

The Finnish Allotment Garden Brunakärr awarded by the City of Helsinki

The Building Control Department of the City of Helsinki has given the honorary award 'The Rose of Building' to the allotment association Brunakärr Koloniträdgårdsförening's building committee. The rationale was *"For active promotion of the allotment institution and profound instructions on how to make an old leisure activity tradition blooming in the middle of the hectic city."*

The association has strived to save the values of the allotment site by composing a report on the history. Based on the report they made a map guiding the placement of the cottages and both building instructions and model blueprints for the cottages. In the report there is an inventory of all garden plants, from trees to summer flowers. The several types of cottages in the blueprint aims at enlarging the old cottages, which gives an excellent base for retaining the scale of the site, materials used and details. The history report also gives a solid basis for the city planning.

Brunakärr Koloniträdgård is situated in Ruskeasuo (Brunakärr in Swedish), approximately 5 kilometers from the city center and consists 114 parcels of various sizes (100-700 m²). Brunakärr Allotment Garden, founded in 1918, is the oldest allotment garden situated at its original site in Finland. When the site was founded, it was situated far in the outskirts of the city. Nowadays it makes a green oasis squeezed in between one of the main streets, new business buildings and a bus depot. In the zoning plan of the City of Helsinki the site is mentioned as an green area with importance to both cultural history and architecture.



Front from left to right: architect Ebba Michelsson and landscape architect Camilla Rosengren.
Back from left to right: previous President Ann-Mari Estlander and present President Marga Brunila of Brunakärr Koloniträdgårdsförening.