

Mr. Sten Nordin, Mayor
Ragnar Östbergs Plan 1, S-105 35
Stockholm, SWEDEN

March 11, 2014



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

TICCIH

Dear Mr. NORDIN,

I write this open letter today in my role as the President of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), the world organization promoting preservation, documentation, research and interpretation of our industrial heritage. Among our other activities, we also advise the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on matters relating to the heritage of industry.

It has recently been brought to the attention of the TICCIH Board by Swedish members of our organization that plans are underway to demolish an interesting and perhaps unique industrial heritage resource, the Gasklocka 4 in the Hjorthagen Gaswerks of Stockholm. **We sincerely hope that the gashouse can be preserved as an element of your cultural heritage, and urge you most earnestly to resist the demolition proposal.**

The gasworks at Hjorthagen is one of the most impressive preserved examples of the urban gas supply technology in all of Europe. Not only is the whole complex linked to the nationally important architect Ferdinand Boberg, but it is also one of the best-preserved examples of this architectural and technological type, with construction spanning the entire twentieth century. This assessment is based on comparative evaluations undertaken over several decades by some of our most respected expert members. We firmly hold that the removal of one key element, such as the Gasholder Number 4, would result in serious disturbance to the ensemble of remains, and that this complex could be effectively reused, as is the case in other cities.

We urge that you work with concerned citizens and, perhaps, the National Heritage Board to delay the permit to demolish this heritage resource until a careful investigation of alternative preservation options is conducted by appropriate experts. The loss of such a distinctive heritage complex would be a significant blow to the cultural landscape of your nation and, indeed, the world. We hope that you agree with us that this resource is deserving of the most thorough consideration that your local and national processes allow.

I will be happy to discuss the matter with you and/or any appropriate officials, if you wish. In fact, we may be able to help provide an expert voice in public discussions of the matter. Meanwhile, I wish you the best in your promotion of the preservation of this important site.

Sincerely,

Patrick Martin

TICCIH The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage

<http://www.ticcih.org>

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