

## Café

Cafeteria area with kitchen seating approximately 120 persons. Space shall also be offered to those who just want to sit and read or study.

## Restaurant

Dining area with kitchen seating approximately 80 persons. The room shall be very accessible with both an internal entrance into the library and an external one from the street. It shall be possible to keep the restaurant open even when the library is closed.

It shall be possible for an external contractor to run both the café and the restaurant.

# THE SUBJECT AREAS / OPEN MEDIA COLLECTIONS

The media collection at the Public Library, approximately 1.1 million copies, shall be presented in accordance with different subject areas, organised by content not form. All media belonging to a certain subject area will be collected in one place – books, reference literature, magazines/periodicals, videos, CDs, DVDs, etc. This means, for example, that all the material on the subject of architecture will be placed in one particular area of the library.

The scope of a sub-collection varies between 40 000–70 000 media depending on the subject. Most of the collections will be placed on open shelves ensuring a generous display or in open depositories with a more traditional display system. Each subject area will have its own character and will be characterised by its orientation and profile.

It will be possible to take out most of the library media on loan, with the exception of certain material, reference works and literature that are used for information and reference work as well as special collections.

There must be access to study areas, reading areas, seats and group rooms within each subject area. Similarly each area shall provide space for smaller exhibitions and the library programme of events. A generous supply of computers will make it possible to search for and work with information individually, but also to listen to music, watch a video, watch and listen to news, etc. Every subject area must offer both silent areas as well as more lively spaces.

There will be a number of manned information counters for each subject area, designed in different ways in order to better correspond to the varying needs as regards services.

Every subject area, with the exception of a fiction library geared towards children, shall be designed taking account of the needs of children, young people and adults. The library will not put people in various categories; instead it will inspire visitors to discover and find things in the library in different ways.

A child's search for knowledge will be particularly stimulated in the Children's Discovery Libraries that will be designed as separate rooms in some of the subject area sections. The Discovery Libraries will shape and highlight the content of the subject areas in many ways and encourage different ways of discovering and using the library. The aim is to create reading, learning and play areas in different parts of the library where children are encouraged to discuss what they learn with each other and with adults. Younger children often go to the library together with an adult and so there should be solutions where a child and an adult can discover and use the library together, side-by-side.

## Fiction

Fiction in Swedish, the other Nordic languages and English including genres like novels, novellas, poetry, drama, comics and literature for young people.

This will be both a classical book library and a digital fiction library with literature in other formats.

## The Children's Fiction Library

The Children's Fiction Library shall be designed in such a way as to encourage and develop children's pleasure, imagination and interest in words, language and knowledge. Fairy tales and stories for children aged between 0 and 12 in the shape of board books, picture books and books with many chapters and in many different languages. Here there will also be non-fiction for the youngest children.

There must be room for experiencing what you read by playing and discussing it.

## Foreign Languages

Fiction and media in approximately 120 languages in all subject areas. Magazines/periodicals in different languages will also be available here.

Literature from the whole world will be displayed here, the different continents constituting geographical ties. Magazines/periodicals will be displayed in conjunction with each respective subject area or language area. Exhibitions.

## The Arts

Literary science, religion, linguistics and philosophy. Here the visitor will be able to find biographies and the concept of "the library" as a subject area. Moreover, there will also be a broad selection of magazines/periodicals. This will be a truly study- and knowledge-intensive environment.

The Children's Discovery Library: literature, art, music, religion, philosophy, and biographies.

## Aesthetics

Architecture, art, film, music and photography as well as a broad selection of magazines/periodicals.

The collections will include books in larger formats, particularly in the fields of architecture and art and will also include a broad selection of magazines/periodicals and films. Certain functions may be coordinated with the Arts section.

## Civic Studies

Economics, law and material on the EU, social sciences, behavioural science, business information and urban planning. A separate section on house, home and hobby. Will include a broad selection of magazines/periodicals.

One-on-one guidance in different civic areas, for example, legal advice and business information will be provided here.

