

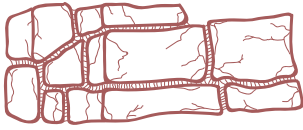
# UNDER COVER

## Introduction to proposal

The project aims towards strengthening the existing identities of the islands but with modular designs connecting them. These become possible with an adaptable foundation system that allows connection to existing nature leaving as little trace as possible. The architecture is inspired by the archipelago: nature, boat houses, and playful villas. Together with the framing system this creates a recognizable Helsinki archipelago look. The core of the recognizable Helsinki archipelago look is based on the landing modules that attract the visitors to experience the islands. The same modular logic is used throughout all new functions. To obtain flexibility, the framing system and the joints are designed in a way that they are easily deconstructable and reusable.

## Basic principles

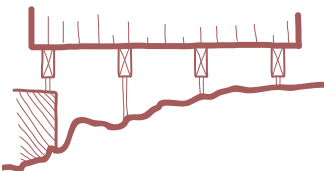
**Individual identities of the islands.** There are a lot of similarities between the different islands, which include the archipelago, the nature elements and villas, privately owned and otherwise. On the other hand, each island has its own characteristics. These existing identities of the islands are strengthened in this proposal. They are discovered through an analysis of the existing environment. Through the analysis on the islands, it is easier to find interests of possible visitors in the future. One may look for an adventure in the archipelago and one for a special sauna experience for an evening. Some might be interested in villa era history. Even though a lot of the services needed on the island are similar, these characteristics of each island require some differentiation in the services and built facilities. This way it is also easier to promote each island by creating different atmospheres around them.



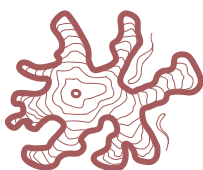
**Using already existing as well as possible.** All the islands have already existing traces of human actions and built environment. One of our main principles is to use existing traces as a base for new structures to bring as little new things to the islands as possible. The islands have already existing buildings, cast concrete foundations, stone foundations and a lot of other usable parts. By using the already existing it is possible to harm as little as possible the fragile environment of the archipelago. By using the existing built environment it is also possible to continue and strengthen the history of the islands. This way it is possible to strengthen the existing identities of these islands. By using the existing as base for new, it is also possible to minimize the logistics.



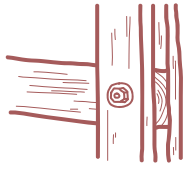
**Reuse of building parts.** Using reused building parts for the design has many benefits. This way it is possible to minimize the harm to nature not only in the fragile archipelago but elsewhere too. Making new building parts is always harmful to nature somewhere. Unheated or lightly heated buildings, paths and decks are excellent places to use reused wood that is highly available. One good source for the wooden parts buildings is leftover wood from the infra construction such as cast concrete bridges but also demolition sites. Wood that is used in these constructions fits well for the structures in the archipelago. For example the design of the roof structure in the modules is thought to be as reusable as possible, which is why it can be constructed from shingle-like parts to be easily adaptable, modifiable, and replaceable.



**Archipelago, adapter, module.** Archipelago nature and the existing built environment and human traces form a unique kind of base for the built environment. This unique base is also really uneven, which is also an important part of the magic of the archipelago. Hill shaped topography, rocky ground and old foundations form a base that needs an adaptive part for the modular structures. To be able to use the modular parts with similar measurements, it is important to form an even base for them. This is why all the buildings attached to the land are founded on top of an adaptive foundation. This adapting foundation is based on existing foundation and steel columns that are adjustable according to context. With adjustable columns it is possible to use similar solutions for different contexts.



**Places for nature to attach.** The design focuses mainly on leaving as little traces as possible. In some parts, the focus is on leaving places for nature to attach on land as well as in the water. Foundation and anchoring has to be attached to nature. To make this less harmful, nature attachment is thought. In case of foundation, using the existing concrete and stones is considered. Otherwise using as light foundation as possible such as screw piles is favored. In case the local biota needs support, some parts of islands could be turned into sanctuaries or human help such as bat boxes or insect hotels could be integrated. Otherwise the focus is on preserving the existing nature as well as possible.



**Reusability and movability.** Foundations, connections and floating parts are made in a way that they are easily reusable in another context or moved according to the season. Moving whole buildings is hard in the archipelago because of the boat logistics. This is the reason why the design focuses on deconstructable connections of building parts. The buildings also use a lot of parts that have the same measurements so that they are easy to use in other constructions.

**Flexible and recognizable frame.** The same form in the building frames makes them easy to recognize throughout the whole archipelago both at the shores and deep in the islands' nature. By using the same logic in all structures, it also makes the buildings more flexible to changes in time when they can be combined, divided, or dismantled and reused again and again.



**Helsinki archipelago look.** The design uses a lot of recognizable building shapes and details that are inspired by the archipelago history and villa era. Boat shed-like buildings are part of the recognizable history of the archipelago, which has been the inspiration for especially the building visible from the sea. Round shapes both in windows and wooden part details are inspired by the playful architecture of the villa era that is special to most of the islands in the competition. This also fits well with the graphic design principles of Helsinki that is recognizable from the mainland of Helsinki.

## Year-round activity

Due to radical changes in the weather of Helsinki archipelago, different seasons should be taken into consideration in the design. The summer is likely the main season for the visitors. In the autumn the archipelago has strong winds and rain. There must be shelters to be covered from them.

