

# Mid Sweden University

## Redevelopment



LOCATION: Sundsvall, Sweden

CLIENT: Sundsvall City Council and  
Akademiska hus

TYPE: Masterplanning, Detail Planning,  
Architecture

STATUS: Built

DATE: 1997

REF: Lars Gustafsson, Akademiska  
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Arken won this competition with an idea of an urban university, using Bologna University as a model. It was designed with a "school as town" concept.

The university adds urban qualities to the fringe of this small Swedish town of 90,000 inhabitants. Arken worked with urban elements such as blocks, streets, backstreets, squares and bridges.

The old buildings were incorporated into the new layout. By reinventing historical patterns and using existing streets, the new fabric took shape. The buildings follow the local tradition of timber buildings and express a kinship with the old regional warehouses. Brick, plaster, steel and glass are





also used on the façades. Chimneys, birdhouses, trellises are elements that increase the intimate atmosphere of an urban university.

In the first stage 21 000 sqm were built including a library, administrative buildings, restaurants and faculties for chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer a nurses academy. The campus opened in 1997.

Arken has won two International Awards for this project – in 2008 the Belgian Prix Rotthier for Best New Campus and in 2005 the American CNU Charter Award.





Future plan with university and research blocks mixed with urban blocks on both sides of the creek.

