
EUROPAN 17 VÄXJÖ

LIVING CITIES – COMPETITION BRIEF

European is a biennial
competition for young
architects under 40
years of age.

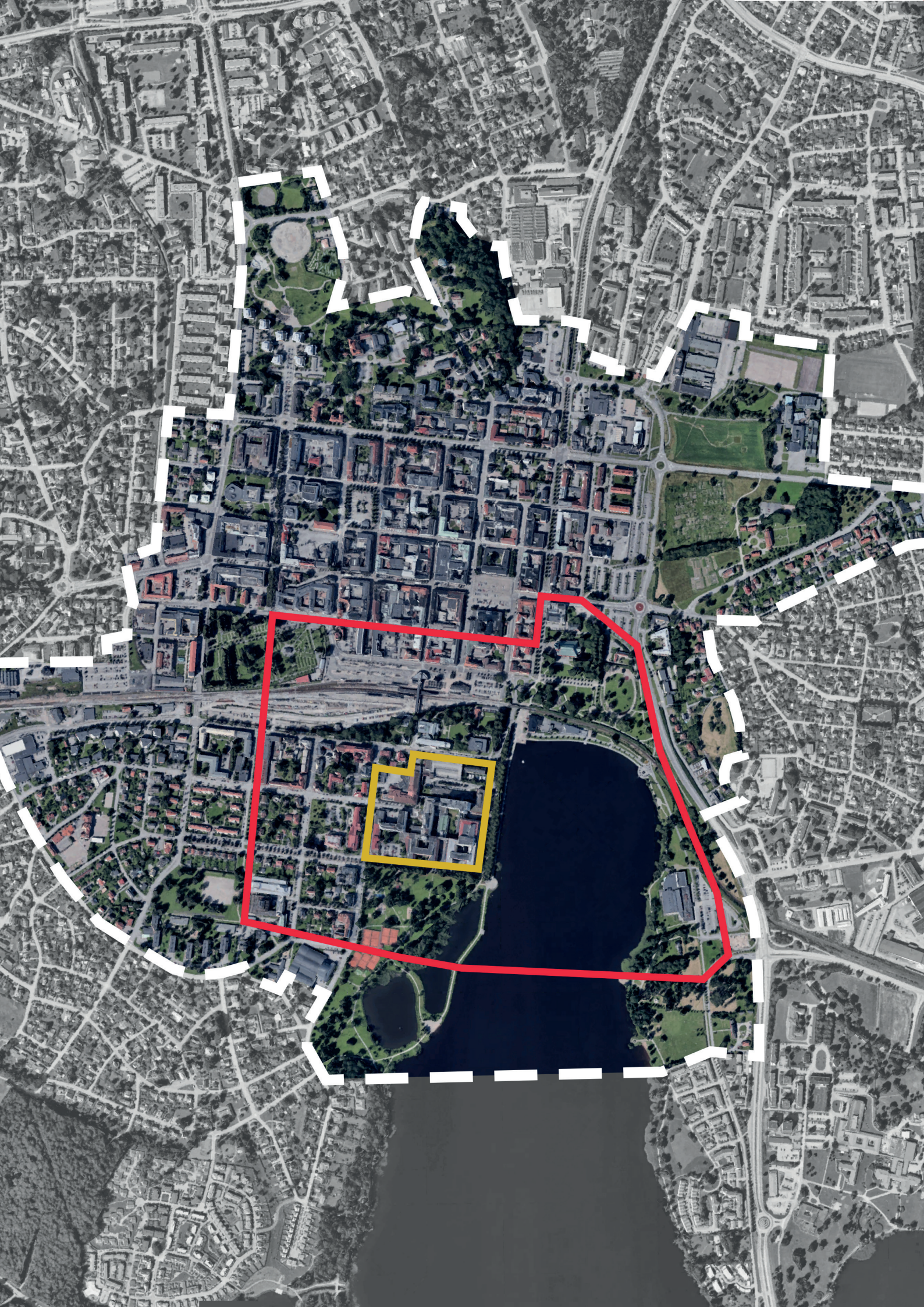


European SE

“Reconnecting the hospital area to the city’s
structure and reusing the buildings or their
materials when the hospital moves.”



VÄXJÖ ■



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EUROPAN 17
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Site Representative

Henrik Wibroe, City Architect
Sebastian Gårdendahl, Urban
Planner
Municipality of Växjö

Actor involved

Municipality of Växjö

“Team representative”

Urban planner, landscape
architect or architect

Expected skills regarding the site’s issues and characteristics

Architecture, landscape
architecture, urban planning

Communication

Anonymous local exhibition after
the 1st jury round.

After the competition there will
be a public prize ceremony,
a catalogue of results will be
produced, and the winners will
be published on the website of
Architects Sweden.

Jury evaluation

With the participation of the site
representatives.

Post-competition intermediate procedure

Presentation of the rewarded
teams to the site representatives,
followed by a discussion.

The ambition of the municipality
is to involve the prize winning
team(s) in an implementation
process.

