



# ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION IN FINLAND

- A GLIMPSE TO THE EVERYDAY IN 2008

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Kuoppanummi Day Care Center 2004, Vihti, Finland, Architects Meskanen & Pursiainen



## GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN FINLAND related to architecture education

Architecture was added in the National Core Curriculum of Arts Education in 1993.

The Finnish Architectural policy was issued in 1998.  
It contains a part which stresses the importance of architecture education for children.

In 2006 the National Board of Education included architecture in the elementary school curriculum.

In 2004 the Government founded a job called "Childrens Architecture Education Consultant" in Southern Finland.



# ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EVENT

## BEE IN SCHOOLS - ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN THEME DAY IN SCHOOLS (October 2nd)

- CONNECTED TO NATIONAL DAY OF ARCHITECTURE (by UIA)



### PROGRAM:

- ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS VISITING SCHOOLS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
- BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE – architecture event for 500 children in Helsinki
- WEBSITE WITH ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION AID FOR TEACHERS
- PUBLICATIONS ABOUT ARCHITECTURE AND A.EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS  
DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SCHOOLS IN FINLAND (20.000 COPIES)

 [WWW.AMPIAINEN.FI](http://WWW.AMPIAINEN.FI)

AMPIAINEN = BEE



Joint project by SAFA, Uusimaa Arts Council, Museum of Finnish Architecture, National Board of Education, Design Museum, Arkki School of Architecture & Helsinki Design Week

## WEBSITES ON ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION



### **[www.arkkitehtuurikasvatus.fi](http://www.arkkitehtuurikasvatus.fi)**

The website contains material to support built environment education, offers information on upcoming events and architectural training, and has an interactive material bank to offer inspiration for teachers. The purpose of the site is to support built environment education, offer information, intrigue, delight, challenge, and inspire!

### **[www.arkki.net](http://www.arkki.net)**

Website of Arkki, School of Architecture for Children and Youth. Mostly in Finnish, contains information about architecture education available for children and youth in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa cities.

### **[www.saunalahti.fi/lastu2](http://www.saunalahti.fi/lastu2)**

LASTU, School of Architecture and Environmental Education. Website contains information about the education and courses they offer for children and adults.

### **[www.ampiainen.fi](http://www.ampiainen.fi)**

"The Bee", website for the project architects and designers in schools. Contains educational material for teachers and a gallery displaying children's projects.

### **[www.viewpoint.fi](http://www.viewpoint.fi)**

"Viewpoint – investigating where we live" is a website containing educational material for teachers about using photography as a means to explore architecture and the environment.

### **[www.mfa.fi](http://www.mfa.fi)**

Museum of Finnish Architecture. Contains information about exhibitions, architects and children's workshops.

### **[www.alvaraalto.fi](http://www.alvaraalto.fi)**

Alvar Aalto museum and pedagogical material on architectural and design education

<http://www.alvaraalto.fi/museum/pedagogi.htm>



# BOOKS FOR ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION

## The “Agreeable environment”

Published by SAFA, the book was a pioneering step in Finnish civic education in architecture. The kit won tremendous popularity, particularly among art teachers. By Merja Härö, Liisa Piironen and Matti and Sari Vesikansa. 1980



## Arkkitehtuurin ABC (The ABC of Architecture)

(The ABC of Architecture – An Expedition into the Built Environment; published only in Finnish) The Finnish Association of Architects; Jaana Räsänen, Heini Korpelainen 2004

## RUM

(Spaces; published only in swedish) with support from the National Board of Education. Intended to school techers. Written by architects Vera Schulman and Sofie Hägerström. 2005



## Matkalla Arkkitehtuurin Maahan

### (On the Journey to the Land of Architecture)

Matkalla Arkkitehtuurin maahan is a guide book for pre school teachers about architecture education. It can also be used in secondary schools. The book was published by the National Council for Architecture. Written by architect and art teacher Anna Hänninen. 2007





### Rajoja, Outlines

The aim of the book is to tell about the immaterial concept of architecture to ordinary people. To widen the knowledge of how the light, the scale and other components of architecture are constructing the idea of space. Published by Alvar Aalto Museum, 1992

### Pieni Majakirja (The Small Book of Huts)

The book contains instructions on how to build huts in 1:1 scale with children. It can be used in schools and at home. All the photos in the book have been taken in Arkki's Hut Building Camps. Written by architect Pihla Meskanen. 2006

**play + space = playce** – a book about architecture educations, practises and ethics in different parts of Europe. Containing seminar speeches held at playce@2005 seminar in Finland in august 2005. Available free from the Arts Council of Helsinki Metropolitan Region, [liisa.heinonen@minedu.fi](mailto:liisa.heinonen@minedu.fi)



# CIVIC EDUCATION IN ARCHITECTURE (after school activities)



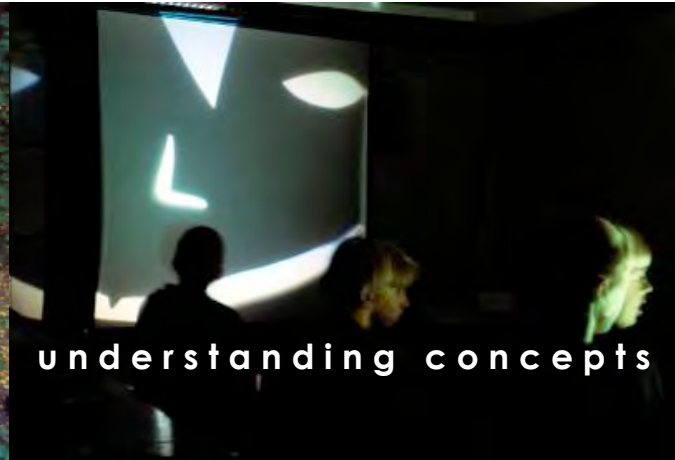
ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland.



