

ALL



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ALA's first project was a **performing arts center** in Norway.

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KILDEN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Kilden, a theater and concert hall in Kristiansand, Norway, has brought together all the region's performing arts institutions. Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra has a 1,200-seat concert hall. Agder Regional Theatre is performing in a 700-seat theater, that can be transformed to accommodate opera performances by the local ensemble Opera Sør. In addition, there is a stage for experimental theater and a multi-purpose hall with a level floor.

Kilden produces experiences. The way the concert, theater and multi-purpose halls are serviced efficiently and without interference forms the core of its architecture. The monumental abstract form of the wall made of local oak separates reality from fantasy. Passing through, the audience will move from a natural landscape to the realm of performing arts. This wall made of wedged CNC milled solid oak planks is not only a disguised theatrical effect but also a tactile artifact, which improves the acoustics of the foyer. The infinite blackness of the other three facades emphasizes the spectacle of the foyer.

The project was executed according to original design within the given time frame and budget. ALA completed the expansion of the venue in 2014.

TYPE: Competition, 2005, 1st prize

STATUS: Built, open since January 2012, expansion completed in December 2014

PROGRAM: Concert hall with 1,200 seats, theater/opera hall with 700 seats, multi-purpose hall with 200 seats, small theater hall with 100 seats, offices, workshops, rehearsal spaces, technical building, parking garage for 400 cars, total 24,600 m²

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: 1,685,000,000 NOK

LOCATION: Kristiansand, Norway

CLIENT: Teater og Konserthus for Sørlandet IKS Bygg

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Niklas Mahlberg, Pekka Sivula, Pauliina Rossi, Julia Hertell, Pauliina Skyttä, Sami Mikonheimo, Jani Koivula, Auvo Lindroos, Aleksi Niemeläinen, Erling Sommerfeldt, Tomi Henttinen, Harri Ahokas and Anniina Koskela

External consultants: Birger Grönholm (theater expertise), Julle Oksanen (lighting concept), Klaus Stolt (scale models)

COLLABORATORS: SMS Arkitekter (local architect partner), WSP Multiconsult AS (structural engineering), Arup Acoustics (concert hall acoustics), Brekke Strand Acoustics (acoustics), Sweco Grøner (mechanical engineering), Cowi (electrical engineering), Theatre Projects Consultants (theater technical engineering)

AWARDS: Architizer A+ Awards, Jury Winner, Theaters & Performing Arts Centers (2014), USITT Architecture Merit Award (2013), Finnish Steel Construction Prize (2011), Norwegian Concrete Element Award (2011)

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KUOPIO CITY THEATRE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

The renovated Kuopio City Theatre is a 1960's modernist building by architects Helmer Stenros and Risto-Veikko Luukkonen. The expansion includes a new 200-seat studio stage with flexible seating and stage mechanics. New spaces have also been provided for loading and logistics, costume manufacturing and storage, as well as the support functions of the new stage.

The only visible alteration when approaching the theater from the city center is the four meter elevation of the theater tower. The tower was raised to fit the completely updated stage technology of the main stage. The add-on forms a glowing glass lantern, leaving the distinctive shape of the old tower recognizable.

The expansion is a simple rectangular volume located perpendicularly to the original volume. It is a solid, contemporary addition which continues and complements the old structure with equal quality and permanence. The public foyer is extended between the old and new volumes as a bridge-like angled space, which floats above the new outdoor auditorium created between the two volumes. The original main entrance serves both halls.

The old building has a beautiful and timeless material palette

consisting of white concrete panels, terracotta tiles and glass. The expansion is clad in white concrete panels with a wrinkled, varying surface form, which indicates a similar acoustically optimized cladding inside the new hall. Also the new interior spaces follow the original color scheme.

TYPE: Commission, 2010

STATUS: Built, theater re-opened in September 2014

PROGRAM: Renovation 8,000 m², expansion with new studio stage 3,500 m²

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: 28,000,000 €

LOCATION: Kuopio, Finland

CLIENT: City of Kuopio

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Heikki Riitahuhta, Toni Laurila, Pekka Sivula, Auvo Lindroos, Jyri Tartia, Harri Ahokas, Petra Grisova, Gerard Gutierrez and Vladimir Ilic

COLLABORATORS: Tanskanen Engineers Ltd. (structure and statics), Granlund Kuopio Ltd. (HVAC), Tauno Nissinen Engineers Ltd. (electrical engineering), Blue Node GmbH (theatre technics), NCC Construction Ltd. (construction)

ORIGINAL DESIGN: Risto-Veikko Luukkonen & Helmer Stenros, 1963

AWARDS: City of Kuopio Architecture Award (2015)

SUSTAINABILITY: Building materials' emission class M1, air-handling components' cleanliness class M1

So far we have designed or renovated 13 halls and auditoriums.

