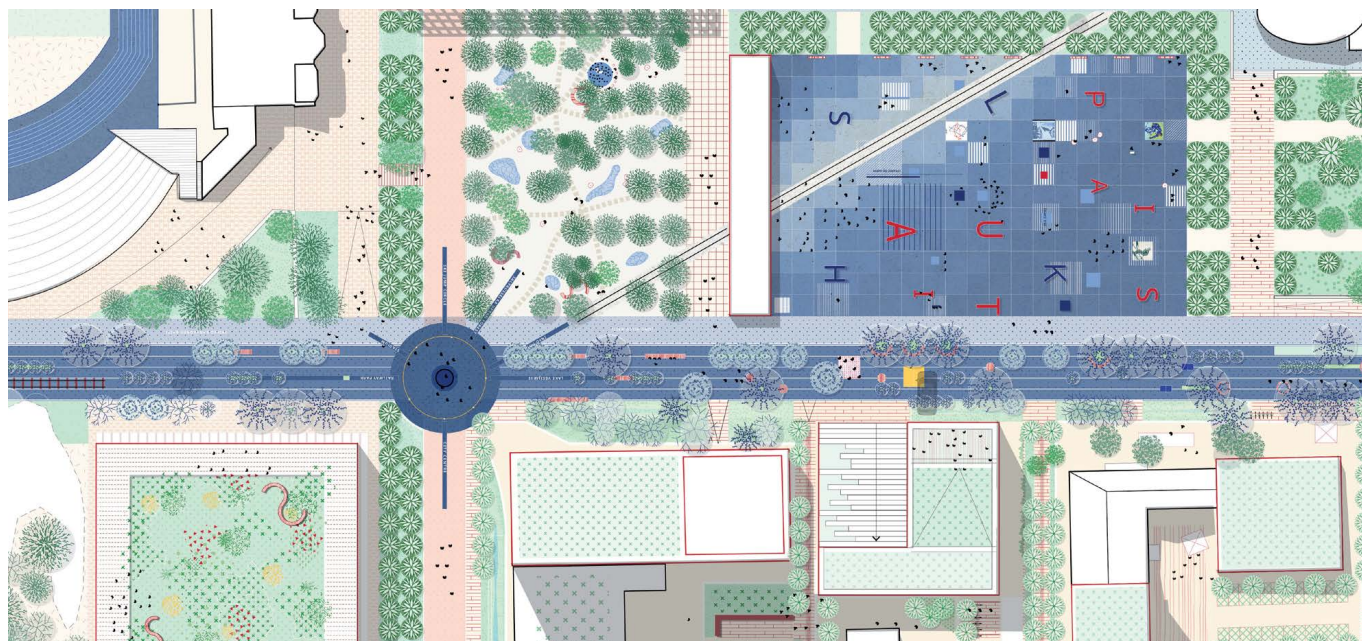




JURY REPORT

LAHTI | TURKU

17.11.2025

EUROPAN 18 | RE-SOURCING



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1. / European 18 Competition

EUROPAN is a competition directed at young professionals in the fields of architecture and urban design. Competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams, each team including at least one architect. All team members, whatever their profession, must be under 40 years of age on the closing date for the submission of entries.

In European 18 there were 47 sites from 12 different European countries. The Finnish sites were in Lahti and Turku.

The theme of European 18 was RE-SOURCING.

1.1 THEMATIC CONSIDERATIONS OF RE-SOURCING

After developing the theme Living Cities in the latest two European competitions, European 18 turned its focus to the fragility of the Earth's ecosystem and social crises. They lead to the imagination of alternative practices to harmful extraction of resources, overconsumption and pollution of living milieus. Regenerating projects embracing nature and culture were to be thought and implemented. It was about weaving synergies between biogeophysical data with socio-spatial justice and health ones.

Three main directions for designing forms of resilience and resourcing of inhabited milieus made possible to reactivate other forms of dynamics and narratives around the ecologies of living and caring.

1 Re-sourcing in terms of natural elements / risks

The natural and vital elements of water, air, earth and fire are today linked to risks and disasters which affect places, and the entire ecosystem of milieus from the moment that are triggered cataclysms, resulting from deleterious developments. In order to enable a new alliance with inhabited milieus, it is time to rethink these vital elements, by finding logics of adaptation with the built environment, and by combining them together in projects.

2 Re-sourcing in terms of ways of life and of inclusivity

The reconsideration of living conditions also requires sustained attention to changes in lifestyles in a hyperconnected digital world. Arrangements capable of simultaneously preserving intimacy, commonality and solidarity are at stake, correlated with bioclimatic and permacultural strategies in which humans and non-humans can cooperate.

3 Re-sourcing in terms of materiality

As the existing built environment now represents a phenomenal reservoir of materials, it is essential to design devices for transforming existing buildings in line with the 3R principle (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle): Reduce new construction. Reuse in the sense of reusing already constructed spaces and materials. Recycle by using bio- and geo-sourced materials (such as earth, stone, and fiber), anticipating future deconstruction and re-establishing local practices by drawing on site-specific know-how and resources. Altogether, these actions aim to support the preservation of natural resources.

The competition sites were divided into sub-groups based on further thematic classification of the sites.

RE-SOURCING FROM SOCIAL DYNAMIC

INDUCING A SECOND LIFE

The “multiple heritage” of derelict buildings provides a precious source for a larger urban transformation, which is launched by interventions that operate first in the scale of the site itself. Integrating social and cultural traces in the sites’ geographical and physical rehabilitation enables an upscaling of the transformation’s impact. It can induce a second life whose urban energy radiates far beyond its physical limits.

Sites : Amersfoort-Flint (NL) – Felanitx-Es Sindicat (ES) – **Lahti (FI)** – Riez (FR) – Trondheim (NO) – Blagnac (FR) – Getafe (ES) – Oviedo (ES) – Roa (NO)

PROMOTING OPEN NEIGHBOURHOODS

How to transform urban areas and enclaves into open neighbourhoods? How to constitute the smallest urban entity of proximity, exchange and governance, consisting of humans and more than humans? Open urban neighbourhoods can be enablers of citizenship and accommodators of diverse temporalities of stay. They may be pivotal sites for initiating and implementing social and ecological changes, rippling through the rest of the city, thus being valuable for the European Green Transition.

Sites : Amersfoort-Otto Scheltus (NL) – Caen (FR) – Madrid (ES) – Romainville (FR) – Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES) – Barcelona-La Verneda (ES) – Clermont-Ferrand (FR) – Miramas (FR) – Uppsala (SE)

CREATING NEW URBAN RELATIONSHIPS

A missing layer of urbanity is added on a territory with underlying complexities. In all these large sites, the question is how inhabit them, how to relate to them, how to add a human ecosystem while negotiating the pros and cons of the existing complexity. It may be to reconsider an urban interrupted development, to care wounds left or created by old or new infrastructures; to regenerate sub-standard housing or the damage left behind a brownfield, to reconsider a river or former agricultural fields.

Sites : Amersfoort-Amicitia (NL) – Amersfoort-Stadhuisplein (NL) – Grand Nancy (FR) – Malmö (SE) – Naval Moral de la Mata (ES) – Amersfoort-Kop van Isselt (NL) – Brignoles (FR) – Luzern (CH) – Nailloux (FR) – Zagreb (HR)

RE-SOURCING FROM NATURAL ELEMENTS

DEALING WITH WATER

In context of global warming, to live and to re-dynamize inhabited milieus thanks to water is a strong driver for re-sourcing ; crossing the challenge to adapt to risks (flooding, marine submersion, coastline withdrawal, drought...) and to restore ecological milieus to improve quality of life, health and joy of every day.

Sites : Fumel (FR) – La Nive (FR) – Mantes-la-Jolie (FR) – Jullouville (FR) – Lisboa (PT)
– **Turku (FI)**

REACTIVATING SOILS

In this family of sites, the potential of soils could guide the evolution of a site in a process of space's regeneration, intensification or addition. The biological dimension of available land could trigger new ecological and social relations, and interactions between organisms for a mutual benefit. From the horizon to the scale of the microorganism: which is the capacity of soils to infiltrate biodiversity provide ecosystem services and give continuity to the territory?

Sites : Eslöv (SE) – Karlstad (SE) – Speichersdorf (DE) – Genève (CH) – Regensburg (DE) – St Gallen (CH)

REGENERATING LANDSCAPES

How to design processes and projects for the revaluation of landscapes that focus on the interdependencies and eco-dependencies of resources (natural, cultural, productive) and the territory? The regeneration of landscapes can become a mediation tool between residential areas, facilities, and obsolete infrastructures and territories undergoing transformation (even at risk) as a result of the effects of climate change. Is an invitation to think at the resources of the area in a regenerative way to support a healthier environment for humans and non-humans?

Sites : Amersfoort-Koppelbrug (NL) – Bregenz-Hard-Fussach-Höchst (AT) – Nome (NO) – Santa Pola (ES) – Barcelona-La Font del Gos (ES) – Dembeni (FR) – Polignano a Mare (IT)

1.2 / ORGANISERS

The organisers in Finland were the City of Lahti and the City of Turku together with European Suomi Finland.

1.3 / SITES



RE-SOURCING FROM SOCIAL DYNAMIC INDUCING A SECOND LIFE:

RE-IMAGINING THE SPORTS SHRINE THE SPORTS CENTRE, LAHTI

POPULATION	120 000 inhabitants
REFLECTION SITE	495 hectares
PROJECT SITE	32,5 hectares
SITE PROPOSED BY	City of Lahti
OWNERS OF THE SITE	City of Lahti

Lahti Sports Centre is an internationally renowned hub of Nordic skiing games and winter events in Finland. It is a popular year-round destination for tourism and outdoor recreation for people of all ages and the main gateway to the Salpausselkä Unesco Global Geopark. In addition, the diverse sports facilities make the site the most visited place for everyday recreation and exercise for Lahti residents.

The aim was to enhance the vibrant mix of competitive sporting events and leisure activities to bring people together, while taking advantage of the unique natural landscape, the geomorphology of Salpausselkä, the cultural history, and sport and recreation in an urban context. The projects were to consist of design and strategy in the scale of urban planning and an overall concept of landscape architecture to better integrate the built and natural environment.

Through the competition, the City of Lahti was looking for an overall plan for the area that boldly combines different functional objectives while respecting the existing values of the environment. The plans should have provided a pleasant environment for everyday activities and an ambitious image for a venue that will be seen on TV cameras around the world during major events. The focus of design was on the spaces between the buildings rather than the buildings themselves. Flexibility was expected, as the uses of existing and proposed new buildings may change during the lengthy timespan of planning and incremental implementation. As part of the task, competitors were also expected to indicate which parts of the concept to implement in a short timeframe to be ready for the Nordic World Ski Championships in Lahti in 2029.



Aerial photo of the middle part of the project site. © Sami Järvelä

RE-SOURCING FROM NATURAL ELEMENTS DEALING WITH WATER:

CELEBRATING WATER! URBAN STRIP OF WATER AND GREENERY, VÄHÄHEIKKILÄ, TURKU

POPULATION	Turku 206,000 inhabitants /Vähäheikkilä 1,100 inhabitants
REFLECTION SITE	103 hectares
PROJECT SITE	13 hectares
SITE PROPOSED BY	City of Turku
OWNERS OF THE SITE	City of Turku, private partners

In Vähäheikkilä area the City of Turku aims to improve natural stormwater management by converting a stormwater sewer into an open channel, which will also support improving pedestrian and bicycle networks, as well as the green network.

