

TURKU (FI) DRIP DRIP HOORAY

Drip Drip Hooray combines the theme of water with a sense of celebration. The name reflects both the central role of water in the design and the aim to create a vibrant, welcoming neighborhood. The project focuses on developing a small-scale, livable environment in Vähäheikkilä, with a strong sense of community and local identity.



The design concept embraces the idea of extending the Aura River into the site - not as a literal river, but as a symbolic and seasonal water feature that reflects its identity. Though it may not always contain water, it continues the narrative of the river within the urban landscape. This is interpreted both spatially and ecologically through a stormwater management system that acts as a smaller version of the river within the neighborhood. The system not only handles water sustainably but also organizes public space and adds character to the urban environment.

The design respects the existing built environment by preserving many of the current industrial buildings. New construction takes cues from the old, using similar materials and forms to maintain continuity. Instead of replacing the area's existing character, the design emphasizes architectural layering and recognizes the value in buildings that may not be traditionally considered beautiful. This approach supports a more honest and grounded urban identity.

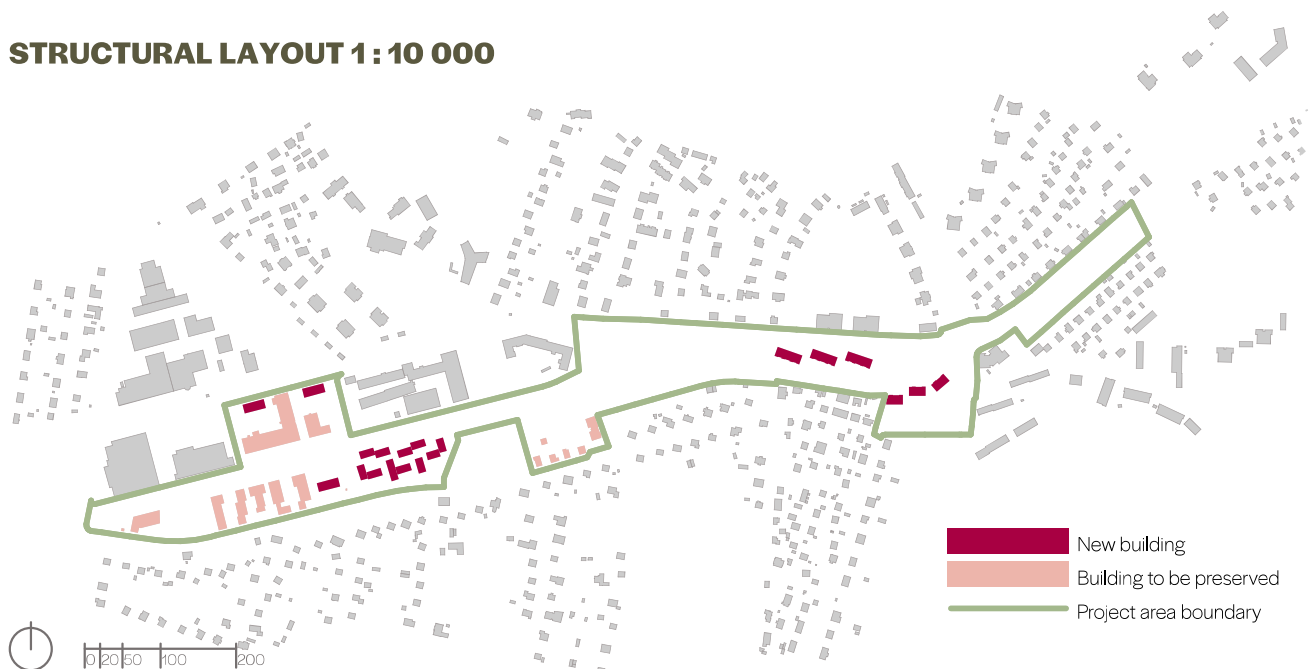
Vegetation is used to connect the site with its surroundings while introducing new elements that contrast with the typical look of detached house gardens. Vegetation is selected to fit the local context but provide a different kind of spatial and ecological experience that adds variety and richness to the area.

