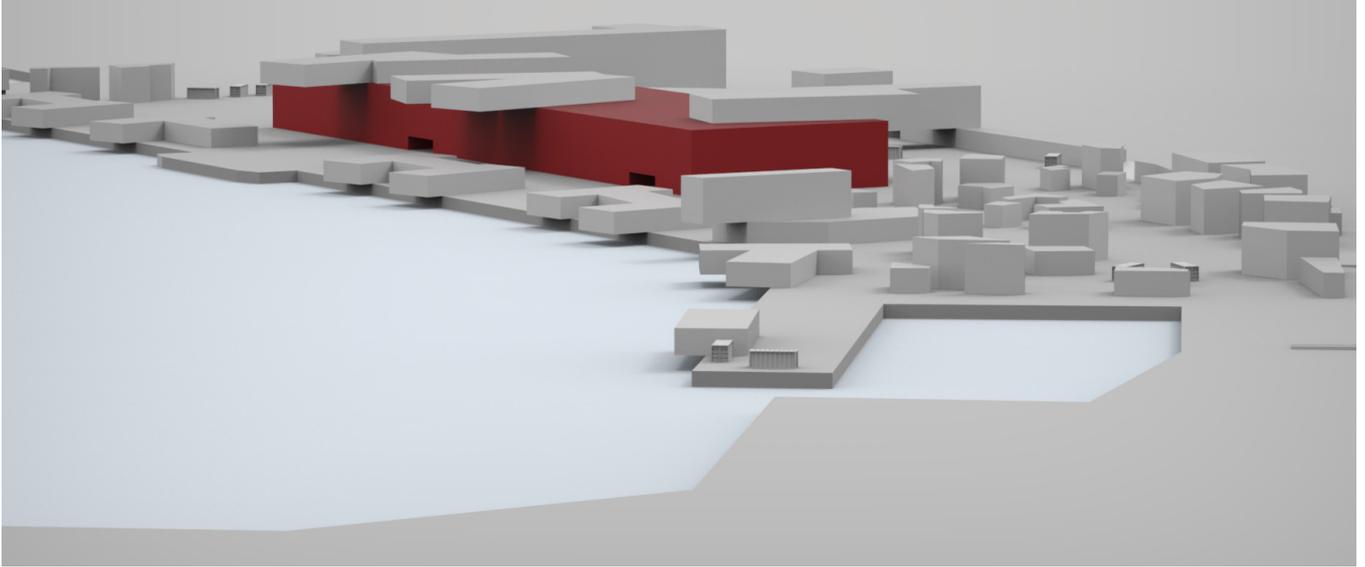


'FINNISH GULF LABOR' – THE SOUTH HARBOR'S ANARCHISTIC ARCHITECTURE

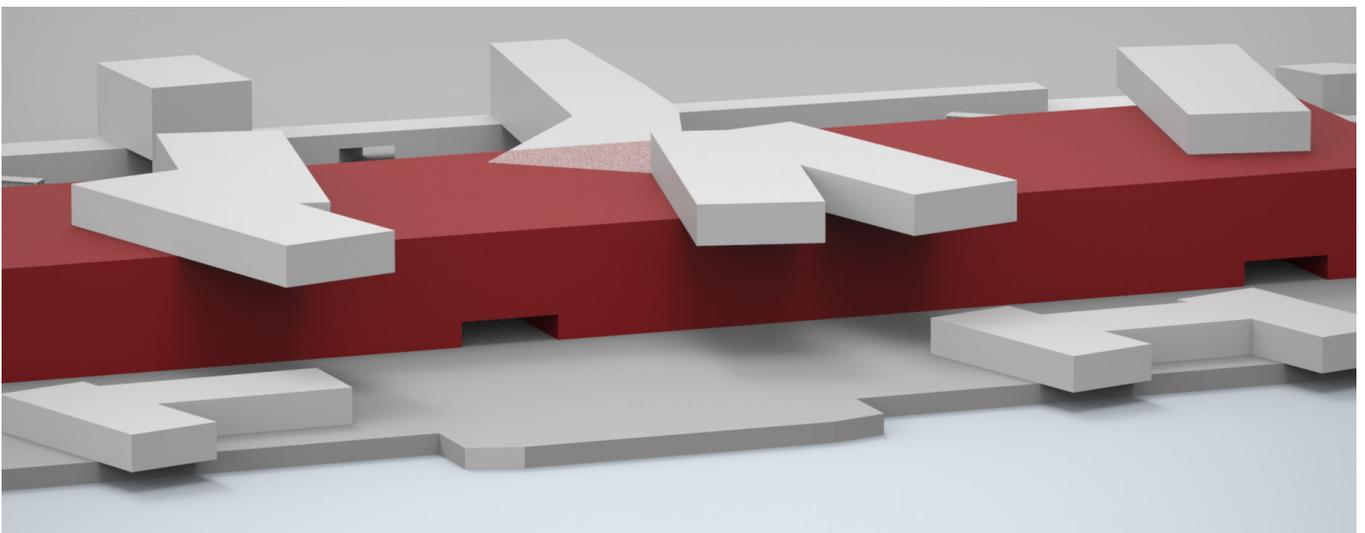


Keywords

Anarchistic architecture, historical layers within the same construction entity, evolving and organic architecture, enjoyment, post-welfare state version of urban slumming, temporariness, waterfronts for all

