



Our shared metropolis

The architecture policy objectives 2014–2020 for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region



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The garden city as a national landscape

The completion of the Tapiola garden city in Espoo in the 1950s and 1960s brought Finnish urban planning into the international limelight. The area was developed chiefly by The Housing Association of Finland. The design of Tapiola was approached holistically, with buildings and spacious parks structuring the layout of the area. Tapiola's central tower was designed by the architect Aarne Ervi, as were most of the other buildings around the central pond. The cultural centre was designed by the architect Arto Sipinen and was completed in 1989.

The skilful technical update, restoration and enlargement of Tapiola swimming pool, respecting the 1960s architecture, was awarded the Europa Nostra cultural heritage medal in 2007. With the metro extension, the new buildings going up are fundamentally altering the appearance of Tapiola. The plans include building new apartment buildings on top of the 1980s centre.



Towards a better building culture

A good built environment is functional, pleasant, safe and beautiful. At its best it inspires, offers rich experiences and enables living that is economical and ecological. The culture of construction covers the entire construction life cycle from planning and execution to maintenance, improvements and renewal. Architectural policy helps to create shared objectives for the construction culture to establish what residents, decision-makers and planners want from a high-quality built environment.

According to the architecture policy for Finland adopted by the government in 1998, all citizens are entitled to enjoy pleasant surroundings and high-quality architecture. All public bodies are obliged to ensure that they deliver on this entitlement.

Uusimaa Regional Council, Eastern Uusimaa Regional Council and Uusimaa Environment Centre published their architectural policy objectives for Uusimaa and Eastern Uusimaa in June 2009 in the publication *Our common metropolis – Our common apoli*. The objectives were considered a success, and the work attracted considerable attention. The publication was printed in Finnish, Swedish and English. It was distributed mainly to elected officials and civil servants in municipalities in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region.

As defined, the architectural policy objectives of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region support the planning of a functioning, amenable, safe and beautiful built environment in the municipalities. The objectives, which were set down five years ago, are still topical. An update of the publication in 2009 was necessary because changes have happened in the operating environment: Eastern Uusimaa and Uusimaa have merged and at the time the present Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Uusimaa (ELY Centre) was still the Uusimaa Environment Centre. And the Regions of Eastern Uusimaa and Uusimaa is now called the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region.

The Helsinki-Uusimaa region architectural policy objectives highlight the particular features and current situation of the built environment of Helsinki-Uusimaa and the objectives for future developments at the municipal level and propose ways to reach the objectives.

The following municipalities in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region have drawn up their own architectural policy objectives: Vantaa (2006, update in process), Helsinki (2006) and Lohja (2009); Kirkkonummi's architectural policy programme is nearing completion. We hope that this work will inspire all municipalities in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region to draw up their own objectives for developing and cultivating their built environment and construction culture.

November 2014

[Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council](#)
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[Architecture Information Centre Finland](#)



"Architecture is the masterly, correct and magnificent play of masses brought together in light. Architecture is also an environment where in moving and acting, people can experience interesting, varying and pleasant sensory and spatial experiences" Le Corbusier





Architectural policy and the challenges facing the built environment

The principle challenges facing the development and maintenance of the built environment are climate change and eco-efficiency, the quality of living environments, the structure and location of amenities, population ageing and the technical quality of building. The urban fabric in general needs to be defragmented and its energy efficiency must be significantly improved. The procedures and practices of urban planning and building design need to be further improved, as does the dialogue between residents, decision makers and designers.

This architectural policy seeks to identify commonly acceptable goals for improving the quality and ecological sustainability of the built environment, and for improving the building practices and building culture of municipalities and areas in Helsinki-Uusimaa Region. These aims should be integrated with municipal land use planning and regional strategic planning, and they should be reviewed regularly in light of actual developments. The consequences of this architectural policy will show in the highlighting of the principles of design, in the making of value judgements and in highlighting the significance of the identity of the built environment and landscape.

This architectural policy, together with the discussions it hopes to initiate, challenges residents and decision makers to recognise the unique identity of their local built environment and landscape. As society becomes ever more multicultural, it is important that residents become familiar with the characteristics, traditions and history of their area. For example, cooperation with local schools helps bind people to their neighbourhood and raises residents' appreciation of their local environment. Schools may be offered special courses on the built environment to complement statutory curricula. Residents' associations and village associations can be encouraged to engage and generate ideas regarding the investigation and planning of their area. Residents' activity can be supported by, for example, awarding prizes or other honours in recognition of successful practices. Citizens' influence on the affairs of their area can be improved by increasing opportunities for participation and by offering advice on building.

Architectural policy as a regional tool

This regional architectural policy provides a point of view that goes beyond that of individual municipalities, a fact that will hopefully lead to discussion and cooperation between municipalities dealing with similar issues. The aim of this document is to support the development of practices and planning directives particular to each municipality and to help them gain political acceptance.

New fitted into old

The urban block in Mastokatu in Helsinki's Katajanokka district was completed in 2006. It is an example of how new buildings can be successfully fitted into an older urban fabric: the distinguished milieu is enriched by a new layer. The block was designed by Architects NRT Ltd, on the basis of their winning entry in an invitational competition. The project was awarded the "Building Rose" award (Rakentamisen Ruusu) by Helsinki's Board of Construction. It was also awarded the "Durable Masonry Building" award (Kestävä Kivitalo) in 2007.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

the environment is first-class

The environment is beautiful, durable, functional and adapts to changes. The layers of different time periods give an area its characteristic identity. The built environment offers a good quality of life for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Moving from place to place is easy and safe. Amenities and workplaces are close to residents, as are opportunities for recreation and enjoying nature.

Towns, urban environments and rural villages are desirable places of residence. They support their inhabitant's wellbeing and attract an able workforce and companies into the area. Dwelling expenses are reasonable. The basis for the design of residential areas is the existing built environment, landscape and nature. Architecture plays a role in creating community. Lessons are learnt from the area's old building stock and dwelling customs; preserving the old helps to achieve the aims of sustainable development.

the built environment meets the challenges of climate change

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region belongs to the pioneers in energy-efficient building and in promoting carbon-neutral living. High quality architecture supports the energy-efficiency of buildings and communities and makes an ecological lifestyle natural and appealing. Environmental changes and extreme weather conditions are taken into account in planning, in the construction of new buildings and in the renovation of old ones.

New developments complement the structure of the area and make good use of the rail transport network, especially in the greater Helsinki area. In rural areas new developments expand on existing villages. Amenities and workplaces can be reached by foot, by bicycle and by public transport. The need for the use of private cars is significantly reduced. Eco-efficiency and lifecycle analyses are a part of all new construction and renovation projects. Buildings adapt to different uses and to the needs of different users. The renovation of old buildings and their respectful re-use affirm each area's distinctive qualities. Water, waste and energy infrastructure and transport connections function in an energy-efficient and economical way.

the construction process works well

The design of the built environment, its maintenance and development are based on a holistic view wherein cultural, social, ecological and economical factors are on balance. The environment is planned in cooperation with inhabitants. Land use plans help determine the quality of the realised project in conjunction with the decisions and programmes of administrative regions and municipalities. The planning process works well and is adaptable as the needs of the community change. Land use planning, project planning and construction processes work smoothly and are transparent, and the bureaucratic barriers that separate them are lowered. Municipalities' building control activity is competent and of high quality. Procurement procedures support the aims of municipalities' architectural policies.

maintenance and care of the built environment flourishes

According to the Finnish constitution, all citizens carry responsibility for the environment. The built environment is cared for in a culturally, ecologically, economically and socially sustainable manner. Through responsible maintenance work and by addressing technical problems promptly, damage can be prevented from becoming unmanageable. In all renovation and alteration works, appropriate solutions are sought that respect the architectural qualities of the buildings and structures in question. Relevant experts are to be used when renovating or repairing buildings, especially those of cultural or historical importance. Needless alterations to old buildings are avoided by using them for activities that suit the inherent properties of the building. Village associations' and residents' associations in towns help to carry responsibility for the shared environment, and their opportunities to care for their environment are supported.

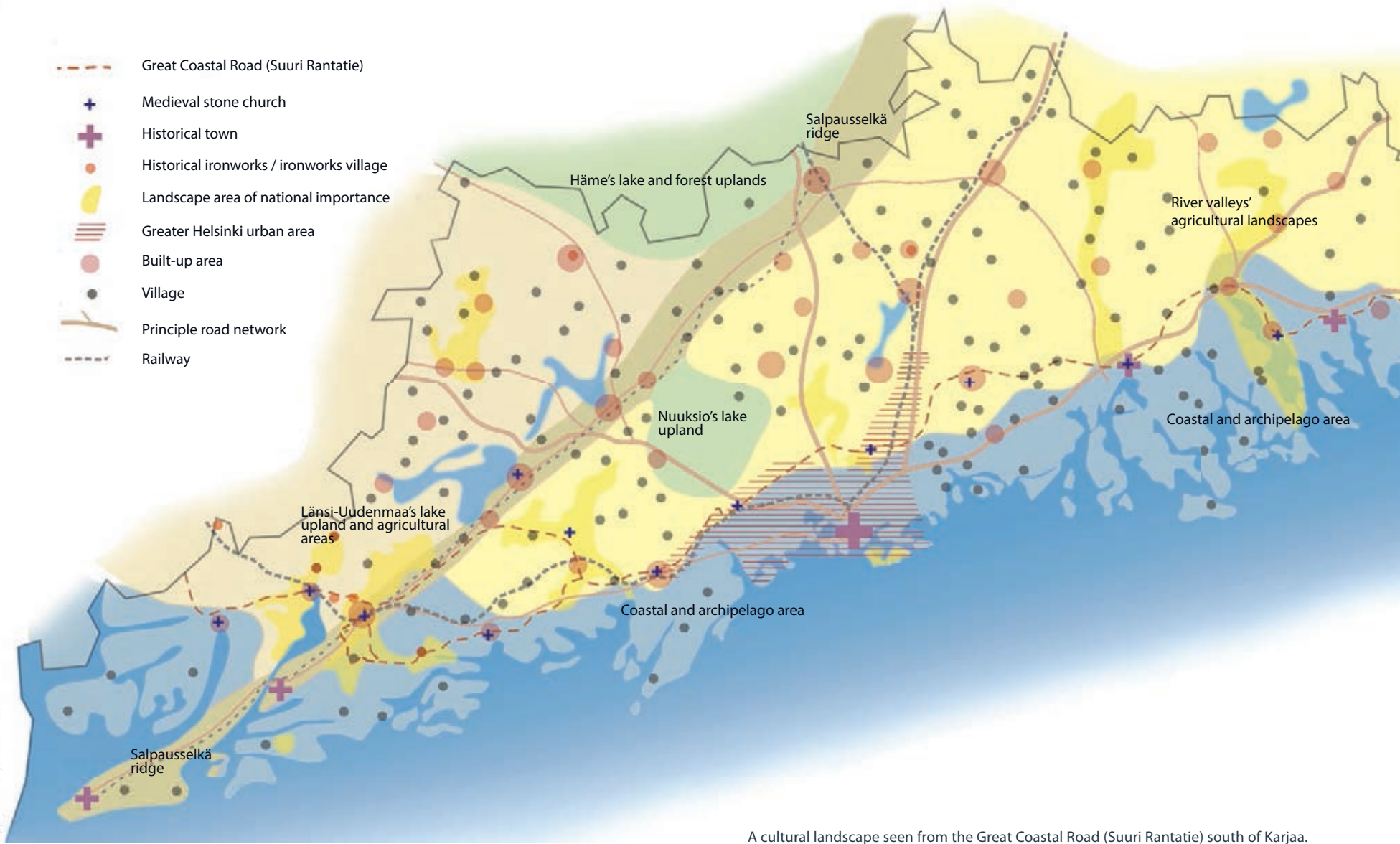


Urban ecology

The Leppäviita eco-block in Espoo was built during the period 2001 - 2007. The aim of this experimental project was to achieve an environmentally friendly residential area. Ecological considerations were taken into account in aspects of the project, including pre-planning, detail planning, municipal engineering, landscaping, room programmes, building design, technical systems, maintenance and use. Ecological factors were also taken into consideration in the actual construction of the area. Different sub-projects in the area were used to investigate various ecological themes stipulated by the land purchase clauses, such as conservatories and greenhouses,

