



RELATIONSHIP OF NATURE AND LIVING

The vicinity of sea and abundance of natural and cultural landscapes are clear assets of Greater Helsinki. Good utilisation of that asset warrants a regional landscape strategy. This strategy should be a pro-active and positive planning approach, parallel and equal in importance with the regional strategy of networked and mixed urbanity.

Newly conceptualised and programmed urban green space is a frequently occurring theme in the entries and it should be studied more precisely at all scales. The fractal boundary between the built and the non-built is a source of added value and to develop interesting local solutions.



3. RELATIONSHIP OF NATURE AND LIVING

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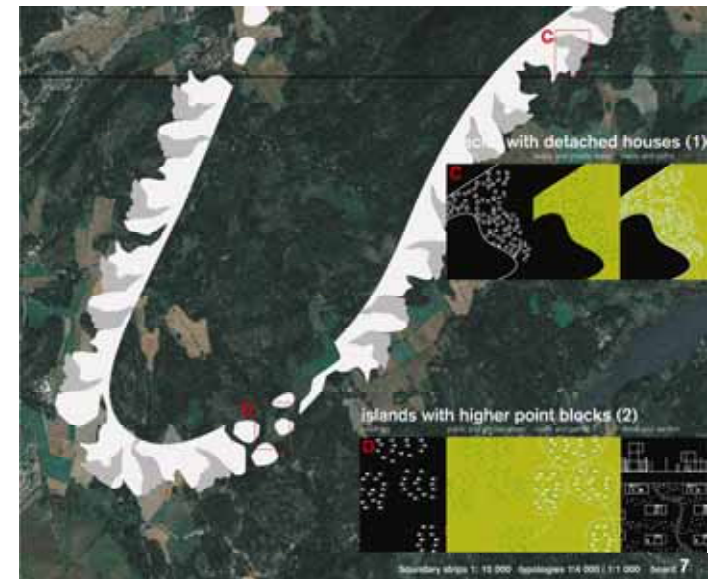
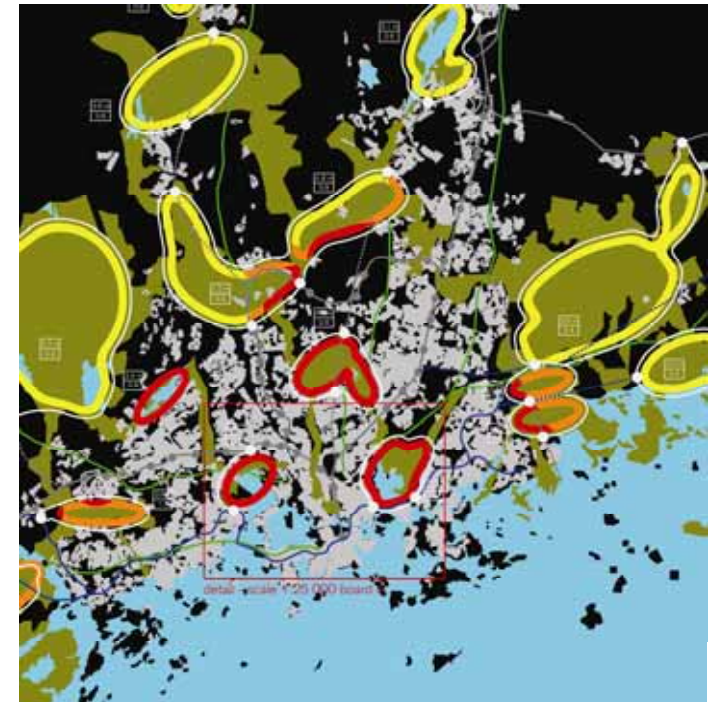
3.1 Boundary Strips

The entry *Boundary Strips* proposes a new type of settlement model for Greater Helsinki. Very big areas of open space – diameter up to 10-15 km – are surrounded by narrow urban structures, so-called "boundary strips". With the green areas encircled by them, they form a new spatial system of protected open areas.

The breadth of the "boundary strips" is 250 - 500 m. There are several models according to which the built structure in strips can be organized. In general, the pattern and design aim at maximizing the edge between the built and the green area.

The strips are surrounded by a public transport system which is connected with the regional public transportation network. A "knot" (the connection to public transportation system) is always within walking distance of 5 minutes.