The task was to create a diverse supplementary urban plan for the entire area, including private business plots, so that the new cityscape integrates with the surrounding environment. The goal for infill housing construction was approx. 20 000 sqm GFA (about 400 residents). Additionally, a block plan was needed, with innovative and diverse housing presented on city-owned land.

As Turku is adapting to climate change, ecological solutions in urban planning are vital. Urban nature was to be qualitatively improved, with a focus on increasing biodiversity and preserving existing and creating new valuable nature areas. Also stormwater management solutions were to be incorporated, with landscape architecture playing a key role in urban planning. The competition site is a part of an important stormwater route with an extensive catchment area. The competition sought proposals on how to implement more natural measures for stormwater management while reducing the risk of flooding as climate change intensifies.

The aim was to make water an attractive and integral feature of the area. The goal for urban development was not high-density construction but rather an emphasis on the site's overall quality. In addition, projects should also have explored the theme of Re-sourcing through materiality. There are several old industrial buildings in the area and their potential re-use could be considered in the competition proposals.

1.4 / JURY

Miia-Liina Tommila, Architect (SAFA), Tommila Architects Ltd (chair)

Frédéric Chartier, Architect, ChartierDalix, France

Frank Martela, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Aalto University

Andro Mänd, City Architect, City of Tallinn, Estonia

Pekka Pakkanen, Architect (SAFA), Planetary Architecture Ltd

Sofie Pelsmakers, Prof., architect (ARB/RIBA), University of Tampere

Suvi Saastamoinen, Landscape architect (MARK), Sitowise Ltd

Competition secretary:

Kirsti Rantanen, General Secretary of European Suomi Finland, architect (SAFA)

1.5 / SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Johanna Palomäki, (LAHTI), architect (SAFA), the City Architect of Lahti

Anri Linden, (TURKU), architect (SAFA), Head of Detailed Planning of the City of Turku

1.6 / EXPERT PANELS

The entries were also evaluated by experts of the cities before the jury meetings. The experts were:

LAHTI

Niko Kyynäräinen, Mayor of Lahti

Elina Laavi, Director of Economic Development

Olli Alho, Director of Urban Development

Aleksi Nyström, Director of Sports Services

Henna Eskonsipo-Bradshaw, Director of Urban Culture

Jouni Arola, Director of Facilities

Juha Helminen, Director of Urban Planning

Armi Patrikainen, Cityscape Architect

Tuomas Helin, Planning Architect

Maria Silvast, Landscape Architect

Markku Ahokas, Sports Services Manager

Roosa Norrlin, Building Researcher

Inkeri Määttä, Events and Cultural Affairs Manager

Johanna Sääksniemi, Master Planning Architect

Marianne Ihanus, Planning Coordinator

Juhana Polojärvi, Traffic Engineer

TURKU

Netta Peippo, Architect

Päivi Siponen, Architect SAFA

Satu Tiainen, Architect SAFA

Tuuli Vesanto, Landscape Architect MARK

Anna Räisänen, Stormwater Specialist

Harry Jaakkola, Traffic Planner

Tanja Ruusuvaara-Koskinen, Environmental Protection Planner

1.7 REGISTRATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

European Finland received 56 registrations, 22 for Lahti and 34 for Turku. There was a total of 1147 registrations in European 18.

The entries were submitted digitally through the europan-europe.eu web site. Lahti received 16 entries and Turku 20. European 18 received a total of 802 entries. Of the 36 entries in Finland, 71% were submitted by Finnish teams.

1.8 TYPE OF COMMUNICATION DURING THE COMPETITION

All competition entries were displayed anonymously for public comment on European Finland's website. They were also presented at a meeting between the City and local residents. All received feedback was forwarded to the jury.



2. / Results of the Competition

2.1 THE DECISION OF THE JURY

The first meetings of the jury were held in the cities of Turku and Lahti on September 16–17, 2025. The meetings began with site visits to the competition areas. Following the visits, the jury met with site representatives and city experts. The city representatives first presented their assessments of all competition entries, after which the jury evaluated each entry individually. In accordance with the competition rules and evaluation criteria, the jury shortlisted the most promising entries (5 for Turku and 4 for Lahti).

After discussions within various working groups etc. at the Forum of Juries & Cities in Lisbon, the second jury meeting took place on October 19, 2025. Site representatives attended the meeting but did not have voting rights, should voting have been required. The jury decided to award the prizes, runners-up, and special mentions as follows:

LAHTI

Winner 12 000 €	SH014 ACTIVE TRAJECTORIES
Runner-up 6 000 €	FN316 Salppuri Spirit of Olympia in Lahti
Special mention	RM069 Hauska Tavata!

TURKU

Winner 12 000 €	RD642 Landscape as a city - city as an island
Runner-up 6 000 €	NM259 Wild vähäheikkilä
Special mentions	PU882 Bäckbo EC147 Vicus Selvaticus

2.2 AUTHORS OF THE AWARDED ENTRIES

Lahti

WINNER

SH014 ACTIVE TRAJECTORIES

Authors:

Jacopo Gennari Feslikenian (IT), landscape architect
Matteo Motti (IT), architect urbanist
Ishaani Paresh Shah (IN), landscape architect
Cao Hengxing (CN), landscape architect
Abhinand Krishnakumar Menon (IN), landscape architect

Collaborator:

Buket Turan (TR), architect

RUNNER-UP

FN316 SALPPURI - SPIRIT OF OLYMPIA IN LAHTI

Authors:

Authors
Erkko Aarti (FI), architect
Mikki Ristola (FI), architect

Collaborators:

Niina Laukia (FI), architect
Lauri Kärpänöja (FI), architect

SPECIAL MENTION

RM069 Hauska Tavata!

Authors:

André Backlund (FI), architect
Andrea Verni (CY), architect urbanist

Turku

WINNER

RD642 Landscape as a city - city as an island

Authors:

Louise Audurier (FR), urban planner
Yevheniia Likhachova (UA), architect urbanist
Philipp Steinbacher (DE), landscape architect
Oksana Chebina (UA), architect
Johan Rey (CO), architect

Collaborators:

Melissa Soh (AU), landscape architect
Prakhar Rawal (IN), environmentalist
Nithish Kini Ullal (IN), building engineer

RUNNER-UP

NM259 wild vähäheikkilä

Author:

Marc Rieser (DE), urban planner

SPECIAL MENTIONS

PU882 Bäckbo

Authors:

Tuulikki Peltomäki (FI), landscape architect
Moona Tikka (FI), urban planner
Aura Pajamo (FI), architect

EC147 Vicus Selvaticus

Authors:

Maicol Negrello (IT), landscape architect
Silvia Lanteri (IT), architect urbanist
Sara Marzio (IT), landscape architect
Sara Barera (IT), architect
Chiara Fabbri (IT), architect
Alessandro Monaldi (IT), architect
Gaia Cattaneo (IT), student in architecture
Fabrizio Accossato (IT), student in architecture
Niccolò Bellei (IT), student in architecture
Junior Perri (IT), architect
Chiara Bossù (IT), student in architecture

2.3 AFFIRMATION OF THE RESULTS

Miia-Liina Tommila

chair of the jury

Frédéric Chartier

member of jury

Frank Martela

member of jury

Andro Mänd

member of jury

Pekka Pakkanen

member of jury

Sofie Pelsmakers

member of jury

Suvi Saastamoinen

member of jury

Kirsti Rantanen

general secretary
European Finland Suomi

Johanna Palomäki

site representative,
City of Lahti

Anri Linden

site representative,
City of Turku



3. / LAHTI

3.1 GENERAL EVALUATION

The aim of the competition was to define both a design and a strategic framework for the urban development of the Lahti Sports Centre, together with an overall concept for improving the area's landscape architecture. Consequently, the competitors focused primarily on the spaces between the buildings, which occupy a significant portion of the competition site. An additional task to identify elements that could be implemented in the short term, ahead of the Nordic World Ski Championships in 2029, was included to encourage consideration of the human scale and the potential for tangible results. Overall, combining these two extremes – the large urban scale of multiple arena buildings and the small, detailed scale of visitors' experience – proved challenging within a single proposal.

Most entries focus either on the overall urban-scale master plan or on the visitors' on-site experience. Broadly speaking, two main strategies can be identified: one approach disperses a series of small-scale interventions across the area, defining zones through programmatic variation and landscape elements such as vegetation types and biotopes; the other addresses the larger structure through the strategic placement of new building volumes, or in some cases by joining existing complexes and giving them new urban interfaces, thereby creating fresh connections and spatial boundaries within the site.

Overall, there are many advantages that smaller scale interventions and soft or gradual approaches offer. They can kick-start change and rapidly shift the image of the Lahti Sports Centre, signalling transformation even when larger development measures are delayed. However, the jury recognises that the Sports Centre as a whole cannot be renewed through small-scale solutions alone: solving the broader urban structure is crucial in order to unlock the full potential of this site of international renown. The awarded entries therefore present clarity and boldness at the urban scale, daring to take the leap towards future transformation with a real impact. They address the combination of different scales more successfully than others, yet none of the proposals fully resolves the area as a coherent whole.

The proposals present a rich variety of ideas for new programmes and functions within the competition area. In general, the programmatic approach appears to have been the most productive starting point for many competitors. Several entries outline well-considered future scenarios for year-round activities, supported by descriptions of co-design processes and stakeholder engagement. Some adopt a strong service design approach, while others focus on signage and orientation in the area – both of these particularly

addressing the needs of visiting tourists. In the jury's evaluation, these approaches can be seen as supportive strategies for a successful development phase, and are helpful in bringing the solutions to the level of the users, but are unable to address the core challenges of the site.

Several factors contributed to the difficulty of the competition task. Uncertainties related to the programmes and locations of future sports facilities to be built in the area were among the most significant. The jury discussed the flexibility of the proposals in accommodating future changes and adjustments, which became a key criterion in the selection of the winners. The strongest entries were those that did not rely entirely on a single building mass in a fixed location. In addition, most competitors demonstrated only a superficial understanding of the site's topography – several site plans even lacked height information altogether. While Finland's landscapes are generally flat, Lahti is an exception: part of the site's challenge lies precisely in the subtle variations in elevation along the long stretches of open areas. The design of public spaces needs to address these level changes, even if programmatic variation and ideation may be on an exciting level.

Sustainability concepts were generally in a lesser role in the proposals. At best, some entries demonstrated interesting regenerative approaches such as introducing new greenery to the extensive asphalt-covered parking areas as well as re-using existing building structures.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The jury recommends that the proposal Active Trajectories should be adopted as the starting point for the area's further development. The concept demonstrates particular potential for future planning, establishing a clear spatial hierarchy and a coherent strategy for new programming. It is grounded in a thorough understanding of the site and Lahti's urban evolution. It connects the entire area and future development zones through two distinct active axes that form the structural backbone of the master plan.