Assignment after the 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.

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INTRODUCTION

The Municipality of Växjö and Europan Sweden would like to thank you for choosing to participate in Europan 17. The competition brief provides information about the character of the site and plot, and includes a list of references with links to supplementary information. In addition to this material, you can download high-resolution images, maps and drawings from the project database. Please read the condensed "Synthetic Site File" brief parallel to this unabridged competition brief. The theme of Europan 17 is "Living Cities".

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VÄXJÖ MUNICIPALITY

In the heart of Småland lies Växjö surrounded by the region's characteristic forests, small lakes, and stony fields. It carries a strong entrepreneurial tradition. It is the commercial and cultural centre of the region, and it also accommodates the region's central hospital, the site for Växjö's entry for Europan 17.

In the future the operation of the hospital is planned to be moved to a new building in a new location outside the city. The buildings that remain will no longer be used by the hospital. With their very central location the buildings have the possibility to develop Växjö in the right direction for the future. The buildings do not have an obvious purpose or value once the hospital has moved, but the option to demolish them stands against Växjö's sustainability policy. The city has a high ecological ambition and a long tradition of historical and modern wooden construction.

The competition task is to investigate how the structure within the hospital block can be developed to create better connections with the rest of the city, how the existing buildings or their material can be transformed or reused, and to suggest a new programmatic content for the site.



Competition brief

Växjö



View over the city of Växjö towards south. Photo: Anders Bergön

URBAN CONTEXT

Regional description

The Ice Age shaped the landscape. The barren environment shaped its inhabitants. Småland's dark forests, stony fields, and limited resources, together with the rays of light in the forest, the lakes and the fields, have created a creativity and stubbornness in its inhabitants. Innovative solutions emerge from this harshness. History is important in shaping the creative Småland; here you had to use your ingenuity to survive. Reusing and protecting resources is in our backbone. Hard work matters.

Småland is Sweden's centre for wooden houses, wooden furniture and glass production. Småland is **the Kingdom of Furniture**. Well-known furniture manufacturer such as IKEA, Lammhults, Källemo, Bruno Mathsson, Norrgavel, Gemlamöbler and many more are from Småland. In the Kingdom of Furniture there is a unique design and history with roots in the forests of Småland. Young designers and innovative manufacturers are exposed to the world. The origin is in Småland. Småland is **the Kingdom of Wooden Buildings**. There are several creative building companies with wooden construction as their specialty, Träcentrum (the Wood Centre) for collaboration and education, the Linnaeus University (named after the famous botanist Carl von Linné,

descended from Småland) with research about wood and glass, and the innovation centre Smart Housing Småland. Småland is **the Kingdom of Glass**, the magical, beautiful, and unique area in the forests east of Växjö. Every year, a million people come here to experience the glassblowing process by the hot ovens, and to buy glass. Since the start in 1742, at most 45 glassworks have been in operation at the same time. A mixture of larger glassworks such as Kosta Boda and small studios are inspired by each other, beautifully framed by the Småland nature. Well-known glass designers are Bertil Vallien, Ulrika Hydman Vallien, Ingegerd Råman, Ludvig Löfgren and many more.

In Småland's unique nature, you can see the stars in the sky, the elks in the forest, go fishing in the lakes, smell the forest and find chanterelles. Culture such as written and visual arts, sculpture, dance, theatre, musicals, music, and song is created here. The Ark, Musica Vitae, Pär Lagerkvist, Wilhelm Moberg, Elin Wägner and the world-famous opera singer Kristina Nilsson are all from Småland. Småland is **entrepreneurial** with creative, innovative, stubborn, and assiduous residents who, through diligent work and cooperation, start new small family businesses, which sometimes grow as big as IKEA.

Description of the city

Historical development

Växjö is an old town with a rich history. At the beginning of the 11th century, a couple of farms were located in the place that later would become Växjö, the town with the market place where two roads met by the lake, Väg sjö (road – väg, lake – sjö). According to the legend, the English missionary Sigfrid came to Sweden as the first messenger of Christianity. He settled in Växjö and built Sweden's first Episcopal church. In 1170, the city became the Episcopal seat. During the Middle Ages, the town only had about a hundred inhabitants, but the population grew during the winter months when the lakes froze and there were market places on the ice. Its position next to important trade routes and lakes with a lot of shipping, attracted many robbers. Kronoberg Castle, played an important role in protecting the city and the transportation of goods from theft. The castle also formed a border post to Denmark. By the 17th century the castle had played out its role and stones were picked from it to be used as building material in Växjö.

The city's layout is of the classic 17th-century grid style, but not much of the city's original buildings remain, due to several devastating fires. After the fire in 1843, a new city emerged in empire style. However, most of the buildings from that time were demolished during the 1960s and 70s, when the Swedish Folkhemmet¹ and the Million Programme² was the prevailing paradigm. During the 1960s the population increased by more than 100 percent. New industries moved to Växjö and the business sector grew. During the 1960s, the city began its journey towards becoming a university city.