Each "boundary strip" can be realized either in one step or in successive steps. The density and character can vary according to the surrounding areas.

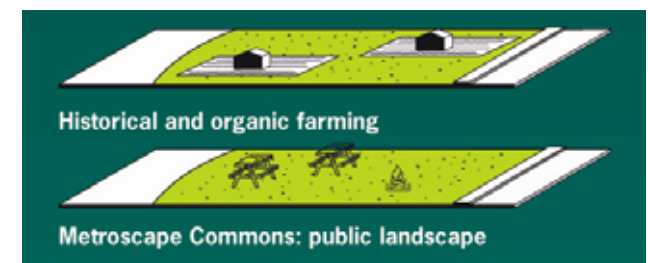
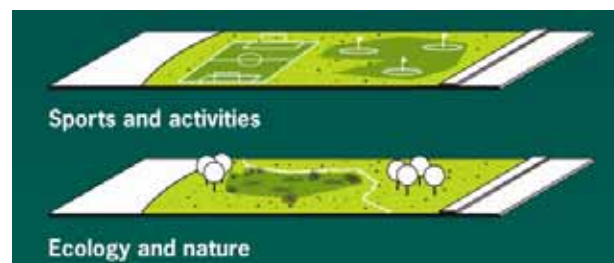
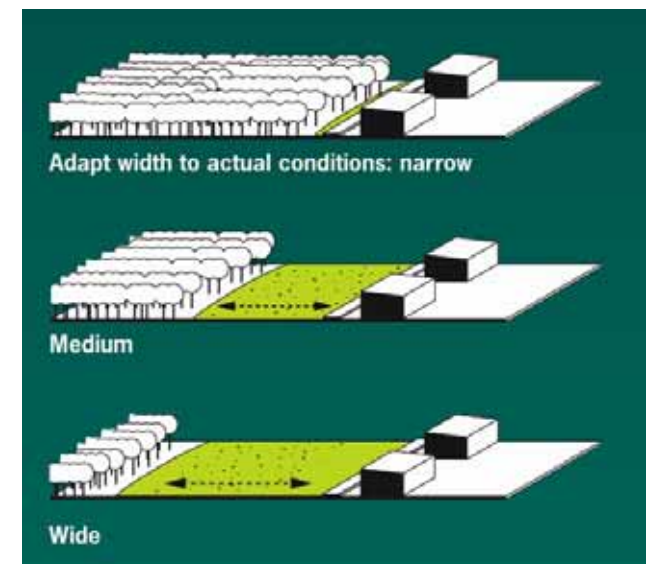


3.2 “Field”

To stop the increase of urban sprawl, the entry *Metroscape Helsinki* proposes a new model: there will only be roughly two types of settlements: “Cores” (cities, towns) and “Microcores” (small units). (See e.g. idea cards 2.4, 3.3 & 8.2.)

Around every urban Core is created a landscape ring – called “Field”. It defines the maximum future extension of the Core. Fields form a new system of green spaces. They are designed as community landscape parks for the Cores, providing sport and leisure attractions. Fields are based on the idea of the common land, and, they serve as space for the citizens of the region, as city parks. Fields can be used in varied ways, and every ring can be given a special theme (sports, activities, nature).

To develop the landscape into a public Field, a continuous transformation process is started. The municipalities of the region define, in co-operation with the local community, the width of the Fields around the urban areas. The process of development incorporates the local stakeholders: land-owners, farmers, and municipalities.



3.3

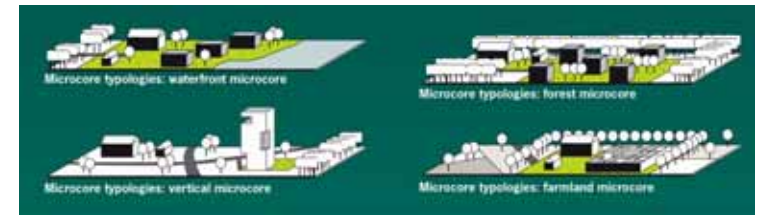
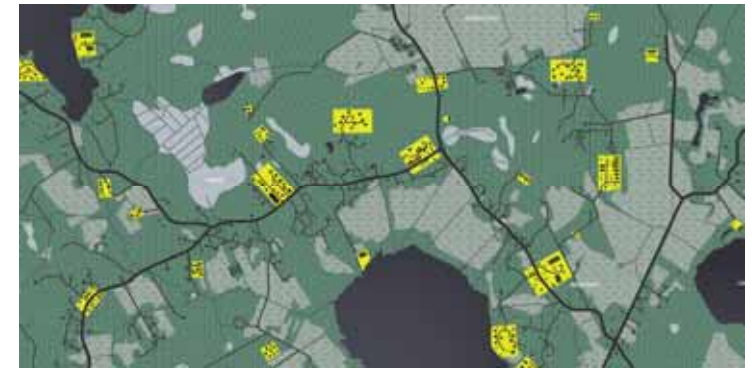
"Microcore"

