

# EUROPAN 18 UPPSALA

RE-SOURCING - SWEDEN

*Gottsunda is the heart of southern Uppsala – a pleasant, green, and creative district full of life and activity. Diversity, culture, and greenery characterize the area, which is being sustainably developed with new housing, commerce, culture, and services.*

European is a biennial  
competition for young  
architects under 40  
years of age.



**European SE**

UPPSALA ■







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EUROPAN 18

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Site Representative:

Cecilia Safaee  
CEO, Fastighets AB Hemmaplan  
Martin Edfelt  
City Architect, Municipality of  
Uppsala

### Actors involved:

Fastighets AB Hemmaplan  
Municipality of Uppsala

### Team composition:

Architect non mandatory

### Expected skills regarding the site's issues and characteristics:

architecture, urban planning,  
landscape architecture

### Communication:

Anonymous local exhibition after the  
first jury round.

After the competition there will be a  
public prize ceremony, a catalogue  
of results will be printed, and the  
winners will be published on the  
website of Architects Sweden.

### Jury evaluation:

With the participation of the site  
representatives.

### Post-competition intermediate procedure:

Meeting and workshop with the  
municipality and the prize winning  
team(s).

The ambition of Hemmaplan and  
the municipality is to involve  
the prize winning team(s) in an  
implementation process.

# PARTICIPATE IN EUROPAN 18!



## INTRODUCTION

Hemmaplan, Uppsala Municipality and European Sweden would like to thank you for choosing to participate in European 18. The competition brief provides information about the character of the site and plot, and includes a list of references with links to supplementary information. In addition to this material, you can download high-resolution images and drawings from the project database. Please read the condensed "Short Site File" brief parallel to this unabridged competition brief. The theme of European 18 is "Re-sourcing".

[www.euopan-europe.com](http://www.euopan-europe.com)  
[www.euopan.se](http://www.euopan.se)

## GOTTSUNDA UPPSALA

Gottsunda is the southern heart of Uppsala and is undergoing a significant transformation with the introduction of a tramway and new housing to better connect it with surrounding areas and Uppsala city centre. The district is rich in culture, diversity, and has a vibrant social life. Many residents in the area have a low socioeconomic status compared to the rest of Uppsala.

The property owner Hemmaplan and Uppsala Municipality are collaborating to develop Gottsunda with a particular focus on social sustainability and are now seeking visionary yet feasible ideas to form the basis for a long-term partnership.

The competition task involves complementing the existing plans and ongoing initiatives around Gottsunda Centre with a new urban structure for the area. This includes housing, a preschool, enhancements to the centre building, and new uses for the existing swimming hall. The goal is to contribute to develop Gottsunda into an area where residents thrive and wish to remain, while also attracting new inhabitants. The initiative also aims to provide children and young people with favorable living conditions and unite their hope for the future. This effort is part of Uppsala's overarching vision of an equitable and cohesive city.

 Hemmaplan





# COMPETITION BRIEF

## GOTTSUNDA UPPSALA



Orthophoto of Uppsala city centre and Gottsunda.

### URBAN CONTEXT

#### Description of the city

Uppsala is Sweden's fourth-largest city, with long-term investments aimed at growth and a target of becoming climate neutral by 2030. Located just 18 minutes from Arlanda Airport and 30 minutes from Stockholm, the city is well-connected to the capital region. Uppsala has over 240,000 residents and spans an area of 2,182 square kilometers. Its rapid growth has transformed it into an international meeting point where people from all over the world live, study, and work. To support this growth, two new railway tracks to Arlanda and Stockholm are planned, and construction has recently begun on a brand-new tramway in Uppsala.

The city is internationally renowned for its two universities and 41,000 students. Uppsala University, founded in 1477, has educated prominent scientists such as Carl von Linné and Anders Celsius. The city is a leading center for research and innovation, which, combined with a strong business sector, makes Uppsala dynamic and future-oriented.

Uppsala offers distinct seasonal changes, with warm summers and snowy winters. Outdoor areas invite activities such as skiing, ice skating, kayaking, and fishing.

The city has roots dating back to the Viking age when Gamla Uppsala was a significant religious centre. The city was founded in 1286 and has long been a significant marketplace. Uppsala Cathedral, whose construction began around 1270, is the largest cathedral in the Nordic countries and Sweden's national shrine. In the 17th century, Uppsala underwent a major urban transformation, replacing its irregular medieval street network with a grid pattern of straight streets. During this period, many older buildings were demolished, new streets were laid out, and Stora Torget (the main square) was created. Today, Uppsala is a modern city, though much of its picturesque medieval city centre remains intact. Additionally, Uppsala is Sweden's largest rural municipality, with extensive agricultural areas.

Uppsala is a cycling city, where the relatively flat terrain and short distances make it easy to get around. The city's already well-developed public transport system, primarily consisting of buses, will be enhanced by a tramline in 2029.





Uppsala Central Station with Uppsala Castle and Uppsala Cathedral in the background.



Uppsala Central Station. Photo by Johan Alp



Uppsala Cathedral "Domkyrkan". Photo copyright © Anders Tukler, All Rights Reserved.



The river Fyrisån. Photo by Niklas Lundengård



Entrance to the City Garden in Uppsala. Photo by Lilla Produktionsbolaget.



## Description of the district

The Gottsunda district, located about 6 km south of the city centre, was originally built as a satellite district on the outer edge of the city. It is a green and appreciated area but has faced significant challenges with unemployment and security. Through joint efforts, the municipality, property owners, and local stakeholders have managed to reverse the development. Gottsunda is now on its way to becoming a safer and more attractive area to live and work in. Gottsunda is undergoing an extensive transformation with thousands of new homes and community facilities being built, such as a new swimming pool, a library, cultural institutions, and a tramway. This will contribute to a more densely built-up district with increased cultural offerings and commerce. The new tramway extension will connect Gottsunda with Uppsala Central Station, Uppsala Södra in Bergsbrunna, and the universities, strengthening the connection to the rest of the city. Residents often commute to other parts of Uppsala or Stockholm, while those living closer to their work often choose to cycle.

