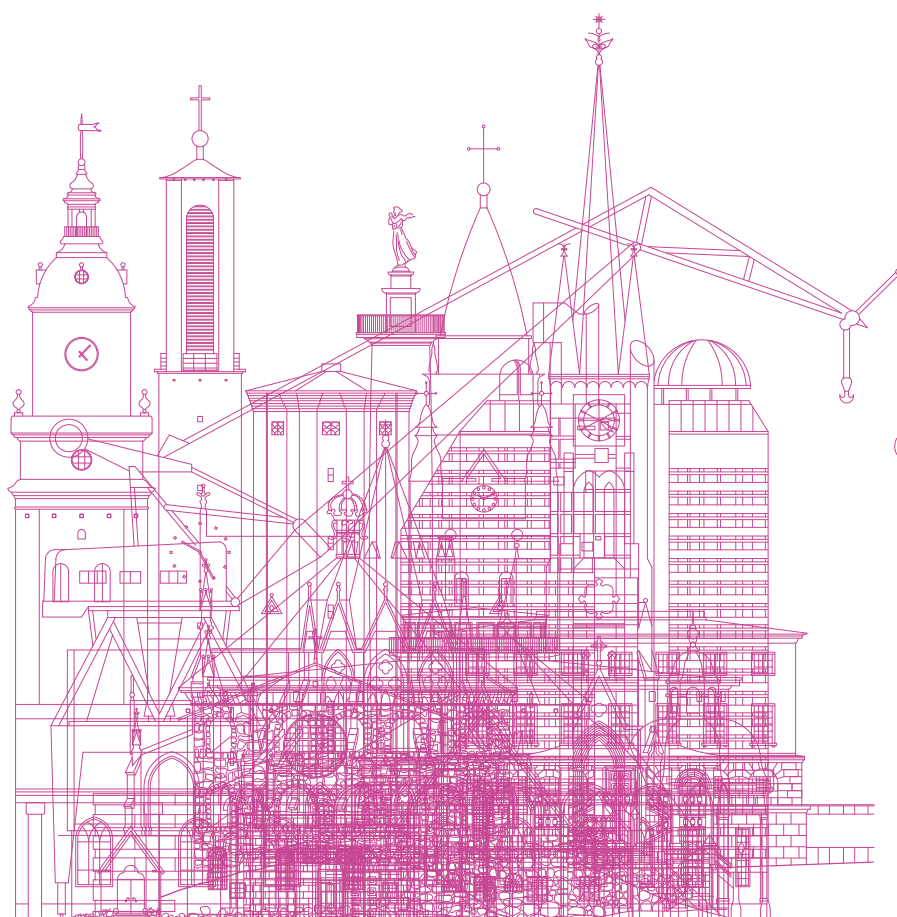


# Gothenburg landmark guide

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**400** Gothenburg  
Years

# preface

I strongly question what is mediated through tourist guides and maps. The conventional guides often highlight shopping malls and main streets. Perhaps you can see a statue of a king since long dead. But if you ask a gothenburger what you must see when visiting Gothenburg it is surely not Nordstan. Personally I rarely use a tourist map when I arrive in a new city. Rather than following the crowds on the main streets I choose to walk on the smaller streets, trying to get an experience of the more genuine and everyday life of the city.

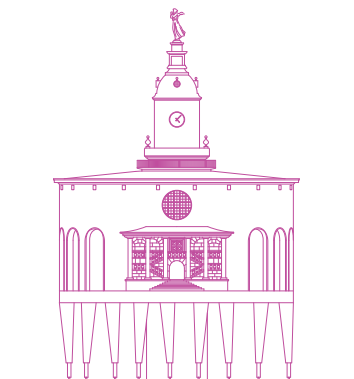
The landmarks of Gothenburg have together built up a complex system during a long time. A sensitive system that can be disturbed very easily. The importance of that system must not be underrated. Skyscrapers are today striving towards becoming the new masters of the skyline, threatening the sensitive system of the historical landmarks. Newcomers who think they know how things work.

This guide should be seen as an encouragement for people to lift their eyes and explore the city in a different way than usual. I want to highlight the importance of the prominent architecture in Gothenburg. Follow my journey in Gothenburg, experiencing the landmarks on different scales; the details up close and how they are seen from distance. And above all: how they together can transform into a new mysterious creature.

Axel Christensen  
December 2020

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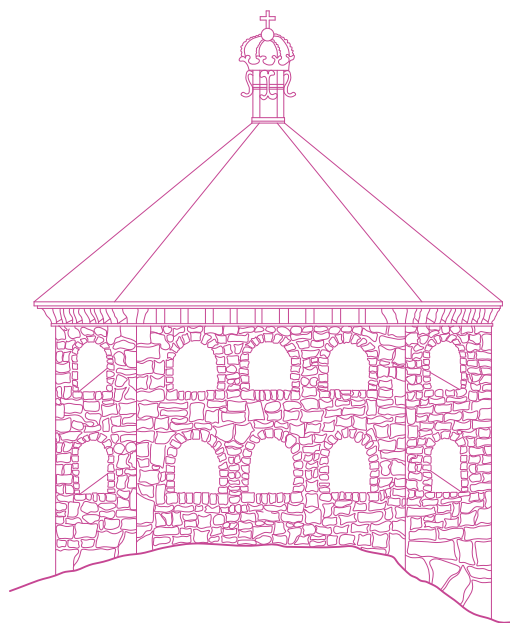


*The new installation at Bältesspännarparken*

A new creature has appeared in the city. But somehow you get the strange feeling that you have seen it before. Where have I seen that statue? Or the big round window? But they do not belong together. Or do they?

Here is where you start the exploration of the Gothenburg characteristics. This Jubilee installation celebrates the history of architecture in Gothenburg and the values they carry for the city. It is the start and finish of an interesting exploration. Please reflect on how you see this new creature at Bältesspännarparken before and after your landmark tour in Gothenburg.