earth cellars, solar energy use, dwellings that incorporate work spaces, telecommunications systems etc. The Monikonpuro stream has been used to form a wetland area with a pond. The block incorporates water-permeable ground coverings and various kinds of recreational areas that enrich the area as a whole. Due to the construction of a dam, the stream acts as part of the townscape as well as creating an ecological wetland even when there is little precipitation. There are solar panels and gardening allotments aside the stream. The work on the Monikonpuro stream was awarded the "Municipal Engineering Achievement" award (Kuntatekniikan saavutus) in 2006. The Leppäviita area was planned by Ramboll Finland Ltd., Sito Ltd. and the Housing Association of Finland.

-  Great Coastal Road (Suuri Rantatie)
-  Medieval stone church
-  Historical town
-  Historical ironworks / ironworks village
-  Landscape area of national importance
-  Greater Helsinki urban area
-  Built-up area
-  Village
-  Principle road network
-  Railway



A cultural landscape seen from the Great Coastal Road (Suuri Rantatie) south of Karjaa.



The built environment and cultural landscape as resources

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region is a metropolitan region of over one and a half million inhabitants. The area acts as the national centre of business, culture, research and education, and it forms a node of both national and international travel. The spectrum of the area's built environment spans from the urban area of Helsinki to the cultural landscapes of the rural and coastal areas.

The landscape of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region in general is typical of the southern coastal area of Finland. The main landscape typologies of the area are seen in the coastal and archipelago area, the Salppauselkä area and the river-valley agricultural areas.

Typical for the cultural landscape and built environment of the area is the variety of landscape types that has arisen from natural conditions as well as from historical and economical conditions. Swedish-speaking Finns, historically based in the coastal areas, and the Finnish speaking culture of inland areas have contributed to this variety.

The neoclassical centre of Helsinki and the urban districts of various ages that surround it together form a distinctive urban mosaic. In rural areas and regional centres, one can see features dating from a range of historical periods, such as the 12 medieval stone churches of the region or the traces of the Great Coastal Road, or Kings' Road (Suuri rantatie, Kuninkaantie) that originally connected Viipuri with Turku. Many of the estates founded by the medieval Swedish nobility remain to this day the larger farms of their area.

The identity of an area consists of numerous independent yet overlapping cultures that are not necessarily defined geographically. Yet at the same time, the cohesion of small communities and villages can often be strong. Connections to Stockholm, St. Petersburg, the Baltic states and Europe support the Greater Helsinki area's dominant role and its multicultural and international flavour. Decision-making at all levels in the metropolitan area is characterised by concertedness and readiness to meet changes. The Greater Helsinki Area in particular is noted for its vitality and brisk growth. Growth and expansion create challenges for the environment which need to be dealt with through broad cooperation irrespective of administrative boundaries. There are also remote areas in which the improvement of vitality is a particular challenge. In both growth centres and rural areas, the cultural landscape has an important role in creating opportunities and as a source of attraction to the area.

The national landscape of Helsinki.





The sea fort of Suomenlinna. The church at Suomenlinna, which also functions as a lighthouse, has become the most important landmark of the island.

The ruins of Raasepori castle. Raasepori castle was built in the 1370s and was the administrative centre of Western Uusimaa for nearly 200 years.



The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region residents have reason to be proud because:

The cultural environment of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region is rich in terms of its landscapes and built environments, and also in terms of its archaeological heritage. The built environment of the area is rich in layers: old and new buildings exist side by side, and the urban environment is in close proximity to the countryside. Urban dwelling takes on varied forms, ranging from historical wooden towns to the newest modern residential areas. The natural environment and countryside of the area have kept their essential character, and despite the proliferation of holiday homes, most of the beaches of the region retain their natural appearance.

The highlights of the built environment of the area include:

- Archaeological sites, ancient landscapes, bronze-age stone mounds, medieval village hills
- The sea fort of Suomenlinna - one of Finland's world heritage sites
- The stone-built urban area of Helsinki, and the historical wooden towns of Tammissaari, Porvoo, Loviisa and Hanko
- Historical sites of administration and of warfare: the neoclassical centre of Helsinki, the castle ruins of Raasepori, the fortifications at Loviisa, the various fortifications dating from the First World War, the remains of the soviet occupation of Porkkala
- The agricultural landscapes of the countryside and villages whose roots are in medieval times: The Great Coastal Road (Suuri Rantatie) and the historical villages strung along it, medieval stone churches, vicarages
- The milieux of old manors, such as those at Mustio, Prästkulla (Raasepori), Sjundby (Siuntio), Suur-Sarvilahti, Tervik, Malmgård (Pernaja), and Kytäjä (Hyvinkää)
- Historical parks and gardens, such as the Träskända manor park, Espoonkartano (Espoo), the landscape park and formal garden of Fagervikin Manor (Inkoo), the manor park of Mustio manor (Raasepori) and urban parks such as the Kaisaniemi, Esplanadi and Kaivopuisto parks in Helsinki
- Urban environments from different periods: residential areas from the time of post-war reconstruction (Maunula), sites of modern architecture (Pihlajamäki, Tapiola), the villa communities found on the coast and along railway corridors (Hanko, Kauniainen), suburban development (Olari, Kivenlahti), new high-quality urban developments (Arabianranta, Vuosaari, Porvoon Länsiranta)
- Historical and contemporary industrial milieux and communities: Fiskars, Billnäs, Åminnefors (Raasepori); Högfors (Karkkila), Strömfors (Ruotsinpyhtää), Fagervik (Inkoo), Kilpilahti (Porvoo), the lime industry of the Lohjan area, Kirkniemi (Lohja)
- The various dwellings and villas of the coast and archipelago, linked to the area's historical seafaring and marine livelihoods
- Innovative new buildings of high architectural quality: public buildings, dwellings, schools, churches
- Valuable nature areas as part of the regional structure: Viikki - Vanhankaupunginlahti, Laajalahti
- The innovative and stylish re-use of old buildings: the town hall of Karkkila, a former industrial building; the Theatre Academy Helsinki located in the former Coconut Factory; a cultural complex in the old wool factory in Hyvinkää; the "Korjaamo" cultural complex in a former tram depot in Töölö.



The national landscape as a part of national identity

The built environment is an element of the identity of the nation as a whole. Ever since Topelius' book "Maamme" ("Our land"), the environment has been used in the forming of the national self-image. The urban landscape of Porvoo has, since the days of Louis Sparre, been part of the Finnish psyche.

The national urban park established in Porvoo in May 2010 is a narration of the history of Finland from the early stages of inhabitation of the country through the Middle Ages and right up to the formation of the Finnish state.



The national landscape requires maintenance

Ruukinkatu street in Billnäs, which is also a well-preserved part of the Great Coastal Road (Suuri Rantatie), also known as the King's Road. Smiths' cottages painted in red-ochre date from the end of the eighteenth century. A major change occurred in the traditional running of Finland's iron works in the 1970s and 1980s. Old factory buildings no longer met the requirements of modern industrial facilities and the cramped ironworks milieu could not easily be expanded. Industrial plants moved to new locations, and in some cases abroad. The emptied yet valuable old buildings represented a challenge to which the municipality of Pohja rose in the 1980s when it founded a corporation (Pohjan Ruukkiteollisuus Oy) that took charge of the abandoned buildings at Fiskars and Billnäs and saw to their maintenance. The task was difficult and required significant financial sacrifices, and much is still to be done. In recognition of its work at Fiskars and Billnäs, the municipality was awarded the esteemed Europa Nostra prize in 1988.

The municipality of Raasepori sold the production buildings of the Billnäs foundry to a private buyer and they have partly been renovated as meeting rooms and accommodation.



Refurbishment through demolishing or through preservation - which approach will be better remembered?

The urban district of Käpylä in Helsinki, with its wooden houses built in the Scandinavian Classicist style, was designed by the architect Martti Välikangas in the 1920s. This area, too, was threatened with demolition in the 1960s, but heated debate and strong opposition brought down the city of Helsinki's plans to replace the old buildings with higher density development. A detail plan was approved in 1971 which was aimed at the preservation and renovation of the area. Renovation works began in 1972 according to architect Bengt Lundsten's designs.

The wooden buildings of Käpylä in Helsinki are being renovated a second time. The buildings and courtyards are being refurbished; the



objective is to maintain the cultural and historical values of the area. A detailed plan is pending for two blocks in western Käpylä and Osmonkuja that are still not conserved. The intention is to secure preservation of the special features of the areas..



A new urban environment that appeals to citizens' taste

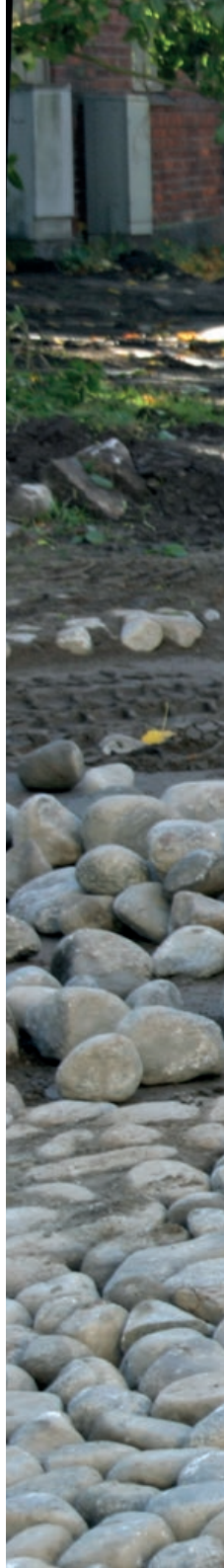
The Kartanonkoski area in Vantaa was the subject of an architectural competition held in 1997, whose winner was the Swedish architectural office, Djurgårdstadens Arkitekter, whose entry has been described as "historicist" in style. The actual local detail plan was drawn up by the Finnish architectural office Eriksson Arkkitechdit Ltd., on the basis of the winning competition entry. Eriksson Arkkitechdit Ltd. also drew up the detailed building method specifications and was responsible for the design of many of the area's buildings.

"There is something of an analogy with Käpylä here, whose coming in to being had similar features to Kartanonkoski's own development; both were denounced by many designers of their time - and both have become desired areas with special identities" Mari Vaattovaara, speaking on the "Joka Kodin Asuntomarkkinat" television programme, MTV3, 27.10.2006.

