

Open International Urban Design Competition January 2012 to April 2012



Summary

-Open International Urban Design Competition for Klaksvík City Center Deadline April 2012

This urban design competition has been arranged by Klaksvík Town Municipality located in the northern part of the Faroe Islands. This brief is the basis of the urban design competition for the town center in Klaksvík and the competition outline is arranged by Klaksvík Municipality in cooperation with Selmar Nielsen Arkitektur and the competition conditions of Arkitektafelag Føroyar. The competition is open to all. Proposals are due by 27th April 2012 at the latest.

Over the last 200 years, Klaksvík has grown from five settlements of a mere 100 people to a modern town of 5000 inhabitants. The large and swift population growth was triggered by the growing fishing industry, which led to the development of the areas along the shore for industrial purposes. The central part of town is virtually undeveloped and with a recent landfill in the center area, where the shore used to be, you are now invited to enter the contest for providing Klaksvík with a masterplan for a new town center.

This contest was initiated so that Klaksvík may take advantage of the untapped resources that lie in the town's center. The ideas generated by this contest are to be used for the creation and arrangement of Klaksvík's town center, which will be comprised by new residential and commercial areas, offices, public institutions, and leisure areas; as well as all the services that citizens can expect from a town center. The winning entry will be used as the basis for new build-

ing regulations and for inspiration for new construction work in Klaksvík's center.

In preparation for this contest, Klaksvík Municipality has undertaken an update of its master plan with the main emphasis on projection of future numbers and figures, and an updated analysis of commerce and trade in Klaksvík. Together with Klaksvík's conservation group, municipal records have been made of conservation worthy land areas, buildings, landscapes and other historic sites in Klaksvík, some of which are still recognizable today while others have vanished or been forgotten.

Klaksvík Municipality hopes to receive many entries and will award a total of 800,000 DKK. A 1st place prize of 400,000 DKK and a 2 nd place prize of 150.000 DKK will be awarded, in addition to other purchases of proposals and honorable mentions. More information can be found on Klaksvík's website www. klaksvik.fo. The contest summary and supplemental documents can be downloaded from www.ark.fo.

