

European 13

ESPOO - OTANIEMI

Site visit March 26th 2015
9:00 – 10:30

Present

Olli Kantanen, Senate Properties
Mari Koskinen, European Suomi Finland

We gathered in the lobby of the Aalto University Main building. Five people came to the site visit.

We started our tour by visiting the empty office building by Alvar Aalto (building no. 2). The building is in a poor condition and will need a full renovation before it can be taken to new use. The building is modest, typical of the 1960's and there are few details inside that are recognizably by Alvar Aalto. We noticed that the hand rail in the eastern stair case was one of them.

We visited the metal and wood shops by Alvar Aalto in the lower wing of the building no. 2. The shops still had some of the original machinery from 1968.

We continued to the shore and walked along the recreational path towards north. Olli Kantanen pointed out that the path is very important not only for recreational purposes but also for the flying squirrels and bats that nest in the area. We noticed that the sea was full of white "dots" that proved to be swans.

After the shore we took a quick look into the student health care building's lobby (building no. 1). The building has no architectural or structural values and can therefore be demolished.

We returned along the Otakaari street which can be moved to run closer to the School of Electrical Engineering building (building no. 5) in order to have a larger buildable area near the shore.



Q: How many parking places does one have to locate onto the project area? Should they all be on the ground?

A: The requested amount of parking places can be found in the program (E13_FI_HELSINKI_TXT.pdf) on page 19. The required amounts correspond with general standards in Espoo. Contestants are allowed to propose a different amount with good reason.

Contestants should propose feasible parking solutions, e.g. placing all the parking underground is unrealistic, so is designing large open parking fields. One feasible solution could be structured parking (parking integrated into the buildings or a separate parking building).

Q: How tall can the proposed buildings be?

A: They should not exceed the heights of the trees.

Q: How big an intervention can one do to the Alvar Aalto building (building no. 2)?

A: The exterior has an appearance characteristic of Alvar Aalto and it should be retained. The interior doesn't have similar architectural values.



Office building by Alvar Aalto (building no. 2)

Q: Can one propose buildings or structures, such as a bird tower, right onto the shore?

The shoreline should be left untouched. Contestants can design lookout towers or other structures where one can enjoy the scenery further away from the shore. There is a bird watching tower west of the site.



Recreational path along the shore.