Abstract

The proposal research possibilities how to build and design the South Harbor site within the different time periods, and within the same building/construction entity. This *Gesamtkunstwerk* type of process would take place in 'organic' and 'anarchistic' form. The certain parts of the entity would contain 'real' architectural design, but major parts would embrace a non-planned strategy and building. This kind of philosophical orientation would allow fresh way to build to beautiful waterfront location. The proposal does not celebrate authenticity, or the exact form of the monumental building. It rather discuss within 'the eternity project' and 'constant temporariness' framework. The project would 'never be ready', but at the same time it would be 'completed in all different stages'. Public participation and political elements of architecture highlights the proposal. This construction entity challenges the strict building regulations in Finland, celebrates historical uses of seafronts, and looks for the new ways to build together. The process would bring architects, artists, and citizens of Helsinki together within the framework of anarchistic architecture.



Introduction

'Finnish Gulf Labor' – proposal introduces the idea of *the historical layers within the same construction entity* as a central ideology, when 'designing' the future of South Harbor site. The proposal's bearing idea is that historical layers should be seen also within the building entity not only between the buildings. The research for the proposal wants to learn from unwanted, anarchistic, and organic structures in architecture. It suggests that Helsinki could import slum-style building and ideology of evolving architecture to centrally located site. The seafront architecture could also be something else than completely designed monumental and clean place.

The current 'official thinking' in Helsinki has underlined the importance of authenticity and pure form in architecture. Within this ideology, the buildings should be the products of certain time period. All though there are some buildings in Helsinki, where historical layers and modifications can be found, it is widely considered to be nonsense and unclear way to build or re-build.

The most of Helsinki's new architecture (including Töölönlahti, Jätkäsaari and Kalasatama) has generic, monolithical, and monumental essence in the architectural form of the buildings. Contemporary Finnish architecture cannot link new buildings to city structure successfully. The ideology of late modernistic architecture prevails and participatory and shabby architecture have been marginalized. Temporariness is not celebrated, because everything has to build 'ready' and 'final' within short time span.

If you ask from the Finns what would they want build and to where? The answers would be surrounded to building and designing entities close to the waterfronts, and as close to water as possible. Within the previous generations, urban city summer cottages brought possibilities to Helsinki city dwellers to conquer own piece of land from certain parts of the city, and build their own small dream houses. The proposal wants to continue to embrace this tradition in Helsinki.

