



view of the area in the winter

**CATEGORY** Territorial / Urban

**LOCATION** Turku, Harittu

**POPULATION** 177 000

**STRATEGIC SITE** 32,5 ha

**SITE OF PROJECT** 9,5 ha

**SITE PROPOSED BY** City of Turku

**OWNERS OF THE SITE** City of Turku, Turku and Kaarina Parish Union

**TYPE OF ORDER AFTER COMPETITION** The objective is to continue immediately with the planning of the area by designing the detailed plan. The planning will continue on the basis of the competition results, and as far as possible will be executed by the designers of the winning entries. The City of Turku would like to continue co-operation with the competition's winning architect in the detailed planning in regard to the area planning and public spaces.

#### TRANSFORMATION OF THE SITE

The site is located on the city border of Turku and it is the first uniform area when approaching the city from the east. The empty wasteland is situated adjacent to the old Helsinki–Turku highway. The distance from the site to the city centre is approximately 4 kilometres.

On the other side of the highway a new city district, called Skanssi, is currently being built. As a part of that construction, a new roundabout will be placed next to the competition site (dashed black line in the plans).

The aim is to build a low-rise and dense residential area with a distinct human scale. The new area should be safe, pleasant, and suitable for young families. Part of the site will function as a common outdoor living area for people of all ages. The planning should support a sense of community, among both neighbours and all residents in the area. The total built floor area will be approximately 13 000–16 000 m<sup>2</sup>. The area should be given a distinctive look and character.

The competition entries are expected primarily to represent area planning and secondly dwelling design on an ideas level.

#### CITY STRATEGY

The city of Turku is the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2011. Participation in the EUROPLAN 11 competition is part of the cultural capital project.

Turku, the centre of the Southwest region of Finland, is the oldest city in Finland and the former capital. A new motorway connects the city efficiently to the Helsinki metropolitan area and also faster railway connections between them are being developed.

Turku is the leading centre in Finland for biotechnology and life sciences. The hub of the Finnish marine industry is in the Southwest Finland region. The Turku–Salou area has a strong concentration of ICT technologies.

The city supports population growth with its housing policy. Special attention is paid to families with children. Sites and dwellings are offered to young families.





aerial view of the site with new road and roundabout

aerial view with site and other developing areas

The aims in the city development are to increase density and unify the city structure. Other aims are to reduce traffic and energy consumption.

**SITE DEFINITION**

The competition site is relatively flat (27–29 m above sea level) and consists of filled land, with a covering of young trees and delineated by roads. In the vicinity are residential areas consisting of mainly detached houses. The new area should adapt to the scale of these existing areas. However, the character of the new area does not have to fit with the surrounding houses. There is no housing currently on the competition site  
The public transport in the area will be improved in the future when a new roundabout intersection and the Skanssi district have been realized.  
There are good connections for bicycle and pedestrian routes to the city centre. In city planning, traffic solutions should be examined as a whole, together with surrounding housing areas. The dwellings should be protected from the dust and noise of the Uudenmaantie road.

**NEW MOBILITY**

Although the site is located on public transport routes, much of the traffic will depend on private motoring. Some of the parking places can be for small city cars and electric cars. Ground level parking places should be situated near dwellings, but there should remain noiseless outdoor areas and safe routes without cars.  
In the surroundings there are good pedestrian and bicycle connections and these will be developed further. The dwellings and outdoor areas must be protected from the noisy highway.

**NEW WAYS OF LIFE**

Low-rise construction supports the pleasantness of the area and formation of a distinct human scale milieu. Comfortable and verdant public spaces activate people, create a sense of community and maintain the possibility of relaxation. Small courtyards and common green areas enable residents to enjoy gardening and to cultivate plants.

**NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Dense construction supports an efficient network of municipal engineering and makes it possible to build common open-air areas. Good possibilities for relaxation and enjoying fresh air in the neighbourhood reduce traffic.  
The competition entries should match the future tight energy regulations. In construction it should be possible to both save energy through passive means and to produce it actively.



# Turku – Finland – European 11







view to the site from south



housing area next to the site



the old Kaarninko pump station



underpass and skier in the area