## 1. forecastle kronan



*Forecastle Kronan facade NE 1:400  
Erik Dahlbergh  
1687-1689*





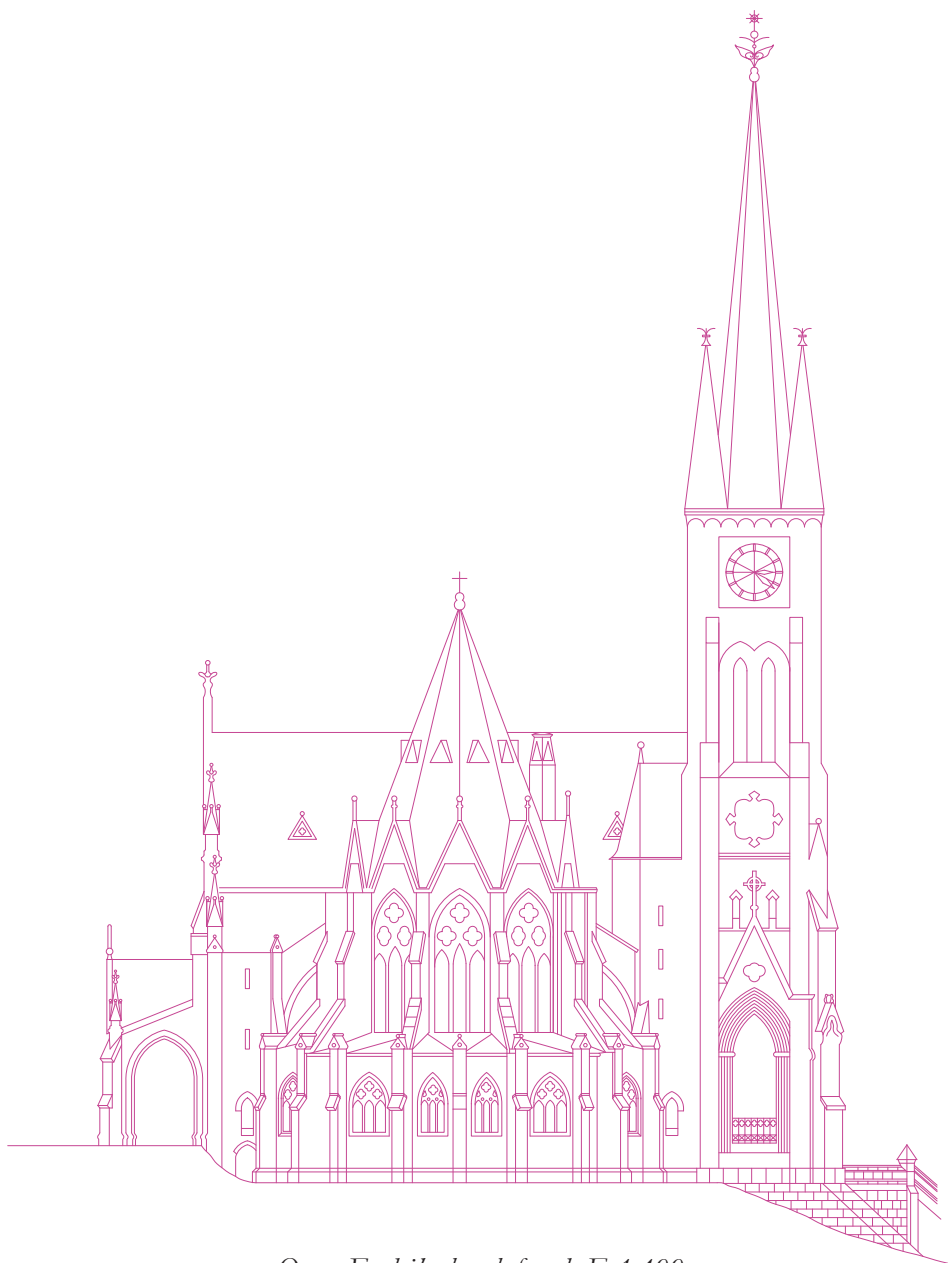
*The solar eclipse of landmarks...*

There was an urgent need for defending the city short after the city was founded in 1621. The solution was the small fortress on Skansberget. Back then this was the outskirts of the city and an important strategical place for the city. Now of course, this is in the very centre of Gothenburg with an extraordinary view.

There lies secrets within the site if you look carefully. You begin to understand the logics of the city and the architecture you will experience in this guide.

## 2. oscar fredrik church

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*Oscar Fredrik church facade E 1:400*  
*Helgo Zetterwall*  
*1887-1889*





*Oscar Fredrik church in October 2020.*

Close to the vibrant pulse of Linnégatan you find this magnificent church. It is an extraordinary example of north European new gothic style and one of the many works of the architect Helgo Zettervall. Every time you look at it you find new things and details that you have not seen before.

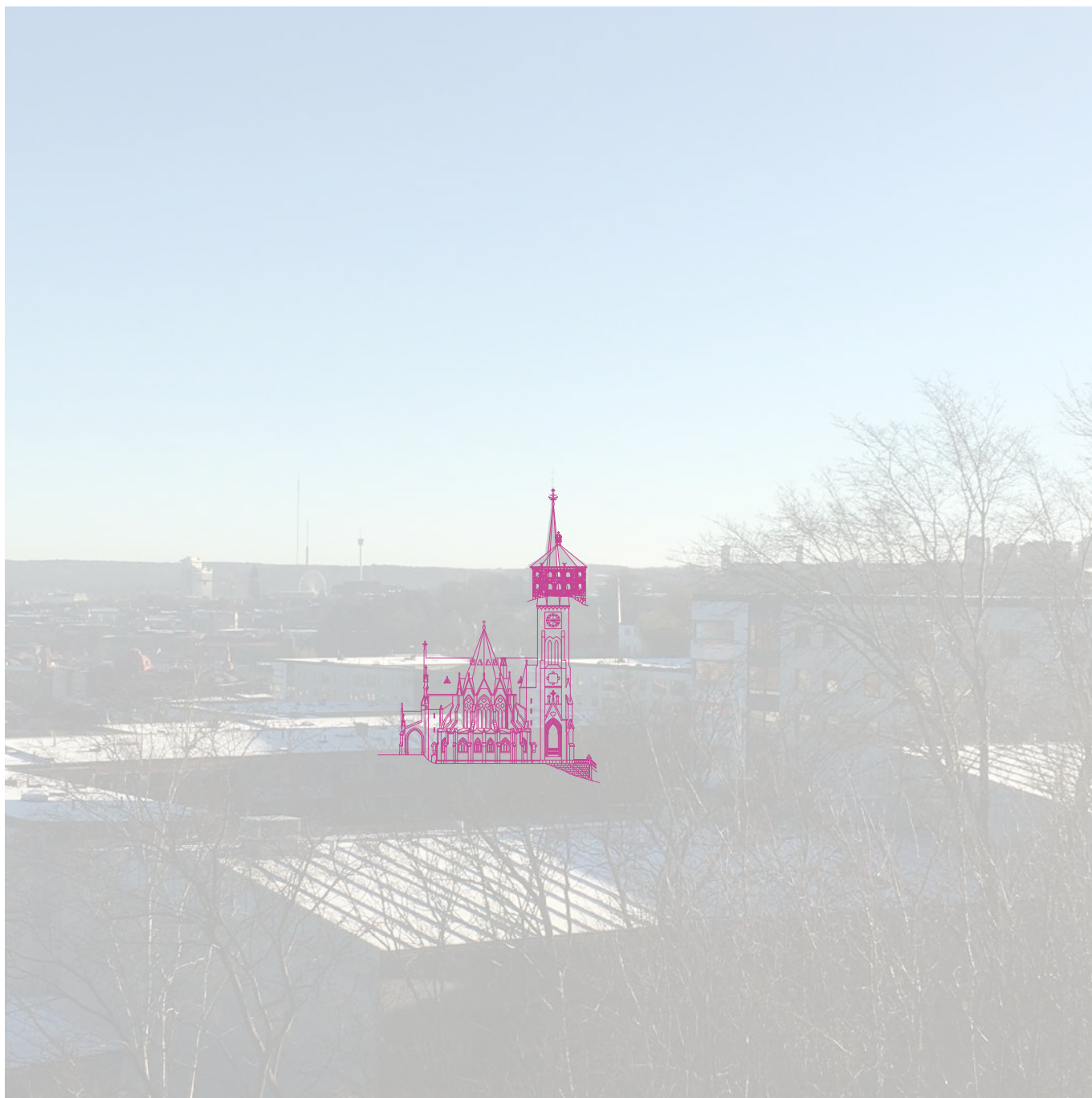
The needle raising into the sky marks the site as an important breaking point between the older blocks around Linné and the gray terrace houses at Masthugget from the 1960s.