Gottsunda was an agricultural village until the 19th century and has since developed into a densely built-up district. The construction of small houses began in the early 20th century. The political housing project "Miljonprogrammet" (Million homes programme) (1965–1975) aimed to build one million homes in all over Sweden in a decade to address the housing shortage, reduce overcrowding, and improve housing standards. These areas have often developed into socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with traffic separation that creates large parking areas and separate walkways where people move, which can be perceived as unsafe. In Gottsunda, large-scale multi-family housing and smaller-scale row and townhouse developments were added during that time.

Gottsunda Centrum was inaugurated in 1974 and was then Uppsala's largest shopping centre. It remains the heart of Gottsunda, attracting over 300,000 visitors every month. In the late 1970s to 1990s, more varied residential areas were built, along with Gottsunda Church. In the 2010s, Gottsunda was connected with Bäcklösa and Ultuna through the new Gottsunda Allé road.

The district has a growing population of around 10,000 people, with nearly 55% having a foreign background, which creates significant diversity in the area. Gottsunda Centrum has a much larger catchment area, encompassing almost 30,000 people from the district and surrounding areas. This gives Gottsunda Centrum and the Gottsunda district the potential to foster interactions across socioeconomic boundaries and strengthen social cohesion in Uppsala.

The two areas, Gottsunda and Södra Gottsunda, are separated by the natural area Gottsundagipen, which leads down to Lake Mälaren in the south. Södra Gottsunda mainly consists of a residential area with stronger socioeconomic conditions. The two areas differ significantly in terms of housing, socioeconomic status, and the proportion of residents with foreign backgrounds. Gottsunda has a young population, and many households are large, consisting of more than two generations.

A 2021-2030 action plan for the Gottsunda area was approved by the municipal council to achieve long-term and sustainable development in the area. The action plan aims to make Gottsunda a safer place, strengthen civil society, and provide better conditions for community activities. Several of the goals in the action plan have been achieved, including removing Gottsunda from the police's list of particularly vulnerable areas.

A planning program approved by the municipal council in 2019 outlines extensive urban development in the Gottsunda area, including at least 5,000 new homes, new workplaces, parks, squares, and a new urban corridor with a tramway. The vision for Gottsunda's urban node is to create a vibrant and diverse district with easy access to work, services, and green spaces. In the development of Gottsunda, local forces and ideas are being utilized, both from current and future residents.

The ongoing urban development includes:

- Five ongoing planning processes which include approximately 1,200 homes
- Development of a cultural center
- "Mobilitetshuset" - a new mobility hub with parking
- New squares and parks
- New multi-use spaces
- Place activation and place development
- Tramway construction in 2024, completion in 2029
- Housing construction starting in 2027
- New swimming hall completed in 2029
- "Tillväxthuset", an existing building that will house a folk high school (for students 18 or older) as well as cultural and community spaces
- Urban farming and activation of Gottsunda Centrum
- Development of the interior of the centre and changed use of premises

## RESOURCES

The surrounding natural areas and the area's fine-grained green structure constitute significant qualities, while also creating distances between residential areas and districts. Gottsunda is characterized by a varied landscape, that includes large elevated forested terrain with rocky features as well as former agricultural land.

Gottsunda has a rich and multifaceted identity with many positive attributes, such as appreciated schools, a wide range of cultural offerings, and popular natural areas. Gottsunda Centrum has cultural and sports activities, commerce, services, schools, and community life. Much of the activity takes place indoors, which often keeps it out of view from the street. The district's buildings and outdoor areas are sometimes perceived as large-scale and anonymous. The ambition is to develop a more accessible Gottsunda Centre, with lively entrances and facades that open up in several directions.

On the southeastern side of the centre, there is a health centre that has been decommissioned and is now being transformed into "Tillväxthuset." A new entrance and expanded premises for culture, community life, and education are being created here, when the folk high school, currently located in the center building, moves in. For the unemployed and youth, school can become an important step towards higher education. The education level in Gottsunda is currently lower than in other parts of Uppsala, but an increasing proportion of young people are pursuing higher education

The municipality's area-based work involves cooperation with, among others, the police and civil society, and since 2010 has contributed to well-established initiatives in both the safety-building and crime-prevention work. Area-based work means the municipality collaborates with other actors in different residential areas, and the approach varies depending on the character of each area. The work is based on shared situational analyses and is an important factor in early identification of trends, problem areas, and needs

for action. Examples of interventions in area-based work include youth services, safety walks, neighbour cooperation, night patrols, security guards, and surveillance cameras.

Hemmaplan has been a key partner in driving socio-economic progress. In collaboration with Uppsala Municipality's labor market department, Hemmaplan created over 100 new jobs in 2023, providing nearly 200 households with stable and increased income. Many of these positions are long-term, reinforcing financial security and community stability.

In the summer of 2024, Hemmaplan introduced an ice cream kiosk in a previously vacant space, offering summer job opportunities while fostering local engagement. During a house warming party, a 320-meter-long concrete facade was transformed into an outdoor café, activating public space and enhancing the area's liveliness. Another innovative initiative, "Mattorget" (The food court), has evolved from primarily attracting young men at risk of criminal involvement to becoming an inclusive community space. The introduction of the Children's food court, a play area designed as restaurant for children, has further contributed to a safe and family-friendly environment.

Through a strong presence and continuous dialogue, Hemmaplan has increased the sense of safety in and around Gottsunda Centrum. A large-scale development plan is now in motion to revitalize vacant spaces, investing in a circular food systems, urban farming, culture, sports, and other activities. These initiatives will transform Gottsunda Centrum into a dynamic meeting place for the local community and a vibrant destination for all of Uppsala.