The character of the city

The grid city consists of opposites that meet and unite. Crowds and stillness, greenery and buildings, monumental and moderate, solemn and everyday, renewal and preservation, old and new, mine and yours, big and small. The grid is the framework

that gives space and flexibility to life, regeneration and change. There is a sustainable balance between conservation and development in the city. The human scale characterises the built environment defined by the rich cultural heritage where old and new stand side by side. The grid with its esplanades, Stortorget (the main square), landmark buildings, the cathedral, the views towards Östrabo and the lake Växjösjön, all shape the city's identity. The city's annual rings contribute to understanding and continuity, and its generous greenery invites residents and visitors to relaxation and recreation. The meeting between city and country, where the built environment embraces the lake and the fields provides scenic views in the middle of the city centre. It is safe and welcoming to walk and move through the city where sustainable public transportation is the most prevalent. A diversity of experiences for mind, body, and soul characterises the city centre. Culture, leisure activities, education, entertainment, and commerce are within easy reach throughout the day and all year round. Cooperation and entrepreneurship are allowed to grow to contribute to the city's progression and potential to develop. Växjö will continue to be a regional growth engine with historical roots.

Centrally located in the city is the region's central hospital. Its character diverges from the otherwise well-established grid. In the future the operation of the hospital is planned to be relocated, leaving a site the size of four city blocks, available to accommodate new life.

Stormwater management

The city slopes southwards, which means that much of the rainwater falling over Växjö flows towards the surrounding lakes. The municipality has long worked with different ways to delay stormwater to avoid flooding. This is partially accomplished by Linnékanalen, a canal which is able to flood during heavy rains. The shoreline boardwalk adjacent to the competition site covers a stormwater channel that collects water from the city and transports it further south to the lagoons, where the water gets purified before reaching the lake (see picture).



Shoreline boardwalk with stormwater pipes. Photo: Mats Samuelsson



Lagoons for stormwater management in Växjösjön



View over the Cathedral and the lake Väckjösjön. Photo: Anders Bergön



View over the city of Växjö towards southwest. Photo: Anders Bergön

SUSTAINABILITY/NATURAL VALUES

Spending time in nature is characterized by the right of public access, which means that everyone is allowed to move freely in nature, if done with respect. This long tradition forms a natural relationship with nature and also manifests itself in the way Swedes spend time in the city's green spaces and swim in its waters. Everything is always available.

To ensure public access to the water and preserve good living conditions for animal and plant life on land and water, Swedish legislation prohibits new buildings closer than 100 meters from the shoreline. It aims to secure the long-term conditions for public access to coastal areas and to preserve good living conditions for animal and plant life on land and in water. Exemption from shoreline protection can be granted³. The lakes in Vaxjö are easily accessible to the public with many common and open areas.

Vaxjösjön, Linnéparken, Strandbjörket and the area around the lake Trummen constitute Vaxjö's City Park. The competition area is in its immediate vicinity. The city's generous greenery invites residents and visitors to relaxation and recreation. Within walking distance from the centre is the urban collective farm Östrabo Ekobacke on a location that has been cultivated since the Middle Ages.

- In the 1970s, restoration of polluted lakes began.

This has improved the quality and made the lakes in the city swimmable.

- In 1996, Vaxjö's politicians decided that Vaxjö should become a fossil fuel-free municipality. Emissions have decreased by 59.1 percent between 1993–2018.
- The municipality was an early adopter of biofuel-based district heating. In 1980, the expansion began.
- The municipality was early with climate adaptation in the form of canals, lagoons and delay reservoirs to handle heavy rainfall.

Sustainable Vaxjö 2030⁴. Vaxjö will be perceived as safe and give its residents the possibility to meet and thrive. Environments for a living urban life provide possibilities for people to meet, which can strengthen the development of society and democracy. Vaxjö will be an attractive place for innovative businesses and associations that contribute to high and sustainable growth.

The municipality has a thoroughly developed sustainability policy and a wooden building strategy, which recommends that new buildings are built with wood⁵. Issues regarding climate, air, water, soil, and forests are handled by the municipality. Vaxjö is also a member of Viable Cities, which works for climate-neutral cities.



In the heart of Småland, surrounded by the region's characteristic forests



Växjö city park in close relation to the project site.



Urban farming at Östrabo backe. Photo: Lina Alriksson

LIVING CITIES

Reimagining architecture by caring for inhabited milieus.

We are facing highly challenging conditions of climate change and social inequalities. This demands other ways of planning and living, in coexistence with nature and other species. We need to change how we think about and imagine the city and architecture, and we need new approaches to create projects within a context of ecological transition. This is what the theme of European 17 will explore.

