



**SCALE:** L – urban and architectural

**LOCATION:** Helsinki Laajasalo

**SITE FAMILY:** From Functionalist Infrastructures to Productive City

**POPULATION:** Helsinki 630 000, Laajasalo 16 000

**STUDY SITE:** 50 ha    **PROJECT SITE:** 12 ha

**SITE PROPOSED BY:** City Planning Department of Helsinki

**ACTORS INVOLVED:** City of Helsinki

**OWNERS OF THE SITE:** City of Helsinki and other site owners

**POST COMPETITION PHASE:** Post-competition seminar with site representatives, selection of one winning team for an implementation process

**COMMISSION:** Commission at the level of urban planning

**TEAM REPRESENTATIVE:** Architect

## HOW CAN THE SITE CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRODUCTIVE CITY?

According to the new Helsinki city plan there will be several four-lane highways in the inner city converted into urban boulevards. One of them is situated in the Laajasalo suburban area.

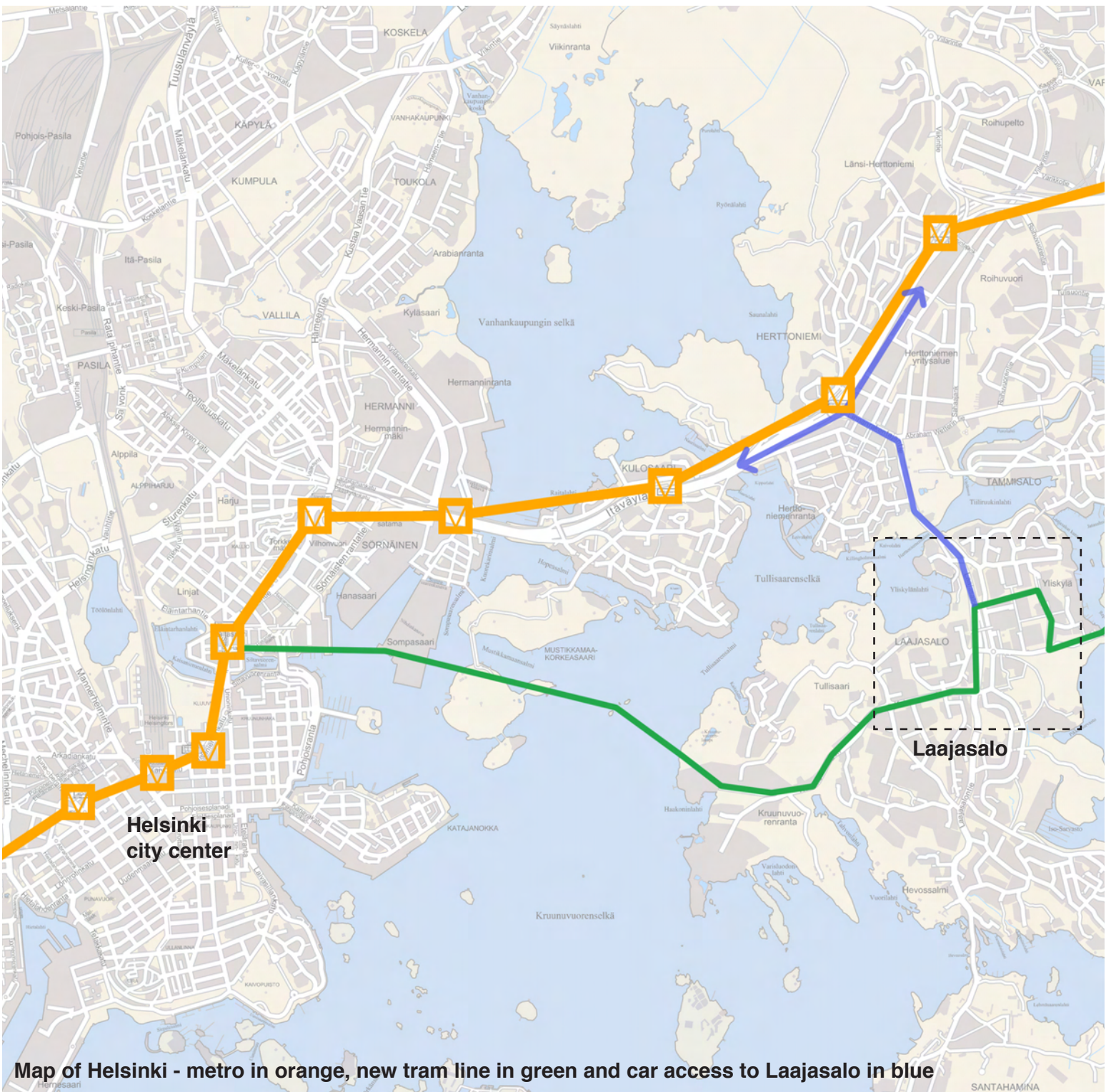
Kruunusilta bridges and a new tram line will connect Laajasalo directly to Helsinki's city center creating an opportunity to transform the area into an urban neighbourhood. The existing highway will become an urban boulevard and infill projects will be required. The objective of the competition is to study what the characteristics and scale of the new boulevard would be and how the suburban area can become a diverse productive neighbourhood.

## CITY STRATEGY

Helsinki is the capital of Finland and the economic centre of the region with approximately 630 000 inhabitants. Helsinki is a modern European city known for its architecture, design and technological knowhow – a pocket-sized metropolis that is easy to explore on foot. Helsinki City Council approved a new city plan in the fall 2016. The city plan is a strategic land use plan that enables the growth of Helsinki to 860 000 residents by 2050. According to the plan, roughly one-third of the new construction will be located on city boulevards in the expanding inner city, another one-third consisting of infill construction at rail transport hubs, and the remaining one-third in new development areas such as the Malmi airport.



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## SITE DEFINITION

Laajasalo is a residential area 10km from Helsinki city center with 16 000 inhabitants. Yliskylä is the northern part of it with 7 000 inhabitants. The area has mainly suburban apartment blocks built in the 1960's and 70's. The project area consists of a four-lane highway Laajasalontie with its ramps and large unbuilt areas on both sides. The highway was built in the 1960's with the car-centric ideals of its time. The current traffic flow is only 18 000 vehicles per day but in the future the amount is estimated to double with densification and new developments in the area. In the project area there's also a forested area by Yliskylänlahti bay which has a popular recreational path and a marina.

## HOW IS PRODUCTION CONSIDERED IN THE URBAN

### DIVERSITY PROGRAM ?

The existing Laajasalontie highway will be converted to an urban boulevard by demolishing the access ramps and adding new buildings on both sides. A tram line and dedicated bike lanes among other changes will transform the nature of the highway towards a productive street. There will be a new commercial hub in the area and apartments for at least 3 000 new inhabitants. Housing, services, commercial activities and production will be mixed in the new buildings.

The objective of the competition is to study:

- How to make Laajasalo a versatile and diverse urban district?
- How to create a new urban identity?

- How to create active and vivid urban environment with sustainable traffic?
- How to take care of the traffic noise and pollution?
- How to create new street life?
- How to better connect the area to the sea?

In addition to site specific solutions, the competitors can present conceptual ideas for urban boulevards.







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