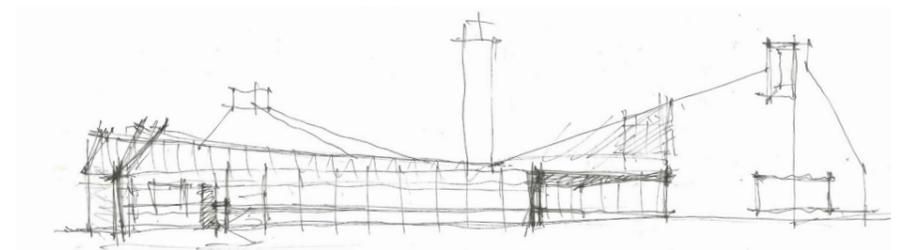


SUVELA CHAPEL



OOPEAA OFFICE FOR PERIPHERAL ARCHITECTURE

The Finnish architect **Anssi Lassila** was born in Soini 1973. He graduated with the grade "excellent" and a special mention from the Department of Architecture, University of Oulu 2002. Anssi Lassila lives and works in Seinäjoki and in Helsinki, Finland. He is the founder and the principal partner of OOPEAA Office for Peripheral Architecture. OOPEAA works on a large variety of different types of projects: churches, office buildings, housing, private residences, interior design and renovations. It has offices in Seinäjoki and Helsinki, Finland, and it currently employs a staff of 10. The office has been rewarded with significant awards and nominations and has won several prizes in architecture competitions.