# ALVARO AALTO MUSEUM



building huts



understanding concepts



town planning



**LASTU**  
**School of Architecture and Environmental Culture**  
(situated in Central Finland)



**LASTU School of Architecture and Environmental Culture is a free arts school and activities centre in Lapinlahti, eastern Finland. The school was established in 1993 to promote architectural education and environmental culture.**

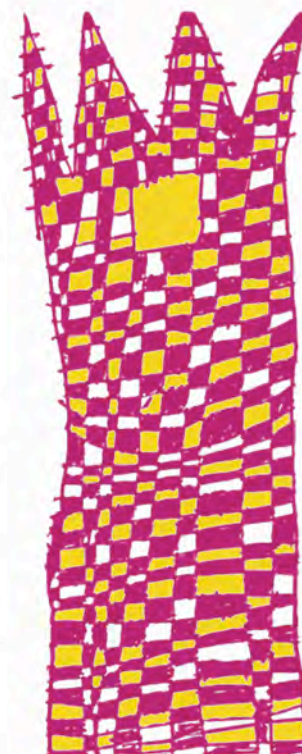
[www.arkki.net](http://www.arkki.net)



ARKK



School of Architecture  
for Children and Youth  
FINLAND



## **ARKKI provides civic education in architecture**



**This education is called “basic education in arts and architecture” and it is aimed to all citizens and is complementing the art education in schools. It is for 3-19 year olds**





**Arkki arranges also various short courses in architecture  
to for example school groups.**



**SPACES - PLACES** -Exhibition for children about experiencing architecture,  
1995 Helsinki





**280 children / week continuously in 3 cities (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa)  
800 / year altogether in short term courses,**



## Instruction courses in teaching architecture to teachers and day-care personnel are organized by

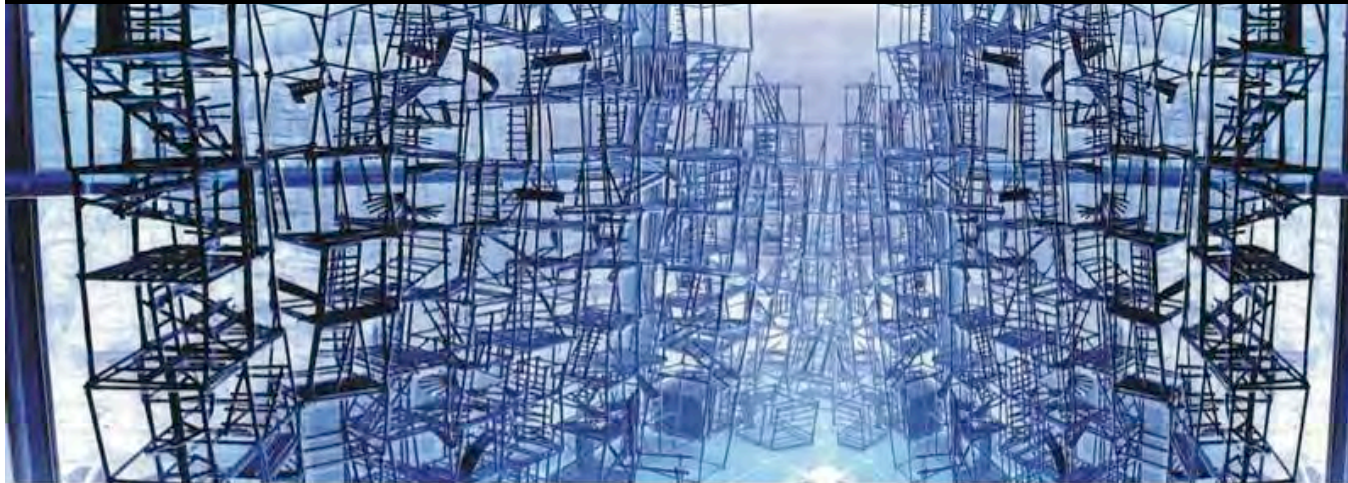
- National Board of Education (additional education to teachers already in jobs)
- Advanced learning center run by Ministry of Education (additional education to teachers already in jobs)
- University of Art and Design in Helsinki ), architecture education to students to become art teachers





Arkki has an **Architecture Gallery** which displays expositions of architectural projects made by children.

Gallery Arkki is located in Helsinki, at the Cable Factory, which is a lively cultural center with various artists, cultural activities and art schools.



ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland. [www.arkki.net](http://www.arkki.net)



# LEARNING METHODS IN ARKKI

Learning happens through play;  
children investigate, experiment  
and construct in three  
dimensions.



Pihla Meskanen, 2004. [Pihla.meskanen@mp.inet.fi](mailto:Pihla.meskanen@mp.inet.fi)



FANTASY IS USED AS A TEACHING TOOL...





ALL THE SENSES ARE INVOLVED...



**ENJOYING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE IS IMPORTANT!**





**How to become aware  
of the beauty and the  
possibilities of the  
surroundings?**





**- You can not force beauty,  
but you can allow it to be  
experienced !**



# BASIC ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

Architecture education is about learning the vocabulary of architecture, the basic elements of space. Once a person knows the alphapets and learns to read, the language gives endless possibilities to use the language...

**In Arkki we always start with the ABC's....**

- light and shadow

- openings
- rhythm and composition

- colours

- form

- geometric forms
- organic forms
- proportional systems

- mass

- rhythm
- volume
- streets and squares

- volume

- rythm

- structures

- materials

- feeling, smell etc. of materials
- textures

- details

- materials
- joints

- scale

- proportions

- space

- space in nature
- architectural space
- city space
- planes
- relating spaces
- acoustics
- space, movement, time

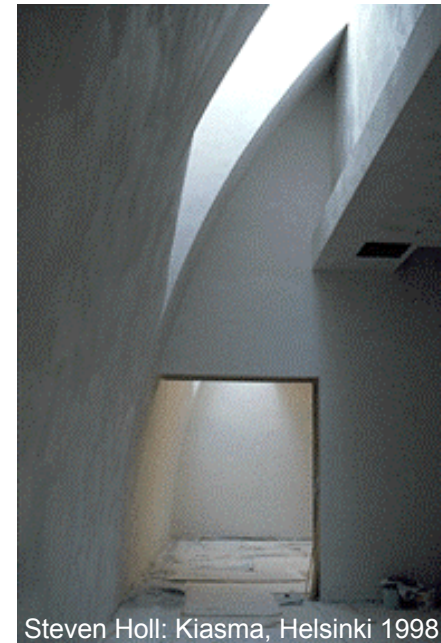
- spatial boundaries

- function

- functional requirements
- spatial requirements
- spatial interpretations of functions

