

History of Finnish Building and Architecture

UW Seattle, January 5, 2011

Tapio Koskinen

Head of New Solutions

Aalto Professional Development

**WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN
THINK OF FINNISH ARCHITECTURE ?**

Video 1

<http://jkmm.fi/downloads.html>

https://palvelin.jkmm.fi/pub/Kirnu_Videos.zip

History of Building and Architecture in Finland

0000 – 1600	From the Middle Ages to the Threshold of a New Era
1600 – 1775	From Great Power to the Era of Enlightenment
1775 – 1850	Era of Enlightenment and Classicism
1850 – 1930	Building Finland
1930 – 1970	Development of Housing
1970 – 2010	New Age – Today

General

- Over 80% of buildings are post WWII – compared to the rest Europe buildings in Finland are young
- Wood has been easily available throughout the centuries and more
- Until 1956 most of the population lived in rural areas
- Since late 1950s Pre-fabrication has changed the way Finns build
- Apartment houses prevail as a form of housing today
- The first Finnish degree programmes in Architecture began in 1872
- Most of the historical buildings have not been designed by architects

From the Middle Ages to the Threshold of a New Era (0-1600)

- 1209 Finland is mentioned as a country that had recently turned into Christian religion (letters of Pope)
- Finland is part of Sweden
- Construction of Turku Cathedral and Turku Castle began on 13th Century
- St. Olaf's Castle a 15th century three-tower castle located in Savonlinna is built in 1475 to safeguard Savo
- Gustav Vasa (1496–1560), became King of Sweden in 1523 – Reformation followed
- Helsinki was founded in 1550

Turku Cathedral
end of 14th century



St. Olaf's Castle
1475





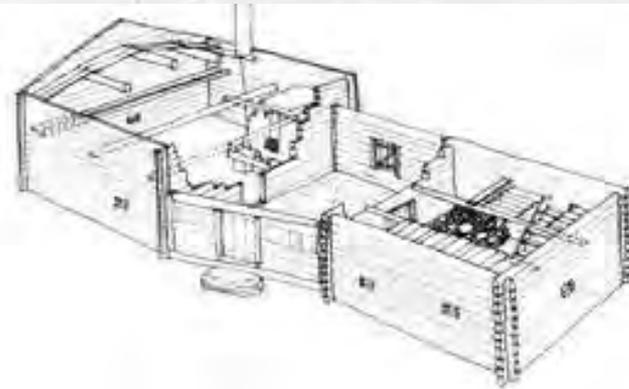
Samusitti Nonijärveltä.



Edellisen värin Huola.



Gohti [Sami] – Gamme [Norwegian] –
Kota [Finnish] – Kåta [Swedish]



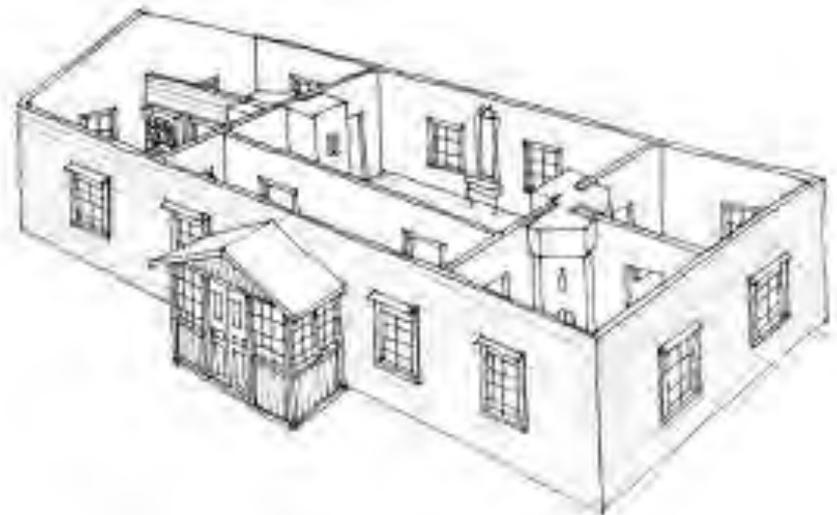
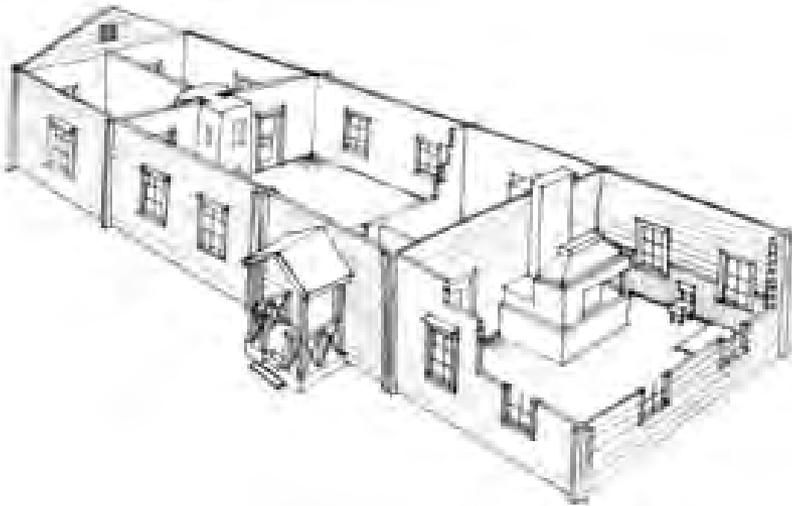
Chimneyless Hut