Ecology is the study of how different species and non-living factors have an impact on an ecosystem and how they interact in nature. Our built environment must provide better conditions for urbanity and nature to coexist in stronger mutual relationships, that is more ecological. European 17 wants to study how our living environment can become regenerative by exploring how social planning and development can be a factor in recreating healthy conditions for all parts of nature and society. To do so, we need radical change towards a comprehensive approach in how we perceive and create space and care for living environments. This entails a radical paradigmatic shift. Sensitivity, responsibility, and creativity are aspects of care and interest in other beings. To care, you have to take the standpoint of the one needing care or attention. The political care ethicist Joan Tronto defines care as “the characteristic activity of the human species which includes all that we do in order to maintain, perpetuate and repair our world so that we can live there as well as possible”. With this as a starting point, European 17 approaches projects, sites and situations with the goal to create a living city for humans, other species and non-living factors in our surroundings.

The care-based approach will lead to a necessary interplay of innovative, dynamic and varied project processes:

- producing an active understanding of what is already in place (biological + socio-anthropological scales), a situational intelligence;
- repairing mistreated territories by taking away environmental loads and creating new, saner conditions;
- engaging in sober urban projects (reduced land consumption) and in architectural projects that are economical in terms of materials, technicality, and energy, that are attentive to resources with regards

to their impact on our planet;

- reinforcing, regenerating or creating qualities of hybridisation between nature and culture;
- linking the scale of the large-scale ecological challenges with the scale of everyday places and shared spaces to simplify and encourage the possibility of people engaging in their environment;
- imagining/creating architecture connecting the present and future to make it adaptable over time (sustainable development);
- tackling projects with a readiness for design and production processes that involve all actors with their diverse and different roles.

The sites present situations where the relationship between nature and culture will be studied to improve and reconnect them to each other. Questions asked are how to strengthen biodiversity in the presence of humans or revitalizing abandoned sites with obsolete uses. How to create new spaces by reuse and recycling and by enhancing areas with green and solidary projects? Some contexts will present mainly natural elements, even if they may have been weakened. Beyond granting special care to the natural areas, the question here will be how to integrate the presence of man in a subtle and non-disruptive way. The repair of nature in built areas most often serves to create landscape connections, a green grid or to reconnect fragmented areas. Here the question in focus will be how the human and other species in the environment may coexist? The present, the past and the future of a site can be linked through ongoing and continuous cycles and rhythms such as the variations of days and nights, seasons, sunrise and sunset, tides and social events. Can the inhabitants be involved in the ecological transition and maintenance of their district? During the pandemic, the potentials and benefits of proximity have become evident. To plan for the 15-minute city where you can walk, cycle or take public transportation to all functions and services needed, is of great value.

Mixing nature and culture, the European 17 sites are located in numerous environments. They have different histories and should in their future development solve different problems. The proposals should present ways to re-imagining architecture and social development by caring for inhabited environments by providing better conditions for urbanity and nature to coexist in stronger and more mutually beneficial relationships. This is the aim of European 17.

LIVING CITIES VÄXJÖ MUNICIPALITY

Imagine a second life while taking care of the existing

Material values and resources. The existing situation offers a large building volume with a variety of materials. How this can be taken care of, reused, reshaped or moved within the site, can provide interesting traces of the former hospital buildings, while at the same time constituting a healthy and sustainable use of resources. It is also important to separate valuable materials and building parts from those that cannot be reused or recycled. The cost and environmental impact of material resources should be considered long-term, with the desire for conservation considered along with the values mentioned below.

The cultural values that characterise the area are primarily located outside the competition site, that is, in the rest of Växjö city with its historical roots, buildings, and established grid structure. With this grid, together with a regulation of building height, the city can accommodate a great variety of styles and eras and still provide a clear and permissive structure for growth. This relationship underlines the importance of the relationship between the competition site itself and its surroundings. The care for cultural values will be mainly about relating to what exists outside the competition site itself and establishing a relationship with the rest of the city's structure.

The symbolic value of care in the city. The fact that the region's hospital is centrally located in the city provides a constant presence of "care". There are many people who come here with illnesses, or who work here. All the people who visit the area every day creates a pulse of activity and presence. The central hospital is a popular hub. When that function is moved out of central Växjö, new dynamics need to be added, such as new meeting places, living ground floors, and activities. An important aspect of "care" is to serve people's social needs. "Care" may also reoccur in other forms, and be directed to people, animals, bikes and buildings, among other things.

The natural values that characterise the city surrounds the project site. The direct proximity of Växjösjön, the promenade along it, and the large park Strandbjörket provide great opportunities to shape the meeting between the urban grid and the city's strong natural values. The greenery of the esplanades have great cultural value and are also protected biotopes.

The building tradition in Växjö is strongly linked to the city's location in the forested landscape. Historic buildings with old traditions stand next to modern constructions with new wooden construction technology. This is not the case in the hospital area, but the addition may create connections to the region through the use of wood as a building material.



The hospital area will be transformed to Strandbjörkstaden.

STRATEGIC SITE (MARKED IN WHITE)

The strategic site is the centre of Växjö, which main part is of national interest for cultural heritage.