OOPEAA strives for an architecture that finds its inspiration in the state of being in-between - between urban and rural, but always in relationship to both; between a deep respect for tradition and an appreciation of the contemporary; rooted in the local and yet part of a larger international context. Our work is characterized by a strong interest in the way different materials naturally behave. Yet, we are also fascinated by the possibility of experimenting with new techniques and innovative solutions. The work of OOPEAA is about venturing into the borderline and finding the edge. It is about identifying possibilities in the place where an understanding of tradition meets an open attitude towards the new.

CONTACTS

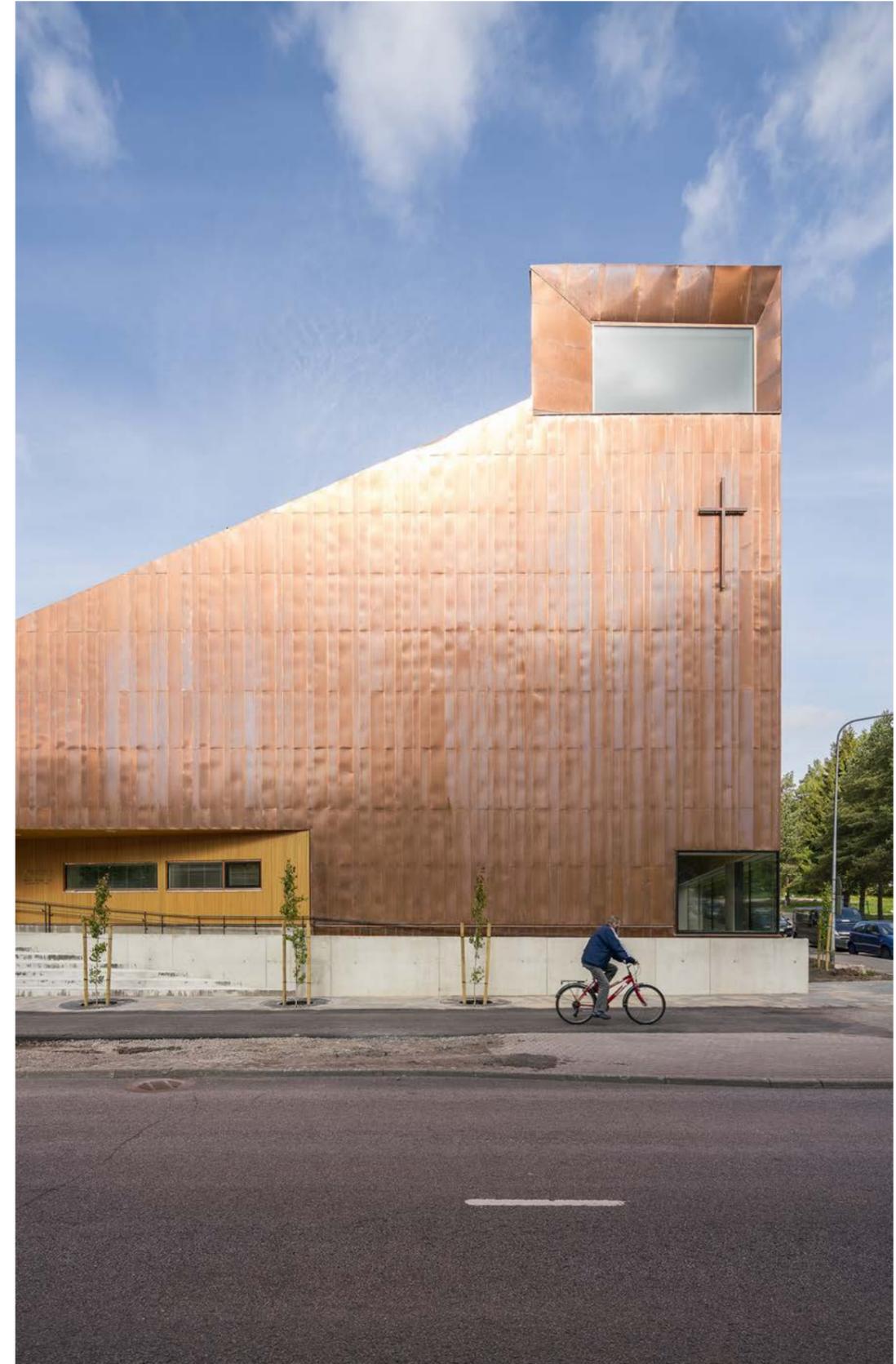
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SUVELA CHAPEL