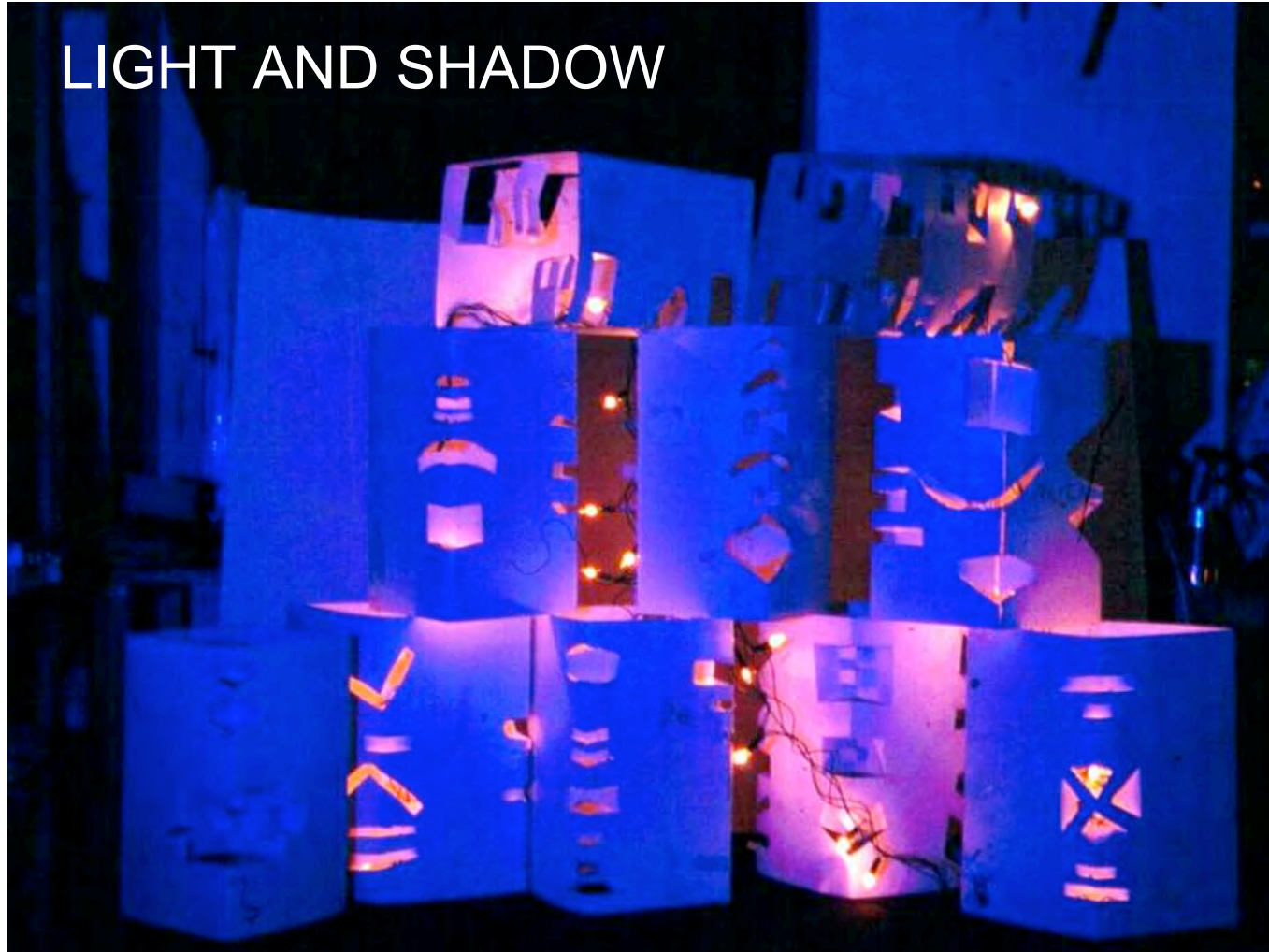
- relationship to the surroundings

- .....



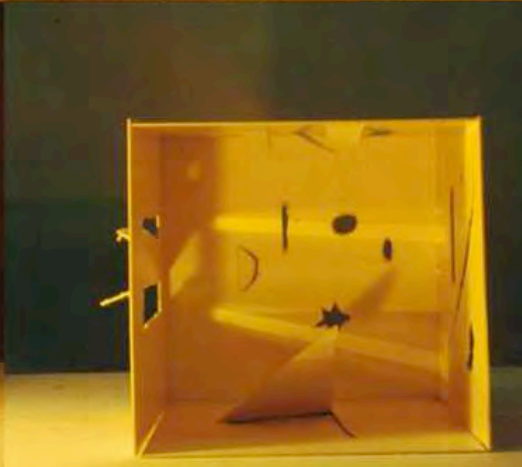
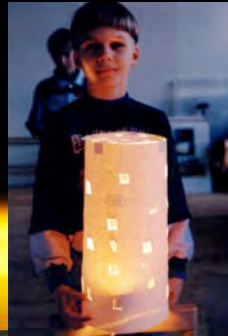
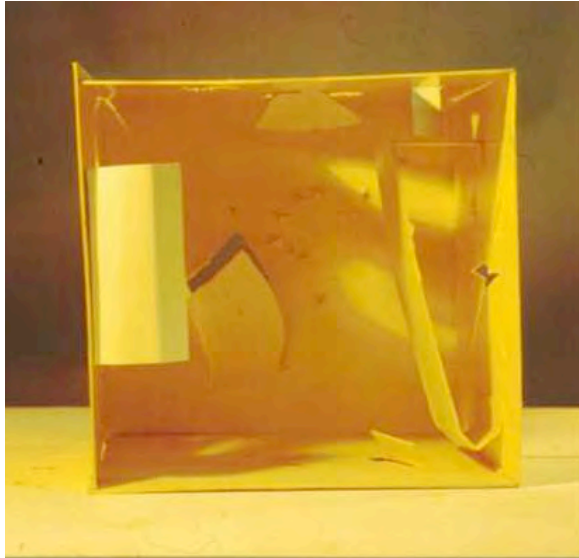
Steven Holl: Kiasma, Helsinki 1998

