

Population
213.000

Location
Espoo center, Suviniitty area

Study area
53 ha

Site area
23 ha

Theme

The service and other requirements of the diverse resident groups, the good traffic connections, and the central location offer interesting possibilities for a new urban centre. Housing in the area should meet the needs of very different groups of people in different phases of their lives.



Conurbation

The Espoo centre is located in a river valley, which has been inhabited since prehistoric times. In the early 19th century, Helsinki was made the capital city instead of Turku. This began a period of growth in Espoo. The Espoo railway station was opened in 1903, which gave rise to industries serving the expanding capital.

The current urban structure of the area is the result of an architectural competition in the 1960s. The intention of that programme was to make the area into a modern centre for 90,000 people. Nowadays Espoo center got about 26,000 inhabitants.

Site

Past failures in the design history of the area are clearly visible in the current townscape. The competition site is located south of the Helsinki-Turku railway, between the Espoo station and the Suvela residential area. At present it is an overgrown field, bordered in the north by the railway, and elsewhere by rocky cliffs. The site is mostly unbuilt and almost entirely owned by the city.



Programme

The intention of the competition is to turn this unfinished area by the railway station into a smart, new, modern housing area, part of the new center. The area should be made attractive using its own potential, which now remains unexplored. The ideal modern residential area includes a functional service network, good traffic connections, versatile recreational facilities and pathways, and a high quality of townscape. The site has great potential for realising this vision.

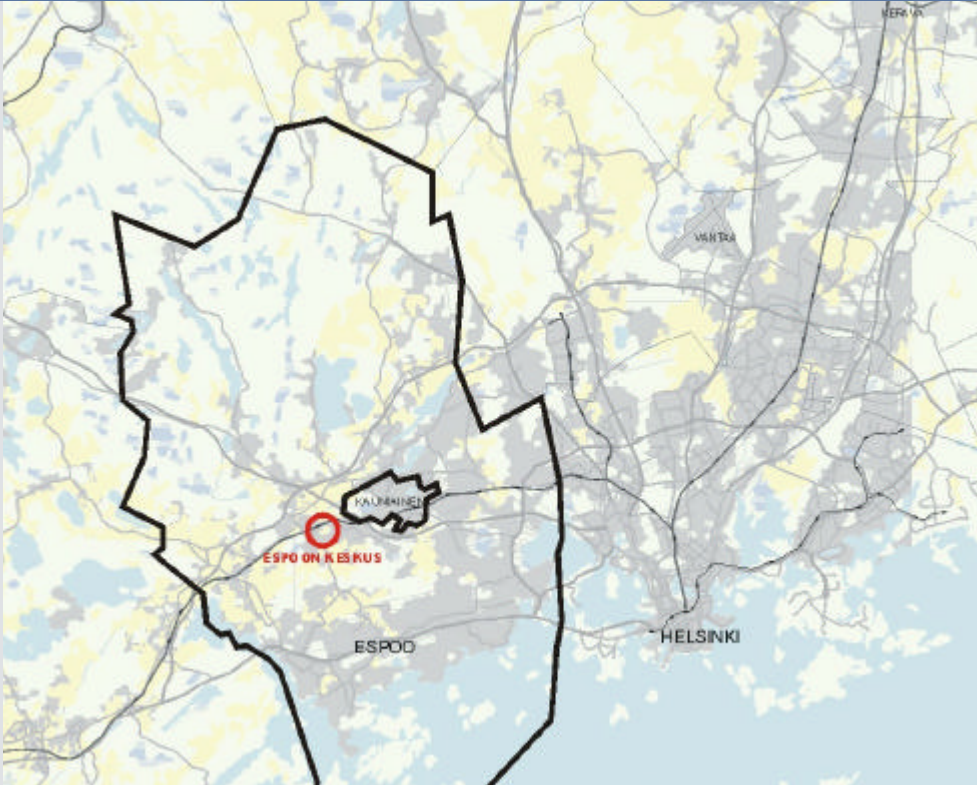
Issues

functional : Traffic connections are exceptionally good. Public spaces are scattered or nonexistent. Primary objectives are to clarify the urban structure and traffic network, connect the new buildings with the old in a natural way, and create strong, orienting, and comfortable urban spaces.

social : The number of immigrants and rented flats in the area around the Espoo centre is above average. The intention is to get new residents, owner flats, new services and jobs in the area of which image should be changed.

perceptual : The site should seem to connect the Suvela "upper town" in a spontaneous way with the new "lower town" by the station. Changing the current unpleasant image of the area into an attractive one should be mostly done by means of urban planning.



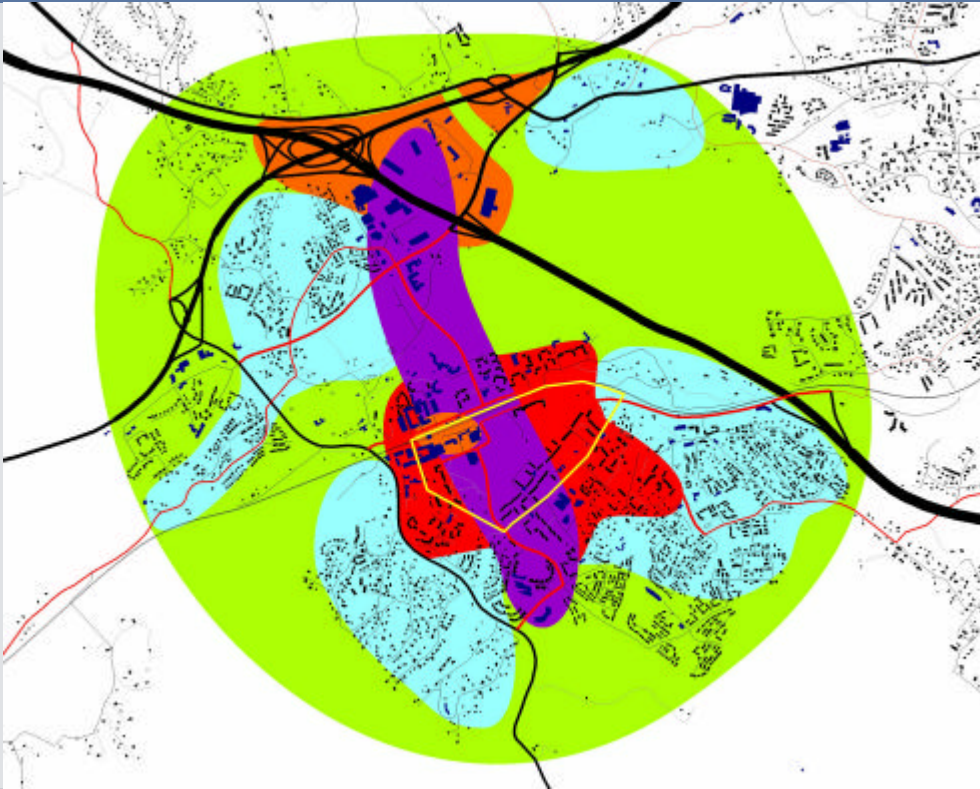


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