

Helsinki (FI)

NATUR! GENIE!

what stands for

The title comes from re-calling the romanticist movement part of the Sturm und drang 'Natur! Genie! which wanted to give to nature an important power, to let men be free in their possibility to express themselves at their higher potential.

The genie refers to the ability to perfectly embody the relation with nature and its infinite possibility to inspire, give peace and sense of belonging.

The project is thus an hymn to the idea of bonding nature and built environment without a sharp distinction and instead with a vibrant continuity that moves from the natural elements of stone to a delicate but present building that can be reached through traces on the ground.

For each island, the main attitude of the project changes according to the different landscape and needs. Nevertheless, the base module connects each environment with the same architectural language, showing a high level of customisation and coherence while being adaptable and scalable.

design concept

Our design concept centers around the use of low carbon prefabricated wood and bio-based insulation panels to construct versatile, modular architectural elements. These elements will serve as landing sites for boats and other water vessels, as well as social meeting places, creating opportunities for interaction among different user groups. The structures will host various amenities, such as cafes, kiosks, saunas, barbeque shelters, fireplaces, firewood storages, toilets, waste containers, birdwatching points, and equipment for routes and trails.

Despite their small size, much significance is concentrated in the landing places. Piers are fundamental to enhance the connection between the main city and the islands. The basic pier has been enriched with modular structures hosting services for daily visitors and long-stay tourists for a comfortable and accessible holiday.

The focus is on the scale of the project from the bird nest to the human shelter, but using a language connected to the ecosystem.



Eye level shelter and outdoor area

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visual concept

The spirit of Helsinki's eastern archipelago will be beautifully reflected in the visual concept. Our designs will incorporate natural colors and textures, seamlessly blending the structures into the surrounding landscapes, evoking a sense of harmony between human-made structures and the natural environment. The use of wood panels will give a sense of warmth and connection to nature, while modern and minimalist aesthetics will emphasize the project's innovative approach.

principles and values

Respect for Nature: Our primary goal is to respect and protect the vulnerable and sensitive nature and landscape of the archipelago. All proposed structures will be designed to minimize their environmental impact and preserve the beauty and ecological balance of the area.

respect for nature

holistic approach

Holistic Approach: We envision an interconnected system that enhances the distinctive characteristics of each island while promoting responsible recreational activities, by taking into consideration the use of site-specific materials and technologies. The design will prioritize cohesion between different elements, ensuring that they complement and benefit from their closeness.

sustainability

adaptability and scalability

Sustainability: Embracing the low carbon footprint of prefabricated wood panels, our architectural technology will use minimum-impact materials and construction methods. The aim is to align the project with eco-friendly practices and contribute with a negative impact on the environment.

traditional materials

preserving biodiversity

Adaptability and Scalability: The proposed architectural system will be easily expandable and relocatable, enabling its implementation across various pilot sites within the archipelago. This flexibility ensures that the project can grow organically and respond to future changes in demand and usage while minimizing waste. Moreover, the characteristic scale up of the modules is connected to changing in functions.

integration

Traditional Materials: Our commitment to sustainability drives us to use low carbon prefabricated wood panels, reducing the project's environmental impact. Additionally, incorporating bio-based insulation panels further enhances the structures' energy efficiency, promoting the use of renewable materials connected to the typical surroundings. Low carbon prefabricated wood panels will showcase the warmth and authenticity of natural materials, while the bio-based insulation panels will complement the design with modern and sustainable aesthetics.

Preserving Biodiversity: We recognize the importance of protecting the archipelago's delicate ecosystems. Our designs will be mindful of the area's ecological sensitivity, ensuring minimal disruption to flora and fauna during assembly and operation thanks to off-site prefabrication.

Integration: The architectural elements will seamlessly integrate with the natural surroundings, amplifying the distinctive qualities of each island. We seek to create

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a cohesive experience that encourages responsible recreation and fosters a deep appreciation for the archipelago's beauty.

value of vernacular

Value of vernacular: A basic relationship established in the build environment is between user, architecture product and landscape. The hybridization of technologies of traditional materials and vernacular materials is performed. In fact, as set for Paris Agreement, the adaptation of vernacular and indigenous technologies to a modern use, stressing the dimension of the local level is pursued. As a matter of fact, while sustainability is the leading-edge goal everywhere in the world, the actions aimed at achieving such a goal are necessarily site dependent. For this reason, it results in the study of a short supply chain of native and available materials.

implementation strategy

Material Sourcing: We will prioritize sourcing low carbon prefabricated wood and bio-based insulation panels from local and sustainable suppliers, reducing transportation emissions and supporting the local economy.