### 3. masthugget church

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*Masthugget church facade SW 1:400*  
*Sigfrid Ericson*  
*1910-1914*



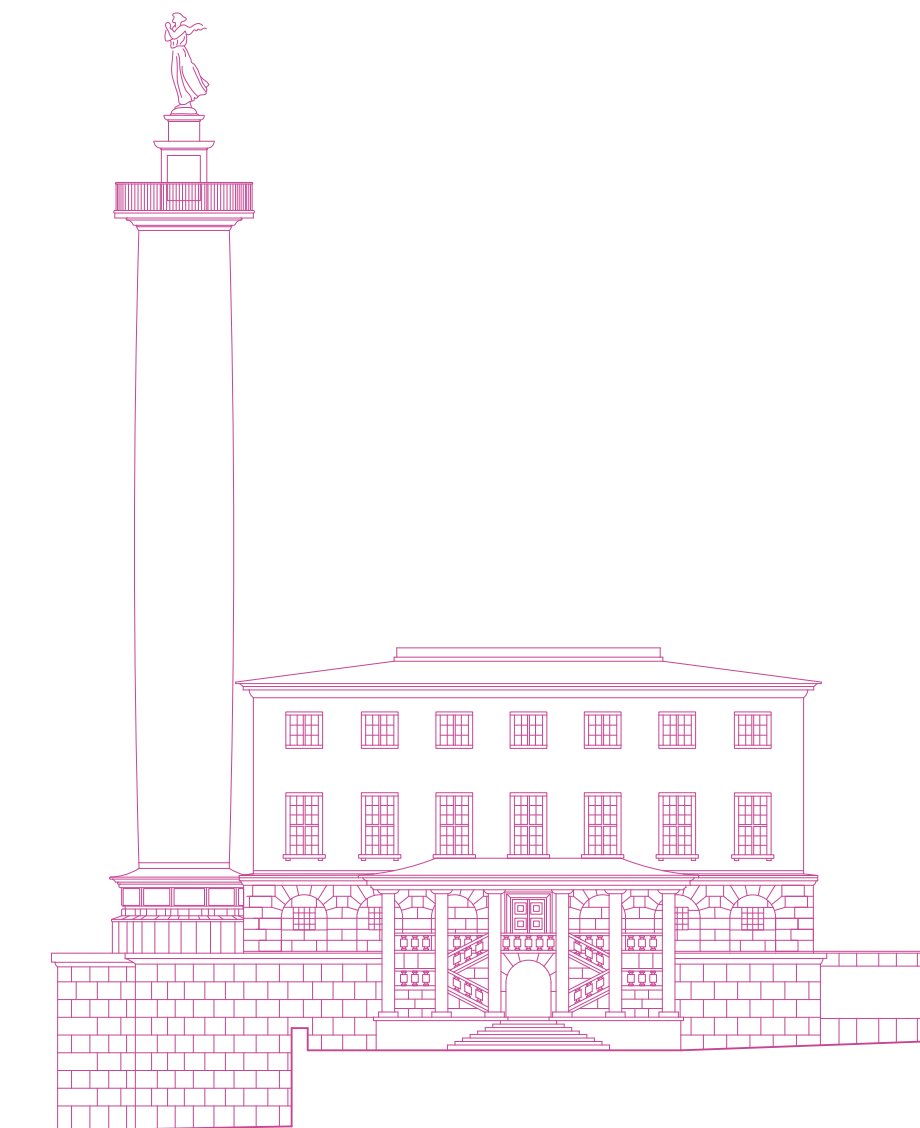
*The solar eclipse of landmarks continues...*

A competition for a new church at Masthugget was announced in July 1907. The competition was won by Sigfrid Ericson and this is the debut in Swedish church building. Engineer Albert Lilienberg developed a plan of the surrounding district in order to lift the full potential of the church.

Strongly visible from many places in the city it is one of the easiest buildings to recognize in Gothenburg. It is a popular destination for a picnic or a Sunday walk with a magnificent view. Walking around the church you can get a 360 degrees panorama view of the city.

## 4. gothenburg maritime museum

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*Gothenburg Maritime Museum facade SW 1:400*  
*Karl M. Bengtson/Ivar Johnsson*  
*1931-34*





*Eyes to the right!*

The Maritime Museum is situated between Masthugget church and the river. The architect Karl M. Bengtson won the competition which was announced already in 1922. The museum was finished in 1933 and the statue by Ivar Johansson on top of the column was mounted a year later.

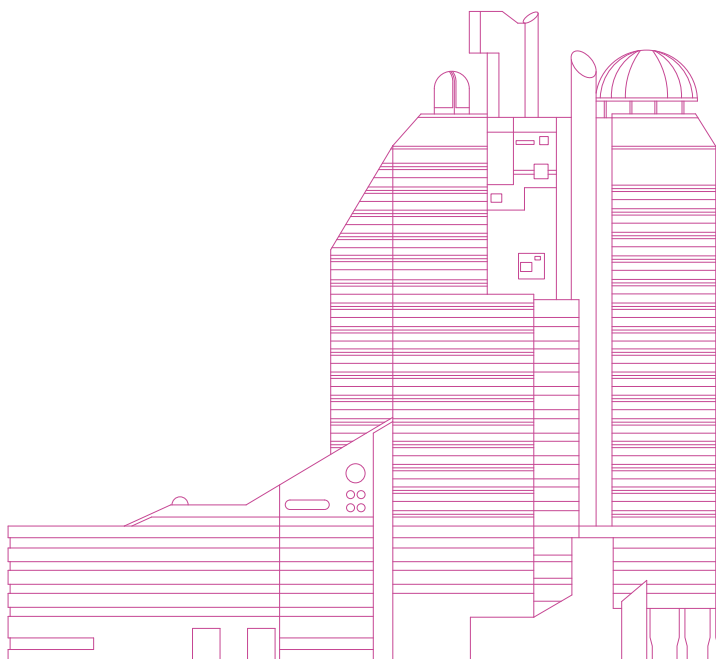
One of the best places to see the landmarks in Gothenburg is on the river. All of the buildings you passed on your way here is strongly visible from the boat. Now you deserve to relax a bit and enjoy the still journey on the water.