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LAPPEENRANTA CITY THEATRE

The concept of the Lappeenranta City Theatre is exceptional: the theater has been built on the top floor of a shopping center. The idea, however, is ancient as this is theater coming back to its roots, back to the marketplace, back to the people. The visitors to the shopping center will be able to enjoy a variety of plays, while the restaurants cater for intermissions and the hotel offers accommodation. The foyer has a calm monochromatic atmosphere in contrast with the bright colors of the shopping center. Only an undulating wire mesh curtain separates it from the shopping arcade below. The audience reaches the theater by walking up a grand staircase leading to the foyer. The mirrored surfaces blur the shape and extent of the space. During the day the skylight multiplies the hues of the sky onto the foil surfaces. In the darker hours, the walls reflect the lights of the shopping arcade.

The new theater is a monument to functionality: virtually all its facilities are on stage level. This is the ideal situation as all actions in a theater are directed towards the stage. The stage sets arrive from the basement loading dock to the center of the workshop by a large lift. After assembly, the sets can be pushed directly onto one of the stages or into the rehearsal hall. The support spaces outline the halls in a linear procession from the spaces for the technical personnel

onwards to props, costume shop and the dressing rooms. This means that the entire theater only has one single corridor instead of the usual incoherent jungle of backstage spaces. The solution also provides all backspaces with ample daylight, which is of great importance for the professionals mainly working on and around stage.

TYPE: Commission, 2011

STATUS: Built, performances started in November 2015

PROGRAM: 5,300 m² theater with 2 stages and a rehearsal hall

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: 21,000,000 €

LOCATION: Lappeenranta, Finland

CLIENT: City of Lappeenranta

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Harri Ahokas, Auvo Lindroos, Tiina Liisa Juuti, Niklas Mahlberg, Julius Kekoni, Marlène Oberli-Räihä and Pekka Sivula

COLLABORATORS: Sweco PM (project management, implementation phase), ISS Proko (project management, sketch phase), Finnmap Consulting (structural design), Pöyry Finland (electrical engineering), L2 Fire Safety (fire safety), Insinööri Studio (HVAC), Akukon (acoustical engineering), Akumek (stage mechanics), Kokos (AV), Cederqvist & Jäntti Architects (architect, shopping center), Evälahti (contractor)

SUSTAINABILITY: LEED Gold (entire shopping center)

We really love designing theaters and other complex buildings.

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We have also completed **five** metro stations.

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AALTO UNIVERSITY METRO STATION

The first phase of the western extension of the Helsinki metro line connects Ruoholahti, Helsinki and Matinkylä, Espoo. Upon completion in 2016, the West Metro will service over 100,000 passengers per day. The objective set for the architecture of the stations has been to create distinctive identities for each of them.

The Aalto University metro station, in the middle of the Otaniemi campus area is the second one on the Espoo-side of the metro line extension. The station's main entrance opens straight towards the former university main building designed by Alvar Aalto. This station distinguishes itself from the other stations along the metro route through a rich material palette. The palette has been picked as to avoid gloss, and to emphasize natural materiality. The lowered ceiling is made of Cor-ten steel panels. It visually connects all the public areas of the station, and relates to the surrounding red brick environment with its color. The faceted ceiling flows through the main entrance, to the platform level and up to the secondary entrance on Tietotie street.

Aged dark copper sheet cladding, grey granite and Cor-ten sheets form the basis of the material palette for the above ground parts of the entrance buildings. Visible structures are reduced in the

entrance space with an engineered, light form reminiscent of origami. Natural light is brought down to the platform level via an escalator shaft that terminates with a view towards the lime alley leading to the old Otaniemi Mansion.

In addition to the station in Otaniemi, ALA has also designed the Keilaniemi station and three more stations along the second leg of the western extension of Helsinki Metro, in use since 2022.

