



HELSINKI

news

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Design defines Helsinki



The Helsinki Olympic Stadium is the venue of the European Championships in Athletics 2012. The 1930's functionalist building is about to enter a period of thorough renovation and modernisation. The project will include a full cover for the stands largely built from wood.

Helsinki relies on a democratic dialogue including competitions to develop the city on high standards.

In May 2012 Helsinki invited citizens to dream up their ideas for a major new city public library, Helsinki Central Library, to be built in the heart of Helsinki. At that time the first stage of an open international architectural competition had just been completed. The organisers received 543 submissions from all over the world.

Helsinki Central Library will be a new kind of urban community centre, a library of the future, which offers visitors opportunities for diverse cultural experiences and interaction, as well as providing traditional library services.

The jury will select 6–8 of the submissions for the second stage of the competition to be completed in 2013. The library should be completed in 2017, Finland's centennial as an independent nation.

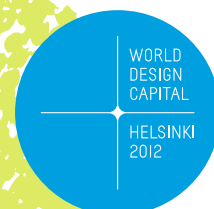
The tradition of competitions in Helsinki to define the city goes deep. Ninety percent of Helsinki's public buildings are results of them. Competitions are public affairs, and many of them have stirred heated and very visible debate, especially some of the buildings in the culturally valuable Töölö Bay area where Helsinki Central Library will be located. The library will join major cultural buildings in the area, including Finlandia Hall, the Helsinki Music Centre, the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma and the Sanoma House media headquarters buildings.

The Helsinki Central Library competition is part of the programme of World Design Capital Helsinki 2012, a year-long celebration of design. Major architectural components of the design year's programme include a new university library and a sculpturesque chapel. They are examples of novel, creative ideas of Finnish architects for the dense Helsinki city centre. New projects also promote cultural and spiritual values amidst busy urban life.

World Design Capital Helsinki 2012

highlights the possibilities of design in all of its manifestations to shape cities and societies, as well as offering a window to Finnish design and architecture.

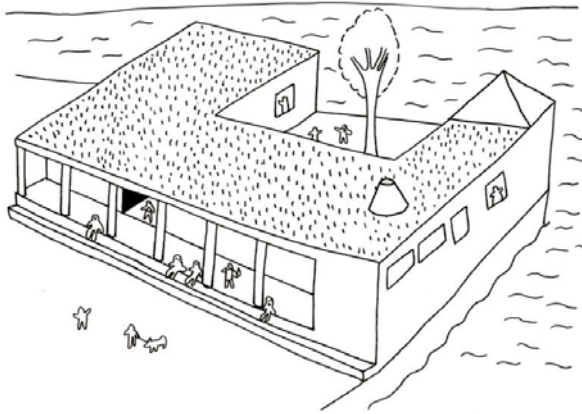
The design year's programme consists of more than 300 programme items – public events, exhibitions and, importantly, development projects which look at ways to improve life with processes inherent in design. www.wdchelsinki2012.fi



Cultural Sauna emerges on urban Helsinki waterfront

“We seek to offer people a place for cleansing, bathing and sharing quiet togetherness,” says **Nene Tsuboi**, one of the two designers and owners of Cultural Sauna, a public sauna which will open its doors in late summer 2012. “The sauna will be an architecturally distinguished public building, which also serves as a place for cultural activity and exchange,” envisions **Tuomas Toivonen**, the other designer-owner.

Cultural Sauna continues the tradition of public saunas in Helsinki. It will be housed in a low-energy building using renewable energy. The goal of the project is to invoke discussion about city culture, a new sauna culture in Helsinki, and better use of city centre waterfronts. The project forms part of World Design Capital Helsinki 2012. A similar project is envisioned for Hernesaari, a busy future residential and commercial district of Helsinki.



Nene Tsuboi

Cultural Sauna

A haven of tranquility in the city centre

One of the busiest places in Helsinki, a square next to the Kamppi commercial centre and transportation hub, is now home to a chapel for reflection, quiet meditation and personal encounters. Architectural design is by the Helsinki based **K2S Architects**.

The Kamppi Chapel is a small sacral building which interacts with the cityscape with a curved wooden façade. The chapel’s gently shaped wooden interior embraces visitors, as if by shielding them from the bustling city life outside. The space is defined by natural light flowing down diagonally from skylights. Only the actual chapel space is located in the wooden volume. Secondary facilities are located in a space opening up towards the adjacent Narinkka square.