## the silhouette

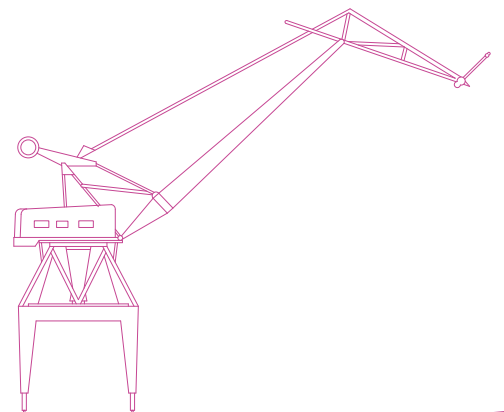


*Can you find them all?*

*The Lipstick*  
+89 MASL

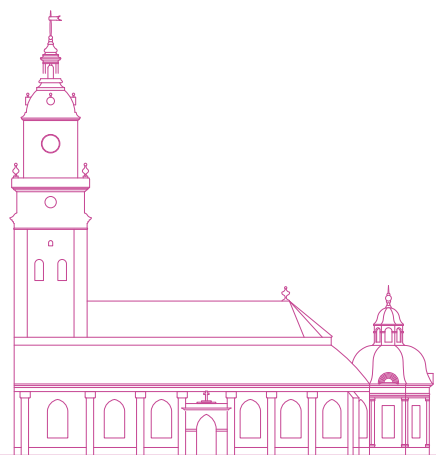


*The cranes*  
+62 MASL

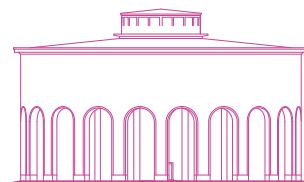




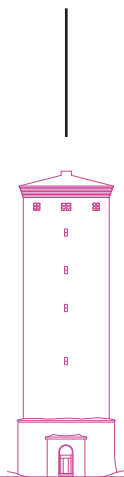
*German church*  
*+66 MASL*



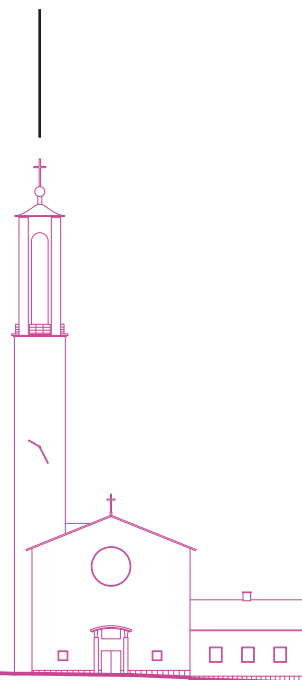
*Guldbeden south water tower*  
*+122 MASL*



