

Act five:

Doublewide wide large picture windows lead out to the balcony from both the dining & living room. We replaced the entire balcony windows & doors giving it a marvelous feeling of being out-doors yet protected from the elements. A thick indoor-outdoor gray carpet covers the cement flooring. While at the table we observe our neighbors from above. So much fun to keep track of our neighbors! Bright yellow chairs with footstools present excellent reading locations and great comfort. Many plants compliment the décor. We enjoy simple pleasures of each precious day. Floor heaters offer more comfort during cooler days.

The balcony makes into "an-out-door-living-room". We eat most of our meals on the balcony, from April/May thru middle of October looking out into the tall birches, willows, cherry, aspen, rön (also known as Mountain Ash) line walkways in the midst of numerous tall pines & firs. The walkways have lights to guide nighttime walking. Here everyone walks, day and night, winter and summer, several neighbors have no cars. Even the nature trails through the woods have lighting hence there is no excuse not to ski at during cool & dark winter nights. We have no plans to add skis at this time. The idea of a fountain came from our friend Birte Owenmark, who has one on her patio. It is a beautiful blue ceramic waterfall fountain, driven by solar energy. When the sun shines, water is pumped up to a leaning carafe. The water drips down to bowls and recirculates. AH, the sounds of liquid sunshine, as we called it in Julian.

Thore, Ulla, Calle & Ingrid planned an improvement of the entrance to our building. Calle designed the entrance garden, which is about 4 m sq. We worked diligently removing old dry dead plants and replaced them with live green species of all kinds, white rocks & chips covering the dirt. We are pleased with the result and the neighbors appreciate our efforts. The entrance now looks inviting! Team efforts are the best kind! The chosen plants are thriving with a lot of TLC for all residents. Next issue is planning a water schedule, and when all efforts fail, we replace plants that dried & died.

We enjoy getting to know our neighbors. It's been a challenge due to the restrictions during the pandemic, but as we write this, we know that easier days are ahead. Most seniors in our building have been vaccinated giving us the opportunity to meet for FIKA not just outside anymore. Do you know what FIKA is? It's time for a break, a cup of coffee, a cookie/cake and a chat with a friend. There is much visiting time during FIKA, for many the best time of the day.

Upplands Väsby is located between Arlanda Airport & Stockholm City. A commuter train takes us to Stockholm in about 20-25 minutes. Trains run about every 10-15 minutes from early morning to late evening with less frequent departures at night and weekends. We can walk from the house to the train station in about 15-20 minutes. So far we have been to Stockholm only twice. We had hoped for attending concerts, visiting museums, presentation of all kinds, but none of that were available to us. The whole country has been shut down/closed for many months, but not as tight as our neighbor countries. People in Denmark, Norway, Finland and Ice have fared better with much less infection rates. We do hope the pandemic restrictions will ease during summer months, so that we may travel a bit.