

LIFE BETWEEN THE ISLANDS

This vision embraces the breathtaking beauty of the Helsinki archipelago while showcasing an ecological approach to a sustainable development of this precious yet fragile environment. An architectural design anchored in the region's cultural heritage to seamlessly blend with preserving features to support local ecosystems, with the ambition to create vibrant, welcoming and eco-friendly sites, foster a deeper understanding for nature and enabling an accessible and harmonious way of life between the islands.

INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PURPOSES

The Snorkling trail

Discover the wonders of the deep with a thrilling underwater trail on the island of Pikku Niinisaari. This educational and adventurous experience will immerse you in the underwater world teeming with diverse marine life and ecosystems. Unveil the secrets of the Baltic Sea as you follow this interactive trail, marked with strategically placed buoys along the shallow shoreline. From colourful fish to fascinating algae, each step of the trail Snorkling Trail consists of an informative signpost telling us new interesting facts about the flora and fauna of the sea, giving us a deeper understanding of the marine heritage in its actual habitat. Perfect for nature enthusiasts, families, and curious minds to connect with nature in its purest form.

Open Cabins

The archipelago is a precious resource that should be easily accessible to everyone, no matter income or physical impairment. The Open Cabins is a social initiative that invites anyone who wants to explore the stunning landscape and experience the tranquillity of nature. Discover the hidden gems of 5 different islands with hiking trails, barbecue shelters and saunas. Whether you are on your own and decide to go on a spontaneous one-night stay, or you and a friend plan an island-hopping adventure, each of the 5 islands has 1-3 cozy cabins in the typical picturesque Finnish archipelago environment, open for reservation for one night at no charge. Book your stay in the app, and don't forget to tick the box "open for company" if you want to make new acquaintances and share the experience with like-minded explorers. Accessible cabins are available close to the ferry docks on Vartiosaari and Villinki.

Green Kayaking

Make a positive impact on nature and save some money at the same time. By picking up and returning trash and plastics from the waters along your kayak excursion you will contribute to the preserving of the beauty of the nature and in return borrow the kayaks for free. The Green Kayaks are available at the rental services on the islands of Villinki and Vartiosaari.

MODULAR SYSTEM

Design: Vernacular simplicity

Drawing inspiration from the vernacular traditions of the region, simplicity is key to the design system while at the same time facilitating maintenance and keeping costs down to a minimum. The structures utilize locally-sourced materials - timber as the primary structural element and stone as foundation in some of the structures - to ensure a sense of belonging and authenticity. Minimalist forms allow the buildings to blend effortlessly into the landscape, respecting the beauty that already exists.

IDENTITY & VARIATION

Ornamented wood panels is a traditional Finnish handcraft method used for centuries. Traditionally, the holes in the panels are usually squared, created by making two simple cuts with the saw on two panels at once. This same method will be used for the new structures across the archipelago, ornamented with a theme of patterns celebrating the essence of the Helsinki archipelago. Each island is also given a unique colour and ornament to in order to create coherent variations of the concept.

SYSTEM APPLIED

Vartiosaari

This island will become a hub for recreational services. A revitalisation of the Sunnanvik villa (1) will be a key ingredient in the transformation of the Reposalmi area becoming a vibrant regional summer destination. Vegetation right in front of the villa is being cleared in order to open up the beautiful house and a new flourishing garden along with an open-air restaurant and café to the water and southern sun. Here guests will be able to enjoy locally produced food and drinks of the season. From the garden you will overlook the new guest jetty (2) to your right. To the left you will see another pontoon jetty along with new rental service structure (3) offering kayaks, leisure equipment etc to the visitors. In the most eastern part of the landing site a ferry dock (4), kiosk (5) and a sauna (6) is proposed.

Villinki

The landing site on the eastern part of the island is mainly characterised by the trees. The site will develop the identity of a peaceful hideout with convenient recreational services. Two open cabins (1) and a barbecue shelter (2) are gently placed among the trees. On the waterfront a guest jetty (3), a sauna (4) as well as a small sized boat dock (5) and a dry toilet (6) is proposed.

Pikku Niinisaari

A series of new recreational services and activities are proposed around the sheltered south-facing bay, a short walk from the new ferry dock (1) and kiosk (2). Services such as three open cabins (3), a bbq/cooking shelter (4) and dry toilets (5) will make the island a popular and family friendly destination. Kids will love to try the thrilling Snorkling Trial along the shallow shoreline (6) and with a hiking trail around the island to explore you will easily want to spend a full day here.

Kotiluoto

With new conveniences such as an open-air bbq place (1), resting area (2) and dry toilets (3), Kotiluoto will along with its beautiful cliffs for sunbathing and swimming as be the perfect destination for a summer getaway. Reach the island by the new pontoon (4), guest jetty (5) or the ferry dock (6) on either side of the eastern shore be sure to book your stay in the open (7) cabin well in time.

Malkasaari

A destination for bird-enthusiasts. On the highest point on the western side of the island a bird tower is erected (1). Next to that a bird table invites for close interactions with curious species. Along the northern shoreline a guest jetty (2) and a kayak pontoon (3) along with a sauna (4) are proposed. Birdwatchers are welcome to share any of the open cabins (5).