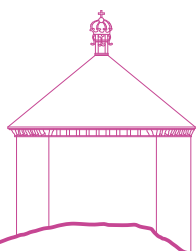
*Johanneberg water tower*  
*+141 MASL*



*Johanneberg church*  
*+137 MASL*



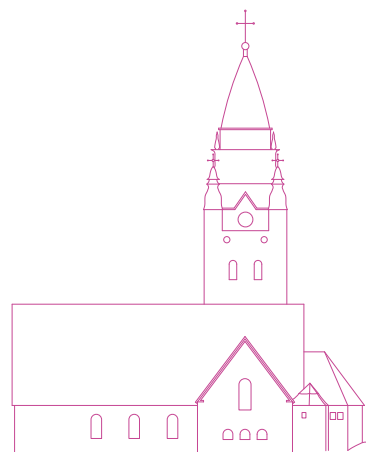
*Forecastle Kronan*  
+88 MASL



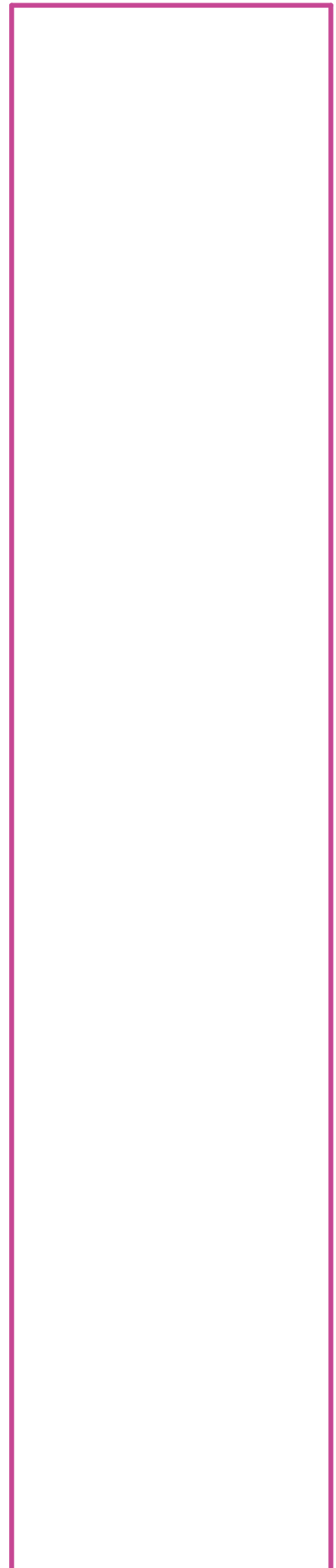
*Oscar Fredrik church*  
+86 MASL



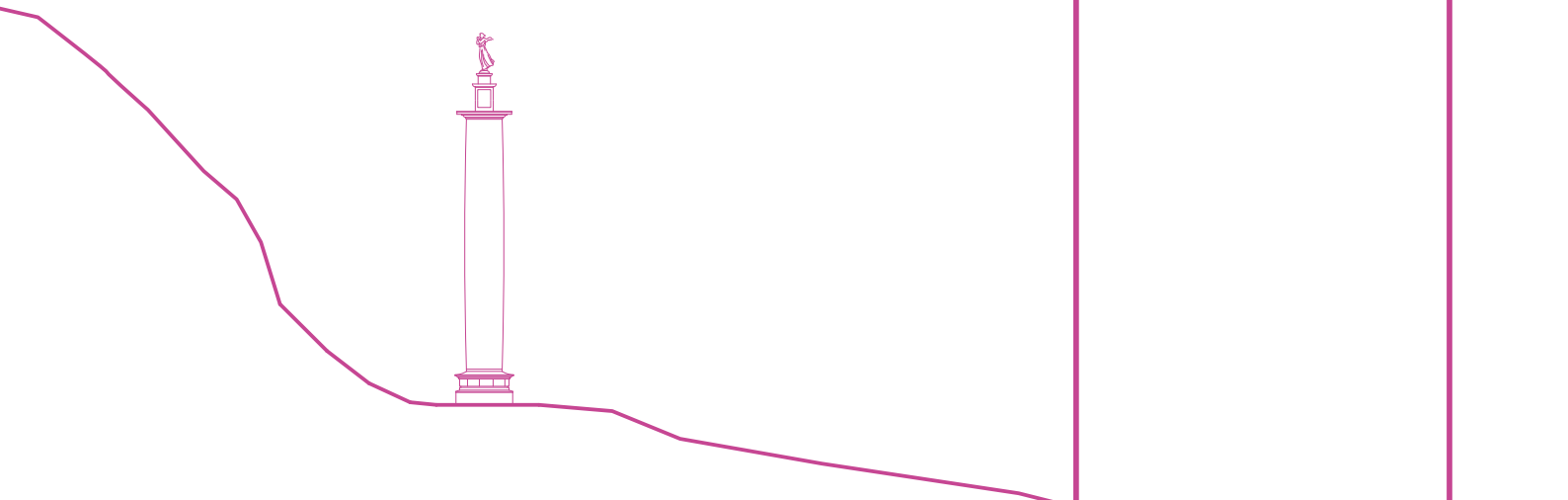
*Masthugget church*  
+127 MASL



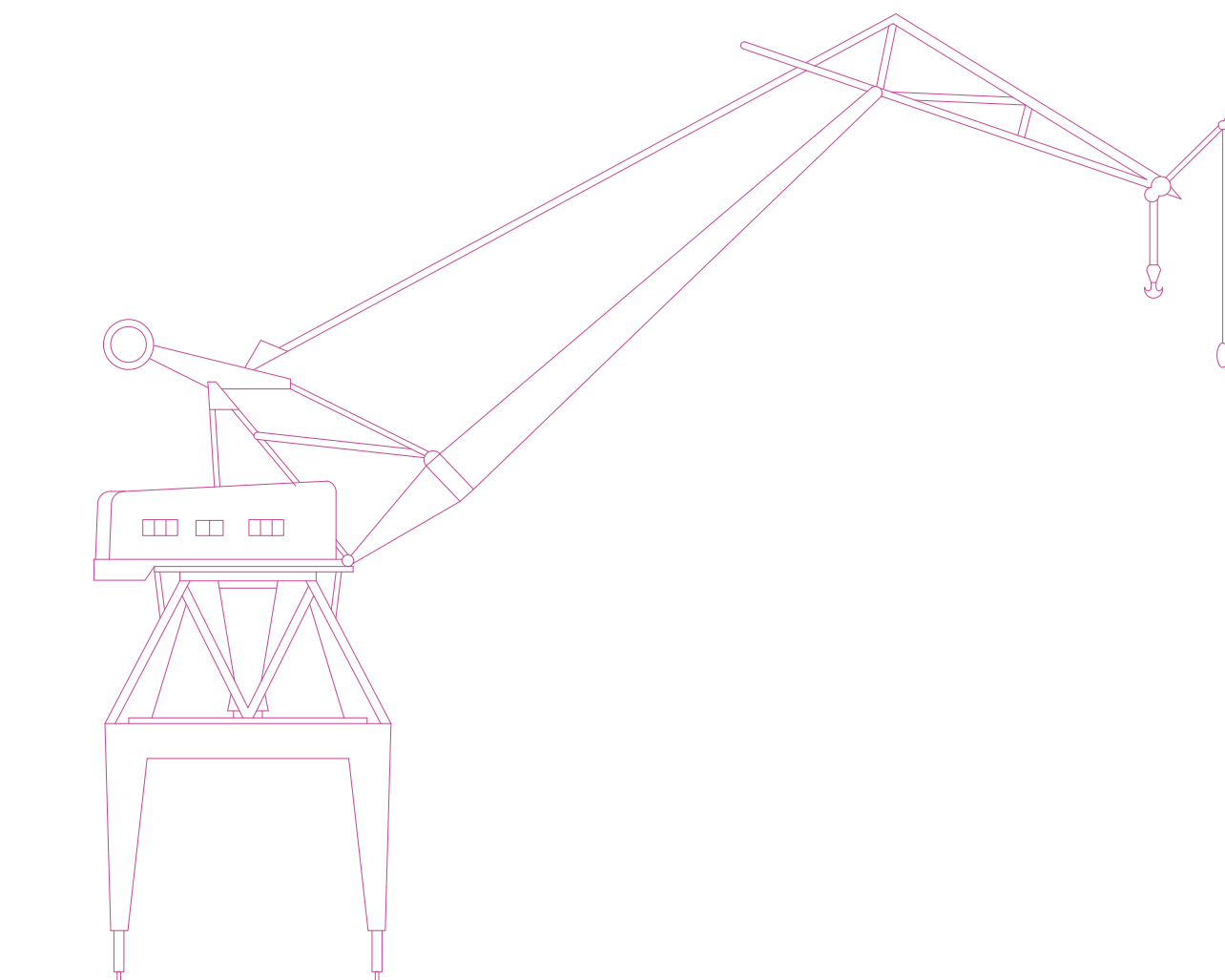
*Karla tower*  
+248 M<sub>ASL</sub>



*Woman by the sea*  
+62 M<sub>ASL</sub>



## 5. the cranes



*Crane No 11 1:400  
Machinefabriek Hensen, Rotterdam  
1962*



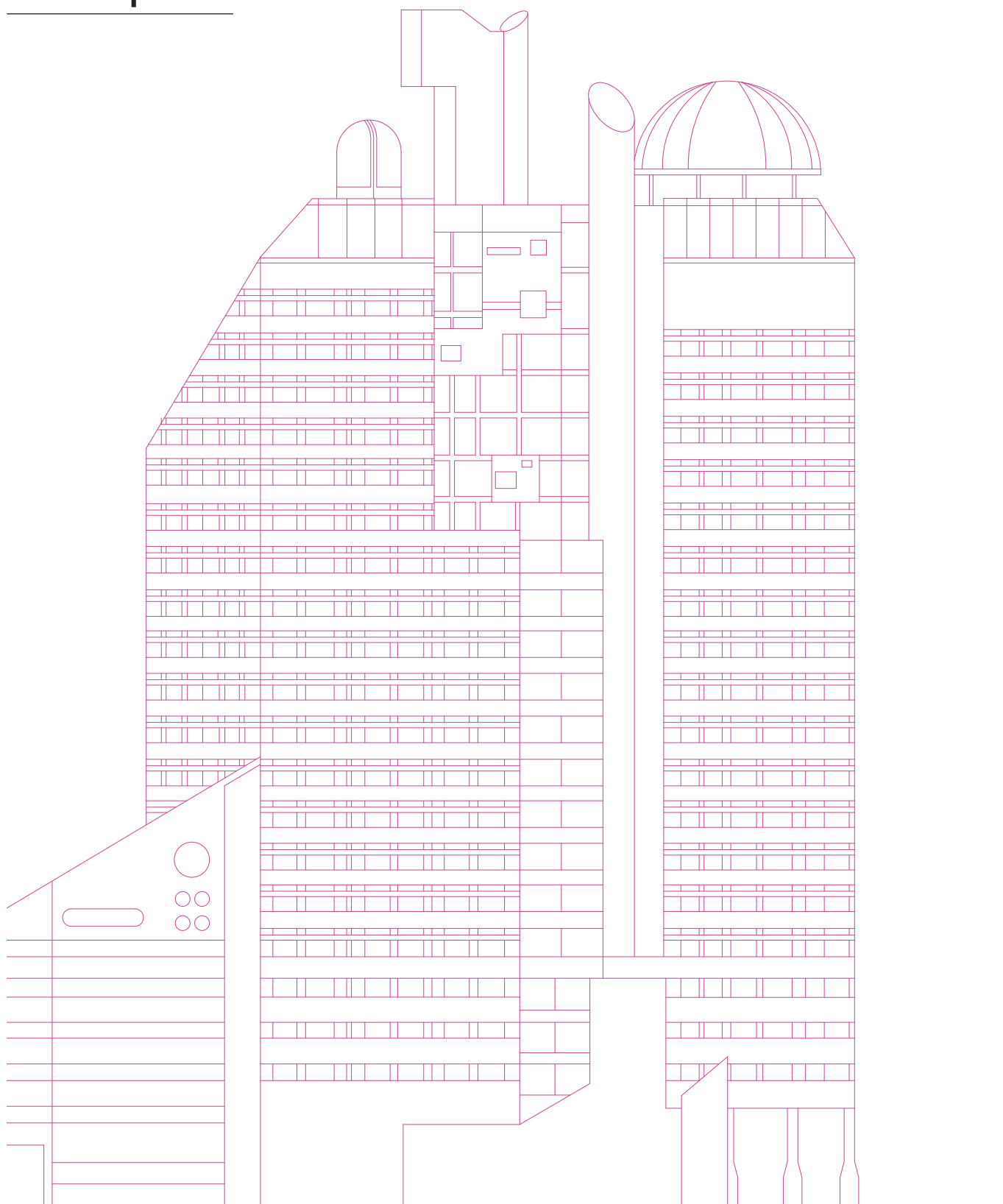
*The cranes come to life again...*

Characters so typical for Gothenburg. The cranes. For a long time it seems that the identity of the city has been embodied in these peculiar orange friends. The last crane was taken out of use in 2014. Since then they have been standing still. One moment so well captured. The christmas decorations in the windows are still there. Today, the cranes have stopped dancing.

The cranes represent a time since long gone. Gothenburg is not the great port to the continent anymore. The noisy industry on Hisingen has now been replaced by pedestrian streets and trendy coffee shops. One of the cranes will soon be torn down due to rust and decay. What will happen when the rest will follow? I leave that with you.

## 6. the lipstick

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*Lilla Bommen/ "The Lipstick" facade NE 1:400*  
*Raplh Erskine*  
*1986-1989*





*The Lipstick with the opera house to the right*