## LIGHT AND SHADOW





# LIGHT AND SHADOW





# LIGHT AND COLOUR



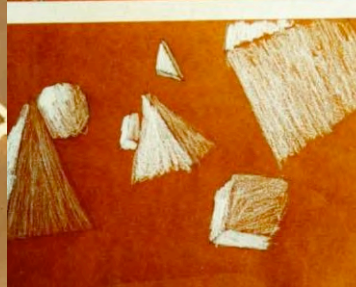
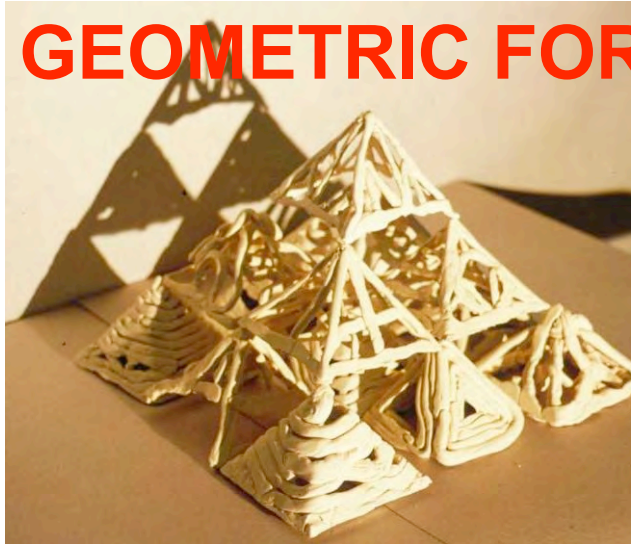
## SCALE AND PROPORTIONS



Kuoppanummi Day Care Cente,  
Vihti Finland 2004,  
Architects Meskanen & Pursiainen



# GEOMETRIC FORMS



The cube and the pyramid

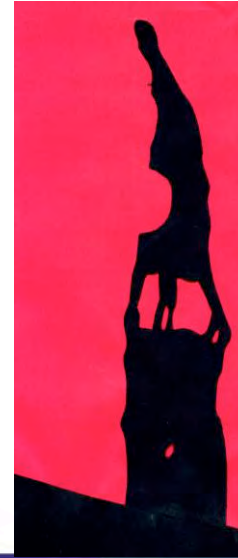
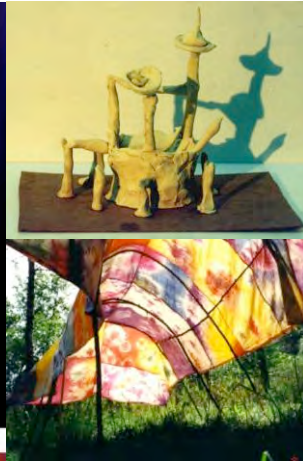


ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland.





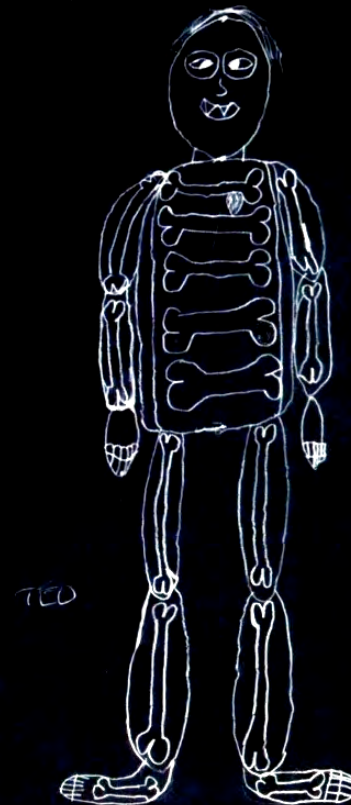
# ORGANIC FORMS





ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland. [www.arkki.net](http://www.arkki.net)

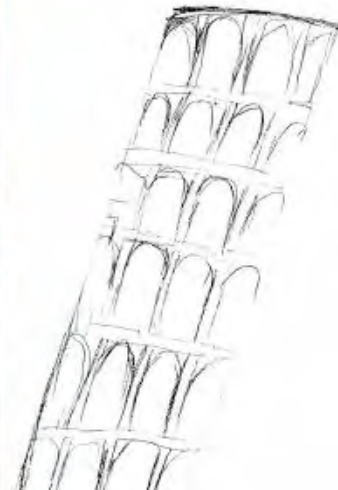
# STRUCTURE IN ARCHITECTURE



Houses have  
skeletons  
like  
humans...  
but what  
kind?



## Experimenting the strength of structures

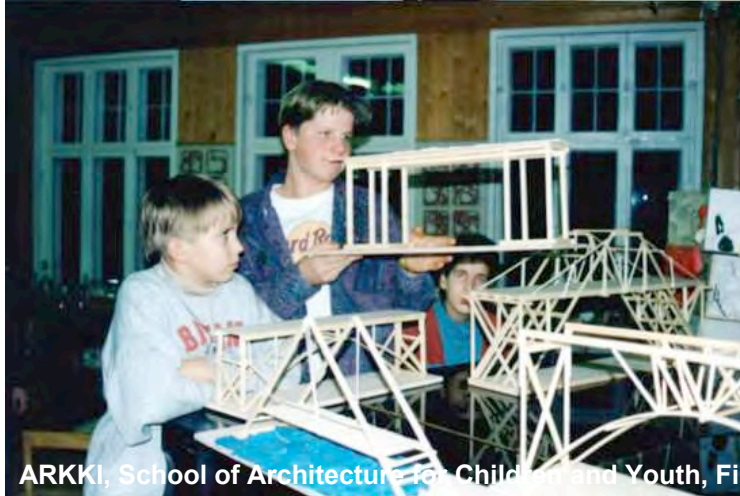


ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth





Studying the structures of bridges



ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland.



# HISTORY AND BUILDING TRADITIONS







STYLES

## EMPIRE STYLE HELSINKI

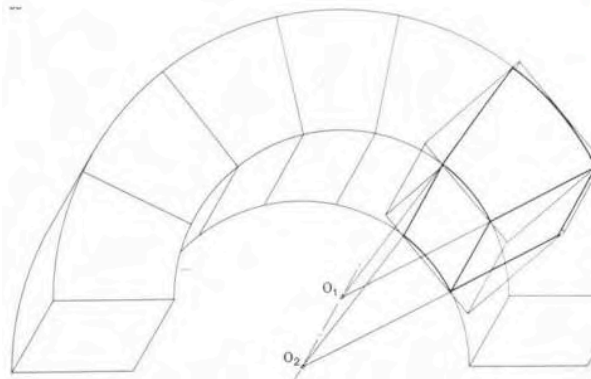
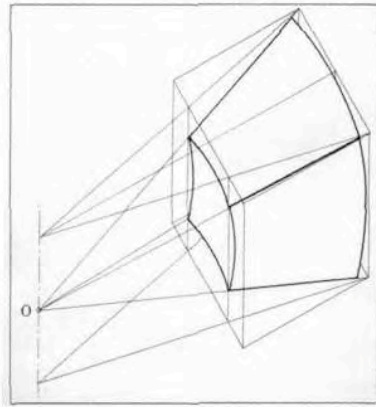