Växjösjön and Linnéparken. The area around the lake is well used and accessible with walking and cycling paths along its edges. There are many public functions, such as a swimming pool, Strandbjörkshallen (a tennis hall), cafes and restaurants, The House of Emigrants, and the hospital. The area is used for various events. **The Cathedral**, with traces from the 11th century, and the cathedral centre from 2015 are important meeting places in the city. The park Linnéparken, with a stage and playground, are important for events and recreation. Being the city's urban park, the area has a high value for urban life. **The commercial centre.** The grid city characterises the commercial centre with well-defined blocks, straight streets, homogenous building heights and clear sight lines. The area has a homogenous character even though the styles range from empire to modernism. Cultural activities are available in the form of concert venues linked to restaurant activities, and at the Palladium there is a cinema as well as a stage. In the area there are leisure activities such as bowling, boules, dance, and adult educational associations. In the streets there is plenty of public art. **The cultural quarter** consists of Teatortorget and Teaterparken. The area around the library building has green and open elements. The area is pleasant to visit, with its variety of activities, beautiful buildings, and parks. The area has many valuable and well-preserved cultural heritage buildings from different times. The main square, **Stortorget**, is located in the heart of the central city. The square has its origins in the market place that was the beginning of the formation

of Växjö. **Kvarteret Gripen**, along Norra Esplanaden, is one of the city's most preserved historical environments in the city centre. The buildings are one to two storeys high, and are located as solitaires along the street line or slightly recessed with a front yard. **Ringsberg** is an area with heritage value, with its diversity of historical activities, preserved buildings, and green areas. There is great contrast to the strict system of the inner city. In the area there are activities related to school, association life, business, and culture from morning to evening.

Söder's city centre block. The area is part of the late 19th century's expansion of the grid city. The area along Södra Järnvägsgatan's southern side are built with urban blocks, while the building structure is more open on Söder in general, with glimpses from the street to the gardens. **Södra Esplanaden** consists of elegant villas from the 1910s and 1920s with facades in wood or plaster. The buildings are at the front of the plot with gardens at the rear. **Bäckaslöv.** Southeast of Söder's grid plan, the garden city spreads out, with residential buildings and lots of greenery. The buildings consist of a mixture of villas and small-scale multi-family houses, surrounded by large gardens. **Östrabo.** The area is largely unbuilt, apart from Biskopsgården Östrabo. The unbuilt and cultivated land is of great importance as it historically symbolises the transition between city and countryside, giving the area a clear identity. **Östers trädgårdsstad.** The district Öster is a garden city with a large mixture of houses from different times and in different styles. A unifying feature is a limitation in building height and volume, as well as the location of the houses on the plot.



The municipal building in wood, with the city's "common room".



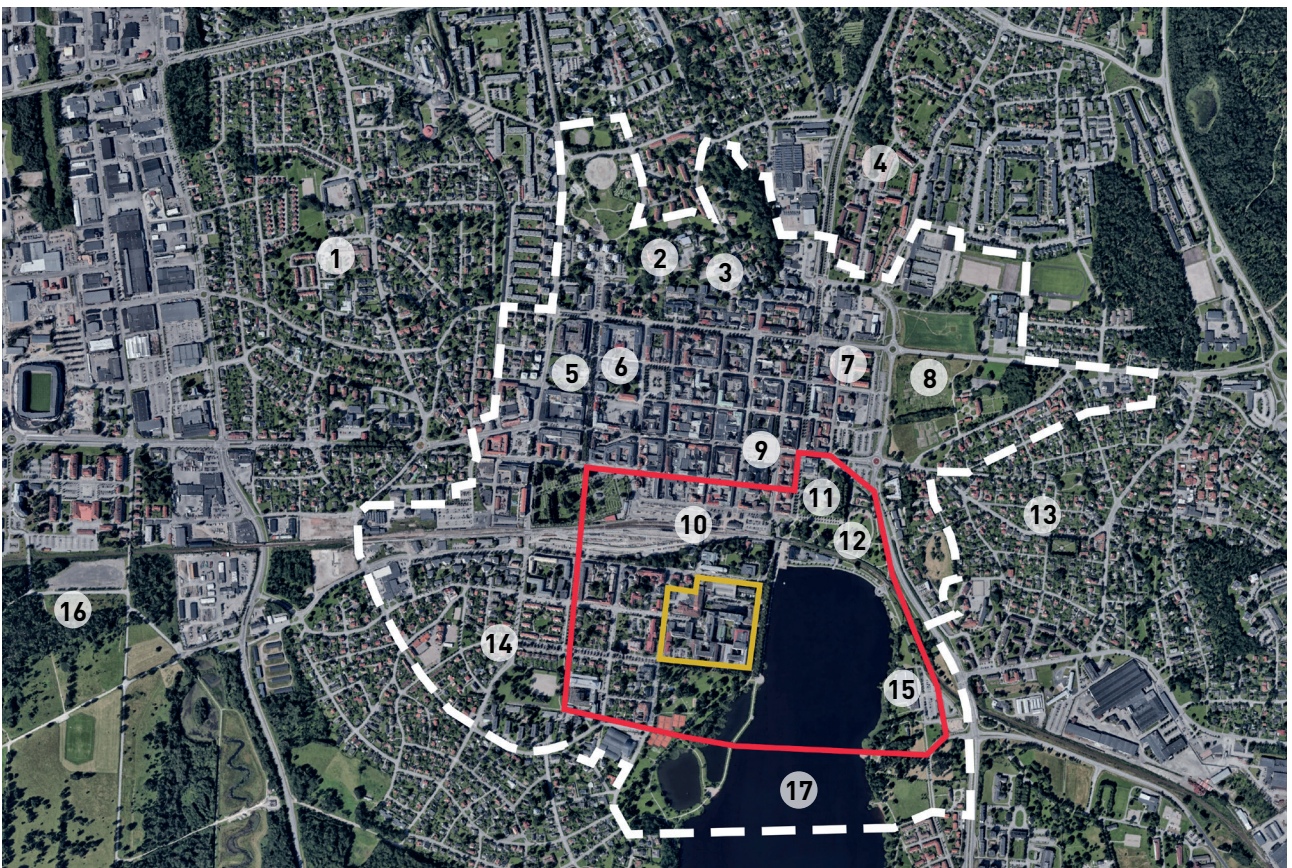
A modern wood building, expansion of Thelestads Mansion.