Photo from Gottsunda. Photo by Gustav Sjövall, Hemmaplan.



Photo from Gottsunda. Photo by Gustav Sjövall, Hemmaplan.





Gottsunda Centrum from the west.



The natural area Gottsundagipen.

## RE-SOURCING

### Cultivating Resilience Through Synergy

The fragility of Earth's ecosystems and the increasing strain of social crises underscore the urgent need for new ways of planning and designing well-functioning and attractive living environments. Moving beyond harmful cycles of extraction, overconsumption, and pollution, requires practices that regenerate ecosystems and foster equitable relationships between nature and culture. By combining ecological balance, socio-spatial justice, and the health of all living beings, the goal is to cultivate a resilient and inclusive vision for the future.

Rethinking our relationship with the fundamental elements of nature—water, air, earth, and fire—is essential. These elements sustain life and hold symbolic significance but become sources of risk when exploited unsustainably. Flooding, wildfires, and polluted air are just some of the catastrophic outcomes of harmful human activity. Restoring these forces to their regenerative roles forms the basis for a harmonious alliance between human settlements and the natural world.

As society evolves digitally and adapts socially, how we live and interact will change accordingly. Well-designed and visually appealing environments that balance privacy and community—with a foundation of solidarity—are crucial. Such spaces must integrate bioclimatic and permacultural strategies, enabling humans and non-humans to coexist and thrive. The challenge lies in creating conditions where diverse forms of life can flourish, by balancing technological progress with ecological responsibility.

Materiality plays a pivotal role in this transformation. The built environment, often seen merely as a backdrop, holds untapped potential for circular practices. By minimizing new construction, reusing existing spaces, and recycling materials like stone, earth, and fiber, we can alleviate pressure on natural ecosystems. These practices not only conserve resources but also reconnect communities with their environments through local expertise and stewardship.

This approach leads to a dynamic interplay of regenerative and forward-thinking processes:

- Revitalizing natural elements by recognizing their energy, symbolism, and regenerative potential while mitigating risks of environmental degradation.

- Healing ecosystems by removing environmental burdens and creating healthier conditions for sustainable living.

- Designing inclusive spaces that blend intimacy, community, and solidarity while fostering cooperation between humans and non-humans.

- Encouraging circular material practices that prioritize reuse, recycling, and the incorporation of local knowledge for sustainable development.

- Strengthening biodiversity through a closer connection between nature and culture, fostering hybrid environments that support life.

- Addressing resource scarcity through innovative solutions that bridge ecological and societal challenges.

- Engaging local populations in participatory processes to align global ecological goals with tangible community actions.

The sites in focus provide opportunities to reconnect nature and culture, creating mutually beneficial relationships. Whether revitalizing abandoned areas, reusing resources, or enhancing green initiatives, the aim is to transform neglected spaces into vibrant, sustainable environments. Strengthening biodiversity alongside human activity and linking fragmented landscapes are central to this vision.

Life's natural rhythms—day and night, seasons, tides—serve as powerful inspiration for these projects. Designing environments aligned with these cycles fosters ecosystems where humans and non-humans collaborate in regeneration. Local networks, such as green corridors or urban grids, can further strengthen these connections, enhancing biodiversity and ecological health.

This is more than a shift in project execution; it is a transformation in how we approach design, planning, and stewardship of the environments we share. By intertwining ecological restoration, social inclusivity, and circular materiality, this vision creates spaces that are resilient, regenerative, and adaptable to future needs—while fostering beautiful and inclusive living environments.



## RE-SOURCING GOTTSUNDA

Gottsunda's overall planning structure, with a clear division of the area's parts and functions, is typical of modernist urban planning. Schools, commerce, sports facilities, and housing are separated, and car traffic dominates the centre with large parking areas. The new structure will be developed on these surface parking lots with a focus on urban life and a diversity of activities. The planning structure has many qualities but needs to change to create a more cohesive and secure urban structure by prioritizing shared spaces such as streets, squares, and parks. Green street spaces, urban agriculture, and playgrounds can be developed, while the surrounding natural areas are made more accessible, strengthening the connection between the city and nature. The green structure in and around Gottsunda centre is an invaluable resource for connecting the city and nature. Parks, green corridors, and urban farming will play a key role in the development of the urban hub. The planning can be inspired by the area's agricultural history and the proximity of Gottsundagipen, while also meeting the goal of a sustainable lifestyle.

There is a politically decided direction for housing provision in Gottsunda and the adjacent Valsätra. It is stated that new housing should complement the existing stock and contribute to a greater variety of housing sizes. These should consist of condominiums, freehold properties, or special housing concepts. Gottsunda currently has a dominance of medium-sized rental apartments with 2-3 rooms and a kitchen. An increased variety of housing sizes, tenure forms, living

arrangements, and housing types attracts different individuals and provides the opportunity for residents to move within their area as their life situation changes. This creates conditions for better cohesion and, thus, increased attractiveness.

Place making plays an important role in promoting social interactions and adding value in areas under development. Through place development, pleasant environments can be created even during construction periods, focusing on the needs of the place and its visitors. The perspective of children should be central in this work. A circular approach with the reuse of materials from the transformation of existing buildings is encouraged as part of the place development projects.

Circularity should characterize the transformation of existing buildings in the competition area. Materials should be reused and brought back into new buildings and projects to create resource-efficient development. Resources, such as materials and earth, should be balanced so that surpluses from one part of the area can be used in another. This contributes to sustainable and regenerative urban development.

A social agenda has been developed to realize the vision. It brings together the goals of the developers and clarifies how social sustainability is integrated into urban development. Uppsala Municipality, Hemmaplan, and other actors are collaborating to create safety, housing, and meeting places.