GATHERERS

NOMADS

HUNTERS

FARMERS



Chimney became common
in the 16th Century,
Glass windows were available

In the 17th and 18th century wealthy houses
included several rooms, the drawing room
was equipped with a tiled stove

FARMERS

CRAFTSPEOPLE

MERCHANTS

SOLDIERS

CIVIL SERVANTS

From Great Power to the Era of Enlightenment 1600-1775

- 1640 Turku Academy was founded
- 1649 Fiskarsin Iron Works
- Grid Plan introduced in town planning in mid 17th century
- 1700-1721 The Great Northern War
- 1730's Potato was introduced to Finnish farmers
- 1771 First newspaper

Suomenlinna
Fortress
construction
begins
in 1748



Louhisaari Manor
House, Askainen
17th century

Town houses in
Loviisa,
18th century

Strömfors Iron Works
Ruotsinpyhtää
18th century

Wealthy Farmhouse

WESTERN FINLAND



EASTERN FINLAND

Most of the population still
lives in chimneyless huts



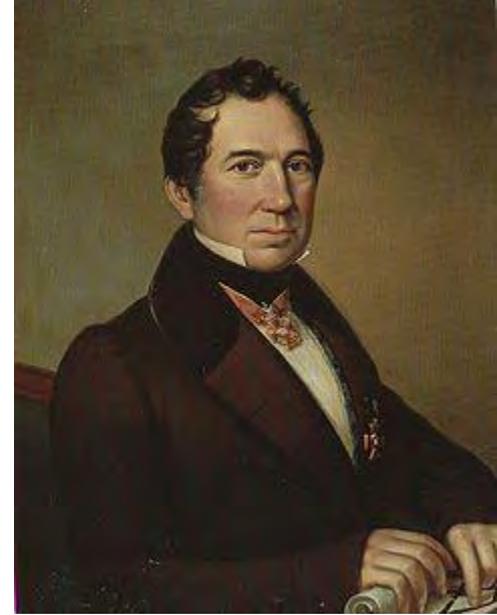
LOG
Length 6 m = 19 ft
Diameter 30 cm = 12 inch

Era of Enlightenment and Classicism

1775-1850

- Gustav III King of Sweden 1771 – 1792
- 1809 the Treaty of Hamina (Eastern parts of Sweden constituted the Grand Principality of Finland and were joined to Russia) and the Diet of Porvoo (legislative assembly)
- 1812 Helsinki became capital
- Tiled stoves and coffee drinking become popular
- 1828 Finlayson Cotton Mill established in Tampere
- Population: 1750: 421 500, 1850: 1 636 900

Johann Carl Ludwig Engel
1778 – 1840
German architect known for
his neoclassical (empire)
style. He had a great impact
on the architecture of
Finland in the first part
of the 19th century.