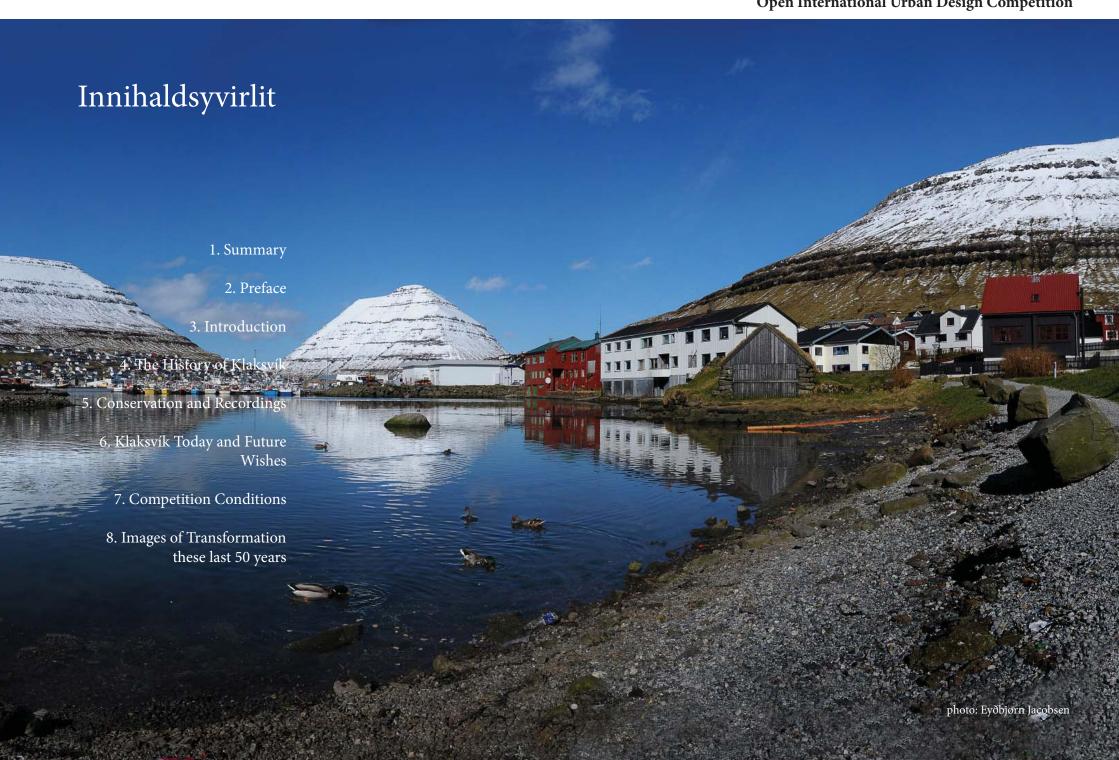


photo: mureldur



photo: mureldur





Preface

- an Invitation for the Urban Design Competition

Klaksvík, a town by the sea, lies between high mountains and deep fjords in the northern part of the Faroe Islands. The center of the town, the heart of Klaksvík, covers the town central area by the estuary and extends outwards along the east and west banks of the harbor.

We want a contemporary city center, that still manages to preserve the city's heritage. We want a city center that is forward thinking and will make Klaksvík an interesting place to live and work in.

We invite you to enter this contest. We know that there are numerous professions capable of providing us with unique perspectives and inventive and imaginative ideas on creating a town center. We want more for our town.

A comprehensive plan and a planning process will be of significant importance for the continued development of our town. This competition brief provides the source material for the proposals for Klaksvík's future. This contest is open to all, and we hope that the provided material will generate proposals for an organization model and a comprehensive plan around which Klaksvík's Council, citizenry, and industry can rally – a long term and strategic plan that Klaksvík Municipality can embrace.

We are convinced that Klaksvík is at a unique point in its history. While Klaksvík's identity is made up of three pillars: fishing industry, music and sports; there is a broadmindedness amongst its inhabitants on the town's direction. Expressions of opinion are freely aired, and there is an ongoing, open debate on the future of the municipality. We therefore urge contestants to do their utmost to focus on a comprehensive plan and organizational guidelines that will serve to strengthen the future development of Klaksvík Municipality.

On behalf of Klaksvík City Council

Gunvá við Keldu Mayor

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Introduction

Klaksvík, as we know it today, was built in the twentieth century, when the fishing industry gained momentum. The town held potential for the fishing trade to prosper. Klaksvík had a good, natural harbor and ships could moor there in the winter. Klaksvík currently has 5,000 inhabitants and is the center of the north region of the Faroes, which includes six islands. Klaksvík gained a permanent

road connection to "Eysturoy", one of the two main islands in 2006, so that now approximately 85% of the Faroese population is connected by tunnels and bridges. This new link to the island Eysturoy presents an unprecedented situation, that can alter the current balance of the country. The old structure, with Klaksvík as the center of the northern region, may come under threat. At the same time the new infrastructure may strengthen the possibilities of Klaksvík becoming the center of an even larger region. Only time will tell. With the upcom-

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ing municipal reform encouraging municipalities to merge, a new structure might change the balance as we know it today. Klaksvík is the second largest town in the Faroes.

A Future Klaksvík

The town center has an amazing location by the sea. Through this urban design competition, Klaksvík Municipality wants to make the town the ideal location for industry, retail trade, and cultural events – as well as residence!





Klaksvík City anticipates that entries will:

- assemble Klaksvík more across "Eiðið" (the isthmus), that links the two sides of the town
- create a new city center with designated areas for public functions, thus increasing the flow of people doing errands in the town center
- provide sustainable solutions within the Agenda
 21 principles
- create a denser town center using the Shared Space traffic principles
- point out solutions with consideration to wind

- and weather, especially restricting the wind across "Eiðið" (the isthmus) to provide shelter most of the year for outdoor stay and for pedestrians and bikers
- make Klaksvik a more attractive city for innovation, cultural activities, and building new friendships
- provide Klaksvík with urban design that will encourage high standards in architecture in the city center and with respect for the environment
- strengthen and improve the center as a venue that highlights the identity of the city and its

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- make a comprehensive plan that develops the town's center, while still linking new construction to the already existing buildings and their environments in the central area
- recommend an urban master plan to be implemented in local building regulations for the area.

