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## Stockholm. The Capital of Scandinavia

By Julian Stubbs. Lead brand strategist for the Stockholm brand

## Stockholm Arlanda Airport

# Welcome to Stockholm the capital of Scandinavia



## **STOCKHOLM. THE CAPITAL OF SCANDINAVIA**

Stockholm is one of the world's most beautiful cities. But that alone is not enough to differentiate it. Stockholm needed a more comprehensive positioning that included both tourism and inward investment perspectives.

#### **The Brief**

Stockholm had always prospered. But the 2001/02 dot-com crash affected Sweden and Stockholm in particular and added to this Swedish telecoms giant Ericsson was having problems as well. This hit Stockholm hard. Globalisation also changed things for Stockholm, as the rise of the internet and budget travel thrust the city onto a competitive global stage. As a consultancy, we used our international perspective to understand the challenges that Stockholm would have to overcome to remain competitive in the future.

Stockholm was also facing stiff local competition. Cities such as Copenhagen, Oslo and Amsterdam had been investing heavily in their destinations and infrastructure. Stockholm's budget for brand building was fairly limited, as is often the case for many destinations. Stockholm also suffered from an overly inward looking focus, but urgently needed to position itself to attract an international audience. This would mean putting the city onto the radar of people who may have limited knowledge of Stockholm, or even Sweden. To achieve that, we needed a strong proposition that everyone could relate to.

#### The Brief (continued)

Many of Stockholm's past marketing attempts had been inconsistent. One moment it was the Biotech Centre, the next it was 'Venice of the North', or 'Gateway to the Baltic Sea Region'. This presented a confused message that weakened the Stockholm brand.

#### **The Process**

After extensive research and stakeholder input, we drew our conclusions. In discussion with the cities marketing authority we decided how best to position the city and what its business proposition should be. This wasn't about developing a slogan or tagline, but about defining the essence of Stockholm's offer.

Our international team found that step relatively straightforward. We had always known exactly what Stockholm was. It was simply the most important place in Scandinavia for business and tourism. This became our business proposition.

#### The Work

With the Stockholm proposition firmly in place, we looked for a simple way to communicate it.

Stockholm combines both the new and the old. It has one of the world's most progressive societies and is also a key global hub of the high tech industry. At the same time, Stockholm also has a beautiful thirteenth century town, Gamla Stan. We aimed to represent both angles in our font choice. The sans serif and clean typography were balanced with a more classical serif font in the tag line.

Blue represents Stockholm's famous water and sky. The cool grey is a modern color representing the Scandinavian positioning.

Having a viable claim to your space is critical in city branding, as today's consumer will quickly realize when claims are false. The brand book, was written in Swedish, as most of the stakeholders and partners were Swedish based organisations. It was developed to support the Stockholm brand, maintaining strong positioning as the most important destination in Scandinavia.

### The Work (continued)

Our creative proposition: If Scandinavia was a country then Stockholm would be its capital. *Stockholm, The Capital of Scandinavia*. That line resonated as soon as it was written. It was bold, simple and more than a little provocative.

#### **The Result**

Since the brand was unveiled in 2004, visibility, inward investment and tourism have increased significantly. In 2012, FDI Magazine named Stockholm the best region for foreign direct investment. In 2010 Stockholm was named the first European Green Capital. Inward investment is up and Stockholm is the leading choice for international companies locating to the Scandinavian region. Uptake from partners has also been impressive, with over 430 organisations around the Stockholm region using the brand. The strategy has also had a halo effect around the city, with over 50 municipalities forming an alliance to invest in the strong Stockholm brand.

Most importantly the positioning and branding work has been in place for more than 12 years now and survived three electoral cycles and been supported by politicians of different political parties. This consistency is critical for any place brand.



#### Ingen annanstans i Skandinavien görs fler eller större affärer än i Stockholm.

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#### "Mitt personliga kall är att marknadsföra Stockholm"

Han är hjärnan bakom logotypen "Stockholm-Arlanda Airport" och Stockholms slogan "Stockholm - The Capital of Scandinavia". Engelsmannen Julian Stubbs älskar den svenska huvudstaden. Men han bor i Sigtuna, bata tolv minuter från Arlandas utrikesterminal.

igen varumärkeisetratugen Julian Stabiles var i Stockholm var en kall vinterdag i december 1989. Det var minusgrader och anlade och han bodde på ett houdl i Gamla stat.

