



SKELLEFTEÅ (SE)

In the green transition's epicentre.

Scales

XL/L

Team representative: architect/urban planner/landscape architect

Location: Ursviken, Skellefteå

Population: 74 000

Reflection site: 800 ha

Project site: 40 ha

Site proposed by: Skellefteå Municipality

Actors involved: Skellefteå Municipality

Owners of the site: Skellefteå Municipality

Commission after competition: The prize winning team(s) will continue the work with the competition assignment in a workshop with the municipality, with an option for further work towards an implementation of the proposal, including workshops, various planning documents, illustrations, drawings and citizen dialogues.



INHABITED MILIEUS'S CHALLENGES

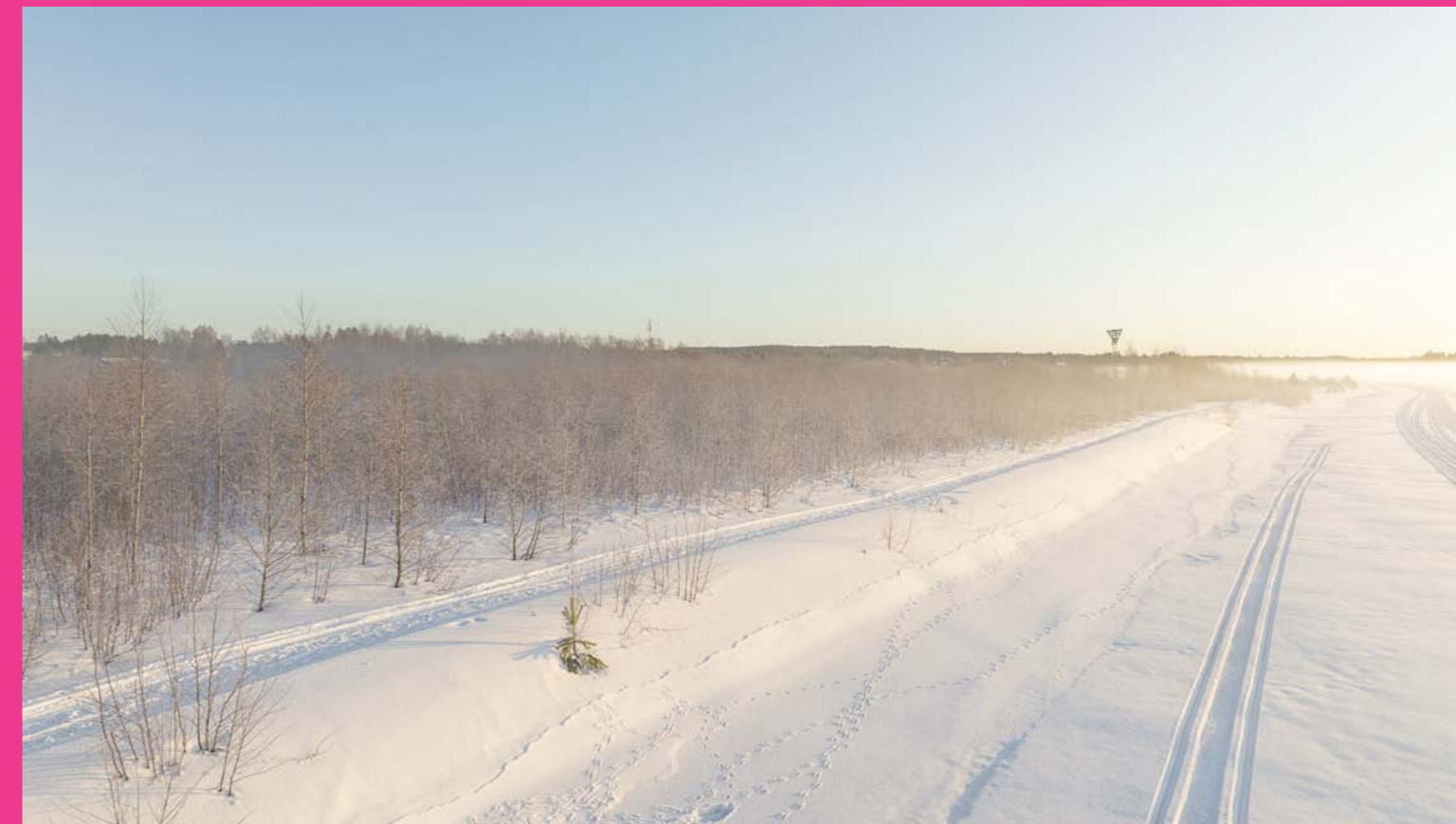
The green industrial transformation is also shifting the direction for Northern Sweden. In recent years, the municipality of Skellefteå has become a Swedish and European symbol of growth, future-proof energy solutions and ground-breaking technology. The largest battery factory in Europe has been established in Skellefteå. Together with the richness of natural resources from forests, rivers and minerals, as well as well-developed renewable energy production, it gives this city in the periphery of Europe, unique conditions for the new green industries from a global perspective. The region that until recently had a long period of low development now attracts multi million industrial investments.

