



City of Helsinki
City Planning Department

HELSINKI PLANS 2009:7

Walking in Arabianranta



Arabianranta

The Arabia factories were founded in 1873. The design company is known for its modern dish design, and at one time it was the biggest porcelain factory in Europe. Of the factory's designers, Kaj Franck, Toini Muona and Birger Kaipiainen, among others, have had streets named after them in Arabianranta. The University of Art and Design moved into the factory's premises in 1986, and the Pop&Jazz Conservatory followed in 1995. The aim has been to assemble the leading centre of art and design in the Baltic Sea region in Arabianranta.

The planning of the area began in the early 1990s at the Helsinki City Planning Department.

The construction of Arabianranta began in spring 2000. The construction will take place in phases until 2012. The completed area will feature some 3,500 apartments for about 7,500 residents. The first new residents moved into the area in 2001.

Of the construction costs, 1-2 per cent has been reserved for art, and artists have participated in the planning processes from the beginning of the construction projects. There are works of art in stairwells, common areas and courtyards and parks.



The park by the sea connects the area to the adjacent parts of the city, continuing all the way from the former Sörnäinen Harbour to the mouth of the Vantaanjoki River. The shore area has been filled ever since the 1800s. In order for us to prevent the sinking and moving of the current construction land, an approximately 20-metre wide honeycomb-structured bolt wall was built on the shore. You can follow the wall along the walkway next to the buildings on the waterfront.

The apartment sizes in Arabianranta vary from one-bedroom student flats to large family apartments, and apartments have been realised through different financing forms.

Arabianranta has rental apartments, housing co-operatives, Hitas-regulated apartments and privately financed owner-occupied and rental apartments.

Services and cooperation among residents have been emphasised by, for example, common courtyards, Internet network connection covering the whole area, club spaces and roof saunas which feature stunning views toward the Vanhankaupunginselkä bay.



1 Bird Paradise – Jukka Vikberg (2002)

82 same-sized bronze birds form the first art project in the area. They represent bird life in Arabianranta and point to the nearby nature-conservation area. The work of art is located near Hirsipuunkallio on Arabiankatu. In old Helsinki the location had the function signified by its name (hirsipuukallio = gallows).



2 HOAS Arabianranta – Pekka Helin & Co (2002) Art: Arboretum – Hannu Aaltonen (2003)

The sculpture installations located in the entrance grooves of the student house remind us of recycling and re-use. The steel flowers made of cast iron moulds were once used as the art glass factory's production devices.



3 Common Courtyard 1 – Juhani Kaare / Housing Foundation

Art: Arabianranta – Päivi Kiuru, Maarit Mäkelä, Johanna Rytönen (2005)

A work of art decorates every block courtyard designed for common use. Pictures of the Arabia factory's different phases have been printed with the serigraphy technique on the 12-metre long wall-like sculpture located on the walkway.



4 Tapio Wirkkala Park (execution 2009-2010)

Designer: Robert Wilson

Image: Tuula Isohanni



The entrance to the urban park is through high gates. The park's square-like center consists of nine rooms fenced by vegetation. It offers the residents a variety of meeting points and environments.

5 **Toini Muonan katu 6, Gunnel Nymanin katu 5 –
Architechts Hannunkari & Mäkipaja (2004)**
Art: Walls Talk Summers Winters – Kirsi Kivivirta (2005)



The works of art are located in stairwells and along the yard path. One can find biking-themed texts on the red clay bricks of the stairwell walls.

6 **Waterfront Park – Landscape Design Hemgård (2009)**
Art: Piers – ARBA / Samuli Naamanka, Jan Pesonen and
Merja Salonen (2007)

The concrete piers situated along the shore awaken images of the area's changed shoreline and the piers that at one time were located on the spot. The surface patterns of the works are realised with graphic concrete, wooden bars and clay by fine washing.



