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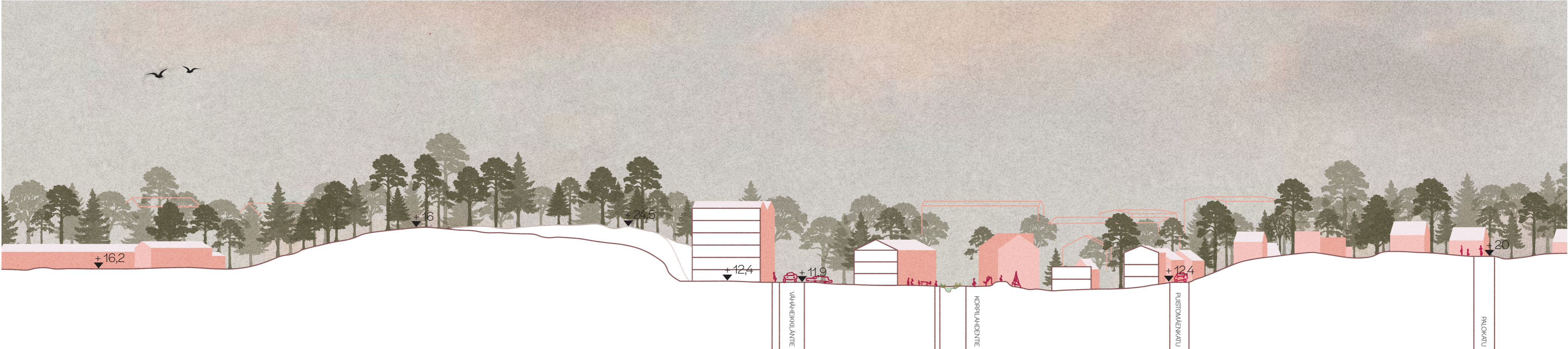
03

TURKU (FI)

DRIP DRIP HOORAY



ILLUSTRATION OF THE FIRST AREA TO BE DEVELOPED 1 : 800



A - A' CROSS SECTION VÄHÄHEIKKILÄNTIE - PUUSTOMÄENKATU 1 : 800



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

1 Nature-based Play Environment

The area is designed to integrate and utilize natural elements, systems, and materials to support children's play, development, and connection with nature. Key principles guiding the design include the use of natural materials, encouragement of free and imaginative play, ecological integration, cultural and local identity, and sensitivity to seasonal changes and sensory experiences.

These goals are achieved through the use of wood, stone, water, sand, vegetation, and varied terrain. The design promotes open-ended play, allowing children to invent their own games using elements like sticks, logs, hills, and trees. This approach fosters creativity and motor skill development, and invites children of different ages to play together—especially those who might not typically be drawn to conventional playgrounds.

Existing vegetation, natural topography, and water systems are preserved and enhanced. In doing so, the play environment remains rooted in its regional landscape, offering children meaningful opportunities to connect with their surroundings and learn about nature in a hands-on way. The space is designed for year-round use. As the seasons shift, so does the play experience. Snow, autumn leaves, spring puddles, and summer greenery all become active elements of play, enriching the sensory and developmental value of the environment.

2 Circular Economy

The project is guided by circular economy principles, aiming to reduce waste and extend the lifecycle of materials. Key strategies include the reuse of building components, adaptation of existing structures, and the integration of flexible, long-lasting design solutions. A core part of the approach is to preserve and reuse as much as possible from the existing site. Buildings that are structurally sound and adaptable are retained and reimagined for new uses, supporting both sustainability and cultural continuity. Existing vegetation, especially mature trees and ecologically valuable plant communities, is protected and integrated into the design, enhancing biodiversity and reinforcing the character of the site. By working with what is already there, the project minimizes environmental impact.

Materials from dismantled buildings are recycled and repurposed wherever possible for new structures and surfaces, minimizing the need for new resources. Existing buildings that are structurally sound and adaptable are retained and given new life through creative architectural interventions. In particular, housing is integrated into old industrial buildings, transforming underused structures into vibrant living environments while preserving their historical character.

Outdoor spaces are designed with adaptability and durability in mind. Materials are reused or chosen for their ecological impact and recyclability. The landscape design supports biodiversity and natural water cycles, turning ecological systems into visible, functional parts of the environment and the surrounding landscape.

3 Community Presence and Active Public Life

The project places strong emphasis on fostering a sense of community and shared ownership within the public space. The design supports everyday encounters and informal interaction by creating open, accessible environments that invite people to spend time, participate, and feel a sense of belonging. Community presence is treated as an integral element of the spatial and social structure.

Movement through the area is designed to feel natural and intuitive. Pedestrian and cycling routes flow organically through the site, encouraging people to pass through, pause, and engage with the spaces and services along the way. Functions are intentionally positioned along these paths and near residential buildings, making it easy to stop, participate, and return—blurring the boundary between private and public life.

The services and activities are designed to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds, ensuring that no one feels left out. Spaces are flexible and inclusive, encouraging people to play, make, share, or simply spend time together. From play areas and quiet resting spots to workshops and shared gardens, the environment offers multiple ways to participate, individually or collectively.

A key goal is to create a space that feels owned by the community. The design supports small businesses, pop-up functions, and free-to-use spaces that invite experimentation and local expression. These services bring life into the area while strengthening local economies and giving residents the opportunity to shape the identity and atmosphere of the place together.