location Espoo, Finland

client Parish of Espoo

commission tender

year 2010 - 2016

size 2.150 brm²

architect in charge Anssi Lassila

project architect (construction phase) Iida Hedberg

team Juha Pakkala, Teemu Hirvilammi, Jussi-Pekka Vesala, Hanna-Kaarina Heikkilä, Anis Souissi, Miguel Silva

The Suvela chapel was commissioned by the Espoo Parish Union and it will be used jointly by the Espoo Parish Union, the Swedish Parish of Espoo and the City of Espoo to serve the entire community of Suvela. It is a multifunctional building that offers a space for the people of the community to use together for their many different needs regardless of their religious affiliation.

OOPEAA embarked on the design and planning for the Suvela Chapel and the nearby community park in 2012.

The goal was to create a building that has a strong identity of its own while also entering in dialogue with the multicultural context of its suburban neighborhood.

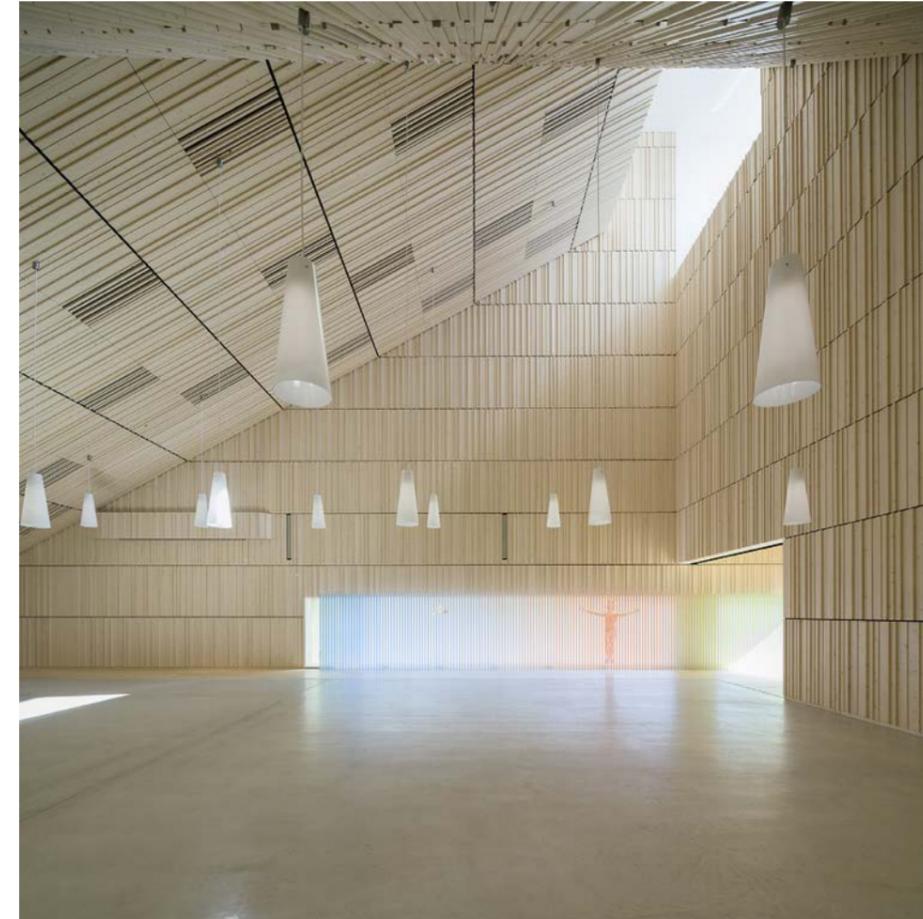
With roughly one third of the inhabitants being of foreign descent, Suvela is one of the most multicultural districts in the Helsinki metropolitan region. Cultural diversity is both a rich potential and a challenge to the community. In the design for the Suvela Chapel and the adjacent community park, the goal was to create a building that offers opportunities for a rich variety of activities and provides a framework for the residents to come together in a flexibly adaptable and functional space.

Due to the relatively long, dark, and cold winters, communal indoor spaces play an important role as places for people to gather in Finland. Public buildings, such as schools and libraries, as well as churches and chapels offer spaces that are open to all. Providing schools, libraries and churches as places where people can come together on the common ground of a shared space has deep roots in the cultural tradition of Finland. These buildings serve as platforms for a variety of activities initiated by the citizens, thereby facilitating the exchange of ideas through collaboration and working and enjoying life together. They are designed to include communal spaces that offer places where local communities may hold meetings and events and where they can come together around various activities, both in the everyday as well as for special occasions. The Suvela Chapel is part of this tradition in which the architecture of church buildings and chapels offers a framework for a multiplicity of functions and a place for people of the community to come together.

The chapel offers an approachable and welcoming space with a human scale and an inviting atmosphere. The building serves many functions providing a home base for many different kinds of organizations and forming as a dynamic place of activity. It is first and foremost a meeting place that serves members of the parish and other groups of people in the community alike.

The local community park with its services is one of the three principal users of the building offering the children and their parents an opportunity to use the space in various ways. There is afternoon care for children after school as well as day care services for younger children. There are spaces for the youth as well as spaces for the various local community clubs to use for their activities. The building offers office space for the employees of the parish as well as for social workers and family services provided for helping people in their various needs in their lives. A soup kitchen providing food for a very low cost is operating in the premises as well. The chapel naturally also serves as a place for mass, concerts, weddings, funerals, and baptizings.

The location of the various functions in the different parts of the building is identifiable from the outside. While

