AN UBRAN ARCHIPELAGO

Amit Rivlin, Ariley Dias, Gosia Zych, Lara Avram
The oldest city of Finland: seven hills emerging from the sea
The park of Vartiovuori ("Guard Hill") is one of the oldest and most scenically admired parks in Finland. For over a hundred years it has had an important role during student Vappu celebrations, with students gathering on the hill to have picnics on Vappu day. The park is a popular place for picnics and games, and it's especially popular amongst young families with children. In addition, situated on the hill is a traditional summer theatre.

The hill was one of the first islands rising from the sea in the Turku area. Historically, its name originated from its role as a guard post. Along the passageways of Vartiokuja and Teinikuja, which lead up to the top of the hill, you can see.

Nowadays the park of Samppalinna is renowned for its vantage point, its romantic restaurant and for its outdoor swimming pool. The area also has a deep historical significance, revealed in some of the place names. The stairs leading up are called Mustainveljesten portaat ("Stairs of the Dark Brothers"), so named after the dark clothing worn by the Dominican Monks. The Dominicans came to Turku in the 13th Century, founding the Monastery of St Olaf in 1249.

Stairs connect the park oasis of Samppalinna to the traditional pub culture found along Kaskenkatu Street. From the top of the stairs you can admire the beautiful view toward the city.
THE CITY AS AN ARCHIPELAGO
THE CITY AS AN ARCHIPELAGO
Mind map created with our first thoughts on how to establish convergences between the Archipelago and the center of Turku.

Core three aspects of the contextual analysis included the Landscape, Nature, and Water, followed by significant elements observed during the site visit.
Who are we planning for, the city of Turku or the (future) inhabitants of our site? Thinking about the site as a coherent, self-sustainable neighborhood shouldn’t contradict thinking about the city as a whole.

The Island / Archipelago metaphor allows us to take in mind two sets of needs in our design and to apply a systematic, almost fractal approach to planning, in which every cell is an integral part of a bigger system.
• Public property and management
• Hard infrastructure: topography, water, etc.
• A landscape that can accommodate change

ARCHIPELAGO THINKING

ISLAND THINKING

• Flexible approach to zoning and land use
• Developed by private actors and free market
• A mixture of residential, commercial and non-commercial

A new Landmark

Mixed land use

Stronger urban core

Connection to the sea

A new Landmark

Transport hub

Commercial \ Workplaces

Residential + Commercial at street level

Education
FROM 2D ZONING TO 3D LANDSCAPING
Planning for multiple scales, users and levels should be confined by 2D maps looking top-down. Thinking in the Island / Archipelago approach means acknowledging both the stable and the flexible, both the hardware from the software, both the permanent and the temporary.

Differentiating between the ground level and the higher levels allows us to dedicate the land, the street and the landscape to the broader public, while allowing the community and private actors the freedom to change and grow according to their needs further higher.
Our site is situated in a critical point on the city map, on the seam between the walkable urban texture of the city center and the car-oriented suburbs to its west. Future development of the harbor would mean more cars arriving at Turku, more traffic and more pollution.

We propose to utilize our island as a transport hub for car riders and a transition point from car-dependent mobility to more sustainable transportation means. An underground parking facility would allow car riders to leave their cars outside the city center and to use the future tram line, the multiple bus stops, a bike-renting service or simply walk to the close-by areas of the harbor, the castle, the Kakola prison, the river, and the city center.
UBRAN PLANNING PRINCIPLES
DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Map of rental prices

This map shows the rental prices of housing in Turku based on ads published on Vuokraovi.com.

The most expensive domiciles are located in central and suburban areas.

The southeast area contains the cheapest ones. Most of its districts have a large immigrant population.

Map of Immigrant Distribution

The districts in Turku with more than 10% of the immigrant population in 2010 are surrounding the central area.

More than 20% of the population in Varissuo, Lausten, and Helinen (all of them are located in the southeast area) are immigrants.

Vaasanpuisto area belongs to Iso-Heikkilä district, in black on the map.
The scheme is developed based on existing and future boundaries and points of connectivity, which makes it evolutionary and adaptable to planned and unplanned growth.
The strategy establishes the network of primary movement connections as well as the principles for creating the secondary and tertiary movement networks. Moreover, it enhances the deep, historical industrial identity of the place, by repurposing the existing buildings.
The proposal is based on a simple and clear concept, easily understandable to investors and city stakeholders, including businesses, institutions and citizens.
The proposal will harness the energy of people, through their movement patterns and socio-economic interactions, to drive the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the city.
The scheme includes blue (water) and green (landscape) ecologies and enhances the natural processes to create unique, individual places. Some areas of the scheme become floodable, creating an engaging, interactive and seasonally adaptive urban environment.
The existing buildings will be retrofitted and reused as public buildings, such as an events venue, concert hall or community centre. The more temporary and seasonal nature of initial uses will become established with time to account for people’s needs and preferences. The existing trees will stay creating a more informal green space for temporary outdoors exhibitions and events.
The establishment of a public hub increases the footfall and attractiveness of the site for further development, especially from the private sector. The affordable residential blocks with an active commercial ground floor, form the northern border of the site, enhancing the streetscape, whilst also creating a noise buffer to the back south-facing terraces.
The employment hub develops to account for the incoming people moving to the area and the need for jobs. This marks a new transport connectivity point at city scale, whilst increasing the footfall of the scheme with 24hr uses. The southern fringe phase creates a noise and vibration buffer from the large street and railway.
A taller new residential block and a more refined landscaping strategy takes shape as more contaminated ground is dislocated.
The final phase sees the rise of the lookout hill 'island' in the South-East corner, creating a new landmark in the larger urban landscape. The submerged building will consist of community and public uses, such as a new community hall, an events venue or a library.
SCENARIO-BASED

- A lookout deck
- An interactive topography
- Natural water features
- Submerged buildings
- Covered outside area
- Terraced residential
- Urban wetland
- Post-industrial reuse
CONCEPTUAL SKETCHES
Natural terrain levels, as well as proposed elevation diversity, create a fluent direction for the water flow towards its lowest point in the eastern part.

Despite incorporating sustainable recycling and storage water system, water remains important also as a landscape element in the site - the pond, brooks, and waterfalls.
As in a reference by Renzo Piano's Cultural Centre project in Athens, a building designed as a part of an accessible landscape provides a fluid connection to the surroundings.

Highest point as a viewpoint opens the building to the horizon giving a new perspective for the visitor in the site.
During the process of landscape design, we felt the urge to allow the visitor to feel the connection with the Archipelago.

The highest point in the site provides a view range of 50km at a clear day and 3.5 - 9 km on a cloudy or rainy (snowy) day.

The map visualizes connectivity with the cities landmarks and the seascape.
WANDERER ABOVE THE ARCHIPELAGO OF FOG