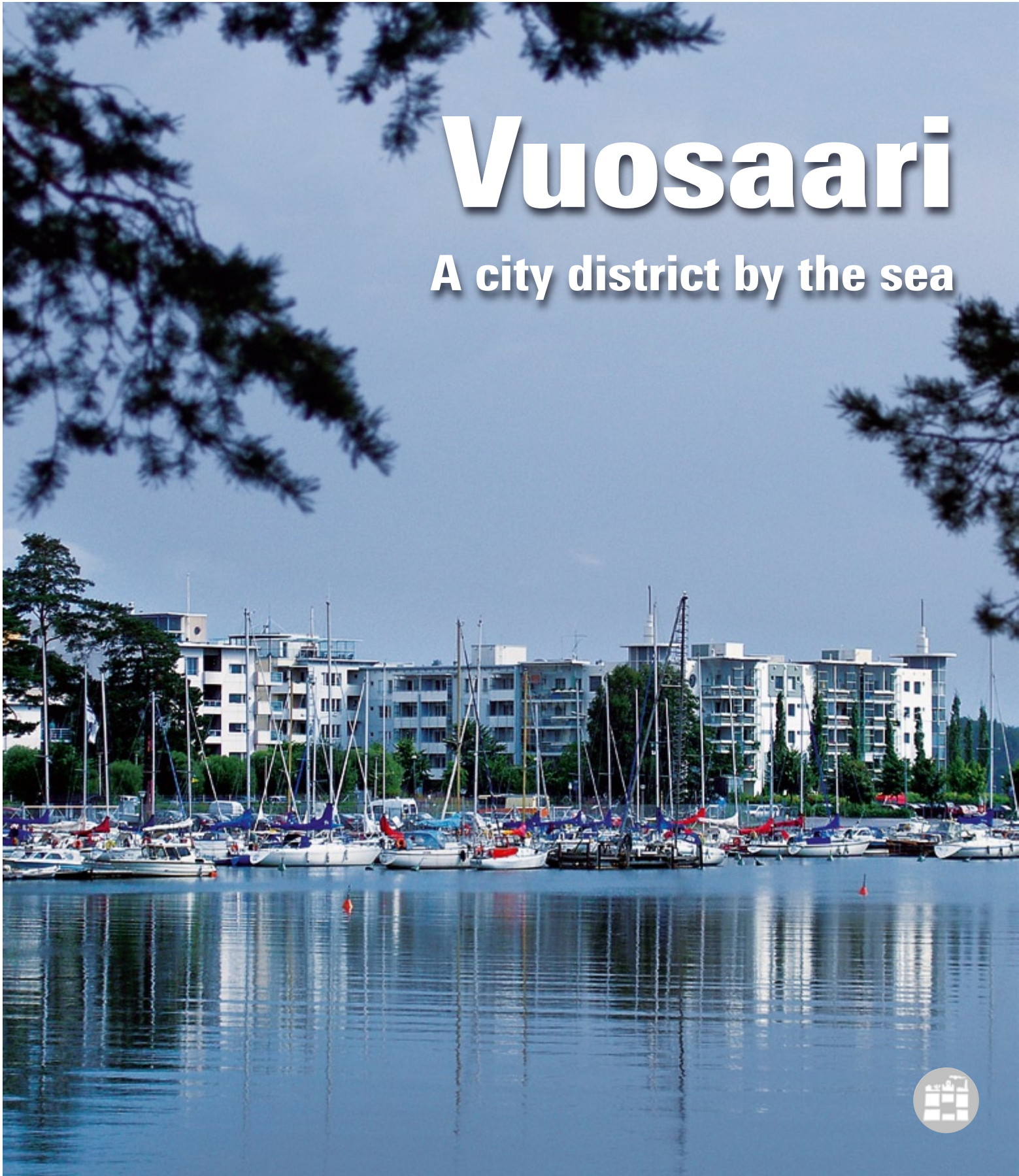




# Vuosaari

## A city district by the sea







Vuosaari is a metro city district. The journey to the centre of Helsinki takes less than 30 minutes.



Vuosaari's strengths are the sea and nature. View from the beach of Aurinkolahti over Vuosaarenselkä.