Christmas in the city. Klostergatan.



The Cathedral and historical centre.



1. Väster, 2. The Region's Theatre, 3. The Cultural School, 4. Gamla Norr, 5. Library, 6. Concert Hall, 7. KV. Gripen, 8. Östrabo City Farming, 9. Stortorget, 10. Railway Station, 11. The Cathedral, 12. Linnéparken, 13. Öster, 14. Söder, 15. Public indoor Swimming Pool, 16. Bäckaslöv, 17. Växjösjön

PROJECT SITE (MARKED IN YELLOW)

Strandbjörkstaden, the competition site in the centre of Växjö, consists of hospital buildings from the 20th century. The block is centrally located, next to Växjö's historical and commercial centre, the communication centre in the north, Växjösjön and its promenade in the east, the park Strandbjörket in the south and the garden city Söder in the west. The hospital is planned to be relocated to a new area in Räppe, west of the city, in the future. Many square meters will then remain in empty buildings, with an extremely central location in the city with gigantic opportunities to develop the centre of Växjö into the future.

The large and compact blocks differ in scale from its surroundings and forms a barrier in the city. The buildings have a low to moderate historical value. The buildings are tall and well visible from the area around the lake. The building complex is oriented inwards with the main entrance centrally located in the middle. The north-west corner consists of a large parking garage, and on the south side, along the Södra Esplanaden, are the entrances for ambulances and deliveries. Therefore the area is perceived as closed from the outside. Unauthorized vehicle traffic is prohibited on Strandvägen.

Description of the values in the project area:

The hospital in Växjö is spread out over an area that used to make up several blocks in the grid city. It has old origins but new buildings. The first infirmary was built 1879. From that time, no buildings remain, but the infirmary's old entrance gates to the Strandpromenaden have been preserved. There are building parts from an expansion phase in the 1930s, but the hospital is completely dominated by buildings built in the 1960s and 1980s. The complex consists of a dense mass of interconnected buildings in various designs, materials, and scale. The tallest building is

nine storeys high. The architecture is generally late modernist, with some postmodern features in the buildings from the 1980's..

Compact built-up area. The infection clinic from 1985 is located outside the hospital complex and represents a transition to the open residential structure on Söder. Interspersed in the dense built-up mass are a few elements of greenery, which is why the adjacent park Strandbjörket and the green area around Växjösjön are such a great asset for the hospital.

Cultural environment. The hospital is a county hospital and an expression of Växjö as a city of residence (meaning the capital of the region).

Our vision and our expectations for the project site is that many nodes and public functions will be developed, which will contribute to a living city. A mixed-use land use plan has been proposed for the site. It may contain some housing, however, the ground floor should be entirely public. The site's unique location demands public functions and content that are valuable for Växjö as the region's capital.

The existing buildings, above and below ground, erected during the 1930s-1980s, all have fully functional building structures for today's purposes, but are not sufficient for the functions desired in the smart hospitals of the future. Structurally, changes have been made to the buildings, as new requirements have been imposed on healthcare. This will continue until the relocation takes place. The existing buildings are not considered to be of such cultural-historical value that they cannot be changed or demolished. The future of each building part must be assessed based on how well it can be included in an architectural idea, a content suitable for the city, and a construction scheme, all while being sustainable.



Hospital building facing east.



Today's main entrance, centrally located in the block.



The project site with the existing hospital buildings, surrounded by the city and the lake.



The hospital area and the city from southwest.

COMPETITION TASK

The competition task is to propose how the city's content can be developed within the hospital area by adding creative activities for the city's further development to an attractive and sustainable city in the future.