TYPE: Commission, 2009

STATUS: Built, metro traffic started in November 2017

PROGRAM: 15,500 m² underground station with two entrances

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: Approx. 40,000,000 €

LOCATION: Espoo, Finland

CLIENT: Länsimetro

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Anniina Koskela, Olli Parviainen, Pekka Sivula and Niklas Mahlberg
COLLABORATORS: Esa Piironen Architects (architect partner), Sweco PM (Project consultant), CJN Arkkitehtitoimisto (coordinator), Konsulttiyhteenliittymä FKW (Geo, track & rock engineering), Insinööritoimisto A-Insinöörit (Structures), Pöyry Building Services, Insinööritoimisto Olof Granlund and Konsulttiryhmä Nissinen-Niemistö (HVAC)

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The new Helsinki **central library** opened in the beginning of December 2018...

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HELSINKI CENTRAL LIBRARY OODI

The new central library in the heart of Helsinki consists almost entirely of public spaces and offers a wide selection of services. The building is a highly functional addition to local urban life. It offers a technically and spatially flexible framework for cutting-edge, adaptable library operations, and acts as the citizens' common living room and work space.

The key concept of the design is the interplay between the building's three floors. The public plaza in front of the building continues inside, merging with the public spaces of the ground floor. This busy, constantly updated floor with a multipurpose hall, a restaurant and a cinema, is suitable for quick visits and walkthroughs. The traditional serene library atmosphere can be found on the top floor - a calm area floating above the busy city center, offering unobstructed views to the surrounding cityscape.

These two floors, perfectly complementing each other, are created by the building's arching wooden volume. The spaces inside the volume are more intimate, offering opportunities for learning-by-doing. This middle floor is an environment optimized for contemporary media and latest tools, containing workshop spaces for music and multimedia.

TYPE: Open international competition, 2013, 1st prize

STATUS: Built, the library opened in December 2018

PROGRAM: Library facilities, multipurpose hall, movie theater, exhibition space, info booths, café, restaurant, workshop spaces, meeting rooms, recording studios, photography studio, editing rooms, maker space, living lab, daycare facilities, 17,100 m² total

BUDGET: 98,000,000 €

LOCATION: Helsinki, Finland

CLIENT: City of Helsinki

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Niklas Mahlberg, Anna Juhola, Mette Kahlos, Anniina Korttemaa, Olli Parviainen, Anton Pramstrahler, Niina Rinkinen, Pauliina Rossi, Heikki Ruoho, Pekka Sivula, Tom Stevens, Tuulikki Tanska, Nea Tuominen and Jussi Vuori

COLLABORATORS: Ramboll CM (project manager), Ramboll Finland/UK/ Denmark (structural engineering, HVAC), Sipti Infra (geo planning), Rejlers Finland (electrical engineering), Insinööritoimisto Markku Kauriala (fire safety), Gravicon (BIM coordination), VIZarch (renderings), Arup (energy technical specialist, mechanical engineering, structural engineering and facade engineering in competition phase), Klaus Stolt (scale models)

SUSTAINABILITY: nZEB

AWARDS: Finnish Steel Construction Prize (2018), AZ Award - Buildings over 1,000 SqM (2019), IFLA/Systematic Public Library of the Year (2019), etc.

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the new **Courtyard Tampere City** hotel in the beginning of January 2020...

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COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HOTEL TAMPERE CITY

The new Courtyard by Marriott hotel is a high-quality addition to the Tampere cityscape. The hotel and its next door neighbor, the Tampere Hall Concert and Congress Centre, comprise a formal yet natural architectural entity. The hotel also strengthens the connection between Tampere Hall and the main building of the University of Tampere.

The 11-story-tall hotel tower is located in the corner of Kalevantie and Yliopistonkatu streets, at a respectful distance from the Congress Centre's main entrance and its foyer opening towards the Sorsapuisto park. The new building redefines the entrance square as a lively urban plaza lined by the public functions of the ground floor. The hotel connects to the lobby of Tampere Hall with an indoor passageway. Functionally the hotel building is clear and simple. The reception, a 24/7 market, the multi-functional restaurant space, the business center and a gym are located by the entrance. The hotel rooms contain all the essential features that business travelers need. The spa-like bathrooms are light and airy. The floor-to-ceiling windows provide the rooms with enticing views of the surrounding cityscape. The guests staying in the upper-most floors will even be able to take in views of the wider urban area.

Textured white concrete of varying depths is used in the facades to visually link the hotel with Tampere Hall. The selected surface material also acts as a reference to the narrow, vertical white concrete façade elements of the university's main building.

