

HENRIK FALK

Profile

Henrik takes skyscrapers to new heights more efficiently

Working without being seen is a classic Wallenberg stratagem. The essence of this also applies to Henrik Falk. Therefore, there are few people who know of this carpenter and construction innovator who is highly esteemed in select circles. Or, naturally, his exciting projects which cover everything from furnishing desirable apartments along Strandvägen in Stockholm and fashionable addresses abroad to what might now become a world success – a completely new assembly system for façades for skyscrapers.

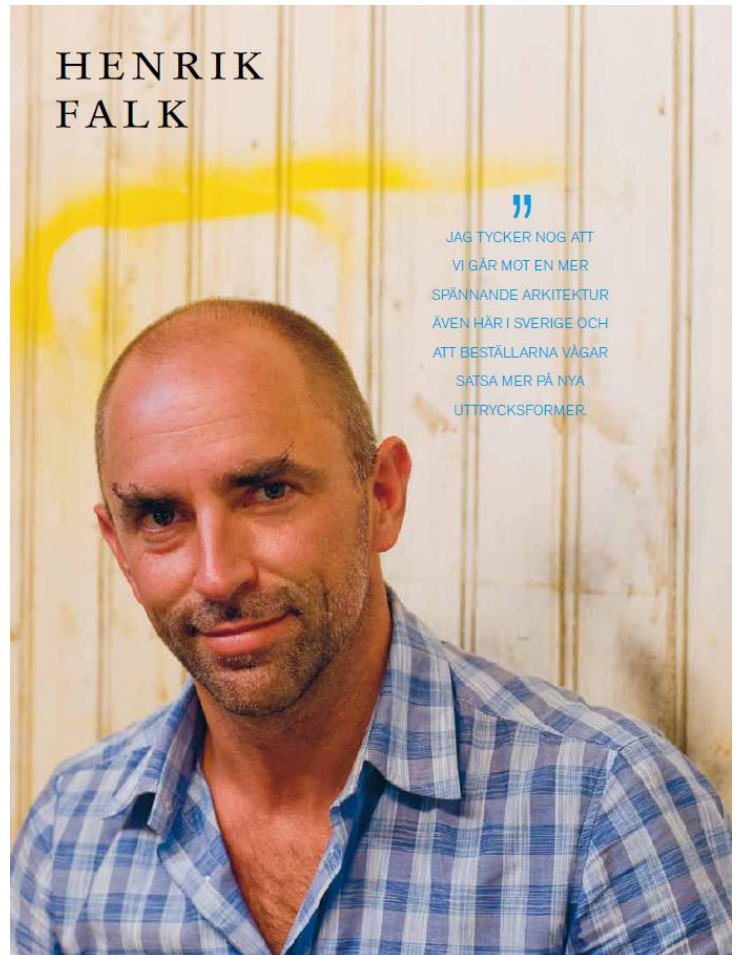
QUALITY NERD AND WINDOW FETISHIST

Only a modest sign over a door at the far end of Regeringsgatan in Stockholm reveals where Henrik works – an office and a carpentry workshop, next to one another.

“In my soul I am a carpenter,” he emphasises, although in his stylish clothes he looks just as much like a well-dressed businessman who has stepped out of a fashion magazine. In the carpentry shop, one can see immediately how adept he is with the tools, and with what joy and feeling he saws and planes and smooths and forms details in wood.

Facts about Henrik

Name: Henrik Falk. Age: 41. Family: “18 year-old son Gabriel and through love of Ann, who has three children, we have now become a large family.” Lives in Stockholm. At present Innovator and Founder of Brunkeberg Industrietveckling, Falk Invention and J.H.Falk. Education and training: “The Cutters Academy, Beckmans and a long series of supplementary courses. But I have learned most of all from all the capable craftsmen that I have had the benefit of working with. The best education was the 20 years I spent running my businesses, mostly as builder and carpenter.” Interests: “Apart from work, family, travel, art, adventure sports and yoga –



