

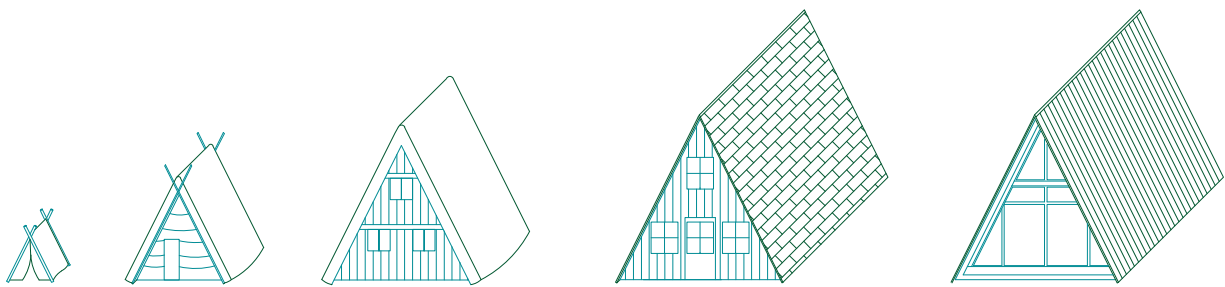
# FINNHÜTTE & ALUSTA

- **archetypes for the landscape**

In human history, dwelling evolves by stemming from basic archetypal systems that recur and evolve over time, among various societies that reinterpret the forms for the uses and rituals they require. The two archetypes we decided to propose for inhabiting the landscape of the Helsinki Maritime Archipelago are that of the tent (our finnhütte, the german name for the A-frame structure) and that of the platform (our alusta, the finnish name for platform).

The tent is the covered element we used to accommodate functions that need a form of shelter, the most basic element under which to cover oneself, where wall and roof coincide. The archetype of the tent invokes forms of lightness, structural simplicity, housing affordability, contact with nature. It has evolved over time into the more stable form of the hut, into permanent homes found all over the globe, to the most recent reinterpretations of industrial society in the dry systems of A-Frame houses in the United States or the vacation homes of Eastern Europe and Germany, where they were called “house of the finns”.

The choice to leave architectural prominence to the roof element was also made to recall the historical Finnish building tradition characterized precisely by the pronounced shape of its roof elements. This reference is revised according to contemporary logic to respond to a spirit of economy and modernity, in the pursuit of a design of today but timeless, a fundamental balance in the spirit of Nordic design and Helsinki spirit.



*archetypal evolution: tent – hut – gashō-zukuri minka – a-frame house – finnhütte design proposal*

The platform is the archetype of two-dimensional systems. In human history, it has been a form of rituality and functionality, as it has enabled the appropriation of the use of impervious terrain by ensuring a leveled surface according to the needs and rituals of populations. The superimposition of a platform on the ground is an act of appropriation of nature without opposing violence on it, as one simply goes there to lean reversibly according to the needs of the moment.

The archetype of the platform finds reworking in our wooden alustas both according to real platforms and paths and roads, which follow the same logic of interfacing with nature, as well as for water structures, i.e., pontoons and jetties, which also are temporary hosts of the natural system to make it suitable for our functional needs.

- **modular and dry construction**

To meet the criteria of cost-effectiveness and environmental sustainability, we sought to produce a system that made maximum use of natural materials, was dry-assemblable, and minimized its construction elements. This is why we believe that the choice of a structure such as finnhüttes is crucial to achieving these goals. Aside from their archetypal and timeless design, their triangular shape eliminates the need for additional forms of support, creating a secure structure with the least amount of material, by having coincident roofs and exterior walls. They are perfect for snowy climates, given their sloping roof, and at the same time suitable for receiving summer light, having one side that can be fully opened.

The main material adopted is mainly pine wood, which is the principal material of Nordic construction, given its workability, softness and versatility. The timber structure is coupled with metal sheet for the roofing (a sandwich panel insulated and covered internally with wood) painted outside according to the green

