

Från: Axel Föhl <axel-foehl@t-online.de>  
Datum: 18 februari 2014 23:07:48 CET  
Till: "Sachs, Joen" <joen.sachs@telia.com>  
Kopia: "Martin, Patrick" <pemartin@mtu.edu>, "Tempel, Norbert"  
<Norbert.Tempel@lwl.org>, <germany@erih.net>

Dear Mr. Sachs,

tonight, I received your call for help re the gasholder no. 4 in Hjorthagen gasworks. I worked for 40 years in the German system of State Offices for the preservation of historic monuments "Landesdenkmalamt", being the longest serving specialist in industrial monuments and have a wide experience all over Europe concerning the technology of urban gas supply Amongst other things, I wrote an expertise in 2002 on the Augsburg gasworks. Since about 20 years I know the Hjorthagen site, being brought there for the first time by my friend and colleague, Prof. Eva Eriksson of Stockholm.

Let me quite clearly state that in my experience,

**the Hjorthagen gasworks form one of the most impressive entirely preserved examples of the urban gas supply technology that, evolving in Great Britain, spread over the European continent since the 1820ies.**

Not only is the whole complex linked to the nationally important figure of Stockholm's city architect, Ferdinand Boberg, who designed the entire gas works of Hjorthagen in a comprehensive, high-quality brick architecture, it is furthermore one of the most entirely preserved documents of the architectural and technological development of the building type of the "gas holder".

In the whole of Europe, I do not know another gas work compound that unites the same range of generations of gasholders, spanning the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We do have historically important and more or less, mostly only partly preserved big-city gas work compounds all over Europe such as:

Amsterdam  
Athens  
Augsburg  
Barcelona  
Berlin  
Dresden  
Milano  
Leipzig  
Vienna  
Venice  
Zurich

to name only a few.

There are more industrial gasholders such as Oberhausen/Ruhrgebiet with its 350.000 cbm, that has been converted to an exhibition hall. The brick mantles of the four 1898 Vienna gasholders have been reused for apartments.

So one can say that

- a) gaswork compounds can be preserved as historic monuments and
- b) there is a range of possibilities to reuse them as can be demonstrated with many examples

The Stockholm Hjorthagen site is probably Europe's most comprehensively preserved gas works with a unique range of gasholders that give the whole architectural and technological range of the development of urban gas supply. Next to it there is only Augsburg but the number of gasholders and the temporal range there is definitely smaller.

By way of acting quickly, I would recommend to immediately inform Prof. Patrick ([pemartin@mtu.edu](mailto:pemartin@mtu.edu)), the world president of TICCIH, the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage and ask him to give an urgent appeal not to demolish the gasholder n. 4 in

Hjorthagen gasworks. It also may be suitable to inform the national representative of ICOMOS Sweden to make him intervene as well.

Hoping to be of help, I wish you all the best for your attempt to save such a unique specimen of Europe's industrial heritage

Sincerely yours

Axel Föhl