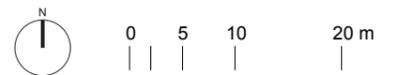
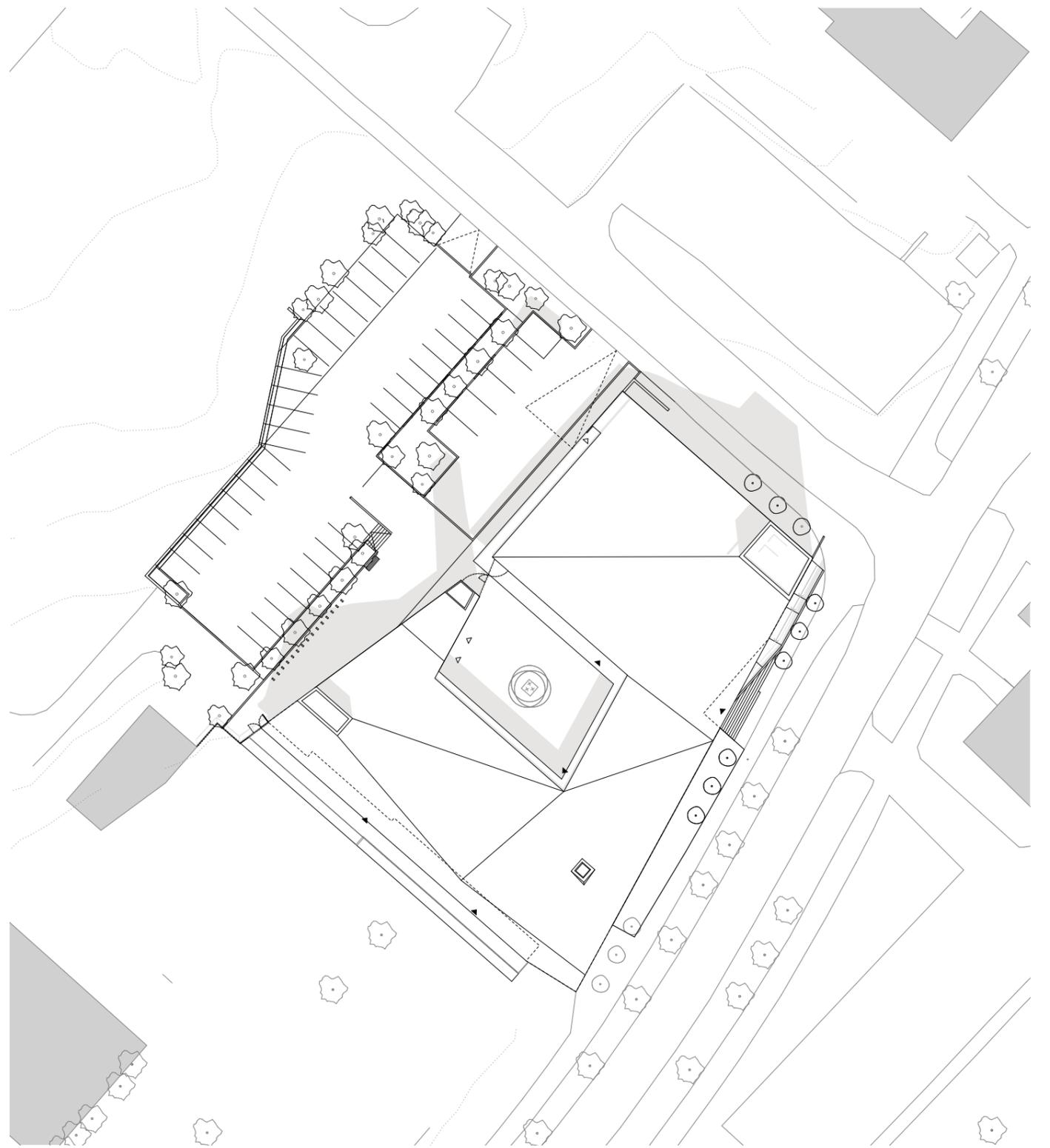


the height of the building varies greatly with the chapel hall as the tallest part, all functions are placed on just one level, and the building wraps into a single U-shaped entity forming an intimate interior courtyard in the middle. The belfry is embedded in the main building volume providing further closure to the yard.