## Nature & Technology

Mathematics, technology, medicine, health, sport, electronics and natural sciences, including domestic animals and the environment.

A highly study-intensive environment with a broad selection of media in electronic form. A broad subject area attracting many visitors with many different needs.

The Children's Discovery Library: Technology, nature, and medicine.

## People & Countries

Archaeology, history, ethnology, anthropology, geography and genealogy. Many maps, some magazines/periodicals and the special collection "The Source of Stockholm".

The Children's Discovery Library: psychology, pedagogy, archaeology, history, ethnology, geography, society and sport.

## Young People

The library will not reserve a special section for young people; instead the library as a whole must be designed in a way that speaks to young people.

There shall be room to test different types of creative activities, either via the channels offered by the library, for example the studios, or by spontaneously on the spur of the moment being able to change parts of the library spaces. It shall be possible to create these spaces everywhere around the library.

## Visit-Oriented Activities

Employees working with visit-oriented activities shall be easily accessible and their offices should be near the public areas. Working in the public spaces requires both spatial and virtual accessibility.

# **DEPOSITORY AND MEDIA MANAGEMENT**

## **Closed Depository**

The closed depository will comprise approximately 165 000 volumes of books and 750 running metres for the storage of older issues of magazines/periodicals. The present depository in the Asplund Library is suitable as a closed storage. What is needed is good vertical and horizontal communication with the public areas of the library, but it will not be open to the general public.

## **Sorting Machine and the Circulation of Media**

A library in motion requires the rational management of the flow of visitors, media and employees. It is very important to create solutions in order to ensure that the internal transportation of media to and from all parts of the building do not go through the public areas of the library.

There must be a totally automatic system for the management of the entire flow of media through, and to and from the library. The system shall handle both the media in the public library and the media that arrives at the Logistics Centre.

It should be easy for visitors to take out and return media via a highly developed automatic self-service system. Borrowing machines must be available at all the entrances to the library, whilst books should be returned via machines in the main entrance. Visitors usually take out or return one or just a few volumes at the same time.

The sorting machine will not be on public view. It would be a good idea to ensure that the parts of the sorting machine that will be used by the visitors are built as a slot in the wall, like a large letterbox.

The location of the sorting machine must entail good communication between the main entrance and the Logistics Centre. Regardless of its position, it is important that vertical and horizontal transportation belts are constructed between the areas of the library that receive media (the main entrance and the Logistics Centre) and the sorting machine itself.

Automatic media management and sorting machines are areas that are experiencing a strong development phase which is why it is impossible to give any more detailed descriptions at this stage regarding how the machine will be designed in the new library. Using current technology, vertical transportation is more complicated than horizontal transportation. The books will be transported from points of access on trolleys before finally being put on shelves. Competition entrants should, however, be aware of the fact that the tunnel of the underground limits options as regards proposals for a horizontal extension of the transportation belt at the basement level.

## **Media Management**

Media management is a coordinated function for the library departments which transport large amounts of media to and from the library as part of their brief, for example as part of outreach activities.

## **The Logistics Centre>Loading Platform**

This is a shared reception area with a loading platform for transported media and deliveries to and from the entire library complex. It must be centrally located and close to the vertical and horizontal communication belts. This is where both ingoing and outgoing goods and post will be sorted for all the operations in the building. The transportation of media to and from the library via the Logistics Centre comprises large volumes and it shall be possible to manage these volumes in a rational way, both as regards borrowed media and returns. There shall also be areas where media can be sorted on trolleys, etc.

The reception area must be equipped with an air separator between the loading platform and the rest of the loading area. The loading platform shall be big enough to manage two or three deliveries at a time. There must be room for the mobile library buses to park. The type of bus currently used as a mobile library is 6.4 m long and 3.2 m high. Loading spaces that are shared with surrounding properties can be placed by the entrance to the garage on Gyldéngatan.

## **Caretaker's Office**

Four work stations for people working with transportation, technical support, cash management, sorting post and general issues regarding inventories and the premises. Pigeon holes for internal post.