The western facade of the central building. Photo by Mahmod Ibrahim, Hemmaplan.

### REFLECTION SITE (MARKED IN RED)

For the Gottsunda area, the planning program includes a street structure where the main roads Hugo Alfvéns väg, Gottsunda allé, Slädvägen, Elfrida Andréés väg, and Musikvägen serve as the primary traffic routes. Local streets connect to these main roads and act as link roads that collect traffic from residential streets. They play an important role in enabling transportation, ensuring accessibility, and facilitating public transportation. In the central parts of the planning area, a more cohesive and integrated grid structure is sought.

The size of the blocks in the planning program is designed to create safe residential courtyards with generous greenery and plenty of daylight. The environment between the buildings should feel both inviting and secure. Pedestrian and bicycle paths, in interaction with lively and populated environments, should contribute to increased safety and improved accessibility to meeting places and public spaces.

The urban landscape in the northern part of the reflection site has changed during the 2010s as Gottsunda allé created a new connection to Bäcklösa, and a number of new residential blocks have been added. Improvements to the infrastructure have connected Gottsunda with Bäcklösa and Ultuna. The Gottsunda urban corridor is now planned, which involves an extensive transformation to integrate the tramway and new buildings in the area. By complementing the existing buildings and linking the street structure with continuous paths for walking, cycling, public transport, and cars, the conditions for increased urban life and a safer neighborhood are strengthened. New multi-dwelling houses and terraced houses along the urban corridor will contribute to a broader range of living environments and thus enhance social sustainability.

In the eastern part of the reflection site is a residential area that was previously connected to the centre by

an indoor walkway, which has now been demolished. Further east, a valuable natural area classified as Natura 2000 extends, where the "Gula stigen" trail passes, leading to, among other things, hiking areas in Vårdsätra forest. To the west lie more residential areas, and further west is "Gottsundagipen", a park and nature area with high recreational and ecological values that stretches down to lake Mälaren in the south. In the southern part of the reflection site is the new "Gottsundaskolan" (Gottsunda School) and recreational activities for children and youth, as well as a connection to "Gottsundagipen".

New parks and recreational areas are being created within the urban node to complement the new buildings and strengthen existing qualities and routes. "Gottsunda torg" (Gottsunda Square) is being developed and planned to accommodate more functions compared to today's square. The public spaces are intended to contribute with life, movement, as well as comfort and recreation that promotes meetings between people.

"Gottsunda kyrka" (Gottsunda Church), built in 1980 and designed by architect Carl Nyrén, is a unique wooden church with rose-toned wooden panel facades. The church offers language cafes for new immigrants and has an active children's program, which strengthens its role as an inclusive meeting place. Services are held every Sunday, making the church an important gathering point for the area. Northeast of the church stands a free-standing bell tower, further contributing to its architectural and cultural significance. Gottsunda kyrka is classified as a building with very high cultural-historical value and is a central part of Gottsunda's identity.



View of the roundabout.



Gottsunda kyrka.





1. Gottsunda Centre
2. Cultural centre
3. Gottsundabadet, swimming hall
4. Gottsunda church
5. Modular school, non-permanent
6. New Gottsunda School "Gottsundaskolan"
- 7a / 7b. Office and warehouse building
8. Lidl grocery store
9. Location of the new swimming hall
10. Planned mobility hub
11. "Tillväxthuset", Folk high school
12. Building to be removed
13. Newly renovated housing
14. Existing car parking
15. New Gottsunda Square
16. New tram stop
17. New city center park
18. Forest area preserved in new structure
19. Park area
20. New kindergarten
- 21/ 22. Park / playground
23. Cycle / pedestrian path to Musikparken

Orthophoto with annotations.

