

Palaestra et Odeum

Palaestra et Odeum is Latin for gymnasium and music hall. In everyday speech, however, the building is known simply as Palaestra. To obtain harmony with Kungshuset, an irregular brick building was constructed on the triangular plot, with a two-storey central section and three-storey wings. The building was completed in 1883 and was used as a gymnasium for students and staff until 1980, when the building was devastated by fire. When Palaestra was rebuilt, the gymnasium was moved to a newly built sports hall on Gerdagatan. Today Palaestra houses lecture theatres. The part of the building called Odeum retains its function as a rehearsal room for students involved in musical activities.



Palaestra et Odeum.

Academic Society

The Academic Society (Akademiska Föreningen, or AF for short), is both an association of students and academic staff and a building on Sandgatan. The building was inaugurated in 1851.

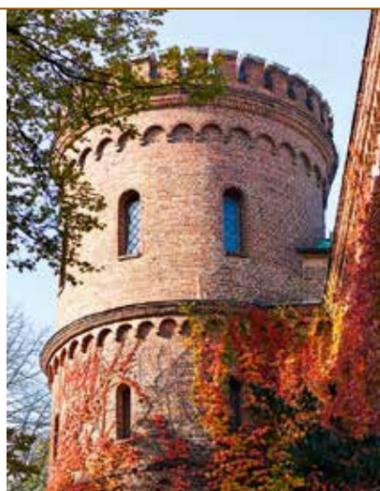
On the ground floor is the large student café, Café Athen. On the first

floor is the Great Hall (Stora Salen), used for parties and student occasions of various kinds. The Lund University students' unions, the student magazine "Lundagård" and a large number of student societies have their offices in the building.

Kungshuset

On the south side of Universitetsplatsen stands Kungshuset (the King's House), also known as Lundagårdshuset (Lundagård House). It was built in 1578–84 as a residence for the King of Denmark, Fredrik II. After a time in private ownership, Lundagårdshuset was presented to the university by Karl XI. For 200 years, the building served as the main university building and for the first 100 years almost all university activities took place in it. The university library was located here until 1907.

Legend has it that Karl XII, on one of his many visits to Lund, rode his horse up the magnificent oak staircase. However, the story is belied by the fact that the staircase was constructed after the king's death.



Kungshuset in Lundagård.

Lundagård

Lundagård, the area between the Cathedral and Universitetsplatsen, was occupied by the main buildings of the archbishop's palace in the medieval times, but was laid out as a park in 1747–49 from designs by Carl Hårleman.

Only a few of the trees planted then still remain. In the mid-18th century, a decision was taken to enclose Lundagård.

It was desirable to have a quiet area around the university "free from beggars, thieves and other vagrants, and not least from the many free-ranging pigs and other creatures". The wall was gradually taken down in the 19th century.

Once every four years, in May, Lundagård is transformed into a buzzing carnival site during the Lund carnival.



Left: Bust of Otto Lindblad with Lundagård in the background. Right: The sculpture "Man escaping from the rock" by Axel Ebbe.

Busts and sculptures

On Universitetsplatsen are a large number of busts and other works of art. In among the magnolias stands the bust of Kilian Stobaeus the elder (1690–1742), who lectured in medicine, botany, physics, chemistry, geology, palaeontology and history, while at the same time maintaining an extensive medical practice. Stobaeus's extensive collections laid the foundations for a number of university museums. Carl Linnaeus started his medical and scientific training under Stobaeus.

In front of the rune stones on Universitetsplatsen is a bust of Sven Lagerbring (1707–1787). He was the university's first "professional" academic historian and produced a broad range of academic writings also covering other subjects.

On Tegnérsplassen to the south of the Academic Society is a statue of the great Swedish poet Esaias Tegnér (1782–1846). Tegnér was professor of Greek in Lund and later Bishop of Växjö. His poetry and oratory brought fame and glory to Lund University. After his death, a tradition developed whereby students would gather around the statue with banners, torches and songs every year on 4

October, the day Tegnér was first enrolled at the university.

Between Tegnérsplassen and Kungshuset is a bust of Otto Lindblad (1809–1864). Lindblad was a composer and his name is firmly linked to the university's choral society, where he played a leading role from 1838 onwards.

"Man escaping from the darkness of ignorance" (or "Man escaping from the rock") is a sculpture in granite by Axel Ebbe, presented by the City of Lund to the university on the occasion of its 250th anniversary in 1918.

In the south-west corner of Universitetsplatsen stands a bust of Anders Jahan Retzius (1742–1821). Retzius was professor of economics, natural history and chemistry and was regarded by his contemporaries as a master of erudition. Retzius founded the Swedish Physiological Society in 1772.

Just south of the main university building is a bust of Sven Nilsson (1787–1883). Even in his own day, Nilsson was recognised (by Berzelius) as "Sweden's greatest zoologist" and (by Montelius) as "the father of archaeology".