## **Supplies and Security**

In charge of managing and running the operations in the property and services department as well as technical support/IT support for both visitors and employees, etc.

Staff responsible for security and surveillance-related issues, including fire safety, evacuation and burglaries, crisis management preparedness. A separate surveillance centre will be managed by a sub-contractor (security company).

# **ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF**

## **The Stockholm Public Library Management and Staff**

Joint management functions for the Stockholm Public Library organisation. Different types of work stations for about eight employees, including the City Librarian and the Operations Controller.

## **The Marketing Department**

Work stations for 15 employees in an office landscape. About five desks to be equipped for graphic designers and there must be an office for the manager. There must also be a workroom for the production of materials such as signs, window displays, programmes and exhibitions.

## **The Virtual Unit**

Responsible for virtual management and development work. Open landscape office for approximately 15 employees and an office for the manager.

## **Outreach Activities**

This unit will provide both consultative support to the city

district libraries as regards media as well as activities to promote reading geared towards the elderly and the disabled, and will carry out contractual library activities geared towards hospitals, nursing homes, prison establishments and various workplaces.

## The Stockholm Regional Library

This unit consists of a county library and a borrowing centre. Its activities include both consultation geared towards the municipal libraries in the county on issues that have to do with the development of the operations, as well as support in the shape of the actual supply of media. Work stations for 20 people.