The questions to be answered are:

- How can the centre of Växjö, with its history, culture, and commerce, be further developed within the competition site, with regard to living environments and sustainability in all dimensions?
- What does the centre of Växjö need to continue to be lively and attractive for its residents in the city and region, and to attract many visitors?
- Businesses, streets, and squares – what additions does Växjö centre need?
- Construction technology – what needs to be added and what needs to be preserved?

The proposals shall present:

- Specified use and type of activities.
- How the area should be designed; propose an architectural idea and relate it to its surroundings.
- A proposal for the building structure.
- Proposals for reuse of buildings/materials/land.

The new use of the project site is intended to be described as multi-functional. The focus of the competition's task described below is largely taken from the proposal for a new comprehensive plan that is being developed. All the requirements mentioned are needed for a good result.

Built environment. Consideration should be given to the character of today's buildings, but at the same time a new character should be established. The scale should be human and based on a structure that connects in size to the grid, but with a modern twist. The proposal should be given a fine-grained structure, which, together with a varied content, may attract and entice visitors. The connection to surrounding streets and passages is important and the new structure should include squares and other public places. The proportions of the buildings are important when setting the size of streets, squares, parks, and yards, in order to bring in enough light and greenery. The height of additional buildings should be even, between three and six storeys without protruding parts. This is important from the national interest perspective, but also with regard to the cathedral and the lake. The proposed development should add values while protecting the national interest of the surrounding city. The block structure can be broken up, for example by the lake, to create new views and a shorter passage through the site. This gesture can create an important node by the lake, with a public function. The proposal should assess the respective lifespan of the existing buildings and any cultural-historical preservation value. Existing buildings should, as far as possible, be reused or recycled as building material. Traces of the former

county hospital may be established, for example how the entrance was positioned in the middle of the block. However, the new buildings must open up to the rest of the city.

City life (life between the buildings). The competition area is like a city within the city. The ground floors should offer life to the city. The area has a unique location and should offer public activities and not solely consist of housing, even if some is desirable. The area should offer regional destination points, as its current regional importance will disappear when the hospital moves. Public places should be offered outdoors as well as indoors, for free. An idea of how to make the area attractive throughout the building process should be presented. Examples of activities within the area are: cultural activities, performing arts centre, restaurants, market hall, youth centre, a community house, innovation centre, preschool, grocery store, retirement home, hotel, activities linked to the campus, association life, culture, health centre, preschool, congress hall, and library (for children). The parts of the area facing the shoreline and the park need special activation.

Mobility. The grid provides clear orientation and accessibility. Pedestrians should be prioritised, followed by cyclists, public transportation, taxis and carpooling. Bicycles should be given alternative paths as the area has a certain height difference. Mixed traffic is assumed, so that a sustainable flexibility for the future is possible. Bus traffic must be able to service the area. Public activities require access for larger vehicles, and the proposal needs to decide whether it requires a changed use of Strandpromenaden, which is only open to bicycles and pedestrians. Parking needs are to be solved underground, if possible in the existing basement floors, but some on-street parking must also be possible. The proposal should highlight how underground parking can affect the possibility of green courtyards. The section of Södra Järnvägsgatan to the west should be extended along the competition site. **City of residence.** When the county hospital disappears, new regional destination points need to replace it with something of the same dignity. **Overall assessment.** The new area with its functions shall be considered a complement to the historical centre, and be given its own strong character, according to the conditions on the site and its proximity to the lake and the park.

The proposals will form the basis for a citizen dialogue and the development of a planning program. The goal in Växjö is that all construction must meet the requirements according to Träbyggnadsstrategin. Priority must be given to new construction with the least climate impact from the building frame and load-bearing parts. From 2025, priority must be given to new construction with the least climate impact from the entire construction.



1. Main entrance, 2. Parking house, 3. Strandallén, 4. Södra Esplanaden, 5. Strandbjörket (the park)



Project site view from north, the lake and the lagoons.

GENERAL

Submission requirements

Below are abridged submission guidelines — please visit European Europe’s website to read the submission requirements and competition rules in their entirety.

Proposals should consist of panels and a text. The panels should be three in A1 (594 x 841 mm) portrait format. The content should — in drawings, images and text — explain how the proposal relates to the site’s needs and to the theme of “Living Cities”, and how the proposal’s architectural values relate to context and surrounding environment. The content should include a three-dimensional representation of the proposal (for example in perspective, photo montage or model photography). The accompanying text should be a maximum of four A4 pages long and present the proposal ideas, as well as a suggested process of implementation (for example, transforming the plot in a certain order).