I don't think there is on person in Gothenburg who hasn't seen this building. Its real name Skanskaskrapan is rarely used. "The Lipstick" has been the common name for a very long time. Finished in 1989 it is the youngest addition to the historical skyline. This skyscraper is an excellent example of post modern architecture in Gothenburg with its strong form and bright colours. It is seen as the start of the densification and renewal of the industrial areas around the river.

The scale is astonishing. 86 metres tall it is today the second tallest building in Gothenburg. It is the centre of several office blocks surrounding it.

## 7. german church



*German church facade S 1:400  
Carl Fredrik Adelcrantz  
Finished as today 1783*



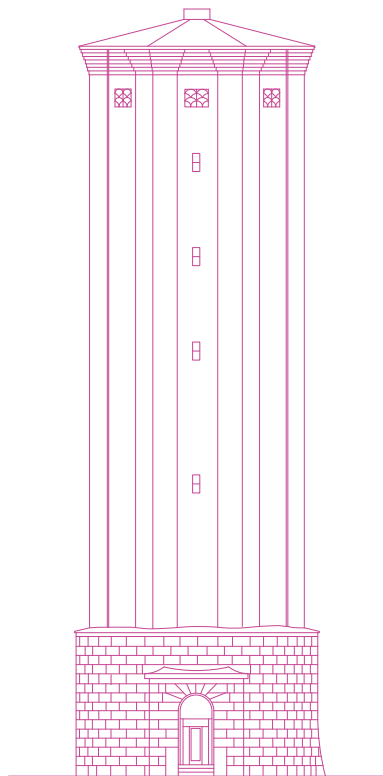
*An intimate public space is created between German church and the city hall.*

The German church has been situated here for 400 years. Forecastle Kronan was not even built when the first stone was laid for the old church. It was originally built for the German and Dutch minority in the city. The construction of the magnificent yellow brick tower started in 1779 and was finished four years later. It must have been an astonishing sight at the time it was built, 59 metres tall.

The similarities between the towers of German church and Domkyrkan not far away are striking. They can easily be mixed up if you not look carefully. But this one, magestically placed by the canal is the one to look for. A strong memory of the historical city centre.

