

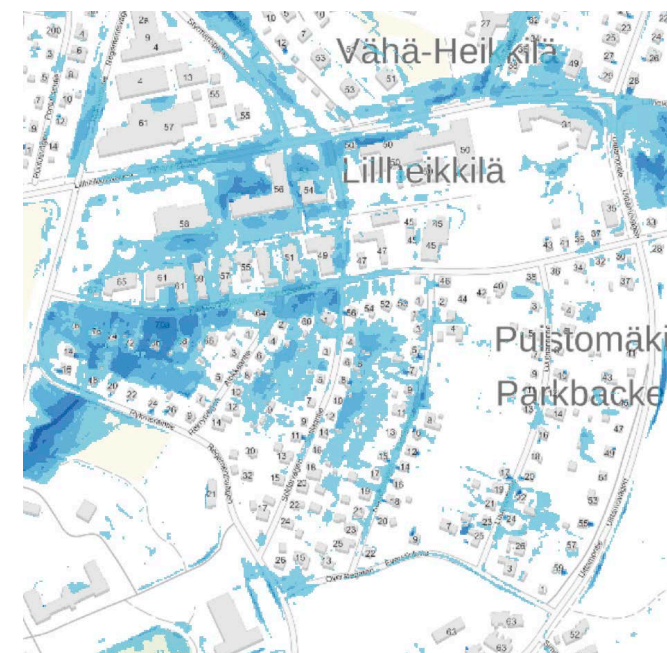
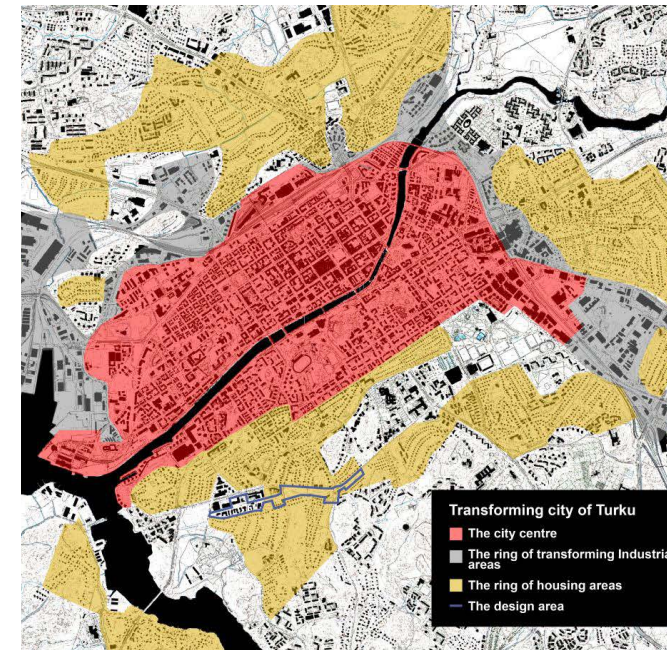
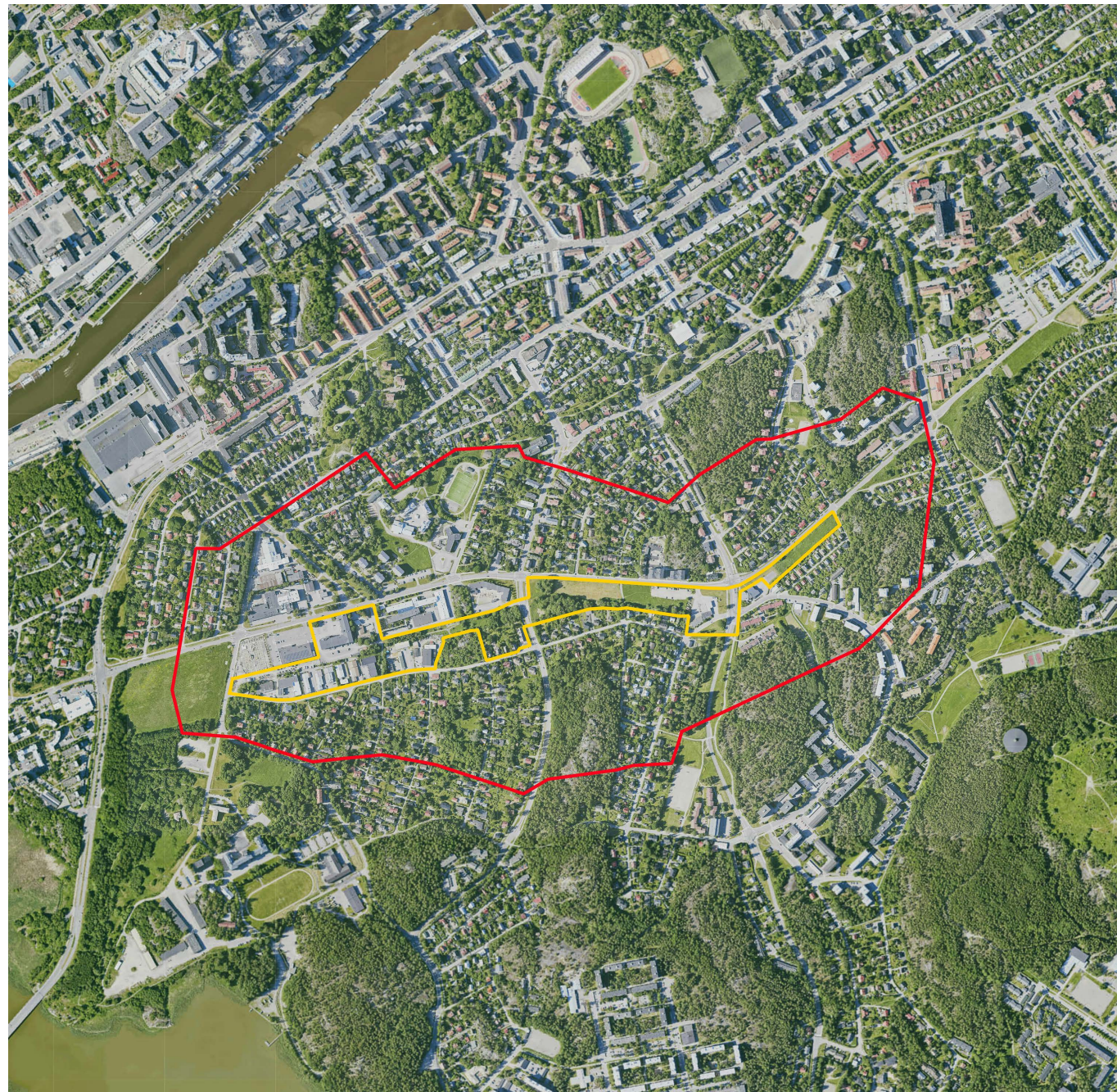
E¹⁸ Turku (FI)