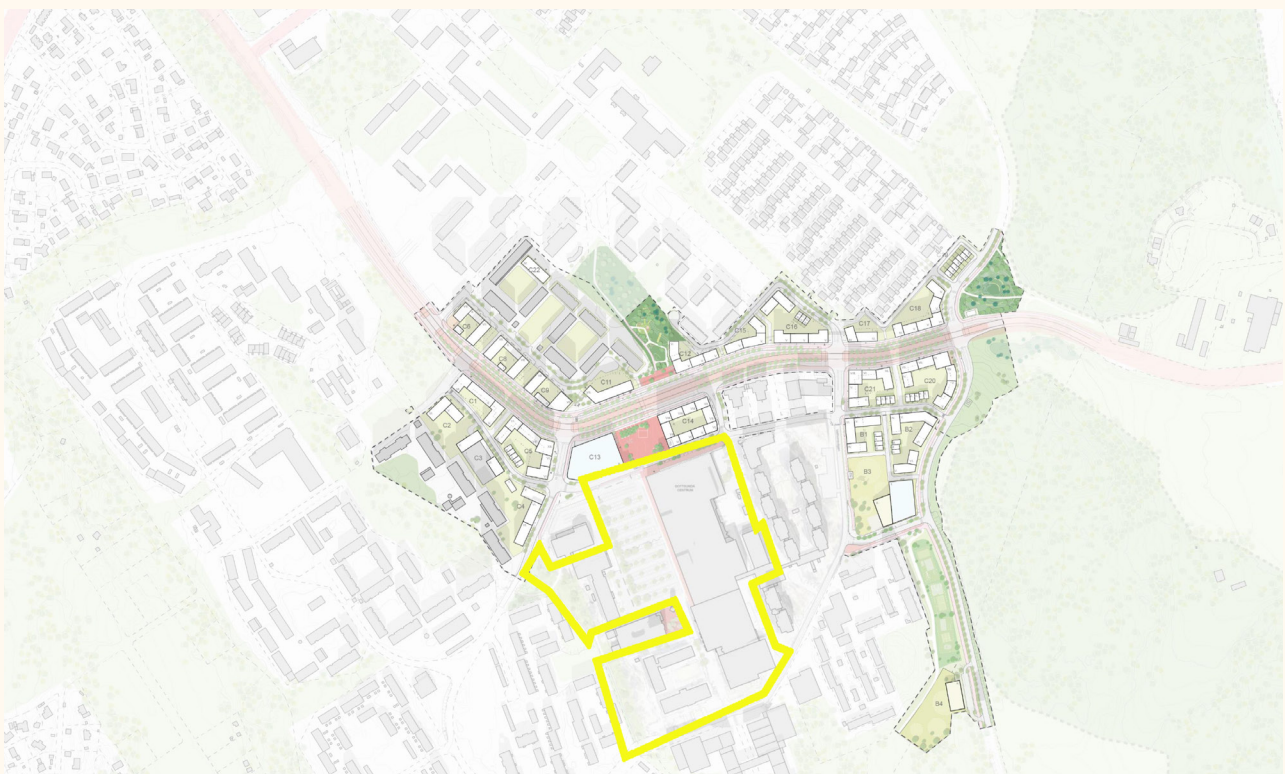


Illustration plan of ongoing planning within Gottsunda urban node.



### PROJECT SITE (MARKED IN YELLOW)

The project site is relatively flat and dominated by the Gottsunda centre building, a more than 300-meter-long indoor shopping mall that houses 32,000 square meters of retail, businesses, and offices. To the west of the center, there are parking spaces. Within the project site, there are a few 1-2 story buildings, owned by Uppsala Municipality, which are used temporarily while awaiting the realization of the urban transformation. Some of these are barracks with temporary building permits.

To the east of the centre, within the project site, there is a loading area for goods deliveries to the centre. A new mobility house is planned here to replace a large portion of the parking spaces while meeting the parking needs for the new residential blocks through shared use. The mobility house will also house a bike workshop, bike parking, and a car workshop. The mobility house is planned to be built over the loading area, which needs to keep its existing function and extent. Access to the mobility house will be from the north.

Along the eastern side of the centre, the "Tillväxthuset" is planned, a building that will become a hub for education and culture. There is also a lower building that is going to be demolished. The link between the centre and the residential block has already been demolished.

To the north, the project site borders the planned Gottsunda square, which will constitute a clear urban space between a new swimming pool and a residential block with retail on the ground floor. These blocks are part of nearly complete planning processes and constitute fixed conditions for the competition, meaning they should not be changed or further studied. Just north of the square, along Gottsunda Allé and Hugo Alfvén's Road, a tramway is planned with its own track along an urban boulevard surrounded by residential blocks on both sides.

The upcoming buildings along Gottsunda's city route will vary in height from 4 to 8 stories, with a few strategically placed buildings of 9 to 12 stories.

To the west of the project site, there is the Lidl grocery store, several residential areas, and Gottsunda Church.

To the south is the newly built "Gottsundaskolan" (secondary school) with space for 900 pupils, as well as an older primary and middle school with over 300 students. From here, several green connections are also accessible, including to Gottsundagipen and Musikparken.

Several smaller buildings around the center building are planned to be demolished or relocated to better utilize the land and create added value. This includes the former school's wing extension, the school's temporary pavilion, and the former elderly care home's gathering space. The latter is located in the eastern part of the project site and the space may become a park square.

Within the project site, to the west of the centre parking, there is a low administrative- and office building that the municipality sees potential to remove or develop for housing on higher floors.

The centre building is mainly two stories. A section at the northern end has been added onto with offices. The building has an internal street running the entire length. Centrally, there is a food market, and in the southern part of the building, there are a library, a cultural house, a sports hall, and a bathhouse, which will be vacated when the new bathhouse is built north of the project site. The eastern side of the centre building is currently perceived as a back side, with loading areas and long closed facades.

