**The winner of the architectural competition is:
Helen & Hard AS**

**In partnership with Vest-Agder County Council and Kristiansand Municipality, Vest-Agder Museum have held an architectural competition for the new museum of cultural history on the island of Odderøya. A total of 51 applications were received from 11 different countries. A winner has now been chosen! In its assessment, the jury noted that the competition had been both successful and educational. Five very different proposals for a challenging plot have helped to shed light on where and how a new museum building for Vest-Agder Museum on Odderøya in Kristiansand can best be located and designed.**

The jury unanimously voted for “Navet” by architectural firm Helen & Hard AS as winner of the competition. Here are the aspects of “Navet” that the jury wish to highlight as the decisive factors as to why this proposal offers the best starting point for further development:

* The project blends into the landscape particularly well. The building is situated on the plot in a particularly appropriate way, and in a way which does not compete with the existing situation, but emphasises and clarifies it.
* The project’s positioning of the museum’s main entrance was the best solution in the competition, and addresses both Nodeviga and Odderøyveien in equal measure.
* The project activates the harbour site and establishes a link with the existing activity building in a convincing way.
* The project has a functional museum plan and logistics with the beautiful boat hall as the museum’s main room and focal point.
* The project also has a robust concept which can withstand changes on the path to its eventual realisation.

“It’s been an exciting process,” said Olsen. “Through the five proposals, we have gained a better understanding of how we can solve the challenges associated with a common entrance area for the public along Nodeviga from the town and from the area around the multistorey car park, Kilden and Kunstiloen. We have gained a greater awareness of how the building should be placed in relation to Lasaretthøyden and Kommandantboligen.
The chosen building will give the museum the opportunities we currently lack in relation to exhibitions, based on both our own collections and travelling exhibitions from other museums. Flexible classrooms and workshops will enable us to improve the educational services we provide for schools. We also hope that this building can become a new focal point for cultural historical meetings and gatherings. Finally, it must be emphasised how the building ties together the museum harbour and the boat exhibition on water with the boat halls inside the building. With this building, we will at last be able to really tell the history of Kristiansand, which has strong links to the sea in particular and to its strategic naval location”, said Director John Olsen.

Vest-Agder Museum’s public building will be located in accordance with the current land use plan in Nodeviga in Kristiansand and linked to Odderøya museum harbour. The aim of the competition was to design and plan a modern and functional museum building for Vest-Agder Museum and Kristiansand.

The aim of the competition is to end up with a building which will enable the museum to finally hold exhibitions where a high proportion of the museum's collection of artefacts can be displayed to the general public, including artefacts relating to the region’s maritime history as well as the history of Kristiansand and the surrounding region. For the museum, it is also important to have exhibition areas which are able to hold major national travelling exhibitions, which Vest-Agder Museum has not previously been able to do in this part of Vest-Agder.

In the building, there will be a conservation workshop, a workshop for the preparation of exhibitions, and teaching and public areas, in addition to large exhibition areas. The proximity to the sea and the city centre will make this an attractive destination both for visitors from the area and for tourists from elsewhere in Norway and abroad.