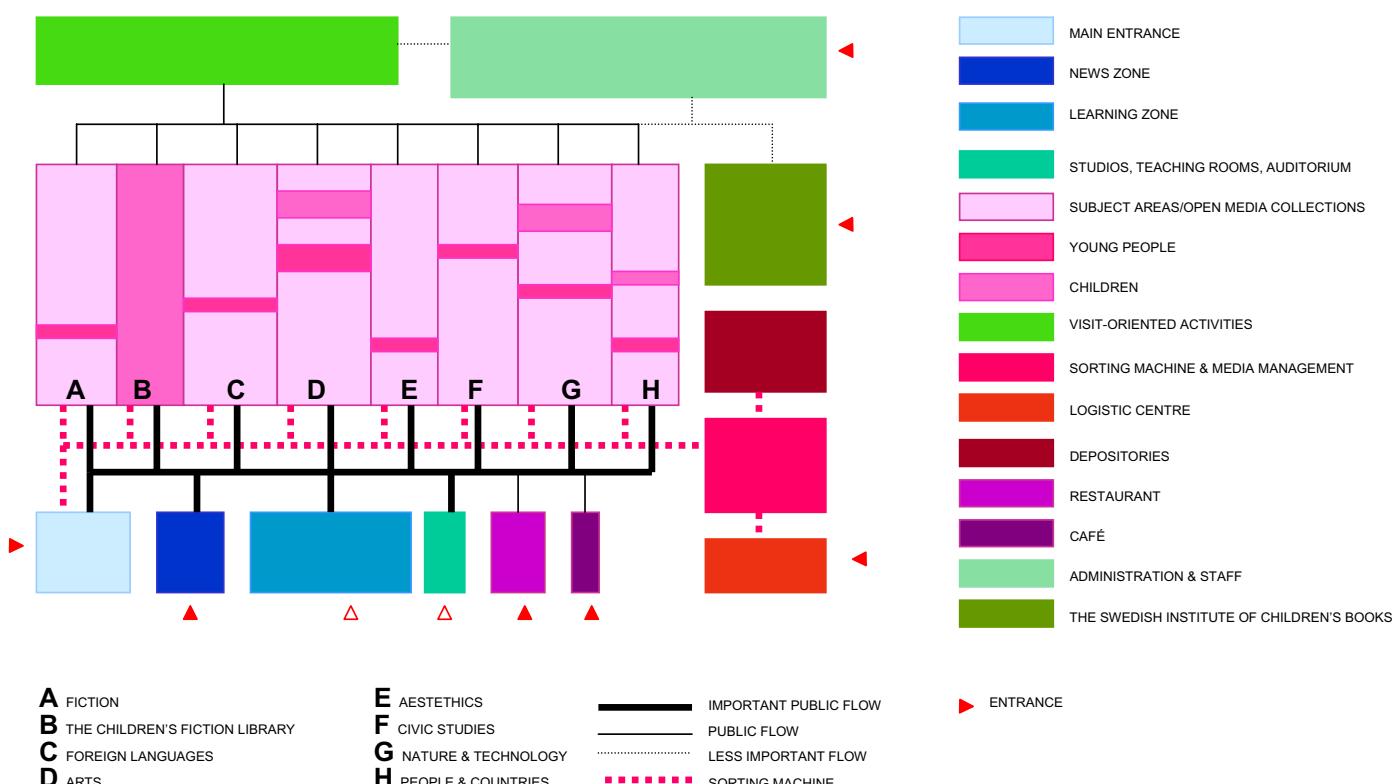
## Staff Areas

The idea is that meeting areas and lunchrooms will be shared by all the departments and sub-organisations in the building in order to promote communication between them.

# THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The trust, the Swedish Institute of Children's Books, is a public library and information centre for literature aimed at children and young people. The institute does not belong to the same organisation as the Public Library. Its activities are geared towards adults who are interested in literature aimed at children and young people from a scientific perspective and to agents and producers in the field of children's and young people's literature. Most visitors are students, researchers and people who work with children. The library is primarily a reference library and the borrowing facilities are limited.

The entire institute or parts of it could be integrated with the activities of the Public Library depending on the design of the building.



# Costs

The total cost of the public library extension is estimated at SEK 625–795 million excluding VAT based on 2006 price levels. Included is the cost for the renovation of the Asplund Library estimated at SEK 40 million.

## Technical Pre-Conditions

The foundations of several of the buildings on the site for the competition are totally or partially constructed with walls or plinths on rock. The foundations of parts of the Public Library, the Annexes and the substructure of Gyldéngatan are constructed with walls and/or plinths on a firm gravel bed. There used to be a petrol station next to the ridge on the extension of Gyldéngatan where the car park entrance is today and there may still be tanks left in the ground.

The foundations of the southwest corner of the Public Library were reinforced when the underground was built. The foundations of the entire building are not clear/documented.

Annex 1 was erected in 1952 with concrete pillars and walls on rock.

Annex 2 was erected in 1931 with concrete pillars and walls on gravel at the northern end and rock at the southern end.

Annex 3 was erected in 1930 and the foundations were laid with concrete walls on rock at the middle end and the rest on gravel.

The Folksam property was erected in 1958 with concrete walls on rock apart from the sub-street structure and the northern end where the foundations were laid on gravel.

Observatorielunden forms a part of the Stockholm Ridge (Stockholmsåsen). The ridge in the Observatory Hill area travels down a steep slope in an easterly direction, whereas it lies close to the surface in the western part of the hill.

Probes have been carried out relatively recently in the esker just south of Gyldéngatan. These probes show that the soil consists primarily of gravel and sand. The level of the rock varies considerably in the area from approximately +26 to approximately +5 in the area surveyed. In a list of surveys carried out (in 1961) under the Diligentia property, there are rock levels of from +6 in the northeast to + 15 in the southwest.

Excavations adjacent to the Public Library and the Annex must be preceded by surveys that clarify the foundations of the buildings and whether they need to be reinforced or not. The previous reinforcements of the foundations of the Public Library in conjunction with the

construction of the underground would seem to indicate that some type of reinforcement is required.

The foundations of most of the conceivable extensions and new buildings adjacent to the three Annexes and the already existing public library building will be constructed using plinths and/or walls immediately on rock, alternatively on drilled steel cores.

Towards the gravel ridge, in other words in a south-easterly direction, the rock level falls steeply and the foundations will be constructed with slabs spread out on non-cohesive soil (with or without packed ballast). The soil may have to be reinforced prior to the foundations being laid where the load from new construction is greater (approx. 4 floors or more), alternatively drilled piles may be used.

