

Built in 1857, St Andrew's was described in the Gothenburg Yearbook as "the small but beautiful temple" with its portal of fine hewn sandstone. The architect was Lieutenant Adolf Wilhelm Edelsvärd, who built many other famous buildings in Gothenburg, and the donors included members of English and Scottish families who have played a large part in the history of the city.

The present-day St Andrew's is the third place of worship of the English congregation in Gothenburg. It was built during the period 1855-1857 and consecrated in 1859. The architect was Lieutenant Adolf Wilhelm Edelsvärd, son of the canal constructor Fredrik Edelsvärd. Perhaps Adolf learnt his first English from the engineers recruited from England to build the Göta Canal! Adolf Edelsvärd (1824-1919) trained as an army officer and specialized in building canals and fortifications. He made a study trip through six European countries to develop his knowledge of new building techniques and design. He was particularly influenced by his visits to England, where he was able to clearly follow some of the exciting effects of industrialism - through railway journeys and visits to notable buildings. In 1850 he set up his private practice as an architect in Gothenburg. St. Andrew's church was one of his early commissions.

This building was made possible through generous donations from Robert Dickson Sr, David Carnegie, William Chalmers and a number of other Scottish and English families. A site was purchased near Kaserntorget in 1852. In March 1854 an application for financial support was sent to Queen Victoria for "erecting a building suitable to our requirements in respect of number and of this Northern climate and at the same time such as may be admissible by the Authorities of this City, whose approbation of every architectural design must be first sought and obtained." In May 1854 Edelsvärd's church design was accepted, and in June 1854 the desired promise of financial support arrived from London. On June 19th 1855 Robert Dickson laid the foundation stone.

The church was built in the Victorian or neo-Gothic style, made so popular in the west of Sweden by Edelsvärd. The framework of the west door and that of the Gothic windows is of Scottish sandstone. The east end of the Church has five stained-glass windows showing St Mathew and St Mark, St Peter and St Paul, St Luke and St John. Above these is a representation of St. Andrew. The windows, which were donated in 1857, were designed in Scotland. The heating system was also procured from Scotland.

The church was formally dedicated on 30th November 1857 - on St. Andrew's day. A quarter of the pews were reserved for the use of the Dickson family.

Adolf Edelsvärd also designed the Haga Church and St Birgitta's Chapel, in Gothenburg, as well as Trollhättan Church. Other buildings designed by architect Edelsvärd in Gothenburg included the main Railway Station, the Wijks house, Lilla torget 1, Salhgrens House, Norra Hamngatan 14, the Children's Orphanage, Stampgatan 20, dwelling houses and a school at Klippan, and the School of Navigation, Kvarnbergsgatan 2.

References

Gunilla Linde Bjur , *Arkitekt vid industrialisms genombrott: Adolf Edelsvärd: en Yrkesbibliografi*. Göteborg: Göteborgs universitet, 1999. 442pp.

Gunilla Linde Bjur, *Arkitekten och staden. Adolf Edelsvärd*. Göteborg, Göteborgs Stadsmuseum, 2000. 83pp.

Nancy Fjällbrant