The chapel is staffed by the Helsinki Parish Union and the City of Helsinki Social Services Department. The staff are available to meet visitors for private discussion on personal matters. While the social workers offer counselling, the Parish Union workers mainly focus on pastoral care and spiritual life.

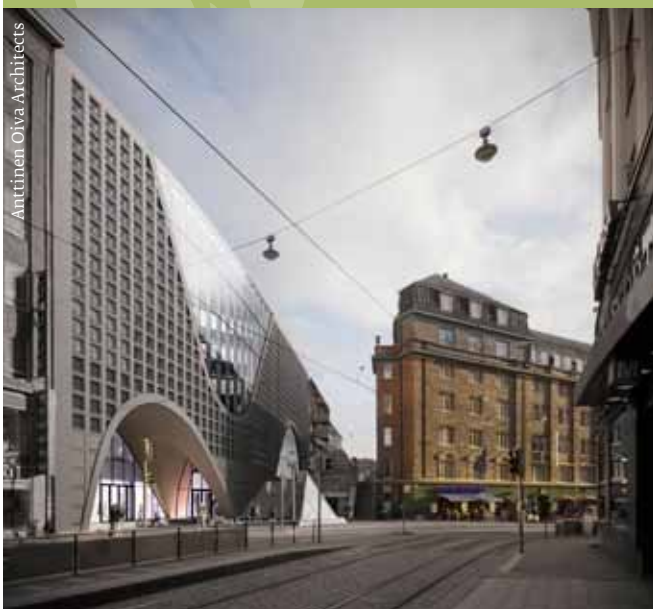
The Kamppi Chapel keeps its doors open from morning to evening seven days a week. The chapel is a joint project by the Helsinki Parish Union and the City of Helsinki.



K2S Architects Ltd.

Kamppi Chapel of Silence

A contemporary university library in the venerable Helsinki city centre



Anttinen Oiva Architects

The treasured historical heart of Helsinki with building styles from the 19th to early 20th century has a new contemporary addition – a landmark building which houses the largest research library in Finland. The new building concentrates all library operations of the University of Helsinki’s City Centre Campus. It serves on-campus research and instruction with state-of-the-art, multi-disciplinary collections and services.

The library complements the surrounding building stock with a red-brick façade distinguished by large arches and a dense lattice of windows that hides the floor division. The interior is likewise distinguished by large arches which join the library balconies and are reflected on the exterior.

The City Centre Campus Library occupies a block at Kaisaniemenkatu 5 formerly taken by a parking building. Architectural design is by **Anttinen Oiva Architects**. The concept was chosen by an invited architectural competition organised in 2007. The building will be commissioned in the autumn of 2012.

University of Helsinki City Centre Campus Library

Wooden pavilion serves as a public meeting place

The neighbouring museums of Finnish Architecture and Design in Helsinki are joined by a temporary wooden pavilion that spans a vacant lot between the buildings. The Pavilion serves as the central meeting place of World Design Capital Helsinki 2012 during May-September. The 400-square-metre structure can hold up to 500 people at a time.

The Pavilion is an open-air space that hosts a diverse programme of World Design Capital events ranging from workshops and lectures to daytime dances and film screenings. There is a café and a shop.

The Pavilion was designed at Aalto University's Wood Programme based on the concept of architectural student **Pyry-Pekka Kantonen**. The roof is composed of triangular elements and rests on eight pillars made up of six L-shaped sections. The Pavilion is a showcase of Finnish sustainable wood architecture.



The temporary Pavilion is a summertime meeting place.

Helsinki City Board votes down Guggenheim Helsinki

The Helsinki City Board has narrowly rejected the plan to move forward with the project to build a Guggenheim museum in Helsinki. The board voted 8-to-7 against the plan in its meeting on 2 May 2012.

The next phase of the Guggenheim project would have involved an international architectural competition.

Helsinki commissioned the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in January 2011 to produce a feasibility study on the possibility to build a Guggenheim museum in Helsinki. The study, presented in January 2012, recommended building the museum at a central location in Helsinki's South Harbour.

HELSINKI DESIGN WEEK



This year the annual Helsinki Design Week joins forces with World Design Capital Helsinki 2012, making September the most design-intensive month of the design year. The week is larger than ever before. The programme incorporates exhibitions, fashion shows, design shopping, pecha kucha nights, open houses, and much more. The dates are 6-16 September.