In the further development of the proposal, attention should be given to refining the scale, visual character, and functional arrangement of the public spaces around Suurhalli. The identity and atmosphere of the Blue Main Square and the Forest Square should be clearly defined to attract developers, city stakeholders, and residents alike. The proposal also includes several concepts for smaller interventions, such as the main gate, which need further development for 2029 to help reimagine the area's future. The main north-south axis likewise holds potential for partial realisation by 2029.

The proposed Media Centre is overly large, and its size and placement should be reconsidered in the master plan in relation to surrounding public spaces and its intended functions. The dimensions of the space between the Media Centre and the Stadium should be re-examined in order to form the main public space of the area together with the Forest Square. The space requires more capacity for pedestrian flow during events. It may be worth exploring joining the Media Centre physically to the Suurhalli to avoid the formation of back alleys. Careful shadow analysis and co-design of functions together with users is required.

Some media functions, rental spaces, or small-scale business and service facilities could be integrated into a smaller pavilion on the square, serving as a welcoming gathering point. The pavilion, along with other key elements of the proposal, will play a crucial role in shaping a clear identity and a recognisable landmark for the Sports Centre. The location and scale of the Info Point should also be reconsidered, and it may be possible to integrate it within the pavilion, although the jury appreciated the new framing of the current large parking areas.

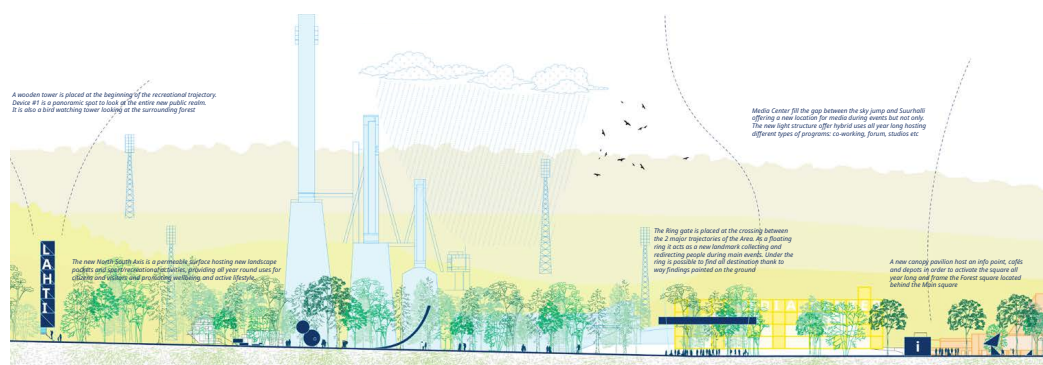
Overall, the Blue Main Square, Info Pavilion, Forest Square, and the area between Suurhalli and the Stadium should be developed jointly with the city and users to form an attractive, flexible, and functional network of green public spaces.

The proposal does not indicate a location for a new multifunctional arena. However, it could be examined whether the idea of locating the arena on the existing parking lot in front of Suurhalli – as proposed in the runner-up Salppuri Spirit of Olympia in Lahti – could be integrated into the framework of the winning entry and master plan as a potential future option.

In future planning, it should also be ensured that the parking solution provides sufficient capacity and operates effectively in its proposed location, as this is essential for the pedestrian-oriented concept to succeed. The placement or possible multiple locations of parking should be planned with pedestrian flows in mind, maximising opportunities for people to engage with the site's services and activities.

The jury believes that Active Trajectories offers a robust strategic framework capable of accommodating future studies and adjustments without losing its conceptual integrity. With its strong axial structure, the concept has the potential to create a cohesive and recognisable core for the area, even as future development progresses at different paces and directions.

The winner: Active Trajectories



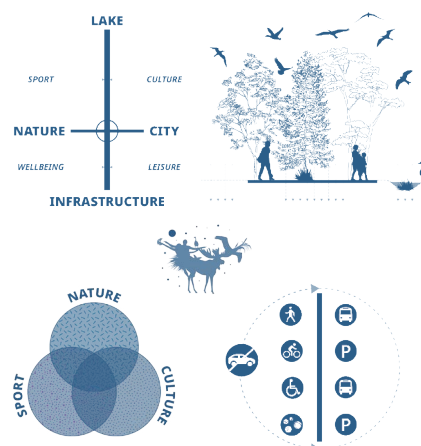
3.3 EVALUATIONS OF THE COMPETITION ENTRIES

AWARDED ENTRIES

SH014 ACTIVE TRAJECTORIES, WINNER

Active Trajectories is a balanced proposal which focuses on creating clarity and new spatial hierarchy on the competition site, adding significant new programming and use to the area. A thorough reading of the site and Lahti's evolution as a city is presented, with emphasis on understanding and researching all-year-round use in relationship with the existing events and activities in Lahti. The historical analysis is connected to a vision of future development and phasing in a convincing manner. The overall concept is rationally organised and allows for flexibility in the future planning phase. The proposal considers the entire site and identifies new functional zones along the main axis routes, adding moderate urban infills in well-chosen areas. As a result, Active Trajectories holds great potential for increasing liveliness in the Sports Centre as a whole, with new services for both visitors, tourists and everyday users of the site.

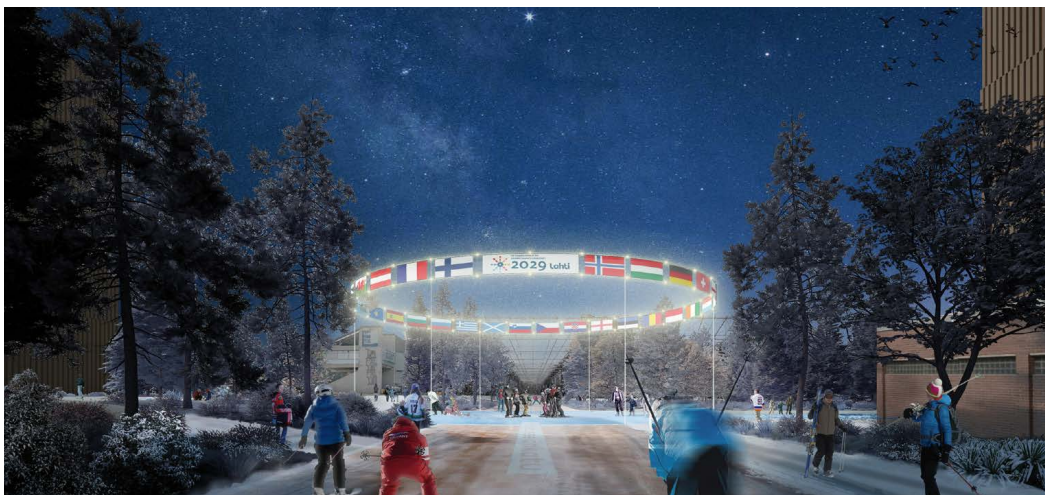
A new Media Centre is located in the Central area, and together with an Infopoint, the new structures narrow down the vast open areas between the existing buildings, providing a physical framework for a new Forest Square at the entrance zone. The large parking lot of the Suurhalli is turned into a playful square, but the detailing of the landscape design is schematic. An amphitheatre on the other side of Teivaankatu provides a place for hanging out and following activities on the square. A Media Centre in the proposed scale and placement was not seen as entirely fitting for the future development, but the planned urban structure is flexible for other uses, and the positioning of the building has potential in itself.





The Teivaankatu axis towards Lake Vesijärvi is turned into a pedestrian lane and a mixed-use district with commercial and retail programmes such as repair shops, hotel, sport equipment rental spaces and cafes is enabled through urban infills. A location for structural parking is identified in a fairly feasible place along Svinhufvudinkatu.

Active Trajectories has some ideas for the visual and architectural identity of the area, but most of them are shown in the sections. Further development of architectural ideas would have made the proposal stronger. The strength of the proposal lies in its strategic approach.



FN316 SALPPURI - SPIRIT OF OLYMPIA IN LAHTI, RUNNER-UP



Salppuri Spirit of Olympia in Lahti is a carefully investigated proposal, with well balanced solutions for the entire competition site. The proposal develops a clear architectural language with wood as the main material for the new buildings. The aim is to create coherence and a recognisable identity in the area and simultaneously promote Lahti as a pioneer in wood construction. A good understanding of scale is demonstrated throughout, with both large-scale new facilities, smaller scale infills and re-use of existing structures included in the chosen interventions. Several ambitious sustainability concepts are also proposed, and the proposal is responding to the competition task in many levels.

The Central area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium is proposed as a new plaza, with space allocated for events surrounded by differentiated zones for both lingering, play and versatile vegetation. A diagonal route leads pedestrians to the entrance area of the new Multipurpose arena. The scale of the public space is loose, on many levels.

The arena is located on the large parking lot, in direct proximity to the Suurhalli. The sports complex is tied together with an arcade and a green roof surrounding all of the extensive building volumes. The aim is to create a more open and higher quality facade towards the streets and public spaces. While the concept has clear potential to achieve this, its further development will require careful attention to detailing and scale at street level. Overall, the solutions for the key areas depend heavily on the realisation and placement of the Multipurpose Arena in its proposed location. Any delay in its development would risk stagnating progress across the entire area.



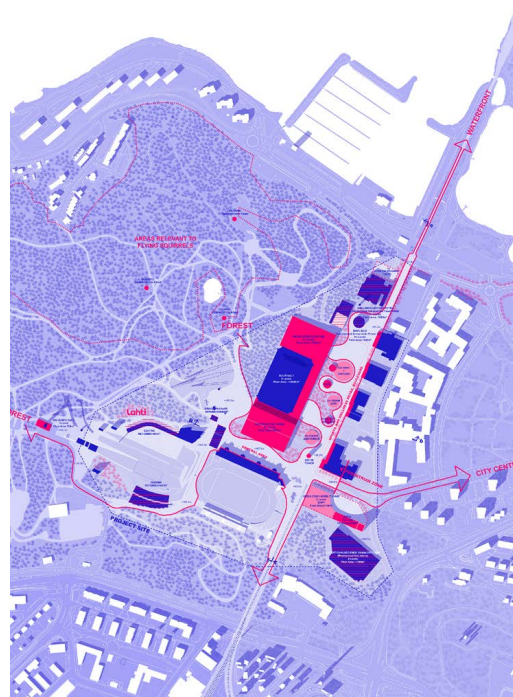
The main axis towards lake Vesijärvi is closed for car traffic, and small activity areas are imagined along the route, forming a linear park. The quarters on the Svinhufvudinkatu side are densified with two new hostel buildings and an educational facility. The chosen programs are well in tune with the locations and support the profile of the area. Teivaanmäki power plant is transformed into a centre with a hotel and a spa, and the large pool facilities and water sports placed in a new building mass. This idea is not feasible as such, but the organisation and hierarchy of the proposed programs create an interesting future vision for the power plant.

At the entrance area to the site, a hybrid parking building caters also for media use and a grocery store. In the more feasible Scenario B, the site has been identified as a possible location for the water sports centre.