by all means in combination. Wherever I am, I look at surfaces, structures and design, and I have studied and analysed various methods of craftwork. I am fascinated and inspired by nature, and how it is constructed.” Reads: “Trade literature about architecture, furnishing and design. I was recently in Chicago and found an architectural bookshop which was due to close, so my baggage was very much overweight when I checked in to fly home.” Looks at: “I like films, but I have an ability of focusing more on the environment than the actual action. I love pictures and really appreciate thumbing through pictorial reports and picture books, and looking at them. I am always looking for new ideas, forms and expressions.” Happiness from: “Doing a good job. The most enjoyable thing is working in a team and sharing the satisfaction of working and the pleasure of seeing the result.” Gets angry at: “Yes, I can get very angry, but it takes a good deal and doesn’t happen often. In general, I focus on positive things.” Talents: “Can make quick decisions. When I know that something is right and holds together, I can leap into the unknown. I like doing ‘impossible’ things and with persistency as a driving force, I tackle things that no one else dares to do. I am not frightened of making mistakes” Idols: “The industrialist Ulf G Lindén, who unfortunately died earlier this year. He was one of my biggest clients and mentor for my own business in Brunkeberg. Then Jean Eric Rehn, Haupt, Chareau, da Vinci and Hårleman. I appreciate people who can change their views and think differently..” Motto: “I do think that less is more. I try to achieve this in my handiwork and in my design.”

MADE HIS OWN FASHION CLOTHES

When Henrik was 14, he borrowed a sewing machine from his mother. The reason was that he wanted clothes that he could not afford to buy.

“Sew them yourself!” said mother, so I did. It went quite well and there was a great deal of interest because I applied for and got into the Cutters Academy and I also started my own firm – Clothing Creator Jon Henrik Falk.

“It was not a spectacular business, but it was a great deal of fun for a time. So to earn money, a friend and I started a partnership, Skipsna o Falk Window Cleaners, and actually this firm is the basis of my company today,” he says, and points out the parallel of cleaning windows with the new façade assembly system which also includes a maintenance system.

The idea is based on being able to handle and assemble large pieces of glass in a façade system in safe, controlled, efficient ways. This first façade system was for a job in Östermalm, where he cooperated and obtained a lot of help from experienced craftsmen and consultants, including Sven-Erik Jansson.



Här i snickeriet arbetas
in till Brunkeberg Industri-
utveckling för Henrik Falk
utlopp för sin snickerigård.

FROM IDEA TO ACTION

“I like analysing and simplifying building and manufacturing methods and processes. Our system is especially appropriate for building tall buildings in such a way that it does not intrude on other contractors who are working at the same time, and there I mean everything from transport to construction, assembly to maintenance of the building. Our technique is open and can integrate access platforms, solar shading and replaceable banners, etc. Our façade assembly is carried out independently and is divorced from the other contractors thereby not at risk from potential chain reactions of delay. On the skyscraper buildings that we have looked at, there are considerable costs to be saved through a system which is disengaged and also independent of weather, wind, tower cranes, etc.,” explains Henrik.



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ARUP - A DREAM PARTNER

Brunkeberg has now established cooperation with AF Consult and the internationally recognised technical consultancy company, Arup, and a number of internationally highly respected professors and experts in construction techniques and lean construction have verified the value of the system.

Prototypes of various parts were produced, and these were inspected and tested. Mathias Farnebo, who is today a partner, took on the responsibility for business development in the company. With the help of Mathias, Henrik carried out thorough patent research before registering his system for patent

protection.

COOPERATION IN DEPTH

This autumn, the cooperation with Arup will need to be deepened. This involves several tests of system components, and also the construction of a full-scale prototype, a four-storey façade section subjected to extreme climate and weather conditions in a test installation. Brunkeberg has been in contact with one of the world’s largest skyscraper construction companies and discussed interesting international objectives for running the Brunkeberg system on.

“We are now looking into how automated façade cleaning and external solar shading reduce maintenance costs and energy consumption.

“It is important to emphasise that what we are now launching is not a new façade system, but a complement to other systems. Thus, existing façade elements can be integrated . They can be transported to site and assembled much more easily and safely, in larger sizes, and once they are in place they can be maintained with the help of an automated system.



LAYING THE TRACK FOR OTHERS

Henrik considers that his business concept is not a threat to other façade system suppliers, but is an opportunity for property owners and construction companies to make assembly more efficient, reduce costs and facilitate maintenance. He is also aware of the arguments which are attractive for the various categories of specialist in a construction process.