Outdoor camping areas and parks form a diversified recreational network. Shown is the rocky shoreline at Utela.

# Vuosaari

## A city district by the sea

Vuosaari is a maritime-flavoured city district with distinctive natural features; the waterfronts that surround Vuosaari on three sides have been utilised primarily for recreational use. Several small boat marinas and bathing beaches are to be found at Vuosaari, and new ones are being built. Vuosaari has many forest tracts as well as several nature conservation areas. Parks, camping grounds, pedestrian and cycle paths, as well as scenic natural features, form a diversified recreational network.

Life in Vuosaari is characterised by a close proximity to the sea, extensive outdoor recreational areas and a diversified range of services. Vuosaari offers a wide variety of amenable living surroundings ranging from high-density urban-flavoured

apartments to single-family houses in natural surroundings – from recently constructed seaside locations to forest-oriented neighbourhoods built in the 1960s. Beginning in the 1990s, Vuosaari has been one of Helsinki's focal areas in housing construction; the population will increase from 14,000 in the late 1980s to almost 40,000 in the 2010s. The housing area construction has aimed at high quality and innovation, and several design competitions have been organised for the area.

There are excellent traffic connections to Vuosaari; from the direction of the centre of Helsinki, Vuosaari can be reached by the Metro or along Vuotie road. The traffic connections built for Vuosaari's new harbour operations link the district with

the railway network as well as – via Ring Road III – Helsinki-Vantaa International Airport.

Helsinki is concentrating its goods harbour operations on Vuosaari's new harbour, the construction of which began in 2003. When it is completed in 2008, the new state-of-the-art harbour and the associated business area being constructed with it will form a significant concentration of jobs. Vuosaari's centre will also offer businesses advantageous locations near the metro station.

This 1930s map shows Rastila and Nordsjö manors, as well as several seaside villas, that are now protected architectural landmarks. Vuosaari was incorporated into the City of Helsinki in 1966.



Planning situation in 2005.







Large-scale housing construction in Vuosaari will continue to the 2010s. Kallahti features seaside living.



Helsinki's new goods harbour will turn Vuosaari into a maritime-flavoured commercial centre.

Picture: [www.vuosaarensatama.fi](http://www.vuosaarensatama.fi)



Vuosaari is located on the coast 12 km east of the centre of Helsinki.



1. Northern Vuosaari
2. Central Vuosaari
3. Port and business area
4. Rastila
5. Centre
6. Meri-Rastila
7. Kallahti
8. Aurinkolahti
9. Uutela
10. Ramsinniemi
11. Ramsinranta
12. Kallahdenniemi
13. Kurkimoisio
14. Pienen Villasaarentie area
15. Vuosaarenhuippu
16. Porslahdentie area
17. Golf course
18. Sports park
19. Omenamäki
20. Rastilankallio
21. Camping area
-  Metro station





Built in the 1800s, Nordsjö Manor and park are protected in the town plan. A cemetery is being planned in connection with the park.



Uutela's continuous forest area covering approximately 100 hectares is large by Helsinki standards; a recreational centre is being developed on the Skata estate.



Kallahdenharju's landscape, natural features, bathing beaches and villas offer a journey of exploration into the worlds of biology, geography and history.

Structure of Vuosaari's recreational areas.



A full-sized golf course and clubhouse, whose planning has taken the proximity of the sea into account, have been built next to the port's business area.

## Sea, nature and recreation

Vuosaari's natural features have their roots in the area's bedrock, as well as in the Ice Age that sculpted Vuosaari's characteristic landscape. Five hundred years ago Vuosaari was – as its name would suggest – still an island. The gradual rising of the earth's crust can be seen at Kallahdenniemi's shore meadows, which were still submerged as recently as 100–200 years ago.

In Vuosaari's urban structure, the sea and recreational areas encircle housing areas: Vartiokylänlahti bay in the west, Kallahdenniemi headland in the south and Vuosaari's recreational park, also forming a protective zone between the harbour and residential areas, in the east.

An outdoor path from Ramsinniemi winds along the shore of Vartiokylänlahti bay and continues northwards towards the Broända brook valley. The surroundings of Rastila Manor serve as Helsinki's only camping area; the outdoor area is only a short distance from the metro station.

