Oslo Airport City – A new model for a sustainable airport city

Norwegian practices Haptic Architects and Nordic – Office of Architecture have today unveiled their winning designs for the masterplan of Oslo Airport City (OAC), a new model for a sustainable smart city located adjacent to Oslo Airport.

The 4 million sq. metres city, is set to be powered entirely by renewable energy, served by electric vehicles and will take 30 years to build. The scheme is being developed by Norwegian development vehicle Oslo Airport City.

OAC aims to be the first energy positive airport city with the capacity to sell surplus energy to surrounding buildings, communities and cities. It will also be able to provide crucial on-site provision such as the de-icing of airplanes.
Backed by the Norwegian governments’ green shift from an oil-based economy to one powered by renewable energy, Oslo Airport City will embrace low carbon features and green technologies. The city will be a test-bed for a technology-driven city, with plans to incorporate driverless electric cars, auto-lighting and smart technology for services such as mobility, waste and security. The government-owned Oslo Airport today is the most digitalised airport in Europe and is expected to be the first airport to operate its first electric fleet from 2025.

Catering to Norway’s passion for sports and outdoor activities, OAC will be a destination for leisure activities centred around a public park in addition to the traditional cargo and business hub. A car free city centre is planned, and its citizens will never be more than five minutes away from public transport. It will also include generous provision of green spaces for the airport’s growing workforce, which is expected to increase from 22,000 to 40,000 people by 2050.

Tomas Stokke Director, Haptic Architects: “This is a unique opportunity to design a new city from scratch. Using robust city planning strategies such as walkability, appropriate densities, active frontages and a car free city centre, combined with the latest developments in technology, we will be able to create a green, sustainable city of the future. Capitalising on the central location in northern Europe, a highly skilled workforce and proximity to an expansive and green airport, OAC has all the ingredients needed to make this a success. This is the most exciting type of project we can do as architects and I am very proud to be part of it”
Thor Thoeneie, Managing Director of Oslo Airport City: “Oslo Airport City will be a catalyst for high-value economic activity in Norway. We expect it to deliver long-term, highly skilled jobs creating science and technology-based products as well as providing employment in services such as specialised healthcare and executive education and training.” As long-term city developers with focus on sustainable, innovative solutions, we believe the future of airport city development in Norway and Oslo is not a matter of if, but when!”

Oslo airport City has received outline planning consent for development and some of the areas have detailed consents. Construction of the first stage is expected to start in 2019/20, with the first buildings completing in 2022.

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Notes to Editors

Oslo Airport City Masterplan Project Team:

Architects: Haptic Architects and Nordic – Office of Architecture
Engineers: Buro Happold Engineering
Developer: Oslo Airport City

About Oslo Airport City
Oslo Airport City is a development vehicle, set up for the development of a new and better city situated between Oslo Airport Gardermoen (OSL) and Jessheim. The areal extends to 260 acres of which Oslo Airport City plans to develop over 1.000.000 square metres into mixed use real estate, including hotel, expo, offices, logistic, retail, housing, leisure and cultural. The company’s vision is shaped by Norway’s and the wider Oslo region’s resolution to develop in the coming years vibrant city hubs around Oslo with good public transport connections.

About Haptic
Haptic Architects is a London and Oslo based practice established in 2009 by Nikki Butenschøn, Scott Grady, Timo Haedrich and Tomas Stokke.

Haptic’s ethos is to design buildings, spaces and cities that are rigorous in their pragmatism, elegantly composed and above all, have a focus on quality and craftsmanship. Haptic, referring to the sense of touch, is a guiding principle for our designs; we strive to determine the haptical qualities for each project and how they benefit the users of our projects. This translates into materiality, spatial relationships, light and the building’s relationship with the site. Much of our work is located in stunning locations and thus we are acutely aware of our responsibilities to design outstanding pieces of architecture that sit precisely within - and are complementary to - the context within which they sit.
Haptic are currently working on a number of high profile projects, including the new Istanbul New Airport, the new government headquarters in Norway, a public Aquarium in Oslo and the HS2 Euston station redevelopment.

**About Nordic Office of Architecture**
Nordic - Office of Architecture is an architecture practice headquartered in Oslo with offices in London and Copenhagen. The practice works globally and has over 35 years’ experience working across a range of technically complex projects. Nordic’s international team has built an enviable reputation for working in diverse sectors including infrastructure, masterplanning, education and healthcare. 2017 sees the completion of two major projects: Gardermoen, Terminal 2 extension to Oslo Airport and Bergen airport. The practice’s landmark Istanbul New Airport, due to open in 2020, planned as the largest airport in the world.