The commission was based on ALA, together with SRV and Marriott International, winning 1st prize in the invited competition organized by the City of Tampere and Tampere Hall in 2013.

TYPE: Invited design & build competition, 2013-2014, 1st prize

STATUS: Built, the hotel opened in January 2020

PROGRAM: Hotel functions and lobby areas, 8,900 m² total

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: Approx. 25,000,000 €

LOCATION: Tampere, Finland

CLIENT: KEVA & SRV Construction

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Sampo Honkala, Stephanie Polochowitz, Heikki Ruoho, Saana Koivusalo, Samuel Albert, Alina Moise and Tora Hay Walseng

COLLABORATORS: SRV (main contractor), DUCO Rakennuttaja (project manager), Marriott International (hotel brand), Odyssey Hotel Group (hotel operator), Ramboll (engineering), VIZarch (renderings), Sitowise (traffic planning)

SUSTAINABILITY: LEED Gold

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HELSINKI AIRPORT DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS BUILDING

The new entrance building in front of Terminal 2 comprises two volumes: the first one housing the departures and arrivals halls, and the second the security control and baggage claim areas. The expansion significantly increases the facilities available for check-in, security control and baggage drop services. With the new building completed, the existing departures and arrivals areas of the old Terminal 2 will be transformed into Schengen gate areas. This solution will provide both passengers and services with plenty of additional space while also simplifying the airport structure. The new departures and arrivals halls, projecting from the existing terminal volume, has become the new face of Helsinki Airport, whereas the building for security control and baggage claim, even if further back, is recognizable due to its blue color scheme.

The imposing departures hall is designed as a continuous space decked by an undulating wooden ceiling, the underside of which is like an upside-down version of the topography one sees when looking out a plane window. The lower level of the building is used by arriving passengers, as well as by those coming to the terminal by bus, train, bike or foot and those coming from the parking facilities. Baggage reclaim has also efficiently been combined into one single hall. Large openings in the departures hall floor visually link the two

levels. The overall design follows the airport's strategy of having all facilities under "one roof" so that transferring passengers can swiftly walk between the two wings of the combined airport terminal. In addition to the new entrance building, the new construction in the airport area includes a multi-modal ground transport hub, a new connection to the Ring Rail railway station and a new 1,800-car parking facility.

TYPE: Invited competition, 2016-2017, 1st prize

STATUS: Expansion completed, open to public since December 1, 2021

PROGRAM: 43,600 m² of new construction, 35,000 m² of renovations and modifications to the existing Terminal 2

LOCATION: Vantaa, Finland

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Pauliina Rossi, Harri Ahokas, Ricardo Cruz Recalde, David Gallo, Harri Humppi, Mette Kahlos, Lotta Kindberg, Felix Laitinen, Kirsti Paloheimo, Olli Parviainen, Niina Rinkinen, Heikki Ruoho, Mikael Rupponen, Mirja Sillanpää, Pekka Sivula, Tom Stevens, Pekka Tainio and Erica Österlund

ALLIANCE PARTNERS: Finavia (developer), SRV (main contractor), HKP Architects (architect for terminal renovation, connection to railway station & new parking facility), Ramboll Finland (engineering)

SUSTAINABILITY: BREEAM Excellent certificate applied for

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the new departures and arrivals building of **Helsinki Airport** in December 2021.

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The latest addition to the list, the new **events center** in Kotka, opens in late August 2023.

ALA

EVENT CENTRE SATAMA

Kantasatama, the eldest one of the Kotka ports located right next to the downtown area, is being turned into an urban neighborhood. ALA is designing the new events center to be located in the area on the same lot with the new campus building of XAMK, the South Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences and a future hotel building, and in the vicinity of the Maritime Museum of Finland. The events center will provide the producers of various conferences, as well as cultural, sports and corporate events with rentable facilities currently lacking in the region. The zinc-clad timber-frame building will aid in strengthening the functional connection between the city center and the waterfront areas. The large lobby space underneath the sail-like roof structure will become an accessible indoor public space while also acting as the main entrance to the campus building. Additionally, the events center's restaurant will serve a double purpose: in the evenings it caters mainly for the events and the general public and in the daytime it functions as the XAMK student cafeteria.