Where there's a will, there's a way

What are the available means for improving the quality of the built environment? Which actors can use these means to improve the quality of architecture and the built environment?"		EU	State level					Municipal level				Private sector		Others				
			National government	Ministries	Sector authorities	Trade and industry, transport and environmental authorities	Courts of law	Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities	Regional councils	Federation of municipalities, districts	Municipalities	Real estate developers	Landowners	Residents	Educational institutions	Organisations	Media	
Government guidance	Prescription of laws and statutes (Land Use and Building Act, building regulations)	▲	■	▲														
	Application of laws and statutes	▲	■	▲	▲	■	▲	▲	■									
	National architectural policy; other national objectives; strategies, considerations, instructions and investigations	▲	■	▲	▲	▲		▲										
	Taxation	▲	■							■								
	Ministerial guides			■		▲		▲		▲								
	Cultural environment programmes	▲	■	▲	▲	▲		▲										
	Direction of land use planning and building			▲	▲	■		▲										
Policy making	Regional architectural policy, regional plans and programmes; regional policies, programmes and resolutions		▲	▲		▲		■	▲									
	Municipal architectural policy, land policies, cultural environment programmes, green space programmes					▲		▲	▲	■								
	Party political activity	▲	▲	▲				▲		▲		▲		▲	▲	▲		
	Proposals and initiatives			▲		▲		▲		▲	■	■		■	▲	▲		
Planning and realisation	Building code; regulations regarding building					▲				■								
	Local master plan: regulations guiding the placement and character of buildings; network of green spaces					▲		▲	▲	■								
	Local detailed plan: placement of buildings, general and site-specific regulations to guide the placement, massing, and construction method of buildings					▲				■								
	Administration of planning permission and exceptional permits: dimensioning of buildings, their placement in the landscape, refusal of permits when necessary					▲				■								
	Building permits, operation permits, provision of pre-guidance for developers; enforcement of regulations, instructions and conditions through to realisation									■	■	■	▲					
	Quality of realisation and its adherence to permits					▲				▲	■	■						
	Architectural and urban planning competitions							▲	▲	■				▲	▲	▲		
	Construction method instructions, plot purchase clauses									■	■							
Milieu and maintenance plans for the built environment, town centre plans									■	▲	■							
Knowledge management	Planning education	▲	▲	▲		▲		▲						■	▲			
	Environmental education	▲		▲		▲		▲		▲				■	▲	▲		
	Basic research, background investigations	▲		▲	▲	▲		▲	■	■				■	▲			
	Local building and landscape inventories								▲	▲	■	▲	■	▲	▲			

Workmanship is a part of our living heritage. Cobblestone streets at Suomenlinna are made in the traditional way, using hand-placed natural stone. Old methods of working and the original materials help maintain historical continuity in the built environment.





In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

the planner

- adapts the project at hand to the wider aesthetic and functional context of the environment, in collaboration with the area's other planners and authorities,
- knows the project area's possible cultural-historical, archaeological, landscape and nature values and takes them into account in the planning process,
- works in genuine interaction with residents, users and other stakeholders,
- remembers that an area's inhabitants have the best knowledge of their area and that their needs should be taken into account, beginning with the definition of a project's aims,
- receives stimulus and regular supplementary training to keep his or her skills up to date.

the resident

- is able to demand high-quality design,
- is keen to learn to recognise the characteristics of their area's identity and landscape structure, for example through by activities organised by schools and residents' associations,
- receives regular and clear information, for example via the internet or annual planning reports, on how the highlighting of the area's local identity has been taken into account into the strategies and development plans of the municipality,
- acts as an interested local effector, by participating in the rejuvenation and improvement of the functionality of their area through citizen discussions, public events, non-governmental organisations,
- acts as an active stakeholder in their municipality's land-use, planning and building processes,
- supplies local knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and maintenance,
- upholds, raises and passes on a sense of local community and pride,
- helps maintain the tidiness and good condition of their local environment.

company

- plays its part in strengthening the well-being of its region,
- is known for its environmentally friendly, low-carbon production and high-quality products and production environments,
- through its operation, raises the profile of its locality and the quality level of the built environment,
- through its operation supports the development of a built environment that increases social equality, environmental safety and quality,
- shows a commitment to achieving the aims of the architectural policies of public administrative bodies.

educator

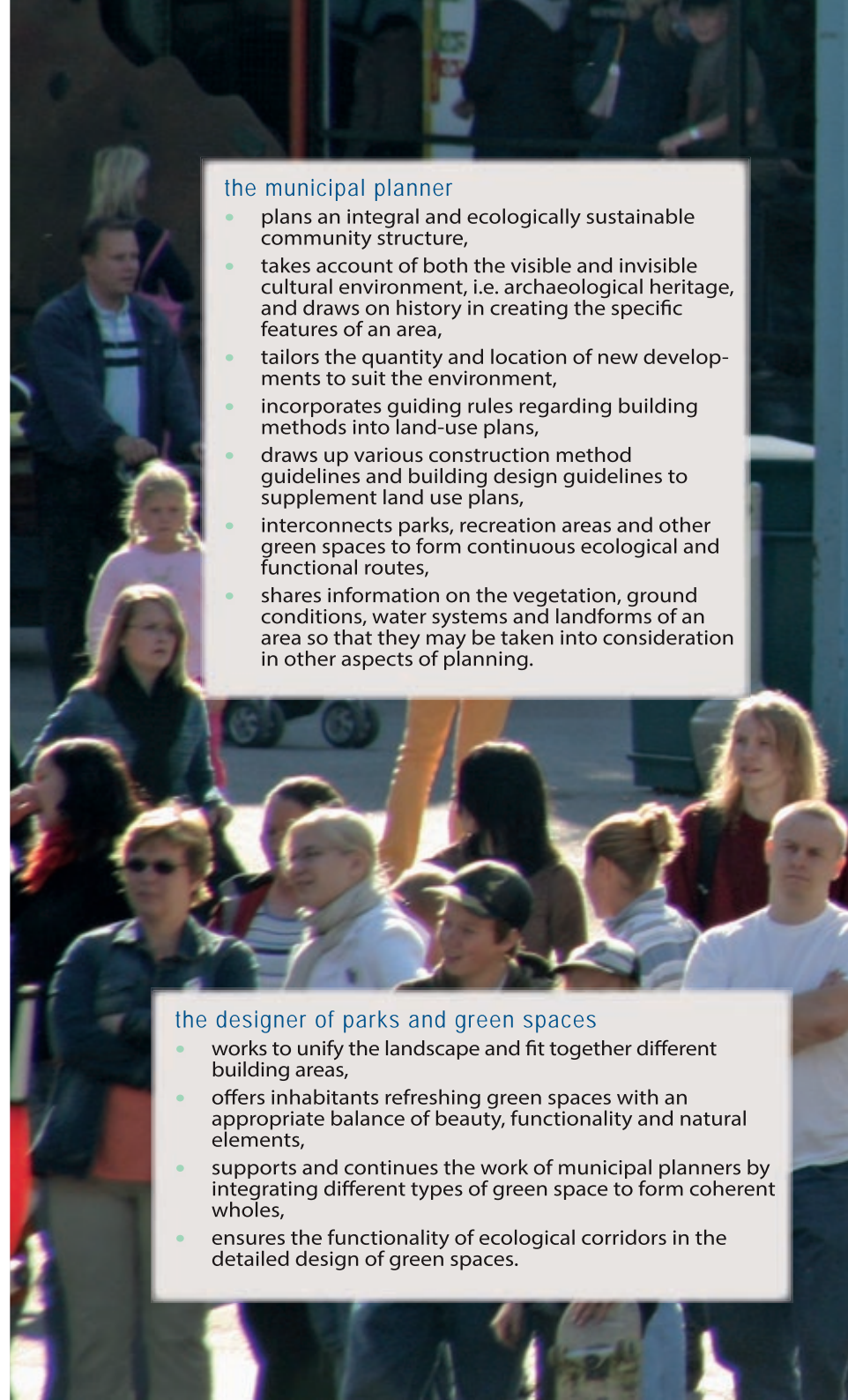
- awakens and supports interest in the shared environment and changes in it,
- provides opportunities to become acquainted with the built environment and the means to influence it.

the municipal planner

- plans an integral and ecologically sustainable community structure,
- takes account of both the visible and invisible cultural environment, i.e. archaeological heritage, and draws on history in creating the specific features of an area,
- tailors the quantity and location of new developments to suit the environment,
- incorporates guiding rules regarding building methods into land-use plans,
- draws up various construction method guidelines and building design guidelines to supplement land use plans,
- interconnects parks, recreation areas and other green spaces to form continuous ecological and functional routes,
- shares information on the vegetation, ground conditions, water systems and landforms of an area so that they may be taken into consideration in other aspects of planning.

the designer of parks and green spaces

- works to unify the landscape and fit together different building areas,
- offers inhabitants refreshing green spaces with an appropriate balance of beauty, functionality and natural elements,
- supports and continues the work of municipal planners by integrating different types of green space to form coherent wholes,
- ensures the functionality of ecological corridors in the detailed design of green spaces.





the building designer

- designs buildings to be ecologically sustainable and energy efficient,
- fits buildings in to their surrounding landscape and built environment, vegetation and routes,
- designs buildings' massing, facade materials, roof forms and colour schemes to form a harmonious whole,
- brings out any ancient history in an area.

the policy maker

- understands that no municipality can afford to produce a poor environment,
- binds decisions and policies regarding the built environment to the municipality's wider policy and strategy making,
- aims for the high-quality realisation of plans as part of the municipality's environmental policy as a whole,
- knows and appreciates the aesthetic values and identity-forming features particular to their area and works to develop them in light of the municipality's best interests,
- ensures that the municipality has sufficient resources and competence for the regulation of land-use and construction.

the traffic planner and planner of municipal works

- adapts each project to its aesthetic and functional context, in collaboration with the area's other planners and authorities,
- knows the project area's possible cultural-historical, landscape and nature values, and takes them into account in the planning process,
- locates pipes, electricity lines etc. (whether above ground or below) such that they do not detriment the functioning or the aesthetic values of the environment,
- takes care to place visible structures in a way that is appropriate and suitable for their environment,
- avoids the emergence of unkempt "blind spots" and appropriately landscapes areas to be left as space reserves for future use.

regulating and supervising authorities

- supply relevant information on the built environment at the right time for use in planning, decision making and realisation,
- spread information on successful practices and projects,
- keep discussion going regarding the quality of building,
- challenge municipalities and builders to strive for an ever better quality of building.

the developer, investor and property owner

- reserves sufficient resources for the design, realisation, guidance and supervision of each building project,
- informs the designer from the outset of the building project's aims, so as to avoid having to axe ideas as the design work progresses,
- invests in their staff's understanding of architecture and competence in commissioning design work,
- in evaluating projects, takes into account architectural and functional viewpoints, customer satisfaction, in addition to economical considerations,
- ensures a sufficient level of maintenance, knowing that a building whose value has not diminished is easy to rent and re-sell,
- understands that good architecture is beautiful, durable, functional and in the long term economical also from the point of view of the investor and owner. Also, renovating and altering buildings to fit different purposes is economical and ecological,
- invests one percent of construction costs in art.