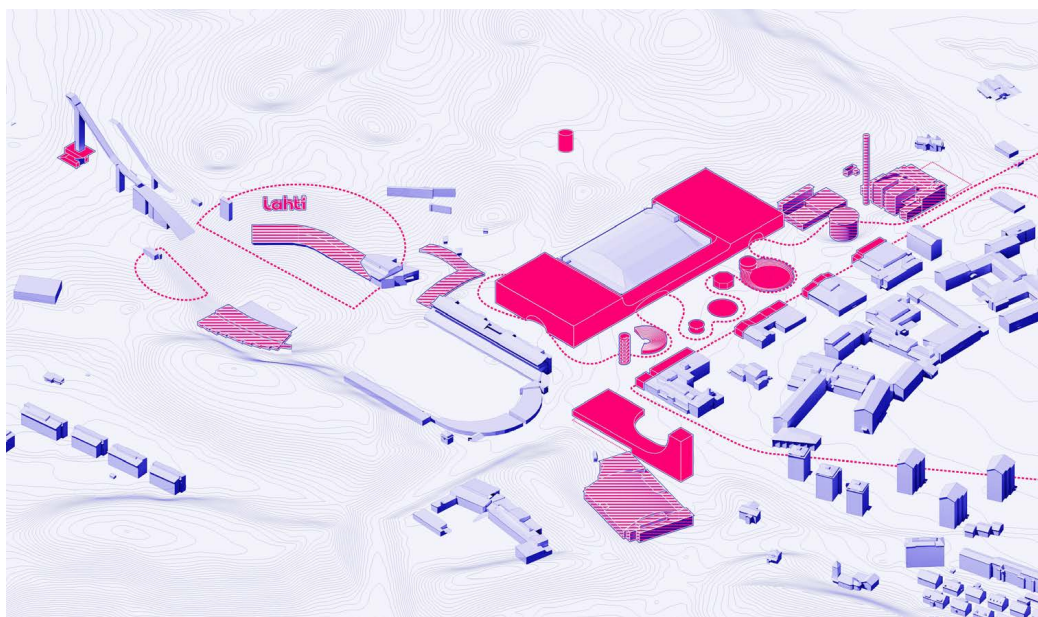
Salppuri Spirit of Olympia in Lahti approaches the large-scale complexity of the competition task by creating simple and recognisable architectural forms as a response. This strategy succeeds in densifying the area in a clear and structured manner, with well-placed functions enabling new everyday use as well as flexible event use.

RM069 HAUSKA TAVATA!, SPECIAL MENTION

Hauska Tavata lays out a thoroughly investigated and clear strategy for renewing the competition area, focusing on restructuring the hierarchy of the site and strengthening the axis towards lake Vesijärvi. The proposal is unafraid of making large scale interventions and the main emphasis is on the strategic level of spatial organisation. A key feature in the proposal is closing the site for car traffic, with both structural and surface parking at the edges of the area to enable this, and imagining new pedestrian flows as a result. The description text is one of the most convincing ones in the competition, excellently arguing for the proposed actions and approaches, backed up by an insightful reading of the current status in Lahti and an understanding of the future direction and possibilities. Phasing of the proposal is plausibly described.



The main intervention is locating a new Multipurpose arena in the Central area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium. The new building mass comprises the vast existing in-between space into an efficient public space for mingling between events. This entirely reforms the energy and flow of the Sports Centre, and also sets a clear direction towards Salpausselkä, the Ski jump pit and the skiing bridge between the buildings. The Multipurpose arena, the Suurhalli and a new Water sports arena are brought together into a large indoor sports complex, with a connecting volume joining them from outside. This creates a new facade for the existing buildings towards Teivaankatu and allows for a new layer of potentially higher architectural quality to be added. However, there are technical challenges in the feasibility of the proposal, particularly considering the location of the Water sports arena, but the main idea is flexible for adjustments in scale and programs. The surroundings of the new main complex are proposed as areas for new planted forests. Adding forest areas would strengthen the green networks in the built areas. There are many quite large scale open public spaces and their function in for example event use is left unclear.



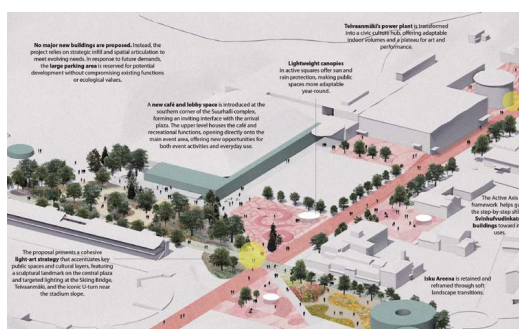
Teivaankatu is densified by extending the existing buildings on the eastern side towards the street. The narrowing down of the streetscape may create the intended new economic activity and a more intense experience for pedestrians, but the feasibility of the solution is doubtful at best from the point of view of construction and the impacts to the existing buildings. The proposed new Wellness centre use of the Teivaanmäki power plant is well in tune with overall programmatic concepts for the area, and has capacity to create the intended synergies.

The new Media centre and hotel are well placed in the overall plan, and flexible use of the spaces have been thought about. They create potential for high quality architecture and an inviting entrance to the area, although this is not indicated visually in the proposal. In general, the proposal would have been stronger if convincing detailing or architectural identity could have been shown. The schematic illustrations of the main spatial ideas leave much room for imagination.

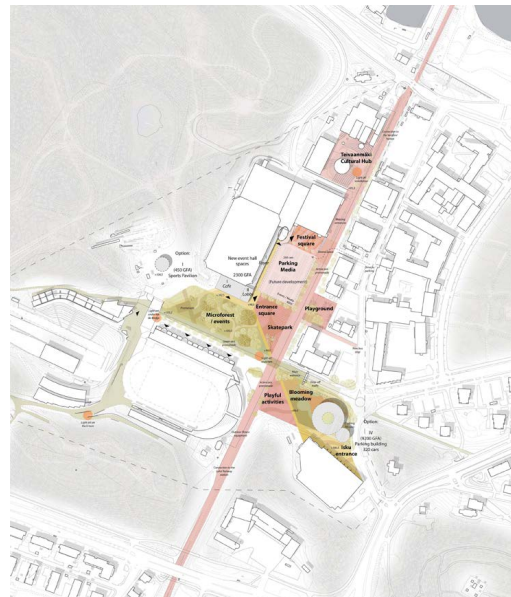
UPPER CLASS

WW617 SOFT LIGHT

For Soft Light, the main strategy for renewal is versatile landscape design, focusing on the life between buildings. The proposal imagines a rich assembly of public spaces with varied activities and green structures, and restructures the competition area in order to create more clarity in the overall use of space. The new public spaces connect with the main promenade which connects the site with lake Vesijärvi, and this creates multiple active points along the way.



The main intervention in the Central area is a new, diagonal axis linking the Suurhalli with the Isku Areena. The main entrance area to the site is located in the intersection of the diagonal and the Teivaankatu promenade axis, and the location is marked with light art sculpture. The diagonal directs the pedestrians towards a new main entrance and cafeteria building, an extension to the Suurhalli. A skate park and a canopy structure is situated on one side of the route, a flush microforest on the other. The extension structure runs along the entire facade of the old hall, connecting with Messuhalli. This allows for a new layer of potentially higher quality architecture to be added to the site, with new active facades framing the public spaces.



The Central area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium is turned into a microforest with facilities for both camp fire and market stalls. A third of the area is reserved for diagonal wood-covered access routes and the meeting of the new forest with the urban spaces seems muddled. The spatial hierarchy is unclear, as the market stalls are misplaced at the back of the park. Although the pedestrian route towards the skiing bridge could be pleasant in character, the concept of the microforest is somewhat diluted, and the forest area unsuitable for large event use.

A round parking house is located next to the Isku Areena, which leaves plenty of parking space to be re-imagined for new use. The surrounding area is turned into a blooming meadow as well as a playing ground with a canopy structure. However, the proposal also keeps the large parking area adjacent to the Suurhalli. The overall design of the central areas is therefore still dominated by very large public areas and building masses which are far away from each other. In reality, the soft approach doesn't create enough spatial dynamics to support a vibrant development of the area.

TQ197 TELEMAR

Telemark is a realistically designed proposal which focuses on creating a new, concise heart to the site, located at the Central area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium. There, a village-like building complex "Sporttihuone" has been placed, dividing the area in two pleasantly dimensioned in-between zones. Programmatically, the intervention is well argued for. Spatially, the aim is to create an alpine-like streetspace, with focus on bringing human scale amidst the vast existing facilities. The positioning of the building mass may achieve this goal on the spot, but the surroundings would have gained from critical thinking and braver design approach: the vast





parking lot adjacent to the Suurhalli is also vastly uninviting and weakens the overall solution. Likewise, the landscape design in the Central area lacks imagination.

The new building masses replacing the Teivaanmäki power plant may be well positioned, repeating the scale and rhythm of the existing housing on the opposite side of the street. However, it is hard to imagine that demolishing the power plant and replacing it with ordinary housing blocks could benefit the area in the long term, or add to its uniqueness.

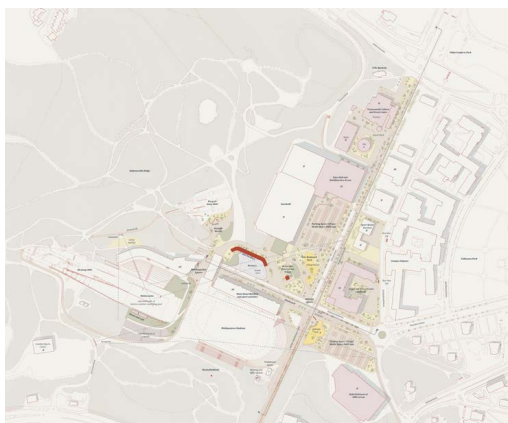
Telemark is the one proposal which illustrates a clear architectural vision for the proposed interventions: both the Multipurpose arena, the Water sports centre and the Sports hotel have a defined materiality, scale and relationship with their surroundings. The design is successful as such, but especially the Sporttshotelli seems out of place in the context of the entire competition site, and would better fit in as a housing development in a medium-sized Finnish town.

ZF220 HILL(S)

Hills is a well thought-through proposal with many successful elements on different scales and areas. It approaches the competition task through the concept of motion in several levels: physical, ecological, cultural, and historical, and seeks to create a place where all of these regenerate through movement. The design principle, rooted in circularity, is to collaborate with the site area, rather than to dominate it.



The proposal is carefully studied, with consideration to level changes and connections to existing buildings and surroundings, and overall it is clear that the team is skilled. A new sloping Hill Pavilion is proposed in the Central area, creating pleasantly dimensioned spaces in the vast area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium. The landscape architecture is varied with differentiated zones. Much effort has been put into designing a modular unit for the public square, enabling flexible configurations of use.



The proposal is beautifully illustrated, and the entire work communicates a fine-tuned and sensitive approach. However, carefulness prevails over the need to generate life and cater for growth and increased activity. The proposed pavilion is too small an intervention to create coherence in the sparse area, and the entrance to the Sports centre is still dominated by large surface parking areas along Salpausseläntäkatu and Teivaankatu. The periscopic observation tower seems misplaced and adds little to the project.

The water sports centre is not included in the proposal, which could have added to the flow of visitors to the site. In the long run, Teivaanmäki power plant is transformed into a culture and event centre, but the short term development is too small-scale and stagnated in current constraints to carry out significant development in the area.