To stop the increase of urban sprawl, the entry *Metroscope Helsinki* proposes a new model for development: there will only be roughly two types of settlements: "Cores" (cities, towns etc.) and "Microcores" (smaller units). (See also e.g. idea cards 2.4, 3.2 & 8.2.)

Microcores are landscape-oriented neighborhoods with 20 to 100 inhabitants. All Microcores have to be self-supplying in terms of energy and match the sustainability objectives. Microcores introduce landscape orientated housing and a model for "zero-energy-neighborhoods".

Microcores intend to overcome the traditional boundaries of the separation of urban functions: they contain dwellings, handicraft businesses, creative campuses etc.

The implementation of the Microcores is a step-by-step development. Every community may decide whether to provide more new housing in Cores or in Microcores. Microcores establish a new way of urbanisation that can react to demographic trends in a flexible way and can offer a broad variety of places for different lifestyles.

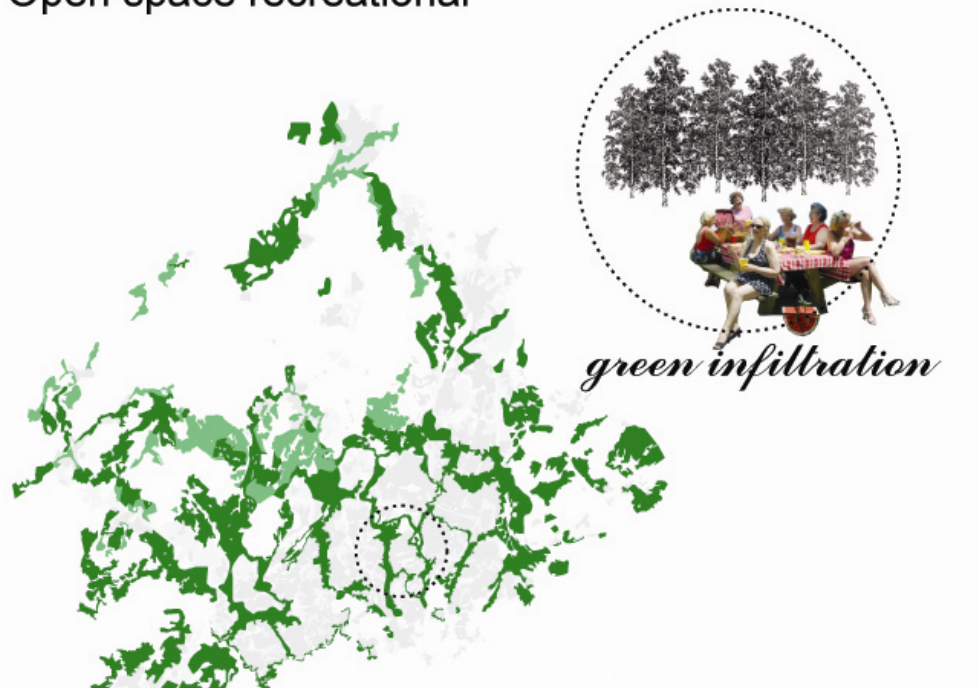


3.4 (Re)programmed urban green space

In many entries, urban green areas are recognized as a very valuable asset that can be redefined and given a more active role, forming the local life and identity.

The entry *Orlando* proposes “green areas with urban features”. “The city breathes through the green infiltration, whose borders can be differently used and lived, expanded and withdrawn during the year’s seasonal changings.”