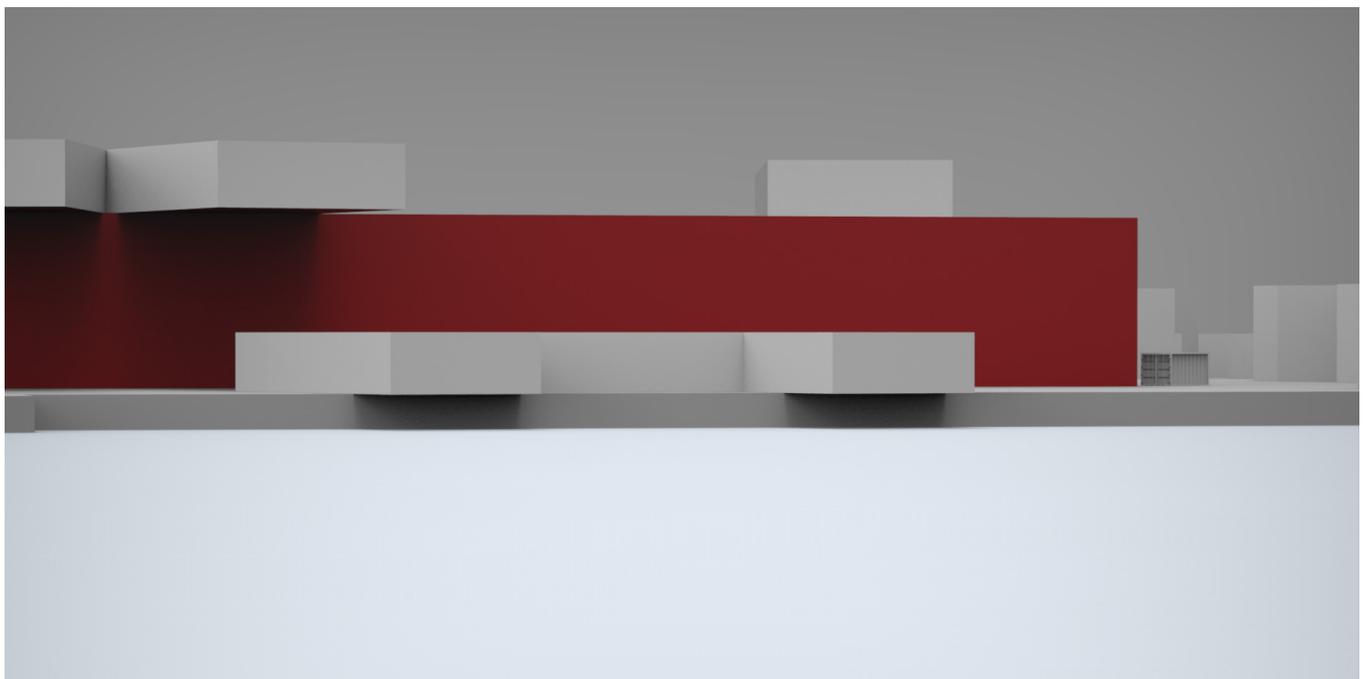
The proposal combines these different elements (conquering the spaces, creating organic architectural places, making architecture enjoyable, and anarchistic building possible). It can be also regarded as a continuum of tenacious Finnish outsider art tradition.

i. Political and Architectural Connotations

The proposal suggests the place for enjoyment and life in the South Harbor site. This building entity/location would grow organically and it would be attached to the waterfront. The inspiration for the proposal comes from slum and un-planned constructions in the Global South. Making the contemporary hybrid from best practices learnt from these construction entities would serve as a model for the construction.

Two questions have to be asked. Why this unregulated building entity would be interesting for this specific location? And why slum-style constructs should be introduced to the façade of Helsinki's South Harbor? First of all, it would be a political statement. The construction entity would discuss (and oppose) the framework for politics and economy of the Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK), located opposite to the site. The proposal would also make an allegory for running down the Nordic welfare state model.

The planned or un-planned structures can provide the platform to build almost anything to the site. Inspired also by Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, the activities could contain cheap and temporary housing, affordable food and drink stalls, different art and culture spots, and the place for every kind of enjoyment.



ii. Post-Welfare State Version of Urban Slumming

The proposal would transform the South Harbor site for the laboratory of 'anarchistic architecture', not for another generic urban sculpture. It would be on going, un-finished, and 'non-building' project that would embrace contemporariness and temporariness. It would celebrate vague and indeterminate structures that would be evolving over the time. The idea of temporariness opens up possibilities to formulate contemporariness of each present time in different ways within same construction entity. Something from the structure can always be removed and something new can be build within the transforming site entity.

This kind of building/architecture would open up possibilities to the residents of Helsinki to build to the waterfront locations, erratically and randomly. The concept would challenge strict Finnish building regulations, and unadulterated and clean spaces. To succeeding this kind of 'anarchy', some preparations should be made for the site and to the existing buildings, before different structures could start to emerge.

The South Harbor site contains existing buildings in (e.g. Makasiini terminal, M4). The proposal suggests that these structures could provide an obvious starting point for the new construction entity. The proposal underlines, that we don't have to torn everything down and start everything from the scratch, from clean and unhistorical non-space. 'The overall plan' would contain building blocks from one to five storeys.

Within **the first phase** of the project, the certain infrastructure for water, electricity, and heating should be constructed. These preliminary preparations would serve as a base for the future construction (like a ship wreck, where corals can attain themselves). **The second phase** would contain actual 'first wave of construction'. There would be partly organized (architecturally designed) structures and then randomly appearing structures. The most important element of the overall design would be that it enables evolving future structures (e.g. creates certain type of skeleton for the entity). Materially wise, second phase would contain both more permanent concrete elements, and more temporary wooden (recycled) structures. The layout for building structure would contain narrow alleys, small plazas, and multi-function spaces. The pervasive idea would be the places for all kind of enjoyment, and possibility for all people to be builders and occupiers of space. Because everything is and should be temporary, **the third, fourth, and fifth phases** would modify the structure-entity and add on annexes. Architects and artists together with public builders would design the permanent architectural parts of the building modification in the future. Something new could be built for example every summer and major architectural amendment, for example once in the five years. The basic idea is that structure would evolve all the time, and mirror changes in contemporariness.