MIDDLE CLASS

IH393 LAHTI 3D

Lahti 3D is a rather thoroughly investigated proposal, which not only proposes well-considered actions throughout the competition site but also in its immediate surroundings, showing an ambition to see the site in its larger context. The main solution in the Central area is a sloping landscape towards the Suurhalli. The Suurhalli is transformed by adding an elevated podium which connects to surrounding new buildings and also functions as a new entrance to new programs such as an orientation centre. A dense infill of hotel, youth hostel and co-working spaces is proposed on the parking lot along Teivaankatu, which adds a considerably urban quality to the entire competition area. As a whole, the proposal contains many new ideas for the site area,



adding activity through everyday use and services aimed for visitors. The proposal is however not able to solve the spaces in between the new and the existing, and the solutions also create new awkward areas adjacent to building masses. In general, the proposal lacks attractiveness and the proposed architecture seems out of context in Lahti. The proposed landscape architecture solutions are ordinary.

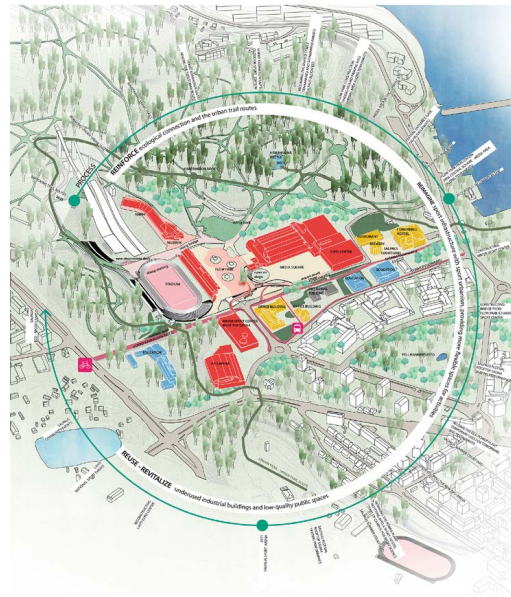
DZ349 READY SET SKI

Ready Set Ski proposes moderate urban infills and enhanced, playful public areas to the competition site. Salpausseläntäkatu is densified and activated with the addition of a landmark hotel and a water sports centre. Teivaankatu is similarly activated by adding business premises, restaurants and research facilities combined with student housing, but Teivaanmäki power plant is demolished to enable the new snake-like quarter. The Game Square is popping with colour, but the overall concept is not convincing. Modular canopies are proposed as a way to create identity and to adapt for multiple use-scenarios for the Central area. The overall design of the canopies is weak and the organisation of the large public space is schematic. Stronger spatial hierarchy and more consideration for the entrance to the area from Salpausseläntäkatu would have been needed to strengthen the proposal.



DU705 FLOW

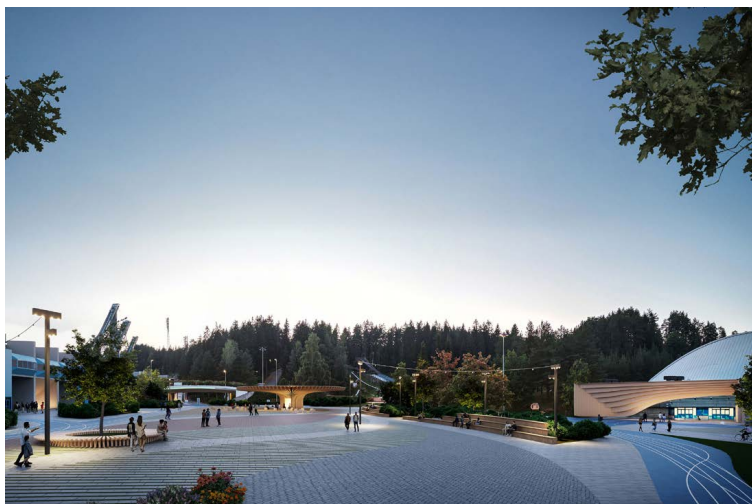
Flow introduces the concept of sport urbanism as the key approach to the competition task, with the intention to integrate physical activity and recreation into the existing urban fabric, as opposed to confining sports into isolated facilities. A rich variation of small-scale spatial proposals and strategies is assembled and categorised on the first poster; this enticing collection promises high quality and imaginative ideas for the entire proposal. The same richness is however not to be found on the overall solution, and in spite of the great starting point, Flow fails to make a difference. The Central area is covered with a landscape-like roof element, with parking below. Long ramps and bridges dominate the central areas, and the design of the roof structure is left schematic, with little clarity to how it joins the existing surroundings. Apart from the water sport centre, the proposal relies on re-use of existing buildings.



VM446 AMULETTI

Amuletti is a rather well researched proposal which considers the whole competition site and gives ideas on several levels. The proposal emphasises the ecological connections from Salpausselkä and adds considerably to the green infrastructure. The chosen strategy has however many weaknesses: adding new meadows and park areas at the Central area and along Salpausseläntäkatu, unnecessarily

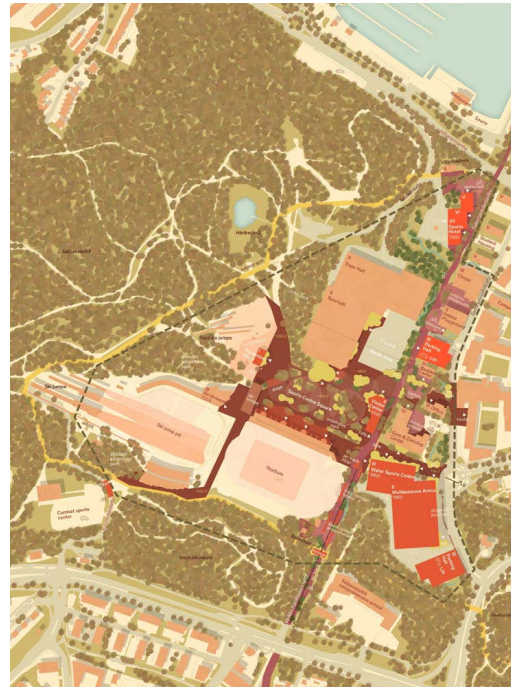
demolishing existing buildings and maintaining the large parking lot next to the Suurhalli achieves making the area less dense and more scattered, which is the opposite of what the competition is aiming for. The slightly curvy walking routes are unrealistically designed and undefined in character. The pleasant circular pavilion in the Central area isn't enough to cover for the shortcomings in the design of the public space.



EU978 LET THE CANOPIES LEAD YOU

Let the Canopies Lead You is a charming proposal which presents a solid reading of the site and its role in the larger context of revitalising Lahti. The aim is to bring the scattered area more densely together and this is proposed to be achieved by turning the competition site almost entirely to a pedestrian area and adding extensive canopies to existing buildings and public squares. New buildings are proposed alongside main routes in good locations: Teivaanmäki power plant is unnecessarily demolished and replaced with a sports hotel, a Visitor Centre is located at the arrival to the Central area, and a Water Sport Centre and Multipurpose Arena are located along Salpaanselänkatu. Parking is situated well in new parking houses at the outer perimeter of the area. A well-thought co-creation plan is presented for the different phases of the planned development.

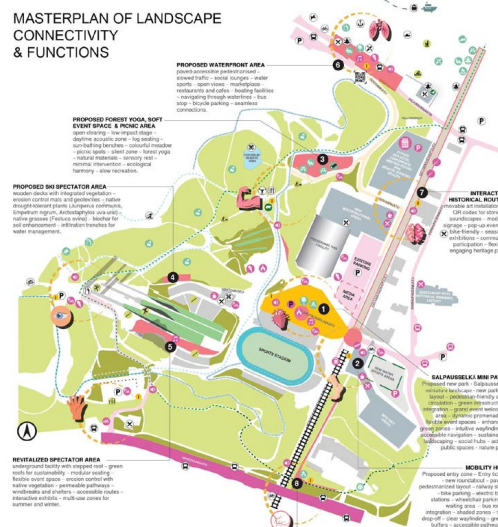
The graphical expression of the proposal is intentional but the proposal is partly difficult to read. As a whole, the strategy of the canopies is too weak to create the change which the proposal anticipates, and the Central



area plan is left schematic. Let the Canopies Lead You doesn't give many clues about the new identity of the area, or how the new structures connect with the existing urban fabric.

TA400 THE LIVING LANDSCAPES

The Living Landscapes is a rich proposal which has given much consideration to creating new activity and everyday use on the competition site. It analyses the competition task through many levels and describes the programmatic key concepts in a fun way as human organs, underlining the conceptual approach as a dynamic organism. The Living Landscapes defines new functional zones throughout the competition area through landscape branding. It proposes solutions for communicating these, even gamifying the everyday use, and thus the proposal seems to have potential for attracting new activity in the area. However, the proposal resembles more a service design concept than a plan for the area. The actual architectural and landscape architectural solutions are schematic. The Central area is one of the public spaces developed more in detail,

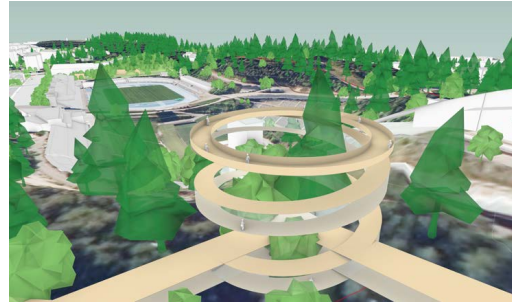


but the proposed solution allocates much space to surface parking and there are few elements that can realistically claim to create the life the proposal pitches for.

LOWER CLASS

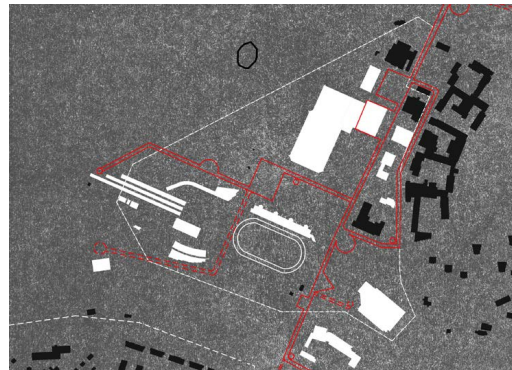
VI173 FOUR SEASONS, ONE SHARED PLAYGROUND

Four Seasons, One Shared Playground fails to present any coherent or readable solutions to the competition task. An axis is established along Salpausselänkatu, and a landscape element resembling a skate park is added in the Central area. A key feature is a kilometer-long enclosed passageway connecting the site area with Salpausselkä natural surroundings, which is in stark contrast with all the natural qualities and experiences the site has to offer to inhabitants and visitors alike. The drawings presented lack even basic level information and the imagery of the proposal is sketchy at best.



