

Helsinki News



Helsinki in epic transformation

New inner-city areas built for
housing and business

Architectural gems under development

Helsinki Central Library
New Amos Anderson Museum

2/2015

Helsinki opens a new era

Helsinki is in the biggest transformation of its history, with entire new urban districts developed in core areas.

The Finnish capital made headlines on 23 June, when the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation announced the winner of a design competition for the proposed Guggenheim Helsinki museum. The winning design is “Art in the City” by Paris-based firm Moreau Kusunoki Architectes.

The Guggenheim Helsinki competition added glamour to a vast process that is transforming Helsinki from a city only recently marked by inner-city freight harbours and associated industrial yards into a forward-looking city with urban living and a major business hub.

Kalasadama (“fish harbour”) will see dense housing built around a high-rise core, served by a network of public transport on rail. Flavour to the district is added by industrial sites turned into cultural attractions: The Abattoir is a centre of good food and citizen activity built into a former slaughterhouse and meat-packing complex, and the Suvilahti Cultural Centre serves festivals at an early 20th century power plant.

More high-rise development will take place in Central Pasila, envisioned to become a highly significant urban centre with a major economic impact both regionally and nationally. Construction is in full swing in Jätkäsaari, a West Harbour neighbourhood marked by busy passenger ship operations. Kruunuvuorenranta, where decommissioned oil silos still remind Helsinki of the area’s former role as an oil terminal, is in the early stages of development.

While Helsinki awaits the final decision on the construction and development of the Guggenheim museum, other major cultural institutions are about to go into construction in the city centre.

Helsinki Central Library will be a public library of the future, located in the cultural core of Helsinki. The New Amos Anderson Museum will be a cultural centre built largely underground.

Both the Central Library and the New Amos Anderson Museum will be architectural gems that will enhance Helsinki’s role as a notable design city.

COVER:
NEW AMOS ANDERSON
MUSEUM
JKMM ARCHITECTS



New Helsinki emerges

Kalasatama's high-rise centre under construction

The main route from Helsinki's inner city to eastern Helsinki, the Itäväylä expressway, gave way to a vast project site last May, when the construction of the Kalasatama centre REDI was begun. The rerouting will last to 2017, and the commercial section of REDI will be completed in 2018.

REDI will alter the Helsinki cityscape in a major way. In a low-rise city where only church tops rise above the rest, REDI will be a new high-rise landmark at the eastern gate to the inner city. REDI will comprise eight towers, the tallest of them rising to 132 metres. The REDI towers will be the tallest high-rise buildings in Finland. There will be six residential towers comprising 1,200 units, one office tower and one hotel tower. In its entirety, REDI is scheduled for completion in 2023.

Kalasatama will alter the Helsinki cityscape in more ways than one. The previously unin-

habited land hosting a harbour and industrial operations, a total of 175 hectares (430 acres), will become a densely built urban district for 20,000 residents and 8,000 jobs by 2035. The district will allow car-less lifestyles, being served by the metro and trams as well as good connections for pedestrians and cyclists.

The quality of living in Kalasatama will be enhanced by two large parks and a waterfront promenade. One of the pedestrian and cycling bridges will connect the district to the Mustikkamaa recreational island and further to Helsinki Zoo.

The Kalasatama lifestyle will be heavily marked by Smart City solutions designed to ease the everyday lives of residents. The district is already served by a local network that tailors information and services for residents. Plans include a sharing service for electric cars and local solar energy production.



Central Pasila: A major new urban hub for Helsinki

Pasila is a Helsinki inner-city district today marked by the major railway artery that leads from the Helsinki Railway Station to the national rail grid. The district is known for conventions, state agencies, the media and financial business, and a large sports arena. In the future, the rail connection will form part of a ground transportation hub that serves a vast new commercial complex in Central Pasila, located just three kilometres north of downtown Helsinki. Business and commerce will be complemented by urban housing. The new Central Pasila will be largely built on former railway yards.

The development of Central Pasila has started from the area for Tripla, three blocks around the current Pasila railway station to be completed by 2021. Tripla will be Pasila's centre for commerce and culture, and it will house the area's transport hub accommodat-

ing trains, trams, buses and possibly the metro further in the future.

An international Helsinki High-Rise design-built competition will get underway in autumn 2015 for Central Pasila's Tower area, comprising several high-rise buildings for offices, commercial space and housing to be built from 2018 onwards. The towers will be visible from downtown Helsinki, rising above the horizon.

The construction of the third new section of Central Pasila, the Rail Yard residential area, will also go underway in 2018.

The next decade will see close to half a million square metres of new office and commercial space built in Central Pasila – twice that of the new One World Trade Center in New York. The development, coupled with concurrent development in the larger Pasila area, will double the district's jobs to 50,000 by 2040.

