

## Solina

– the subtle sound water makes when passing through a space

The project Solina has been developed with the intention of making as little noise on site as possible. The proposal focuses on the preservation of existing nature, hence allowing the already existing natural and built environment to be enhanced and seen in a different light. The implementation of the intent is portrayed through the large central park, which has been divided into three zones, the wilderness park, the social park and the Sigismund quarter.

Solina delves into the various forms of the relationship between water and the built environment. The project allows water to play various roles, at times creating a barrier at the end of one's private garden, at times becoming the space for communal sauna nights, at times creating an urban multi-use space – an ode to the Aura River, and at times allowing it to showcase the wilderness of nature. The relationship is further explored within the forms and types of living. The project introduces three distinct living areas with various relationships to water.

### Phase I & II – The Park and Vähäheikkiläntie Stream

#### The wilderness park

Within the wilderness park the existing wetland has been transformed into a small marshland aiding in flood water retention and providing supple ground for biodiverse zones to be created within the park. The mini isles within the marsh and the stepping stones between them are a subtle ode to Turku's coastal location and network of islands that surround it. The duckboards lead across the islands to the small meditation pavilion in the middle of the small forest area. The depth of the wetland allows for water levels to rise without a major issue due to the flora used. However, in the case of a heavy flood event, the dam connected to the flood pond on the northern side will open to provide additional support. On the western end of the wetland the water gets filtered through a pipe and reemerges near the social hub area on the western side of the site. On the eastern side of the wetland, the water is directed into a small stream which runs across the whole park ending in the Sigismund quarter where it enters the pipe before reemerging on the eastern part of the site in the Vähäheikkilä stream.



Majority of the existing trees and the meadow have been maintained and are used for space-making of playgrounds and communal gardens. The existing pathways and social routes have been emphasized using the new waterway, allowing for a seamless exchange between the new spaces. The main path follows

the waterway, intentionally creating a slower paced environment. However, there is an alternative small pedestrian path parallel to the street providing a speedier path if required.

Landscaping elements such as small mounds have been used to create privacy and safety in communal spaces and playgrounds as well as provide ample opportunities for winter play areas. As snow is a significant part of the winter environment in Finland, mounds provide an opportunity to create natural sledging hills and the flood- and cleaning-ponds provide an area for the snow to gather in without causing much harm to the existing wildlife.



## The social park

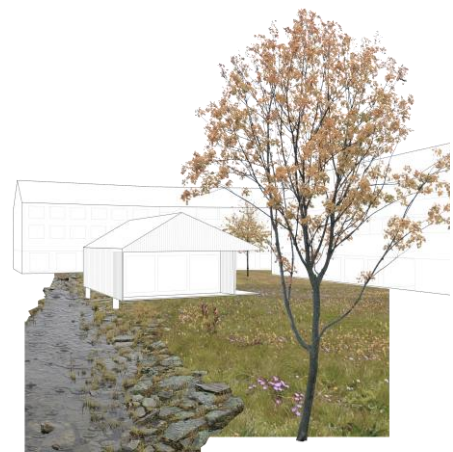
The social aspects of the park naturally follow the east-west axis from Sigismund quarter, starting with the communal sauna area. The path then moves to the seating steps which are neighboured by a community garden for planters and fruit trees. The community garden is intended for all residents around the Vähä-Heikkilä area who do not have direct access to gardening opportunities. The garden provides an incentive to care for the communal park and take pride in its communal ownership. Across the bridge from the communal garden lays a small pavilion amongst the trees to provide a quiet place for people watching.

## Sigismund quarter

The Sigismund quarter introduces water as a focal social element by placing it in the connecting area by the communal sauna of the taller apartment buildings and private terraced houses, to create a sense of community within the quarter. The quarter consists of two terraced houses and an apartment building which has been divided into three tower-like masses.

The apartment building mimics the typology of the larger apartment buildings across Vähäheikkiläntie, creating a cohesive street-like narrative. The ground floor of the apartment building encompasses a shared parking garage, communal spaces like laundry rooms and storage units and small commercial spaces. The top of the parking garage behaves as a space for smaller playgrounds for the younger inhabitants of the building.