Open space recreational



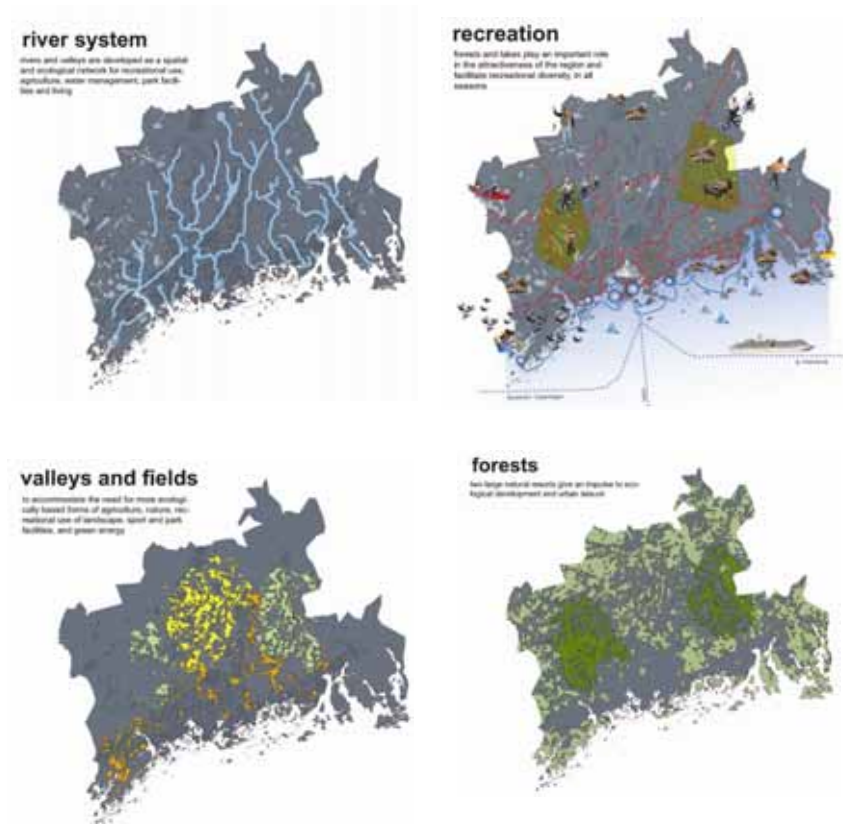
In the entry *Emerald*, the so-called “green bays” embraces various types of outdoor life. They are “frequently used for sports and recreation, small scale cultivation, and communal gatherings and city life in general. Green bay typologies range from pure forests and flood controlling wetlands to urban living rooms with cultural attractions, services and residential islet. [They] create strong identities and brands for different areas by providing common public spaces, possibilities for recreation and easy access to nature.” Green bays network is seen as “the internationally recognized well kept pride of all citizens in the region.”

3.5 Landscape strategy

The entry *Thirdlife* is structured around four regional frameworks: landscape, network, sea and social equity. The implementation of each thematic vision is guided by regional agreements between stakeholders.

In this context, the entry suggests a landscape strategy where “the rivers are appointed as framework for sustainable development of the region”. River valleys are developed as spatial and ecological network, which connects the other three elements of the “landscape metropolis”: forests, fields and recreation. Topography and river system become a device to organise land use, connectivity and third places. (See also idea card 2.10 or 4.3.)