Introduction



The center area in Klaksvik seen from an easterly direction

The History of Klaksvik

It was believed that the Faroes were populated by Norsemen in 800 AD, but recent archaeological studies indicate that the islands had been populated for quite some time before the Norsemen settlement. It is not certain whether the settlement by the south bay called "Borðoyarvík" in Klaksvík is that old; but circa 900 AD people began to inhabit Borðoyarvík making it possibly the oldest settlement of the region.

Much later, after the ancient settlements by Borðo-yarvík had been abandoned, there were about four settlements at Bø, in addition to the one at Norðoyri. The population was small. In 1802, when there were about 5,000 people living in the Faroes, there were 88 people in the four settlements by the bay.

In spite of agriculture being the main occupation in Klaksvík throughout the 19th century, there was already a store and several fishing vessels in 1865. The commercial transformation had started in 1838 when the Royal Trade Monopoly acquired a local shop in Klaksvík. The population of 200 people had increased into 700 by 1908, with the majority settling

around the old Monopoly buildings on the western side and á Stongunum on the eastern side. It was from commerce and the shipping trade which first developed in Klaksvík where the Fornminnisavnið (Museum) is situated today that the town derived its new identity, the change from agriculture to partly a fishing town, as well as its name by which it has been known ever since.

During the years after the First World War until 1960, Klaksvík developed from a medium sized village in Norðuroyggjum (the northern islands in the Faroes) into being the largest fishing trade harbor in the country. Since the 1960's progress has not been significant; however, the fishing industry did recover since the crisis of the 1990's and 2008, which resulted in the collapse of Fiskavirking, the main fish producer, and Eik Banka, one of the two main banks in the Faroes.

Harbor Facilities

In 1910 a preliminary solution was found for wintering the ships in the bay when the city council purchased a 350 fathoms long chain in England. This chain was drawn across the bay from the western to the eastern shores. Most of the trade houses



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image: Klaksvík year approx.1900





built their own wharfs, but from 1937 to 1949, a 170 meter long pier was built extending from the west shore and a 277 meter long wharf was built on the coast by the municipality. On the east shore, known as A Stongunum, the building of a wharf was undertaken in 1959. In connection with the opening of the filet factory á Kósini in 1965, J.F. Kjølbro built a 145 meter long wharf along the east shore. In the 1970's and 1980's large harbor extensions were undertaken; that made the harbor in Klaksvík into what we know today.

Institutions, Culture and Sports

Today Klaksvík is a contemporary town with both public and local institutions to meet the requirements of local and northern region citizens. A contemporary hospital and a nursing home have been built on the western shore, and a fine new Post Office building was built in the town's central area in 1966. In the 1970's the Telephone Company House was built Doctors Offices and a Police Station were built over the last decade. The Church built in 1963 lies on the slope to the west of the central area, and the Brothers Congregation, which plans to build a new meeting house, owns a building to the central area's east. The Entrepreneur House is located in Kjølbro's old office building.

In 1950 the Municipality opened a new library that now resides in community facilities in the district called Biskupsstøð. The Fire Brigade has access to the sea and is located on the eastern shore below the city council administration building.

The cinema house Atlantis Bio has film shows and other cultural activities while the actor's company called Klaksvíkar Sjónleikarfelag performs stage plays in the old trade building on the outskirts of Klaksvík, called Spaniastovu. The dancers' association "Dansifelagið" has its own premises in the building called Skálanum, that was built in the 1980's.

In 1968 the first sports hall in the Faroes was built in Klaksvik. Extensive repair work and modifications were made to the sports hall in the 1980's. A new shelter was built at the football stadium and a badminton hall was recently erected. The first indoor swimming pool in the Faroes was built in 1974 in Klaksvik. Klaksvíkar Róðrarfelag, (the rower's association) has its own residence in the center of the town facing the small bay to the north.

Traffic

Today, Klaksvík is a highly developed community with

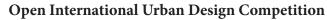




image: Ships on a mooring during winter months







contemporary facilities for trade, culture, and education. The municipality is the commercial, cultural, and athletic capital of the northern region. Its activity and infrastructure has succeeded in attracting citizens from other islands, including Norðoyggjar (the Northern islands). Klaksvík is favorably situated in Nordoyggjar with a very good natural harbor.