The services and uses within the area are designed to support daily life and strengthen community ties. Existing industrial structures are repurposed to house small-scale commercial and cultural activities. These include gallery spaces, workshops, and adaptable areas suited for pop-up uses and changing services. A distinct characteristic of the neighborhood is the presence of local production-focused businesses such as a brewery, coffee roastery, bakery, or café, all contributing to a lively and locally grounded atmosphere.

Overall, Drip Drip Hooray offers a development model that builds on what is already there, integrates water as a guiding element, and creates a strong, people-oriented urban structure rooted in place.



STRUCTURAL LAYOUT 1:10 000



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Implementing the design begins with realizing the first area to be developed, which will bring new life to the area and act as the core for the stormwater management systems. The development will continue with bringing the whole stormwater route to life in the city area at the west end of the area, and on the east end of the area.

The design process began with developing the following key design principles based on the competition brief and interests of the design team members.

KEY 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.

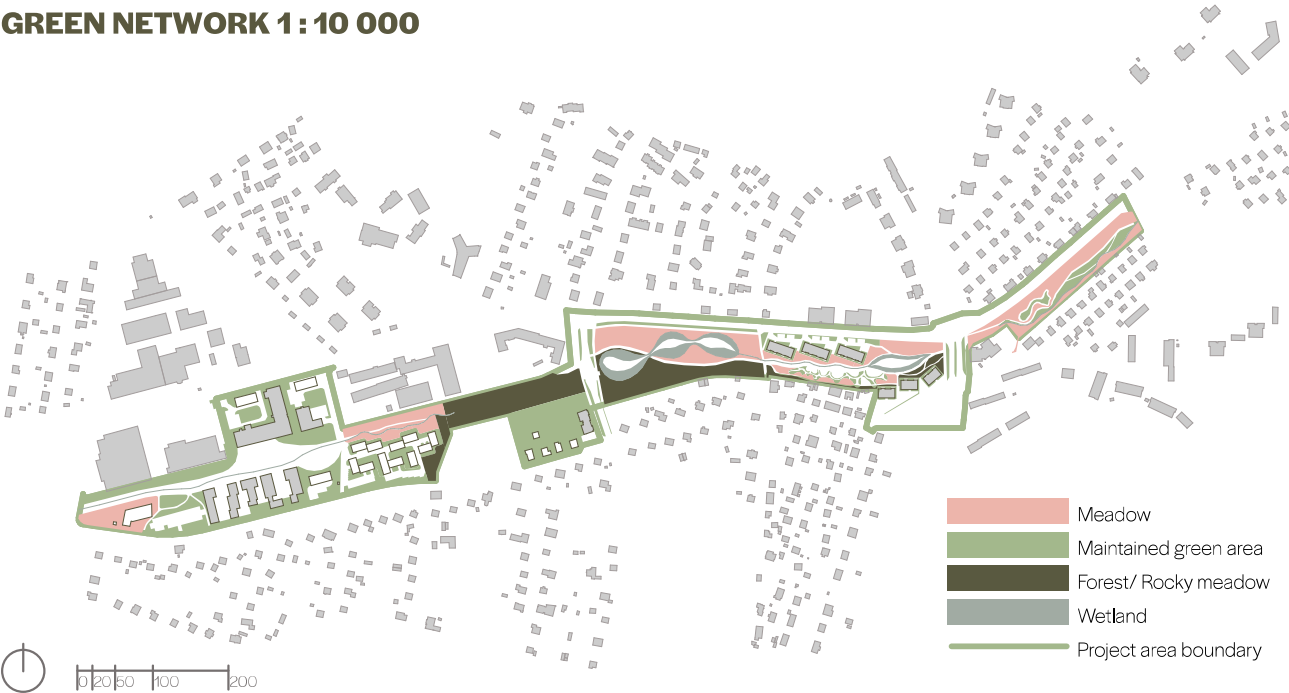


These goals are achieved through the use of wood, stone, water, sand, vegetation, and varied terrain. The design promotes open-ended play, allowing children to invent their own games using elements like sticks, logs, hills, and trees. This approach fosters creativity and motor skill development, and 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.