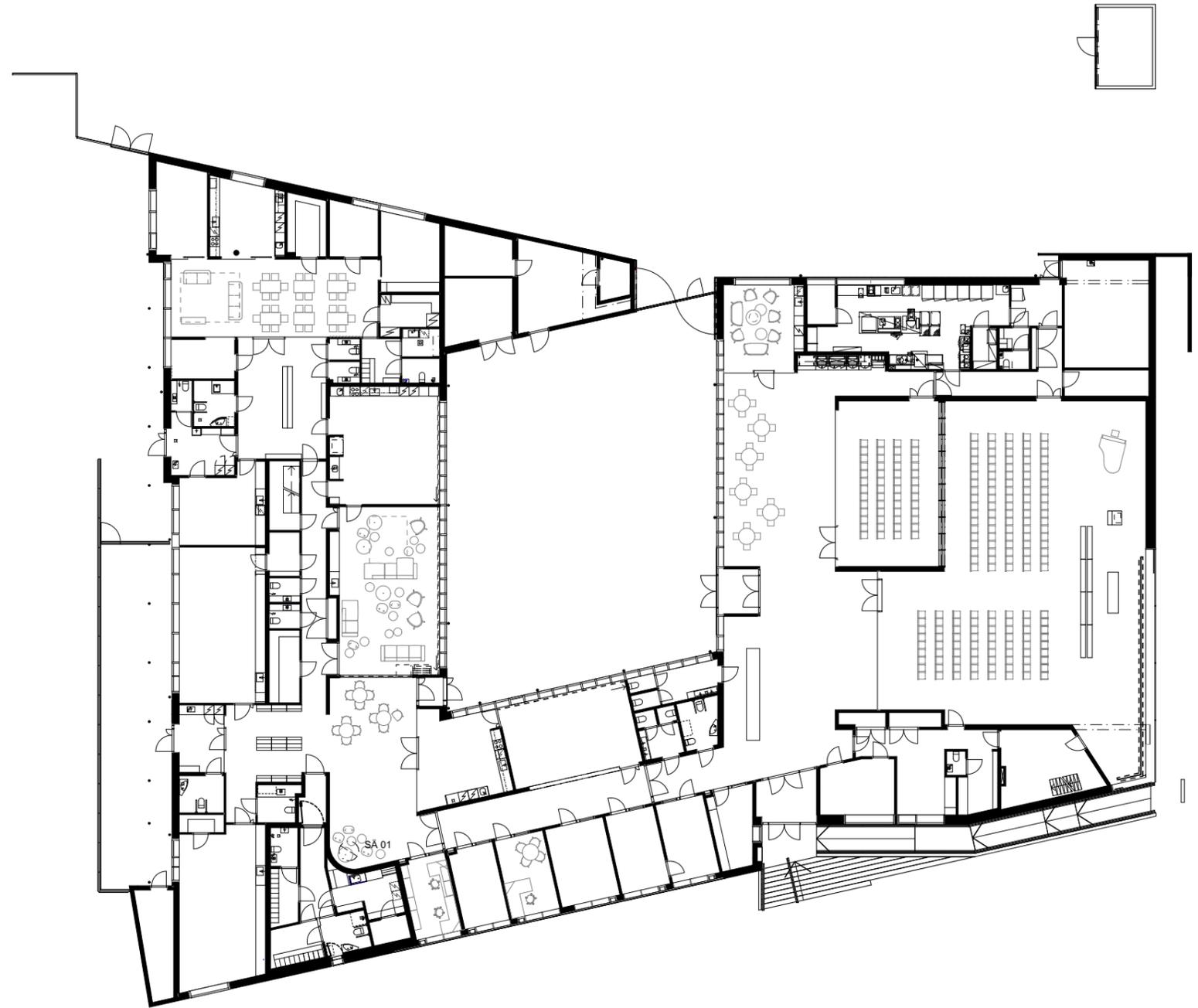
The different functions in the building orient themselves around the inner courtyard. The main entrance is placed in a corner where the U-shaped building opens to the courtyard. The main chapel hall with its auxiliary spaces is located in the north-east part of the building. Offices and work spaces of the parish staff as well as additional meeting and group work spaces are located in the middle part of the U-shaped volume. Spaces for children and the youth as well as spaces that are rented out to the city to serve the community park are located in the west part of the building. While the majority of the interior spaces face the yard, the spaces occupied by the community park face outward to the park.

