

Krematoriet [Crematorium]

Sweden

Skogsljusvägen 1 803 25 Gävle

Commission

1954

Completion

1960

Other denominations

Gävle Krematorium [Gävle Crematorium]

Original use

Health/social services/crematorium

Current use

Health/social services/crematorium

Architects

ELLT (Alf Engström, Gunnar Landberg, Bengt Larsson and Alvar Törneman)

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

Vertical wall structure

Description

This building was designed by a group of recent graduates in architecture who won the competition. The simplicity and clarity of the resolution of the program are surprising, particularly in terms of the constructive details, which, along with the subdued choice of materials and the opportune site selection, contribute to conveying a beautiful emotivity.

Immersed in a pine forest, the repetitive rhythm of the vertical pieces is captured in the texture of the formwork visible in the concrete walls that surround the crematorium. This series of blank walls outlines an enclosure in the middle of the forest, indicating an inside and an outside; it is only broken as required to access the different parts of the program. The enclosure surrounds a series of courtyards that are related to the different public parts of the crematorium.

The building is markedly horizontal in its development. The strict control of the volumes is achieved by situating the facilities and building services on the basement level. Above the concrete walls, two thin wooden roofs seem to levitate. Under these roofs are two chapels, which make up the most representative parts of the program.