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## The American Swedish Institute

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# The American Swedish Institute in



*ASI's new Nelson Cultural Center in front, and the old Turnblad castle in the back (Photo by Paul Crosby Photography).*

In June 2012 the new building was opened to the public. On October 2 the SAG Editor, with friends, visited the ASI, which later in the same week was officially dedicated by the King and Queen of Sweden.

Almost the first thing you notice, when entering the ASI by the new entrance, is the huge tapestry by Helena Hernmarck, which hangs on the wall, close to the Cafeteria FIKA. The tapestry shows some of the vividly

colored accessories of Swedish folk costumes, and is aptly named "Folk Costume Details."

Size: height: 15 feet  
width: 9 feet



# n Minneapolis has grown!

Between the new Nelson building and the old Turnblad mansion there is now a nice inner courtyard, which can be used for social functions, concerts, and much more, even *kubb* games.

In the Nelson Cultural Center there are new lecture rooms and a huge auditorium, which can also be used for banquets. In the building is also found an office for Gustavus Adolphus College, based in St. Peter, Minnesota, as well as the seat of Swedish Council of America.

There are now several elevators that connect the old and the new building. The whole institution is now accessible for handicapped people.



There is the Osher Gallery for exhibitions in the new building, and much more space for new exhibits in the Turnblad mansion. A gift shop is

situated close to the new entrance in the Nelson building. We found that they stocked very few books on immigration history, or Swedish history, things that probably interests many visitors. Also we did not see any postcards showing these spectacular buildings.



*The new mascot of the ASI, the plastic goat Freja, who lives on the ecological sod roof of the Nelson Cultural Center.*

*Dee Kleinow ponders the ecological sod roof, from the 2nd floor.*

*(Thanks to Dee and Ray Kleinow for help with the photos).*

*Text: Elisabeth Thorsell*