The building is a hybrid structure with wooden as well as concrete and steel elements. A tactile sense of material has a deliberately strong presence both in the interiors as well in the exterior of the building. The exterior shell is entirely clad in copper to emphasize the unity of the varied volume of the building. Copper was an ecological choice of material for the exterior. It is both durable and recyclable and therefore sustainable. It also ages well and acquires a beautiful patina over time. Local spruce is the material used in the interiors. In the spaces for the children's activities, wood is present also in the outdoor canopies that provide shelter from rain giving the children an opportunity to play outside even in rainy weather. The presence of wood is most prominent in the tall chapel hall where the walls are covered with wooden scantlings.

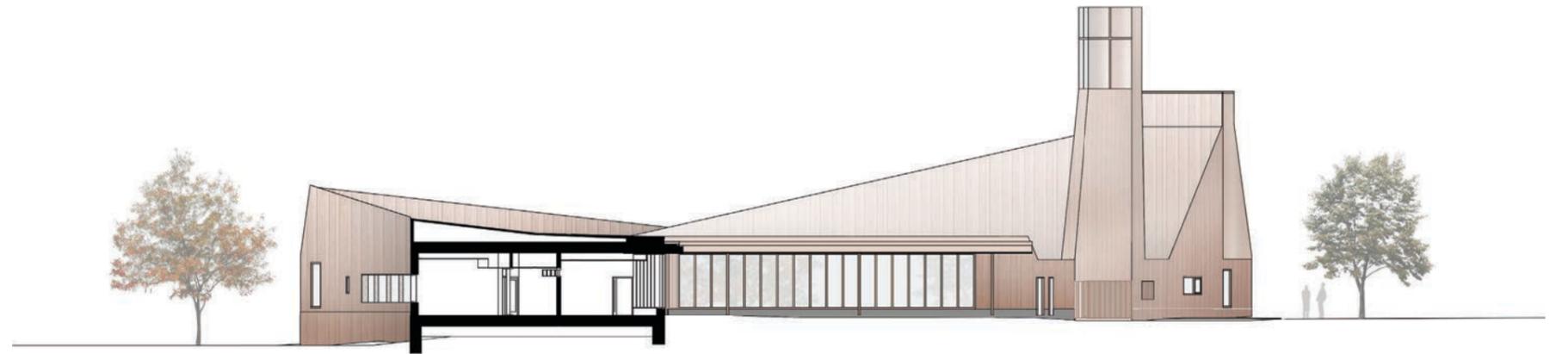
The Suvela Chapel is one of the four finalist candidates nominated for the Finlandia Prize in Architecture in 2016. It has also been awarded bronze in the American Architecture Prize 2016.