Klaksvík and Norðoyggjar have been met with large challenges since the construction of the subsea-tunnel linking Klaksvík to Eysturoy. The subsea-tunnel at Borðoyarvík has completely transformed trade condi-

after centuries of direction towards the bay. Gamal býlingur Old part of town Grønt øki Green area Gamal býlingur **old** part of town Nýggj uppfylling New landfill Tætt bygging um veg tætt við strond Xarrow street close to waterfront Old parts of town, new landfill and green area in the competition area.

tions and linked Klaksvik, which used to be a natural

geographical and commercial entity, directly to the

commercially strong main area in Eysturoy. The new

fixed traffic connection will possibly strengthen the

connection between trade and culture in Norðoyggjar

and Eysturoy; and thus that a more significant center

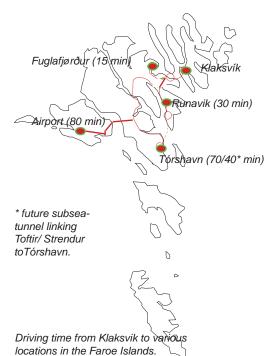
Now the main traffic artery in Klaksvík which origi-

nally was situated at Borðoyarvík(south bay) during

the first settlement period, has returned to its origin,

will develop in the northern region.

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Conservation

The recording of conservation worthy cultural environments, landscape, buildings, sea shore, etc.

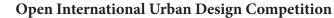
With the great changes that have taken place in Klaksvík, especially during the last century, Klaksvík Municipality has pointed out the need to include original landscape, cultural heritage and conscientious construction as focal points in planning the future of Klaksvík.

In connection with the launching of this contest the conservation committee in Klaksvík has arranged for the recording of buildings, landscape, streets, seashores, and historic sites that may influence

future planning in Klaksvik.

You will find the registration and records on maps in pdf-format on www.ark.fo from the analysis of the conservational group in Klaksvik.

The maps especially demonstrate how Klaksvík appeared before the numerous land-fills for piers, and jetties covered the seashore, beach and rivers. The records also show how Klaksvík has grown from being a few townships with stone walls. The stone walls have been moved further and further away such that the stone fence today is up in the mountains. In this expansion of the town, many a landscape has vanished completely. By the recording undertaken by Klaksvík Municipality, the future citizens of Klaksvík will understand some of the hidden or lesser visible town's history.



In Klaksvík's center, the cornerstone of this contest, remnants from Klaksvík's past include the rivers, beach, fields, Summer Festival venue, and old town districts near Biskupsstøð.







Klaksvík today

- and future wishes

Updating Klaksvík's master plan and analysis of the town's retail trade indicate many possibilities and increased activities despite international economic decline in recent years. Since the completion of the subsea link to Eysturoy and the more populated islands in 2006, there has been a slight decrease in the population (0.5%) that recently seems to have reversed. At the same time, some 100 residences have been built and retail (especially for everyday goods) has increased significantly.

Klaksvík is centrally situated in the northern region of the Faroes and with 5,000 citizens it is the second largest town in the country. The town is surrounded by magnificent landscape, and its central area faces the sea at the northern end of "Eiðið" (the isthmus), which divides both bays depicting the landscape.

The weather is a huge challenge, especially at the low lying Eiðið, the location of the future town center. Therefore, it is crucial that weather conditions are taken into consideration as hard winds sweep across the "Eiðið," making staying outdoors difficult.



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Klaksvík is the commercial center of the Northern region and the fishing industry's hub in the Faroes. The town is the host of several major popular annual events. Particularly noteworthy is the Summer Festival held in early August. With the event's eight to ten thousand visitors, the Summer Festival is one of the biggest annual events in the Faroes.

The central area of Klaksvík is unique in that it is open to the wind from all directions making outdoor stay difficult. The weather is especially rough during winter. Klaksvík's center lacks safe areas for games and outdoor activities. Klaksvík Municipality wants to give the center area high priority in the



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coming years so that the area becomes the heart of services, trade, cultural activities, and residences - all with the opportunity to meet and stay outdoors. Klaksvík's central area is to be developed into a favorable venue with access to all and opportunities for activities for people of all ages.

This competition holds many possibilities for merging historic buildings with local and contemporary culture and architecture to unify Klaksvík's identity.

In connection with the launching of the competition, Klaksvík City have prepared a description of the requirements for the Municipality's future - naturally the destinies of the new city center and the Municipality itself are heavily intertwined.

