

PAAPUURI - A PORT-FACING NEIGHBOURHOOD

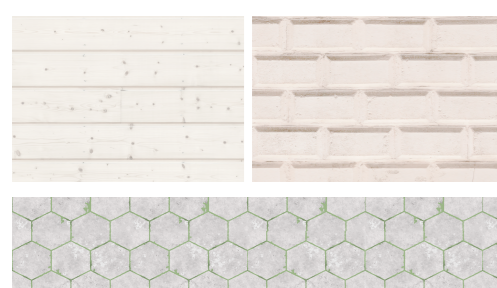
Paapuri, meaning port in English, presents a vision for a comprehensive neighbourhood in Vaaskuoto that embodies sustainability, adaptability, and a deep connection of the forest and the sea. The design aims to create an attractive living environment that promotes a sustainable lifestyle for future residents. With a focus on ecological transition and the integration of human and non-human spheres, Paapuri strives to establish a thoroughly unified and timeless community. By highlighting and strengthening the neighbourhood's connection to the sea, along with its connection to the forest, it is sought to promote a profound sense of place and embrace the surrounding natural beauty. By incorporating renewable energy systems, green infrastructure, and sustainable building practices, the aim is to create a neighbourhood that trends lightly on the Earth and minimizes its ecological footprint.

The neighbourhood is laid out on a fan-shaped grid, facing the natural port direction, hence the name. The starting point is laid out from a landmark in the middle of the forest. This landmark is a tall structure, not only marking the grid, but serves as a perch for residents and visitors. A panoramic, symmetrical view of the whole neighbourhood, emerging from the forest, with the sea in the far distance, is facing the viewer. It is preferable that a local artist will design the landmark, as it will also serve as a large-scale artwork. A path encircling the peninsula leads to the landmark.

This dedicated path for biking and walking encircles the shoreline, acting as a focal point for both residents and tourists. This path not only promotes physical activity and a healthy lifestyle but also attracts visitors to explore the neighbourhood and appreciate its natural beauty. By prioritizing light means of transport, the carbon footprint is reduced, emphasizing the connection between sustainable mobility and the surrounding marine environment. Smaller paths separate and join from the main path, and meander within the borders of a flower meadow and sea grass plants. The flower meadow is not only beautiful, but also promotes pollination. These smaller paths lead to discoverable, scattered activities, such as fire pits, a foraging garden, a pier on the tip of the peninsula, and a snow park. Additionally, there is an intent for an outdoor art exhibition, which provides an opportunity for residents and local artists to showcase their artwork. This will be in the form of a gallery as well as a game, as visitors can search for hidden artwork along the way. The snow park, located in the northwest corner of the peninsula, gets its name from piled up land, accumulated from the land digging process of building the neighbourhood. In the summer, the park serves as a cluster of pleasant little hills intended for play and picnic, or anything within the limits of imagination. During winter, snow will pile up according to the topography, creating hills perfect for sledding. The path crosses through the shared beach, extends deep into the forest, passes through the landmark and another birdwatching tower, merging into the existing track. In the Vaaskuoto forest. Further south, the forest will house several activities such as bird feeding spots, as well as a frisbee golf course.

The sea plays an essential role in this project, both conceptually and visually. The housing placement strategically places residential units to maximize views of the sea and capitalize on natural daylight. Public spaces and recreational areas are seamlessly integrated along the coastline, encouraging residents and tourists alike to engage with the waterfront, promoting physical and mental well-being. Additionally, the design includes a network of waterfront promenades, enhancing the overall connectivity of the neighbourhood.

