

Lika Olika (Equally Different)

Project submitted by Project director, Margareta Sjöholm, Project Manager, Western Hisingens District Council

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City: Gothenburg (Sweden)

Population: 514 000 inhabitants

Name of project: Lika Olika (Equally Different)

Project objective: Lighting from a gender perspective to create a sense of security and well-being

Location: Norra Biskopsgården, City of Gothenburg

Nature of project: Permanent

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CONTEXT

Biskopsgården is a suburb of Gothenburg with about 26 000 residents. It is situated on Hisingen, Sweden's fourth largest island, and is a seventeen minute tram ride away from central Gothenburg. Many of the people living here are immigrants and a high proportion are unemployed, suffer from poor health and require financial support. As most of the housing consists of blocks of flats with large families in small apartments, the area is quite overcrowded. The feeling of exclusion from society is widespread and in recent years the media has reported burning cars, gang fights and murders.

At the same time however, successful long-term efforts to establish dialogue between residents and other involved parties has increased the feeling of security and well-being among the local population. Now a number of substantial concrete changes are being made: a new activities centre, a renovated square and an outdoor meeting place with football field and basketball court.



The lighting project was one of the first major improvements of the outdoor environment in this area. It was a project which involved the local residents and on which they had significant influence.

OBJECTIVE AND LIGHTING CONCEPT

The objective was to explore how to plan and change environments to overcome women's feelings of insecurity in public spaces. Assisted by women and youth of various ages, the project team identified the areas and footpaths on which lighting needed to be prioritised, as well as other measures that needed to be taken, such as garden maintenance and the refurbishment of a pedestrian tunnel. The overall goal was to provide adequate lighting and scope of vision to enable the residents to use the footpaths between the tram stop, square, housing blocks and surrounding areas without apprehension.

Lighting concept

Sjumilabacken:

The pathway from the bus stop was previously overgrown with vegetation (thus reducing visibility). The light from the lampposts was localized onto the pavement which meant that the people using it were brightly lit while their surroundings were in darkness. As a solution, all shrubs were removed to maximise visibility and the existing lighting was supplemented with two 6 m high poles with three lights per pole. The luminaires were equipped with lamps that could light the forest closest to the walkway. Narrow beam and medium beam reflectors were also used to highlight the beautiful details of the natural surroundings.

The main thoroughfare:

The thoroughfare (between the bus stop and square) was previously lit with spotlights directed straight out from building facades to provide security. This resulted in too much glare and left the facades themselves in darkness. As a solution, the light fixtures were replaced with fixtures that direct light straight down to provide soft and glare-free lighting on the facade and plants on the ground. The fittings are all along the 200 m long street and provide visual guidance both near and far. Overgrown shrubs were also removed to get visual contact with Sjumilabacken and the schoolyard.

Residential areas:

To address the sense of insecurity that local residents experienced in some areas, a number of fixtures on existing light poles were installed to give residents the opportunity to choose the light ambience they preferred. The most popular fixture was installed on additional lampposts. Entrances in the area were enhanced with lighting to ease orientation and two



trees were also illuminated with extra light to mark the entrance to the area from the square.

PROJECT'S LINK TO A BROADER URBAN DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

This lighting project was principally funded by the state through the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. Some 400 000 € was provided in 2010 for projects focusing on security and equality in outdoor environments. Biskopsgården was one of about 130 projects to be allocated funding.

There are also several other projects underway in Biskopsgården:

- A sports hall and activity centre that will be available to the local residents as well as clubs from Biskopsgården and other parts of Gothenburg. (Completion in 2011)
- An outdoor meeting place for people of all ages with among other things, a football field, basketball court and outdoor gym. (Completion in 2011)
- Renovation of the square (Completion in 2011)

These projects are being jointly financed by the Western Hisingen District Council, municipal and private property owners, the Traffic & Public Transport Authority, Sports and Club management authorities and the local government.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

INVOLVEMENT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION IN THE PROJECT