Some of the points described for a future Klaksvík are:

- a city-like center with services, shops, and residences
- a dense and more sustainable center, socially, environmentally, and economically
- a town that unites people and nature, taking into consideration local identity and the town's connection to the sea

Klaksvík Municipality expects that the future city center will offer the following functions and services:

- Library or parts of library
- Bus Terminal
- Tourist Information Office
- Administration Building with info-center
- Boat berths and facilities for boat owners
- Sailing Sea Museum
- Better facilities for rowers and boatclubs
- Cultural House containing Music-and Arts school and Museum.

Klaksvík Municipality has updated the Master Plan this year from which it can be seen that there is a large need for residences. Due to the findings, it is expected that about approx. 100 new apartments will be located in the center area during the coming years, further contributing to a vibrant downtown. In the commercial zones, there should be room for shopping streets, coffee shops, hotels, etc.

Based on Klaksvík's updated Master Plan and its Trade and Commerce Analysis, the Municipality estimates, that there is a basis for increasing the retail trade in Klaksvík. This increase will, to a great extent,





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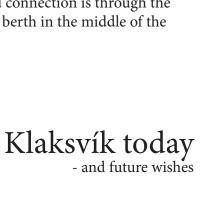
take place in the new town center with shopping streets based on the Shared Space principles making the area easily accessible and safe to the citizens.

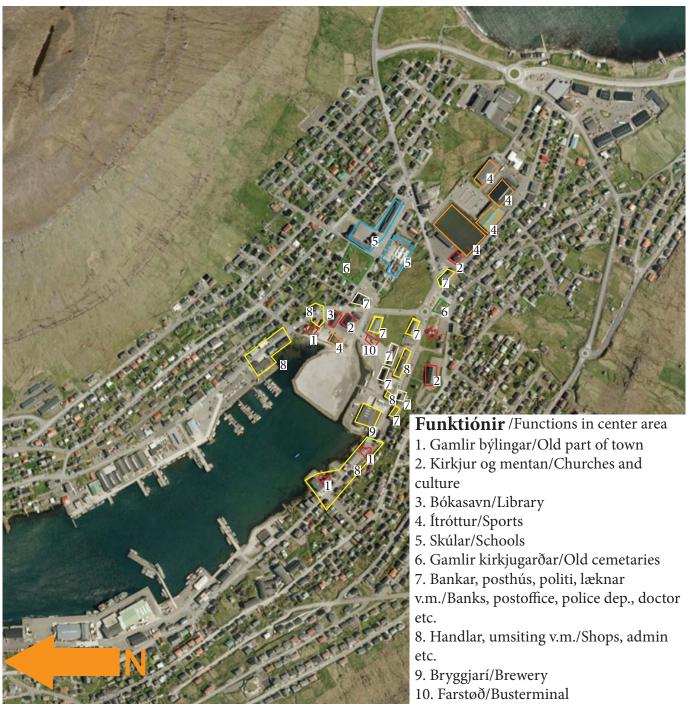
It is vital that outdoor areas for popular events of approximately 3000 square meters be situated in a way that the area can be flexible with changing demands. Today this area is to the east of the post office in the green meadow land. A future outdoor events area should be flexible and should be in proximity of indoor events. The events area will accommodate big events like the Summer Festival (8000 to 10000 persons) and Sjómannadagar (Sailors' days). The area is also used for other festivities as including boating regattas and caravan rallies.

Traffic

Traffic is heavy on the main roads bypassing the town center. These roads are Klaksvíksvegur to the west, Biskupsstøðgøtan to the south and Nólsoyar Pálsgøta to the east. The roundabout at the post office is the most congested place in Klaksvík.

Nortbound traffic, coming from the mainland (subsea-tunnel) and heading to the islands and villages to the north of Klaksvik, is also going through the central area. Also, the traffic on the way to the island Kalsoy, that has no road connection is through the central area to the ferry berth in the middle of the Klaksvík's east bank.





Competition conditions

Definition of subject matter:

The call for procurement is an idea competition the admissibility for participation is open for everyone. The applicable conditions are in accordance with the regulations of Arkitektafelag Føroya AF.

Organizer

The procurement is held/organized by Klaksvík Muncicipality.