Local customs determine the big picture

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region has many faces. The characteristics of different localities are usually more distinctive than the characteristics of the wider region, and yet these local characteristics contribute to forming the identity of Uusimaa as a whole.

Measures to improve the living environment and built environment of an area should be based on recognition of the approaches that particularly suit the area in question. A high-quality built environment is best achieved through cooperation between different professions: the skills and cooperation of planners, building designers, municipal engineers, traffic planners, landscape architects, museum authorities and building control authorities are necessary to achieve a good living environment.

On the following pages (22 - 31) are presented examples of different kinds of built environments in the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, together with expectations placed on them and approaches to their development.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

- historical towns are places where one encounters the past, present and future.
- regional small towns are shared living-rooms.
- apartment block areas are independent and lively urban districts.
- house areas fulfil their inhabitants' dreams.
- villages are distinctive and lively places to live.
- rural areas are thriving places to live where care is taken of the cultural environment.
- workplace environments are displays of quality and competence.
- traffic environments are functional, safe and aesthetic.
- green areas are aesthetically pleasing and offer rich experiences of nature.
- waterfronts are rejuvenating places where nature and people meet.

Vibrancy and symphony in the town centre
The pedestrian street, nicknamed "Janne", in Järvenpää was realised in 2001 - 2002. It has become a living-room for local inhabitants and during the summer months in particular the street host a wide variety of events. The underlying theme of the street is the composer Sibelius and his music expressed through colour. The street incorporates, among other things, "colour squares", canopies, and musical benches. The chief designers of the street were Arja Sippola, architect SAFA and Sari Knuuti, landscape architect MARK from Suunnitelukeskus Ltd. The sculptor Pekka Jylhä designed the blue bird sculptures, which refer to swans, a bird much loved by Sibelius.







The Tammisaari pedestrian street in Raasepori

Toolkit

Building and park inventories, consultation with museum authorities, publications on local history, town centre plans, prizes for maintenance, town events, pedestrian streets...

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

historical towns are places where one encounters the past, present and future

Examples:

The Helsinki peninsula, the centres of Tammisaari, Loviisa, Porvoo and Hanko...

Characteristic features:

- The building stock and urban spaces are shared cultural assets of regional and national value.
- The distinctive character of these places, resulting from the overlapping of different time periods, binds local inhabitants to their area while attracting visitors from further afield.
- The historical milieux formed by buildings, streets, squares and parks provide a framework for vibrant urban life.
- Maintaining sufficient quantity of residents and a sufficiently varied age balance can be a challenge.

Aims:

- The value of the built heritage should be recognised, both as a source of wellbeing and attraction, but also as an economical resource.
- The urban realm should be further developed as a lively environment for residence and amenities.
- The existing urban scale and sense of history should be retained and new activities should be adapted to the cultural-historical environment.
- Energy efficiency should be taken into account in renovation works such that the essential character of valuable buildings is retained.

Measures:

- Reserve the central area of the town for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Maintain and increase the dwelling stock and amenities in the centre.
- Plan any new building developments so that they support the town centre's functioning and atmosphere.
- Adhere to the town's historical building scale when planning new developments.
- Take care of the town's old and valuable building stock and ensure that its renovation is properly guided.
- Allocate sufficient resources for the maintenance of buildings and public spaces.
- Collate and recount the history of the town and its spaces.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

regional small towns are shared living-rooms

Examples:

The regional small towns of Hyvinkää, Järvenpää, Karjaa, Klaukkala, Kerava, Kauniainen, Kirkkonummi, Askola, Mäntsälä, Nurmijärvi, Nikkilä, Söderkulla, Vihti...

Characteristic features:

- Small town culture: public spaces and pedestrian areas act as venues for encountering and meeting.
- Pedestrian areas, meeting places.
- Local services that work and transport links to the capital city region.
- Encountering people is easy.
- The building stock is often fragmentary and the scale of the urban space is determined by car traffic.
- Local amenities are forced to compete with large-scale retail units and service stations.

Aims:

- Local culture should be multifaceted and have distinctive identity.
- The city area encourages walking and cycling.
- The built heritage should act as a source of attraction to the urban centre.
- Opportunities for dwelling and work in the centre should be increased.
- The urban centre should be pleasant and lively, with a diverse range of amenities.
- The centre should be a good environment from the point of view of families with children.
- Energy provision is sustainable with greater ecological efficiency.

Measures:

- Identify the common aspirations and vision for the development of the centre and clarify the "concept" of the centre.
- Find consensus on aims regarding the standards required of new building developments, renovation works, squares and green spaces.
- Ensure a high level of maintenance of buildings and public spaces.
- Guide new building developments such that they support the centre's qualities and scale.
- Increase the amount of housing for elderly and youths, as this supports local amenities and public transport.
- Offer rental spaces for remote work and for small companies.
- Ensure the availability of affordable business spaces and spaces for leisure activities, by, among other measures, making use of historical buildings.
- Promote and invest in energy efficient building.



Centre of Hyvinkää

Toolkit

Planning by-laws, building inventories, publications on local history, town centre plans, architectural competitions, town centre visions, consultation with museum authorities, prizes for maintenance, development strategies, pedestrian streets, pilot building projects, shared spaces for residents' use...



The centre of Korso, Vantaa

Toolkit

Architectural and landscape architecture competitions, plot submission competitions, local detailed plan regulations, common facilities for residents, urban block plans and visions, town centre plans...

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

apartment block areas are independent and lively urban districts

Examples:

Kontula (Helsinki), Koivukylä (Vantaa), Matinkylä (Espoo), Gesterby (Kirkkonummi), Gammelbacka (Porvoo), Kannisto (Kerava), Paavola (Hyvinkää)...

Characteristic features:

- The local population base is sufficient to support local amenities and public transport.
- Residential areas are often close to opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- The dwelling stock is varied in size and price level.
- Most amenities and places of work are accessible by public transport.

Aims:

- Communities should be carbon-neutral and should be self-sufficient in terms of energy production.
- The community structure should be unified and well functioning.
- Dwellings, workplaces, amenities and recreation facilities should be located close to one another.
- The environment should make walking and cycling appealing .
- Layers of history in the environment should be used to attract people to the area.
- The centres of urban districts should be vital and attractive.
- The built environment should be of high architectural quality, in good condition and energy efficient.
- Multiculturalism and social diversity should be made use of as positive assets.

Measures:

- Concentrate new building developments primarily on areas that are already in use and place infill building close to public transport stops, especially railway stations and stops.
- Ensure a high architectural standard in new buildings through municipal building codes, planning regulations and building method guides.
- Reserve sufficient resources for the continuing maintenance and repair of the built environment. Improve buildings' energy efficiency when conducting renovation work
- Promote independent resident initiatives by providing meeting and working space for residents' use.
- Provide suburban development projects in cooperation with residents.
- Use of the one percent for art principle is advocated to increase the amenity of the residential environment.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region... house areas fulfil their inhabitants' dreams

Examples:

Anttila (Mäntsälä), Landbo (Helsinki), Moisioipelto (Lohja), Hornhattula (Porvoo), Monsala (Askola), Peippola (Porvoo), Etelä-Kolsari, Kyrkvalla (Kirkkonummi)...

Characteristic features:

- Urban blocks are built one plot at a time as separate projects but within a short period of time.
- The size of buildings is usually constant throughout the area or block, but the building method may vary.
- The environment is built largely by its residents, with public investment being limited to building streets and infrastructure.
- Each dwelling has its own private yard .
- The community structure is sparse.

Aims:

- Eco-efficiency should be improved.
- Public transport and amenities should be well functioning.
- There should be place for residents to encounter one another.
- Walking and cycling (functional training) should be safe and appealing.
- A repair and maintenance culture that takes account of environmental values.
- Housing districts should have a sense of identity and a lively local culture.
- House areas should have a sense of community.

Measures:

- Construct urban-style housing areas.
- Raise the density of the area's central places.
- Make streets and roads pleasant and ensure that they connect properly to individual plots. Create squares, children's playgrounds, sledging hills and dog parks in connection with streets and roads to act as meeting places for the community.
- Provide residents with communal facilities and make public facilities open for meeting use and for free time activities.
- Provide residents with communal facilities and make public facilities open for meeting use and for free time activities.
- Create green spaces and recreational routes that unify the area.



The Aurinkorinne house area in Friisilä, Espoo (Juha Kronlöf & Pauliina Vihinen architects, Byman & Ruokonen landscape architects) The development was awarded the Puuinformaatio wooden construction prize in 2004.

Toolkit

Construction method instructions, local detailed plan regulations on construction method, plot purchase clauses, architectural and landscape architecture competitions, support for builders and pre-guidance by building control authorities, monitoring of adherence to permits, milieu plans, common facilities for residents...



The village centre of Nummi, Nummi-Pusula

Toolkit

Village master plans, village plans and visions, building method instructions, specific regulations on construction in the local detailed plan and municipal building code, building inventories, support and pre-guidance from the building control authority, provision of advice from district architects and the regional museum authority, monitoring of adherence to permits...

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

villages are distinctive and lively places to live

Examples:

Degerby, Inkoo; Karjalohja; Sälinkää, Mäntsälä; the centre of Nummi village, Bromarv in Raasepori; Pinjainen and Fiskari; Ilola and Ylike in Porvoo; Härkäpää, Pernaja; the centre of Lapinjärvi village...

Characteristic features:

- Tight-knit communities that have been built over a long time period.
- Village thoroughfares act as places where villagers encounter one another.
- Local culture shows in residents' lifestyles and scale of building.
- Villages are the centres of social interaction and nodes in the cultural landscape.
- Villages' sense of local heritage is strong, and villages define the identity of the wider area.

Aims:

- Local amenities and jobs should be secured.
- New building developments should conform to the village's atmosphere.
- Old buildings should be kept in meaningful use.
- Energy efficiency and energy self-sufficiency should be promoted.
- Retaining a sense of community.

Measures:

- Locate any new amenities, such as service stations, in such that they reinforce the village's existing structure of amenities and villagescape.
- Villagers should be involved in making decisions on the affairs of the area, such as changes in land use.
- Maintain and further develop village schools and other local services.
- Recognise the village's valuable building stock and secure its maintenance.
- Locate new buildings and dwellings also in the village centre.
- Draw up local master plans, village plans and visions, building method instructions and local detailed plans.
- Provide advice and instruction on infill building and renovation through the building control authority, the regional museum authority and the district architect.
- Create eco-efficient local and district energy solutions and improve buildings' energy efficiency when conducting renovation work.
- Support villages' and residents independent initiatives aimed towards the care of the environment.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

rural areas are thriving places to live where care is taken of the cultural environment

Examples:

The river valleys of Porvoo, Mustio and Siuntio; the agricultural valley of Nummijoki and Pusulanjoki rivers; the valley of Koskenkylänjoki river; the cultural landscapes of the Great Coastal Road (Suuri Rantatie)...

Characteristic features:

- The principle livelihoods of the countryside maintain the landscape and natural diversity of the area.
- A thriving and beautiful rural landscape is the pride of any farmer.
- The building stock is an important part of the cultural landscapes.
- The countryside is part of a shared cultural capital and is an important part of the region's identity.
- Rural culture is down-to-earth and sustained.
- A well cared-for cultural environment is an important resource for tourism.
- The countryside's value in areas close to towns is under threat of deterioration due to inappropriate scattered development.