## 8. johanneberg water tower

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*Johanneberg water tower facade E 1:400  
Eugen Thorburn  
1924*



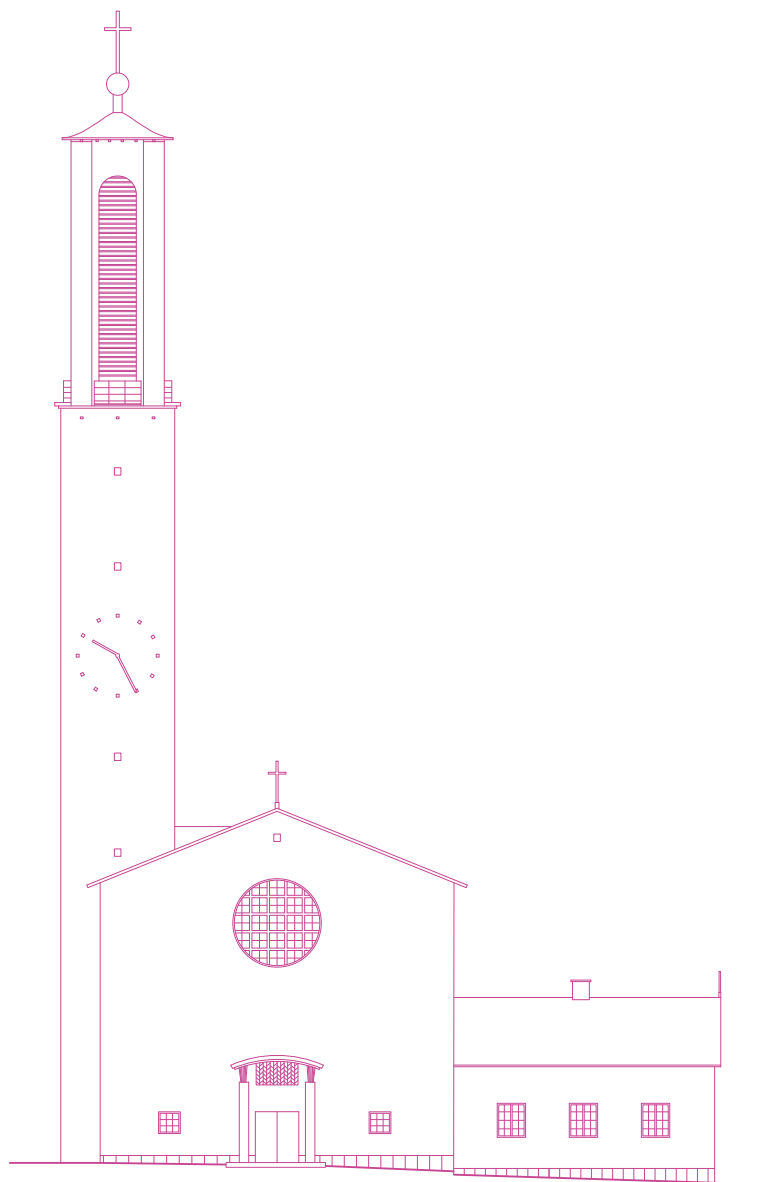
*Slowly approaching the water tower from Pontus Wiknersgatan*

Another of the key buildings at Johanneberg. The water tower was in 1995 converted to student apartments, which makes them as the highest situated apartments in Gothenburg (141 MASL). This building is a rare opportunity to experience the architecture of water towers since it is not longer used as a water reservoir. Many other water reservoirs are protected property.



## 9. johanneberg church

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*Johanneberg church facade NE 1:400*  
*Sigfrid Ericson*  
*1938-1940*



*Johanneberg church in December 2020*

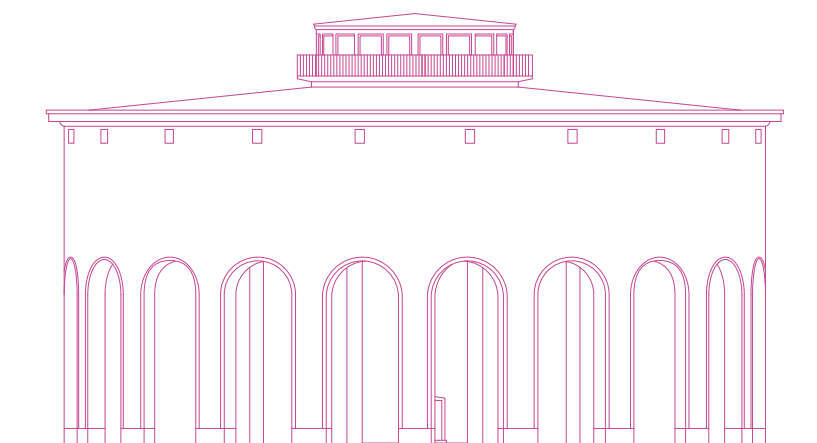
More than 25 years after his church at Masthugget was finished, Sigfrid Ericson completed another of his great works. The silhouette is dominated by the 62 metres tall tower which makes it the highest church tower in Gothenburg. Squeezed in between upper and lower Johanneberg it is a great example of the breaking point between classicism and modernism.

Sometimes the church is humorously called "the giraffe stable" (I guess you understand why).



## 10. guldheden south water tower

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*Guldheden south water tower facade 1:400  
Nils Einar Ericsson  
1951-1953*

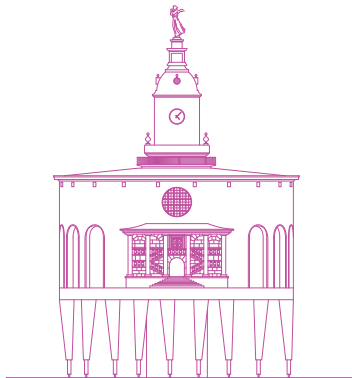


*Guldbeden water tower, an afternoon in November 2020*

This is a walk worth walking. Nils Einar Ericsson, the architect of the concert hall in Gothenburg, started sketching on this tower in the early 1950s. There are some similarities to the art museum at Götaplatsen; a very easily recognized building. The craftsmanship is incredible. Materials are joined together with great care. For an even higher experience you go here a late sunny afternoon when the sunlight and the shadows play together and create an amazing show.

The café at the top of the tower was opened for the public in 1953 and was closed in the spring 2020 due to the protected classification (not due to covid-19). Hopefully the café can re-open soon so you can go and have a good old Swedish fika with the best view there is.

## back where we started





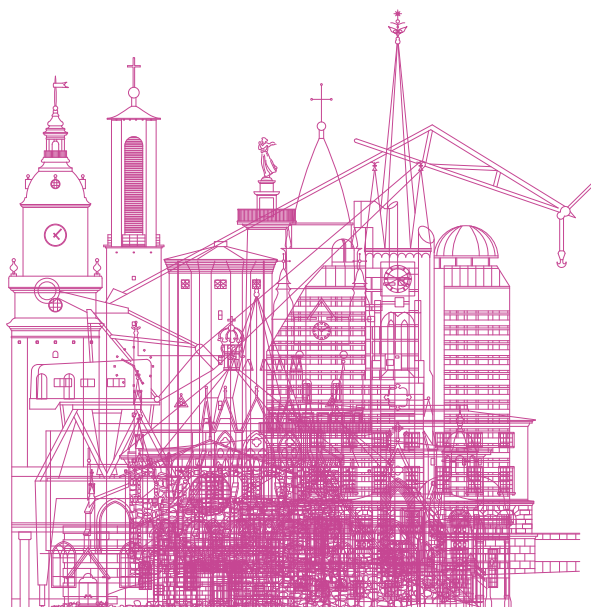
## postcards

Perhaps you want to share your experience with someone? There are two postcards included in this guide you can cut out and send to friends or put in a picture frame. They illustrate my process and add new layers to the identity of landmarks.

