

## **CO-OP CITY WINS KERA CHALLENGE!**

**Kera Challenge jury has chosen Co-Op City as the winner of Kera Challenge. The winner was unveiled at Nordic Built Cities Benchmarking in Korjaamo, Helsinki on 16th of June, 2016.**

In the second phase of Kera Challenge, the four finalist teams received 300 000 NOK to develop their proposals further. The jury was amazed by the progress made by each team. Throughout the spring, the proposals became more concrete, more specific, and more distinguishable in their strongest aspects to create four distinctive solutions how to transform Kera from an industrial neighbourhood to an attractive 20-minute city.

The progress shown by all four teams made it hard for the jury to reach a final decision. Yet, in the end the jury's decision was unanimous and Co-Op City was chosen as the winner. Main reasons were the focus on realistic plans to implement solutions combining circular economy, communal living, and joint building ventures. Feedback from the jury to each team is provided below.

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### **Co-Op City by BM-Architects, WSP, Designer Päivi Raivio and Settlementtiasunnot Oy**

Co-op City proposed a great concept focusing especially on the social, human-scale aspect of city development - true to Nordic values and the competition criteria. The jury was especially fond of the realistic plans to implement solutions for circular economy, joint building ventures, co-creation, and communal living. According to the jury, Co-Op City's approach that used human-scale and implementable plans answered the competition criteria best. The jury sees a lot of export potential in the concept overall - a Nordic approach that could represent a new type of approach to city development around the world.

### **Kera Era by Studio Puisto Architects and Hukkatila**

Kera Era's proposal was comprehensive and developed a lot during the competition. The jury especially liked how Kera Era proposed an operator with a concrete business model, with immediate development steps that could be taken right away before any development at the site even starts. The operator brings together vast amount of different stakeholders, and Kera Era team had an impressive network of collaborators already at this stage. This type of operator model could be implemented in many sites around the world, not just in Kera.

### **Kera Lane by Ramboll, HAMK and Rudus**

Kera Lane had a unique approach in how to use all the building materials according to the principles of circular economy as well as how to concretely bring a forest-like atmosphere into the city. The jury was delighted to see detailed focus on great technological solutions and how to make these plans reality in the coming years. Even if Kera Lane was not chosen as the winner, the aspects of recycling materials and bringing forest into the city are concepts that should be considered in Kera and also elsewhere.

### **Urban Incubator by LPR, GAIA and Elomatic**

Urban Incubator focused on the use of existing buildings in new ways to create a test-bed for a new type of corporate co-creation. According to the jury, this was the best aspect of the proposal in addition to the temporary use of the site to create new forms of economic activity already during the first phases of the development. These approaches certainly are exportable to different locations around the Nordic countries and further.

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Congratulations to Co-Op City! Now, all four finalist teams will have a chance to compete for additional Nordic prizes in [the Nordic Built Cities Challenge Awards](#) during the summer and fall. The Nordic winners will be announced in November 2016. The jury wishes good luck to all four teams, convinced that the winner of the Nordic competition will be chosen among the four finalists of Kera Challenge!