The rune stones

Six rune stones are arranged on a small knoll in front of Palaestra. The stones were a gift to the university from the Society for the Preservation of Skåne's Relics and History, on the occasion of the university's 200th anniversary in 1868. The stones have been moved to Lund from various sites in Skåne. The stones record the messages about departed friends and relatives left to posterity by the Vikings of Gårdstånga, Nöbbelöv, Skivarp, Vallberga and Vallkärra some thousand years ago.



Taking a break among the rune stones.



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Universitetsplatsen in Lund

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Lund University today

Lund University was founded in 1666 and has for a number of years been ranked among the world's top 100 universities. The University has 42,000 students and 7,680 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

Lund is Sweden's most attractive study destination. The University offers one of the broadest ranges of programmes and courses in Scandinavia, based on cross-disciplinary and cutting-edge research. The compact university campus encourages networking and creates the conditions for scientific breakthroughs and innovations. The University has a clear international profile, with partner

universities in over 50 countries.

Funding of SEK 5 billion a year goes to research at eight faculties, which gives us one of Sweden's strongest and broadest ranges of research activity. Over 30 of our research fields are world-leading, according to independent evaluations.

Two of the world's leading materials research facilities are currently under construction in Lund: the MAX IV Laboratory, which will be the leading synchrotron radiation facility in the world, and the European research facility ESS, which will house the world's most powerful neutron source. The two facilities will be of decisive importance for future scientific and industrial development in both materials science and life science.

A short history

With the Treaty of Roskilde in 1658, Denmark lost the counties of Skåne, Blekinge and Halland to Sweden.

Lund University was founded in 1666 as a step in the process of making Skåne Swedish. There had previously been a *studium generale* in Lund for the training of priests, founded in 1438 and operational into the 16th century.

The new university was given the name Regia Academia Carolina. Initially there were the four classic faculties – theology, law, medicine and philosophy.

The university did not have any premises of its own for teaching. At the end of the 17th century Karl XI donated Kungshuset to the university, which thus acquired its first main building.

The real rise of the university came during the 18th century. Chairs were established in new subjects and the number of students increased. In 1852

the university was given new statutes that replaced the outdated regulations in force, and the state took over responsibility for finances. In the 1880s the first few female students began studying in Lund.

In the late 19th century, the Faculty of Philosophy was divided into a Faculty of Humanities and a Faculty of Science. In 1964 the social sciences were broken off from the humanities and in 1969 the Lund Institute of Technology (LTH) became the Faculty of Engineering. Later additions have included the School of Social Work and the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts.

In 1900 there were only 1,000 students in Lund, a small elite who were educated for higher public office as priests, teachers, doctors and lawyers.

Lund University grew strongly throughout the 20th century and is today one of Scandinavia's largest institutions of higher education and research.

Academic ceremonies

The principal ceremonies in the Lund academic year are the doctoral degree ceremony and the inauguration of new professors. At the doctoral degree ceremony, the faculties of the university present the outward and visible signs of doctoral dignity (laurel wreath, hat, ring and diploma) to those who have completed a doctoral degree and to jubilee and honorary recipients. The ceremony takes place each year in late May.

The inauguration of newly appointed professors takes place twice a year, in autumn and in spring in Universitetshuset.



Newly graduated doctors.

Coverphotos. Top : Universitetshuset. PHOTO: MIKAEL KANSKI. **Middle:** Universitetsplatsen with the fountain and Kungshuset in the background. PHOTO: MIKAEL RISEDAL. **Bottom:** View from Universitetshuset on 1 May when the choir Lunds Studentsångare sing to celebrate spring. PHOTO: KENNET RUONA.



1. Universitetshuset. 2. Lundagård. 3. Kungshuset. 4. The university fountain. 5. Palaestra et Odeum. 6. The rune stones. 7. The Academic Society (AF).

PHOTO: GUNNAR MENANDER

Universitetsplatsen

On the site of the present Universitetsplatsen lay the university's first botanical gardens, founded in the middle of the 18th century. In the 1860s, the present-day botanical gardens were laid out on Östra Vallgatan and for a few years the old gardens, Gamla Botanicum, served as a general meeting place for the people of Lund, with a restaurant, drinking of spa waters, concerts and other activities.

When the new university building was to be erected, most of the old trees and bushes had to be sacrificed and only a few have been preserved for us today. The oldest of the magnificent magnolias, which have become a symbol of Lund University, were planted just before the First World War.

Universitetsplatsen was conceived by

Helgo Zettervall

In 1874 Helgo Zettervall (1831–1907) was commissioned to design the new university building. He had come to Lund in 1860 to succeed Carl Georg Brunius in the work to renovate the Cathedral, a task which took almost 20 years. During this time, Zettervall acquired a varied private practice, and the greater part of his production is to be found in Lund. His works include the façade of the

observatory in Stads-parken, Parkskolan, Katedralskolan's entry towers and wing along Svane-gatan, Universitetshuset, Palais d'Ask, the old surgery (Gamla kirurgen), the hospital chapel (Lasarettsskapellet), his own house at Sandgatan 14, Allhelgonakyrkan and the Monument.