Helsinki Cathedral (formerly St. Nicholas' Church)
1852



University of Helsinki Main Building
1832



Finlayson Cotton Mill in Tampere, 1837

Building Finland 1850-1930

- 1862 Helsinki – Hämeenlinna railroad
- 1879 freedom of trade, business and occupation
- 1917 Russian revolution in February and October – Finland declares independence
- 1918 civil war
- Population: 1850: 1 636 900;
1900: 2 655 900; 1930: 3 462 700

Eliel Saarinen (1873 – 1950)
was a Finnish architect who
became famous for his
art nouveau buildings in
the early years
of the 20th century.



Finnish
Pavilion
at Paris
World
Expo
1900



Hvitträsk, 1902



National
Museum
of Finland
1904



Railway Station,
1909

Development of Housing 1930-1970

- 1931 Town Plan Act and Building Code
- 1931 House of Parliament
- 1940 Olympic Stadium
- 1945 Countryside Building Act
- Cession of territories to Russia
(Moscow Peace Treaty, 1940)
- Re-building of Finland after the war
- 1964 the first Conservation of Buildings Act
- Population 1930: 3 462 700, 1970: 4 598 336



Alvar Aalto (1898 – 1976) was a Finnish architect and designer. His work includes architecture, furniture, textiles and glassware.



1927–1935: Municipal library, Viipuri, Finland (now Vyborg, Russia)

1937–1939: Villa Mairea, Noormarkku, Finland

1948: Baker House, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts





finnish pavilion by alvar
aalto at the new york world
fair, 1938-39

Alvar Aalto

Alvar Aalto (1898–1976)

- Distinguished himself in the fields of technology, business and art.
- Diploma in Architecture from Helsinki University of Technology
- Founder of Artek 1935
- Professor at MIT (1946–1948)

Aalto Quotes

“Building art is synthesis of life in materialized form. We should try to bring in under the same hat not a splintered way of thinking, but all in harmony together.”





New Age – Today

- 1972 Energy Crisis
- 1990's Economic Recession during the first half of decade
- 1995 Finland joins European Union
- 1999 Land Use and Building Act



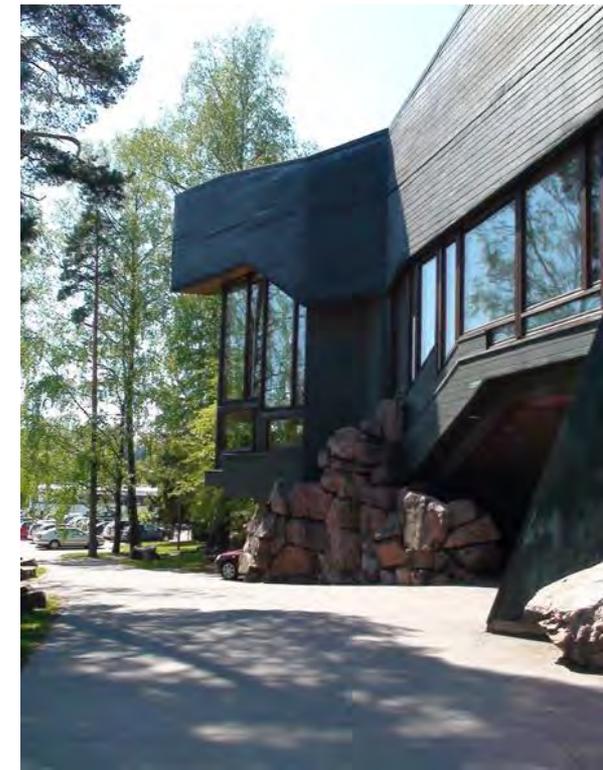
1984–1993 Mäntyniemi,
Residency of the Finnish
president in Helsinki

Reima Pietilä (1923 – 1993)
was a Finnish architect. He did
most of his work together
with his wife Raili Pietilä.

Reima was professor of
architecture at the University
of Oulu from 1973 to 1979.
Pietilä saw his work as organic
architecture, but also very
much modern.



