

Surveillance cameras secure Danish housing cooperative. Tenants at Gersager Park installed 108 Axis network cameras to prevent trouble and disturbances.



Organization:
Gersagerparken
Cooperative Housing
Society

Location:
Greve, Denmark

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partners:
ATEA, EET, Milestone

Mission

The cooperative housing society* Gersager Park in the Danish town of Greve has 1,100 apartments with some 2,500 tenants. At Gersager Park, they have never had any particular problems, but since security cameras were installed in a neighboring housing area that was having problems, the tenants at Gersager Park decided to also get video surveillance since they were worried that there might be a domino effect. They felt there was a risk that the troublemakers would move on to Gersager Park instead. The housing society contacted Axis partner ATEA, who previously had put in filters at Gersager Park. ATEA has now installed Axis network cameras with Milestone XProtect® software.

Solution

The installation started in January of 2011 and consists of 108 Axis network cameras placed in strategic locations. The solution is flexible, and the tenants at Gersager Park chose to have cameras installed in half of the 80 entrances within the blocks of apartments.

The tenants themselves can move these cameras to other entrances, as needed. Additional units have been placed in common areas and along public footpaths and tunnels that lead into the housing area.

Result

The majority of tenants are satisfied with the security that the surveillance cameras give, seeing them as security cameras rather than surveillance cameras.

At Gersager Park, there has been a positive dialog with the tenants before as well as during and after the installation of the surveillance cameras. The housing manager, John T. Olsen, has noted that both he himself and his colleagues receive more e-mails now than before the installation, since the tenants themselves have become more observant of keeping law and order and thus more often send reports of any irregularities they have witnessed.

*A cooperative housing society is a democratic non-profit association that owns and manages blocks of apartments and rents them out to its members.



The solution at Gersager Park consists of AXIS Q1755 and AXIS M3204 Network Cameras that monitor public pathways and tunnels that lead into the housing area.

"We have chosen AXIS Q1755 for this task because the cameras have zoom, auto focus, and a day/night function, and since you can zoom from a PC to achieve the desired picture quality as well as picture segments. Furthermore, the cameras can see from a very long distance, which makes them perfect for this kind of task," says Business Manager Michael Okholm Nielsen from ATEA.

40 AXIS M3204 HDTV-quality Network Cameras have been installed in and around selected entrances. This camera is a vandal-resistant dome camera, which means that the camera lens is covered by a protective glass dome to prevent it being moved or removed.

The last camera model that was chosen at Gersager Park was AXIS P3344-VE, 61 in all. According to Michael Okholm Nielsen this camera has been chosen for strategic locations because it can see alongside the buildings, has HDTV quality and a suitable focal distance that can be set to the desired picture segment.

"The camera has a sun visor on the glass dome that protects the lens from sunlight and poor recordings. This camera is of course also vandal-resistant," adds Michael Okholm Nielsen.

The most important thing for Gersager Park is that the system is flexible, and with that in mind they have chosen to take advantage of ATEA's DLM concept – Device Lifecycle Management. The DLM process is adapted and optimized according to the practical task and the individual customer. A monthly fee is paid to ATEA for service and insurance for all the cameras. Equipment that has been destroyed is replaced with new equipment, so that Gersager Park always has the most up to date equipment from Axis.

Information is important

One of the most important aspects regarding video surveillance is to make sure that people are not monitored unnecessarily. Axis partner ATEA, who set up the solution for video surveillance at Gersager Park, takes this matter very seriously:

"We are responsible for telling those who have access to the surveillance recordings what they are allowed to do – legally as well as adhering to the ethical rules – in that unnecessary surveillance is not allowed," says Michael Okholm Nielsen.

"We spent 3 days at Gersager Park holding meetings where we informed the tenants about what was happening and how they could ask questions regarding the video surveillance. This contributed to creating a positive attitude to it and to the security that is so important in connection with video surveillance," emphasizes Michael Okholm Nielsen.





Good evidence

Gersager Park has a large and enclosed area for rubbish, but there has been a problem with companies who have driven by and dropped off their waste at night. According to the housing manager at Gersager Park, John T. Olsen, this is no longer a problem: "With our surveillance cameras from Axis, we can now look at the recordings of who has stopped by. And since the camera images are so clear, we can see their faces as well as the company logos on their vehicles."

Since long before the cameras were installed, the tenants at Gersager Park have been very consistent in their way of handling disturbances. Among other things, they charge a fine of 250 DKK on top of the rent, for individuals who throw their rubbish in and around the entrances. Before the cameras were installed, you had to sort through the rubbish manually in order to find anything with a name and address on it, but now you can just use the camera recordings.

"People also became shrewder, sorting out anything with a name and address on it. That made it quite hard to find the culprits. But with the sharpness and zoom function of the Axis cameras, we now have solid proof when we need to find those who cause problems," says the housing manager at Gersager Park.

"With our surveillance cameras from Axis we can now find and look at recordings of individuals who have created problems or disturbances. And since the camera images are so clear, we can see the faces of trouble-makers and the company logos on the vehicles that drop off garbage in our garbage area."

A necessary part of security in everyday life

It has only been about 10–15 years since people started associating video surveillance with "Big Brother is watching you." Today this attitude has changed: "We have supplied video surveillance to several housing areas in Denmark, among them Tingbjerg and Vollsmose. For them it has primarily been a question of stopping disturbances, while the surveillance at Gersager Park is about prevention and creating security. In fact, it is the element of security that has made people accept video surveillance as a necessary part of their daily life," says Michael Okholm Nielsen from ATEA.

At Gersager Park, there is no doubt that Axis' surveillance cameras have come to stay. "We are very happy with this solution. And as time goes on, we find new places where we need to have cameras installed in order to give the tenants security in their daily life," concludes housing manager John T. Olsen from Gersager Park.



About Axis Communications

Axis is an IT company offering network video solutions for professional installations. The company is the global market leader in network video, driving the ongoing shift from analog to digital video surveillance. Axis products and solutions focus on security surveillance and remote monitoring, and are based on innovative, open technology platforms.

Axis is a Swedish-based company, operating worldwide with offices in more than 20 countries and cooperating with partners in more than 70 countries. Founded in 1984, Axis is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Stockholm under the ticker AXIS. For more information about Axis, please visit our website at www.axis.com.