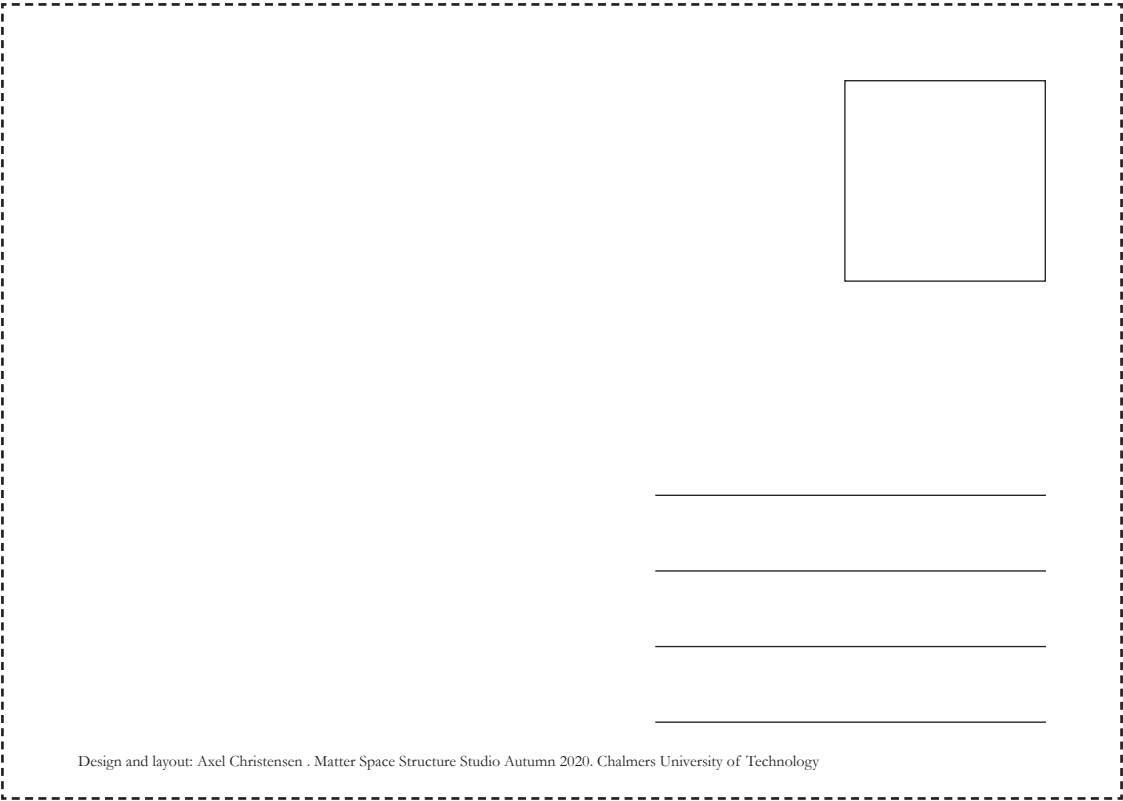
Enjoy!



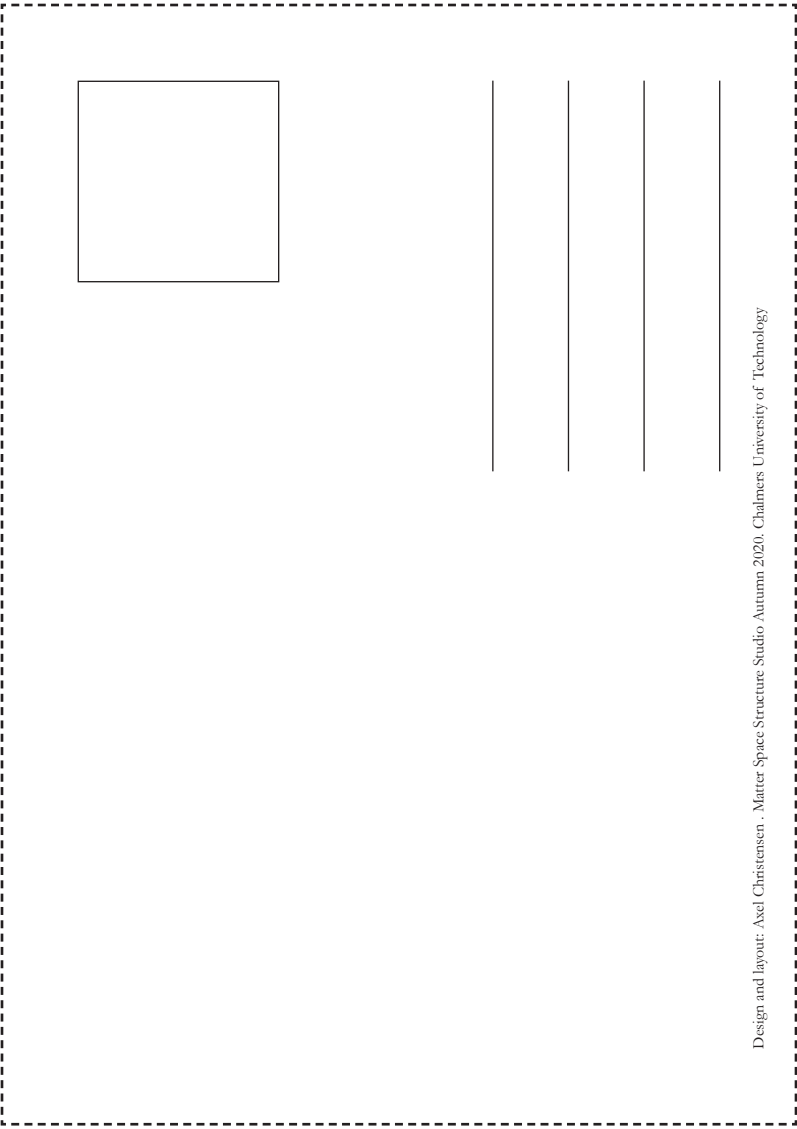
*Greetings from Gothenburg!*



*Greetings from Gothenburg!*



Design and layout: Axel Christensen . Matter Space Structure Studio Autumn 2020. Chalmers University of Technology



Design and layout: Axel Christensen . Matter Space Structure Studio Autumn 2020. Chalmers University of Technology