To maximize the hours of active usage, the flexible large multipurpose hall can be divided into five different configurations on two levels and it can house multiple simultaneous events when needed. When the entire space is being used for a single event, the maximum spectator

amount is 3,200 standing audience members or a seated audience of up to 2,000 people. Without the upper level spectator space, the hall fits a seated audience of 2,500, and when divided with partition walls, audiences of 1,000 and 700. When not open to the main space, the upper level area can be used for meetings and divided to up to four separate rooms.

ALA has previously worked on the masterplan for the entire Kantasatama area.

TYPE: Commission, 2019

STATUS: Built, opens to public on August 25, 2023

PROGRAM: 7,700 m² events center with a partitionable multipurpose hall

LOCATION: Kotka, Finland

CLIENT: Backstaff

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Niklas Mahlberg, Sampo Honkala, Ricardo Cruz Recalde, Thomas Miyauchi, Chris Morris, Can Derman, Ivana Adamcová, Stephanie Polochowitz, Jiaao Liu and Mirja Sillanpää

COLLABORATORS: SRV (main contractor), Ramboll (engineering), Pink Eminence & No Fear Agency (business model), XAMK South Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (neighbor), VIZarch (visualizations)

SUSTAINABILITY: Aims for BREEAM Very Good

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NOKIA OULU

ALA is designing a new campus for Nokia in Oulu, northern Finland. The project includes office, lab, as well as production facilities. The office half of the bipartite campus will consist of eight floors of flexible office space suitable for both current and future working methods whereas the industrial half will be a large flexible hall with a gallery running through it. In the heart of the campus, located in between the two halves, will be the restaurant intended for all employees. The campus will additionally include a smart energy plant providing the cooling required for the campus' operations and producing carbon neutral district heat from the waste energy. Construction works began in November 2022 and the campus is slated for completion in 2025.

TYPE: Commission, 2021

STATUS: Under construction, estimated completion in 2025

PROGRAM: 55,000 m² of office, research and production facilities

LOCATION: Oulu, Finland

CLIENT: Nokia Group & YIT Group

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Virve Kaartoluoma, Eva Geitel, Olli Parviainen, Jorge Rovira, Anniina Kortemaa, Alexandra Lavallée, Chris Morris, David Gallo, Mette Kahlos, Niklas Koivistoinen, Thomas Miyauchi, Niina Rinkinen, Elena Romero, Heikki Ruoho, Mikael Rupponen, Netta Siljander, Tom Stevens, Onni Takkunen and Johanna Vuorelma

COLLABORATORS: Promen (project manager), Fyra (interior architect), Sweco (structural engineer)

The construction of **Nokia's** new R&D facilities in Oulu will be completed in 2025.

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LEARNING CENTRE LA RUCHE

The architecture of La Ruche, the new multi-functional learning center, is based on creating clarity and flexibility to Lumière University's 16,000-student Porte des Alpes campus. The design also aims to improve the identifiability and functionality of the campus. The building volume will consist of two contrasting main levels stacked on top of each other; a glass pavilion above a solid pedestal. The mezzanine-like third floor floating above the collaborative spaces contains the university's teaching and study labs. The learning center will be a clearly recognizable addition to the brutalist 1960's campus. It will act as a teaching and research hub, fostering communication and connections between students and faculty.

The large rectangular volume is friendly in its clarity and openness. The elegant lightweight pavilion structure and the sophisticated use of materials and details support the ambience of openness and adaptability to new ideas and experiences. The curving wooden beams create a distinct roof landscape that frames both the activities within the building and the views of the surroundings. The lower level is a solid volume extruding from the landscape housing enclosed rooms and functions such as meeting facilities, offices, archival storage areas and a café. A

dramatic void in the middle of this level forms a lightwell and a courtyard-like indoor space while also creating a public route up to the main platform axis. The upper level on the other hand, is reminiscent of an open landscape. It connects directly to Forum, the central plaza of the campus, and conglomerates the fluid spaces and flows of the learning center on one flat and flexible floor.

