



Local sense of heritage and belonging as resilience: the case of Old Rauma

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Lively wooden town

HEX CoE in the History
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“The city of Rauma combines, in our country, in a unique way, a historic town plan originating from medieval times and a technologically advanced modern city’s vibrant entrepreneurial spirit. In a miraculous way the old historic part of the town, with its narrow winding streets and changing idyllic cityscapes has been spared destructive fires throughout its centuries. Equally peculiar is that the old town has, as the only exception in our country, managed to maintain its position as the commercial district of the city. This fact, with its many problems produces many challenges for contemporary city planners, but makes it all the more interesting.”

Mayor of Rauma, early 1930s





“It pities the geometric boredom of apartment buildings and unimaginative living in boxes. The song of Old Rauma is a tale about the smoke from the saunas, the scent of clean laundry in the dusk of Saturdays, children’s play around their home gates, cups of hot coffee at the town square, everyday work, joyful roses on the side of the hill. It is a tale about life rather than mere living.”

“The Old Rauma song”, *Länsi-Suomi* newspaper 28.3.75.



“Since I was young, and going to school in Kouvola, which was bombed during the war and was very ugly, I have yearned for old environments. That you inhabit this kind of environment, it is concrete heritage work. The previous generation has left it to us, we do our part, and leave it to the next generation.”

Resident interviewee, Old Rauma







Individual house
owner's
interpretation of
meaningful past

“Before the war there were still some private butchers who would bring the carcasses to the city. Near the current Citymarket there was a vet who checked the meat and stamped it. Then they came to us and my father would buy some of it. Then he would sell it to the local meat vendors and sausage manufacturers. Meat was sold then at the market place, there was a long row of vendors. We used a sled to deliver the meats to them and then we would go to school. The sausage manufacturers were right next to us and down the street.

Old Rauma house owner and former shopkeeper

“This culture thing is heavy to carry [...] balancing between two worlds. On the one hand, the family traditions obligate, on the other hand, there is the pure business thinking.”

Old Rauma shopkeeper