



Nordic Built Cities Challenge finalists revealed

From more than 140 submissions, 23 multidisciplinary teams – and some wildcards – have been selected to proceed to the second stage of the competition.

The Nordic Built Cities Challenge consists of six local competitions, calling for sustainable, smart and liveable solutions to urban challenges related to certain urban spaces in the five Nordic countries and the Faroe Islands. The Nordic Built Cities Challenge is designed and managed by Nordic Innovation, an institution under the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The six local competitions address everything from rainwater management and green mobility to revitalisation of old industrial areas and the development of climate-friendly housing.

Each of the short-listed teams receives an honorarium of NOK 300,000 for their participation in the second phase, along with the opportunity to further develop their solution in collaboration with the challenge owner. The final winners of the local competitions will be announced 16 June 2016. All Nordic finalist teams are also invited to register for the Nordic Built Cities Challenge Awards, amounting to a total of NOK 1,2 million, which will take place in Copenhagen in November.

EFFEKT, SLA and Tredje Natur lead prequalified teams in Copenhagen

In Denmark, three multidisciplinary teams, led by architecture firms EFFEKT, SLA and Tredje Natur, have been prequalified for the renewal of Hans Tavsens Park and Korsgade in Nørrebro. Their task will be to use Hans Tavsens Park to collect and store rainwater in order to reduce pressure on the city's drainage system in the event of heavy rainfalls. The adjacent street, Korsgade, will be developed into a so-called cloudburst road, capable of leading rainwater from the park to a nearby lake. The proposals are expected to combine rainwater solutions and cultural revitalisation, i.e. by creating open and attractive urban spaces, ensuring safer traffic and anchoring the local school as a driver for social and cultural development.

In addition to the three finalist teams, two so called wildcards have been selected, which will contribute with knowledge and inspiration. Områdefornyelsen Nørrebro is furthermore in negotiation with two other wildcards.

Kera Challenge in Finland focuses on circular economy

The objective of the Kera Challenge is to identify circular economy solutions that support the transformation of Kera from an industrial neighbourhood to an attractive 20-minute city. This means that all services, other parts of Espoo and downtown Helsinki should be reachable in 20 minutes, either by foot, bike or public transport. The selected finalists are the teams behind Co-Op City, Kera Era, Kera Lane and Urban Incubator. In its statement, the jury highlighted the finalists' understanding of the needs of the future residents, ability to exploit the possibilities of a circular economy, temporary use of existing buildings, i.e. to develop new business activities, and their focus on materials recycling in the long-term development of the area.

Kársnes Harbour – A sustainable lifeline

In the case of Kópavogur, Iceland, four entries called Sólborg, Spot On, Evolve Kársnes and Harbouring Life, have been admitted to the competition's second stage. The site, Kársnes Harbour, is ideally situated between the centre of Kópavogur and Reykjavík, but as the area is surrounded by water, connectivity to the rest of the capital area is limited. The solutions therefore focus on improving the infrastructure, notably by adding a bridge connecting the site to central Reykjavík, as well as public transportation links and cycle paths. Moreover, the proposals were selected based on



their ability to envisage attractions and leisure activities that could contribute to an attractive mixed-use area at the waterfront of Kársnes Harbour.

Smart, green and urban – Revitalising the transport hub at Trygve Lies Plass

In Oslo, four teams were chosen for their solutions for how to revitalise Trygve Lies plass. The square is located in the suburbs of Oslo, also serving as a transport hub. The finalist proposals successfully combine the physical design of the square, emphasising multifunctional use, and an attractive transport hub that encourages green mobility. Priority is given to pedestrian traffic, bicycles and collective transport, while cars and parking spaces are moved from the surface to an underground parking facility. The finalists of the Norwegian competition are: Norwegian Weather, Keen on the Screen, Flying Carpet and Cycle.

Sharing for affordable and climate smart living – The City of Malmö

In the competition in Malmö, participants were asked to submit ideas for cost-efficient and climate smart housing in Sege Park. The competition looks for innovative solutions where sharing plays an important role to improve resource efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint without compromising the citizens' wellbeing. The selected finalists will be made public 3.2 at 18:30.

The vertical challenge – innovative and sustainable family homes in a steep terrain

Built Enclosure, Hygge, Strip Horizon and the Eyes of Rúnavík have been shortlisted for the second round of the The vertical challenge, a competition aiming to develop new residential housing in a steep hillside in Rúnavík, a town in the Faroe Islands. The selected entries have managed to present modern, characteristic and sustainable architecture, firmly rooted in the Faroese design tradition. They all identify suitable materials and construction techniques for the steep terrain. Furthermore, they put forward strategies concerning the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the area, including energy concepts based on the use of geothermal heat, wind energy and solar panels, as well as natural ventilation of the buildings.

More information

The Nordic Built Cities Challenge is a part of Nordic Built Cities – a lighthouse programme in the Nordic Co-operation Programme for Innovation and Business Policies 2014-2017. Denmark is lead country for the programme and responsible for its implementation in cooperation with the four other Nordic governments, the Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordic Innovation. Nordic Innovation is also responsible for the design and management of Nordic Built Cities.

The final winners of the six local competitions in the Nordic Built Cities Challenge will be announced 16 June 2016. The Nordic Built Cities Challenge Awards will take place in Copenhagen in November 2016.

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