In Helsinki there are 560,000 inhabitants and about one million people live in the metropolitan area



# STRUCTURAL INVENTIONS OF ARCHITECTURE

## - THE ARCH



# CITY PLANNING



ARKKI, School of Architecture for Children and Youth, Finland. [www.arkki.net](http://www.arkki.net)

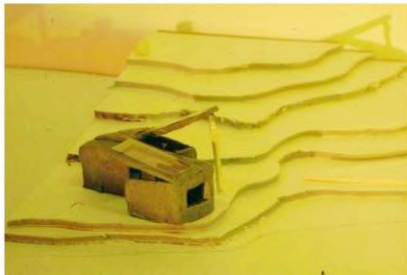
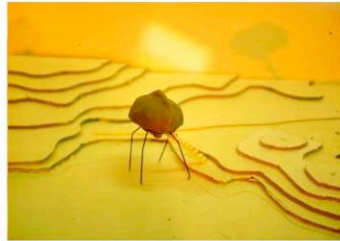
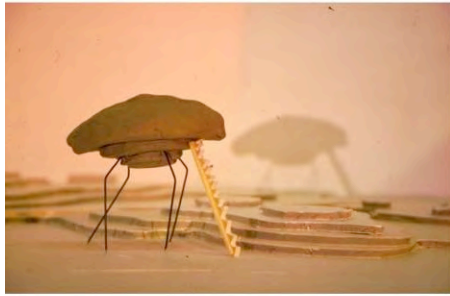


# SPATIAL PLANNING

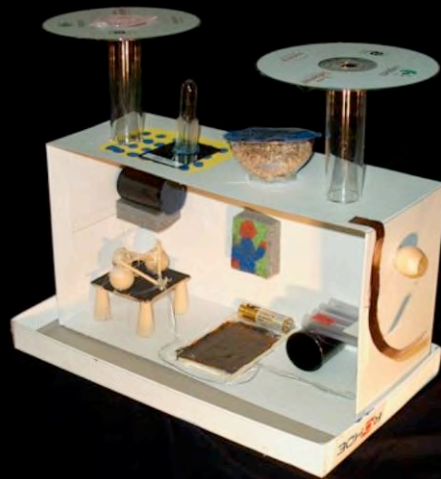




# A BUILDING IN THE LANDSCAPE



# INTERIOR DESIGN



## FURNITURE DESIGN: FANTASY CHAIR



Fairy chair, Krista Meskanen, 14 years



## ***STUDYING DIFFERENT CULTURES AND THEIR BUILDING TRADITIONS***



Kuvat: Pihla Meskanen





# THE SMALL HUT BOOK



By Pihla Meskanen, illustrations by Antonia Ringbom, published 2006, Tammi

# HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN IN HELSINKI

-PARTICIPATORY PLANNING PROJECT FOR  
HELSINKI CITY PLANNING OFFICE



A map of Finland with the regions of Uusimaa, Southern Finland, and Ostrobothnia highlighted in green, orange, and purple respectively. A red dot in the southern part of the map indicates the location of Helsinki.

# HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN IN HELSINKI

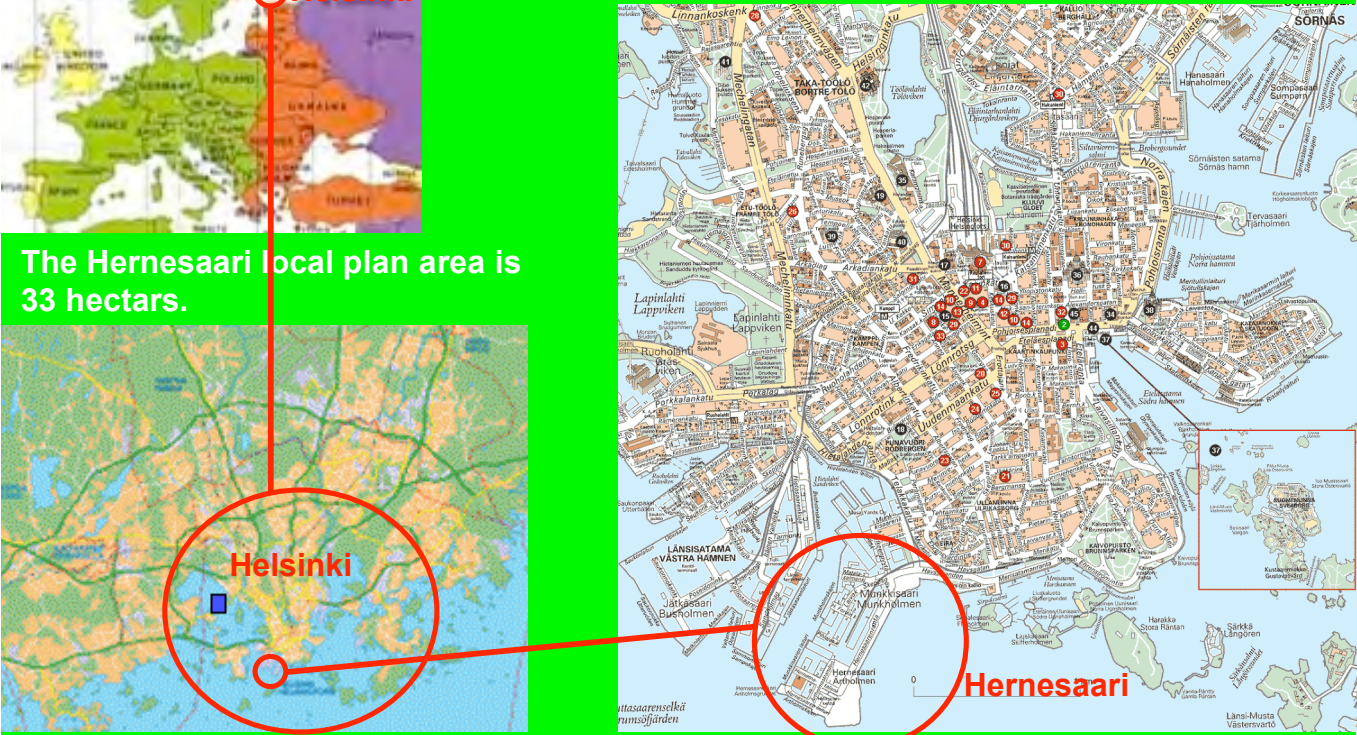
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A map of Finland with the regions of Uusimaa, Southern Finland, and Ostrobothnia highlighted in green, orange, and purple respectively. A red dot in the southern part of the map indicates the location of Helsinki.