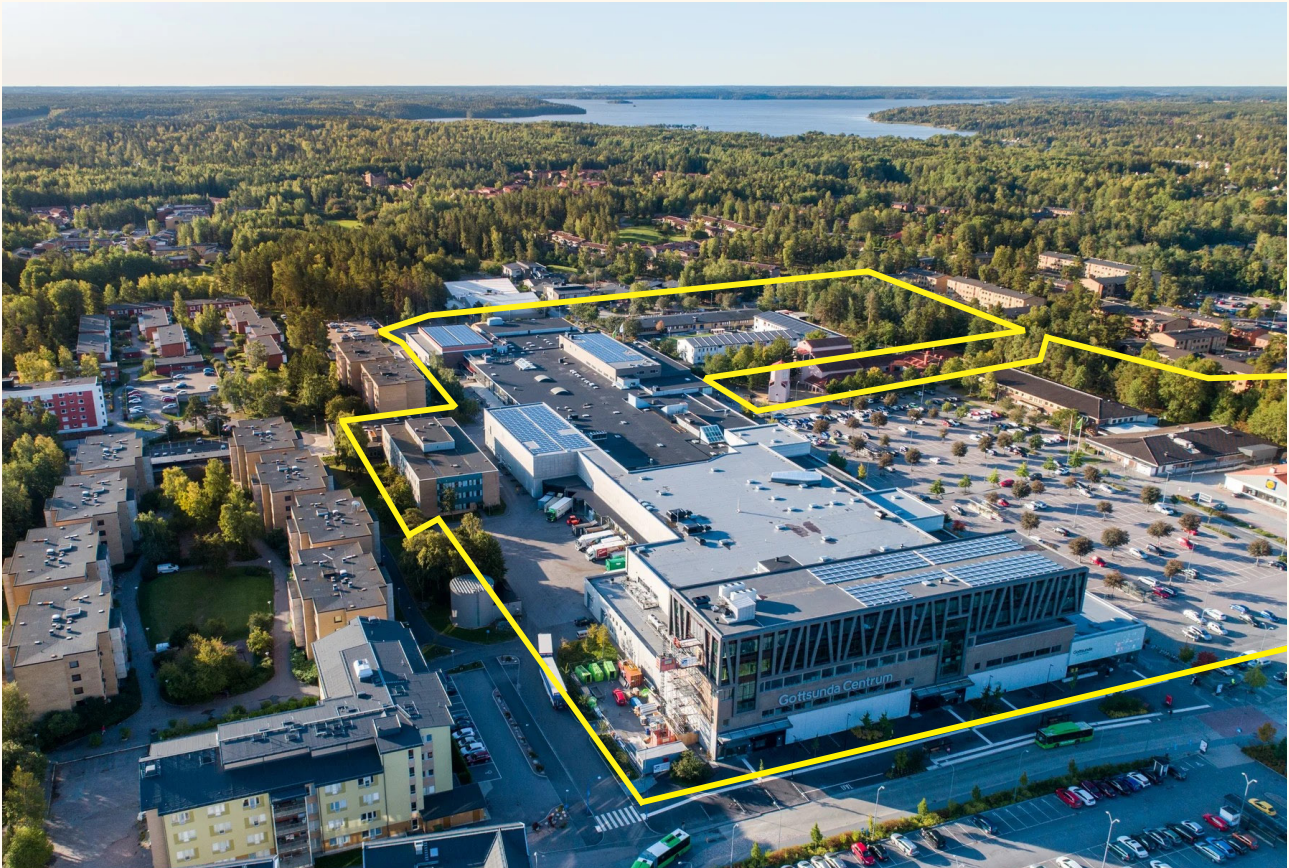


The eastern side of the centre building.

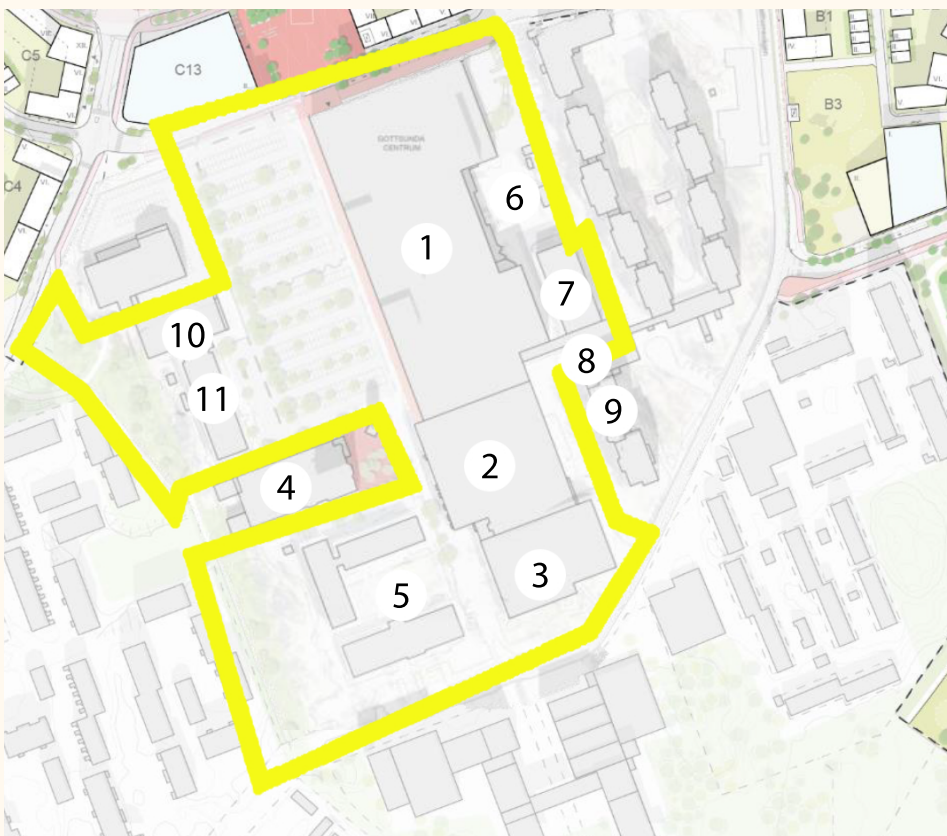


Parking area on the competition site.





Aerial photo from the north over the competition area with lake Mälaren in the background.



1. Gottsunda Centre
2. Cultural centre
3. Gottsundabadet, swimming hall, a new use will be proposed.
4. Gottsunda Church
5. Modular school, not permanent
6. Location of mobility house "Mobilitetshuset" with integrated loading area
7. "Tillväxthuset", folk high school, cultural and association venues
8. Building to be demolished
9. Newly renovated housing
- 10 / 11. Office and warehouse building today (may change)

## COMPETITION TASK

The competition task is to shape a new urban structure. With 600 new homes, a preschool, a square east of the centre, green corridors with connections to surrounding parks and nature such as Gottsundagipen, urban farming, and other activities. The task includes proposing content and functions for the existing swimming hall, parking spaces and studying the facades of the centre building and its connection to surrounding residential blocks. The project site should connect the Gottsunda urban corridor to the north of the competition area with the residential areas surrounding it.