The living areas are divided into three towers, with varying storeys. The eastern tower of six storeys, middle tower of five and western tower of four storeys. By allocating the storeys in



such a manner, the building is able to converse with both the taller apartment buildings and the lower terraced houses in the nearby neighbourhood. Additionally, the eastern tower has been located so that both the east-west and north-south axis have been considered; creating a continuous line of buildings on the north-south Ispoisten Puistotie axis and creating a sort of gate to the communal park on the east-west axis.

The terraced houses also follow the north-south axis of the cohesive building line and curve around the site creating a semi-closed quarter. The building on the western side of the quarter ensures that the lines of sight from the nearby streets align and the height of the buildings is proportionate to their surroundings. The buildings are composed of three storey masses with external circulation paths encouraging socialization of the inhabitants. The ground floor of the buildings behaves as a parking garage and houses communal storage spaces. Apartments on the ground floor have small private gardens on the northern and western sides whereas the apartments on the first and second floor include larger balconies to the south and east. The terraced houses behave as a link between the high apartment buildings and the low detached house neighbourhood.



An integral part of the development of the Sigismund quarter was the relocation of the Puistomäenkatu street. The street has been relocated to an existing pedestrian path location, allowing the Sigismund Park to become part of the site. Additionally, the development required the petrol station to be demolished, which considering the theme of working with open water, was reasonable due to high contamination risks.

### Vähäheikkiläntie stream

The Vähäheikkiläntie stream living area invokes a conversation about communal ownership of water by creating detached homes with gardens sharing a stream which behaves as the boundary to each individual garden. The area is composed of 16 two-storey detached houses which are developed in pairs, much like the buildings across the Vähäheikkiläntie street. Each building is composed of an additional storage and garage unit as well as a private garden which borders the stream. The pedestrian path running parallel to the street is then connected directly to the Sigismund quarter allowing for a continuous pedestrian pathway.

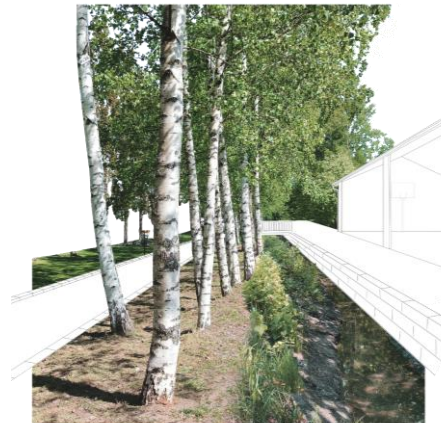
### Phase III - Vähä-Heikkilä promenade and Social hub

The Vähä-Heikkilä promenade introduces a canal intended to serve both the living spaces as well as commercial spaces allowing it to become a new street on which the community can thrive.

The promenade focuses heavily on retrofitting and urban place-making elements to revitalize the area and create a truly multi-use living area. The existing buildings with small businesses are encouraged to adapt and reuse the space they occupy. Now each of the buildings is surrounded by two streets, the canal street and Puistomäenkatu, making the distinction between working and living more fluid. Hence the proposal encourages homeowners to open businesses to either side of the buildings, depending on their type, whilst providing them with an enhanced environment for comfortable living spaces. The buildings have been reconfigured in a manner which introduces smaller second storeys for privacy of living and creates small communal courtyards, allowing community and nature to take centre stage. The area is intended to be a slowly developing one, in which urban place making elements and signage are used before a large project is started to ensure that the area feels like a part of a whole.

The promenade implements student housing as a new form of living connecting it to the educational quarter on the Vähäheikkiläntie street. The student housing replaces and partially refurbishes the older warehouse type building on site and uses the smaller building for the communal spaces within the student housing complex. As the complex is not categorised as a regular apartment building, the provided car parking spaces are fewer, but there are significantly more bicycle spaces provided to encourage biking as a primary form of transport for young students.

The eastern section of the multi-purpose promenade creates a new rocky stream water element and proposes a Social hub where larger industrial buildings are retrofitted and turned into sports pavilions and a skate park providing students free access to such facilities. The western side of the promenade on the other hand behaves as a meeting square before entering the area. It has a town square like quality to ensure a smooth connection to the adjacent developing area of Pihlajanniemi. The square pays homage to the old existing “Coffee and cars” kiosk by renovating and retrofitting it and becomes a starting point of the burble of the canal and the busy street of local businesses.



The project's intent of creating a narrative using water is implemented through the continuous movement and adaptation of spaces whilst retaining the integral social connection to the various forms of water. Water connects and separates, it reveals and hides, and slowly burbles through the site.