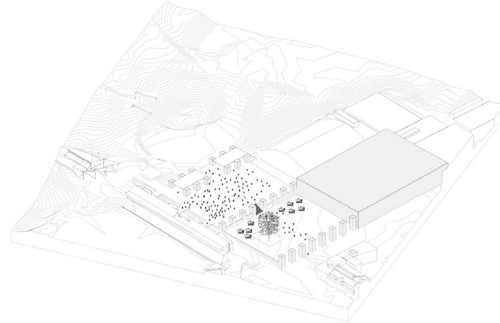
TWO47 KAUPUNKILATU

In the context of European, Kaupunkilatu seems to follow the tradition of theoretical projects, where simplified graphical style is used in order to underline a one-gesture approach to a complex situation. Kaupunkilatu proposes an elevated infrastructural takeover of the entire central district of Lahti, reaching from the competition site to lake Vesijärvi, the Market Square and the Railway station. The aim of the infrastructure is to activate daily life in Lahti through sport, and the loop is electrified through cardio bikes and rowing machines connected to the loop. As amusing as a theoretical play in this manner may be, the proposal lacks an understanding of the active quality of everyday life in Lahti as it is today, answering to a self-imposed question with a massive infrastructural approach, and failing to address the competition task.



QC243 PIAZZA CASCADE

Piazza Cascade proposes a series of piazzas in the Central area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium. The Central piazza is elevated 8 meters from the lower piazza, allowing for a cafe and a restaurant to be located along the piazza. The three large piazzas are almost entirely composed of hard surfaces, and they are void of landscape architectural solutions or sufficient public functions. Sturdy brick columns embellished with flower arrangements create spatial division, but the proposal lacks fundamental understanding of urban scale. A large multi-purpose arena is proposed adjacent to the Suurhalli, but the resolution is presented only in the site plan. Teivaanmäki power plant is demolished to allow for surface parking space, which is hard to argue for from any point of view.



IQ168 THE LEAP

The Leap proposes an elevated portico as the key solution to create a more inviting entrance to the Sports arena main area. A public park is envisioned in the central area between the Suurhalli and the Stadium. The layout of the park is largely based upon the existing layout, adding an oval pavilion at the center. Teivaankatu street is transformed to a more urban street with 2 - 4 storey building blocks with mixed use programs, demolishing the Teivaanmäki power plant. The proposal lacks enthusiasm and realistic ideas, and the scale of the proposed portico is misunderstood both in structural and architectural terms.





4. / TURKU

4.1 GENERAL EVALUATION

As Turku adapts to climate change, the Vähäheikkilä area offers an opportunity to combine urban development with ecological resilience. The competition called for solutions that integrate stormwater management, biodiversity, and landscape architecture into a coherent and high-quality urban environment. The site, forming part of a key stormwater route, presented a particularly demanding task: to accommodate both water, housing and other programmes within a long and narrow plot while maintaining ecological integrity and the varied spatial qualities already existing in Vähäheikkilä. The outset was exciting, offering a realistic framework to reimagine the city's relationship with water.

The challenge, however, proved highly complex. None of the proposals fully succeeded in balancing the requirements of stormwater management with urban development. Most approaches remained schematic or superficial and did not convincingly explore the varying scenarios of water levels or seasonal change that define the site's dynamics. Achieving the integration would have required a better understanding of the site's level changes and the behaviour of water in itself. Nevertheless, the competition offered valuable insights into how water can become an attractive feature of urban life, pointing toward new ways of designing resilient environments for Turku's future growth.

Many proposals elevated ecology and nature as a clear starting point, which was an encouraging direction. In general, the description texts offered philosophical reflections on the relationship between humans and the natural world. Clearly, the question of our culture of construction is a pressing concern for the new generation of architects, but concrete answers to how this relationship could be better managed are still lacking. A gap between the aims of the design teams and the proposed actual design were apparent in many of the entries. Few proposals took a really bold or radical stance or questioned the conventional balance between built form and landscape. If the fundamental question was how we should live with nature, the proposals offered promising starting points but no comprehensive response.

In several entries, the balance between landscape and architecture was somewhat divided: some proposals were clearly landscape-driven, while others focused more on the urban form. The understanding of topography and height levels often remained underdeveloped, limiting the spatial depth of the proposals. The competitors chose mainly to concentrate on the western part, strengthening its urban qualities, and on the central area, where new village-like clusters or denser urban structures were proposed either at one end or

extending through the middle. The north-eastern part of the site was largely overlooked, left unbuilt or treated only superficially. The varied qualities of the site and its immediate surroundings – how to build coherence in the fragmented urban fabric and connect with the existing context – were in many cases met with a single typology or a uniform solution applied across the entire area. The awarded entries demonstrated a more site-specific and nuanced understanding of the diverse conditions.

The themes of reuse of existing industrial structures and the use of sustainable materials supported the broader theme of re-sourcing. Many of the proposals had put considerable effort into ideating what could be retained and repurposed on the site, and how principles of circular economy could be embedded in the area's future development. Co-creation and even models of co-management were introduced, proposing collaborative models for how the neighbourhood could evolve over time in an inclusive and adaptive manner. Perhaps due to the many aspects of the competition, the overall level of urban and architectural identity remained modest. Still, the competition succeeded in sparking valuable discussion and demonstrated a growing awareness of ecological interdependence among the new generation of architects, landscape architects and other designers.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The jury recommends that the proposal Landscape as a City – City as an Island be used as the starting point for the development of a master plan for the whole area. The concept inverts the relationship between the urban and the natural by juxtaposing the city's rigid historic grid with the organic morphology of the Turku Archipelago. This approach allows nature to become the unifying element of the Vähäheikkilä area, with the Varsoja stream forming the green core of the neighbourhood. In doing so, the proposal succeeds in creating a rich and distinctive world of its own – qualities that should be carefully preserved in future development.

The proposal's four development areas should be further planned as individual islands, as the concept suggests. Their connections to the surrounding green areas should be strengthened while developing the overall master plan. Pedestrian and cycling networks also need to be studied further to emphasise the idea of a flowing, continuous landscape.

In the western part of the site, the building volumes need to be studied more thoroughly in order to put the proposals' promising re-sourcing concepts – including adaptive reuse of existing foundations, the use of renewable and recycled materials, and energy-efficiency, to action. The scale of the courtyards should be revised to improve access to daylight.

In the central area, further planning should focus on balancing the allocated space for dynamic stormwater management with the scale of new buildings. This includes exploring how future development could extend along Vähäheikkiläntie while safeguarding nature and space for water and maintaining the integrity of the original concept. The building in Porkanpuisto requires reconsideration together with the city, as the plot is highly constrained.

Across the competition site, the architectural language and building typologies, especially their scale and roofscapes, should be developed to achieve distinctive identities. Collaboration with the city is essential to ensure that the housing types respond to social diversity, the needs of future residents, and the character of the surrounding neighbourhood. The parking solution should be re-designed without compromising the overall concept, as the proposed approach is not feasible in its current form.

The jury believes that the winning proposal presents a strong concept capable of withstanding further studies and modifications without compromising its core values. It provides a strong foundation for the area's future planning and has the potential to evolve into a functioning, exemplary, and genuinely nature- and water-positive neighbourhood for Turku.

The winner: Landscape as a city - city as an island



4.2 PROPOSALS

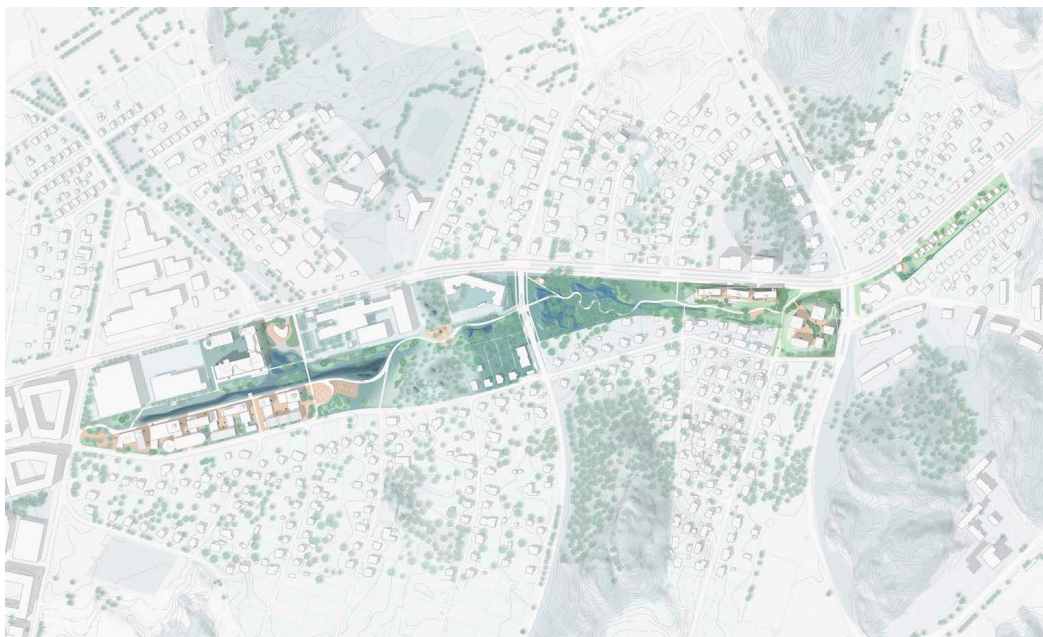
AWARDED ENTRIES

RD642 LANDSCAPE AS A CITY - CITY AS AN ISLAND, WINNER

Landscape as a city - City as an island presents an interesting reading of the urban development and the natural landscapes and biotopes of Turku. It juxtaposes the rigid historic grid of the city with the morphology of the famous Turku Archipelago. From the meeting of these two, the proposal takes a starting point for a concept which inverts the relationship of the urban and the natural. The result is an inventive urban structure where built islands meet the natural landscape which acts as a connector. The proposal has succeeded in creating a rich and unique world of its own.

New buildings are concentrated in two main areas: at the old industrial site in the west and in two clusters near Vähäheikkiläntie and Porkanpuisto. Housing typologies vary from townhouses to point blocks and lamellas. Other programmes are introduced to re-purposed office buildings and new buildings located in the more urban and mixed-use area in the west. In general, the proposed buildings' dimensioning and especially their width seem somewhat under-dimensioned. Landscape as a city - City as an island leaves much of the competition site unbuilt compared to other proposals. As a whole, the solution is indeed like an archipelago in itself, floating freely.

Nature is the uniting element in the entire Vähäheikkilä area, and an open Varsoja stream becomes a green core for the neighbourhood. Landscape architecture is flowy and offers several ways for experiencing the water and the surrounding greenery. There could be more detailing and variation in the layouts. The stormwater concepts are promising, even though some of the basins and open streams can be refined to be placed better according to the area elevations.