Gottsunda Church is not part of the project site, but due to its central location, particular care must be taken in its adaptation. The church, the bell tower, and the cross sculpture together form a composition whose relationship must be preserved. Sightlines to the church's bell tower must be considered

Currently, there is a large number of medium-sized apartments with 2-3 rooms. The new homes should complement the existing stock and contribute to a wider variety of apartment sizes. They could include condominium ownership, ownership properties, or special housing concepts, such as co-housing, student housing, or senior housing. New homes should have outdoor environments with well-designed green courtyards, balconies, and terraces. The courtyards should be designed with children's needs in mind to encourage play and activity. Planning should strive to meet the principles of the 3-30-300 rule: every person should be able to see at least three trees from their home, school, or workplace; the project site should have a tree canopy cover percentage of at least 30 percent; and all residents should have a maximum of 300 meters to a green space. There should be variation in the design and orientation of the homes within the blocks. Ground-floor spaces with flexible uses should be proposed to contribute to a vibrant urban environment with retail and other business spaces, as well as shared spaces such as laundry rooms, bike rooms, etc.

Blocks facing the centre building should be planned with commercial spaces on the ground floor to create a double-sided shopping corridor.

A square should be developed on the eastern side of the center building, with a clear connection to "Tillväxthuset" and the new entrance to the Cultural Centre. The square should be designed as a lively meeting place where urban farming is integrated.

A kindergarten with approximately 100 places should be placed in the southern part of the competition area. The building should have about 1,200 square meters of gross area, and the yard should be 3,000–4,000 square meters to offer a safe and stimulating outdoor environment for the children.

The centre building should be further developed with welcoming facades and entrances. The competition proposal should show ideas on how the interior of the commercial centre can activate the exterior and contribute to safe and attractive public spaces. Adding apartments to the centre building is possible but must consider of the building's structure and technical feasibility. In such proposals the location of pillars and elevator shafts to ensure a practical and sustainable solution. Other uses for the roof can be proposed, such as energy production. The roof's load-bearing capacity is limited, so larger interventions will require structural reinforcement.

The loading area of the centre building should remain with its existing extent and function. A mobility house is planned on top of the loading area. It should be integrated in the overall design but the structure is not part of the competition task. Principles and structural ideas from the planning program should be applied to the project site, considering factors such as traffic conditions, new tram and bus stop locations, accessibility, and natural values. The competition proposals should show how traffic can be efficiently directed into the area in a way that promotes accessibility and safety. The proposal should include 100 parking spaces for visitors and 100 for residents. These should preferably be placed in the southwestern part of the site to relieve the mobility house and reduce congestion in its surrounding area.

Stormwater management and flood-prevention measures should be considered, and designed into public spaces and courtyards. It is also important to work with stormwater retention and bioremediation in the streets. Since a large part of the development is on impervious surfaces where treatment is lacking, the proposal should retain and treat stormwater from the entire area. A system solution for stormwater from existing and newly proposed buildings is available for for the area.

Hemmaplan and Uppsala Municipality encourage teams with understanding of the local context, preferably with knowledge from similar areas in Europe. The competition proposals should serve as a basis for dialogue and anchoring in forums with established local actors. The competition participants should propose urban development on both Hemmaplan and the municipality's land within the project site. The entire competition area is available for development with a coherent urban structure.





Gottsunda Swimming hall, existing interior. Photo by Staffan Claesson.



Building to be demolished or dismantled.



The eastern side of the centre. Photo by Lovisa Björnfot, Hemmaplan.



Facade at the current library.



The eastern side of the centre with loading area. Photo by Lovisa Björnfot, Hemmaplan.



## GENERAL

### Submission requirements

Below are abridged submission guidelines — please visit European Europe's website to read the submission requirements and competition rules in their entirety.

Proposals should consist of panels and a text. The panels should be three in A1 (594 x 841 mm) portrait format. The content should — in drawings, images and text — explain how the proposal relates to the site's needs and to the theme of "Re-sourcing", and how the proposal's architectural values relate to context and surrounding environment. The content should include a three-dimensional representation of the proposal (for example in perspective, photo montage or model photography). The accompanying text should be a maximum of four A4 pages long and present the proposal ideas, as well as a suggested process of implementation (for example, transforming the plot in a certain order)

## JURY

### European 18 jury

Members of the competition jury:



Pernilla Wåhlin Norén, SE  
Chairman of jury  
– Architect and Building Conservator  
– City architect of Borlänge  
– Board member of Swedish Architects Plan academy  
– Borlänge, Sweden



Johan Arrhov, SE  
– Architect  
– Founding partner, Arrhov Frick Arkitektkontor  
– Visiting professor Accademia di Architettura Mendrisio Switzerland  
– Stockholm, Sweden



Lone-Pia Bach, SE  
– Professor architectural preservation at Royal institute of art  
– Founder of Bach architects  
– Stockholm, Sweden



Meta Berghauser Pont, SE  
– Professor in Urban Morphology and Urban Design at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg  
– Runs the research group SMOG  
– Norrköping, Sweden

### Competition timeline and dates of importance:

**Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025** -The competition opens. All competition sites are presented. Registration and download of complete competition documents starts.

Launch event, with lectures and presentations. See European Sweden's website.

**Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - Site visit with site representatives  
(pre-registration to [info@europan.se](mailto:info@europan.se) required).

**Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - Last date for competition questions.

**Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - Last date for answers to competition questions.

**Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - Last day for submitting competition entries.

**Monday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - Competition results and winners are published.



Helle Juul, DK  
– Architect, Ph.D.  
– Founding partner of JUULFROST Architects  
– President to INTA  
– Copenhagen, Danmark



Sam Keshavarz, SE  
– Landscape architect  
– Founder of Outer Space Arkitekter  
– Stockholm, Sweden



Øystein Rø, NO  
– Architect  
– Founding partner Transborder Studio  
– Oslo, Norway

### SUBSTITUTES:

Anders Johansson, SE  
– Architect  
– Founding partner at Ateljé Södersvik  
– Stockholm, Sweden

Frida Öster, SE  
– Architect  
– Municipal architect of Nynäshamn Municipality  
– Stockholm, Sweden



## REFERENCES

### About the European competition

European Europe. This includes rules for the the competition:

<https://www.european-europe.eu>

European Sweden:

[www.european.se](http://www.european.se)

Instagram account for European Europe. Lots of previous winners and examples:

[https://www.instagram.com/european\\_europe/](https://www.instagram.com/european_europe/)

Instagram account for European Sweden:

<https://www.instagram.com/europansweden/>

### About Hemmaplan:

Hemmaplan – Long-term real estate development for sustainable community development.