Time Schedule for the Competition

Publication on the websites of Klaksvík Municipality and AF, respectively, on 20 jan. 2012. Deadline for possible questions is 12 march 2012. Deadline for submission is 27 April 2012. Publication of result is expected 15 May 2012.

Submission of material

Proposals to be submitted to: Arkitektafelag Føroya Postboks 1310 FO-110 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

The proposals should be marked Competition and contain the five digit number + an optional proposal motto/slogan. The proposals are to be handed over on site before 27 April 2012 at 4 pm. Mailed proposals must not be postmarked later than the deadline and should be received no later than six days subsequent to the deadline in order to be admissible for consideration.

Competition Coordination and Secretary

SP/F Selmar Nielsen Arkitektur coordinates the

competition. Tórálvur Weihe is the secretary of the competiton (the e-mail address is kapping@ark.fo).

Competition Brief and other documents

The competition brief (this brief) is available at the websites www.klaksvik.fo and www.ark.fo.

Documents containing dwg drawings and other inspirational material can be downloaded from www. ark.fo. There will be a fee imposed for the appendixes to the brief which is DKK 300 (three hundred DKK). The procedure for downloading is accessible on the web-site www.ark.fo.

Right to participate

The competition is open to all interested parties. However, those entities, private or public, or natural/legal persons that fall within any of the belowmentioned categories are not qualified for submitting/participating, i.e. which have:

- been involved in the preparation of the contest
- have contributed with significant material to the competition brief
- are employees with, or represent, the organizers of the contest
- are employees with, work with, or employ members of the judging panel and consultants
- are next of kin, or are closely connected to, members of the judging panel
- have ownership connection thus that the owners are next of kin or connected to members of the judging panel and consultants.

In case of doubt as to your right to participate, please contact Arkitektafelag Føroya, Tórálvur Weihe at kapping@ark.fo.

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Language

The brief is available in Faroese and English. A summary of the material estimated to be the most relevant is also available in both languages. The contest entries are to be in either Faroese, Scandinavian or English.

Panel of Judges

The entries submitted within the time limit will be assessed by a panel of Judges made up of:

- Vibeke Lydolph Lindblad, Architect MAA
- Mikael Viderø, Architect, appointed by AF
- Gunnar Hoydal, Architect, appointed by AF
- Gunnvá við Keldu, Mayor of Klaksvík
- Auðunn Konradsson, Fisherman
- Óluva Klettskarð, Cand.Mag.
- Heri Hammer, Manager of the Technical Department in Klaksvik
- Magnus Arge, Businessman
- Edward Fuglø, Artist

and Robert Thomassen, Architect AF, is appointed Secretary for the Panel of Judges.

The Panel of Judges is allowed to summon consultants on various subjects contained in the proposals.

Appraisal

The Panel of Judges renders an appraisal for Klaksvík Municipality, which shall contain:

- List of entries
- Justification for possible rejected proposals
- General experience from the competition
- General assessments by the Panel of Judges
- Precise evaluation and assessment of the winning proposal, purchases and potential additional proposals that the Panel of Judges con-

- sider merit to be mentioned
- Justified recommendation for the division of awards
- Recommendation for further use of proposals

Awards

The Panel of Judges has a minimum of DKK 800,000 for awards. The first prize will be DKK 400,000. The second prize will be DKK 150,000 and the Panel of Judges is free to divide the remaining DKK 250,000 into purchases and/ or prizes. The minimum prize for a purchase will be DKK 25.000. It is also possible for the Panel of Judges to give honorable mentions.

Copyright

Klaksvík Municipality, as the organizer of this competition, acquires proprietary of material and a full license for use of the entries that are awarded or purchases for continuous planning work in the centre area. Participants hold the copyright to the relevant proposals, therein the copyright for specified proposals for buildings and/or constructions according to applicable rules on copyright.

Anonymity

The contest is based on the handing over and judgment of anomynous proposals in accordance with the competition rules of Arkitektafelag Føroya. The responsibility of keeping the submission of any participant anonymous lies with each relevant participant until the publication of the Appraisal. In order to secure anonymity a name tag with the name of the relevant participant is to be submitted in a closed envelope marked with the 5 digit number and optional headline/slogan of the participant.

