The South Harbour is the first glimpse of Helsinki for about 5.5 million passengers every year and is unquestionably an integral part of the city. Historically, the South Harbour and Helsinki grew hand-in-hand but with the decrease in port activities in the area, it has a lot of room for revitalization at present.

The exchange of goods and services was a primary function of the South Harbour. This function can be reconsidered from another aspect. Instead of trading goods and services, the South Harbour can be transformed into a cultural exchange hub, which focuses on exchanging arts and culture, not only for Helsinki but also for the whole Baltic region. Art and culture are fundamental parts of the Finnish society and this can be exemplified in the redevelopment of the South Harbour.

The urban movement in Helsinki has really grown in the last decade. Helsinkians are very proactive and willing to make a change in shaping the city.

The South Harbour offers very limited opportunities for people involvement in the area.

Implementing concepts that encourage people participation can change this aspect of the area.

As the South Harbour is to Helsinki, Finland is inarguably an intrinsic part of the Baltic Sea occupying roughly two-thirds of the total coastline of the latter. The Baltic Sea Region consists of eleven countries with more than 100 million inhabitants. The environmental problems of the Baltic Sea are well documented and a cause for concern for both Finland and the other Baltic nations. There is no other solution to these problems except for a joint collaborative effort between the nations of the Baltic Region. The South Harbour can be a trigger to raise awareness of the problems of the Baltic Sea among the Baltic countries while promoting cultural interactions between them.

Can a transformation of the South Harbour be a foundation for the cultural, urban and ecological enrichment of Helsinki and the Baltic Region as a whole? Culture, urban sustainability, ecological and environmental value should be brought to the South Harbour while making it a prototype to carry forward in the other major cultural port cities of the Baltic Region.

What is the key to realize the potential of the South Harbour?

Culture, urban sustainability, ecological and environmental value should be brought to the South Harbour while making it a prototype to carry forward in the other major cultural port cities of the Baltic Region.

What is the key to realize the potential of the South Harbour?
1. ART KIOSKI

Art is a fundamental part of Finnish society. Art is dynamic and moving all the time. Art is not simply an object that is placed in the museum. Can there be a container for art which considers these aspects?

The Art Kioski concept will create a public space in the South Harbour area to serve art as well as promote cultural activities. It will attempt to change the perceptions of people regarding art galleries. The South Harbour will act as one big canvas capturing the imagination of the artist. Helsinkians will be able to shape the Art Kioski as they see fit so as to promote people involvement in the South Harbour area.

The Art Kioski concept will attempt to establish a vibrant cultural identity in keeping with that of Finland in the South Harbour area.

2. LUOMU PARK

Since when have we disconnected ourselves with nature? Since when do we “construct” over natural ground to build parks instead of “cultivating” over it?

The Luomu park concept will seek to reconnect the South Harbour with nature by bringing a green waterfront area to the grey harbour.

A green park will be blended with an urban farm which will also bring people involvement in the South Harbour and bring about urban sustainable value to the South Harbour.

3. BALTIC LAB

“Helsinki is often referred to as the Daughter of the Baltic Sea. The daughter is crying over her mother, and all the other Baltic-Nordic countries have a responsibility to act.”

The Baltic Lab will be a means of precipitating awareness in people of the problems of the Baltic Sea.

The aim of the idea is not to purify the whole Baltic Sea but to instill a sense of deeper understanding in the people of Helsinki and the Baltic nations of the issues in the Baltic Sea.

Small-scale development will be carried out in the South Harbour to realize this concept.

4. KULTTUURI TERMINAALI

The Baltic Sea has the most sea traffic in the world by a fair mile. What if we could turn this into an opportunity to reinforce and unite the Baltic nations together?

The Baltic nations have been involved in trade exchanges with each other for a very long time.

These exchanges can be broadened in view by including art, cultural and environmental exchanges for better cooperation between the Baltic nations. The South Harbour will aim to set the wheels in motion in this regard.
ART KIOSKI

Is there a need for big museum buildings for displaying art?

Something interesting to note is that conventional museums use only 45% of their building space for galleries. Should the museum define the space for the art or should art define the space for the museum?

The Art Kioski aims to challenge the attitude of the conventional museum. It will be a museum, split up into smaller components, that emerges from the content it envelopes. The Art Kioski will offer new dimensions of collaboration between artists, art curators and architect. The artist will shape the art envelope in conjunction with the architect.

While the primary function of the Art Kioski is that of an art gallery, it has the potential in future to diversify its function. It can develop to push the frontiers of self-urbanism. The people of Helsinki will have the right to vote for the change in function of the Art Kioski in future by the use of mobile applications to be a public sauna, small music hall, indoor playground and so on.

The Art Kioski is the tool that can turn the whole South Harbour, and eventually Helsinki, into one big museum for everyone.

Conventional museum space program

“Art shapes the space.”
The Luomu Park will be brought about by an extension of the Observatory Park green space to the waterfront of the South Harbour. It will be a cultivated recreational green space encouraging urban self-sustainability as well as people involvement in the South Harbour area.

The Makasiini Terminal building will be transformed to be the Luomu Halli which will contain a winter garden, educational workshop space and an indoor plantation area. The Luomu Halli will provide an opportunity for the residents of Helsinki to unwind and enjoy a garden space even in the cold winters while also realizing the fruits of urban gardening from the Finns’ land. The total farming area is around 12300 square metres. In the summer, the walls of the Luomu Halli can be opened up to create a better connection between the people and the waterfront.