Helsinki Olympic Stadium to be fully renovated and modernised

The iconic Olympic Stadium in Helsinki is one of the finest examples of Finnish functionalism. The stadium building is the result of an open architectural competition, won by Finnish architects **Yrjö Lindegren** and **Toivo Jäntti**. The building was completed in 1938 and expanded to host the 15th Olympic Games in 1952. A series of changes have been implemented since, but the building has retained its original architectural identity accentuated by the 72-metre signature tower.

The Olympic Stadium is about to enter its next phase of evolution comprising a thorough renovation and modernisation. The development plans for the stadium are by K2S Architects. The stadium will obtain extensive new facilities, many of them underground, retaining the original architecture but with everything under the skin rebuilt. The stands will be fully covered. Parking will be removed vacating a large field in front of the building for new uses. There will be extensive new restaurant facilities.

The Olympic Stadium renovation and modernisation is scheduled for completion in 2018. The stadium will remain in use throughout the re-construction. The stadium is owned by the City of Helsinki.



Helsinki Olympic Stadium

A preview of the Olympics: Helsinki hosts European Athletics Championships 2012



One of Finland's stars in the European championships and the upcoming Olympics: Tero Pitkämäki, Javelin

The eyes of sports fans in Europe will be fixed on Helsinki for five days from 27 June to 1 July, when the continent's top athletes compete to be crowned as Europe's champions in track and field, just weeks before the Olympic Games in London (27 July–12 August).

"These championships are among the biggest athletics events of the current century, and the approaching Olympics will give an added boost to us as organisers," says **Esa Honkalehto**, General Secretary of the Helsinki 2012 organising committee. "The biggest stars in Europe want to fetch their medals from Helsinki prior to the Olympics."

The action-packed five days in Helsinki will feature 1,700 team members representing 50 countries. The TV audience of the broadcast to about 40 countries is expected to reach 400 million. The championships are a vast organising effort for Finnish athletics groups, who will devote 1,700 volunteers to the task.

The main stage of the championships is Helsinki's venerable Olympic Stadium, which hosted the Summer Olympics in 1952, the world athletics championships in 1983 and 2005, and the European athletics championships in 1971 and 1994. These and other events have gained Helsinki a reputation as a top-tier host city for world-class sports events. www.helsinki2012.fi

Helsinki hosts the Ice Hockey World Championship with a touch of design

The IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship is the world's biggest annual winter sports event. Helsinki has hosted the event seven times during the championship's history including the 2012 event in May. The 2012 first rounds were co-hosted by Helsinki and Stockholm, and the semi-finals and the medal games were played in Helsinki. The arena in Helsinki was Hartwall Areena.

The Helsinki organising committee was aided by another world-level organisation, World Design Capital Helsinki 2012, to produce a unique event, understanding that design seen in its larger meaning is a key element of successful sports events.

The championship's brand was integrated in all visual elements. The main design focus was on service design. For example, tickets were accompanied by instructions on how to reach the arena and information on available services. Volunteers were specially trained to cater for guest needs. The media facilities were optimised. The players were ensured by all means possible the best conditions to focus on their games.

The design components of the 2012 championship will be compiled in a brand book for use with future sports events.



Finland confronts the USA in a 2012 world championship game in Helsinki. The 2012 world title was taken by Russia.

A new Helsinki deputy mayor

Pertti Nissinen / City of Helsinki



Ritva Viljanen

Helsinki's new deputy mayor responsible for education, culture and personnel affairs is **Ritva Viljanen**. She was elected to office by the Helsinki City Council as a representative of Finland's Social Democratic Party. A Helsinki deputy mayor's term is seven years. There are four deputy mayors in the city government.

Prior to her new office, Viljanen served as Permanent Secretary of

Finland's Ministry of the Interior (the ministry's highest official) since 2003. Before that, she served as Director General at the Finnish Population Register Centre and in various duties at the Finnish Ministries of Finance, Justice and the Interior.

Viljanen will supervise the Helsinki Central Library competition as Helsinki's highest official and chair the jury. In charge of the City's sports function, she enters office on the eve of the European Athletics Championships 2012, which serve as a reminder that Helsinki has an active and wide-ranging sports life, much of it supported by the City.

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