Aims:

- Rural areas should be thriving habitats that work in symbiosis with urban areas.
- Cultural landscapes and the rural building stock should be maintained.
- New building developments should fit in to the landscape; buildings and the landscape should fit together aesthetically.
- Fields, forests and nature areas should be remain intact.
- Rural areas should be eco-efficient and self-sufficient in terms of energy.
- Public transport, water supply and amenities should be appropriate and eco-efficient.

Measures:

- Create landscape maintenance plans to support agriculture and forestry.
- Take the landscape into account in the practice of agriculture and in construction.
- Concentrate new building developments on existing villages.
- Take care of valuable old buildings and find suitable contemporary uses for them.
- Encourage local and ecological energy production and energy efficient design solutions.
- Improve opportunities for rural tourism by, for example, creating well-signposted cycle and walking routes together with amenities to support them.



The cultural landscape of Siuntio

Toolkit

Local master plan regulations, municipal building codes, local building method instructions, landscape plans for agriculture and forestry, building inventories, appropriate administration of planning permission and exceptional building permits, conditions for granting building permits, providing sufficient information about the environment's value, investigation into the cultural landscape, support and pre-guidance for builders from the building control authority, advice from the district architect and regional museum authority, monitoring of adherence to permits...



Vuosaari harbour, Helsinki

Toolkit

Architectural competitions, regulations on building in local detailed plans, plot purchase clauses, environment permit clauses, companies' environment programmes and strategies, common environmental cluster projects...

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

workplace environments are displays of quality and competence

Examples:

Industrial areas: Koverhar (Hanko), Sköldvik in Porvoo; high-technology areas: Keilaniemi–Otaniemi (Espoo), Ruoholahti (Helsinki), Aviapolis (Vantaa); logistics areas: Vuosaari harbour (Helsinki), Kapuli (Mäntsälä); commercial areas: the Kehä III ring road zone (Vantaa, Espoo)...

Characteristic features:

- Building is based on the needs of work and production; workplace areas have an air of activity
- Logistics and commercial areas are located close to the nodes of railway lines and roads
- Office areas also home to research and development units (both private, public, and mixes of the two).
- The disappearance of old forms of industry leaves behind a building stock for which new uses should be found.
- The standard expected of office areas has risen, and renewing old facilities is expensive.

Aims:

- Buildings should be placed in a way that respects the landscape, scale and character of the local environment.
- Companies and activities that are close to one another should form networks.
- Telecommunications and public transport between workplaces and university clusters should be excellent.
- Areas of industrial production should be seen primarily as being part of the community structure.
- Each area should have its own distinctive profile.
- In planning industrial and production areas, it should be remembered that they form the daily working environment for many people.
- Improved public transport links between areas

Measures:

- Minimise environmental disturbances primarily within the area of activity.
- Facilities should be placed away from the rest of the community structure if environmental disturbances cannot be reasonably prevented.
- Ensure through land use planning that workplace areas can continue to operate and if necessary, expand.
- Create a distinctive profile for each area.
- Reserve sufficient resources to ensure a high-quality environment and architecture.
- Generate a holistic overall plan for each workplace environment.
- Repair any damage to the landscape .
- Integrate retail, offices and dwellings to form a lively urban environment.
- Ensure good telecommunications and public transport connections from workplace areas to university clusters.
- Make provisions for cycle commuting in planning and construction .

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...
traffic environments are functional, safe and aesthetic

Examples:

Highway and road areas, railway areas and the metro, stations, park-and-ride areas, buffer zones, harbours, airports...

Characteristic features:

- Road traffic areas are designed and realised holistically.
- Railway areas' and stations' appearance often suffers from a lack of cooperation between different actors.
- Environments that are planned for the needs of car traffic are often unpleasant for pedestrians. Such environments include multi-level junctions, parking facilities and structures built for traffic safety and noise reduction reasons.
- Roadsides contain a wide variety of advertisement hoardings and signage.

Aims:

- The landscape image should be consistent, regardless of land ownership.
- The requirements of traffic, the landscape and other land use issues should be integrated.
- Traffic routes should not form barriers to pedestrians, cyclists and urban functioning in general.
- The main traffic routes of urban areas should be, if necessary, street-like and aesthetically high-quality traffic environments.
- The traffic environments of small regional towns should be unified, safe and pleasant.
- Public transport stops and waiting facilities should be pleasant, with sufficient secure storage places for bicycles; park-and-ride areas should function well-signposted.
- Transit centres and railway stations should be utilised as concentrations of traffic, retail and free time activities.
- Retention of roads and routes with cultural history importance.

Measures:

- Create common realisation plans for traffic areas for all relevant landowners; make an agreement with relevant landowners on a coherent maintenance strategy for traffic areas.
- Draw up individualised architectural programmes for road and railway planning, in order to identify the particular issues relating to their development and maintenance.
- In planning, make efficient use of the space required by traffic by also accounting for pedestrian and cycle traffic and public transport.
- Develop planning guidelines and dimension standards such that the particular properties of each environment can be taken into account in a more flexible way.
- Integrate traffic and its spatial requirements seamlessly with other land use planning.
- Make increased use of environmental artwork .



Mäntsälä's railway station

Toolkit

Taking the landscape into account in general plans, architectural competitions, local detailed plan regulations, simultaneous planning of street areas and other land use, reserving sufficient resources for investment and maintenance of the environment, historical investigations and road histories, competitions to develop innovative solutions for traffic and land use...



Nuukio, Vihti

Toolkit

Inventories, holistic plans for networks of green spaces and recreational areas, participative urban fields, sufficient resources for maintenance, walking and riding routes...

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

green areas are aesthetically pleasing and offer rich experiences of nature

Examples:

Central Park of Helsinki, the national urban park of Hanko, the small parks of the old part of Porvoo, green spaces of Tapiola, the wilderness areas of Nuukio and Sipoonkorpi, Kopparnäs (Inkoo)...

Characteristic features:

- The range of green spaces spans from urban parks to wilderness areas .
- Built recreation areas include sports, exercise and play areas and marinas.
- The agriculture and forestry areas around small regional towns are the most used green spaces outside of urban centres.
- Small green areas within the built environment provide important experiences of nature for residents .
- The recreational value of forest or field areas immediately surrounding urban areas can be more important than their production value.
- Care of green spaces affects the appearance of the built environment as a whole.

Aims:

- Green spaces should be easily accessible.
- Green spaces should form integral routes for recreation use and they should form an expansive ecological network.
- Recreational use of green spaces should be integral with other uses and land ownership.
- Preserving scenic values.
- Green spaces should be clearly delineated and edge zones should be protected from building developments.
- The built environment should contain sufficient green spaces, including areas to act as flood overflow areas.
- Green spaces should be made use of in education, such as in arboreta and nature paths, bird watching towers.

Measures:

- Create plans for municipalities and larger areas in which the network of green spaces and principle recreation areas is defined.
- Make inventories of historical gardens and include them as part of the areas built heritage.
- Take the needs of recreation and landscape issues into account in the maintenance of field and forest areas near urban areas.
- Develop planning and maintenance methods for the realisation of high-quality outdoor recreation routes, vantage points and resting places.
- Administer recreational use of green spaces such that it does not disturb key ecological areas and routes.
- Make use of grazing animals in the maintenance of green spaces.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region...

waterfronts are rejuvenating places where nature and people meet

Examples:

The archipelagos of Helsinki, Espoo, Inkoo, Porvoo, Sipoo, Pernaja and Tammisalo; beaches in Hanko; Hiidenvesi and Lohjanjärvi...

Characteristic features:

- Despite the proliferation of free-time homes, which can be dense in some places, the waterfronts of the region are generally natural in appearance.
- Waterfronts are attractive places for living and for recreation.
- The natural beauty of waterfronts and the opportunities they provide for recreation make them an important resource for tourism.
- Biodiversity is richest in waterfronts areas.
- The villas, buildings and traditional livelihoods of coastal areas make them unique environments.

Aims:

- An appropriate balance should be struck between nature and the requirements of general recreation and holiday homes.
- Where possible, unbuilt shorelines are set aside for public leisure use.
- Coastal building should fit in to the landscape, dredging should be limited and controlled, shoreline vegetation should be protected.
- Flood risks should be taken into account when building near shorelines.
- Unified, continuous public shoreline routes.
- To promote tourism with preconditions set by nature and cultural environment.

Measures:

- Promoting the planning process in line with land use and construction legislation.
- Create directions for the placing and dimensioning of buildings near waterfronts and include them in the municipality's building code.
- Draw up maintenance and use plans for waterfront areas.
- Take the landscape image and nature values into account when dealing with waterfronts.
- Develop archipelago and other coastal villages and livelihoods in such a way as to respect the landscape and traditional ways of building.
- Control the construction method and location of new developments through the municipal building code and in granting permits.
- Take the landscape image into account in the planning of boat lanes and marinas.



Kaunissaari, Sipoo

Toolkit

Conditions for environmental permits; including issues of landscape, building method and waterfront use in local detailed plans; plans for the use and maintenance of waterfronts, village plans for archipelago villages; waterfront landscape plans...



Pupils in grades 8 and 9 at Kirkkoharju secondary school in Kirkkonummi study, evaluate and plan the centre of Kirkkonummi municipality in geography, art, Finnish and social studies lessons in 2013-2014. The young people's ideas were put on display in Kirkkonummi's town hall in May 2014 and in the main library in autumn 2014. The public were able to post their comments to the municipality's officials and policymakers on a wall in the exhibition.

The architectural education project is part of the preparation of Kirkkonummi's architectural policy programme and it was a joint project by Architecture Information Centre Finland and the infrastructure department of the municipality of Kirkkonummi with development funding from the Helsinki-Uusimaa region. Based on the experiences from the project and the background and teaching material, Architecture Information Centre Finland will produce a strategy that can be used in other schools and municipalities.

The role of municipalities

Municipalities are in a key position to influence the development of the environment. Municipalities possess the expertise, the ability and the will necessary to improve the living conditions of their residents.

An appealing physical environment is good way to attract tourists and companies into the area. Residents, policy makers and professionals must pull together in order to reach a common view on how to develop their environment. A natural way to do this is for the municipality to create their own architectural policy (or apoli), which, as part of the municipality's wider policy strategy, can clarify the shared aims for the development of the area.

Architectural policies have been described as "master plans" for future architecture and also as descriptions of the building culture to be adhered to. At its most minimal, an architectural policy can be a public statement based on a single municipal council seminar or committee discussion in which the municipality's strategic aims on the built environment are identified. Depending on the municipality's resources, it is worth taking a more thorough approach by organising e.g. residents' meetings, debates in the media, interviews, internet questionnaires and expert hearings, as well involving a wider range of committees in the discussion. Many municipalities in Finland have already published an architectural policy; the first to do so were Jyväskylä and Oulu, with Vantaa being the first in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region. Kirkkonummi's programme will be finalized at the end of 2015. Vantaa's architectural strategy, adopted in 2006, is being updated, and a new programme is due to adopted by the council in spring 2015.

Architectural policy should not be seen merely as a one-off programme announcement, but rather as a strategy requiring a long-term approach. Ideally, architectural policy becomes a natural part of the municipality's operating culture.