Vuosaari's recreational park is a diversified recreational area that begins in the south at

the Uutela nature park and hiking area. The entity also includes Vuosaarenlahti bay boat marina, a golf course, the Nordsjö Manor area and its parks, a cemetery, as well as parks for recreation and cultivation. At the northern end of the park is Vuosaarenhuippu, a former earthfill area and waste tip re-landscaped as a recreational area, from where pedestrian and cycle connections extend towards Mustavuori and Sipoo's Talosaari. The Mustavuorenlehto and Porvarinlahti areas are part of the Natura 2000 network.

Kallahdenniemi forms its own unique entity; Kallahdenharju, the shore meadow, as well as the water area and underwater sandbanks encircling Kallahdenniemi, are part of the Natura 2000 network. Several protected architectural landmarks are also to be found among Kallahdenniemi's villas.

Within the residential area, parks create a network of recreational paths. The north-south park axis forms an unbroken pedestrian and cycle path from Vuosaari's highest elevation to the seashore. Along the route is a series of attractive city parks: Ilveskorvenpuisto park in Central Vuosaari as well as the Mustankivenpuisto, Ullaksenpuisto and Lillkallvikinpuisto parks at Kallahti. There is also a general-purpose sports field in Central Vuosaari.

Halls for ball sports and golf, as well as extensive grass and sand-surfaced fields for football and other ball sports, are being designed for Vuosaari's new sports park.







Impressive views open up from the crest of the Vuosaarenhuippu hill. Rare bird and butterfly species favour the vegetation that has evolved to withstand the open landscape.



Six marinas for small boats, the newest ones in Aurinkolahti and Vuosaarenlahti, operate in Vuosaari.



The low sand beaches at the southern tip of Kallahdenniemi attract swimmers from all over Helsinki. There are also bathing beaches at Rastila, Kallahti, Aurinkolahti and Uutela.



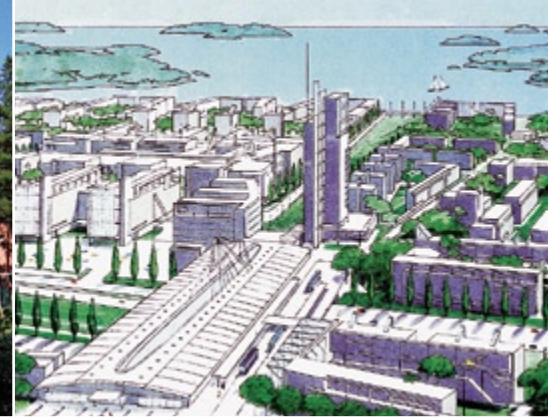




Vuotalo houses a library, adult education institute and cultural affairs centre. The architecture that won the design competition has attracted international attention. Architects' Office Heikkinen-Komonen Oy, 2000.



Living in the centre means a close proximity to the Metro and services. View from inner courtyard of Eden site based on planning competition. Architects' Office Nurmela-Raimoranta-Tasa Oy, 1998–2000.



The centre's main elements – the axis leading to the sea, Metro, shopping centre, service centre and tower have found their form in this conceptual illustration from the early 1990s. Architects' Office Tommila Oy.

Conceptual design for the centre of Vuosaari. Architects' Office Kouvo & Partanen, 2004.

- |                              |  |   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Vuosaari Metro station    | 6. Expansion of sports building          | 11. Delfiini office site                                  |
| 2. Columbus Shopping Centre  | 7. Metro site                            | 12. Upper secondary and upper grade comprehensive schools |
| 3. Shopping centre expansion | 8. Apartment living                      | 13. Service centre for senior citizens                    |
| 4. Albatross service centre  | 9. Nordsjö-Rastis multi-purpose facility | 14. Cirrus office tower                                   |
| 5. Vuotalo                   | 10. Apartments for young people          |   |







The Albatross service building contains a social centre, health centre, parish facilities, as well as privately operated fitness and health services. Architects' Office Schauman, 1998.



The structural elements of the Columbus Shopping Centre completed in 1996 stand out as landmarks over Vuotie road; an expansion section will be completed in 2006. Architects' Office Tommila Oy, 1996.