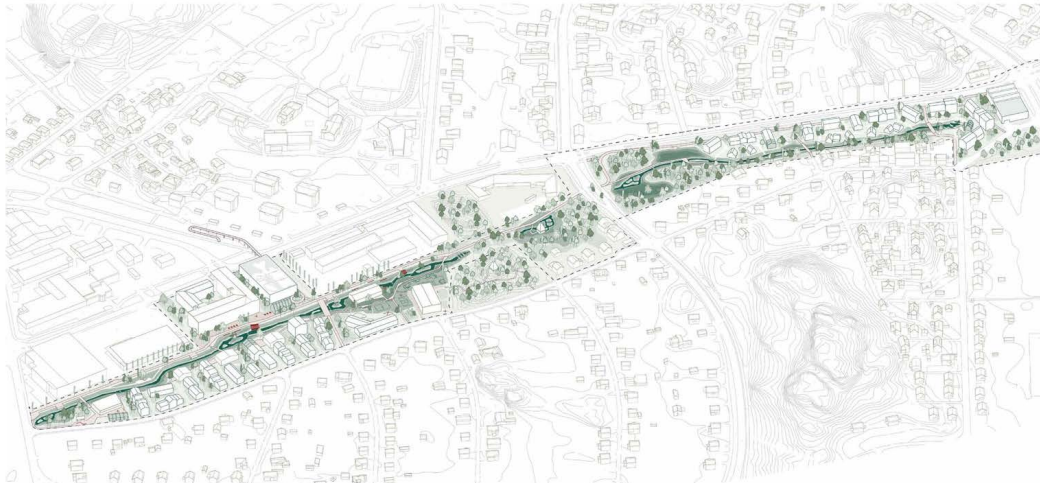


The old industrial area is a rich mixture of hybrid blocks and well proportioned public spaces. With the creative courtyards, the area could be an interesting site for pedestrians, with new services and versatile new architecture around every corner. The competitors have not seen much potential in the existing buildings on the site, but they could be integrated in the overall design. The pedestrian route is clear and connects the area well together, however biking routes are not shown in the plans.

[illegible]

NM259 WILD VÄHÄHEIKKILÄ, RUNNER-UP

Wild Vähäheikkilä focuses on nature as a part of the design process, giving nature itself an agency in the process. The project presents an interesting in-depth reflection of natural processes as a choice towards uncertainty: where nature is the leading character of design, edges are soft and space remains in flux - incomplete, open, alive. The core concept references Japanese kintsugi, proposing nature as the connecting golden seam in the fractured urban fabric. This approach claims to work out of the existing conditions instead of imposing a new grid on the site, which results in a flowy and somewhat restless urban layout.



The overall scale of the proposal is balanced in relation to the surrounding small-scale context and generally fits the area well, even though it is among the densest entries. This density inevitably reduces the amount of space available for nature compared with what is described in the written materials, creating a gap between the stated aims and the design outcome. Nevertheless, the proposal demonstrates a high level of sustainability in both its architectural and landscape solutions. It reads as deliberate, cohesive and realistic.

The small scale approach allows for pleasant urban spaces to emerge between buildings. An extension to the Figura building works well and improves the cohesion along the street. Some re-purposed buildings are kept and new blocks are added on the old industrial area, and the public programs create a central and active area here. The second larger built structure is located along Vähäheikkiläkatu. The area around Porkanpuisto is left free of buildings, although water would not realistically rise to the level presented in the proposal.

Landscape architecture is interesting and inviting especially in the western part of the site. Ecological and sustainable themes are communicated well, as well as the project as a whole. The new pedestrian and bike route through the area is clear and flows easily. The wooden boardwalk structure along the open stream is out of proportion and would be difficult to manage and maintain, but could work in smaller sections. The proposal strengthens green networks quite well, although it loses touch with an important north-south green corridor in the middle of the site by the placement of the mobility hub.



Concentrating parking into parking buildings is foreign to Vähäheikkilä. The eastern mobility hub stands out as too massive for the scale of the rest of the area, and even in a future where parking would become obsolete, the buildings' scale is problematic for future use. Also some of the solutions to the Vähäheikkiläntie seem out of scale; the green noise barrier doesn't fit in the urban streetscape and the new pedestrian bridge is unnecessary.

Stormwater solutions are mostly proposed in realistic places with a few exceptions where space allocated for the stream seems too tight and the area's elevations haven't been taken into consideration well enough. However, the proposal presents many diverse and successful ways to utilize the water element throughout the site. Wild Vähäheikkilä recognises that to achieve long term resilience, plans need to be adjustable and be grown 'naturally'.

PU882 BÄCKBO, SPECIAL MENTION

Bäckbo is a carefully studied proposal with a place-sensitive approach to the competition task. It takes the layered history of the area as a starting point and builds on the existing qualities of the Vähäheikkilä area in a structured yet flexible manner, aiming to bring people together and building a community. In the larger urban scale, Bäckbo succeeds in identifying and creating three new main areas with different programmatic profiles and subtle architectural typologies along the long competition site. These areas reflect the surrounding landscape, the scale of surrounding buildings and the existing functions. The result knits together the scattered urban fabric with infills and well-placed and well-proportioned public spaces. A stormwater park continues throughout the whole area and water becomes a backdrop for social interaction and different types of experiences.



The programmatic layout is convincing, placing a mixture of housing, working spaces and services, such as restaurants, pubs and shops, as well as a public sauna on the more urban western area of the site, housing along the natural landscape gardens in the middle, and an intergenerational quarter at the eastern-most area. A community facility, the Bäckbo house, is located centrally in the urban area and could strengthen



the sense of community in Vähäheikkilä. However, the parking lot of the community house by Vähäheikkiläntie maintains a loose suburban typology along the road, and also misses the opportunity to continue the green axis from north across the site. In general the parking solutions are surface-parking only and thus quite conventional, keeping with the car-dominated suburban feeling of Vähäheikkilä. The scale of the housing is successful, and the adaptable housing ideas are promising. They represent the most innovative part of Bäckbo. Focus has also been given to user-centred design and ideation of local circular economy in practice. The descriptions of stakeholder participation can also be seen as a part of this approach to sustainable living.

Landscape design varies from the urban and built areas in the west to more naturally formed and meandering areas towards east, which add diversity and biological richness to the site and leave room for growth. A good quality of life is one of the key objectives of the proposal, and this takes the form of allotment gardens and plentiful backyards connected to housing, among other things. Stormwater solutions seem realistic but the proposal could have left more space for nature and especially water. In this regard, there is a gap between the overall design and description texts, and in general the proposal is rather highly developed than natural. However, the area as a whole connects well to the surrounding green networks. Porkanpuisto Park is left in an unimaginative state. The route network is well studied and realistic.

Architecture-wise the rather charming small sketches may communicate emerging architectural ideas and identity, but would need further development. As a whole, Bäckbo could have potential for future development.

EC147 VICUS SELVATICUS, SPECIAL MENTION

Vicus Selvaticus transforms Vähäheikkilä into a contemporary village, with one of the most dense urban layouts in the competition. The proposal has a charming character, mixing dense urban block structures with plentiful greenery and gardens. A regenerative approach sets the tone for the solutions. The architecture is clear and colourful, and the proposal succeeds in creating a distinctive and fresh identity for Vähäheikkilä. Connections to surrounding ecological networks are a key feature and they are



presented in ample detail. As a whole, Vicus Selvaticus creates a cohesive and detailed layout and the main ideas are easy to comprehend. Landscape architecture has a good scale and the public squares are well proportioned. A clear pedestrian and bike connection flows through the area and especially biking routes are well thought of.

The new built areas are proposed at two locations: around the old industrial area and along Vähäheikkiläntie in the middle of the competition site. Porkanpuisto is re-imagined as a large water basin, but no detailed explanation for this solution is provided. The industrial area is developed with the existing buildings as a starting point. The re-sourcing ideas for the buildings are on a good level in comparison to the competition as a whole, and different seasonal scenarios for adaptive reuse are also presented. However, the concepts would have needed more explanation to be understood properly, even with the more in depth description document.

The townhouse-like housing along Vähäheikkiläntie is at the core of the project's village-like imagery. A small-scale facade rhythm breaks the blocks into smaller units. However, the floor plans are somewhat unclear, and some of the choices in the master plan seem to result in non-functional, deep apartments with windows in one direction only. A careful re-organising would be needed to develop the proposal further in a more realistic direction. The surface parking creates quite large, unpleasant parking areas, even with the productive solar canopies. Moreover, the allocated space for the stormwater stream is too tight, and the buildings come too close to the stream.

Water is embraced and made visible; it is managed through nature-based solutions that regenerate soils, support biodiversity and build climate resilience, with focus on the co-existence of humans and nature. Some species in the ecological concepts seem foreign to the area's nature, but the concepts are convincing as such. Even though the stormwater solutions are well presented, some of the placing of the retention ponds is unrealistic due to the elevations of the site.

As a whole, there is some disconnection between what the project aims for and what it has delivered in design. The sites are rather overdeveloped and if realised, the area would feel less green and natural, as the development takes away a lot of habitat and other green spaces.

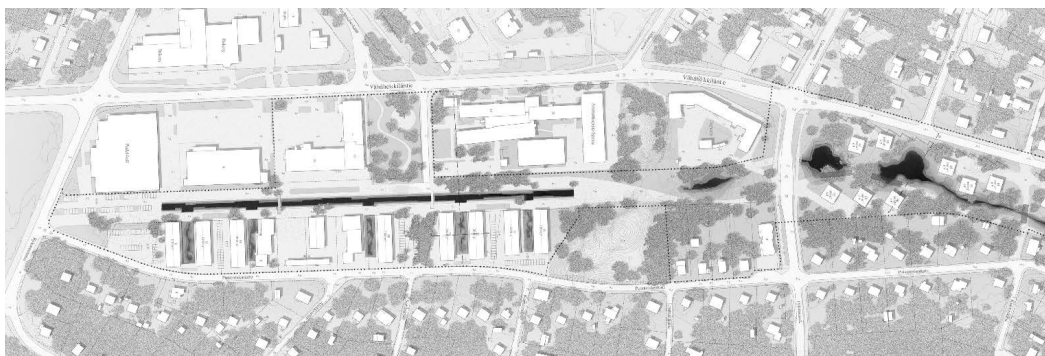


UPPER CLASS

KK907 KORPILAHDENPURO

Korpilahdenpuro is a simple and poetic proposal that places strong emphasis on the natural stream and a dispersed pattern of housing between Uttamontie and Ispoisten Puistotie. The former industrial area is addressed through a more structural approach, combining linear building typologies with a defined water channel and flooding gardens between the buildings. The proposal draws inspiration from the site's history and the ideals of the garden city, and directs the observer's gaze to lush and diverse vegetation.

The concept of small-scale apartment blocks scattered on tilts among gentle slopes and natural wetlands is both bold and contextually fitting. The approach appears convincing in the plan layouts and perspective views, but its weaknesses become more evident in the aerial composition, which reveals the tight relationship of the public and private as well as the built and the flooding stream. In general, the public spaces lack detail. The approach to the industrial area from the west is dedicated to large parking fields, which isn't a good starting point for the development. Despite being clearly unfinished, the proposal possesses a quiet strength in its austerity and simplicity, and the indicated architectural ideas are promising.



ZL288 VÄHÄHEIKKILÄN KANAVA

Vähäheikkilän kanava is a bold and uncompromising proposal distinguished by its unique and distinctive character. It introduces a new water channel along Vähäheikkiläntie, accompanied by floodable wetland areas. In this proposal, the new channel extends all the way towards Aurajoki and the sea. A single, long mixed-use residential building defines the main urban gesture, proposing an entirely new housing typology for the area.



The proposal is a collection of out-of-the-box ideas and it takes a strong stand on the theme of climate change and its effects. While the concept is visionary, it also proves technically and spatially highly unrealistic when considering the actual water volumes, elevation differences, traffic arrangements, and stormwater

systems. It does not convincingly take into consideration the existing urban fabric of Vähäheikkilä in scale or architectural language, yet it succeeds in provoking thought and challenging conventional assumptions about the future relationship between the city and water.

