Dikemark is in many ways a unique place within its regional context thanks to its preserved, landmark architecture, its picturesque landscape and its history and identity. Yet, in spite of all its qualities, Dikemark faces a great challenge as its hospital functions will be relocated to Oslo, rendering all buildings empty. How to ensure the development of a new and attractive society at Dikemark?

There is a strong wish in the municipality to establish a complete and viable society at Dikemark with jobs, private and public services.
SITE DEFINITION
Dikemark is a place with a strong identity, first and foremost related to its former use as a psychiatric hospital, but also in its architectural and spatial qualities. The site and its buildings is located in scenic surroundings by the Verkensvannet lake, encircled by forests and fields.

An architectural landmark designed almost entirely by the architect Victor Nordan, and built between 1902 and 1934, Dikemark Hospital represents today a unique historical record of an era and moment in medical treatment.

Within the project site there is about 20 patients and administrative buildings and 15 workshops. In addition, there is staff housing, a community house and a dormitory. Together the existing buildings on the site constitute approximately 80,000 m², of which the hospital buildings comprise less than 55,000 m².

Endowed with its own waterworks, power plant and surrounding farmland, Dikemark Hospital was almost a self-sustained community. During its heyday, it housed over 900 patients and had a staff of 1500 employees.

ADAPTABILITY: MAIN CHALLENGES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
For the overall plan competitors are asked to investigate a total development potential between 100,000 and 250,000 sq. m. of residential and mixed-use programs (existing buildings included). What types of functions can take place there? How to best make new use of the existing buildings? How to bring new life to the area? How to negotiate the issues of memory and preservation along with new use and adaption? Can Dikemark take on a new regional role?

The competition asks for innovative proposals that can open up for new possible futures for Dikemark.