The Hernesaari local plan area is 33 hectares.

HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – *Helsinki City Planning Office involving children*



The shipyards have controlled the area of Hernesaari for many decades.

The shipyard will close during the years 2010 and 2012, and remove any buildings as stipulated in the rental agreement.



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – *Helsinki City Planning Office involving children*

## Key Planning Tasks

The key aims of Hernesaari's new local plan are to achieve a pleasant, high quality maritime residential environment.

The area needs to create a natural integrated quality in its surroundings and in the density of the development.

The local environment also requires to reflect Helsinki's residential character in terms of architectural quality of materials and high standards of design.

Height of buildings may vary and indeed it is encouraged to adopt a challenging profile.

Car parking facilities shall be located within dedicated buildings and/or can be covered decks, or other type of special facilities.

Public transport is a key element of the local plan and the main form of transport will be trams.

**HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children**



Public transport is a key element of the local plan and the main form of transport will be trams. It is intended that Hernessaari will become a main fare stage, meaning, the trams will start and complete their journeys from within the area.

In addition, the area will support both the local sailing community in the form of a yacht marina, together with harbour berths for the cruise liners.

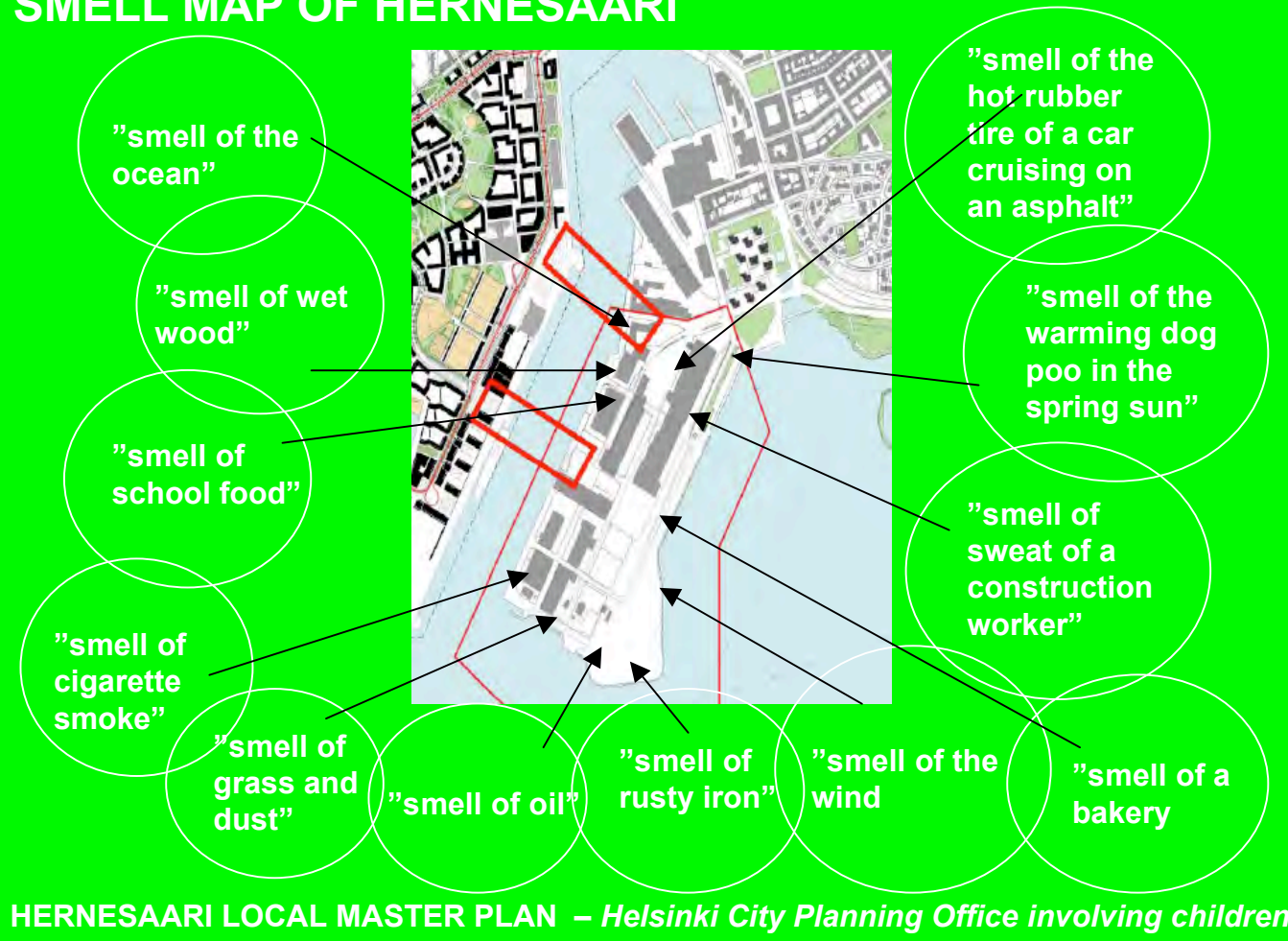
The eastern shoreline shall be reserved for a city park. It is also required to accommodate small parks and other forms of communal garden areas for local residents.



**HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children**



## SMELL MAP OF HERNESAARI



3-6 YEAR OLDS WORKED IN CHILD – PARENT GROUPS



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children

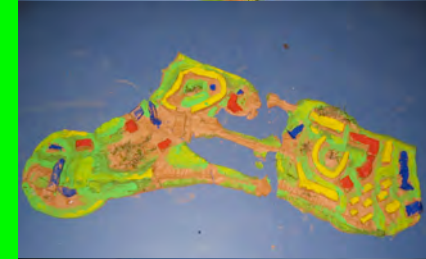
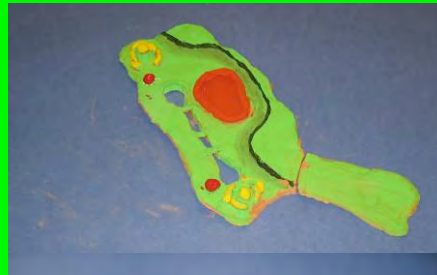
SYMBOLIC COLORS WERE USED TO MARK RESIDENTIAL, PARK, AND PUBLIC AREAS



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children



## AREA PLANS BY 4-6 YEAR OLDS



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children

## AREA VIEWS BY 7-14 YEAR OLDS



**HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children**

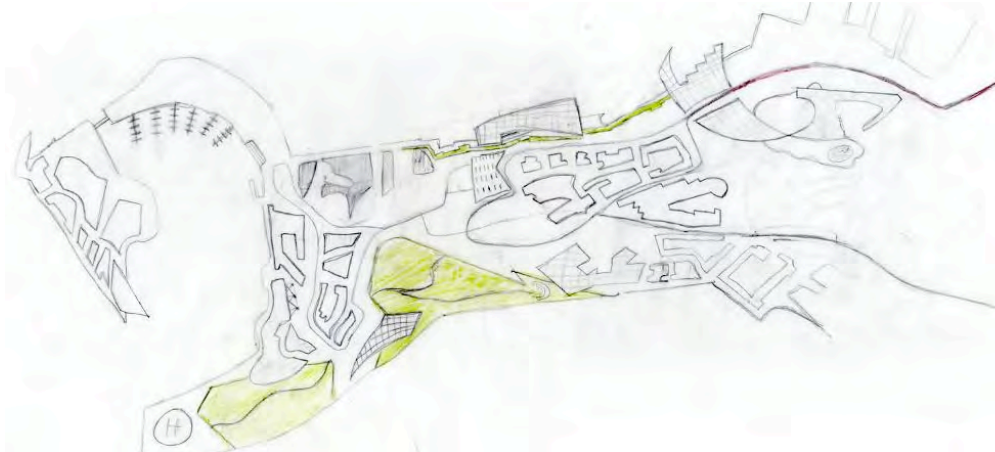


15-18 YEAR OLDS WORKING ON THE FINAL SUGGESTION



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – *Helsinki City Planning Office involving children*





## CHILDREN'S IDEAS FOR THE PLAN:

- CANALS THROUGH THE PENINSULA
- HOUSES ALONGSIDE CANALS
- DIVIDING THE AREA INTO SMALLER ISLANDS (LIKE BEFORE)
- GREEN AREAS AROUND THE HOUSING
- "FLOATING" HOUSING AREAS
- HOUSING QUARTERS FORMED AROUND A WATER
- GREEN AREAS ON ALL COASTS
- SMALL SCALE HOUSING; LIKE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE
- PUBLIC AND HOUSING AREAS WITH VARIOUS CHARACTERS
- A BIG YACHT MARINA SHAPED LIKE A HALF CIRCLE

**HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children**

THE FINAL AREA PLAN MADE BY 15-18 YEAR OLDS



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – *Helsinki City Planning Office involving children*

## THE MODEL OF THE AREA BUILT BY 15-18 YEAR OLDS



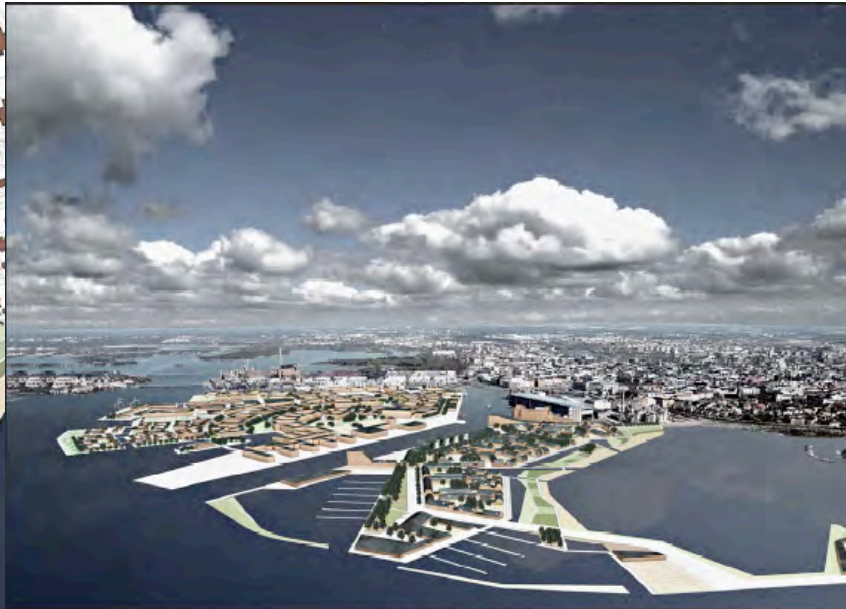
HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN – Helsinki City Planning Office involving children



PHOTO OF THE  
CHILDREN'S MODEL  
OF THE AREA



HERNESAARI LOCAL MASTER PLAN BY ARKKI CHILDREN



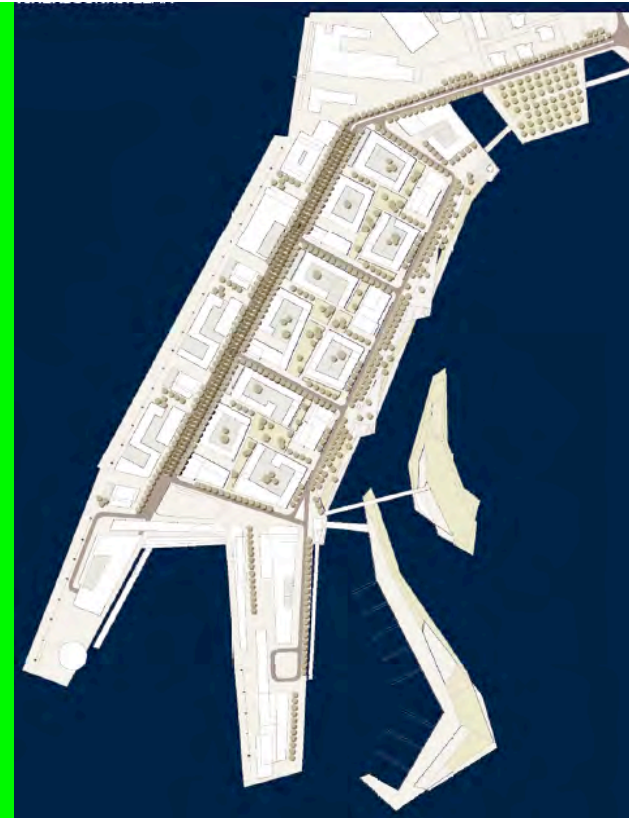
- 18. Mosulimato
- 19. Pienomakelekkahalli ja alueenosa
- 20. Rautatieaseman ja pöytäpöytä
- 21. Hallituskenttä, n. 80 x 120 m
- 22. Hallitsterminaalit ja maapöytä
- 23. Dymopöytä
- 24. Rautatieasema, maapöytä