A future vision of Mosaiikkitori square: the Metro site, the centre's housing and the sports building's expansion. Architects' Office Kouvo & Partanen Oy, 2004.

## Vuosaari centre

Currently under construction near Vuosaari metro station is a new centre whose services and workplaces will link the new and existing housing areas. Passengers arriving at the metro station will ascend to the Valkopaadentie terminal from where buses will depart to different parts of Vuosaari. The Columbus Shopping Centre, with its interior streets, has been built as a bridge spanning Vuotie road and the metro tracks. Behind the natural multi-level solution is the placement of the centre between the surrounding ridges at a site of previously occupied by sandpits.

The unifying concept for the centre is a straight axis that links the city districts and continues as a park to the waterfront. The axis also continues as a pedestrian precinct through the shopping centre. Along the axis are also situated the Albatross service centre, the Mosaiikkitori square parking facility, the Vuotalo cultural facility and the Cecilia service building for senior citizens. Currently under construction are the Cirrus high-rise office tower and extension to the shopping centre. Vuosaari's sports and school buildings date from the 1970s. The sports building boasts one of Helsinki's most popular indoor swimming pools, as well as

other gymnasium and fitness facilities. Also situated nearby is the Swedish-language Nordsjö-Rastis multi-purpose facility.

The planning of the centre has continued based on a conceptual design prepared in 2004. Offices, commercial premises and other functions will be placed in the "metro sites" near the metro station. The sports building and underground parking facilities may be extended, and new housing blocks are being planned near the existing outdoor parking areas and along the edge of Mosaiikkitori square.

Oy Gustav Paulig Ab's coffee roasting plant continues to operate near the centre. The Paulig Group has actively participated as a landowner in the development of the centre, for example by building the shopping centre and service building.

Previously, the starting point for the centre's design had assumed that coffee roasting operations would continue, but the situation changed in 2004, when a site for a new coffee roasting facility was earmarked in the harbour's business area. In coming years, relocation of the coffee roasting plant will create new opportunities for the construction of housing and commercial sites in the centre of Vuosaari.



The Cirrus tower will become part of Helsinki's silhouette, forming a landmark for Vuosaari. The building will have 25 floors of apartments; the ground floor level will feature commercial space fronting on Sokeritori square, while the rooftop floors will contain a cafeteria, viewing terrace and residents' sauna facilities. Architects 3XNielsen A/S, architectural design Jukka Tikkanen Oy, 2006.





A lush suburban atmosphere pervades Meri-Rastila. The curved alignment of Meri-Rastilantie road opens up a sequence of gradually shifting views.



Rastilankallio's large site conceals a park, day-care centre and terrace houses.



An urban-flavoured semi-detached and detached housing environment is being designed for Ramsinranta. Architects' Office Jukka Turtiainen Oy.

## Housing areas

Vuosaari's first large-scale housing construction took place in the 1960s. The current construction began in the late 1980s at Meri-Rastila, a relatively spaciouly-built apartment building development for approximately 5,000 residents surrounded by recreational areas.

Completed in 2001 to house 2,000 residents, Rastilankallio is a high-density complex, whose special features include terrace houses interspersed among the apartment buildings as well as dwellings with home office facilities. Commercial sites close to the metro station have been earmarked for business functions and a hotel.

The Meri-Rastila district will continue to grow at Ramsinranta, where detached and semi-detached houses will be built for approximately 800 residents; construction began in

2002. The dense and low-slung urban structure will be formed by a variety of housing types ranging from small apartment buildings to single-family houses. Sites for saunas and a rowing centre have been earmarked on the waterfront.

The second large-scale regional entity is the 7,000-resident Kallahti, built in the 1990s. The area's special features include urban-flavoured streets and sites that extend right to the seashore. The heart of Kallahti is Mustankivenpuisto park, around which are placed a school, day-care centre and youth club facilities. Community buildings owned co-operatively by housing corporations offer a diverse range of club activities. Parking has for the most part been concentrated in parking structures administered jointly by residents'

associations. A winning design competition entry by Architects' Office Raimo Terännne Oy formed the basis for the southern part of Kallahti's town plan.

