

TRANÅS TOWN HALL

In the 20th century, local democracy and administration developed into what we are familiar with today. The parish and church involvement in compulsory education and poorhouses was gradually replaced by the municipalities' broad responsibility for education, town planning and much more. While the public sector for these areas grew, municipalities merged into larger and larger units.

A result of this development was the building of many town and city halls. They were often modern creations, demonstrating the drive and self-confidence of the local authorities.

In Tranås, it was felt that the building that housed the town's administration was outmoded and not particularly fit for purpose already in the 1930s. Over the years, several architects were engaged in creating a modern town hall, but no plans were realised. It was not until a national architecture competition was held in 1944 that the visions started to yield results. Forty entries were received and the winners were two architects from Stockholm: Ivar Stål and Adrian Langendal. The new town hall was ready in 1953.

Tranås Town Hall has several similarities with the City Hall in Stockholm, possibly because both architects had worked there. The resemblances include the location with surrounding water surfaces, the red brick facades and granite foundation, the copper roof, a light open hall, and the lay-out of the assembly hall.

Tranås Town Hall was lavishly decorated by several leading design companies. Orrefors glassworks supplied the lighting, and some well-known furniture companies made the furnishings. The building was also adorned with art. Best-known is a miniature version of the sculptor Carl Milles' "Europe and the bull". But there are many more pieces of art. The majority are by artists with a local connection, such as Runa Bülow-Hübe, Herman Norrman and Rolf Norrman.



The hall with a large collection of art. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 37



HOW TO GET HERE

Stadshusplan 1 in Tranås. The Town Hall is located in the centre of Tranås. Turn east from Storgatan at the Market Square towards the river Svartån, and you will see the Town Hall in front of you.

Coordinates:
N 6432369 / E 498738
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 58°
1' 58.306", E 14° 58' 43.221"
(WGS84)



Tranås Town Hall is situated by the river Svartån. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

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HIDDEN GEMS

There are so many things to discover in the countryside! Here, Jönköping County Museum presents some of the cultural environment and heritage attractions in the county.

They include well-known cultural monuments such as Habo Church and the Smålandsstenar Stone Circles, but also lesser known gems such as log-driving remains in the river Valån and Stengårdshult Church. Around the county you can find evidence of how people lived and worked in the past, everything from castles and manors to abandoned embankments and clearance cairns in forest areas.

The idea with Hidden Gems is to tempt you to make excursions in the cultural landscape – here you find our history, revealed in different ways in the physical environment. This heritage is worth experiencing and protecting. Bit by bit, we will be adding more sights under the heading Hidden Gems, both for people living in the county and visitors from further away. The more people who discover these gems, the better chance that they will be preserved for the future.

FACTS

In Jönköping County there are more than 4 000 registered ancient remains, 87 cultural environments of national interest, close to 130 listed buildings, around 150 churches, some 100 rural community centres with old settlements, a large number of industrial heritage sites, and two cultural reserves. There are also a large number of cultural environments with buildings worthy of conservation. More information about the sites can be found on the websites of the County Administrative Board, the municipalities and the local heritage societies.

GOOD TO KNOW

Access to the Hidden Gems varies. Some sites are well signposted, with easy access and proper parking facilities, etc. Others are more challenging to reach. Visitors may have to walk some distance, sometimes through scrubby forest, only to be met by a broken sign (if there ever was one) when they reach the site. All the sites, however, have an exciting and interesting history.

Please note that many of the cultural heritage buildings are privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Also, please respect private land. Many churches are open in the summer. During other times of the year, the churchwarden may be able to open the church for you.

