



# Abstract

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Western Harbour, Malmö

The City of Malmö is developing the former industrial waterfront area in the harbour, close to the city centre, creating a sustainable, attractive waterside urban district where the old connection between the sea and the city is re-established. Structural changes in Malmö's economy at the end of the last century distanced the city from its traditional industrial background. The shipyard closed down and large areas of the western harbour were left abandoned. Today a new urban district by the sea is developing with housing units for 10.000 people and working and study facilities for 20.000 persons.

The decline of the industrial activities in the city caused a lot of grief and worries in the early 1990's. Unemployment was high and a feeling of despair widespread. Politicians and city officials then decided to create a vision for the future with two major plans: to establish a University in the centre of Malmö and to create an attractive city area in the Western Harbour near the University. This was of major strategic importance to Malmö. The image of the city would be altered from an old-fashioned, polluted, industrial town, into an exciting, lively and future-oriented city, where cultural diversity, a young population and abandoned industrial sites were seen as a potential, not a liability.

The new waterfront district of Western Hamnen, in the old harbour, has been selected as a national example of sustainable urban development. The international housing exhibition, Bo01 (in 2001) was the first strategic transformation stage, involving around 500 apartments. The second stage is now largely complete. The area has gained a considerable amount of international attention for the breadth of the sustainable solutions adopted. The transformation is particularly striking in the transition from a traditional industrial area into a city district with long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability. After Bo01, the third generation of sustainable urban development is being planned, with the high level of sustainability as standard. The project goes under the name of Building live dialogue.

The construction of waterfront housing is continuing in the eastern section, where the Dock is converted into a new residential area.

The new landmark of the area is the 190-metre residential tower, Turning Torso, designed by the world-famous architect, Santiago Calatrava.

The Western Harbour has not only reached the goals for sustainable city development and reclamation of industrial harbour sites, but the project has also been a huge success among citydwellers looking for recreation. Thousands and thousands of people are coming to the area for lunch during workdays and to stroll, swim or sit at a cafe by the sea during week-ends.