

A CULTURE PALACE IN HELSINKI

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Our thesis project is divided in two parts, one theoretical and one practical. The theoretical part consists of five different books where we dissect our process. The practical part is our proposal for a new culture centre in Helsinki.

We propose monumental yet intimate exhibition spaces reinterpret in a new culture node for the city of Helsinki. Our project is a family of objects with different appearances and spatial qualities. We are interested in a museum-city rather than a city-museum. Where the exhibition volumes becomes like citadels – complex objects of solids and voids, with components of public spaces and courtyards included in and in between them.

We don't propose a new museum for the city; we propose a festival palace for the city of Helsinki where many different activities can coexist. The vision for our cluster of objects is to enable Helsinki to see things in a new way. To make the water accessible again and to bring back the public saunas to the city centre. To enable the passengers arriving to the ferry terminal a free peek of the current exhibitions. To allow for people in the park to access the water through the bridge. To create different outdoor spaces where the residents can go and exercise in the outdoor gym or dance tango in the groove. Where the old people can meet for their weekly boules sessions.

By adding many more functions to our festival palace than the traditional monofunctional art museum we hope to attract a greater variety of people to our site. Not everyone likes to consume art but most people like to watch other people engage in activities. A stroll through our project leads the visitor through a series of individual spaces with different characteristics, the waterfront promenade, the grove, the exhibition tower, the exhibition hall, the exhibition courtyard, the artificial archipelago with public pools and saunas, the landscape bridge and the park.