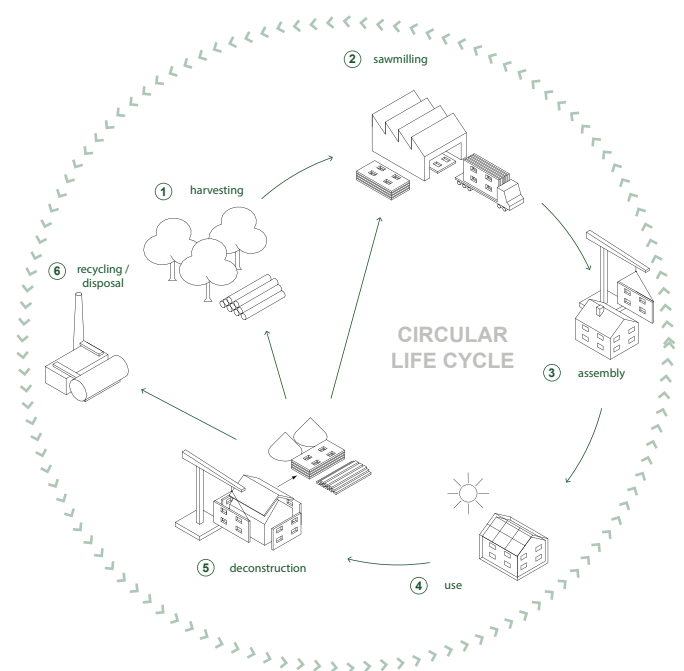
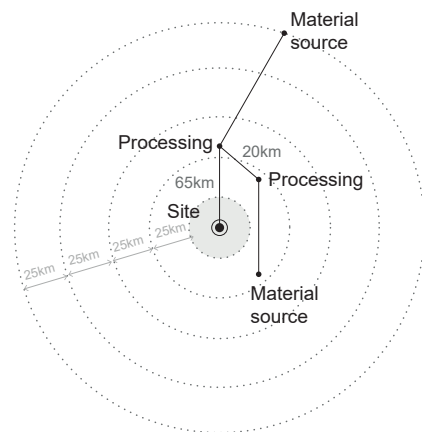
material sourcing

Energy Efficiency: The use of bio-based insulation panels will enhance the energy efficiency of the structures, reducing the need for artificial heating and cooling, and thereby minimizing the overall carbon footprint.

energy efficiency

community collaboration

Community Collaboration: We will actively engage with local communities, environmental experts, and stakeholders throughout the design and implementation process, ensuring that their insights and concerns are integrated into the final plans. We will ensure that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of the people while meeting environmental standards.



Site specific material source - Circular Life Cycle approach

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pilot sites and testing

Pilot Sites and Testing: Prior to full-scale implementation, we will test the prefabricated wood and bio-based insulation panels' performance in different weather conditions and terrains to ensure their suitability for the archipelago's unique environment. This process will validate the adaptability and functionality of the designs.

site analysis

Site Analysis: We will conduct a thorough analysis of each pilot site, considering its unique characteristics, topography, and ecological significance. This analysis will inform the specific design adaptations required for each location.

construction and installation

Construction and Installation: Utilizing prefabricated wood panels, we will employ efficient construction techniques to minimize disruption to the natural environment during installation. The modular nature of the structures will facilitate both transport and a quicker and smoother construction process.

monitoring and maintenance

Monitoring and Maintenance: Post-implementation, we will establish a system for monitoring the impact of the structures on the environment and biodiversity. Regular maintenance and upgrades will ensure the sustainability and longevity of the project.

conclusion

Our design proposal embraces the natural beauty and biodiversity of Helsinki's eastern archipelago, promoting responsible recreation while safeguarding the environment. By utilizing low carbon prefabricated wood with bio-based insulation panels, we strive to create sustainable, modular structures that enrich the recreational experience for visitors and locals alike. The spirit of Helsinki's eastern maritime milieu thrives in harmony with modern design and sustainable practices, an innovative and holistic solution for promoting responsible recreation and enhancing biodiversity.



Pier eyelevel view

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