7 Arabia Villas – Ark-House Architects (2005)

Art: Johanna Hyrkäs, Tiina Kuhanen

Common sauna sections, fireplace rooms and terraces with wonderful sea views are located on the top floors of the point houses adjacent to the waterfront park. In 2007, the building received a concrete façade prize. The bird-themed concrete elements are graphic concrete.



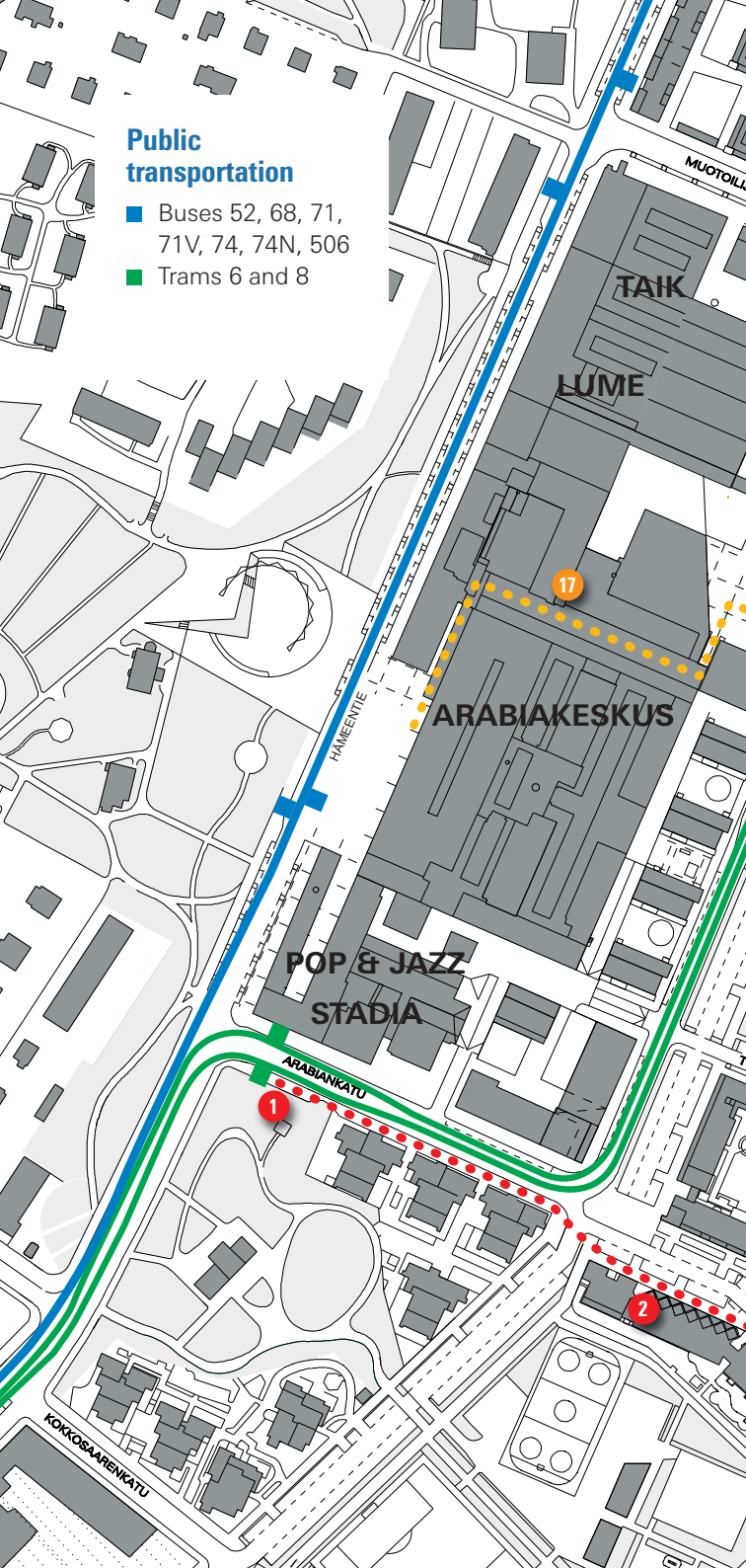
8 Arabia Carpet – Elina Aalto (2006)