- Jug blev fileiblaad direkt. Det var så norhårt rackert, siger hos

Pi don tiden drev han en litzu annombyrii London. De hade nigra srenska kunder och 1991 bestiende han sig för att ika äver och oppea ett kontur i Seurige. Inom ett är var de tio amstillda och sodan den har karväron gätt. spiknikt uppit. I juni i år köptes hans företag Dowell Stubles ar den internationella koncernen Gyra International, där Jolian Stabiles nuir internationell markenalished.

Sam inflyend till Stuckholm har hen alltid sevine sin addedda balgroad sons on konkurrendfield.

- Jag har dot into mationalla perspektivat som hebdes för att marknadelites Sverige och reensha foretag utomlands. De allra florta utilitaninger vet ingenting on Stockholm effer har en mana feldeiga föreställningar. Det gäller att locka hit folk så att de kan se med egna itgen har vackert det är, säger han

Ar 2001 unitades has at LFV for at ta fram en ny varania/kontratugi och att ga Arlanda en rsy, internationell profil. Ets lied i arbetet varatt ta fram en ny egen logotyp till Stockhalm-Aslanda Airport

- Man kan inte marknadefira Arlanda utan att samtidigt markeadolites Saukholes. Flygplatsen hänger tajt ihop med hovschetsden, cheve han.

Nigra som genast imponerades av hans tan-

larginger sar Stockholms stad, och 2005 hansrade Johan Stables "Stockholm - The Capital of Scandinavia'

- Skandingvien is betydligt mer kint utomlands in Sverige. Desoutom är det mindre politiskt laddat. Sverige kopplas i vissa grupper itop med socialism, medan Skandingrion in mer neutrale, säger han.

Han ser det som sitt personligs kall att markmaleling Stockholm. På tritiden deriver han int nu manas till en te-serie, som - om något produktionsholag nappar - ska umpela sig i Stuckholm men vara på engelska.

- Det som hindrar svensk film och tv från an exportance in just spriker. Och film och ry har on oncern hetydalsa für antalet tanistat, siger han.

Truss sin kärlek till Stockholm är det i Sigrana som han har valt att hosätta sig "thm vachment plans ing sem"

Dir hor han nu med sin fru och trä söner på 16 år och fem ås. Själv prøtter han inte gärna ovendea, även om han flirstår det mesta, men hans obser är träspräkiga, för att inte säga trepelling

Min fra itr amerikansks. Min femileigs son her hones om en "cookie", mig om en "biscuit" och dagispersonalen om ett "kes", säger han. Julian Stubbs har alltid behållit sin internationella identitet och är på resande fot mellan 100-och 120 dagar om äret.

Homiltin tar det mig tolv minuter att korma till Arlandas utrikostarminal. Det är den perfekts kombinationen av hardiv och närhet till hels världen, säger han.

Ay Kasin Tidesbries

## he Local WEDEN'S NEWS IN ENGLISH

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## Survey: Stockholm brand ra high

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tockholm has been ranked as the seventh strongest brand amon ties. Furthermore Stockholm ranked second in how well it makes nd, according to a new survey by Saffron Consultants.

Sweden is in the eye of the beholder (15 Oct 08)

East ghost, west ghost: spooky walks in Sweden (13 Oct 08)

Söderling aces his way to Stockholm Open final (12 Oct 08)

The European City Brand Barometer is a survey compiled by UK t Saffron Consultants. Saffron sought to compare and contrast place strengths and thus measured the strength of cities' brands and ass successfully cities project their attractions to exploit their assets.

The study reviewed a total of 72 European cities and results were produce scores in three categories - City Brand Strength, City Ass 3rand Utilization.

According to the criteria Paris and London come out on top of the rand Strength and City Asset strength.

Stockholm, the self-styled 'Capital of Scandinavia', was considered of it. Silling in this sharts Seven and On On

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Julian Stubbs at Stureplan in Stackholm, He brings an outsider's perspective to the Swedish ad market.

## HELPING Stockholm WITH THE THING

#### SWEDEN MAY SUFFER some brain drain when its creative

minds go abroad, but there is also brain gain when talents are lared to the northern shores. One prime example is the Stockholm-based agency Dowell/Stubbs, founded in 1989 by Eric Dowell, an American, and Julian Stubbs, an Englishman.

