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Suburban opera house wins student architecture competition

In collaboration with property company Gelba and KTH (the Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm), listed Swedish property company Kungsleden AB (publ) has completed an architectural competition for students. This competition is part of the work on developing a property located in Slagsta Strand, which is some 15 km south of Stockholm, and 5 km south of the Kungens Kurva business and retail zone. The winning proposal is based on converting the property to an opera house.

"Our vision is to convert the Slagsta Strand property to an opera house," commented Joel Cederberg, who represented the winning entry, "we want to question the city centres' monopoly on high culture, and give the suburbs recognition. The aim of this proposal is to highlight the ongoing dialogue on integration between social classes, ages and ethnicities."

"Kungsleden is working actively to create something that's sustainable and long term for the building and site. The creativity that students at KTH have demonstrated is fantastic. The winning entry is also very consistent with what Kungsleden represents; fresh ideas, being there and making things easier. The fresh ideas are obvious, while this is also a good way to show we're there in society, and making it easier for more people to enjoy art and music. In this competition, we're utilising the ideas of talented students, to create a building full of opportunities, and thus help create a living urban district," commented Kungsleden's Business Developer, Frida Stannow Lind.

The winning entry was by architecture students Gustav Wallerius, Lisa Ekström, Karin Hedqvist and Joel Cederberg. Awards for the top three entries were presented on Friday where the winner received SEK 25 000.

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Kungsleden's strategy is to ensure sustainable high and stable returns proceeding from its existing holding, and through acquisitions and divestments. As of 31 December 2010, the property portfolio comprised 592 properties with a book value of SEK 21.5 bn. The holding was located in approximately 133 municipalities, although concentrated on the Swedish provinces of Gotaland and Svealand, and the Oresund region. Kungsleden has been quoted on the Nasdaq OMX Stockholm since 1999.