

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Stockholm, Sweden, showing a mix of modern and older apartment buildings, green spaces, and a view of the sea in the distance. The sky is overcast. The text 'Power of Places' is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow font.

# *Power of Places*

# Power of Places

**In the future, development and maintenance will be two words to describe the same thing. Power of Places is a call for proposals with the aim to explore ways and means to utilize, gently develop and strengthen local values in urban development. If stop producing new things and instead take care of existing materials, opportunities and people, what kind of development and aesthetics would that allow for?**

In order to create transformation, we need to draw on all existing resources – including materials, knowledge and experiences – and build carefully on what we already have. Together, architecture, art and design can offer the tools for more place-based models of development, and show how new ways of working can lead to remarkable places and encounters.

In 2023, the City of Malmö is collaborating with Copenhagen, World Capital of Architecture 2023. In connection to this, ArkDes and the City of Malmö are launching a call for proposals with the aim to explore what happens when local resources and local knowledge are at the centre of development. The call is carried out with the support of the Society for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Green Parks in Malmö.

Power of Places focuses on Rosengård and Nyhamnen, two different geographies with different conditions and needs. Two selected interdisciplinary teams will be tasked with inventorying each site, exploring new ways of working and, finally, developing full-scale prototypes that can be the starting point of new approaches for development and maintenance of the two areas. The assignment also includes exploring the relationship and the possible exchange between the two geographies.

The call is open to interdisciplinary teams consisting of at least one person with design expertise – such as architect, designer, artist or designer.

A collaboration between:

**ArkDes**



Supported by:



Photo: Apelöga/Malmö stad

## Background and purpose

In 2023, Malmö has launched a collaboration with Copenhagen regarding their title as UNESCO Capital of Architecture. Copenhagen and Malmö will thus be the epicenter for the global conversation about future living environments. A wide range of programs and events will take place during the year, including the major architecture conference Sustainable futures – leave no one behind in Copenhagen on 2-6 July 2023. The year of architecture in Malmö is called *Malmö in the making*.

In conjunction with this, Swedish stakeholders has the opportunity to drive the conversation on the role and capacity of design in the development of sustainable and just societies. Architecture, design and the arts consists of processes and methods that promote robustness and a socially sustainable development for all. How can we make the best use of them?

Power of Places is a collaboration between ArkDes and the City of Malmö with the support of the Society for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Green Parks in Malmö. ArkDes works with practice-based research in order to develop and disseminate knowledge about the design of our common living environments. The City of Malmö is engaged in long-term urban development in the districts of Rosengård and Nyhamnen, which form the cases for this call.

The Society for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Green Parks in Malmö aims to preserve, nurture, bring to life and further develop the cultural heritage of Malmö and to promote beautification such as planting and artistic decoration.

### Rosengård

Rosengård is located in the eastern part of Malmö, inside the inner ring road. It is home to around 34,000 people and a larger proportion of the population is younger than the city average. Several of Rosengård's residential areas are characterised by brutalist architecture from the 1960s and 70s. In addition, there large green spaces, schools, kindergartens and the East Cemetery.

Over the next few decades, the district will be developed with around 2 800 new homes, new primary schools, new pre-schools and around 1 500 workplaces. The development is expected to be completed around 2040.

### Nyhamnen

Nyhamnen is a district located directly adjacent to the harbour, the sea, central Malmö and Malmö C. The development of this area will take place in stages and will last for several decades. Directly north and east of Malmö Central Station, development is already underway, as are plans for the new main street and parts of the area closest to the water. The final phase of the construction is expected to last from 2040 to 2050.

Nyhamnen has a rich cultural environment and an ongoing urban life that is the starting point for the development of the area with public spaces and meeting places for the whole of Malmö. The ambition is for the area to take a leading role in the climate transition – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally – by developing shared solutions that can be scaled up and have significance for many.



Photo: Finn Williams/Malmö stad

## Task and process

The aim of the Power of Places call is to demonstrate what a community based and resourceful urban development would look like. Two teams will be tasked with exploring and designing methods for maintenance and development of an area, the methods and approaches developed in the project will support Malmö City's long-term work in the neighbourhoods.

The call is a first step in challenging current methods of planning, building and maintenance, its ambition is to create an approach to urban development that is robust and multifaceted. In the second half of the project, two full scale prototypes – one in each area – will be produced in order to demonstrate the kind of aesthetics, participation and development that this type of urban development can produce.

### The project will provide an opportunity to explore perspectives on:

- Materials and resource flows – what materials, resources and resource flows are connected to the site and how can they be used?
- Value and heritage /historical value – who defines what is worth protecting and how this in turn shapes future development?
- Opportunities in maintenance – how are sites cared for and what opportunities/constraints does maintenance create.
- The potential of design – how the tools of architecture, design and art can be used to interpret, shape and invite in order to create outstanding places.

The project will take place in the Rosengård and Nyhamnen districts, both of which are facing major urban planning processes. Two teams work in one district each, where they will inventory selected sites, collaborate with local actors and be responsible for prototype development in the sites. During the project, each team will have a workplace in each district where there will also be staff to provide support.

The two teams will be in close contact with each other during the project in order to build common knowledge and explore links and possible exchanges of resources between the two geographies. An expert group of relevant practitioners and researchers will also be associated with the project and will support the teams throughout the process.