GFA	56 320 m ²
	APARTMENTS 36 574
	3 FLOOR TOWNHOUSES 15 693
	2 FLOOR TOWNHOUSES 2400
	DETACHED HOUSES 1650
CAR PLACES	580
	APARTMENTS 316
	TOWNHOUSES 190
	DETACHED HOUSES 22
	COMMON 52
BIKE PLACES	3185
	APARTMENTS 1628
	TOWNHOUSES 1025
	DETACHED HOUSES 116
	COMMON 416



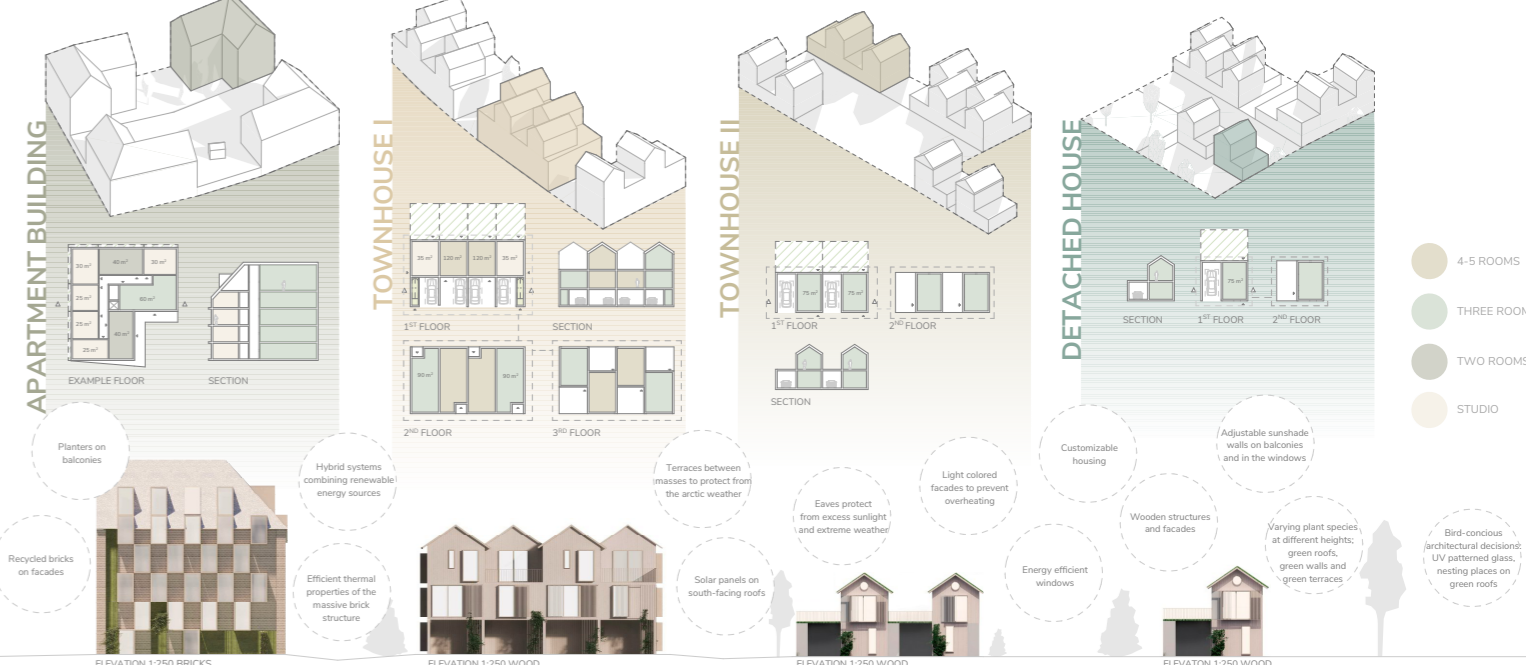
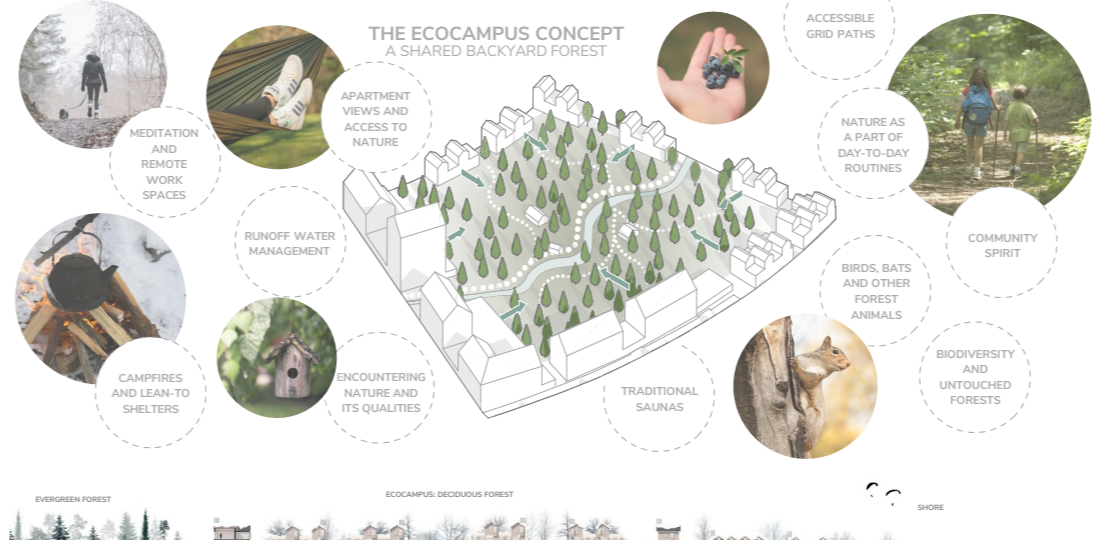
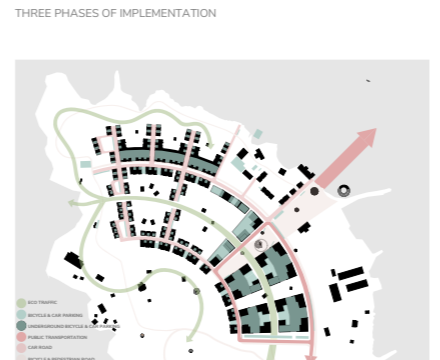
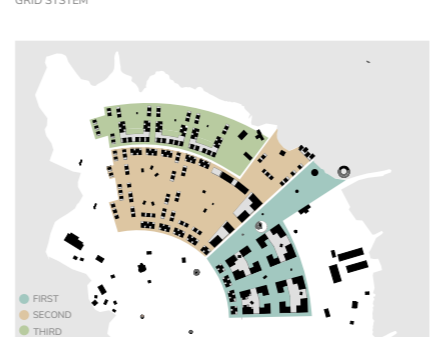
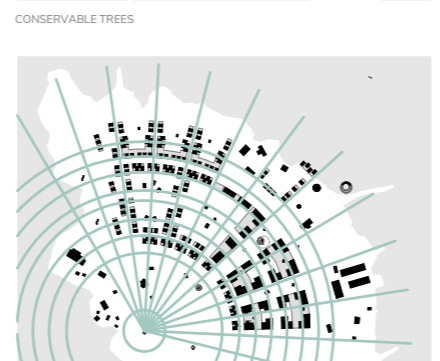
A BACKYARD FOREST