Architects Anttila & Rusanen



Trojan Trojan Wendt / Brunow & Maunula / Wes & Partner

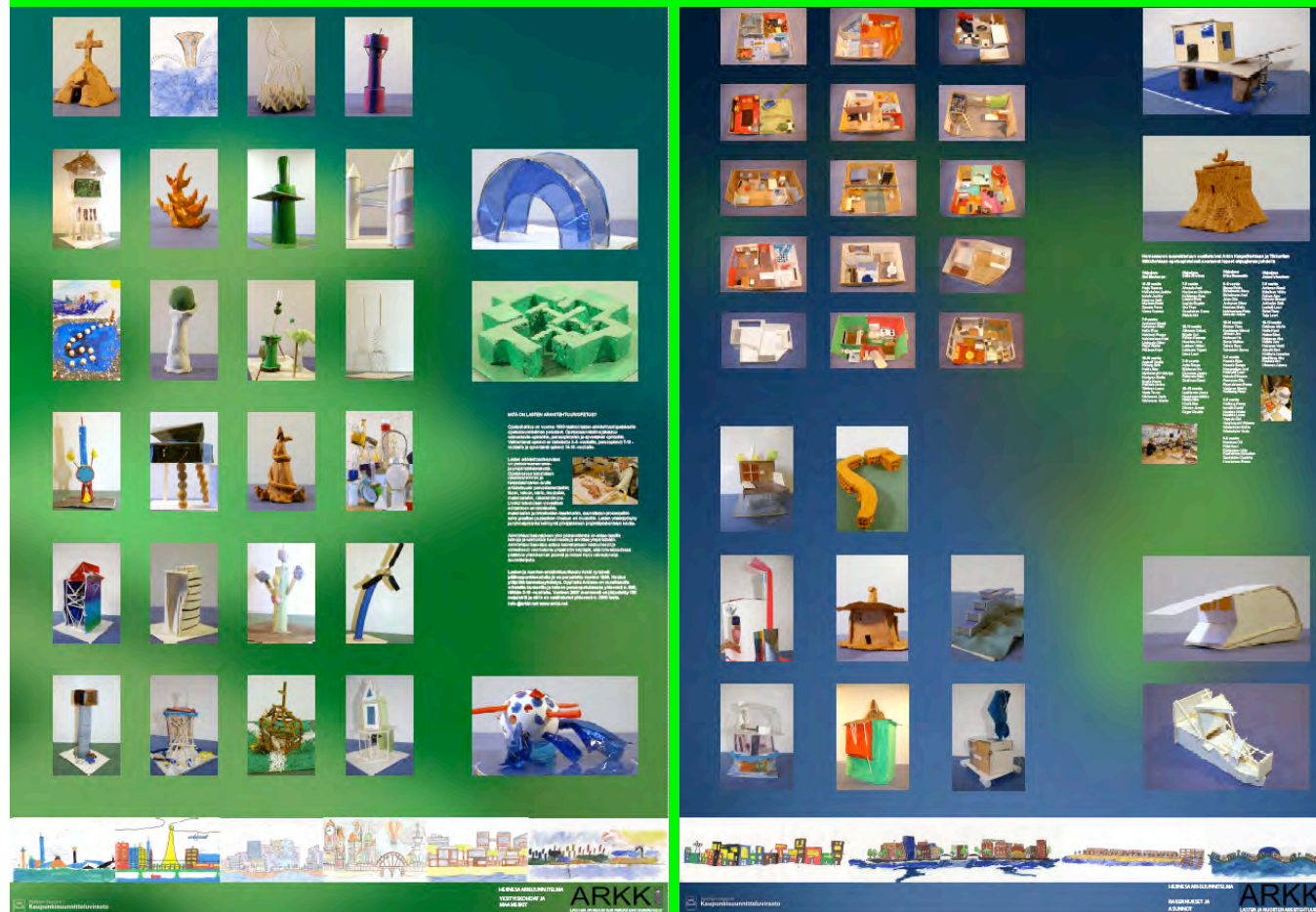






Helin & co, / Loci

## CHILDREN'S PANELS SHOWING THE PROCESS OF PLANNING





# CHILDREN'S PANELS SHOWING THE PROCESS OF PLANNING

## ALUELUONNOKSIA

## KORTTELILUONNOKSIA

**Yhteistyö ja osallisuus**  
 Yhteistyö ja osallisuus on keskeinen osa suunnitteluprosessia. Se tarkoittaa sitä, että suunnittelijat kuuntelevat asukkaita ja heidän mielipiteitään. Yhteistyö ja osallisuus on myös mahdollisuus vaikuttaa suunnitteluun ja tehdä muutoksia. Yhteistyö ja osallisuus on myös mahdollisuus oppia toiselta ja kehittää suunnittelutaitoja. Yhteistyö ja osallisuus on myös mahdollisuus luoda yhteistä identiteettiä ja sitoutua suunnitteluun.

## SAARILUONNOKSIA

**ARKK**  
 ARKK on suomalainen arkkitehtuuritoimisto, joka on erikoistunut kaupunkisuunnitteluun ja arkkitehtuuriin. ARKK on myös osallistunut useisiin kansainvälisiin suunnittelukilpailuihin ja on saanut useita palkintoja. ARKK on myös osallistunut useisiin yhteiskunnallisiin keskusteluihin ja on ollut aktiivinen osana suunnitteluprosessia.

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## CHILDREN'S PANELS SHOWING THE PROCESS OF PLANNING



Architecture education for young people  
helps us create a deeper understanding of our surroundings  
and a demand for a better environment in the future.



Pihla Meskanen  
2008