

**TOPIC**

The competition area is located in the centre of Varberg, adjacent to the railway station and the ocean. It is of great strategic importance in the future development of the town, as the existing railroad will be repositioned below ground level. This gives new possibilities for an extension of the inner city towards the sea, comprising a mixed-use programme of trade, offices, housing and culture. This transformation will require a well-reasoned strategy, allowing the city to profit from and to enhance the assets of the site on the long term as well as during the implementation phase.

CONURBATION

Varberg is situated on the West Coast of Sweden some 80km's south of Gothenburg on the Copenhagen-Oslo axis. It has its origins in the 11th century and was located in its current position in 1666. The fortress was established by the Danes in 1290. The centre of Varberg retains a charming small-town character and it has evolved into one of the most popular vacation centres in Sweden with a population that doubles during the summer months. Varberg is also an industrial town and a harbour of great importance, which is an integrated part of the regional job market and logistics grid of western Sweden.

SITE

To the west of the centre is the main west-coast railway, cutting the city off from the seafront. The rail line through the town will within 5-10 years be put into a tunnel, making possible a reinforced connection between the town centre and the water. The study area is formed by the old rail yard and a part of the industrial harbour, including the pier closest to the public harbour area where the fortress, tourist attractions, and the college buildings of Campus Varberg are situated. The land is owned partly by state-owned Jernhusen and partly by the town.

Population: 54.000/26.000

Study area: 11 ha

Project area: 4 ha



PROGRAMME

The aim of the competition is to develop a strategic plan with which to expand the city centre towards the seafront. Central Varberg will develop from a reliance on the area around the main square to a centre with three nodes, each with a different character. Around and between these nodes a mixed-use city will be formed using the unique characteristics of each node to organise functions in the grid. This new addition to the town must reflect the modern and future Varberg, which is a part of the functional region of Gothenburg and an active city in the West Coast transport corridor and the Kattegatt region.

ISSUES

Social / Functional

The environment should comprise a mix of different uses and people of different age, backgrounds and lifestyles, creating a vivid and safe urban area during both day and night. It must be taken into account that the port is very active and that it generates noise and some pollution.

Sensitive features

Important features to consider are the scale of the existing grid, the station area, and the views and connections towards the sea and the vital area around the fortress and the harbour.

Sustainability

Densification of the inner city offers environmental advantages. The new area is extremely well positioned increasing attractions within walking distance and creating public transportation nodes. The travel time to Gothenburg with the new railway will be only 40 minutes, increasing the commuter traffic.





