

**"City inspection" Swedish Radio**  
(SE: "Stadsinspektionen" Sveriges Radio)  
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"Uddevalla rises like a Phoenix"  
(SE: *Uddevalla reser sig som Fågel Fenix*)

Summary:

The city of Uddevalla has burnt down several times. First the herring disappeared, and then the cholera arrived. Uddevalla's shipyard, with its three thousand employees, was shut down. The local regiment was disbanded in 1989.

- If you read about the history of Uddevalla, it is a little bit like a Monty Python sketch, says architecture critic Mark Isitt.

A taxi driver in Uddevalla agrees: he compares the town to the Phoenix from Greek mythology, it is "The Comeback Town".

Mark Isitt starts the show by describing Uddevalla City Centre as "brutally boring". In the centre he is confronted with cracked asphalt, broken trash bins, boring parking lots and very small open-air cafés.

- A failure. It cannot stay like this.

He also comments that the harbour streets by the river are treated like backstreets, and that the quay is falling apart.

Many things are back-to-front. The problem is not only that the Torp shopping centre has become a bigger attraction than the town itself. It's also about Kungsgatan, where the concrete brutalism stands next to light blue plastered renaissance buildings. And the square Kungstorget with its cobbles, the church whose pillars remind you of the Acropolis, the beautiful city hall and, be prepared, a sex shop.

- To walk down Kungsgatan is a schizophrenic experience, says Mark Isitt.

The City Centre of Uddevalla is not very dense, it has lost its popularity since the shopping centre Torp was built. Now the question is: how Uddevalla can restore the attractiveness of the inner city.

Is it possible for Uddevalla to rise again?