The big picture of the Luomu Park will be to make it a prototype for other parks in Helsinki to follow so as to promote urban sustainable food supply chains.
“The Baltic Sea is becoming more and more polluted. Not everybody living near the shore of the Baltic Sea is protecting it. It is the water of life for countries like Finland and Sweden”. - Harri Holkeri

The Baltic Lab is a concept which will try to increase the awareness of people about the environmental issues of the Baltic Sea. This will be done by creating the “Baltic Lab Campaign” which will be a water quality revitalization project done with a small sample size of the Baltic Sea within the South Harbour. The Baltic Lab campaign will be both interactive as well as informative in nature.

The revitalization of the Baltic Sea should not be a concept limited only to Helsinki and should ideally be carried out by all the countries of the Baltic Region. The Baltic Lab is only the first stone in the water and the ripples created by this should reverberate throughout the Baltic Nations in future.

However, harbours are meant to be places for trade and exchange. For this reason the following concepts are flexible to implement but it also stipulates remaining room for boats associated with the harbour’s historical spirit.

The Baltic Lights appear above the surface and hang down a few meters below, equipped with sensors connected to offshore meters in front of Helsinki that provide information on water quality, Helsinkians can contact the floating lights via WIFI messages and receive real-time information while the Baltic Lights commence to illuminate in a flashing performance.

The Lab pool is an outdoor solution how the bay water can be treated naturally. Plants absorb nutrients from the water for growth. Natural and sustainable filtration layers of gravel, sand and soil are used respectively rather than machinery and chemicals. In short, it shows people the simplicity and effect of cleaning seawater on the spot. On top, it offers bathers the experience of swimming in Helsinki’s heart, and also gardeners a secondary source for watering their crops in the Luomu Park.

“Awareness is the first step towards action.”
The South Harbour was a centre for trade but in the last century was changed in its function to be a harbour for passenger ships and car ferries.

The Kulttuuri Terminaali will aim to revive the trade functions of the South Harbour. The Kulttuuri Terminaali is proposed to be the “Heart of Cultural Exchange” between the countries of the Baltic Region. It will aim to do this by establishing cultural routes along the main port cities of the Baltic Sea with a museum ship; “The Artery”.

The Artery will include art, music and other exhibitions of Finnish cultural identity as well as retrospectives of the Baltic Lab Campaign. The Artery will embark on a journey to other Baltic countries and return to the South Harbour after completing a round trip. This is seen as a prototype model which in the bigger picture should include similar such “Arteries” showcasing the cultural identity of the other Baltic countries. This in the future could inspire a “Baltic Circulation” with the different “Arteries” of the Baltic countries.

The Artery interior space

The usage of the plaza of the Kulttuuri Terminaali will see a multitude of functions. Proposed usages include concerts, live theatre, architectural installations and exhibitions. Access for the people into The Artery will be through the Kulttuuri Terminaali and hence it will also serve as a temporary terminal for the period that the Artery is there.

The Kulttuuri Terminaali will aim to be the common thread that stitches the Baltic nations together.
Lovely Spring day: 07.03.2015

It is finally spring and here comes the sun! What a perfect day for a little stroll around Helsinki’s darling South harbour. My friend told me that a new exhibition on Estonian medieval art and culture has just docked at the port.

He was talking of course about the museum ship, The ARTery. We decided to give it a go and we weren't disappointed.

There were some pretty cool antiques on display. We were lucky because a Finnish pop art installation was just placed near the market square. Such a contrast in the timelines and styles!

Mid-Summer: 18.06.2015

It is high time and we went for a family picnic. With the sun shining high and brilliantly we decided to go towards the Kulttuuri Terminaali. We were surprised with the variety of activities offered there.

It was Baltic art week and Stockholm’s ARTery has just brought a new textile collection which was displayed in the Art Kioski. I was pleased with the experience and wondered how the venue would transform from the Kioski’s park to a music festival stage. When I reached there I was struck by the complete transformation of the place.

The museum ship was pumping life and culture into the heart of Helsinki. The kids enjoyed the outdoor bath and the parents were relaxing in the beer garden.

Autumn: 06.09.2015

I was really looking forward to today as I had just purchased tickets for the Music Festival at the Terminaali. I was there a fortnight ago to visit James Turrell’s exhibition in the Art Kioski. I was pleased with the experience and wondered how the venue would transform from the Kioski’s park to a music festival stage. When I reached there I was struck by the complete transformation of the place.

There were 2 stages: 1 small and 1 big. There were food and drink stalls around the perimeters of the plaza and the picturesque backdrop of the Katajanokka waterfront completed the picture. It was a great festival and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Winter: 15.12.2015

It was a typical winter day in Helsinki. Cold, dry and covered with dazzling white snow crystals. I had just arrived from St. Petersburg by the ferry and saw many people gathered at the Kulttuuri Terminaali where a big bonfire was burning. Well.. warmed up just by the thought of it, I decided to take the stroll from the Katajanokka Terminal and give it a go.

The area was preserved like a white winter wonderland with small walking trails. On reaching the plaza I realized that apart from the public bonfire, there was also a sauna which was just the thing I needed to relax and unwind after the long ship journey. Well, 2 weeks ago, there was an ice cube gallery and today we have a bonfire. What a winter!!
An art museum that is made by the artist,
a public space that is shaped by the people,
a pond that reminds people of their responsibility to nature,
a park that gives people food,
a terminal that initiates cultural exchange,
and
the harbour that reinforces the Baltic Countries together.

"HELSENXI
EXTCHANGE"