TYPE: Invited competition, 2018-2019, 1st prize

STATUS: Under construction, estimated completion 2025

PROGRAM: 13,500 m² of library functions, teaching, studying and group working facilities, archival space, event facilities, exhibition space, café

LOCATION: Bron, Lyon metropolitan area, France

CLIENT: Université Lumière Lyon 2, Université de Lyon

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Filippo Dozzi, Eva Geitel, Rafael Gutiérrez Moreno, Agata Jankowska, Anniina Kortemaa, Owen Lambert, Alina Moise, Marlène Oberli-Räihä, Elena Romero Fernández, Heikki Ruoho, Alexander Tchoubanov and Aleksu Vuola

COLLABORATORS: Nicolas Favet Architectes (architect partner), Quadriplus Groupe (engineering), Mayot & Toussaint (landscape design), Olivier Tacheau (library consultancy), Nomadd (renderings)

SUSTAINABILITY: To be built according to French HQE2 standards



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ESTONIAN BUSINESS SCHOOL CAMPUS EXPANSION

The new development on the EBS campus in the Tallinn city center will include an extension of the existing school building and a 30-story-tall hybrid tower with rentable office space for research intensive business accelerators and startups, student housing, as well as large apartments, the sales income from which will be used towards the funding of the project. The project will also include two to three levels of underground parking. The EBS tower will blend into the surrounding contemporary cityscape with an elegant and powerful architectural composition. The solid pale horizontal lines of the stone-clad floor plates gradually get thinner as the building rises towards the sky, generating a rich and beautiful effect from afar. The glass façades between the stone plateaus blend into the sky, rendering the tower recognizable as an abstract landmark even from far away. The new tower embodies both the permanence and solidity of the Old Town and the glossy dynamic of the business district. Its location has been carefully analyzed - the tower complements the developing neighborhood without disturbing it with shadows. The new school building, linked with the existing Estonian Business School, provides it with a perfect pedestal. It activates the ground level by creating active street spaces and human-scale urban environment on all sides of the development. The old school building will remain the main face of the complex. A beautiful contrast with the formal, symmetric

old building and the modern, free-flowing extension is born. The new building is conceived as a stack of individual open platforms, intersected by larger three-dimensional spaces such as the main auditorium. This open platform character contrasts the old building, and provides an interesting ground level condition. The access to logistics and parking is well-integrated into the structure, creating an intimate pedestrian area in front of the new entrance. The ground level will also contain small commercial facilities offering additional links with the historical urban scale.

TYPE: Open competition with invited participants, 2019-2020, 1st prize

STATUS: In progress, construction set to start in fall 2023

PROGRAM: University facilities, office space, student housing, family apartments, underground parking, 37,700 m² total

LOCATION: Tallinn, Estonia

CLIENT: Estonian Business School and Metro Capital

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Zhuo Chen, Filippo Dozzi, Sampo Honkala, Virve Kaartoluoma, Owen Lambert, Jiaao Liu, Tatu Rekola and Isabel Sánchez del Campo

COLLABORATORS: PIN (local architect partner), VÄLI (landscape design), Studio Argus (interior design), Vlad Vernica (renders)

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the construction of the expansion of the **EBS** campus in Tallinn will start in fall 2023, and...

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HYBRID BUILDING KIRJO

The new Jätkäsaari city district, right next to downtown Helsinki, is being built on land formerly occupied by the city's cargo harbor. The district relying on a dense block based urban structure is split in two by a meandering park and surrounded by water on three sides. The lively new district combines housing, office space and leisure functions with a passenger ferry terminal. The Ahdinallas area between the new ferry terminal and residential blocks will be among the last ones to be completed.

The stepped 13-story-tall mixed-use building Kirjo is to be located at the end of the Ahdinallas basin, right by a future beach and with views towards the open seas. The building formed of three stacked volumes will include a hotel, office space, retail space, sports facilities, restaurant space, two public terraces and an underground parking garage. Combining the different functions into one entity creates synergies and also allows for the optimal use of each level of the building. The versatility of the functions will also aid in creating lively outdoor areas around the building. All levels can be accessed from the ground floor lobby opening to the Jätkäsaarenkatu street.

The exterior of the building is designed with consideration of the site, the surroundings, the functions housed and ecological aspects. On the side of the street, the glass and aluminum grid facade rises straight up from street level, whereas facing the basin, the three parts of the wavy glass facade are all different from each other. The other two facades only have a limited number of window openings and other detailing.

TYPE: Commission, 2019

STATUS: In progress, estimated construction start 2024

PROGRAM: Public and commercial functions, sports facilities, office space, accommodation, underground parking, 16,150 m² total

LOCATION: Helsinki, Finland

CLIENT: Wasa Group

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Pekka Tainio, Jussi Vuori, Thomas Miyauchi, Zhuo Chen and Chengfan Yang

COLLABORATORS: Bond (brand concept), Vlad Vernica (visualizations)

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the construction of the mixed-use building **Kirjo** in 2024.

