

## **2007: Stapelbäddsparken, Malmö**

**Client:** City of Malmö, highways department via Ewa Sundström

**Project Manager:** John Magnusson, Bryggeriet

**Architect:** Stefan Hauser, Oregon USA, in collaboration with young skateboarders.

### **The reasons for the jury's decision:**

This year's Region Skåne Architecture Award has been presented to a small but courageous project that has made a valuable contribution to the discussion about man's relationship to urban environments. Stapelbäddsparken in Malmö is a skatepark comprising graceful and dramatic concrete shapes that attract young skateboarders from Malmö and outlying districts. The skatepark is well-made, beautiful, great to use and a meeting place for like-minded people. The resourceful design has encouraged young people to visit a city district that is currently undergoing enormous change. A new district is in the process of taking form and it is quite possible that future residents have already established an attachment to it. The skatepark, which is at the heart of a district that includes centres of learning and future dwellings and industries, has added to the city's manifoldness and is a catalyst for future development.

Stapelbäddsparken has been selected for the award as the project clearly shows how society can realize the vision of a living city in close co-operation with the young people who are expected to live there. The process has been championed by enthusiasts who, in close collaboration with skateboarders, have designed a skatepark of international class using high quality materials.

By employing imaginative expertise, the artificially made surface in Västra Hamnen has been turned into an undulating landscape that attracts and encourages young people from the whole region to practice and develop their skateboarding skills. The architecture has thereby demonstrated its social importance. Outsiders are welcomed to the skatepark where they can enjoy the exciting sculptural shapes that have been cast in the best cement with a silky smooth surface; the extraordinary and fascinating experience excites the senses.

Although the district has yet to establish a character of its own, the jury is convinced that as new buildings are erected and the skatepark becomes surrounded the park's superior quality and total design will ensure that it remains a permanent and beneficial attraction.