<https://www.dinhemmaplan.se>

### About Uppsala municipality:

Uppsala kommun – Uppsala.se - Uppsala kommun

<https://www.uppsala.se>

Comprehensive plan Uppsala Municipality

[Översiktsplan för 2016 - Uppsala kommun](#)

Uppsala Architectural Policy

[Arkitekturpolicy - Uppsala kommun](#)

About the Gottsunda area:

<https://bygg.uppsala.se/planerade-omraden/gottsunda/>

Planning program for the Gottsunda area (decided by Uppsala Municipality board 2019):

<https://www.uppsala.se/contentassets/9f62a-66e449042ae81ba39f9578d11d9/planprogram-for-gottsundaomradet.pdf>

Ongoing zoning plans:

<https://bygg.uppsala.se/planerade-omraden/gottsunda/pagaende-projekt/pagaende-detaljplaner-i-gottsunda/>

Interactive map of Uppsala Municipality:

<https://kartportal.uppsala.se/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4d2d58592a9047f4ba3c1d9c8a02cf32>

Photos with unnamed copyright are photos taken by Uppsala Municipality.

### Relevant laws and regulations

Accessibility:

<https://www.boverket.se/sv/byggande/tillganglighet--bostadsutformning/tillganglighet/>

BBR, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's building regulations in English: :

<https://www.boverket.se/en/start/publications/2019/boverkets-building-regulations--mandatory-provisions-and-general-recommendations-bbr/>

Temadelar detaljplan. Boverket's guidance on specific planning issues:

<https://www.boverket.se/sv/PBL-kunskapsbanken/planering/detaljplan/temadelar-detaljplan/>

## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

### Public tendering – Swedish sites

European 18 is a design contest with the purpose of negotiating a subsequent service contract. We will further inform the Swedish contracting authorities in the document "Europeanhandboken".

A registered company is not required to compete, but it is required for a subsequent commission from the site owner.

### Legal Provisions for Foreign Architects

In Sweden the title "architect" is not protected, nor is the profession. Anyone can apply for a building permit. There are no legal restrictions to foreign architects exercising their profession in Sweden or having their projects implemented. It is however common that foreign architects in this situation for practical reasons collaborate with a Swedish architect.

In European, the competition rules stipulate that each team must include an architect. As architect counts all persons with a five-year architectural degree (master's degree). For the Swedish sites, we will approve everyone with a European degree that is accepted for a professional title by Architects Sweden (in Swedish "Sveriges Arkitekter", the national architects' organization). If your degree is not from a European country, you have additionally to be a member of a national European architects' organization affiliated with ACE or UIA.

For more information please see [www.european.se/faq/](http://www.european.se/faq/)

# ABOUT EUROPAN

— WANT TO KNOW MORE?

— Visit our website:  
[www.europan.se](http://www.europan.se)

## CONTACT INFORMATION:



E-mail: [info@europan.se](mailto:info@europan.se)

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## EUROPAN SWEDEN



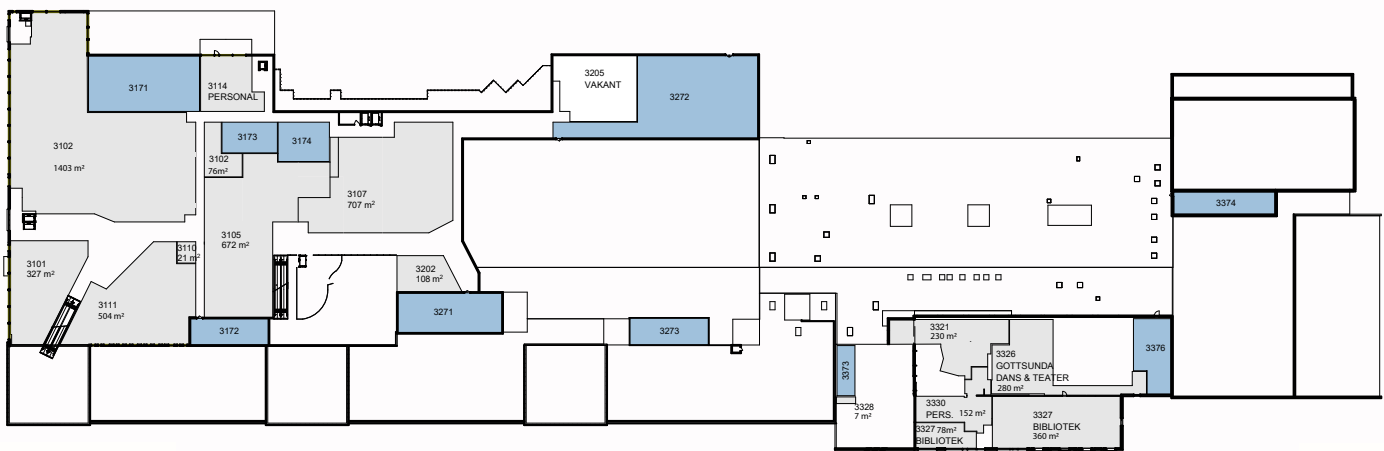
**The Swedish Europan Secretariat is run by Asante Architecture & Design.** Europan 18 is under the auspices of Architects Sweden.

**asante**  
ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Sveriges Arkitekter



Plan of the existing centre, including the library, swimming hall, and sports hall.



### First floor



### Ground floor

## APPENDIX 2

### GOTTSUNDA

Illustrative plan of future development.