1961–1966
Dipoli student
assembly
building in
Otaniemi
Espoo





1962–1982 Suvikumpu residential area in Tapiola Espoo





1978–1986 Metso,
city of Tampere main
library





Finland Pavilion, 1958 Expo, Brussels

Architect : Mr. Reima Pietilä. Inside the Finnish landscapes were portrayed, as well as a model wood-working factory. There was also a working sauna.

Oulu School



Oulunsalon Municipality Hall, 1982,
Kari ja Reijo Niskasaari, Kaarlo
Viljanen, Ilpo Väisänen and Jorma
Öhman.



Oulun normaalikoulu, 1982 - 1983,
Heikki Taskinen

**WHAT CONSTITUTES
GOOD ARCHITECTURE ?**

**WHAT CONSTITUTES
GOOD DESIGN ?**



WHAT CONSTITUTES GOOD DESIGN

Note Title

5.1.2011

CITADEL (EGYPT)

- HISTORY
- AWESOME VIEW
- AWESOME INTERIOR

NOTRE DAME (PARIS)

- STAINED GLASS (LIGHT)
- RELIGIOUS BUILDING

NEW WORLD TRADE CENTER (NYC)

- MODERN
- COMPUTER WATERFALL COMING DOWN THE WALL

FERRARI F430 SPYDER

- SLEEK
- CURVY
- FAST
- GOOD AUDIO SETUP
- LUXURIOUS
- WELL MADE
- STURDY
- EXPENSIVE

GOOD DESIGN

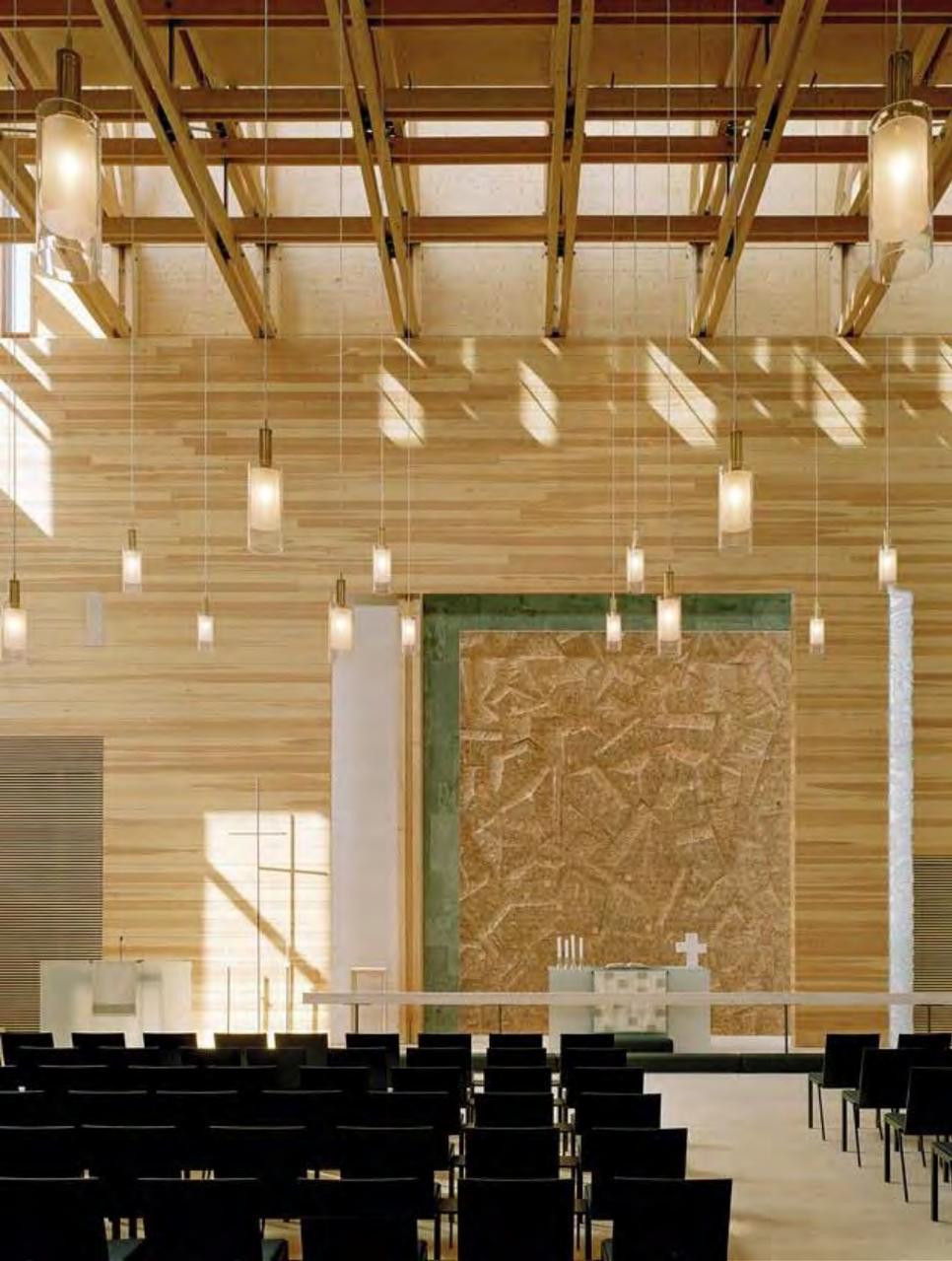
- RELIABILITY IN STRUCTURE & FUNCTION
- EFFICIENT USE OF SPACE +
- CREATIVITY & ART
- DOES WHAT IT IS SUPPOSED AND MORE
- 3D BEAUTY
- EFFECTIVE LAY-OUT