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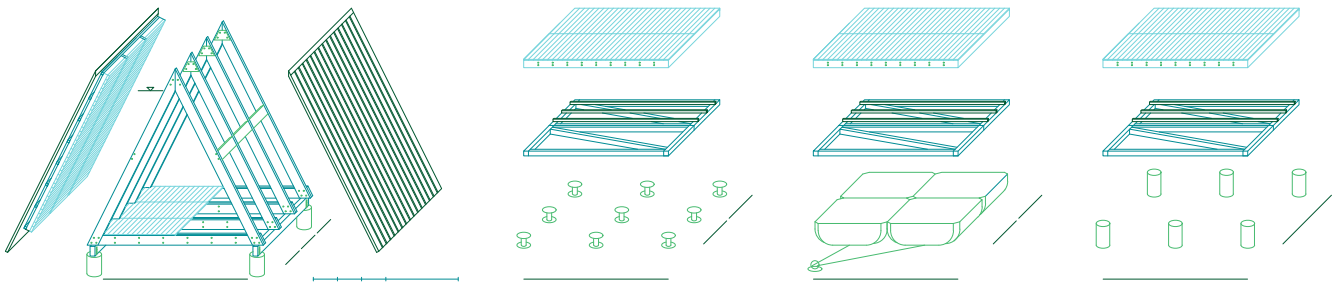
colors of the surrounding natural element, just as the main accessory and outdoor furniture elements elements are made of painted metal. In the case of alustas, also the flooring is made of timber slats, with a metal scaffolding beneath and different solutions for the anchoring depending on the kind of intervention between floating pontoons, stable jetties and land structures.

In general, these are all dry structures, which makes the intervention particularly easy to build and assemble, with practically no need for excavation given the of punctual and minimal foundation structures, thus potentially reversible and adaptable to evolving needs over time, without harming the pristine nature that makes up the Helsinki archipelago.

Again with a view to flexibility, at the geometric and construction level the entire alusta and finnutte system is also recombinable and modular between horizontal and vertical elements: in fact, it is based on a system of multiples of 1.5 meters on which the various structures dialogue with each other. The huts follow patterns in three net span scales (height x length): S 3 x 3 mt; M 4.5 x 4.5 mt; L 6x6 mt. They in turn can be coupled with platforms and jetties, which follow dimensions in turn recombining in multiples of 3 x 1.5 mt.



*material collage:* timber platform, timber A frame structure, metallic window frame, metallic sheet for roofing



*construction elements explosion:* finnhütte - platforms & routes - floating pontoons - docks & jetties

## • the endless game of combinations

The system of finnhütte and alusta offers endless potential for combinations and different uses. As can be observed in the abacus, we have proposed different types of uses and combinations. Small finnhütte (3x3 mt) can be used for: infoboard, lamp, bench, slider, swingers, playground, hammock, wood storage, trash center, bike stand, pontoon shelter, barbecue shelter, cabin, ticket office, small toilet and small glamping.

Medium finnhütte (4.5x4.5 mt) are: lamp, cooking shelter, mid dock shelter, kiosk, huussi toilet and mid glamping.

The large ones (6x6 mt): lamp, birdwatching tower, big jetty shelter, big glamping, café kiosk, pavilion, big café, sauna.

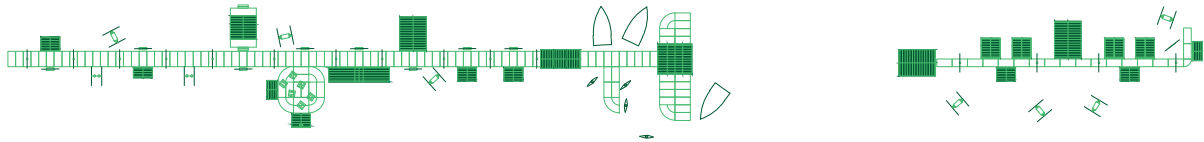
Meanwhile for routes and platforms we have: tent decks, furniture stand, birdwatching hide, hut platform, birdwatching view, picnic cluster and campsite. For floating pontoons: canoes, swimming and boat pontoons; For stable dock: boats and ferry jetties.

# FINNHÜTTE & ALUSTA

- **compositional variations of settlements**

From the large abacus of potentialities of the individual elements of the system exhibited, the applications to the built case are a recombinant game that we put into practice in the various islands, responding to the needs to experience sustainable and respectful tourism within the natural element, so that a proper adaptation to the context could be applied to each situation.

Three main settlement macro-strategies were identified: (1) linear strategy; (2) planar strategy; and (3) irregular strategy. The linear strategy is used to produce concentrated tourism infrastructure at locations where the terrain topography is particularly steep and extremely concentrated structures are needed. The planar strategy takes advantage of flat island elements to produce significant clusters of elements according to a regular geometric arrangement; the irregular strategy is used for situations where conversely soft adaptations to the surrounding context and landscape are needed.