Helgo Zettervall as a harmonious whole, with Universitetshuset and the Academic Society (AF) opposite one another. As a counterbalance to Kungshuset on the south side of the square, Zettervall erected Palaestra et Odeum on the north side.

In the centre stands a two-storey fountain with basins in porphyry, rising from a sunken pool surrounded by flowerbeds. The four iron frogs spouting water around the base of the fountain are popularly known as the "faculty frogs".

The whole of Lundagård, from the renovated Cathedral in the south to Universitetsplatsen in the north, bears the mark of Zettervall's creative imagination. The fountain is entirely Zettervall's work; he was assisted by the Danish landscape gardener H. Flindt in laying out the gardens.



Helgo Zettervall.

Universitetshuset

Universitetshuset (University House), the main university building, was erected in 1878–1882 and designed by Helgo Zettervall. The building is an example of the classically inspired architecture of the 19th century. The elaborate decoration required a lot of work. A special workshop was established expressly for the task of moulding and casting the ornamental details. Today the building houses the offices of the university management and parts of the central administration, and provides facilities for official entertainment and ceremonies.

THE ATRIUM

The gallery surrounding the atrium rests on polished granite columns in Tuscan-Doric style. The Doric frieze is decorated with symbols of the faculties of Theology (star and palm leaf) and Philosophy (torch and laurel). Dentils, ovoli, palmettes and other ornaments drawn from classical antiquity adorn the Ionic frieze on the first floor. The glass cupola was renovated in 1974. The old glass panes were replaced with over 700 new, beautifully hand-painted ones.

THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Up a flight of stairs from the atrium is the assembly hall (aulan). Over the door is the Greek inscription "mhdn amouon", meaning "without the muses, nothing (achieved)", referring to the nine classical goddesses believed to protect science and art.

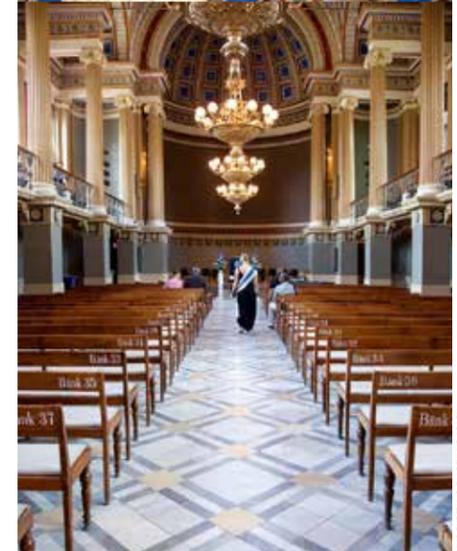
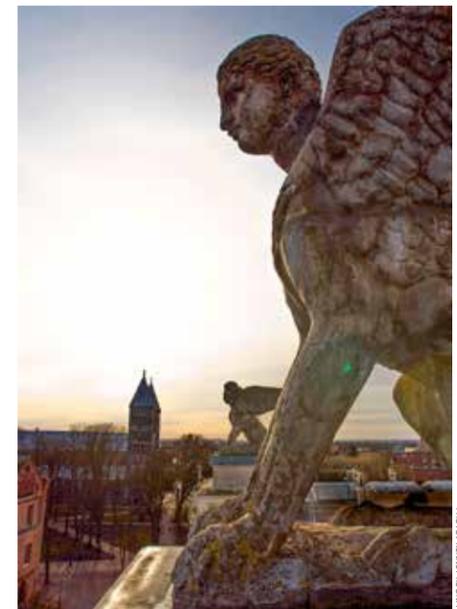
Our attention in the assembly hall is drawn to the beautiful painted ceiling and the magnificent gilded chandeliers. A recurring ornament – seen both in the assembly hall and around the outside of the building – is the frieze of classical rosettes, a decoration which was also used by Zettervall in other contexts.

High up in the window recesses are symbols representing the university and the four original faculties.

Nowadays the assembly hall is used for the formal inauguration of professors, concerts, degree ceremonies and conferences.

PELARSALEN

Down two flights of stairs from the Atrium is Pelarsalen (the pillared hall), used by the university for official entertainment. The present colouring is the work of architect Klas Anshelm. Pelarsalen was originally designed as a museum, but has long been used for receptions and university functions of various kinds. On the walls hang portraits of former monarchs.



Top: Sfinxes on the roof of Universitetshuset with Lund Cathedral in the background. **Middle:** The university assembly hall and a close-up of the decorated ceiling. **Bottom:** Pelarsalen.