How can Turku turn the area lacking a distinct identity into an urban strip of water and greenery?

Scale
S/S

Team composition: Architect non mandatory
Location: Vähäheikkilä, Turku
Population: Turku 206,000 / Vähäheikkilä 1,100
Reflection site: 103 hectares
Project site: 1,5 km long, 13 hectares
Site proposed by: City of Turku
Actors involved: City of Turku, private partners
Owners of the site: City of Turku, private partners

Commission after the competition:
 The jury will provide recommendations on further actions based on the competition results, while the City of Turku will make the final decisions regarding follow-up work and its content. The intention of the City of Turku is to negotiate about commissioning the author(s) of the winning proposal(s) at the level of detailed planning and / or landscape design.



SITE / CONTEXT

Turku's flat landscape is punctuated by the Aura River and rocky hills. From the river's mouth, long views open up to the unique archipelago that starts just outside the city. The 40,000 islands and islets on the Archipelago Sea have an impact in the region's high natural diversity.

The competition site is located south of Turku city centre, reasonably close to the Aura River and the sea. The environment of the competition area is varied in terms of land uses and urban structure. Around the neighbourhood there are mainly detached houses built in the first half of the 20th century. Similar types of detached house neighbourhood are located in several parts around the Turku city centre. As the city grows, the development and infill of these areas is a topical issue in Turku's urban planning. The European I8 competition for the Vähäheikkilä site seeks examples of possible approaches to the future development of these areas.

Between the housing estates, a strip of undeveloped land and small industrial buildings remains in the competition site, partly unplanned and unfinished in appearance. Among small industrial plots there is a green area, once reserved for a potential road which is no longer needed. The competition area lacks a common identity that would link its parts into a whole.

In the project site, the height of the terrain varies mainly quite gently. However, next to the site there are also two steep rocky hills that rise like islands from the low clay terrain. The landscape is mainly semi-open with some wooded areas. The competition site serves as an important stormwater route. The urban stream runs at present mostly in an underground pipe. It collects water from an extensive catchment area, but the risk of flooding is high. Better stormwater detention and controlled management is essential to allow infill development in other parts of the catchment area. The aim is to restore parts of the underground pipe with an open stream and ponds to increase biodiversity and reduce the risk of flooding.



What kind of a vibrant, innovative, and diverse urban plan supports the development of the wider area?



QUESTIONS TO THE COMPETITORS

Transforming the area reserved for an unbuilt street, alongside the small industry plots and adjacent undeveloped wasteland, provides a unique opportunity to create a new central urban space for the entire Vähäheikkilä neighbourhood. The area currently lacks a cohesive urban structure. How can the site be better integrated with the surrounding neighbourhoods and the city centre?

Stormwater management solutions should be a key element of the design of the new public urban spaces. With Turku preparing for climate change, ecological solutions are vital. Urban nature should be qualitatively improved, focusing on increasing biodiversity in greenfield areas and preserving valuable meadows.

The area should be functionally diverse. How can the site balance business, industry, education, and mixed housing in a sustainable manner? What form will new housing and services take in this small-scale neighborhood? What is the future of the industrial halls in terms of resources and mixed-use potential? Can some of these halls be preserved or the structures reused and repurposed? The goal is not high-density development but rather an emphasis on enhancing the site's overall quality.



How to implement natural measures for stormwater management to reduce the risk of flooding and to create an attractive feature?