

WSP FINLAND

WSP won the Sipoo Sibbesborg competition for Sustainable Community Development

The most ambitious competition for Sustainable Community Development has been resolved. The WSP Finland's proposal "Nourish!" won the competition where Sipoo was seeking direction to develop Sibbesborg area. It is the first district plan to be developed to such a wide area with a sustainable aim, states the Project Manager Katriina Rosengren of the WSP team.

The planning competition organized by Sipoo municipality, Finnish Association of Architects and Aalto University and sponsored by Tekes, Sitra and RYM-SHOK Oy was looking for answers to build a sustainable community for 70 000-100 000 residents in the present Söderkulla and surrounding areas close to Helsinki border. The principal characteristics of the area are closeness to Helsinki metropolitan area, Turku- St. Petersburg national highway, the presence of the sea and archipelago and agriculture.

'According to the judges the proposal Nourish! had the most innovative structure for the twin city of Sibbe and Borg. Their short distances attract to walk and cycle and the efficient public transport promote sustainability. Zero-energy-houses are emphasized in residential development. The judges also appreciated the way WSP exploited the local strengths and aim to develop Sibbesborg as the trademark local food in Finland.', says Mikko Aho, the Development Manager of Sipoo.

Local strengths into assets in sustainable urban villages

WSP's proposal 'Nourish!' is based on urban villages, which form a network around the twin city of Sibbe and Borg. Amenities are situated in a dense area, living is based mainly on townhouses and small scale flats, mobility both near and far has been resolved by extending the metro line to Sibbesborg and the self-sufficiency in workplaces is high.

'The cornerstones of our proposal are exploiting the local strengths and connecting Sibbe and Borg from the twin city all the way to Helsinki. The energy model should be realistic and it should take into account the broad energy solutions in the local region and it should comply with renewable energy sources. Here pure, high-quality local food can be produced for Southern Finland and a cluster of businesses and services would emerge around this competence.' says Katriina Rosengren the Project Manager for Sustainable Developments.

According to Rosengren a sustainable community cannot be a bedroom community. 'Fast public transport connections connect Sibbesborg to Helsinki metropolitan area. For sustainable growth for small municipalities such as Sipoo this kind of symbiosis is vital', she stresses.

'The area has a strong identity and a sense of community which we wanted to foster. The challenge for future Sibbesborg is to take a leap to be the forerunner of sustainable life style so that the connection to cultural background is maintained. Sustainability means not only small carbon footprint but also maintaining and advancing the natural environment, socioeconomic and cultural strengths and values', evaluates Katriina Rosengren.

Planning of sustainable communities requires leadership and uniting different disciplines

There are many aspects in the resolutions of Sibbesborg to be exploited for the sustainable development of other municipalities, says Terhi Tikkanen-Lindström the Branch Manager of Environment and Architecture in WSP Finland.

'The municipalities are in a key position because they have a possibility to affect the objectives of planning. We wish that models making the Finnish urban planning more sustainable will be taken from the best proposals in such an ambitious competition. With the support for product developments of the organisations like Tekes, Sitra and RYM-SHOK and resources from the Environmental Administration the specifications and legislation may be brought forward.'

For the renewal of planning it is also vital to look beyond the traditional professional fields. When multidisciplinary teams get used to working together they produce not only innovative but also feasible plans', say Tikkanen-Lindström.

WSP has numerous awards in sustainable design and planning competitions (Greater Helsinki Vision 2050, InTO to Orimattila Henna area, Low2No- block design and Peltosaari redevelopment plan) and a broad experience in practice (Espoo Finnoo Vision, Tampere Niemenranta area planning to meet LEED specifications). Katriina Rosengren has also worked a long time in the project of Foster+ Partners and WSP Group planning the low carbon city of Masdar in Abu Dhabi.

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Sibbesborg a competition for sustainable Community development organized by the Municipality of Sipoo, OSKE Centre of Expertise Programme, RYM Oy, Finnish Association of Architects and Aalto University.

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Recent plans in Helsinki metropolitan area are for example Crusell Bridge, Kirkkonummi-Kivenlahti motorway, Hakamäentie, Viikki low-energy house, Meilahti triangula hospital and most of the railway development. Elsewhere in Finland our plans include Pilke- house in Rovaniemi for Metsähallitus, Tampere Niemenranta area, Turku Myllysilta, Olkiluoto nuclear Power Plant and numerous windpark developments. Examples of international planning are Boiler planning projects for cellulose Plants and Power Plants in Chile, Brazil, Korea and many European countries and numerous Bridge Design projects in Europe and Asia.

WSP Finland is a part of the worldwide WSP Group employing 9,000 experts in a network of 200 offices scattered throughout 35 countries. WSP was established in 1969 and it is listed in the London Stock Exchange