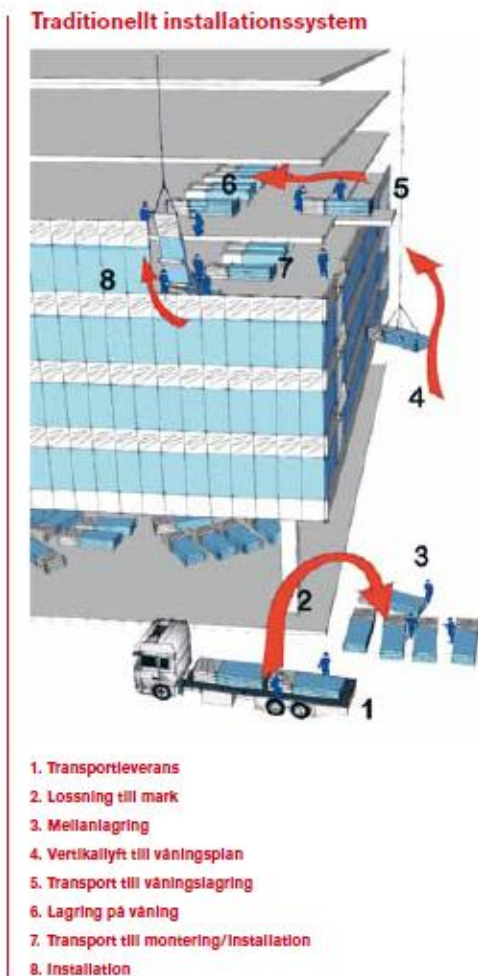
Although Brunkeberg is now presenting the façade system to the world market, this does not mean that Henrik Falk's stream of inventions is drying up. On the contrary, there are already grand ideas in the pipeline to be picked out and looked at, ideas which, if they hold, can also be revolutionary for the construction industry.

“If we are talking about façades on buildings, there are many functions and prerequisites which can be developed. The trend for façades of the future is not only about being seen and communicating with one's surroundings, but also more about being 'smart', like chameleons, being able to change expression, form and function. So far, façades are mostly rigid shells. Here, I am interested in listening more to the visions of the architects of today. I think that we at Brunkeberg have the ability to satisfy many of them.”



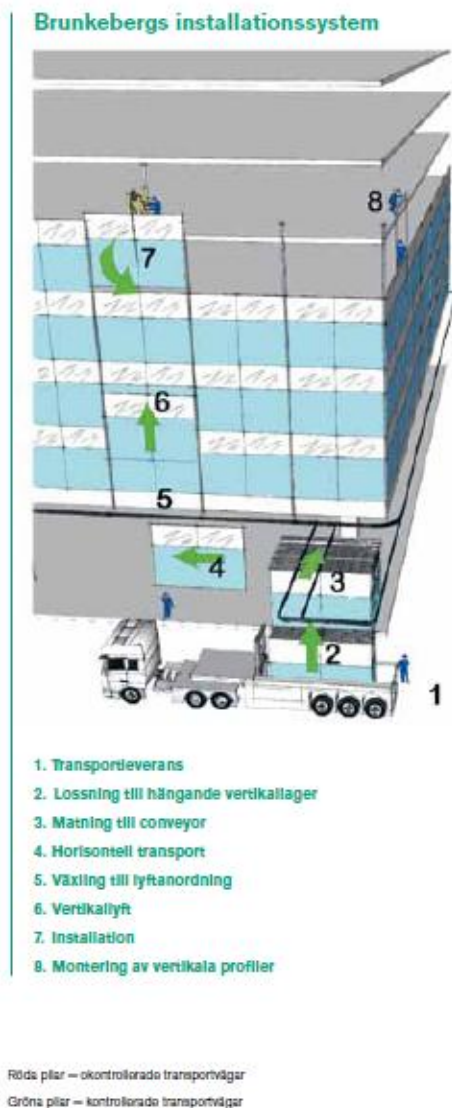
Text: Mikael Ödesjö
Photo: Johan Aredal

Below is a description of Brunkeberg Industriutveckling's construction system for curtain wall façades: Illustrations: Brunkeberg



Traditional installation system

1. Transport delivery
2. Unloading on the ground
3. Intermediate storage
4. Vertical lift to the floor level
5. Transport to floor-level storage
6. Storage on the floor level
7. Transport to assembly/installation
8. Installation



Brunkeberg's installation system

1. Transport delivery
 2. Unloading to hanging vertical storage
 3. Feed to conveyor
 4. Horizontal transport
 5. Changeover to lifting device
 6. Vertical lift
 7. Installation
 8. Assembly of vertical sections
- Red arrows = uncontrolled transport routes
Green arrows = controlled transport routes