IC090 VERDE

Verde proposes to weave a new urban fabric that connects the area's various urban scales into a cohesive whole. The concept succeeds in emphasising stormwater as a positive and joyful element, bringing both ecological and experiential value to the neighbourhood. A lush green corridor flows through the site, with distinctive urban spaces at both ends and along its route, thus creating a clear sense of beginning and end. New building zones are positioned evenly along this green structure, offering a variety of typologies and scales.



Sustainability is comprehensively addressed, and the proposal integrates quite well with the surrounding green network, though the connections around Ispoisten Puistotie could be further strengthened. While water is successfully highlighted as a central theme, some of the proposed stormwater basins and open channels appear unrealistic given the site's elevation differences, and their dimensions and technical feasibility would require further refinement. Too little space for water is provided in the denser middle section of the site.



The main pedestrian and cycling route is clearly defined and provides a fluent

movement through the area. However, some inconsistencies between drawings and visualisations, such as missing key routes, reduce overall clarity and public spaces would have benefitted from further detailing. The proposed building scale feels appropriate, and there is an indication of a colourful and versatile architectural expression suitable for Vähäheikkilä. The total floor area for housing remains below the required minimum defined in the brief.

KD124 LE FIL ROUGE

Le Fil Rouge presents a coherent and well-articulated concept that extends convincingly across the entire competition area. The proposal centres on water as the main structural and experiential element of the area, introducing a wooden pier-like structure that serves as the central pedestrian route, zigzagging across the stream. Housing is arranged along Vähäheikkiläntie, forming a noise barrier, while the blocks open nicely toward the park. Parts of the former industrial area buildings are preserved, creating an interesting block composition of new buildings, historic structures, and public spaces in the western section. Connections to the commercial area across the stream are resolved with the pier.

The scale of housing feels appropriate, and the range of typologies is well considered, although some buildings could benefit from a slightly reduced height. The proposed architecture is quite varied and the overall urban character is pleasant. The visualisations are clear and expressive, effectively communicating the concept.

Stormwater management is addressed in a way that gives the design ecological depth and identity, though several of

the proposed open channels appear unrealistic in relation to the site's topography and adjacent housing. The green network is well integrated, forming an ecological corridor through the site, and the pedestrian and cycling routes flow well through the area. However, the main pier structure appears oversized for the area and would require extensive engineering and management, conflicting somewhat with the ecological and sustainability ambitions of the overall design.



PZ783 LINTUKOTO

Lintukoto seeks to bring people and nature into closer harmony, celebrating water as a central element and creating a sense of sanctuary within the city. The proposal embraces the principles of re-sourcing and ecological design throughout its architecture, landscape solutions, and material choices. It presents a bold and forward-looking ecological approach that aligns well with the aims of the brief and feels refreshingly innovative.

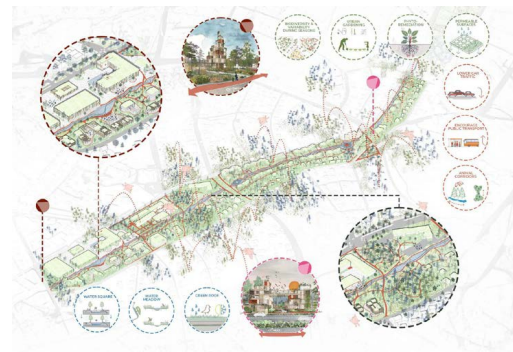
The modular housing typologies and the scale of the building blocks are better suited to the western area of the site, and seem somewhat out of place in the



middle section and northern most part of the site. The total floor area for housing remains below the required minimum. The relationship to the existing detached

housing could have been integrated in a more balanced manner. The block structure as such forms attractive in-between spaces that allow room for ecology. Areas reserved for maintenance and service access would benefit from further development. The visual presentation is rich and complements the concept, even if it is somewhat hard to read and there are inconsistencies between drawings and renderings - the number of storeys and scale of building masses, for example, differ between the layouts and visualisations. The site plans are left on a diagrammatic level.

The landscape architecture suggests a diverse and lush green environment flowing naturally through the area.



While the overall composition is strong, several of the proposed stormwater elements appear unrealistically placed or dimensioned, and would require further refinement. The central section of the site, in particular, feels constrained in relation to both water management and the proximity of neighbouring private housing.

MIDDLE CLASS

CT911 UOMA

The proposal is appropriately scaled, with its main strengths found in the landscape solutions on which the overall concept is based. Water forms the core of the proposal's diverse green corridor, which contributes positively to both ecological and social values. However, the new housing areas lack distinct character and appear too uniform, resulting in an unstructured layout. The character of the industrial zone is preserved and the layout is well designed. Stormwater basins are mostly positioned in realistic locations, although some are placed uncomfortably close to existing detached housing. The area around the service station lacks a coherent spatial structure, as the housing feels unsettled and the green corridor is interrupted. The proposed noise barrier along Vähäheikkiläntie appears structurally unrealistic and risks creating stormwater issues for the adjacent housing. It creates an unpleasant streetscape, disconnecting the site from its surroundings.



EB663 RE-FLOW

The proposal stands out as bold and distinctive among the entries. However, its scale and architectural expression largely disregard the existing character of the Vähäheikkilä area. Some of the building masses are located too close to existing housing. While the proposed typologies are interesting in themselves, and studies of repurposing the old industrial buildings show promise, the overall composition feels foreign to its context. The landscape is heavily built and contributes little to the ecological or sustainability themes of the brief, while the volume and placement of the stormwater basins and channels appear technically unrealistic.



EN101 THE MODERN FOUNDRY

The concept is centred around the industrial area and draws inspiration from historic ironworks. Unfortunately this idea is not convincingly reflected in the proposed typologies of the proposal. The overall scale of the development is appropriate, but the layout along Vähäheikkiläntie fails to create engaging public spaces, even though the architecture itself appears appealing in the visualisations. The placement of stormwater features is unrealistic as elevations of the existing ground levels have not been taken into consideration. The community garden is positioned too close to the traffic area, diminishing its potential as a pleasant recreational space. The proposed pier creates an interesting route, but its scale is excessive for the context.



KY272 ME THE RIVER

The idea of a water-positive neighbourhood is intriguing and answers well to the brief. The overall scale of the housing areas is appropriate, but the building typologies and their placement appear somewhat rigid. The layout succeeds in forming a partial noise barrier towards the main road in the middle section, and the composition of the industrial area is good. The positioning of stormwater elements is unrealistic, as an



open stream would not be feasible across such significant elevation differences. Public spaces are distributed along the stream and appear well-proportioned and varied. As water is the central theme of the concept, the stormwater solutions could be more thoroughly studied and visually emphasised. Overall, the design conveys interesting intentions but remains sketchy and unfinished in its presentation.

NK499 JOUTOVIRTA

A promising proposal in which the concept is built around the theme of re-sourcing. The stormwater solutions are carefully presented and appear realistic, while the landscape design is well executed and the public spaces are appropriately scaled. However, parking areas occupy an excessive portion of the site. This is one of the few proposals that introduces shared-space solutions along Uittamontie, which is a commendable approach. The proposal remains somewhat sketchy in parts, and the housing concepts would benefit from further development. Development of the small business area is explored quite skillfully but the other housing typologies and their placement feel weaker in terms of urban character. The smaller housing blocks are positioned too close to Vähäheikkiläntie, and noise issues haven't been taken into consideration.



NP458 SOLINA

This proposal is built around a strong landscape-oriented concept that leaves much of the green area undeveloped, forming a biodiverse landscape park. Most of the stormwater solutions appear realistic, although some overlook the site's elevation differences. Housing is concentrated near the corner of the former service station, which is a sound idea that allows for the restoration of a significant portion of the green area. However, the housing typologies and overall design feel sketchy and would benefit from further study. Both landscape design and the architectural expression lack distinct character and would need more visualisation to have an impact and to communicate their potential more convincingly.



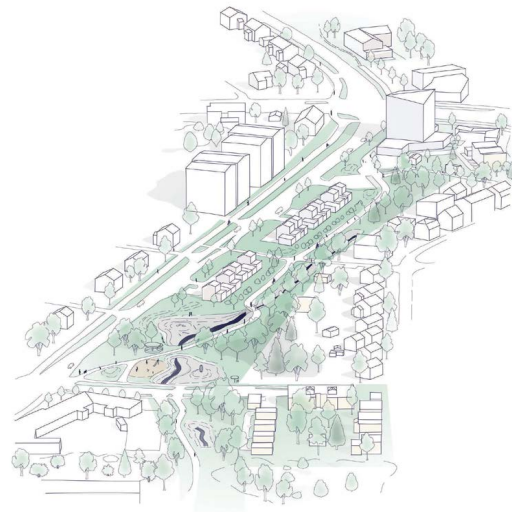
PE888 DRIP DRIP HOORAY

The concept focuses on the themes of community and water. The stormwater solutions are generally well considered, though the main channel appears too narrow and some of the basins are positioned at unrealistically high elevations. The scale of the development is overall appropriate and works especially well within the former industrial area, but the housing blocks along Vähäheikkiläntie feel monotonous and rigid, and there is little variation of typologies. The landscape design is diverse and incorporates several interesting functional and ecological ideas. Overall, the proposal shows potential but appears sketchy and unfinished in parts.



TX157 FLUXUS

The proposal connects the site very well with its surroundings and considers the area as part of broader ecological and urban networks, which is an excellent starting point for development. The thematic division of the design area is well considered and provides a solid foundation for the concept. Stormwater solutions have been well placed and appear realistic, effectively reinforcing the green network, though the landscape design would benefit from greater detail and refinement. The building masses are somewhat scattered and use the area inefficiently, and the eastern housing block feels oversized in scale. Housing typologies are not thoroughly explored, and the overall architectural solutions remain sketchy.



UA300 RE HYDRATION

The concept of organising the buildings around the water stream fits both the brief and the character of the area well. The proposed housing is scattered around the area somewhat randomly, and the intended typological logic remains unclear. The land use of the central section is rather inefficient – an impression that becomes more apparent in the aerial views. The former industrial area is more carefully proportioned and demonstrates a more convincing scale. Stormwater solutions are well studied in detail, with some bold structural ideas showing potential, but overall the placing of the open stream and the treatment of elevation differences are unrealistic for the site. Green connections through the area have been well presented.



LOWER CLASS

PK142 RE WILD

The proposal demonstrates a strong focus on network analysis, which is clearly and convincingly presented. The overall design remains rather plain and the plans read as very diagrammatic. Housing typologies haven't been studied and the landscape architecture lacks both character and detail. While the stormwater solutions are generally well positioned, the angular and heavily built structures appear somewhat unnatural within the context of the area.



XB221 TURKU STORMWATER PARK

The proposal places strong emphasis on landscape solutions and presents a diverse ecological concept for the area. However, the placement and character of the housing blocks lack skill and coherence, resulting in inefficient use of space in several parts of the site. The scheme does not propose the preservation of existing small scale industrial buildings, nor does it provide an explanation for their omission.





Active Trajectories: The winner /LAHTI

Landscape as a city - city as an island: The winner /TURKU