Skellefteå is growing from 74 000 inhabitants to 90 000 in 2030, with the expectation to continue growing even further. Hence, the need for new residences is very high. The project site at stake is a former wood pulp industrial area. Part of the soil is after a decontamination still not reaching the requirements for safe houses. The proposals should present new residences in a living and attractive milieu while taking care of the existing values such as the direct closeness to the river and surrounding nature, offering opportunities to flourish again.

Planning and building the new area of Scharins, gives the opportunity to take care of abandoned industrial land with historical traces, set in a beautiful scenery along the river. Today the site is overgrown with bushes that makes it barely accessible. Treating the soil and creating strategies for a healthy living environment will add values to the area, improving conditions for natural and urban life in co-existence. The abandoned land is not to be seen as a blank paper for development. Beyond handling the soil's remaining contamination, it will be important to map the site with traces and narratives from history, the landscape, climate conditions, context of building traditions, scales and typologies and the high and extraordinary development rate for Skellefteå.

HOW CAN THE NEW RESIDENTIAL AREA HIGHLIGHT THE LOCATION'S HISTORY AS A FORMER WOOD INDUSTRIAL AREA AND PORT WITH GLOBAL TRADE?

HOW MAY NATURAL AND URBAN LIFE CO-EXIST AND FLOURISH IN THIS ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL AREA WITH A BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, ON PARTLY CONTAMINATED LAND?



QUESTIONS TO THE COMPETITORS

The vision is to transform Scharins into an exclusive living environment, surrounded by greenery and water. How can new life be given to this barren land that once was a prosperous harbour for global trade and production? The area should offer a mix of housing and businesses as well as areas for recreation and leisure activities. The proposals should include 1000–3000 homes. The scale should be relatively low, to fit in with the surroundings, mainly consisting of residential blocks. Proposals should demonstrate:

- A vision of transforming this old industrial site to a **vibrant neighbourhood** where people, animals and nature may co-exist in a unique place close to the river.
- Innovative and sustainable solutions to build **safe residences** despite the partly **contaminated** ground. Are there experiences and lessons from other locations with similar challenges, that can be applied to Scharins?
- Ways to build on the exclusive location next to the river and the creation of **recreational opportunities** for residents and the public.
- How can the new residential area highlight the **history** of the location, taking into consideration the previous function as a prosperous global trading port and the wood industries?
- How can **accessibility** to Scharins increase for residents and visitors?
- How to strengthen the area as a **meeting place** for a variety of people, encompassing housing, companies and recreational facilities. What functions, businesses and services could be added?
- Ways to enhance **biological diversity and climate change adaptation**, e.g. through increased and varied vegetation, improvements of the nearby stream, and by taking care of access water.
- How to facilitate **social integration** through a diversity of residences and forms of tenure.
- The **arctic climate** must be taken into consideration.