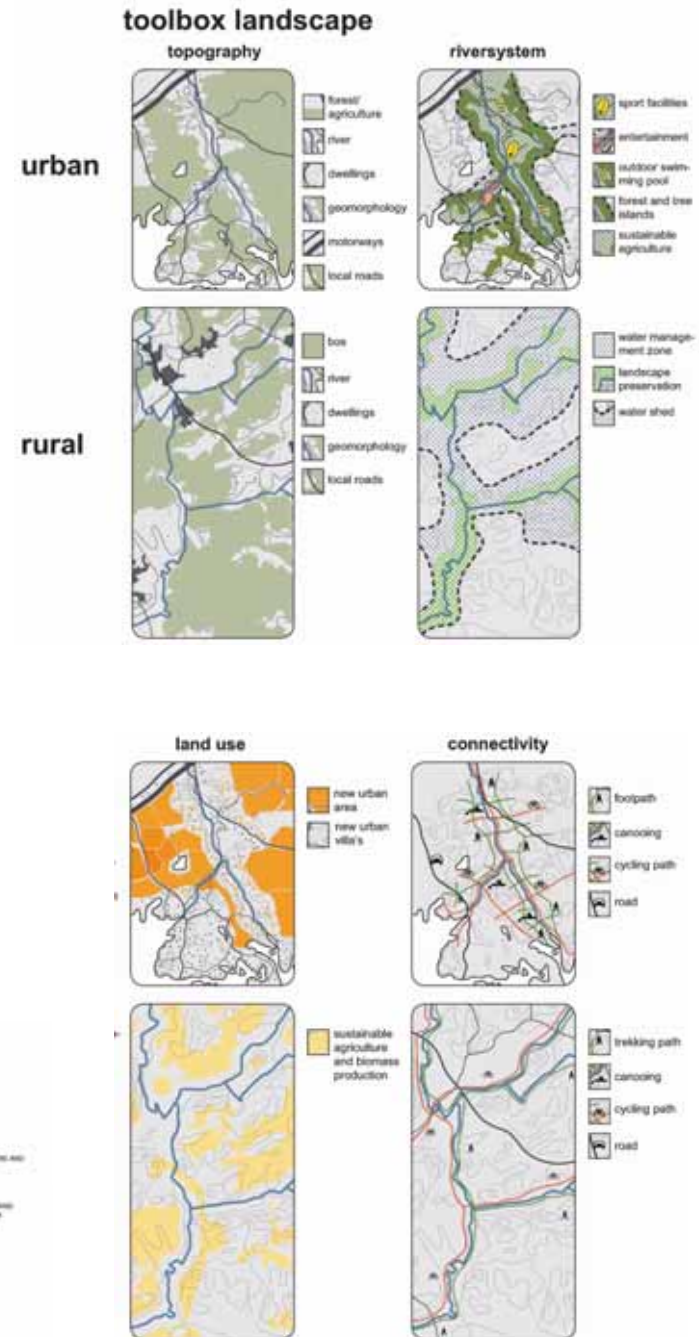
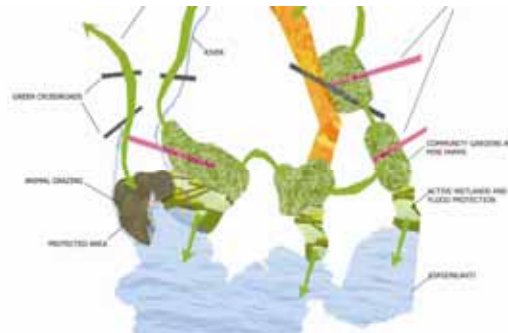
Related ideas include the division of landscape in four categories in the entry *Holistic Uniqueness*: (1) existing ‘natural’ landscape; (2) non-accessible areas where untouched habitats can evolve; (3) programmed landscape and (4) ‘Powerscape’, i.e. socio-technical landscape for eco-energy. (see idea card 3.7)



3.6 Environmental functions of green areas

The entry *Thirdlife* emphasises the ecological importance of the network of rivers and valleys. The need for enlarging the river capacity and the creation of water retention are seen as important in order to capture the consequences of heavier rains and droughts due to climate change. The land use of the open landscapes is to take into account the demands for sustainable water management. The watersheds adjacent of the rivers form logical boundaries for the distinctive water management areas.

According to the entry *Emerald*, the urgency of ecological issues and the need to reduce leisure travel logically lead to investing in the quality and integrity of the green network. Some green areas will have environmental functions such as floodwater protection, water treatment, energy production, recycling and composting. Active wetlands are part of flood protection.



3.7

"Powerscape"

In the entry *Holistic Uniqueness*, a large special zone, called "Powerscape", will be created in the region, for (1) research, development and production of ecological food (less dependency on imports), (2) research, development and production of sustainable energy (waste, biomass, geothermal energy, wind power), (3) waste management (circular economy), and (4) development of cleaner and resource efficient technologies (decreasing material inputs, reducing energy consumption and emissions, recovering valuable by-products).

In "Powerscape" are also located environmental technology institutions, environmentally orientated education (forest-kindergarten, omni-sensual education, holistic thinking), academy for environmental law & management of environmental protection, and information centre (sustainable energy, agriculture and farming, waste management). In the landscape, "Powerscape" is a composition of large fields and three urban agglomerations. Landscape (agricultural, energetic, pastures, natural) is used for educational purposes, profitable business and leisure activities.