In our vision for the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, each municipality will:

- draws up its own architectural policy objectives
- bind its architectural policy to the municipality's wider strategy work.
- monitor the realisation of its architectural policy
- regularly check that the policy is relevant to the current situation. This can be done e.g. once in every council period.

A good municipal architectural policy is easy to read and is widely read

A municipality's own architectural policy can be created, for example, in the following way:

Starting up

- Establish a steering group and a project leader to draw up a more detailed schedule and budget for the preparation of the architectural policy.
- Inform local media about the that the process has begun.

Discussion

- Make the purpose and aims behind the creation of the architectural policy known through e.g. local press and the municipality's internet site.
- Consult the municipality's residents, policy makers, civil servants, companies and organisation to learn their views and wishes regarding the current state of the built environment and its future development. This can be done, for example, through public meetings, internet or postal questionnaires, council seminars, interactive geographical information systems such as the pehmo-Gis application, public walks in areas of interest etc.

Summary

- Compile the gathered information into an accessible summary that informs the reader as to residents' and other stakeholders' views on the development of the built environments.
- Use the information to draw up consensual targets and practical procedures to achieve them.

Policy making

- Get the architectural policy formally approved by the municipal council.
- Bind the policy to the rest of the municipality's strategy work.
- Make a resolution on the application of the policy's aims and on starting concrete steps towards their implementation.
- Agree on how the aims are to be reviewed and how their realisation is to be monitored.

Notification

- Inform residents, landowners and companies that operate in the municipality about the guidelines determined by the architectural policy.
- Inform residents, landowners and companies that operate in the municipality about the guidelines determined by the architectural policy.

Follow-up

- Make an agreement between the municipalities various planners, municipal engineers and other public authorities regarding the division of tasks and responsibilities concerning the realisation of the targets of the architectural policy.
- Evaluate the realisation of the strategy and its need for updating regularly, e.g. once in every council period.



Suburban quality is not good enough for the residents of Vantaa. Vantaa City Council approved architectural strategy of Vantaa in June 2006. In it, the vision of Vantaa was to be a city of sustainable development: "Vantaa is made up of distinctive interweaving residential and workplace areas and unspoilt green belts. Vantaa takes responsibility for the environment and is aware of its cultural history roots."

The work to update architectural strategy of Vantaa began in autumn 2013. The work is coordinated by the city planning department and participants include the building inspection department, the facilities centre, the city museum and the infrastructure and corporate services departments.

The architecture policy work of Vantaa has also involved partners including Arkki, an architectural school for children and young people, Vantaa's children and youth II project and Tikkurila high school.

City policymakers, including the city planning board and the city board, have contributed to the debate as the work has progressed. The programme will be adopted by the city council. All the residents of the municipality have also had the chance to participate in the debate.

Architecture can add to the appeal of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

Quality architecture and a high standard of construction are success factors for areas. Architecture and architectural heritage are pull factors when choosing a place to live or visit. In an ideal case people will come to visit architectural sites from all over the world. Good architecture produces new landmark buildings and creates new architectural heritage.

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Region already has good examples of innovative construction. Wooden construction and ecological construction are being developed. Suburb renewal, renovation and infill building are designed to improve the image of residential areas. Distinctive architecture and environmental construction are being put into residential and workplace areas and traffic infrastructure. We present a random selection of developments on the following pages.

Public building shapes an area's identity

The new main library of the University of Helsinki, the Kaisa Building completed in 2012, radically altered the cityscape on Kaisaniemenkatu. The building is also an elegant sight from the railway station square. The Kaisa Building blends naturally into its surroundings and at the same time represents a totally new type of building. Inside, an almost sacred bright central space fills the interior, with reading and work spaces on either side.

The building, designed by architects Anttinen & Oiva, won an architectural competition and has picked up several awards. It has gained the approval of professionals and the general public. Daily visitor numbers to the library have exceeded forecasts, and 7000 visitors a day is not rare.

The Kaisa Building was turning heads even as it was being built, and in 2012 the designers were awarded the Critics' Spurs prize by the Finnish Critics' Association. The Kaisa Building was given the "Construction Rose" award in 2012 by the Helsinki City construction board. In 2014 the building was one of four candidates for the first Finlandia prize for architecture. Apart from the library, the building also contains the book café Gaudeamus Kirja&Kahvi and other commercial premises on the Kaisaniemenkatu and metro station levels. The building has been awarded a gold LEED certificate in recognition of sustainable development principles.

The University of Helsinki has used architectural competitions at all its campuses in order to search out new solutions and support alternatives. The university has also been a pioneer in developing planning and implementation processes in construction projects and this has been acknowledged. Helsinki University's facilities and buildings centre was awarded the developer's prize by RAKLI, the Finnish Association of Building Owners and Construction Clients, in 2012 in recognition of its professionalism and work to improve the development process.

The university cares for its valuable architectural heritage and is also creating a new, sustainable construction culture that takes account of energy efficiency and other building lifecycle aspects. This is fully in line with the architectural policy programme and architectural heritage strategy adopted by the government. The Finnish Association of Architects' SAFA prize was awarded to Helsinki University's works department in autumn 2002 for exemplary construction management respecting historical values. The prize is in recognition of an organization whose activities help to create a high-quality living environment.







Finding a new use for old factory buildings has turned out to be a good way to save the industrial cultural heritage. The Kokos factory buildings in Sörnäisten rantatie was completed in 1912 according to the designs of architect Albert Nyberg. In the 1990s, the building lay empty and was threatened with demolition.

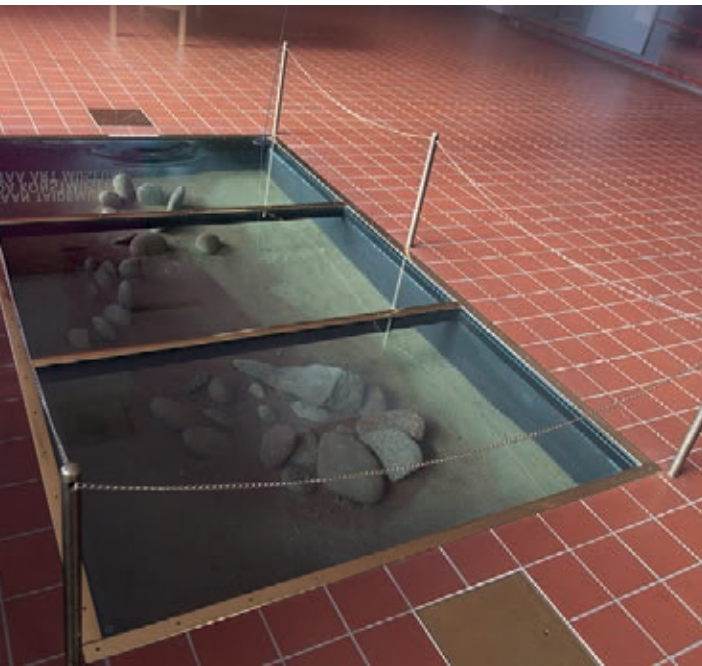
The survival of the building was ensured once a decision was made to renovate it and turn it into the new home of the Theatre Academy Helsinki. Care was taken to preserve the facades on Sörnäisten rantatie and glass-roofed courtyard with its steel structures. The renovation, designed by Stefan Ahlman architects, was completed in 2000. The project was awarded Helsinki's Board of Construction's "Building Rose" (Rakentamisen Ruusu) award in 2000.

The municipality of Ruotsinpyhtää (merged with Loviisa in 2010) received the Finnish Association of Architects' SAFA award in 1990 in recognition of its work in developing its ironworks into a group of vital milieux which respect cultural and historical values. The preservation of old milieux is constantly under threat, and for this reason new uses should be found for old buildings, and new activities should be created in order to keep old milieux alive.

The head offices of Senate Properties, in the old Elanto industrial block in Helsinki's Sörnäinen, is located in the former grain and root store designed by architect Veikko Leisten and completed in 1934.

The alteration works on the building were completed in 2002 according to the designs of Heikkinen-Komonen architects. The metamorphosis of the property from warehouse to high-quality office space is a successful example of how new, ecologically sustainable and visually new architecture can be achieved in way that respects the built heritage. The project was awarded the Building Rose award by Helsinki's building committee in 2002. It also received the Concrete Structure of the Year award (Vuoden Betonirakenne).

The replica of the red ochre tomb from the stone age settlement of Jönsakse sunk into the floor of the Myyrmäki House in Vantaa (approx. 5500 BC) goes to show that if there are ancient remains in an area or if archaeological excavations have been carried out prior to construction, then that information can be used in construction planning and in that way other ancient history in the area can be brought out.



The Lohja library, opened in 2006 is a good example of how a new library can be successfully placed in a central location: the library has been put to good use by Lohja residents of all ages. The awkward, cramped site was originally designated for multi-storey housing, and has been used with ingenuity and the building is a refreshing example of the architecture of its time. The building also completes the cultural campus developed by the City of Lohja around the town's medieval stone church. The library was designed according to the winning competition entry by Lahdelma & Mahlamäki architects.

The Bromarv ecovillage was built by the Bromarv Martha Organisation (Marttayhdistys) in the village of Bromarv in Raasepori. The starting point for the establishing the ecovillage, designed by architect Bruno Erat, was the acute need for rental accommodation for elderly people and young families. The houses are constructed from locally-sourced materials including timber and recycled building parts. The insulation used in the houses is made from recycled newspaper, and the ventilation system is passive. Waste water is separated and partly treated on-site using biological means. Heating is supplied by the area's own heating centre using solar collectors and a wood chip furnace.





In commemoration of the 200th anniversary celebrations for the Diet of Porvoo, the August Eklöf Park was completed in the centre of the West Bank Modern Wooden Town area in Porvoo in spring 2009. The park was named after the director of a conglomerate that manufactured products for the metal and timber industries in Porvoo in the early 1900s, because the production plants of the Aug. Eklöf Ab companies were situated on the western river bank, including the site of the present park.

The diet tryptic designed by Kirsi Kaulanen and Ylva Holländer stands in the Diet of Porvoo square in the centre of the park. The western side of the tryptic depicts Sweden, the eastern side Russia and the northern side Finland. The motifs and symbols of the work are derived from folk art and heraldry and the technique is reminiscent of 19th century visual culture.

The art programme in Porvoo's West Bank completed in 2014 makes art part of the urban development. As a guideline for implementation of the percentage principle, the art programme defines procedures for the acquisition of art in connection with construction.

The Modern Wooden Town area, which was the first stage in Porvoo's West Bank development, continues Porvoo's long tradition of wooden construction in the cultural landscape of the Porvoo river valley. The detailed plan of the wooden town area was drawn up based on Professor Tuomo Siitonen's winning competition entry, which is a modern interpretation of a dense small-scale urban structure. Architect Mari Matomäki of Hedman & Matomäki Architects designed the wooden-framed and traditionally painted terraced and detached houses in the initial quarter completed in 2003.