The project manager has worked in Biskopsgården for over 20 years and has a very good relationship with the residents as well as a broad knowledge of the area. Several different workshops were arranged both during the day and in the evenings together with the lighting designer and the project manager. The workshops were made up of young women and men between the ages of 13 to 19, older women and younger school children of various ages. They walked through the areas in question after dark and together decided where the lighting should be placed by marking the positions on maps. Other requests apart from lighting were also brought up, such as the removal of certain trees and shrubs to improve vision and control. The refurbishing of a pedestrian and cycle tunnel was also discussed with the youth. They made inscriptions and hand prints, and each was photographed in a situation of their choice. The inscriptions and handprints were then used in drawings for the factory in charge for producing the enamel tiles. This was then reproduced in the tunnel with the motifs imprinted on the enamel tiles that now form the inside of the tunnel. Residents still meet at the square to continue discussions regarding the ongoing projects.



COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE PROJECT

The results of the various workshops were exhibited on the square. Inspirational photos compiled by the workshop participants, lighting designs and landscape architecture plans have also been continuously exhibited.

Inauguration

The inauguration ceremony of the project involved the entire community. Bands from Biskopsgården performed, Turkish dances were performed by local girls, school groups demonstrated various dances and the local group Beat Killaz was on stage. Roses were handed out to all those who were involved in the lighting and tunnel projects. The Project Manager, Margareta Sjöholm, made a speech and the girls who had worked on the tunnel project clipped the pink ribbon to inaugurate it. Invited guests, residents and everyone involved in the projects then took a walk around the area.

IMPACT AND EVALUATION OF PROJECT

The feedback from the residents has been very positive largely because they were engaged and selected the places where the lighting should be installed. The 'new' pedestrian tunnel is a source of pride and is regarded as artwork. It has become the local meeting place. Previously, the tunnel was often damaged and fires were often lit in it, but it has not been vandalised since the completion of the project. In fact, it is now often referred to as "our tunnel" indicating a feeling of appropriation.

The reactions regarding the footpath to the tram stop are also very positive, with comments referring to improved visibility and the fact that the lights shine beautifully against the rocks. Moreover the amount of adverse publicity has decreased considerably. This is one of the positive impacts of the project. Several positive side effects have also occurred: a property owner has repainted the building at the tram stop and opened a small restaurant. This must be an indication of a greater flow of pedestrians along what was previously Norra Biskopsgården's most avoided footpath. Other positive effects have not yet been assessed and documented, since the lighting project was only completed in November 2010. New security walks will take place in November 2011.



PROJECT DETAILS

Stakeholders

Project director: Margareta Sjöholm, Project Manager, Western Hisingens District Council

Lighting design: Kajsa Sperling, Architect and Lighting Designer, White arkitekter AB

Installation: Gatubolaget AB, Bravida, NCC Sweden

Maintenance: Traffic & Public Transport Authority, City of Gothenburg

Manufacturers: TEMAL (tunnel), Sprakared Emaljverk (tunnel pattern).

Luminaire manufacturers: Targetti Poulsen, Meyer, Norlys Halden and Norka

Implementation

Project launch date: 1st Sept 2009

Inauguration: 11th Nov 2010

Technical details

Luminaires:

Targetti Poulsen Projector SPR 12 (35W HIT-CE, 70W HIT-CE)

Targetti Poulsen Kipp Post (42W TC-TEL)

Norka Malburg PC Clear (35W T16)

Meyer Nightspot Projector (35W HIT-CE)

Meyer Nightspot mini LED Projector (9W LED)

Norlys Halden Wall (26W TC-TEL)

Lamps: Metal Halide Lamps, fluorescent lamps, compact fluorescent lamps, LED

Power and Energy consumption:

Total energy consumption: 2258 W,

Operating time per year: 4000 hours

Energy consumption: 10 300 kWh/yr.

Estimated life expectancy: 25-30 years

Costs

Lighting Design: 70 000 € excl VAT

Reconstruction of tunnel: 25 000 € excl VAT

Coordination, dialogue with inhabitants, documentation: 12 000 € excl VAT





Total project budget: 107 000 € excl VAT

Running cost:

Energy costs: 10300 kWh/year x 0.1 € excl VAT = 1030 € excl VAT/year

Light sources: 590 € excl VAT/year

Maintenance cost:

Maintenance of 64 lighting units every three years: 180 € excl VAT.

Inspection of tunnel lighting once a month during winter months: 1050 € excl VAT.