JURY

European 17 jury

Members of the competition jury:



Fredrik Drotte, SE
 – Chairman of jury
 – Architect and Planner
 – Head of Urban Planning and Innovation at Vincero
 – Stockholm, Sweden



Cecilie Andersson, NO
 – Architect and Ph.D in Architecture
 – Vice Rector and Associate Professor at Bergen School of Architecture
 – Bergen, Norway



Camilla van Deurs, DK
 – Architect and Ph.D in Urban design
 – Chief City Architect of the City of Copenhagen
 – Copenhagen, Denmark



Björn Förstberg, SE
 – Architect
 – Founding architect at Förstberg Ling
 – Winner E15 in Helsingborg, SE
 – Malmö, Sweden

Competition timeline and dates of importance:

27 March – the competition opens. All competition sites are presented. Registration and download of complete competition documents starts.

13 April – Launch event, with lectures and presentations. See European Sweden’s website.

12 May – site visit with site representatives (pre-registration to info@european.se required).

2 June – last date for competition questions.

16 June – last date for answers to competition questions.

30 July – last day for submitting competition entries.

4 December – competition results and winners are published.



Johan Paju, SE
 – Landscape architect
 – Founder of Paju Arkitektur och Landskap
 – Stockholm, Sweden



Rebecca Rubin, SE
 – Architect and Urban planner
 – Assistant Professor at KTH, Architecture school
 – Head of social sustainability at Sveafastigheter
 – MDA, Mayors Design Advocat, GLA London
 – Stockholm, Sweden



Meike Schalk, SE
 – Architect and Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Aesthetics of Landscape Architecture
 – Associate Professor in Urban Design and Urban Theory
 – Docent in Architecture at KTH School of Architecture
 – Stockholm, Sweden

Substitutes:

Moa Andrén, SE
 – Architect
 – Founding architect at AndrénFogelström
 – Winner European 15 in Täby, SE
 – Stockholm, Sweden

Klara Wahlstedt, SE
 – Architect and urban planner
 – Co-founding architect Studio Träda
 – Runner-up European 16 in Västerås, SE
 – Urban planner at Uppsala municipality
 – Stockholm, Sweden

REFERENCES

About the European competition

European Europe. This includes rules for the the competition:

– <https://www.european-europe.eu>

European Sweden:

– <http://european.se>

Instagram account for European Europe. Lots of previous winners and examples:

– https://www.instagram.com/european_europe/

Instagram account for European Sweden:

– <https://www.instagram.com/europansweden/>

About Växjö Municipality

Växjö Municipality:

– www.vaxjo.se/

– www.upplev.vaxjo.se

– www.vaxjocity.com

Viable Cities:

– www.viablecities.se

Smart Housing Småland:

– www.smarthousingsmaland.nu

Träcentrum:

– www.tracentrum.se

Footnotes

1. Folkhemmet, see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folkhemmet>

2. Miljonprogrammet, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Million_Programme

3. <https://www.naturvardsverket.se/amnesomraden/skyddad-natur/olika-former-av-naturskydd/strand-skydd>

4. <https://www.vaxjo.se/sidor/hallbar-utveckling/vaxjo-kommuns-hallbarhetsarbete.html>

5. [Träbyggnadsstrategi_eng_korr1.pdf](#) (vaxjo.se)

Relevant laws and regulations

Accessibility:

– <https://www.boverket.se/sv/byggande/tillganglighet--bostadsutformning/tillganglighet/>

Noise:

– <https://www.boverket.se/sv/PBL-kunskapsbanken/planering/detaljplan/temadelar-detaljplan/buller-vid-detaljplanering/regler-och-riktvarden-for-buller/>

BBR, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's building regulations:

– https://www.boverket.se/contentassets/a9a584aa0e564c8998d079d752f6b76d/konsoliderad_bbr_2011-6.pdf

BBR in English:

– <https://www.boverket.se/globalassets/publikationer/dokument/2019/bbr-2011-6-tom-2018-4-english-2.pdf>

Swedish - English Glossary

– <https://www.boverket.se/globalassets/publikationer/dokument/2016/ordlista-glossary-pbl-och-pbf.pdf>

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public tendering – Swedish sites

European 17 is a design contest with the purpose of negotiating a subsequent service contract. We will further inform the Swedish contracting authorities in the document "Europeanhandboken".

A registered company is not required to compete, but it is required for a subsequent commission from the site owner.

Legal Provisions for Foreign Architects

In Sweden the title "architect" is not protected, nor is the profession. Anyone can apply for a building permit. There are no legal restrictions to foreign architects exercising their profession in Sweden or having their projects implemented. It is however common that foreign architects in this situation for practical reasons collaborate with a Swedish architect.

In European, the competition rules stipulate that each team must include an architect. As architect counts all persons with a five-year architectural degree (master's degree). For the Swedish sites, we will approve everyone with a European degree that is accepted for a professional title by Architects Sweden (in Swedish "Sveriges Arkitekter", the national architects' organization). If your degree is not from a European country, you have additionally to be a member of a national European architects' organization affiliated with ACE or UIA.

For more information please see <http://european.se/faq/>

About European

■ WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our website:
www.europan.se

CONTACT INFORMATION:



E-mail: info@europan.se

EUROPAN SWEDEN



**The Swedish European Secretariat is
run by:**

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Europan 17 is under the auspices of
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