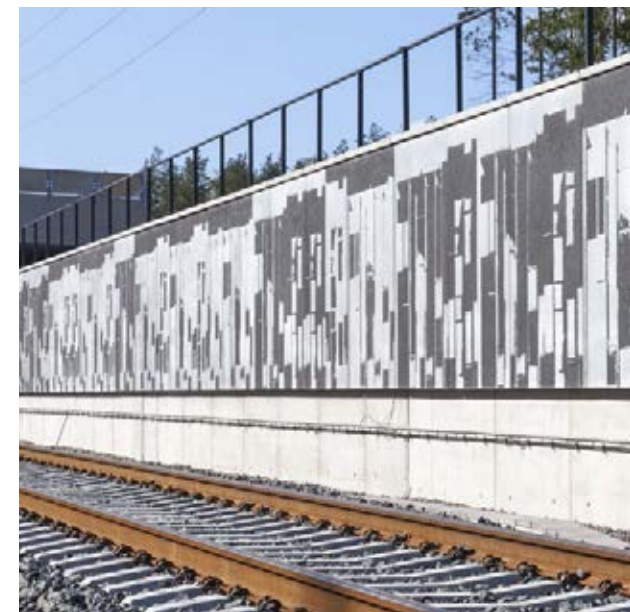
The Modern Wooden Town project (1997–2013) is a nationwide project launched by the Wood Studio of the department of architecture of the University of Oulu. The aim of the project was to use wooden construction to produce amenable and exemplary resident-friendly environments based on and other wood-built pilot developments various parts of Finland.



The idea of building a canal for recreational purposes to enrich the environment of eastern Helsinki originates from the plan competition for Aurinkolahti in Vuosaari (Helsinki) in 1996. The competition was an international invited competition and the winning entry was by architect Timo Vormala. On one side, the canal borders on a dense urban area and on the other links the built environment to an outdoor recreational area.

The canal and surrounding area were designed by B & M Architects and WSP Finland. Uutela Canal was voted Environmental Structure of 2010.

The Ring Rail Line is the biggest investment project in Vantaa's history. When it was designed, it was considered important to have environmental art as a backdrop to the railway setting. The art is meant to make the stations safe, pleasant and also more individual and easy to navigate. The works designed for the stations are intimate and can be examined close-up, whilst large, prominent works can be placed along the tracks. The art along the Ring Rail Line is regulated by a separate environment art plan.



Key concepts

Architecture

Architecture refers to the built environment that is formed by buildings and the space surrounding them and by the landscape. Architecture reflects the values of the prevailing culture and expresses the aesthetic and ideological tendencies of its time. According to Vitruvius' definition, architecture should strive towards three aims: *venustas, firmitas utilitas* (beauty, durability, usefulness).

Architectural policy (established abbreviation: *apoli*)

Architectural policy comprises all decisions affecting the built environment that affect the planning, construction and maintenance of buildings and communities. The actions of the state, municipalities and other public bodies are particularly significant for the evolution of quality in the built environment.

Architectural policy became an international phenomenon in Europe in the 1980s and 1990s. It was boosted by civic pro-environment activity engendered by rapid internationalization and economic liberalization. States also needed to strengthen their competitiveness and identity. Sustainable development initiatives have increased demand for approaches that promote balanced construction and care for the environment. Over half of the EU member states have a national architecture policy programme.

Finland is a pioneering country in terms of architectural policy. A national architectural policy was drawn up by two committees appointed by the Ministry of Education during 1996 and 1997, and the policy was approved by the government on 17.12.1998. The programme has been published in Finnish, Swedish, English, French, and German through cooperation between the government's construction committee and the Finnish Association of Architects.

Finland's national architectural policy was directed particularly towards public bodies, whose activities can have a positive exemplary effect on society as a whole. The programme outlined general aims for maintaining and increasing the value of Finland's built wealth, care for the built heritage, promoting high-quality new construction and improving international competitiveness. These aims were outlined through 24 recommendations for action.

Since being published, the programme has had significant effect in helping to bring about municipal and regional architectural policies. It has also been used as a model in the creation of architectural policies in other European countries.

In the 1990s and 2000s, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the National Council for Architecture have assumed the main responsibility for monitoring and guiding architectural policy, their main partners being the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Labour and the Economy and organizations in the architecture sector. In the 2010s the initiative for updating architectural policy passed to the Ministry of the Environment. Set up jointly by organizations in the architecture sector and with support from the Ministry of Education and Culture, Architecture Information Centre Finland was launched in 2013. One of its main fields of activity is architectural policy. Source: archinfo.fi/arkkitehtuuripolitiikka/

Architectural education

Architectural education, in conjunction with primary education, high school education, basic art education and liberal adult education, encourages children and young people to take an interest in the built environment, increases awareness and understanding of its importance and encourages them to participate and influence shaping it.

Architecture Information Centre Finland

Architecture Information Centre Finland monitors developments in architectural education and collects, produces and disseminates information on it. As well as websites, it promotes access to information via various development projects, training sessions, seminars, newsletters and annual network meetings.

Architectural education

In Finland, formal education in architecture is provided by three universities: Aalto University, Tampere University of Technology, and the University of Oulu.

Teaching is divided into the following areas: the basics of architecture, history and theory of architecture, housing design, and community and urban planning. In addition, Helsinki University of Technology offers a programme in landscape architecture, which includes education on landscape planning, landscape construction and landscape conservation and maintenance.

The percentage principle (percentage art)

The percentage principle is a financing model for art acquisitions where around one percent of the construction costs are invested in art.

The percentage principle has been applied by Helsinki, Vantaa and Porvoo, among others. Promotion of the percentage principle is part of the government programme and in 2014-2015 the Ministry of Education and Culture will spend over one million euros on the project.

Building culture

Building culture means the sum of all the cultural, economic, social and ecological factors that affect planning and construction. The creation and safeguarding of well functioning and well designed urban spaces and infrastructure networks is a task that must be addressed through cooperation between state, regional and local authorities as well as citizens and companies. Source: The Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, 2007.

Concepts relating to the cultural landscape

(source: www.rakennusperinto.fi)

General concepts

Value and importance

The value of the built cultural environment and cultural landscape can be defined in terms of historical, architectural-historical, architectural, technical, artistic and landscape factors. Established terms are used in the evaluation of environments. The maintenance and conservation of areas is based on recognised values and on their na-

tional, regional and local importance.

Inventories

Making inventories (or stock-taking) refers to the systematic obtaining and recording of information regarding landscapes, the built environment, relics, and traditional biotopes. In the process, information is gathered, organised and produced regarding matters such as, for example, the current state of a cultural landscape and the factors contributing to its current condition. The process of making inventories can be broken down into three stages: assembling information from literature, registers and other archive sources; supplementing this information by on-site inspections; and finally, the reporting of results.

National property

According to the statute §66 on the state budget, national property refers to state assets in the form of cultural or natural heritage, the purpose of whose ownership is primarily to preserve the assets or safeguard their preservation. The concept is also used in a general sense to express the special significance of a particular environment. In such use, the concept does not refer to any particular set of cases..

Criterion

A criterion is a factor or quality, or a decisive feature, by which a thing may be distinguished from others, or affirmed or proved to be right. In classifying buildings and cultural landscapes, criteria such as typicality, rarity, multifacetedness (in terms of cultural-historical layers), well-preservedness and authenticity are used.

Cultural heritage

The cultural heritage is the immaterial or material heritage that has arisen from the influence of peoples' activities. Material cultural heritage can mean movable items (such as books and objects) or immovable items (such as the built heritage).

Cultural environment

Cultural environment is a general term. It refers to environments whose characteristics indicate different stages in the area's culture and the interaction between people and their environment. The cultural environment is also linked to people's relationship to their environment the past and in the present, the meanings attached to the environment and the interpretations and various names applied to it. More specifically, the cultural environment can be described using such concepts as cultural landscape and built cultural environment. The concept of the cultural environment also applies to relics and traditional biotopes.

Investigation

An investigation is the description and examination of the history, properties, or change in physical characteristics of an area or site, conducted through site visits and examination of archive sources. An investigation usually includes conclusions and summaries of the value of the area or site in question. Examples include landscape investigations, building history investigations, and investigations required by the planning process.

Landscape concepts

The European Landscape Convention

The Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention came into international effect in 2004. The convention deals with the conservation, maintenance and planning of the landscape. The convention is also referred to as the Florence Convention. The concepts employed in the convention are equivalent to the concepts used in this publication, which are in established use in Finland.

National landscape

The term *national landscape* refers to well-known landscape sites which possess a powerful symbolic value. The concept does not have official status. Areas deemed to be national landscapes are any landscape areas of national importance and/or built cultural environments of national importance.

The national landscapes of the Helsinki-Uusimaa region are: the coastal part of Helsinki: the river valley of Porvoo and the old section of Porvoo town; Tapiola, the Snappertunanjoki river, Fagervik and the ironworks of Billnäs, Fiskars, Antskog ja Åminnefors (these sites were previously part of Pohja municipality, now they are part of Raasepori municipality).

Landscapes of regional importance

A landscape of regional importance is a landscape that is deemed by expert authorities to possess distinctive characteristics that are particular to the region.

Landmark

A landmark is an natural element or a result of human activity that is distinguished from the rest of the environment either due its location in relation to the landscape structure, its visual prominence or properties in relation to the landscape image, or due to special meanings attached to it. Examples of typical landmarks are large rocks, churches and other tall buildings.

Landscape

A landscape consists of organic and inorganic factors and of the influence of human's activities (the so called "fundamental elements" of the landscape), the interaction between these fundamental elements and finally, the visually perceived appearance of the landscape, i.e. the landscape image.

According to the European Landscape Convention, the term landscape means an area as it is perceived by people and whose properties are the result of nature and/or human activity and interaction.

Landscape area, established according to the Nature Conservation Act

The term applies to areas that are designated as such in accordance with sections 32 and 33 of the Nature Conservation Act in order to preserve and manage a natural or cultural landscape of outstanding beauty, historical interest or other special value with the aim of preserving and maintaining its natural beauty.

Finland's first national landscape area, the Skärlandet area in Raasepori, was established in 2007. The area is a notable example of the small-scale and varied coastal cultural landscapes of the Gulf of Finland.

Landscape maintenance

This general term is used to refer to research, investigation, planning and administration work necessary for the preservation and development of a landscape. The term means the same as care of the landscape (*maiseaman vaaliminen*) referred to in the requirements of master planning and detail planning stipulated by sections 39 and 54 of the Land Use and Building Act. In more concrete terms, the term refers to maintenance work performed on a landscape, such as clearing coppices.

Landscape tolerance

The tolerance of a landscape is the degree to which a landscape structure, landscape image or individual fundamental elements of a landscape can change or be changed without losing its essential characteristics.

Landscape node

A landscape node is the crossing point or meeting point of several of the basic elements of a landscape.

Landscape structure

Landscape structure consists in the variation of, and relationship between, various basic factors in the landscape, which is structured by landscape nodes and landmarks.

Landscape space

A landscape space is the space formed by the landscape's fundamental elements and the relationship between them. Landscape space can be clearly delineated spatial wholes or wide, non-delineated open areas. Landscape spaces form spatial sequences.

Landscape type

A landscape may be classified as either natural or cultural depending on whether the landscape is primarily the product of natural elements or of human activity. Additionally, the landscape can be classified according to landscape structure, landscape image, land use, cultural features, natural features etc. Common landscape types include the urban, archipelago, lakeland and agricultural landscape types.

