

Alternative Approach to Arts Museum Lot in South Harbour

Cultural Premises

Finnishness has been and currently is in continuous dialogue with the surrounding world. In this process, Finnish culture has been able to position itself and exchange its values and content amongst other cultures.

The new cultural object should reflect the premises and values of Finnishness. In addition, there are two other elements to take into account while making institutional reshaping things in Finland - time and space.

Overall Objective of Centre

The overall objective of the cultural object being designed and built in/on the lot reserved for Art Museum in South Harbour area is an alternative approach for the Guggenheim Art Museum. It is aimed at being a cultural and arts centre positioning Finland amongst the world cultures and interlink Finnish Arts with international similar facilities.

Specific Objectives of Centre

The Centre should anchor the Finnish Culture and Arts with the four classic bodies from the Ancient Hellenic era: earth, water, air and fire:

- Fire occupies the highest place among them all, earth the lowest, and two elements correspond to these in their relation to one another.

The Centre should promote and enable maximum use and exchange of these elements incorporated in arts, cultural product, services and other dialogic processes by Finland's citizens.

The Centre should integrate into one inseparable entity the old, contemporary and incoming sub-cultures as well as their visual and performing arts and handcrafts under emerging umbrella the "South Harbour Arts Centre".

South Harbour Arts Centre - Materialisation

The lot reserved for Guggenheim Arts can be used for an alternative arts museum design, which has a profile linking the Centre with cultural history of Finland. The South Harbour Centre consists of two main sub-objects:

1) The *Stormskärs-Maja Islet – Myrskyluodon Maija Islet* of grey rock/rock-made partitioning/outer building materials with small exhibition halls and conference center/restaurant and winter garden by the novels. An annex-building and a small part of building could be under water as an observation point of underwater life for the periods of time when Baltic Sea water is clean enough and not disturbed by boats and ferries. An elementary part of the Islet would be a red ochre painted boathouse analogue to the Rockport (Mass.) boathouse as relict of the past Finnish community there.

2) The main Arts Centre would be a hybrid underground/outdoor complex using geo-thermal heat and natural light coming through rock-mounted windows: During the darkness could give light the Arts Centre facilities outdoor. Inside the Centre, recent achievements of rock-building and geo-thermal resources could be shown. The outdoors facilities would comprise

on Tähtitorninmäki - Observatoriebacken Hill a lighthouse from the Baltic Sea or a modern technology promotion lighthouse forming a triangle with Stigell's sculpture, lighthouse and the observatory, all symbolising nation's capability and willingness to recover.

Justification of Suggested Approach

Finland is a bilingual country with three cultural traditions, Western, Eastern, true Finnish and emerging sub-culture under the international setting. Such a new National Arts centre should provide a common base for all the four sub-cultures. In addition, the overall setting and symbolisms could be shared by the sub-cultures during their stay and being a part of the present Finnish culture.

Internationalisation has a solid foundations when it's based on respect of differences of people and habits. The Centre will attract visitors who want to coexistence of conformity and creativity under a rocky ceiling. Finland is the only country which paid back its debts to the US after WW1. Today, the same spirit exists with building a new type of Arts Centre. We want to share such a Centre with the World, but we do not want to be owing to somebody in promoting our national interests.