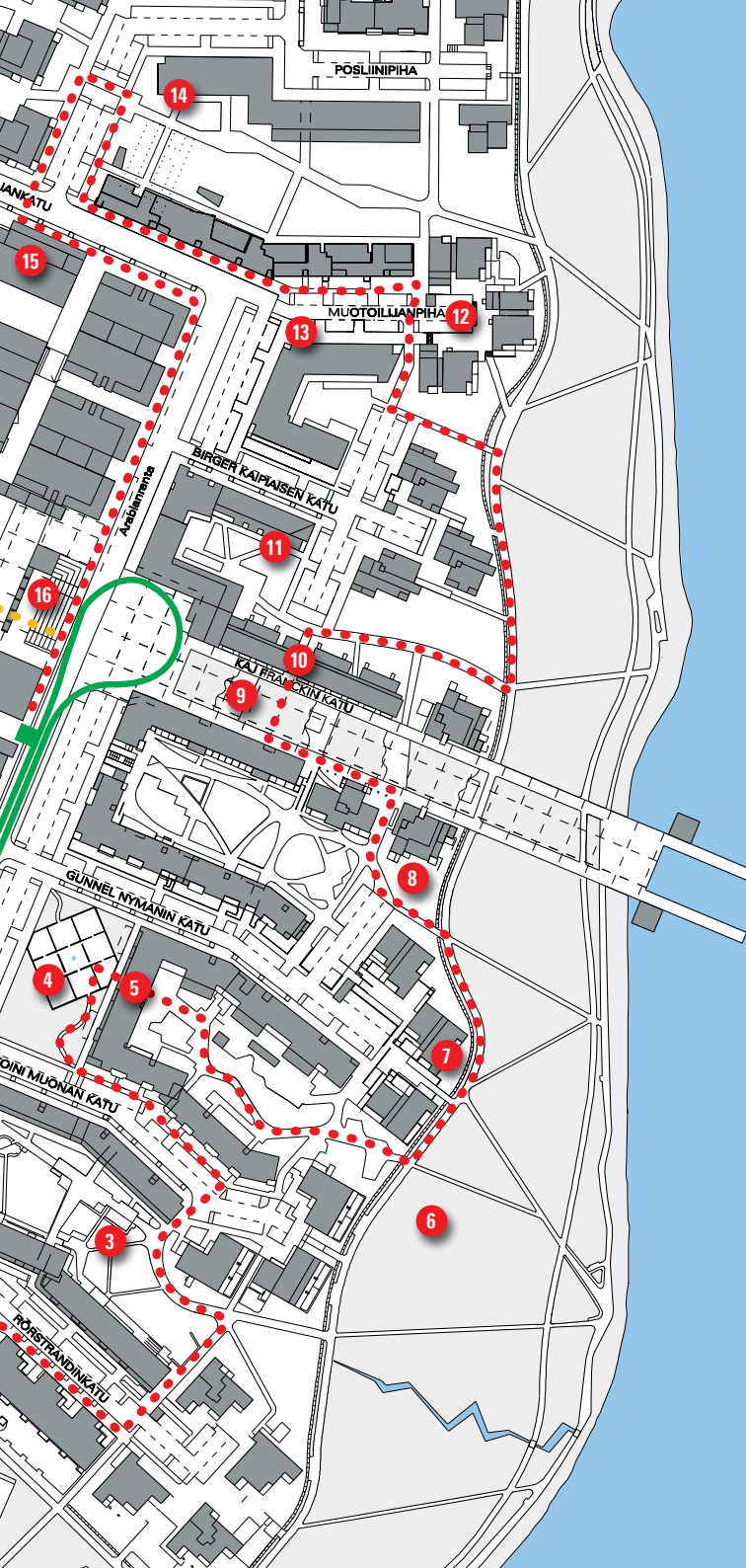


The common courtyard is decorated with an 11 x 6-metre oriental carpet comprised of ceramic tiles. The artist's goal was to make an installation to be experienced by everyone moving around in the area.

