

LANDSCAPE OBSERVATION

The Eastern Archipelago is an integral part of the fabric of Helsinki, yet it possesses a distinctive character that sets it apart. The situation we are entering here is not a fixed point with clearly defined and immutable parameters. Instead, it represents a dynamic structure of natural, public, and private layers, the ration of which varies in different locations. Our intention was to introduce **a new recreational layer** into this relationship that can adapt to the ever-changing environment, respecting these processes, and capable of changing (both spatially and temporally). Above all, it should preserve and further develop the natural layer, emphasizing maximum biodiversity.

The initial idea was to designate fundamental nodal points within the entire area – places that offer the most attractive viewpoints, reveal the locality's points of interest, and accentuate the uniqueness of each island. These points were interconnected through various pedestrian nature trails or supplemented with additional functions. However, our goal was not to suppress, regulate, or subjugate the natural landscape but rather to enhance its character and enable exploration from different perspectives. Consequently, some areas feature more formal green spaces with park facilities, where nature partially gives way to human presence. On the other hand, in other places, nature is more demanding, and one finds themselves in a green oasis on an almost invisible path, surrounded by flourishing flora and fauna. And so, the Eastern Archipelago becomes a place of exploration – of its topography, vegetation, and vastness.

However, just as the existing situation is not static, the outcome of our work cannot aim to prescribe a definitive and final form of the place. Instead of providing a fixed solution, the proposal offers **a strategy for further progress** in the form of regulated access and permeability through the territory. Its purpose is not to lure tourists with excessive use of added attractions. The very essence of spontaneous natural processes should be the main attraction here. Our main intention was just to poetically draw attention to these processes and relationships.

FLEXIBILITY & FLUIDITY

The modular design of structures and horizontal constructions based on a simple triangle allows for both additions to the concept and subtractions. **Gradual incorporation of specific functions** based on collected data about space utilization is crucial for the design. The future form can thus be defined by its future users, including humans, vegetation, and animals.

Individual objects can be expanded, reduced, built in stages based on intensity of use, or they can even change their function. All proposed structures are assembled from the same module (right-angled triangle 3x:4x:5x), enabling the use of only **three basic dimensions for all constructions**. This approach minimizes space requirements (flat pack), optimizes costs, simplifies transport, assembly (without machinery), repair, disassembly, and transformation into other structures. Local pine wood appears to be the most suitable material and recycled wood could also be used for the facades. Implementing **a unified construction system** has the potential to unify the Eastern Archipelago into a coherent whole while respecting the

uniqueness and specific needs of individual locations and facilitating the differentiation between private and public spaces.

VARTIOSAARI – Community & Environmental Center

For Vartiosaari, we propose enhancing the main forest trail with smaller educational paths, making the island accessible to various types of visitors (Sunnavik, West, Pässilahti trail). Near Reposalmi Bay and Villa Sunnavik, a new barrier-free trail with access to the beach, viewpoint, a recreational meadow for various activities, and a children's playground are located. Villa Sunnavik (1) and its area have the potential to become a new community and environmental center with a café for all island visitors. Together with a new pavilion, it can host lectures, discussions, screenings, exhibitions, workshops, swaps, and other events or provide space for other communities and initiatives focusing on nature, community, localism, sustainability, and circular economy.

By restoring the demolished greenhouses (2a) and the garden center (2b), a new community garden for seniors and children could be established, with the possibility of accommodation (2c), where gardening would become a part of therapy. Besides social interaction and time spent in the fresh air, visitors could grow their own tomatoes or herbs, learn more about composting, biodynamic cultivation, pollinators, and rainwater utilization. The renovated orphanage (3) could be repurposed as a children's or scout club house. Sunnavik can thus become a place where different generations and groups of visitors meet all together.

The extended jetty at Reposalmi Bay allows better navigation of the flow of people and provides a space for short-term stops of small boats. The space in front of the jetty creates an entrance square with a café and a hang-out area.

The western route adds observation platforms to the forest trail, enabling birdwatching, scenic views, ship watching, and picnic opportunities.

Villa Bergkulla (4a) in Pässilahti Bay, with its sauna and gazebo viewpoint, offers another suitable location for expanding public recreational and sports activities due to its proximity to the new landing platform and villa's spacious garden. Its playgrounds (4b, c) are ideal for organizing tournaments, and the nearby boathouse (4d) can serve as a base for kayak, canoe, or ice skate rentals. From the new landing platform, visitors can explore this bay not only along a new trail by the shore but also from the water level. The landing platform for rowers and the pontoon for boats can be modularly expanded or reduced in size.

Other villas in Pässilahti Bay (5, 6) can be rented for private purposes or provide accommodation for island visitors.