Besides infill construction on individual sites, there are also more extensive planning entities in Central Vuosaari. During the period 1999–2002, apartment buildings, terrace houses and single-family houses were constructed for approximately 1,000 residents near Porslahdentie road. Apartments and semi-detached buildings featuring timber construction are being built at Omenämäki, an area for 750 residents that will be completed by 2009. Other semi-detached and detached housing areas are the Pienen Villasaarentie road site completed in 2005 and the 500-resident Kurkimoisio whose construction will begin in 2006.



Central Vuosaari's apartments and terrace houses were mostly constructed during the 1960s based on the building plan prepared by Architect Olof Stenius.

The brick and building element factory Saseka initiated the area's town planning in the 1950s, when it wanted to sell the land for construction purposes. The most significant client was the Asuntosäästäjät-yhdistys ("Housing Savers' Association") that became well known for its self-build homes and construction of three-quarters of Vuosaari's 1960s building stock. During the 1960s, Vuosaari's population increased from 4,000 to 15,000.

The area, characterised by gently undulating topography and low-density housing groups, was designated as a culturally and historically significant landmark in the 2002 Helsinki Town Plan. The architecture is typical for its time, but also rich in nuances because none of the monotony usually associated with prefabricated element construction is to be seen in the area. An apartment building site designed by Architect Ilmo Valjakka at Merikorttatie road provides an excellent example.





Kallahti's special features include urban-flavoured streets and sites.



A site assignment competition was organised for the sites along Pienen Villasaarentie Road; the winning proposal blends in extremely well with the 1960s-style apartment building milieu. Architects' Office Petri Rouhiainen Oy, 2004.



Infill construction recalling the 1960s style that pervades the area is being planned for Merikorttite road. Architects' Office Petri Rouhiainen Oy, Architects' Office Esko Ryhänen Oy, 2004.

Parks are an important part of the distinctive appearance of Vuosaari's housing areas. Mustankivenpuisto park is an urban "living room" for Kallahti's residents in summer and winter. MA-Arkkitiedit and sculptress Anu Kiiskinen.







Helsinki residents have taken Aurinkolahti's bathing beach as their own; the distance from the Metro station to the shore is only one kilometre.



Aurinkoranta is a representative example of the construction of public open space. Architects' Office Pertti Pääsky Oy, SCC Viatek, Hannu Asikainen (HKR), 2002.



Views to Vuosaarenselkä's seascape open out from the waterfront sites at Kallalahti and Aurinkolahti.

## Vuosaari in figures

Land area	15.38 km <sup>2</sup>
Population at 31 December 2004	31,948
Residents/km <sup>2</sup>	2,077
Housing area, 2004	1,292,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Living density	40.4 m <sup>2</sup> /resident
Apartments in 2004	14,076
apartments	87.8 %
semi-detached and detached houses	12.2 %
owner-occupied apartments, 2002	37.1 %
rented apartments, 2002	47.9 %
Dwellings' year of construction	
1960–1969	27 %
1990–1999	36 %
2000–2001	25 %
Population forecast for 2015	38,911
Residents/km <sup>2</sup>	2,530
Housing area projection for 2013	1,646,600 m <sup>2</sup>
Living density	42 m <sup>2</sup> /resident

## Aurinkolahti

A privately financed apartment and terrace house complex will be built at the waterfront. Aurinkolahti's visual identity has become characterised by the sea, sandy beach, pedestrian promenade and row of apartment buildings. At the shore are two marinas for small boats.

The Uutela canal will be Aurinkolahti's next tourist attraction. The canal will feature two waterfalls and several bridges, and the southern section of the canal will be accessible with small boats. The Uutela recreational area begins at the canal's eastern bank.

Aurinkolahti's town plan is based on Gullichsen-Kairamo-Vormala Arkkitehdit Ky's winning proposal in an international design competition held in 1996. The apartment house blocks opening out to the sea and the canal make the most of their waterfront locations, while semi-detached and detached houses, as well as old villas, occupy the centre of the area. Aurinkolahti's apartments are located within a one-kilometre radius of the Vuosaari metro station, which can also be reached by bus. Parking has been arranged site-specifically, primarily in the apartment buildings' basement levels.

