13 MALMÖ IN TIME AND SPACE

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Since 1986, the photographic department at Malmö Museer has been working on a project called "Rädda Bilden i Malmö" (Save the picture). The museum is the owner of around one million glassplates, negatives, original prints, colour photographs and cultural short films. The project is divided into three parts:

- CARE
- STORAGE
- MAKING ACCESSIBLE

The digital image is now moving towards photographic quality and could create a revolution in the documentation of artefacts in our museums. We would get a totally different accessibility and overview than we have now. The photographic department of Malmö Museer is now dealing with building up routines for digital imaging of all the photographic material in the museum, including the older historical material as well as the recently produced pictures of different documentations and so on. This is the starting point for the creation of an integrated digital photographic centre in Malmö Museer for both image storage and image distribution in different ways according to different needs.

The Use of Multimedia in museums

A museum contains a number of different archives and possesses a lot of knowledge and information which is rather inaccessible today. It is often necessary to visit many different archives and storage-rooms in various different buildings in order to acquire information.

By using multimedia it is possible to combine objects, events and activities in a unique way to a working whole, that could not be reconstructed in a traditional exhibition.The past can be called upon and come alive. The Danish scientist Karin Levinsen says "that the interactive medium can be understood as a three dimensional room and in this way it can be compared to an exhibition. Perhaps this similarity is one of the advantages of using interactive media."

Another thing that points towards using multimedia within museum exhibitions is the fact that very often there are not enough staff available, who can provide detailed information to the visitors. Also objects that would be very suitable for an exhibition, for various reasons might be impossible to display.

Museums often own large collections of photographs. This is also the case at Malmö Museer and as mentioned above we have one million photographs. The greater part of this collection consists of pictures of the city of Malmv and illustrate the history of the city. This collection together with our recently produced photographs of current

documentation and so on form an excellent platform for a description of the development of Malmö.

The Swedish documentary photographer Sune Jonsson says : "each picture signifies a journey to times, places and habits that can never again be reached by any other means of communication than just photography."

Even though these pictures on their own have a lot to offer, by the use of multimedia they can be combined with other kinds of information, such as objects, documents, newspaper cuttings, etc, to give a fuller experience of a certain period of the history of the city.

By the use of digital image technology and multimedia, we plan to make this information accessible in its context. From this source of information it is also possible to add relevant multimedia applications to the museums present exhibitions.

Malmö in time and space

Our application centres around a walk in time and space through Malmö. Using maps, a time-axis, a person or an event as a starting-point. One is free to choose where, when and within what subject one would like to start the walk.

It will be possible to follow a street, then enter a house once inhabited by a certain person, and by looking at photographs see how that person lived. Other objects from that same period, owned by the museum, can illustrate for example the architecture or the fashion. Documents can be used to show details about the person, the building and the event. The changes of town-planning and environment can also be illustrated. You can also be referred to further reading about the subject.

We have decided to show a part of the city of Malmö called Stortorget. It is a place full of history and here one will be able to see how the square has changed through the times, from a mediaeval block of houses to the modern place of today.

Malmö Museer consists of four museums under the same roof. The City Museum, the Art Museum, the Museum of Natural History and the Science and Maritime Museum plus an archaeological unit. This gives us a unique possibility, to show the history of our city from many different aspects.

How the **appearance** of Stortorget has changed through history, in accordance with various fashions and architectural styles, can be shown by details of architecture and by "at home" reports from the people who lived in or around the square.

Through the archaeological material, through photographs and local reports from the time, one can illustrate the various **functions** that this place once had. During the Middle Ages, when the square had not yet been cleared, this area contained houses as well as a chapel and, in one corner a cemetery.

During the 16th century the city's councillors decided to have an open square in the middle of the city and alla the buildings in the area were pulled down. The square was used as a market place and remained so for the next 300 years. During our century the square has been used less and less as a market place. Instead it has become a centre for the city's official representation.

The **environmental aspects** can be shown in two ways. The increasing pollution of the city makes itself known by weathered sculptures and decomposed architectural details on the city's buildings. The other way is looking at ecological connections. These are closely related to the different functions of the square and can be illustrated in conjunction with these.

Stortorget is the first small part of a greater work on the city of Malmö. As we are working with multimedia techniques we can easily enlarge the application, change or add to it as we receive more information or new ideas.

Image technology: Digital

Camera: JVC TK-F7300U

Scanner: Agfa Arcus

Computer: IBM-compatible 486

Optical drive: Nec CDR-84

                 Pioneer DEU 7001 Multifunction Drive

Software: Windows 3.1

                 Asymetrix Multimedia Toolbook

                 Aldus Photostyler

                 Microsoft Video for Windows