During the winter time ice breaks elements in the water. For this reason the water bus stop as one of the most permanent elements is lifted from the water to be safely on top of the ice. The water bus stops act as shelter for winter visitors and as a shade during summertime. Some floating elements should be moved and lifted to safety during the winter.

## Materials

The used materials are thought out to be ecological, technically flexible, aesthetically appropriate, and easily obtainable. The main material, wood, in the structures is used and recycled whenever it is possible, and after its use it is put in circulation again. Wood can be safely and easily imported. From a technical point of view, wood is a durable and sustainable material and appropriate to the archipelago. Properly cut and attached, wood can be a very lasting way to secure joints and structures.

The wood used as a facade material is either left naturally greying or treated with red soil. These two facade materials are connected to the archipelago theme. Naturally colored wood fits with the nature of the archipelago and red soil color is often occurring in old wooden villas and houses in Finland.

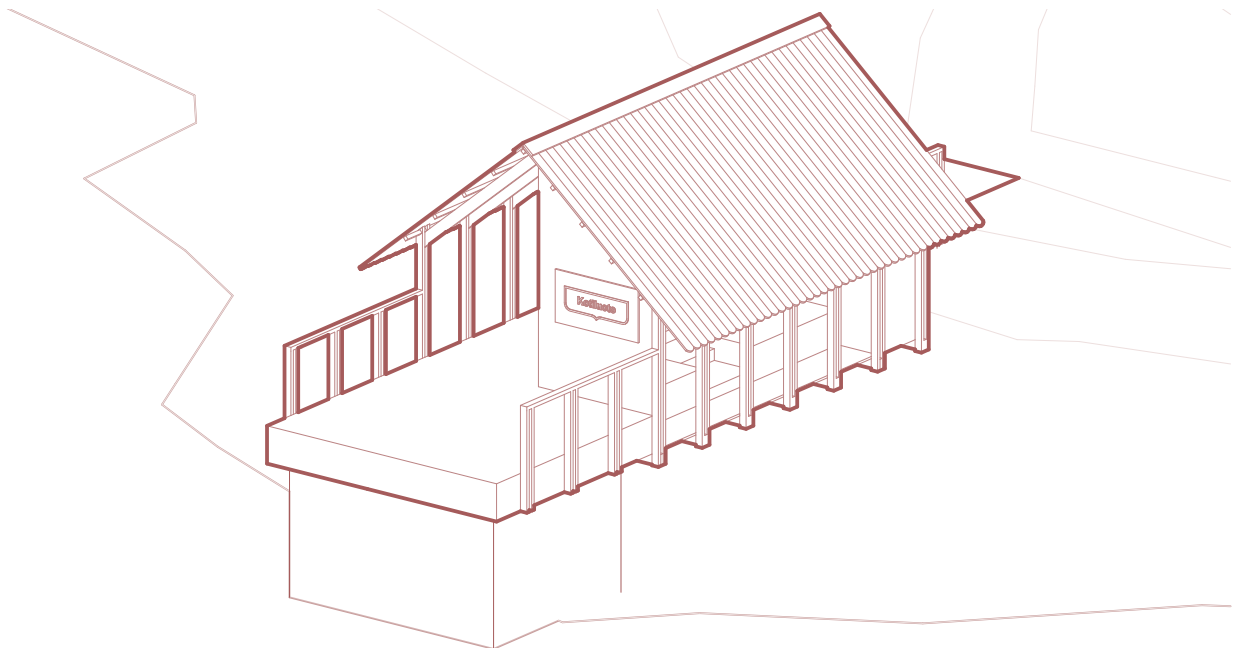
## Processes and periods of implementation

Before bringing any other functions to the islands, there must be brought a landing module first before anything else. The landing module acts as a gateway to each island. When thinking about the process of implementation, the first island to put a landing module in would be one that can be made the most accessible most easily to bring visitors of every kind.

One main principle is to improve accessibility in the archipelago. Malkasaari and Vartiosaari are the ones in this proposal that can achieve full accessibility in the planned areas. Both of these islands also have existing villas, piers with on-going water bus connections. This makes these two islands the most probable to have new functions. Why they both could be developed simultaneously even when they have similar starting points, is that they have very different identities and atmospheres. Vartiosaari is very large and more accessible to the public with it being just about a hundred meters from main land. Malkasaari on the other hand is a very small, intimate island with a cottage-like atmosphere. Therefore, the demographic of these islands can differentiate quite a bit.

Pikku Niinisaari is an island to which this proposal's ideas can be easily implemented because of their overall scarcity. Although, due to their scarcity and the island's overall sensitive nature this is not an island that needs immediate attention and/or visitors. The two sites of Villinki are both surrounded by privately owned properties and that adjusts the chosen new functions and their relation to the surroundings. These two locations have their own individual identities and can be quite easily constructed after bringing the landing modules on site. With these in mind and their exclusive locations these islands would be ideal to be developed after Malkasaari and Vartiosaari.

When the first landing modules are implemented, the rest of the functions can be added when demand and the number of visitors on each island increases. From the most essential functions, daytime activities, such as saunas, toilets, and cafés, to the less essential functions such as required for a longer day trip or an overnight stay, which include glamping cabins and restaurants etc.



Axonometric view of the landing site module 1:100