GREEN NETWORK 1 : 10 000



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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 its environmental impact.

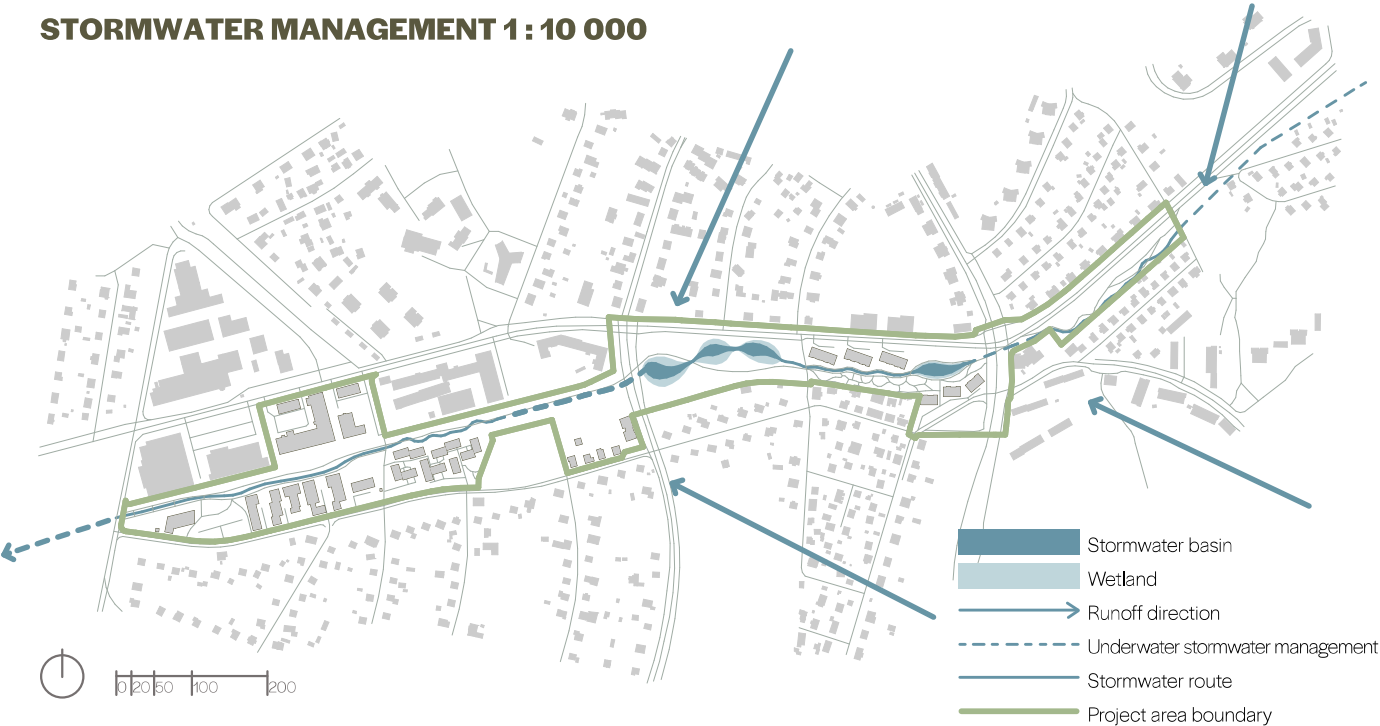


Materials from dismantled buildings are recycled and repurposed wherever possible for new structures and surfaces, minimizing the need for new resources. Existing buildings that are structurally sound and adaptable are retained and given new life through creative architectural interventions. In particular, 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.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT 1 : 10 000



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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.