The underground concrete tunnel was built at a shallow depth in the form of a crooked curve through the area in 1948-50 using what is known as the “cut and cover” technique. The path and depth of the tunnel can be seen on the drawings in the digital file. The tunnel touches the southwest corner of the Asplund building. Annex 1 was built over the tunnel in 1952 and foundations were laid on both sides. An electric transformer station for the underground was built into the north slope of the hill south of the library's southern façade. An underground shaft with large extractor fans and visible stone-clad ventilators and pressure equalisers serving the underground system is located to the west of the transformer station. The intention is for these underground functions to remain where they are but a technical survey will be performed prior to stage 2 of the competition in order to clarify these underground functions and their future scope and to assess the access needs for services and transport. This has an important bearing on the design of the link between the Asplund building and the new extension.

New foundations around the underground tunnel should be constructed in the same way as they are today, in other words the load will have to be transported downwards with the help of piles or plinths or walls on rock. If it is decided that the foundations will be on dispersed slabs, the foundation level must be the same as for the underground. Note that the underground tunnel must be bridged and not put under any load from the building framework.

# The Competition

## The Primary Aim of the First Stage of the Architectural Competition

The first stage of the competition is primarily geared towards finding a concept for the design of the future building according to this brief and its approach to the existing site and buildings. The aim is to find a concept for the future development and implementation of the project. A maximum of five entries will go on to the second stage of the competition. Experience gained and the best entries from stage one will provide the pre-conditions and the basis for the brief for stage two of the competition. In consultation with the jury, the city will draw up directives for the development of the entries selected prior to the commencement of the second stage, which will also include the future planning prerequisites.

The entries at stage one of the competition must be presented with a level of detail that takes into account the character of the first stage as a concept presentation. The authors must focus on enabling the jury to assess the main architectonic and functional potential of the project.

The jury's assessment of the proposals in stage one will result in a presentation of the advantages and disadvantages of the presented principles for location and design and the selection of at most five entries which, according to the jury, provide the best possible pre-conditions for further development.

Authors of these competition entries will go on to compete in the second stage of the competition. The assignment will be to develop and concretise each respective proposal's functional and architectonic solutions for the library according to the directives of the City and the jury.

The competition brief and the pre-conditions will be revised based on experience gained in stage one prior to the commencement of stage two of the competition.

## Overall Objectives

- to find a concept for the architectonic design of the library based on an analysis of the values of the site and the already existing buildings
- to present the principle functions and their relationship with each other

## Criteria for Assessing the First Stage of the Competition

The jury will make a holistic assessment of the entries. Special account will be taken in the assessment of the following criteria:

- The architectonic design of the project in relation to the already existing buildings and urban context
- General functional qualities
- Approach to already existing values in the Asplund Library and its surroundings
- Feasibility

The architectonic and the functional qualities that are created in a proposal will be of decisive importance as regards the approach taken vis-à-vis the surrounding buildings and area.

# Competition Rules

## An Outline of the Competition

The competition is carried out in two stages. The first stage is an open competition for all regardless of nationality. Of the entries submitted in stage one, a maximum of five will be selected. The authors for these five entries will be invited to the second stage of the competition which will be carried out as a project competition by invitation. A dialogue with the five selected entrants will be held without revealing the author of each respective entry before the second stage of the competition.

All authors will remain anonymous until the assessment of the second stage of the competition has been completed.

## Competition Organisers

The competition has been commissioned by the Stockholm Municipal Executive Board and carried out by the City Planning Committee in cooperation with the Building Management and Market Halls Committee, Culture Committee and the City Development Committee. The competition is being organised in cooperation with the Swedish Association of Architects and fulfils the joint competition rules of the Swedish construction sector in accordance with the Swedish Act on Public Procurement.

## Language of the Competition

Competition entries must be presented in English.

## Prize Money

The jury has a total sum of SEK 2.2 million excluding VAT at its disposal for prizes and fees for both stages of the competition.

