



CATEGORY Urban/Architectural

LOCATION Vardø, Norway

POPULATION 2 189 inhabitants

STUDY SITE 47,5 ha

SITE OF PROJECT 15 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY Municipality of Vardø

OWNERS OF THE SITE Municipality of Vardø and private owners

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION

Building commission/planning commission

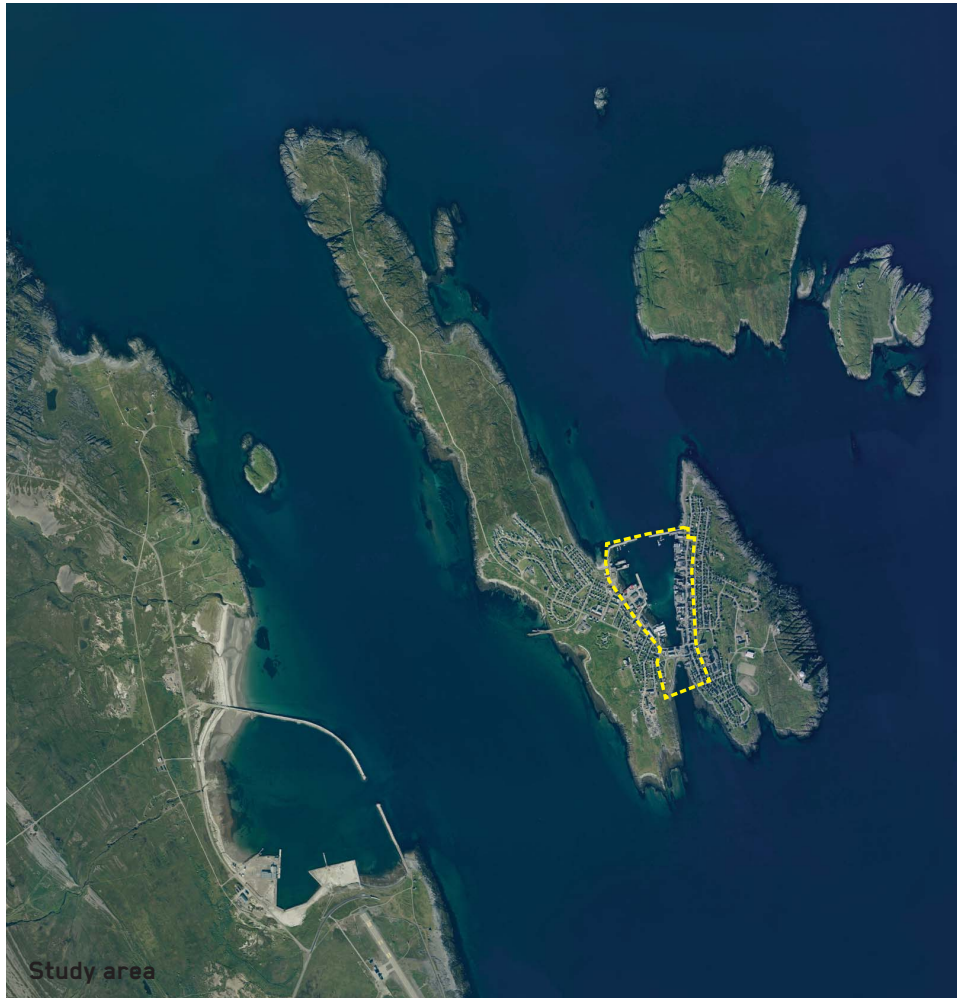
CITY STRATEGY

Vardø, Northern Norway's oldest and Norway's easternmost town was once a prosperous trade centre with strong ties to Russia. Dramatically located on two islands in the Barents Sea the place is surrounded by water and nature. The place has been hit hard due to the changes in the fishing industry in the recent years, but ties to the east can again vitalize Vardø as the eastern part of the Barents Sea is being developed into the next energy basin of Europe. Investors are beginning to eye a potential and the town wants to use its proud history, unique location, striking scenery and strong local culture to reposition itself regionally and internationally for new program, tourism and events.

TRANSFORMATION OF SITE

To better understand its potential Vardø asks for:

1. Proposals for new strategies that can trigger new activity in the town. The municipality wants to create an image that can attract business look for unique locations and experiences and a concept that further develop tourism.
2. Proposals for the development of the harbour areas, including:
 - plans for how to improve the sea front and central areas.
 - proposals for location and design of a swimming hall, a public square, aquarium
 - proposals for reuse of a former fish factory



SITE DEFINITION

The study area consists of the northern and southern basin of Vardø harbour. Partly deserted after the downfall of the fishing industry, a rethinking of how the harbour area again can be to the town's advantage is necessary. How can the area's empty buildings become a part of the city's strategy? How can urban space tie new and existing program together. Is it possible to bring out the potential that can be found in the meeting between land and water? Can Vardø establish new arenas for local inhabitants, tourists, and possibly global nomads? Vardø asks for proposals for locations and concepts for a new town square, a swimming hall and a small aquarium. It also asks a better use of urban space and better communication throughout the harbour area. Vardø is looking for new use for the many empty buildings in the harbour

areas. A transformation can open for a new program that reconnects Vardø to the region and the world. Vardø municipality asks for an investigation of the potential of "Proden", a fish factory built in the 70s, now left unused.

NEW URBAN MOBILITY

Proposals should discuss how infrastructure and public space in the harbour area can be improved and make the area accessible for local inhabitants and tourists. Vardø wants to develop its tourism industry and is looking for ways to make it easier for tourist coming by boat to visit the town and see its attractions.

NEW SOCIAL LIFE

Vardø has experienced a reduction of the population the last decade. The municipality looks for urban strategies that can make ground for new directions and make it more attractive for young people to live in Vardø. Plans should also integrate already established program such as a vital cultural life with festivals and organizations. Proposals should investigate how the harbour can be a cultural and urban arena for shifting program, climate and seasons.

Vardø – Norge – european 10



The Vardø Site. How to find new meaning in the harbour areas.



From the study area.



The harbour.



From the study area. An old kiosk.



From the study area. The eastern pier.