Otaniemi Chapel. Siren Architects
1952, 1957, 2006





Church of Viikki. JKMM Architects
Photo: Jussi Tainen



Church of Laajasalo. Merja Järvinen and Kari Nieminen Architects
Photo: Jussi Tiainen

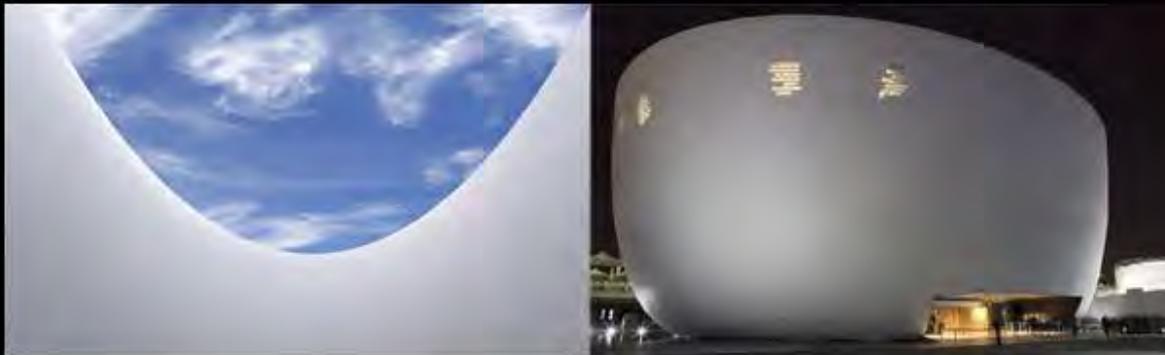


Hiidenkivi Comprehensive School, Tapanila. Architect Seppo Häkli. Work of Art: Stig Baumgartner
Photo: Jussi Tiainen

Shanghai Expo 2010

The Finland Pavilion "Kirnu" is surrounded by a lake, appearing to float on the water. It has the slogan "Sharing Inspiration," where ideas can meet and mix. The design draws inspiration from Finnish nature. Elements reinterpreted in the pavilion include the shape of small rocks found on coastal islands, the surface of a fish, reflection on water, framed view of the sky and smell of tar on wood.

Experience Architecture



'Kirnu' - Finnish Pavilion for the Shanghai Expo 2010

JKMM Architects (www.jkmm.fi). Photos Lucas Schifres ja Hannele Grandberg.











Video 2

<http://jkmm.fi/downloads.html>

https://palvelin.jkmm.fi/pub/Kirnu_Videos.zip

Thank You!

tapio.koskinen@aalto.fi