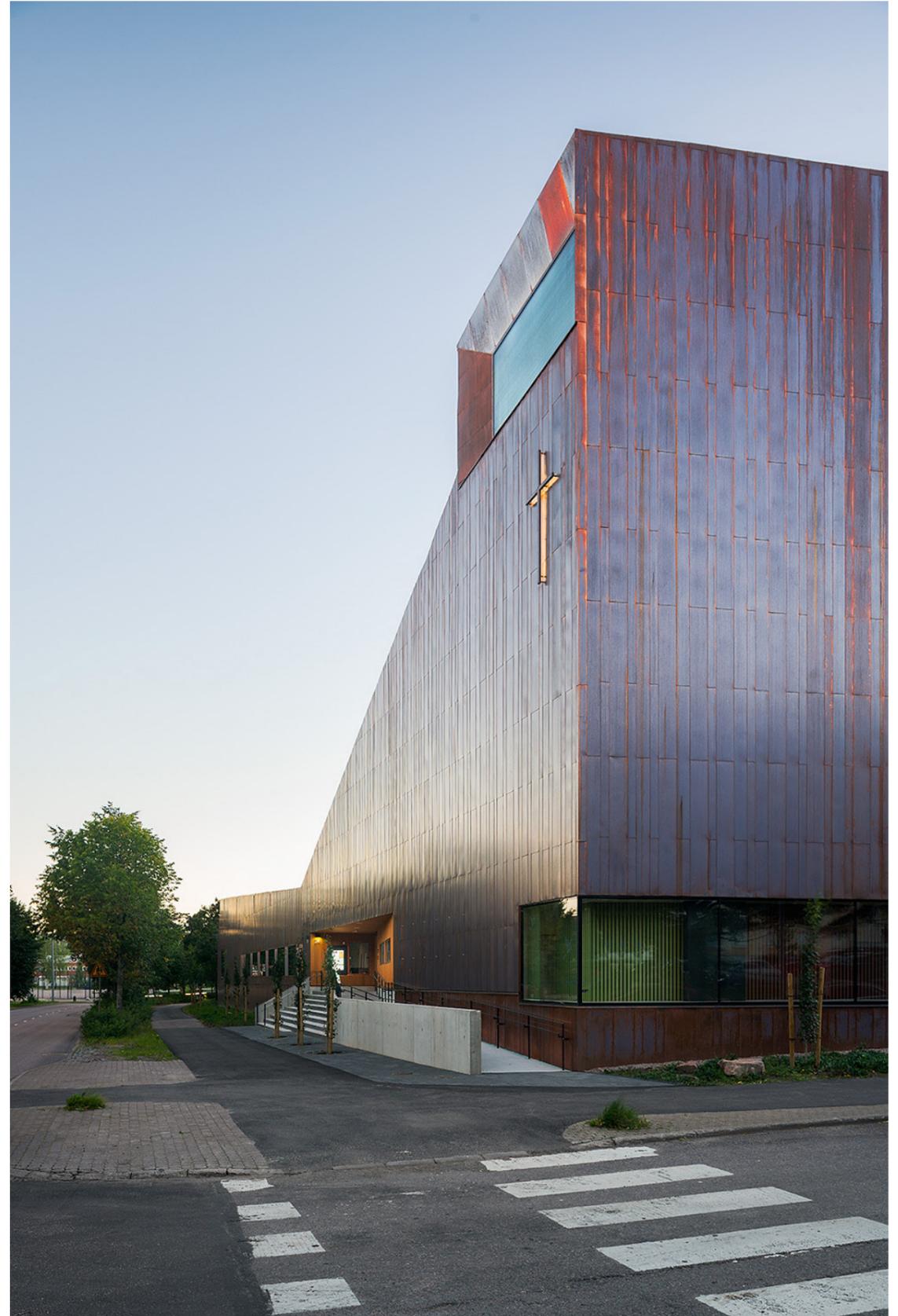


0 | 5 | 10 | 20 m









CURRICULUM VITAE

Anssi Pellervo Lassila

Born 9.3.1973 in Soini, Finland

Education

2002 Master of Architecture from the Department of Architecture, University of Oulu with the grade "excellent" and a special mention

1993 - 2002 Architectural studies at the Department of Architecture, University of Oulu

Work

OOPEAA Office for Peripheral Architecture, Director, Founding/ Principal Partner, 2014-

Lassila Hirvilammi Architects Ltd, Founding/Principal Partner, 2004-2014

Lassila Mannberg Architects Ltd, Founding Partner, 2001-2004

Architect Office A Lassila, Soini, 2000-

University of Oulu, Department of Architecture, Lecturer, Laboratory of Modern Architecture, under the supervision of Professor Rainer Mahlamäki, 1999- 2004