Authors who go on to the second stage will receive a fee of at least SEK 300 000 excluding VAT. Half of that fee will be paid out at the start of stage two and anonymity will be maintained. The remaining amount will be paid out when a proposal has been received in accordance with the brief. The author who wins stage two will be awarded a further prize of SEK 300 000.

The jury has a sum of SEK 400 000 at its disposal to award to entries of great merit in stage one that do not make it to stage two or in stage two. These prizes will be paid out in conjunction with the announcement of the result of the second stage.

## Jury

The jury, which will assess all the entries in both stages of the competition, consists of:

- Göran Långsved, Executive Director, Stockholm City Development Administration, 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 and Market Halls Administration

- Ingela Lindh, Executive Director, Stockholm City Planning Administration, architect MSA,
- Per Kallstenius, City Architect, City Planning Administration, architect SAR/MSA
- 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 will be assisted by a cross-party political reference group made up of members of the Stockholm City Council.

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

The Jury intends to turn to experts on foundation and land issues, general calculations, functional links with other buildings, implementation plans etc during its assessment work.

## **Competitions Officer**

The Competitions Officer is:

Architect SAR/MSA Anders Malm  
E-mail: anders.malm.ark@telia.com

Address: Competitions officer, c/o Marie Louise Haag,  
Stadsbyggnadskontoret, Box 8314, SE-104 20 Stockholm.

NB! You must always contact the competitions officer if you have any questions to do with the competition, for example to order the programme documents, raise questions, etc. Competition entrants may not have direct contact with any member of the jury or the secretary with regard to questions that have to do with the competition.

## **Competition Documentation**

The competition documentation for the first stage of the competition consists of this brief and the following electronic files available at [www.arkitekt.se/asplund](http://www.arkitekt.se/asplund) upon registration:

Maps, photos, articles and archive drawings are produced as PDF or JPEG-files. The aim of these files is to provide a simple access to the competition material as a whole in a PDF version which would be enough for stage one. For the more advanced the 3D model, the compilation and present state drawings are also produced in DWG (layers applicable in Auto Cad or Microstation.) These files are primarily intended for use in stage two.

1. Aerial photo map, larger survey, Observatorielunden and the Odenplan area with zero meridian through the observatory and the library.
2. Aerial photo map, larger survey, with limits of the competition site.
3. Aerial photo map with english names of buildings, streets etc.
4. Aerial photo map with limits of competition site.

5. Graphic map with limits of competition site.
6. Graphic map with existing trees and classification inside and around the competition site
7. Aerial photo map with points of view including photos for obligatory montage of views of the proposed projects:
  - a, one aerial photo over the site from north east with position and altitude marked in picture
  - b+c) two photos from street level Odengatan and Odenplan (one obligatory)
  - d) one photo from street level Sveavägen (optional).
  - e–o) illustrative photos of the site.
8. Supplementary aerial photos of
  - a) the connection between the competition site and the city centre
  - b) view of the Observatorielunden park with existing trees and vegetation.
9. Basic 3D animation over the larger Odenplan area produced in simple version PDF and more advanced in Microstation and DWG.
10. Structural map of the inner city with the large development areas, the new ring road tunnel system, the new express railway tunnel system including the new Odenplan station and the competition area.
11. Closer map of the city North West area with
  - a) the tunnel systems of the underground metro and the new express railway.
  - b) extension of the underground metro from Odenplan to North station biomedical university development area.
12. The passage of the tunnel systems through the Odenplan area with existing subway station and the new express railway station at Odenplan.
13. Perspective view of the new underground station system of Odenplan. *Illustration Bengt Ahlqvist architect.*
14. Projects around Odenplan connected to the new stations providing optional access from the stations to the new library.
  - a) compilation plan and section
  - b) aerial view of commercial development

*Illustrations Modern Line architects.*
15. Compilation site plan, plans, sections and façades, levels 0 – 7 of all the buildings in the competition site and adjoining to it. *Produced in PDF, DWG by White architects.*
16. Newly surveyed detailed floor plans of the library and the annex buildings. Produced in DWG and PDF.
17. Reproductions of original drawings of the library, Gunnar Asplund 1928 and the annex buildings Erik Lallerstedt 1928-30, Paul Hedqvist 1951. PDF.
18. Recently taken interior and exterior photographs of the buildings and the terrain in the competition area.

