

MILLENNIUM HARBOUR

The announced Next Helsinki Competition has many similar tasks than The Millennium Technology Prize launched for the first time in 2004 and given to the Sir Tim Berners Lee for his innovation of World Wide Web. This prize is Finland's tribute to innovators for a better life. During its 10-year history Millennium Technology Prize has been awarded to 12 remarkable innovations. The aims of the prize are to promote technological research all over the world and Finland as a high tech Nordic welfare state of course.

In connection with the prize ceremonies of the first prize some of the leading organizers tried to promote cooperation between three Helsinki metropolitan area cities Espoo, Helsinki and Vantaa. This was seen necessary due to the competition of innovative work force resources with other European metropolitans. However this work has stayed in its half way. The prize and its host City Helsinki should still be better known all over the world even though its winners have become nowadays also Nobel (Shinya Yamanaka 2012 and Shuji Nakamura 2014) and other prestigious prize receivers.

The prestigious Millennium Technology Prize is awarded every second year. Two first prizes were given to the Winner in the traditional Finlandia House. Beside this it is necessary to establish a Helsinki Landmark to be used continuously in when celebrating Prize Winners. "Millennium Harbour" should form in this nature a "living and dining room" for Helsinki City residents and their guests.

At present Helsinki, the Capital of Finland is a growing core of the metropolitan area. At same time the competition between European metropolitans has become even harder. Helsinki metropolitan area needs now an attractive window and door to open its advantages and to present its modern cultural and innovatively working society for the improving of peoples every day life.

In order to promote tasks mentioned above Helsinki is no doubt missing a great festival banquet hall for formal occasions of the State. Helsinki is also missing on a central place of the city a noteworthy building designed and constructed of the historically important own renewable material of the country, wood. This hall with its exhibition facilities for art, design, innovation as well as engineering museum and versatile services could act also a visiting object both for local people, all Finns and visitors from abroad.

The Next Helsinki Competition offers an outstanding platform – as Finnish artist Terike Haapoja states - for ideas that take as their starting point the growing interest in social responsibility in art, as well as appreciation for developing existing local institutions their international knowhow and networks.

A new building of the Millennium Harbour should open its doors and workshops for the Finnish culture and way of life in its all forms like in arts, design, eating, fashion, bio- and environmental sound industrial as well research activities, etc.

In spite of these general tasks the Millennium Centre would act as a visible and permanent scene for the future Millennium Technology Prize in the similar way than the town halls in Stockholm and Oslo in connection of annual Nobel Prize awarding ceremonies.

This building in the core centre of the South Harbour of Helsinki could offer also a festive local for the President of Finland, its Government and the Management of Helsinki City as well as important enterprises organising banquets and other important occasions.

The site should be available also for exhibitions of modern art, innovative design, as well for a permanent museum of architecture and engineering. It should also draw the features of other parts of Finland and way of life from other countries of the world. The idea is to run the Millennium Centre as its own economically independent activity, not at all as a franchising business.

One of the important tasks of the Millennium Centre should also be to widen its international visitors' eyes to remember land and especially its metropolitan area as a motivating working and living environment.

Stockholm is marked as an international science promoter, Oslo as an international piece promoter and Helsinki should clearly take the role of an international technology promoter.

Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen stated on 13th of October 2002 when the Millennium Technology Prize was established as follows: *“Let me express my appreciation for the initiative and for the signing of this important document that a Finnish high technology prize will finally take off. I would say the Millennium Prize is needed, because Finland to day is ranked No. 1 in technology in many rankings and we benefit so much from world markets in high technology so that we owe this to the world, mankind and science of those, who make a creating prosperity through high technology that we establish the Millennium Prize.”*

We now need a more visible display window as a versatile cultural centre to continue this promotion.

The suggested building project would form very suitable international design and construction project which could attract wood construction and wood surface protection know how from Middle Europe and even worldwide.

A new multiform building of the Millennium Harbour should open its doors and work shops for the Finnish culture and way of life in its all forms like in arts, design, eating, fashion, bio- and environmental sound industrial as well research activities, etc.

This building in the core centre of the South Harbour of Helsinki could form also a banqueting hall for the President of Finland, its Government and the Management of Helsinki City as well as important enterprises organising banquets and other important occasions.

This proposal takes as its starting point the existing need of the city of Helsinki. This is a realistic alternative to the Guggenheim Museum.

To establish and build The Millennium Harbour would form a project financed in the public-private partnership excluding The State of Finland.