Little forests, named "ecocampuses", are found in the heart of each block. These green oases serve as unique yards for residents, providing tranquil spaces with winding paths that invite environmental exploration for all ages and create a strong sense of community. The borderless yards also serve as habitats for various animals, including native birds and bats, sustaining biodiversity, and reinforcing the integration of human and non-human spheres. Each ecocampus has its unique vegetation, varying from coniferous-dominated to deciduous-dominated, or a mix of both. Playgrounds and other activities within the ecocampuses reflect its vegetation type.

Residents can enjoy the soothing sounds of nature and experience the joy of coexisting with wildlife within their immediate surroundings. Likewise to the rounded main streets for human use, a central fauna highway is located in the heart of this neighbourhood, stretching through the forest towards the beach and beyond through open ecocampuses and their runoff water system. Seen from above, this highway surpasses all other roads in size. It is therefore evident that Paapuri is purposefully designed for all its potential residents, non-humans included, with human habitat placed within the boundaries of non-human habitat.

To maintain a harmonious coexistence between humans and non-human species, Paapuri incorporates biophilic design principles and prioritizes biodiversity conservation. Green corridors and pocket parks permeate stormwater friendly pavements are intelligently scattered throughout the neighbourhood, providing habitats for native flora and fauna. By creating a network of interconnected green spaces, we establish opportunities for residents to engage with nature, fostering a sense of stewardship and environmental consciousness. Moreover, community gardens and urban farming initiatives promote sustainable food production, strengthening the connection between residents and their ecological surroundings, indeed all townhouse yards and apartment balconies are equipped with planting gardens.

The ecocampuses contain small wooden huts, salvaged from the existing camping grounds, which will be converted into remote work stations, meditation rooms, and playhouses. A traditional, wood-burning sauna in the midst of the coniferous forest will also be considered. The runoff water stream will act out a playful research route with information boards, allowing children and adults alike to find local flora and fauna in their new home.



SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

In order to maximize sea views and provide a connection to the waterfront, taller buildings were intentionally placed inland, with the height of the apartments gradually decreasing as they approach the shore. Likewise, the number of trees in the area considerably decrease in an identical manner. This intentional house placement ensures that as many inhabitants as possible can enjoy the sea views, enhancing a sense of tranquility, equal accessibility and connection to nature. In the first phase of the implementation four apartment blocks and four townhouses will be built, along with the central esplanade. The second phase will include the building of the rest of the apartment buildings and the central townhouses towards the beach. The third phase will include the townhouses facing the shore.

To cater to diverse needs, a vision of a mixture of housing types, including apartments and townhouses, are implemented. All residential units are designed to be energy-efficient, incorporating sustainable building materials, green roofs, and solar photovoltaic glass. The integration of solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems further reduces the ecological impact while providing residents with renewable energy sources provided directly from EnergyVaasa. Through careful consideration of building orientation and design, optimal energy performance and indoor lighting and comfort for residents throughout the year are ensured.

The choice to construct apartment blocks (4-10 floors) and townhouses (2-3 floors) primarily using wood showcases the project's commitment to sustainable materials and construction practices. Wood is a renewable, low-energy resource, producing a small carbon footprint. In addition, brick is used in the construction of the apartment buildings, through its fire-resistant properties, offering an unparalleled experience for passengers. To ensure safety and operational efficiency, the impact of wind on the cable car system will be considered. As wind can affect the stability of cable car operations, for safety measures pausing the system when wind speeds exceed 18m/s will be implemented.

EMBRACING THE CITY OF TOMORROW

Inspired by the principles of ecological transition and efficiency, Paapuri's incorporated waste management system includes an underground pipe network that transports garbage to a centralized location near a larger waste handling center. This system uses vacuum power to streamline waste management and minimize the ecological impact of traditional waste collection methods. By eliminating the need for visible garbage bins and collection trucks, the aim is to create a clean and visually appealing environment. This approach also reduces noise pollution and improves the overall aesthetics of the neighbourhood. This creates an environmentally conscious community that actively reduces its carbon footprint and encourages residents to adopt responsible practices.

In the quest to provide diverse and sustainable transportation options for the residents of Vaaskuoto, a visually pleasing and efficient cable car network to the area is considered. This system not only serves as a means of transportation but also adds to the allure of the neighbourhood, creating an iconic landmark and tourist attraction. To uphold the commitment to sustainability, the cable cars would operate exclusively on electric power, drawing energy from EnergyVaasa. In addition to its functional purpose, the cable car network would serve as a visual symbol of the neighbourhood's commitment to sustainability and innovation. The modern design of the cable cars would capture the attention of residents and visitors alike. Moreover, the cable cars would provide panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, including the scenic beauty of Merenkurkku islands, an UNESCO world heritage site, and the neighbourhood itself, offering an unparalleled experience for passengers. To ensure safety and operational efficiency, the impact of wind on the cable car system will be considered. As wind can affect the stability of cable car operations, for safety measures pausing the system when wind speeds exceed 18m/s will be implemented.

For the future expansion of Vaaskuoto, Niemelälieke-adjacent plots shall be used for townhouse building, always with the same principles as Paapuri was built on.

