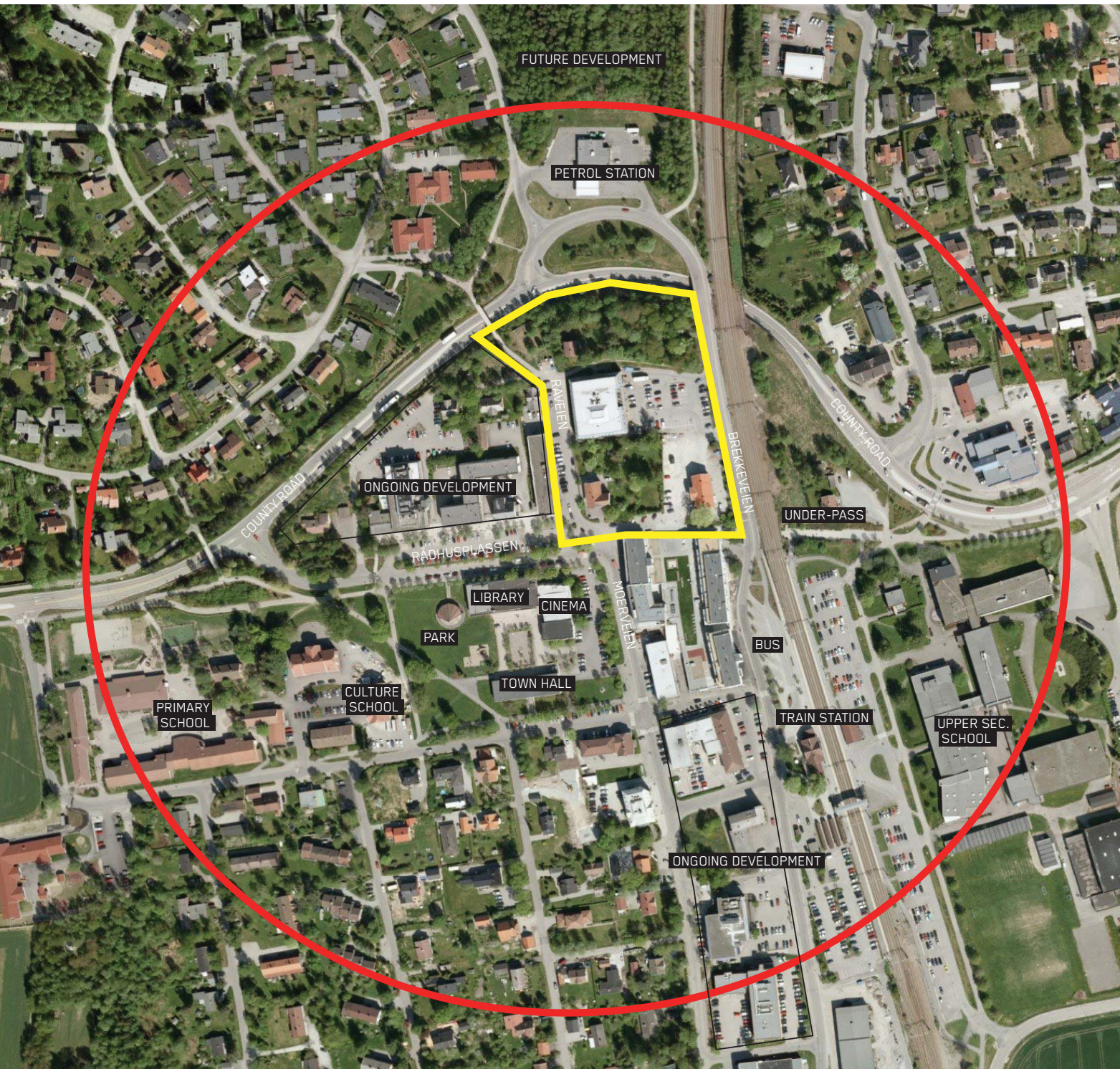


**CATEGORY** Urban/architectural  
**TEAM REPRESENTATIVE** architect/ landscape architect/urban planner  
**LOCATION** Ås, Ås municipality  
**POPULATION** 18 000 (municipality), 1 on site  
**STRATEGIC SITE** 1.4 ha  
**SITE PROPOSED BY** Ås municipality  
**OWNER(S) OF THE SITE** Odd Tandberg, Anne Lene Skotterud, Ørjan Eriksen  
**COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION**  
 Building commission

**HOW THE SITE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADAPTABLE CITY?**  
 Ås is a municipality on the outskirts of the capital region of Oslo, and is now seeing clear signs of a capital with expansive growth that lacks space for both housing and industry, with the result of increased pressure on its surrounding areas. Among the municipalities in the region, the forecasted population growth in Ås is among the highest, with a doubling from approximately 18 000 inhabitants in 2013 to approximately 32 000 inhabitants in 2040. Ås's growth in population and the town's adaptation to this creates two main challenges; on one hand meeting the regional housing demand, and at the same time seeing how this adapts to Ås' local conditions.

Ås is the largest agricultural municipality of Akershus and home to the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. An overarching objective for the competition is to better connect the university life with the urban life of Ås centre.

**CITY STRATEGY**  
 Politicians, planners, developers and the university have joined forces in the European competition to see how they can utilize a central plot to take Ås further. How can this site represent something different and unique, compared to what has emerged so far? How can the site act as an example to follow for the future, where the demand of



dense development is balanced with urban spaces of high quality? How can the site contribute to strengthening the connection with its surroundings and trigger the creation of a territorial network? How can the site contribute to a more advanced co-existence between Ås and the university? The municipality wants to view the development of the site through four lenses; the growth city (the ability to absorb growth), the university town (to strengthen the relationship between municipality and university), the edge city (where the rural and urban meets) and finally through the culture town (using cultural program as a tool for development).

## SITE DEFINITION

The site is located in the centre of Ås. It's proximity to both the station and the campus makes the site an interesting link between Ås and the future development of the Oslo Region. Today the site's program is mixed; commercial, housing and parking. The site is located in the corner of the L-shaped street that today functions as the main shopping street of Ås.

## ADAPTABILITY: MAIN CHALLENGES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

With strong national and regional constraints to localize population growth to centers around train stations in order to strengthen public transport, the village of Ås is standing on the cusp of great change. The small and sleepy village faces a turning point of challenges and possibilities. The European competition in Ås calls for a strategic programming of a central site, showing how a block in Ås centre can function as an urban arena including a new institution for Ås' most famous artist, student housing, public space and the introduction of university life into the town centre.

# Ås - Norway - European 12



