



A dream brought to life with a little help from Thermia



When Martin Balder and Marie Öberg became the new owners of the old power station by the river in Hillringsberg, Sweden, there were plenty of challenges, not least heating a vast space with eight metres of roof height. Aesthetics were important to Martin and Marie, as was superb efficiency. Thermia helped them overcome this key obstacle to create a wonderful home.



The old power station – today a single-family house with showroom

'The renovation has taken three years. It was an unprecedented project that turned into a huge process, something we had no idea about when we decided to start, but the result has made it all worthwhile' says Martin Balder.

It was a wonderful challenge

Martin and Marie just took each other by the hand and jumped! They had always been entrepreneurial. Home in Borgvik was the completely renovated

Värmlandsgården and in Arvika was the interior design shop, Bruket Interiör, from which Martin ran the company Balder Design.

They were more than happy to take on the challenge of renovating a

Just over three years ago, Martin Balder and Marie Öberg were visiting Marie's parents in the area around Glava in Värmland. As they drove past the old power station at Hillringsberg, the thought came to mind. What if it was for sale? It was!

'We managed to find the owners and called to ask if they might be interested in selling. As luck would have it, this was what they were hoping for' says Martin.



Marie and Martin Balder

huge, down-at-heel power station, without heating or water.

Over the course of three years, the property underwent a massive transformation. The roof was drained and replaced, the huge windows were renovated in the traditional way with linseed oil paint, all the walls were plastered and painted and the floors in the residential part were raised and updated with solid pinewood. A kitchen was added, as well as bathrooms.

Smart solution for heating and hot water

Initially, Martin and Marie hadn't thought about the practicalities of heating such a considerable indoor space: *'People asked what we had done about the heating. We hadn't! In retrospect, it feels naive, heating is a pretty important'*, says Martin and laughs.

By chance, in the interior design shop in Arvika, Martin came into contact with someone who worked for Thermia. The conversation turned to the project in Hillringsberg and, with the help of Björklunds Rör, a Thermia dealer, recommendations and suggestions were suddenly on the table. The solution for the machine hall was the Athena, a powerful air source heat pump that, together with fan convectors could provide heating for this very large room.

'Originally, there were fans in the ceiling, but we removed them



Livingroom in private part of the building



Kitchen in the private part of the building



as they did not work with the aesthetics. We now use the large hall as a showroom, an important part of Balder Design's business, where we use and renovate Swedish design. Despite removing the fans, we decided to leave all the copper pipes for the installation visible, to give it an industrial feel' says Martin.

'The collaboration with Björklunds Rör worked really well and having the same installer on site throughout the project makes things so much easier' - says Martin.

After this challenge, what next?

The other part of the building is the three-storey living area. Martin and Marie wanted a completely invisible heating system, with the heating hidden beneath the wide pine paneling.

The solution was a geothermal system with underfloor heating. Two 210-metre boreholes were drilled and connected to a Thermia Atlas ground source heat pump, a powerful and quiet heat pump that heats the old building extremely well.



In the final stages of the renovation, both Martin and Marie can say that it has been worth the effort.



'We always had a vision for the building. We saw the potential in the old machine hall with its ceiling height of over 8 metres, both in terms of preserving its cultural value and for our business, says Martin.'

With the renovation complete, both Martin and Marie feel it has been well worth the effort. The magnificent brick building has more than lived up to its name and been brought back to life.

and needed help to build our dream. We found that help, we persevered and struggled and found solutions along the way, and now we can start enjoying it' concludes Martin.

'We threw ourselves into it, believing we could do most of it ourselves, but, as the project grew, we realized we couldn't do everything ourselves



Thermia Athena – air source heat pump



Thermia Athena Total Compact - indoor unit with WT-V 200 buffer tank
Thermia Atlas with MBH – ground source heat pump with hot water tank

Fact Box

Investor: Martin Balder and Marie Öberg

Location: Hillringsberg in Sweden

Characteristics of the building

- Property: Old industrial building/hydropower station
- People in the household: 2
- Living space: 320 m²
- Showroom: 265 m²
- Year of installation: 2020

Applied solution:

- Completion date: 2023 / 2024
- Type of heat pumps: Athena 18 and Atlas 18
- Heat distribution system:
 - floor heating
 - fan coils

The Athena heat pump is complemented by a Thermia WT-V, a 200 litre volume tank that provides the water volume for the heating system, which in this case is fan-coil units.



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