### **The project has three deliverables:**

#### **1. Inventory**

The team will make an inventory of the tangible and intangible values of the site. The inventory may include resources such as knowledge, experience, materials, relationships, flows and different forms of capital.

##### *Deliverable 1:*

A presentation of the inventory and what conclusions the team extracts from it. The presentation will be attended by the expert group, the City of Malmö and ArkDes.

#### **2. Concept / Sketch**

Concepts/ Sketches for development and proposals for long-term maintenance are developed. The sketch process can be structured in different ways and based on different methods.

##### *Deliverable 2:*

Sketches in the form of e.g. hand sketches, models, visualisations, video or collages showing envisaged prototypes and proposals for methods and approaches for long-term maintenance. The presentation will be attended by the expert group, the City of Malmö and ArkDes.

#### **3. Prototype**

Prototyping is exploratory in its nature and should involve the local community. The prototypes will be developed on the basis of local resources, materials and flows and will serve as an investigation and exploration of structural (physical and relational) conditions and provide support for further development and maintenance of the districts.

##### *Deliverable 3:*

Full-scale prototypes or semi-permanent design solutions that can have a long-term impact on the site and a brief final report describing the emergence and relevance of the solution. The team should also describe how the long-term and value-creating maintenance of the result could be achieved.

The team, ArkDes and Malmö Stad, will decide how the process and its various deliverables should be structured. For example, the three deliverables do not have to be completed in chronological order.

At each partial delivery, the team will be asked to answer a number of questions for the purpose of documentation, reflection and knowledge extraction from the project.

Local stakeholders and the public, with their expertise on the site, need to be clearly involved in the project from an early stage.

## **Prerequisites**

#### **Project duration**

The project will start in March 2023 and end in December 2023.

During the project period, a workplace is available in both Rosengård and Nyhamnen where the teams are based. ArkDes and the City of Malmö would like the teams to spend as much time as possible on site in the neighborhoods during the project period.

#### **Timetable**

- **December 6, 2022 – February 12, 2023:** Call for proposals in progress
- **March 13 – March 17:** Start-up workshops on site in the neighbourhoods.
- **March – November:** Project period with inventory, sketch and prototype development. During September-October, the project will be presented in the public program of Malmö in the making.
- **December 2023:** Final delivery as agreed.

#### **Commission**

Each team will receive a total commission of 500 000 SEK. In addition to this, there will be a production budget for the project.

The fee will be paid to one of the project partners who will then distribute the funds within the project team.

## **Who can apply?**

ArkDes and the City of Malmö are looking for two teams that have the ability to work inclusively, experimentally and site-specifically.

#### **Requirements for applicant teams:**

- The team is interdisciplinary and consists of 2-4 people from at least two different disciplines. Team members must come from different workplaces.
- At least one of the team members should be an architect, designer, artist or have similar design expertise. Other team members may have other skills.
- The teams need to be able to work sensitively and cooperate with citizens, local actors and staff at the City of Malmö.
- The team must be on site in the district for part of the project.

#### **It is an advantage if the team has experience in:**

- Managing a project and production budget.
- Working with circular design or with recycled materials.
- Implementing multi-stakeholder and multi-owner processes.
- Work with exploratory, place-based, inclusive and interdisciplinary methods.
- Work with innovation and speculative design.
- Living or working in the Malmö region.

ArkDes and the City of Malmö encourage teams with a diversity of perspectives and experiences. Young talents who have not previously been involved in major projects are warmly welcome to apply.

# Application

Your application must reach us by 23.59 on February 12 2023. It must be written in Swedish or English and sent digitally to [hej.thinktank@arkdes.se](mailto:hej.thinktank@arkdes.se). The application should be submitted as a single PDF file, not exceeding 10 A4 pages. Material exceeding 10 A4 pages will not be included in the evaluation. The file size must not exceed 10 MB.

The application must contain the following:

- 1. Introduction.** A short introduction in which the team describes the reason for the application, how the team intends to approach the project and the possibility for the team to work on site in one of the districts.
- 2. Who are the members of the team?** Description of the composition of the team and common competences.
- 3. How does the team intend to carry out the project?** Description of the methods and practices and possible issues/perspectives that the team is interested in exploring for the inventory and sketch.
- 4. Documentation.** How does the team intend to document the process?
- 5. Learning.** What knowledge would the team like to acquire and further develop during the project?
- 6. What are the team's theoretical and practical starting points?** A brief description of three practice- or research-based projects from which the team draws knowledge and/or builds on it. The projects may have been carried out by members of the team or by other external practitioners or researchers. Links to project reports, videos or other materials may be included if supplemented with descriptive text.
- 7. CV.** Concise CVs in bullet form or link to updated LinkedIn pages.
- 8. Contact details:** company name, contact person, email, phone number, organization number.

Final decision will be made on March 3, 2023.

## Selection criteria

Selection of teams will be based on a weighted assessment of the following criteria:

- The composition of the team in terms of relevant interdisciplinary knowledge.
- The composition of the team in terms of diversity and gender equality.
- How well the team meets the requirements listed under the heading 'Who can apply?'
- Relevance and potential of theoretical and practical starting points.
- Relevance and potential of the description of methodology and practice in relation to the content and scope of the project.
- The team's potential to drive inclusive and exploratory design processes.