Jätkäsaari: A container harbour converted for urban living

The southwestern tip of Helsinki is a peninsula called Jätkäsaari, much of it landfill overlooking open sea. Serving a container harbour for decades, Jätkäsaari is transforming from an open wind-swept field into a dense urban forest of residential blocks to be divided by parks and sports grounds, and crisscrossed with pedestrian paths and cycling ways. Jätkäsaari lies only 1.5 kilometres from the heart of the city.

Jätkäsaari is projected to become home to 18,000 people by the end of the 2020's and offer jobs for 6,000. The housing types are mixed, ranging from free-market to socially supported housing. The area is served by three tram lines and the metro.

Jätkäsaari has a strong maritime flavour. The district is characterised by a Port of Helsinki terminal that serves ships and ferries to Tallinn, Estonia and St Petersburg, Russia. International cruise ships moor at adjacent quays.



Wood City's lobby area

Wood City goes up in Jätkäsaari

Jätkäsaari is also marked by design and experimentation. The district will welcome area residents and visitors with Wood City at its entrance facing downtown Helsinki.

Wood City is a spearhead project in Finland making extensive use of wood in a hotel, an office building, a commercial section and two eight-storey apartment buildings that will be the tallest wooden residential buildings in Finland. Wood City is envisioned as a landmark site that will serve as an example for other wood architecture and construction projects.

From zero residents to tens of thousands, jobs for more

**Kala-
satama** **20,000** residents
 8,000 jobs

Pasila **23,000** residents
 50,000 jobs

**Jätkä-
saari** **18,000** residents
 6,000 jobs

New Amos Anderson Museum to combine contemporary architecture with modernism

Autumn 2015 will see a momentous ground-breaking at one of Helsinki's busiest spots: the Lasipalatsi Square at the Kamppi transport hub and commercial complex will shield underneath it the contemporary section of the New Amos Anderson Museum. This art museum, functioning as a cultural centre, will comprise the 1930's Lasipalatsi building including the Bio Rex cinema and a new exhibition space located under the square. Architectural design is by JKMM Architects of Helsinki.

"The museum will bring contemporary architecture to the modernist Lasipalatsi," says **Asko Jaaksi** of JKMM Architects.

The façade of Lasipalatsi facing the busy Mannerheimintie street will retain its original appearance, while the JKMM-designed new layer in the underground section brings the venue to the present day.

"The underground exhibition halls will be built with structural dome ceilings," Jaaksi describes the design. "Gently curving shapes are an architectural theme that connects the design of the square and the museum underneath. Skylights provide a direct connection to the square above. The shape of an old chimney defines the space."

The New Amos Anderson Museum will open doors at the beginning of 2018. The museum will operate on the principles of approachability and community outreach. One of the main target groups will be young people.

The museum is developed and will be managed by the Finnish society Föreningen Konstsamfundet, founded by Finnish businessman **Amos Anderson** (1878-1961) to promote art in Finland. Owned by the society, the Amos Anderson museum is Finland's largest private art museum.





Green light for Helsinki Central Library

Helsinki's cultural oasis in the Töölö Bay area will soon be complemented by a major new public library, the Helsinki Central Library. Construction will start in 2015, and the library will open in 2018 to celebrate 100 years of Finnish independence. A public library is a fitting symbol for the independent nation, which ranks among the first in the world in literacy and library use. Public libraries are the most popular cultural service in Finland.

The Central Library will be a library of the future; much more than a traditional library. It will be a dynamic entity integrating the physical spaces, technology, library collections, staff services and versatile programmes produced by partners.

The library building will be based on the winning design of an open international competition completed in 2013. The winners ALA Architects of Helsinki were selected from among 544 submissions.

According to ALA Architects, "The design grows from the dynamic between the site and the goals of the library programme. The key concept is the interplay between the building's three floors."

There will be a public plaza in front of the building, and the plaza will continue inside on the ground floor. The indoor plaza will be a busy and frequently updated space.

"The traditional, serene library atmosphere can be found on the top floor," ALA Architects continue. "This will be a calm and contemplative area floating above the busy central Helsinki. It will offer unobstructed, majestic views to the surrounding cityscape."

The vicinity of the Central Library in the Töölö Bay area is home to Parliament House, the Helsinki Music Centre, the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, the National Museum, Finlandia Hall and the Finnish National Opera.



Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition completed

The design competition for the proposed Guggenheim Helsinki museum reached its conclusion on 23 June 2015, when the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation announced the winning design, "Art in the City" by Paris-based firm Moreau Kusunoki Architects.

The open, international design competition organised by the Guggenheim Foundation began in June 2014 and generated 1,715 anonymous submissions from 77 countries.

The museum would be located at a prominent waterfront site along Helsinki's South

Harbour. The design comprises nine low-lying pavilion-like volumes and one lighthouse-like tower, clad in charred timber and glass. The pavilions and connecting plazas are organised around an interior street.

The museum would be connected to the nearby Observatory Park by a pedestrian footbridge, and it would be served by a promenade along the harbour.

The final decision on Helsinki's participation in the project will be made by the Helsinki City Council.



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