Architect Office Jukka Laurila, Project Architect, Oulu, 1997-2000

Selected works as architect in charge

Lakeanranta Wooden Housing, Kokkola, 2015-, 12 100 m²

Lonna Sauna, Helsinki, 2015 - 2016, 100 m²

Ulkometsä Kindergarten, Kokkola, 2014 - 2014, 1 460 m²

Konsthall Tornedalen, Sweden, 2012 - , 1 500 m²

Suvela Chapel, Espoo, 2010 - 2016, 2 150 m²

Puukuokka Housing Block, Jyväskylä, 2011 - 2016, 18 650 m²

House Riihi, Alajärvi, 2010 - 2014, 239m² + 120 m² + 120 m²

Freda 69, attic apartments, Helsinki, 2012 - 2015, 400 m²

Sauna Tonttu, Soini, 2010, 16 m²

Maakunta Square, apartment house, 2005 - 2012, 8 400 m²

Kompassi Block, apartment house, Vaasa, 2008 - 2013, 12 050 m²

Frami D, Seinäjoki, 2007 - 2009, 12 000 m²

Kaskikaarre 2, apartment house, Hämeenlinna, 2006 - 2007, 2 050 m²

Kuokkala church, Jyväskylä, 2006 - 2010, 1 250 m²

Döbelninkatu, attic apartments, Helsinki, 2006 - 2007, 170 m²

Ratakatu Apartment, Helsinki, 2004 - 2006, 170 m²

Klaukkala church, Nurmijärvi, 1999 - 2004, 2 200 m²

Kärsämäki church, Kärsämäki, 1999 - 2004, 200 m²

Other

Alvar Aalto Symposium 2015, Chair, 2015

Member of the jury for Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition, 2014-15

Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), The Architectural Competitions' Committee, Chair, 2011-13

Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), The Architectural Competitions' Committee, Member, 2010-13

Member of the jury for several architectural competitions Finnish Association of Architects SAFA , member, 2002-



OOPEAA Office For Peripheral Architecture

Office Facts

2001 Founded in 2001 by founding partner Anssi Lassila

2008 - present Member of ATL Association of Finnish Architectural Offices

Staff 10, Offices in Seinäjoki and Helsinki, Finland

Competitions

Kokkolan Lakeanranta, 1st prize, 2015

Oulun Yliopiston arkkitehtuurin tiedekunnan tilat, Invited competition, 2014

Autismin Kirjo, invited Competition, 1st Prize, 2013

Konsthall Tornedalen, Vitsaniemi Sweden, International Invited Competition, 1st prize, 2012

Munkkiniemen Puistotie 25, Helsinki, 3rd Prize, 2012

Jyväskylä Äijälänranta, Wooden Apartment Block, 1st Prize, 2011

Seinäjoen Itikanmäki, Invited Competition, 2nd Prize, 2010

Vaasa Kompassi, Residential Blocks, 1st Prize, 2008

Fresach Museum, International Invited Competition, 2009

Kuokkala Church, Invited Competition, 1st Prize, 2006

Competition for Hämeenlinna Housing Fair 2007, 1st Prize, 2005

Klaukkala Church and Parish Center, Open Competition, 1st prize, 2000

Wooden Church for Kärsämäki, 1st Prize, 1999

Future Library for Seinäjoki Competition, International Student Competition (with Teemu Hirvilammi),

Purchase, 1999

Maatila 2000 (Farm 2000 Fair) Open Competition, (with Teemu Fyrsten, Ville Niskasaari) 2nd Prize, 1998

Ecological Housing, Open Competition, Tuusula, Purchase, 1996

Honours and Nominations

Finlandia Prize for Architecture 2015, Puukuokka Housing Block, 2015

Wood Prize 2015, Puukuokka Housing Block, 2015

SD Review 2015, Periscope Tower, 2015

The Plan Awards 2015, shortlisted project, Puukuokka Housing Block, 2015

Wood Prize 2014, honourable mention, House Riihi, 2014

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture, Mies van der Rohe Award, nominee, House Riihi, 2014

BSI Swiss Architectural Award 2013-2014, nominee, 2014

International Iakov Chernikhov Prize for Young Architects, nominee, 2012-13

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture, Mies van der Rohe Award, selected work, Kuokkala Church, 2011

Arkitekturmässan Awards 2011, Vaasan Kompassi, 2011

Red Dot Design Award 2011, Kuokkala Church, 2011

Pietilä Award by Rakennustietosäätiö, 2010

Wood Prize 2010, honourable mention, Kuokkala Church, 2010

Concrete Building of the Year, Honorable Mention, Klaukkala Church, 2005

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture, Mies van der Rohe Award, selected work, Kärsämäki Church, 2005

The Best Building Act in Northern Finland, Kärsämäki Church, 2004

The European Facade Contest, 2nd prize, Kärsämäki Church, 2004

Carin and Erik Bryggmann Foundation, mention prize, Kärsämäki Church, 2002

University of Oulu, Faculty of Technology, Master's Thesis Award, Kärsämäki Church, 2002