

HELSINKI

Site visit April 25th 2013
11:00 – 13:30

Present

Jarmo Raveala, City of Helsinki, Real Estate Department
Janne Prokkola, Helsinki City Planning Department
Arja Kettumäki, Aurora Hospital
Mari Koskinen, SAFA, European Suomi Finland

We gathered in front of the Synapsia building and Mari Koskinen welcomed everyone to the Helsinki site visit. Approximately 20 participants were in attendance, six contestants came from outside of Finland.



Laakso

We started our tour with a short presentation by Jarmo Raveala in front of building no 4. We then took a tour inside the building and continued to the underground tunnel system which connects buildings 1, 2, 3, 4 and 12. We walked through building 6, the hospital kitchen and staff cafeteria, and visited one level of the closed ward, building no 5.

While inside building 4 we discussed the traffic arrangements and possible car access to the Aurora site. There will be no access from Nordenskiöldinkatu street. Instead all traffic must come from Urheilukatu and Lääkärintätkatu streets.

We continued through building 12, currently a health care center, to Lääkärintätkatu street. There is a forest area north of the street which can be developed as housing. Rarmo Raveala told about a small growth of a protected grass called giant fescue or *Festuca gigantea*, that grows north of Lääkärintätkatu street. Due to this special grass, there is an area that must be left in a natural state (outside the competition area).



We walked by the old hospital chapel, currently in private use, to the north end of the equestrian arena. The arena is quite modest, yet it still has cultural value as it was originally built for the 1952 Olympic games.

We stopped to look at a map of Central Park. There is an extensive network of recreational paths in the park, some of them continuing hundreds of kilometers to the north. We also discussed the proposed tram connection from Itä-Pasila to the west. The line would go through the Laakso-Aurora area and also cross Central Park. The new line would be very challenging to design since the flow of the park must not be jeopardized.

We continued down to the children's traffic park and the new pedestrian bridge that goes across the Nordenskiöldinkatu street. The path that goes from Central Park to the bridge is currently very narrow and will need consideration.



Aurora

We had a break at Kahvila Neilikka, the cafeteria of Aurora hospital inside building no 15. Arja Kettumäki from Aurora hospital joined us there. While enjoying the break the contestants had a chance to ask questions from the city representatives.

After the break we continued our tour around Aurora. First we took a look at a mural in the hallway of building no 15. The Moomin mural is an original painting by Tove Jansson from 1956. We then walked across the historical area, continued through the forest to the highest point of the site and returned by the residential buildings back to the hospital gate.



Q: Some of the buildings in Laakso-Aurora area are marked as historically valuable and protected (see competition program page 8). What does "protected" mean?

A: It means that the buildings must not be demolished without a valid reason or altered with elements that would destroy their external architectural value. The use of the buildings can be changed. This competition gives the contestants an opportunity to propose how the buildings could or should be preserved or reused.

Q: What kind of a heating system will there be in Laakso-Aurora area?

A: All the buildings will be connected to the centralized district heating system of Helsinki. That means that the buildings will need technical spaces for heat transmission, but not for heat production. All the buildings will also need technical spaces for ventilation machines.