Insurance

Submitted proposals will not be insured by Klaksvík Municipality. The participant is responsible for keeping a copy of the proposal, in case proposals are mislaid or lost. Compensation will not be awarded for damages to proposals

Rejection

Any proposal that will fall within any of the below categories will be considered inadmissible for the purpose of the competition:

- the proposal has not been submitted within the time limit
- the proposal does not keep the anonymity
- the proposal does not meet significant requirements as to the submitted material or
- the proposal does not meet significant requirements as to the terms as described in the competition brief e.g. on right to participate

Display and publication

All approved proposals may on the basis of a decision of the Municipality of Klaksvík be published and displayed in Klaksvík.

The display will take place in Klaksvík on premises which will be adapted to the volume of the submitted proposals. Also, proposals may be displayed in other contexts, in the media, for instance.

The display of proposals will most likely occur subsequent to the announcement of whom the prices and possible special honourable mentions will be given to.

The result of the competition will also be published on the web site of Arkitektafelag Føroya and those of professional Architect associations abroad.

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The submitted proposals will not be returned.

The Competition Basis

The basis of the competition is this competition brief and the Map of Klaksvík with height graphs in a dwg-format.

The map and other documents that might be inspirational in terms of analysis, photos and maps from a preservational point of view can be downloaded from the website of ww.ark.fo.

All the competition material is accessable on the web site of www.ark.fo. The competition brief minus appendices is also available on Klaksvík Municipality's web site www.klaksvik.fo.

Questions and Answers

Questions regarding the competition material are to be forwarded to Tórálvur Weihe, General Secretary of Arkitektafelag Føroya email: kapping@ark.fo. Deadline for questions is 12 march 2012. Answers to questions are only to be answered and found on the AF's webpage www.ark.fo.



Approval

The competition conditions are in accordance with, and have been prepared in agreement with AF. Upon submission of a proposal, the participant has accepted the competition conditions.

Requirements for Submitted Material

Submitted material should, but is not limited to, contain the below:

- Plan and sections in the relation 1:500 for the town's center area (the competition area);
- Illustrations showing ideas with regard to the environment and producing a space illustrative image in regard to the environment;
- Plan in the relation 1:2000 for areas in the close nearby environment and for Klaksvík as a whole;
- Illustrations and analysis basis supporting above plans and sections with instructions and description as to design and creative process of main ideas;
- Text material supporting plans, sections, illustrations, etc.

The below should be demonstrated;

- Future situation in relation to or implemented in present situation;
- Important places/squares and meeting areas with inventory focusing on day and night use;
- Buildings, streets, pedestrian and bicycle roads, parking;
- Landscape use and development;
- Design and quality demonstration and description of significant areas or inventory.
- The size of the different stages in a future development in Klaksvik City Center;

Appraisal Criteria

The entries will be appraised on the basis of the quality of the total urban plans for the whole competition area with regard to optimal solutions for town planning, architecture, landscape and urban design. Furthermore the entries will be judged on the combining of existing built environment and new cityscape in the competition area.

The Competition Area

The focus area of the competition is Area 1 on the map showing the competition area (Introduction Chapter). Area 2 in the same map is not the competition area, but is significant to the context of the town. A participant may submit proposals comprising larger areas than Area 1 in situations in which it can be considered to have a bearing on the proposal to be submitted

Posters

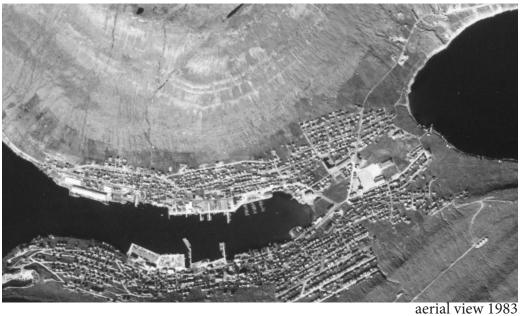
The suspended material should be maximum 1.20 m high and 2.52 m long (corresponding to 6 A1 posters) The posters should be fastened to light boards in horizontal position. Posters are to be submitted on a CD or similar in PDF format. At least five copies of a maximum of 10 A3 pages showing the posters in a smaller size together with a description of the proposal. All the text must be of a readable size. Models are not accepted.

Competition conditions



Pictures of Transformation last 50 years







aerial view 2009

Transformation