Landscape defect

This term refers to a weakening in the quality of a landscape image or characteristics of a landscape structure as a result of an event or operation. Landscape defects can be permanent, rectified over time, or rectifiable through landscaping work.

Traditional landscape, traditional biotope

These terms refer to areas shaped by traditional livelihoods and modes of land use, whose historical features have been preserved. Traditional landscapes are, for example, meadows and grazing ground and the various structures and constructions associated with their use. The concepts of the cultural landscape and the traditional landscape partly overlap, but the concept of the traditional landscape often refers to a fairly small area within a wider cultural landscape. The term traditional biotope is applied mainly to meadow and pasture types rich in biodiversity, such as dry and wet meadows, grazing grounds and wooded pastureland.

Edge zone

An edge zone delineates a landscape space. For example, trees and other vegetation that delineate a field are the edge zone of a landscape space.

Landscape area of national value

A landscape area of national value is one of the 156 areas designated as such by a government resolution in 1995. These areas are the points of departure for the planning of land use specified in the detailed aims regarding cultural and natural heritage specified by the governmental decision (30.11.2000) regarding national land use objectives.

There are 11 landscape areas of national importance in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region: Skärlandet (Raasepori); Snappertunanjoki river and Fagervik (Inkoo, Raasepori respectively); the cultural landscapes of Fiskarsin-Antskog and Pohjanpitäjänlahti (Raasepori); the cultural landscapes of the Mustionjoki valley (Raasepori); the cultural landscapes of Degerby, Pikkalanjoki, and Palojoksi (Inkoo, Siuntio, Vihti respectively); the agricultural valley of Nummenjoki and Pusulanjoki rivers (Nummi-Pusula); the valley of Vantaanjoki river (Helsinki, Vantaa, Tuusula); Suomenlinna (Helsinki); the Porvoonjoki river valley (Porvoo, Askola, Pukkila); the environs of Pernajanlahti ja Koskenkylänjoki river valley (Pernaja, Liljendal, Myrskylä); Kymijoki river valley (Ruotsinpyhtää; the valley also extends into the area of the South-East Finland.)

An inventory of landscapes of national value was performed in Helsinki-Uusimaa in summer 2013. The government's decision in principle is due to be renewed in 2015.

Concepts relating to the cultural environment

Documentation and recording

These concepts refer to the recording of the physical features of the cultural heritage, mainly by measuring or photography and taking samples. Documentation is usually part of the restoration process or the process of making inventories.

Historical layeredness

A characteristic of an area or site which is present when one is able to see or experience structures, materials, stylistic trends etc. of different periods that indicate the history and continuity of building, maintenance and use of the environment.

Historical park or garden

A garden or park, in whose realisation various styles and tendencies of garden design have been applied. There is no established temporal criteria by which a garden or park is defined as historical.

Protection through plans

Conservation orders and the planning map designations "SR", "sr" or "s", which, by virtue of the Land Use and Building Act, ensure the preservation of the inherent character and special features of a cultural environment.

According to the Land Use and Building Act, the following preservation planning law sections can be applied in order to ensure the preservation of the built cultural environment: §30 (regional general plans), §41 (general plans) and §57 (detail plans).

National urban park

An area, designated in accordance with sections 68 - 70 of the Land Use and Building Act, to protect and maintain an urban area's cultural and natural landscape, historical characteristics or related values concerning the townscaping, social,

recreational or other special values in an urban environment.

Two of Finland's eight national urban parks are situated in Helsinki-Uusimaa. The urban national park of Hanko was established in May 2008 and with an area of 6300 hectares, is the largest in Finland. It contains built environments of national importance, such as Hauensuoli, the old buildings of Länsisatama harbour and the Appelgrenintie ja Mannerheimintie villa area in Kylpyläpuisto park. The natural heritage of the area includes varied coastal and archipelago nature types.

Porvoo's national urban park was founded on 18 May 2010. The Porvoo national urban park is a narrative of Finnish history from the early years of settlement through the Middle Ages right up to the founding of the Finnish state.

Townscape

The visually recognisable appearance of the built environment and urban space.

Built cultural environment of regional importance

An area defined by expert authorities as representing the particular character and special features of its region.

Museum road

Museum roads and museum bridges are designated by the Finnish Road Administration in order to preserve notable features in the historical development of road traffic.

The museum roads and bridges of Helsinki-Uusimaa region are: Fagervikintie road, also known as Suuri Rantatie ("Great Coastal Road"), (Inkoo); Tuusulanjärven Rantatie road (Tuusula), Espoonkartano bridge (Espoo), Värnäs bridge (Kirkkonummi), Myllysilta bridge (Nurmijärvi) ja Savukoski bridge (Ruotsinpyhtää).

Building history investigation

Investigation into the history, change in use and physical characteristics of a group of buildings, individual building or part of it, conducted using archive material and fieldwork.

Building inventory

Research into an individual building and its interior, materials and fixed furnishings. In making a building inventory, information is gathered, organised and produced regarding the current condition of the building and the contributing factors to this condition.

Building monument

A building of particular importance due to its history, identity and symbolic value, quality or other exceptional qualities. The term monument is a widely used synonym. The concept does not refer to any particular set of cases.

Maintenance of the built heritage

The use, maintenance, renovation, supplementary building, and other alteration of the built cultural environment, conducted with a view to its preservation.

Building protection

Section 1 of the Act on the Protection of Buildings is applied to protect buildings, groups of buildings and built areas linked to cultural development or history, in order to preserve the national cultural heritage.

According to sections 3 - 4 of the Act on the Protection

of Buildings, protection is to be realised by virtue of the Land Use and Building Act through local detailed plans, building protection law, statutes on the protection of state-owned buildings, or through the laws of the church. See also *protection through plans*.

Built cultural environment, built heritage

These terms refer both to the physical built environment and to the history and emergence of building and land use. The built cultural environment consists of the community structure, buildings (including their interior and exterior spaces), yards, parks and various structures (such as streets and canals). The built heritage is largely synonymic with the built cultural heritage, although the former is sometimes used to particularly refer to old buildings.

Care of the built environment

The written definition of the content of a protection regulation given either by a building protection resolution or in a local detailed plan in accordance with sections 30, 41, and 57 of the Land Use and Building Act regarding how the preservation of a site is to be achieved.

Protection regulation

Rakennussuojelupäätöksessä tai kaavassa maankäyttö ja rakennuslain 30, 41 ja 57 §:n nojalla annettu suojelun sisällön sanallinen määrittely, miten säilyminen turvataan.

Cultural environment of national importance

Built cultural environments of national importance (RKY) is an inventory by the National Board of Antiquities, which by the government decision of 22 December 2009 has been adopted as the basis of planning for national regional usage objectives based on land usage and building legislation for the built cultural environment. Around 300 sites of national importance for the cultural environment are situated in Helsinki-Uusimaa.

Concepts relating to archaeological heritage

Prehistoric relic

Prehistoric relics date from a period of which there are no known original written accounts and the understanding of whose living habits and conditions are based on research conducted through archaeological research methods.

Historical relic

Historical relics date from a period from which there are original written accounts. Such relics can be widely varied, including, for example, medieval village locations, the archaeological layers of towns, and fortifications from the First World War.

Immovable relic = relic

Relics are preserved structures and layers in the landscape or ground, which have arisen as the result of the activities of people who lived a long time ago. Immovable relics are often visible in the landscape to the eye and clearly distinguishable. They include the stone mounds of ancient graves, sacrificial stones, castle mounds, "giants' churches" (rings of piled stones), "jätulintarhat" (labyrinths made of small stones) and various fortifications. A second group consists of subterranean immovable relics, such as dwellings and working spaces and graves. Immovable relics are protected by the Antiquities Act.

International treaties

International treaties and recommendations regarding the cultural environment are programme declarations that outline the ethical aims of national protection policy and restoration work. They do not contain case-specific protection objectives. Treaties apply to historical towns, built monuments, Helsinki-Uusimaa region's architectural achievements, archaeological and underwater cultural heritage, and parks.

Faro Convention

The Faro Convention (2005) is the Council of Europe's framework convention on the value of culture for society. Finland is preparing to ratify it.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

This general treaty on the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage was approved by Unesco in 1972. The objective of the treaty is to promote the respect for the unique heritage of each nation and to spread information regarding it.

To be included in the World Heritage List, a cultural heritage site must be a masterpiece of human creativity or exceptionally important proof of an existing or extinct culture. The site may be a building types of an important historical period or it may represent the traditional dwelling habits of a certain culture. The site may also be to do with an event, living traditions, ideologies, religions or belief systems, or artistic or literary works. A site of natural heritage may tell of an important stage in the development of the earth, or be an example of current ecological or biological change. It may represent an exceptionally beautiful landscape or the habitat of an endangered species. The World Heritage List is expanded every year.

The Suomenlinna sea fort, off Helsinki's coast, is one of Finland's seven World Heritage Sites.

Ecological living in a World Heritage Site

Suomenlinna is one of Finland's most popular sightseeing destinations. It is also an urban district of Helsinki, home to nearly 900 residents, many of whom live in dwellings that are part of the fortress' old defences and barracks. Suomenlinna received international attention in 1991 when the fort was selected to be part of UNESCO's World Heritage List to represent the European military architecture of its time.

The administrative committee of Suomenlinna, which since 1973 has borne the responsibility of the repair and maintenance of this important monument, received the

"Building Rose" (Rakentamisen Ruusu) award in 1995 for their activity as an "enlightened commissioner of building works". In 1999 Suomenlinna's administrative committee was given the Europe-wide Europa Nostra award, in recognition of its extensive, carefully planned and successfully executed restoration work.

As well as undergoing repair and restoration work, new buildings have been built at Suomenlinna that fit in to their historical surroundings while enriching the area's notable layeredness. An example of this is the Suomenlinna Centre (pictured), completed in 1998, located next to Tykistölahti bay's bridge (Laiho-Pulkkinen-Raunio Architects Ltd).





The aims of the architectural policy of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region will have been achieved when:

inhabitants feel that

- architecture is an essential part of the history, culture and lifestyle of the Helsinki-Uusimaa region; it is a form of artistic expression that is important to citizens' everyday life, and it will form part of the cultural heritage of the future;
- the quality of architecture is an inseparable factor in the overall quality of both rural and urban environments;
- the cultural dimension of community planning should be taken into account in the political decision making of the region
- architecture as a professional activity affects the cultural, artistic and economic life of an area.

inhabitants appreciate

- the common features of towns and urban areas in the region and the value of historical continuity ;
- the value of high-quality public spaces, social diversity and variety in urban lifestyles;
- high-quality architecture which adds value to its environment and to resident's relationship to it, be it rural or urban, and which plays an important role in promoting a sense of social belonging while creating jobs and stimulating opportunities for tourism and economic development in the area.

policy makers

- strive to make architectural and urban planning issues better known and more visible to the public, and to increase developers' and residents' knowledge and education regarding the fields of architecture, urban culture and landscape culture;
- take into account the unique nature of architecture as a professional activity in all relevant policy decisions;
- promote high-quality architecture through exemplary policy decisions regarding public building works;
- promote the exchange of information and experiences relating to architecture.

Adapted from the European Council's resolution on architectural quality in urban and rural environments (2001/C 73/04), which is aimed at improving the quality of the environment of European citizens.



Our shared metropolis

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