*linear compositions: Villinki Kylänlahti linear infrastructure - Villinki Villinginlahti linear infrastructure*

- **vartiosaari: boosting tourist facilities**

Vartiosaari is one of the largest islands in the Helsinki Archipelago. It has a large number of villas, and the interventions we placed complement the amount of existing facilities to turn it into one of the major tourist destinations in the archipelago. In general, its high anthropization was considered by proceeding with complementary strategies aimed at integrating as much as possible with minimal intervention.

For the Reposalmi site, to the south, a ferry jetty was inserted where indicated, neared by a series of welcoming services for travelers, such as ticket office, toilet services, bike stands. The big café takes advantage of the elevation above the docking area to provide a landmark for those arriving on the island, achieving a peculiar panoramic positioning. The open spaces nearby take advantage of the elements where the trees thin out to make interventions. In fact, even the second main cluster takes advantage of the existing clearing to insert the various platforms to make a resting area.

For the Pässilahti Bay site, because the area is quite built up, we have mainly inserted spaces for taking breaks and rests, adding the sauna element and swimming and canoe pontoons to make the space more enjoyable. The other cluster similarly takes advantage of the glade to make a recreation area.

- **villinki: collective space between the private**

Even though Villinki is one of the larger island in the whole archipelago (and the largest of our project assignment), there is very little public space to implement a very solid touristic strategy in the area, as the plots owned by the city are very small and sparse, making it very difficult to chase an integrate strategy.

The idea we followed was primarily to focus on very strong compositional forms, to help giving identity and intensifying the activities condensing them in single linear infrastructures or planar dispositions, as for example one can see the pontoon circular arrival in the Villinginsalmi reflection site, or in the other places of approach. As there is no direct link between the site, the decision was to intensify as much as we could both the reflection areas and the project sites.

For example, in Kylänlahti bay project site, the three main forms are: the linear infrastructure for the arrival jetty that set the basic touristic functions for the public who arrives, in the valley formed, that goes perpendicular to the bay; the cluster square aggregations for the glamping site in the wood clearing in the north of it, the café random cluster in the south.

In the Villinginlahti bay area, there is a similar linear strategy, but this time is parallel to the water, as it was the most suitable for the morphology of the landscape. The other main cluster are the café and pavilion one, to have significant structures for the bay, and a glamping linear distribution for the tourists that come in this area.

# FINNHÜTTE & ALUSTA

- **kotiluoto: designing the landscape in the heritage**

The overall strategy for Kotiluoto, given the small size of the island, was to proceed with small, scattered clusters of intervention so as not to impact much in a small natural setting with great historic and artistic value.

The landing site was defined by the plan, and the main intervention building, the pavillion, was put on an axis connecting landing site and villa. While the garden was redefined only with small light structures, a structure such as the pavillion was chosen to be placed as a mediation between the two points of interest. The northern cluster of structures takes the forms of camp between land and sea in the designed landing spot. The lower cluster was made to create structures to support the existing sauna, while the last two buildings to the south are supplementary buildings for the bath cabin



collage: Kotiluoto ferry landing site



axonometry: Pikku Niinisaari project site

- **malkasaari: a landscape accessible for everyone**

Malkasaari is one of the best developed islands with the most facilities for tourism, which nevertheless needs a series of interventions to make it accessible to more types of users in order to ensure full use without barriers to people.

Since the island is quite well-stocked with facilities, two main clusters of elements were thought of. The first, concentrated in the clearing to the south, is designed to allow the island to be enjoyed in the open area, around the existing barbecue structure. The cluster to the north was chosen to concentrate the main island square footage there: with a sauna flanked by year-round accessible pool, along with a series of sea-facing structures. The other scattered clusters are specifically for aquatic activities and to ensure usability for all users, linking the clusters together by paths that follow contour lines with no major elevation differences.

- **pikku niinisaari: a respectful graft into nature**

Pikku niinisaari is the only island covered by the project that does not have recreational facilities and for which an intervention was envisioned that would start practically from scratch. In doing so, it was therefore decided not to overdo it with built facilities, trying to maintain as much as possible the natural and pristine appearance that characterizes the island's beaches, cliffs, forests and wetlands. In fact, the main focus has been on providing basic services at the access points given by the piers designated in the plan, both for canoes and boats, buses and ferries. The other clusters are located in the forest and are small rest stops or birdwatching facilities. In addition, the public villa has been flanked by structures to enable its rehabilitation and use. Instead, most of the interventions have been located in the project site where an array of linear structures have been built that rest on the fragile coastline to provide all the basic facilities to stay on the island at the water bus docking point.