

Emanuel Swedenborg's Home and Garden

Hornsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden



Illustrated with photographs of a model
created by Eva Björkström. Photographs
by Arvid Björkström.



In 1743 Swedenborg bought a house with property on Hornsgatan, in Stockholm's Södermalm district. He lived there for the rest of his life.



Here is Swedenborg's home. It stood at one end of his large property.



He also had a home for his servants. Next to the servants' home was the gate Swedenborg and his visitors used to come and go.



Swedenborg's servants cared for his property when he travelled. They also took care of his gardens and were instructed to welcome people who came to see them.



Here a view of Swedenborg's house from the garden. The house had a large attic where Swedenborg kept exotic plants, and birds from his aviary, during the cold dark winter months.



The property was about 100 feet wide and 300 feet long. Swedenborg used this space to plant a beautiful garden. Near the house he trimmed bushes into the shapes of birds and animals. If you look carefully you can see his library and summer house at the back of the property.



Swedenborg loved gardening. He collected seeds from all over the world. Some seeds were brought from Holland. Others came from America, thousands of miles away.



If you look carefully among the trees you will see a trellis—a wooden structure on which climbing plants, such as roses, can grow.



Here is a closer look at the trellis. You might enjoy walking in the cool shade underneath it on a hot summer day.



Swedenborg also planted vegetables and fruit trees.



He built a special triangular “mirror house” to entertain guests. If you opened the door of the house, a mirror would give a view of a “garden beyond a garden”. Swedenborg showed a young girl, Sara Askbom, a reflection of herself here when she asked to see an angel.



Swedenborg loved children and created a maze for them to play in.



The maze was near the library and summer house at the far end of the property.



Here are the library and summer house. Swedenborg owned many books. Some books were about science, and others helped him learn about the Lord's Word.



Swedenborg kept an organ in his summer house. He loved music and would play the organ after returning from concerts.

Swedenborg did his most important work here—studying the Word and serving the Lord by writing books for the New Church. It is the only building from Swedenborg’s property that stands today. You can visit it in Skansen, a park in Stockholm.