19. The historic development of the area around Observatorielunden and its present values – a presentation by the Stockholm City Museum.
20. Excerpts from articles in english on Gunnar Asplund and the Stockholm Public Library

**Gunnar Asplund, architect. Plans, sketches and photographs.**

*The National Association of Swedish Architects  
Tidskriften Byggmästaren Stockholm 1950.*

**The Architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund.**

*Stuart Wrede, Professor of architecture Oregon school of design  
The MIT Press 1980*

**International Architect**

*Editors Stuart Knight, Kerstin Nilsson  
Swedish grace: Modern Classicism in Stockholm  
Number 8:Volume 1/Issue 8/ 1982*

**ASPLUND**

*A book by Claes Caldenby & Olof Hultin  
"The sky as a vault", article by Elias Cornell, Emeritus Professor at Chalmers Institute of Technology  
Rizzoli International Publications Inc, New York 1986*

**Stalking Significance: Asplund and Architecture**

**Precedent**

*Mark Triebe, Professor of architecture, University of California  
International Symposium on the Architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund  
Stockholm 1985*

**Stockholm City Library**

*Karin Winter  
Stockholm City Library publication series 11 for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1998*

## Distribution of the Competition Documentation

All the competition documentation will be available from the Swedish Association of Architects website at [www.arkitekt.se/asplund](http://www.arkitekt.se/asplund) for those who register for the competition. You will also be able to order a CD ROM with the competition documentation and the competition brief in digital form.

## Competition Queries

Any explanations or supplementary information can be requested via the Swedish Association of Architects website at [www.arkitekt.se/asplund](http://www.arkitekt.se/asplund) or by sending an anonymous letter in an envelope marked "Competition query" addressed to the competitions officer. Questions must be posted on the website or to the competitions officer by 8 September 2006 at the latest.

Competition queries and the jury's answers will be available at [www.arkitekt.se/asplund](http://www.arkitekt.se/asplund) by 22 September 2006 at the latest.

## Competition Entries

Entries must be submitted anonymously. All submitted drawings and other documents must have a motto in the bottom right hand corner.

Entries must be presented on cardboard or similar in portrait A1 format (59.4 x 84.1 cm) and may include a maximum of 2 posters.

- Three copies of the same posters, reduced to A3 format must be submitted.
- Three copies of a CD with PDF files of both posters must be submitted.

Other documents will not be assessed or exhibited. No models will be accepted.

## Entries Must Include the Following:

- Site plan on the scale of 1:1000
- Relevant plans and sections on the scale of 1:500
- At least two facades. One from Odengatan and one from Sveavägen on the scale of 1:500
- At least two exterior perspectives, one from photo point A or B and a mounted aerial photograph (see attached file 7)
- A description of the entry including views on how the new project relates to the existing environment (buildings, cultural and natural values). Information on MUA and gross areas respectively.

## Submission

Competition entries shall be submitted to the post office or other carrier by 27 October 2006 at the latest, addressed to the competitions officer. The competitions officer must have received the entry by 3rd November 2006 at the latest.

A sealed non-transparent envelope marked with the word "namnsedel" and the entry motto shall accompany the entry. This envelope shall include information regarding the name of the responsible author and any partners and coordinates (telephone, address and e-mail).

NB! A receipt with the date of submission and the motto of the entry must be sent separately to the competitions officer. A telephone number must also be included on this receipt so that the author can be reached anonymously if the entry has not been received.

## Assessment and Exhibition

The assessment of the first stage of the competition is expected to be completed by 1 February. The second stage of the competition is planned to commence in April 2007.

