



# Bridging the City // the Next Helsinki

## Creating a threshold for the Pedestrians of Helsinki

The initial catalyst of the project came from the people of Helsinki. The residents of the city, want any new additions to the city to be functional/useful assets to the inhabitants. The intent of the project is to provide a functional programmatic use of the site. The bridging of three elements- the Port, the Park and the city Landmarks- was done in order to reinvigorate the harbor, as part of the transformation of the city. In addition, there is a large gallery allocated to public work. This gallery is nested below the main pathways and serves as the central focal point of the project.

Above the gallery are the pathways for the pedestrians of Helsinki, which allows for the interaction between designated zones throughout the site. The procession through the pathways is mapped by horizontally articulated walls and pathways that take the pedestrian into space for gathering, sitting, viewing, etc. The plan expresses flexible bicycle and pedestrian pathways, which connects different levels and different zones of activities. The lawn and site (off of the bridge) is used for gathering/ joining and activates a crucial portion of the city that had been once allocated to a wasted program. The water front park has space for theatrical performances, sporting events, lounging, etc.

The material selection and project language was designed to illustrate an aesthetic that linked the historical use of Helsinki construction to a subdued contemporary building. The building should be understood as a part of the urban landscape- specifically for Helsinki. The architectural material color palette lies within the winter tones of the Helsinki. Thus the project camouflages itself into the nature of the city throughout most of the year.

When the competition for the Guggenheim Museum, Helsinki was taking place, the objective was to create a structure that worked by itself to attract travelers and tourists similar to the Guggenheim, Bilbao. Although, this idea is beneficial for the economy, we believe the structure should be something that is less intrusive and alining with the needs of the inhabitants of Helsinki- this is what BRIDGING THE CITY will do.



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