

Cohousing at Majbacken



We live in a different living in a different house

We in the Majbacken cooperative association rent flats in a house near central Gothenburg. The house is an eight-story block of flats with a beautiful park area just around the corner.

The house with 31 flats is owned by a community owned Real Estate Company.

Although Majbacken is primarily intended for people at the later stages of life, who do not have children living at home, we want to have a wide spread of ages in the house. We are also interested in having roughly the same number of men and women as members. To us, this is an important prerequisite for a well-functioning house and something that benefits all of us.

We want an active house, where we try to a strong sense of community. We share knowledge and skills, encourage each other, and provide inspiration to others. Nobody needs to feel lonely. Our community is one that makes life easier, more fun, and less expensive in various ways.

Joint activities for the members include:

- planning and preparing a meal together twice a week
- taking care of our house and its surrounding green areas
- sharing responsibility for what goes on in the house

Majbacken is very special. The initiative came from a group of people who decided what they wanted from the cohousing before its inception. Unlike in most cases, Majbacken was not a public initiative or the result of commercial interests.

The accommodation

- At Majbacken, we have private flats as well as communal areas such as a large, well-appointed kitchen, a spacious dining/common room, a library, a TV room and a room for overnight guests.
- Our philosophy is that this way of living together leads to collaborative work and a rich social life.
- Environmental concerns and energy conservation are important to us.
- The house is centrally located, with access to good public transports and close to municipal services.
- The form of tenure is so-called “blockhyrning”, which means that Majbacken rents the entire house from Familjebostäder, and then sublets the flats to its members.

Sharing work

The foundation for our community is cooking and eating together, some self-management of the property, both indoors and outdoors, and a few other tasks entrusted to us by Familjebostäder. The amount of work required by each member depends on his or her age and ability to contribute.

Membership

Everyone living at Majbacken is a member of the association. Our statutes describe the basic values upon which Majbacken rests, values that must be shared by anyone interested in membership. Regular meetings are held every month, at which we vote in new members.

Advantages compared to normal housing

Living and working together provide opportunities for a great number of things which are not available with traditional accommodation. Here, you do not only get to know your neighbours – you get to learn from them. You can develop common interests, arrange tours, workshops, trips or parties together, and let your creativity grow along with that of others.

Living together means that we have various ways of saving resources. Food expenses can be kept down. Savings are possible through sharing office and computer equipment, kitchen utensils, tools, instruments, TVs, newspapers and magazines, reference books, vehicles and so on.

Last but not least, cohousing makes it easier for society to organize care for the inhabitants as they grow older. Here, we can provide every-day informal care for each other, to which, if need be, professional care can be added.

Similar projects

Information about cohousing for all ages can be downloaded from http://www.kollektivhus.nu/english/index_eng.html.

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