The Aurinkolahti School and Auringonpilkku day-care centre operate in the area. The Kanava and Inkivääri day-care centres, as well as the Kanava School are in the planning stage. At Aurinkolahden puistotie street, a building for artists was constructed to celebrate the City of Helsinki's 450th Anniversary. Administered

by the Taiteilijatalosäätiö foundation, the building features accommodation and studio facilities for artists.

Most parts of Aurinkolahti fall within the scope of the so-called Aurinkolahti contract area, whose design, marketing and construction has been implemented jointly by the City of Helsinki and five companies; the City sells the sites and the companies build privately financed dwellings. The co-operating partners have been The Housing Foundation, Pro Paulig Oy, Sato-Rakennuttajat Oy, Skanska and the YIT Group. Besides the contract area, there are also other sites at Aurinkolahti developed by Pro Paulig Oy and the City. High-quality implementations have enhanced the prestige of the area. When Aurinkolahti is completed in 2008, it will have approximately 7,000 residents.

## Future housing areas

After Aurinkolahti, housing construction will continue during the 2010s in Northern Vuosaari, the western waterfront of Meri-Rastila and the centre of Vuosaari. An urban-flavoured detached and semi-detached housing area for 2,000 residents is being designed for Northern Vuosaari. Near Rastila metro station, an area with a predominance of apartment buildings for approximately 1,000 residents is being planned at the western waterfront of Meri-Rastila. In the centre, the most significant location will be the "coffee site" formerly occupied by the coffee roasting plant.







Kallaahti's Dockside site has its own boat marina. Architects Timo Vormala and Susanna Raitanen won the design competition held for the site in 1996.



Waterfall along the canal at Aurinkolahti; it will be possible to walk under the falls. Architects' Office B & M Oy, LT-Konsultit Oy, 2003.



Garden structures reveal the history of Lillkallvinkipuisto park; in the early 1900s, Vuosaari was home to a flourishing villa culture.



The Uutela canal will be Aurinkolahti's tourist attraction. Architects' Office B & M Oy, LT-Konsultit Oy, 2003.





The Rastila metro station's natural elements, architecture and artwork form an adventurous concept. City of Helsinki Public Works Department, Architectural Division, 1998.



The Mosaiikkiraitti pedestrian path's underpass and walls make it a seamless part of the Eden residential site in the centre of Vuosaari.

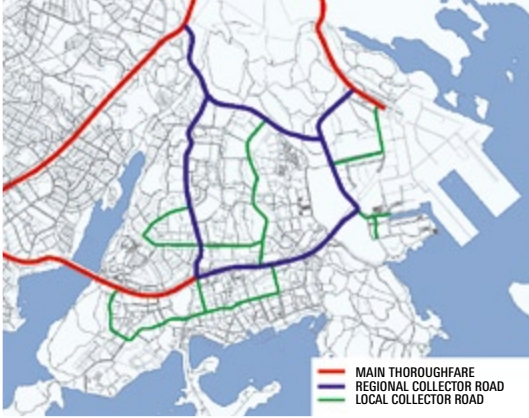


Vuosaari's central traffic terminal is a multilevel transport mode linking the Metro and Vuotie road with connecting traffic and the area's main pedestrian paths.



The environmental artwork of Vuotie road, "Vuotien valot" ("The Lights of Vuotie"), has become the symbol of Vuosaari. Designed by Architects' Office Heikkinen-Komonen Oy, 1999. Photo: Ari Leppä, City of Helsinki Picture Bank.





Street network categorised.



Public transport routes.



Main pedestrian and cycle paths.

## Traffic in Vuosaari

Vuosaari is a metro city district: the Metro serves Vuosaari at 8-minute intervals and connecting traffic to the Vuosaari and Rastila metro stations is managed with buses. A substantial number of passengers live within walking distance of the stations. In 2004, 25,000 and 8,000 passengers passed through the Vuosaari and Rastila metro stations respectively. It has been estimated that passenger volumes at Vuosaari station will eventually rise to 45,000 per 24-hour period.