The entries will be exhibited by the organiser during the assessment period. The venue will be announced later.

## Publication

The assessment of the jury will be sent to all the competitors no later than three weeks after the results of the first stage of the competition have been announced.

The entries will be published with the names of the authors after the second stage has been completed.

## Proprietary Rights

The organiser will own the material proprietary rights to awarded and purchased competition entries. The authors, however, have the right to replace the original entry with a copy.

## **Copyright and Usufruct**

The authors own the copyright and maintain the usufruct to their entries. The actual use of the entire or substantial parts of an entry is only possible after an agreement has been concluded with the author of a proposal.

## **Post-Competition Assignment**

The organiser intends to commission the winning author of stage two to develop and work on his entry and to implement it based on the recommendations of the jury and the other wishes and requirements put forward during the continuation of the project by the client, authorities and/or that are controlled by financial aspects.

The organiser of the competition will ask the competitors in the second stage of the competition to present a project organisation that will be able to successfully implement the project. If the organiser and the Swedish Association of Architects' Competition Board believe that the author of the winning entry does not have the necessary experience or resources to manage the project, it will be managed by the author together with a more experienced professional, chosen by the author in consultation with the organiser. The organiser will demand that the author is available in Stockholm throughout the planning phase.

If the competition has not led to a commission for the winner after two years, the latter will receive further compensation equal to the value of first prize.

## **Return of Entries**

Entries will not be returned.

## **Approval of the Competition Brief**

This brief has been drawn up in accordance with the construction sector's joint "Competition Rules for Swedish Competitions in the fields of architecture, engineering and art, 1998" and comply with the Swedish Act on Public Procurement. These rules apply unless otherwise stipulated in the brief.

The brief and appendices have been approved by the members of the jury who are responsible for the implementation of the competition. The brief has been checked and approved to comply with the Competition Rules for the competitors by the Swedish Association of Architects.

Stockholm May 2006

Göran Långsved, Executive Director, Stockholm City Development Administration, 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 and Market Halls Administration

Ingela Lindh, Executive Director, Stockholm City Planning Administration, architect MSA,

Per Kallstenius, City Architect, City Planning Administration, architect SAR/MSA

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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

Secretary of the Jury

Katarina Nilsson  
Architect SAR/MSA  
Swedish Association of Architects





# The Competition in Short

The City of Stockholm hereby invites architects to take part in a two-stage competition; the first of these two stages will be an open international competition. The intention of the city is for the competition to result in a composition of high architectonic quality and a combined world-class library function with Asplund's Library forming an integral part.

The competition as a whole aims to:

- find a proposal for an attractive well-functioning library of high architectonic quality with a concept strong enough to withstand a dynamic implementation process
- provide a basis for the detailed planning process
- provide scope for procuring an architectural service in accordance with the Swedish Act on Public Procurement for the subsequent planning and implementation of the project.

- The competition will be carried out in two stages. The first stage is idea-oriented and open to all architects. The second stage is a project competition between the (at most five) best authors from the first stage selected by the jury.
- The plan of the premises shall comprise approximately 24 000 m<sup>2</sup> (MUA), approximately 7 500 m<sup>2</sup> (MUA) of which is in the Asplund Library
- The first stage or the competition is primarily aimed at an analysis of the existing site and buildings and a concept for the design of the future building.
- The final submission date for stage 1 is 27 October 2006
- The total amount for prizes and competition fees is SEK 2.2 million.
- Jury:
  - Göran Långsvärd, Executive Director, Stockholm City Development Administration, 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 and Market Halls Administration
  - Ingela Lindh, Executive Director, Stockholm City Planning Administration, architect MSA,
  - Per Kallstenius, City Architect, City Planning Administration, architect SAR/MSA
  - 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 competition is conducted in English.

Information about the competition, answers to queries about the competition, etc., can be obtained from the Swedish Association of Architects website at [www.arkitekt.se/asplund](http://www.arkitekt.se/asplund).