Public transportation

- Buses 52, 68, 71, 71V, 74, 74N, 506
- Trams 6 and 8





POSSLINIPIHA

14

...ANKATU

15

MUOTOILLIANPIHA

13

12

BIRGER KAIPAISEN KATU

11

Asfalttinentie

16

10

9

KAJ FRANKIN KATU

8

GUNNEL NYMANIN KATU

4

5

7

...INI MUONAN KATU

3

6

ROJSTRÄNDINKATU

9 Kaj Franck Park – Landscape Design Hemgård

Art: Howard Smith (2006)



The park is decorated with eight metal works and a work made of blue ceramic tiles, which remind us of the area's design history.

10 Kylterinranta – Brunow Maunula (2006)

Art: Kotipuu – Lauri Astala

The student house is comprised of small apartments and the students' common areas. The entrance hall's bronze wooden branches and birdhouse describe homecoming.



11 Final Spurt – Kirsti Sivén (2006)



In designing senior apartments, investments have been made into the residents' sense of community and cooperation. Everyone has the peace of their own home, but common work tasks and decision-making create a sense of sociability.

12 Bulrushes – Architect Group A6 (2007)

Art: Common Club-Rush, Sea Club-Rush, Cattail and Koti-ranta – Jere Saarelainen

The idiosyncratic features of the point house group are the different heights of floors. The apartments vary from two-bedroom flats to two-floor family apartments. The entrances feature bulrush-themed decorations.



13 Arabia Jar – QUAD Architects (2007)
Art: Tuulenpesä – Markku Hakuri (2008)



The interactive light work assembled of aluminium pipes functions at the same time as the cooling-off place for the sauna terrace of the roof floor's common areas. The silver-coloured balcony is also a reference to the nesting area of the Vanhankaupunginselkä migratory birds.

14 Loft – Pia Ilonen / Talli Oy (2008)

The apartment building that was completed in Arabianranta in summer 2008 has 39 lofts and seven work spaces connected to apartments. The residents themselves designed and partially also built the lofts, whose equipment were not finalised. The room height of the apartments is approximately five metres, which makes individual space solutions possible.



15 Heltech – Pentti Kareoja / Ark-House Architects (2002)

The Audiovisual Communications unit received the Steel Structure prize in 2002. The colourful composition of the façade got its idea from pixels and containers. The construction was completed very quickly; it took only 14 months from the planning to the completed building.



16 Parking Hall – B&M Architects Ltd. (2004)



The space underneath the stairs has been utilised for parking. The hall's air conditioning engine room rises as a glassy matter on the square and lights it in the dark. At the same time, the stairs function as the area's event square.

17 Arabia Factories

In the Arabia Centre (Architects Tommila, 2002), Finnish design shops and various service fields' businesses are located

Arabia Museum and Gallery offer the opportunity to introduce oneself to the Arabia factories and the history, products and artists related to them (9th floor).

Aralis library centre

- Arabiaranta public library
- 3 art libraries
- Aralis art gallery (lobby 3rd floor)

Shops

- Arabia factory store
- other design companies

Services

- cafe-restaurant, restrooms, info

The University Of Art And Design (Taik) began its operations as the Sculpture School in 1871. Today, it is the largest art university in the Nordic countries and has some 1,900 students.

Media Centre Lume (Architects Heikkinen & Komonen, 2002) is an education, research and development centre in the audiovisual field. It functions in connection with the University of Art and Design.

Pop & Jazz Conservatory (Architects Tommila, 1995) is a music school that specialises in rhythm music.

Metropolia the polytechnic's culture and service fields complement the Arabianranta school cluster.

For more information:

www.hel.fi/ksv

www.arabianranta.fi

www.kaupunginosat.net/artova

www.taik.fi/arabianranta

www.helsinkilivinglab.fi





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