VILLINKI – Slow-recreation Activity Hubs

The scattered urban plots with pontoons, bays, and changing topography make Villinki a destination favored by kayakers and rowers.

Kylänlahti Bay serves as an ideal starting point for exploration, along with Villa Stigen (7), where a new information center with a café, kayak rental, accommodation, sauna, and waterside barbecue shelter can be established, along with a hang-out garden with a pavilion.

Around Villa Stigen, we propose a pedestrian educational forest trail where visitors can learn more about the forests, birdlife, and geological richness of the island, explore its topography, and enjoy views to the bay.

Villinginlahti Harbor and other reflection sites are additional recreational hotspots for visitors to explore, swim, rent a sauna, barbecue, or spend the night in a cabin or tent on designated platforms.

The bigger landing platforms in Kylänlahti and Villinginlahti bays also serve to protect and allow to study and explore the coastal water environment within the inner space of platforms.

KOTILUOTO - Art in the Garden

The Villa milieu on Kotiluoto and its impressive baroque garden, whose remnants still emerge amidst the lush greenery, are considered a unique treasure with immense historical value. The garden has the potential to become a one-of-a-kind island recreational park for the public. Although the garden's renovation is a long-term project, it can be carried out in stages (1. Clearing the garden of overgrown vegetation and basic restoration, temporary furnishing, 2. Opening to visitors and documentation preparation, 3. Comprehensive renovation of pathways and stone elements, 4. Opening to the visitors and additional planning, 5. New furniture and further greenery planting).

At the location of the demolished structure on the western side, we propose a pavilion with a café that will become an enlivening part of the park.

Villa Runeberg (8), which dominates the garden, should also be accessible to the public, perhaps as a gallery with residency programs, enriching the park with resulting artworks and accompanying events. The residences can be focused on the theme of the connection between art, craft, nature, and sustainability. In this case, the jetties on the eastern side can serve for the gallery and the residents. However, we also consider a scenario in which the villa, along with the jetties, continues to be rented to a smaller group of visitors.

Together with the neighbouring islands of Villaluoto, Kotiluoto forms an excellent destination for rowers, paddlers, and campers. Hence, the northern part of the island is complemented with a new paved pathway, jetties for boats and paddlers, and a barbecue shelter with a view of the surrounding islands. The existing barbecue shelter in the villa's garden is one of the few structures we decided to remove due to its inappropriate location in the center of the garden. However, the wood from it can be reused in constructing the proposed structures and elements.

MALKASAARI - Sustainable Camping

The theme of Malkasaari is ecotourism and nature-friendly activities. Its camping possibilities and barrier-free access make it an ideal location for an eco-lodge - an ecological campsite catering to various types of visitors with added educational value.

The western side of the island is designated as a free camping zone with platforms for setting up tents, designed to protect the forest soil from excessive use. This zone is directly connected to the existing barbecue shelter, new floating platform, and campfire area on the western end of the island. Movement within the original garden area around the shelter is regulated by pathways and curb stones that allow the restoration of valuable meadow vegetation.

New cabins near the villa on the eastern side of the island can be rented by individuals and groups for experiential stays, such as team-building activities, yoga retreats in nature, eco-focused conferences, or survival workshops, where visitors learn to build fires, find water, and construct bivouac. In the evening, participants can enjoy a sauna or a natural hot tub. The proceeds from rentals can be used to protect and regenerate the environment. The villa (9) and a new pavilion next to it serve as a community lodge and amenities for stays.

The island can also be a testing ground for various off-grid solutions, such as a natural washroom with rainwater collection showers, "donkey hot water boilers" and shower buckets, or simple greywater filtration using bio-filtration tanks. An essential part of these solutions is the promotion and clear guidelines of using only ecological and biodegradable products and a "leave no trace" policy.

We propose a new barrier-free wooden trail around the perimeter of the island with several observation platforms to better organize visitor movement. The new floating platform for paddlers and swimmers in the northwest part is integrated into the trail.

PIKKU NIINISAARI - Wandering the Island Landscape

The remote character and extensive wooded areas of the island make it an ideal place for wandering, hiking, and observation. We propose a new network of nature trails around the area. Part of it on the southern side is a wooden walkway for more efficient navigation of visitors near the nature reserve and bird/bat zones. On the northern side of the trail, people are guided along a narrow, almost invisible forest path on the slope, creating a contrast to the reinforced promenade on the south. Navigation is facilitated through signage, information points, and occasional platforms designated for observation, relaxation, and contemplation. Concentrating other recreational functions near the landing platform allows for maximum preservation of the island's natural character, with its diverse vegetation and bird & bat communities. The new nature trail enables visitors to explore both sides of the island habitat - the wild nature reserve on the south and the industrial maritime traffic from the nearby Vuosaari harbour on the north side.

The existing villa (10) can serve as a summer café.