Ring Road I's extension, Vuotie road, is the most important connection to Vuosaari. Its artistic light poles and road ramp rock baskets fashioned from black stones impart a distinctive appearance to the street. Exits from Vuosaari lead to Itäväylä and Ring Road III, as well as through Kallvikintie road and, when completed in the autumn of 2007, to Vuosaaren Satamatie road. Vuosaari's harbour traffic will be fed directly to Ring Road III through a 1.6-km-long tunnel passing under Porvarinlahti bay. The ring formed by the Vuotie, Kallvikintie, Niinisaarentie

and Laivanrakentajantie roads, to which the housing areas are linked, forms the backbone of Vuosaari's internal traffic. Many of the streets in the residential areas have been designed as yard streets; this reduces the scale of the street areas and enhances the residents' sense of security when moving about locally.

Vuosaari is also a cyclist-friendly city district. Short distances and level topography make cycling the most popular way of getting around. Cycling paths, the parks' path networks, as well as the main pedestrian walkway built to connect them with the Metro, facilitate fast and safe mobility in Vuosaari.



Vuosaari metro station.

The Metro began to serve Vuosaari in 1998.

Architects' Office Esa Piironen Oy, 1998.





The Vuosaari harbour and business area is situated 14 km from the centre of Helsinki at a location that can be considered ideal from the standpoint of traffic connections.



Satamatie road passes under Porvarinlahti bay in a tunnel. The harbour railway line will join the main railway line to the North when it resurfaces in the Savio district of Kerava at end of a 13.5 km-long tunnel.



The A-Gate is the harbour's functional node. The Gatehouse office and service building will be built in connection with the gate as a landmark. Arkkitehtiyöhuone Artto Palo Rossi Tikka Oy.

## Harbour and business area



High quality has been the intent when implementing the harbour and business area; the townscape image also plays a key role. Illustration of the winning competition proposal for the harbour lighting. Arkkitehtiyöhuone Artto Palo Rossi Tikka Oy, 2005.

The most modern harbour in the Baltic Sea Region—including a goods harbour and related traffic connections, harbour roads, a sea channel as well as logistics and business areas—is under construction at Vuosaari.

Helsinki's goods harbour operations at Jätkäsaari and Sörnäinen will be concentrated on Vuosaari. At the same time, vast tracts of land within the immediate vicinity of Helsinki city centre will be released for the construction of new residential districts.

Vuosaari Harbour occupies 150 hectares, 90 hectares of which are new earthfill areas reclaimed from the sea. The length of the

harbour's quay is 3.6 kilometres and there will be 15–20 berths for ships. All goods will be transported in containers, lorries or trailers. The harbour, whose construction began in 2003, will enter commercial service in 2008 and be fully operative in 2009.

A 75-hectare business area is also being built in connection with the harbour, while a logistics area linked directly to the harbour's operations will include 160,000 m<sup>2</sup> of terminal space featuring direct connections to the harbour area and the road network.

The Meriportti business area is becoming profiled as a maritime-flavoured concentration of high-tech production facilities and offices. The harbour and business area will become a new commercial centre for Helsinki and home to an estimated 3,500–4,500 new jobs.



The logistics area consists of a row of so-called flow-through terminals and warehouses, as well as the traffic areas between them. Goods are transported by the harbour's machinery directly from the harbour to the terminals. Following further processing the goods are loaded for either highway or railway transport. The structure of the logistics area enables operations to be sited flexibly. Thanks to the flow-through principle and the zone of harbour machinery, operations situated further away from the harbour area can also enjoy a direct connection to the harbour area. Arkkitehtiyöhuone Artto Palo Rossi Tikka Oy.





Adjoining the harbour is Vuosaari's natural gas power plant, which generates most of Helsinki Energy's electricity and district heating.  
Photo: Helsinki Energy.



The Meriportti business area will be built near the dry dock of the former shipyard. The first companies moving into the area are Aker Arctic Technology Oy, Oy Gustav Paulig Ab and ABB Current Oy. Shown in picture is an arctic research laboratory. Architects' Office Virkkunen & Co.



An almost one kilometre-long noise barrier built on the harbour's northeastern shore will insulate the harbour's activities from the surrounding natural environment. The noise barrier's bank will be landscaped naturalistically. Arkkitehtityöhuone Artto Palo Rossi Tikka Oy, 2005.

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Noise barrier             | 4. Logistics area           |
| 2. Gate area                 | 5. Natural gas power plant  |
| 3. Gatehouse office building | 6. Meriportti business area |





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