"Even though Sweden can be quite provincial, its industry is very international," Julian Stubbs says when we meet him at Stureplan, the advertising hot spot of Stockholm, Stabbs is CEO of Dowell/Stabbs, a member of SACC-USA and a key player on the Swedish "A-Team" according to business weekly Affärsvärlden. The company has an international presence, taking on projects such as strengthening the brand of the city of Stockholm and of Arlanda Airport, and boosting the global brand image of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS: the baby Einstein photo-on the cover of this issue was developed for this campaign).

When it comes to Stockholm, Julian Stubbs says that although it's important to be kazig (the Swedish equivalent of possessing the Yiddish chutzpah), the city has been a bit too eager to jump on the trends-IT. biotech, the Water Capital, etc.-risking diluting the brand. "People

don't like to change brands? You have to find Stockholm's space in people's minds, and you need to know who you're competing with," he says, pointing to one obvious contender, Copenhagen, Dowell/Stubbs. took aim marketing Sweden not to the regional market but to the world, adopting for its ads the brazen tag line "The Capital of Scandinavia." Iselt that kaxig, or what?

BY HANS SANDBERG

Stubbs sees differences between Swedish and American advertising. Swedes have a pragmatic streak and are quick to adjust, he says, while Americans tend to be more conservative, preferring sugarcoated messages."The Swedish-American link is a very tight one, and Swedes are generally very comfortable with America and American brands." Still, he stresses, you have to be careful when advertising to American market-if's easy to underestimate the cultural differences."This is a major problem, and you may lack many of the reference points. You have to understand what's going to play in the U.S. You have to have Americans on board if you're going to work in America. And don't forget that America is 50 states?"=

A DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER.

om seeking B Age D DUC EN'S NEWS IN ENGLISH National Business Politics Sport Swedish Life Society Science & Technology Analysis & Opinion Viking clash: Danes and SIGN IN Swedes battle to be biggest Why Register? Contact Us Published: 18th October 2007 18:10 OET Advertise When Stockholm's Mayor donned a t-shirt proclaiming the city 'Capital of Scandinavia', the reaction from the neighbours was predictably indignant. Dan Boman looks at how Stockholm and Copenhagen are TAG Cheaper In Neurslands battling to prove who's biggest and best. Privacy Policy internationa For two years Stockholm has busily been marketing itself as the 'Capital of Unaubsorbs Scandinavia', in a campaign intended to mark the city out as the natural From your fixed telepi destination for foreign investment in the Nordic region. Yet not everyone Vinterhas been pleased by this promotional wheeze - particularly not värme TEAD HORE & ORDER neighbouring Scandinavians. Now Copenhagen has upped the ante, claiming to be the Real Capital of Scandinavia. ഹടി Sterling.nu The Danes fexed their muscles during a recent travel fair in Stockholm, when Copenhagen figh profile rape case me Kastrup Airport published a five page document mach Supreme Court on why their city is the place to be. This was 18th October 2007 widely viewed as counterattack on Stockholm's Johanason boosts harre Mayor Kristina Axén Olin, who has been proudly pride at Stockholm Open displaying a t-shirt bearing the city's slogan. 13th Outsider 2007 oim feas popular as Is it a vice move to ban ampling it Copenhagen politicians have now joined forces with Kastrup, Matin Geertsen, head of outure and C Yes 9th Outuber 2007 recreation at the city council, gave Danish newspapers his opinion: CNO "Copenhagen is indisputably the most important edish 🗖 BODIO1998X 💕 🕾 💐 and central city in Scandinavia. If there should be Today's most popular artic land to a friend one capital in this region, it's here", he said. Printable version 8. Managine has bill for Smeeth There has not been an official Scandinavian Sweden Democrats to laur capital since the 16th century, when Copenhagen ruled the Kalmar union. But many see the trademark as just 3. Man shot dead on Stockho too valuable to be neglected. According to brand communications 4. Dead baby not munitered strategist Julian Stubbs, it is a powerful tool to reach foreign investors. "Until 2001, Stockholm was the given place to do business, but then Copenhagen launched a strong marketing campaign and gained financial status. Stockholm needed a long term brand to establish itself as the most vital city to do business, he says, Stubbs worked on Stockholm's trademark and analyzed the competition from neighbouring countries. 'Scandinavia is an attractive region. To be recognized as the capital brings a lot of attention - it's a way to put Stockholm back on the foreign investors' shopping lists. What the city needs is to build a name as strong as London or Barcelona or other major European cities. Olle Zetterberg, president of Stockholm Business Region, a council-run nization for morning Ripckholm, says the slogan also has a role in



Viking ballie breaks out a

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## Företagsplats Stockholm

Burnter's Cleaned Cities









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