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ESPOO CITY THEATRE

Espoo City Theatre is the municipal theater of Finland's second largest city, Espoo. It was established more than 30 years ago but has never had a its own building. The theater currently performs on two stages in two different locations in Tapiola: One of these stages is a black box type theater hall within the Espoo Cultural Centre, called Louhisali, and the other the Revontulisali hall located in a former office building a kilometer away.

After a lengthy wait, the situation is finally about to improve as the City has decided to build the theater dedicated facilities next to the 1980s Cultural Centre designed by Arto Sipinen. Thanks to the new building, the theater will be able to host larger audiences and broaden its repertoire.

The new theater building is designed to be respectful of the cultural center's architecture. It will directly link to the existing building with the ground level space acting as the theater's foyer, as the connection to the cultural center's foyer and also as an indoor pedestrian walkway from the northern parts of the neighborhood to its center. The theater hall will include flexible seating suitable for various types of stage arrangements, as well as state-of-the art acoustics and theater mechanics. The wall

separating the hall from the foyer is openable to allow for even larger audiences. The foyer will offer a spot for a restaurant currently missing from the cultural center, and it can also be used for pop-up performances. The new rehearsal hall can be opened up towards the Kulttuurialue plaza to create a covered stage for outdoor performances.

The new building will add a missing piece to the white modernist architecture of the world-famous Tapiola garden city. Additionally, it will strengthen the collaboration between the various cultural operators, all operating from the extended cultural complex from 2026 onwards.

TYPE: Commission, 2022

STATUS: In progress, estimated completion in 2026

PROGRAM: 9,700 m² new theater building

LOCATION: Espoo, Finland

CLIENT: City of Espoo

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston with Pauliina Rossi, Lotta Kindberg, Aleksi Vuola, Johanna Vuorelma, David Gallo and Petteri Littu

COLLABORATORS: AIX (theater consultant), Sitowise (traffic planning, HVAC), Nomaji (landscape architect), AINS (structural engineer), Ramboll (electrical engineer)

We are also designing the new facilities of **Espoo Theatre**.

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AALTO UNIVERSITY MAIN BUILDING DIPOLI RENOVATION

Dipoli, the iconic, experimental student union building of Helsinki University of Technology designed by Raili and Reima Pietilä and completed in 1966 has undergone a complete renovation and gotten a new life as the main building of Aalto University.

It has become a meeting place for the university administration, the academic community, the students and other stakeholders. All of these parties were also activated in the spatial re-design process that turned the building into a sustainable, flexible workspace of the future. In addition to housing the administration, Dipoli continues to function as the prime location for important lecture events and university festivities. It also acts as a display platform for the university's research and design projects.

Dipoli is the university's test lab for flexible working methods and mobile work. ALA's aim was to re-radicalize the building by creating a fresh, open and dynamic user experience, not forgetting the original designers' vision. The project also included the design of a mobile application for facility management and meeting room booking.

The building, located on the edge of the Alvar Aalto designed

Otaniemi campus, is the result of an architectural competition organized in 1961, where the Pietiläs' entry was awarded shared 2nd prize. The renovation was part of the larger campus reorganization project linked to the former Helsinki University of Technology campus becoming the main campus of Aalto University, born out of the merger of the University of Technology, University of Art and Design Helsinki, and the Helsinki School of Economics.

TYPE: Commission, 2014

STATUS: Renovation completed in March 2017

PROGRAM: Offices, restaurants, cafés, bar, auditorium, conference rooms, meeting rooms, open space, etc., 12,400 m² total

LOCATION: Espoo, Finland

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: Approx. 24,000,000 €

CLIENT: Aalto University Properties

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Toni Laurila, Pekka Sivula, Simo Nuojua, Lotta Kindberg, Tiina Liisa Juuti, Mirja Sillanpää and Sari Vesanen

COLLABORATORS: Workspace (furniture, working areas), Tuuli Sotamaa (furniture, public areas), Creadesign (strategic design), Kristo Vesikansa (conservation), Projectus Team (HVAC), Markku Kauriala Ltd. (fire safety)

ORIGINAL DESIGN: Raili and Reima Pietilä Architects, 1966

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Additionally, we do **renovations** and expansions of modernist buildings...

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both in Finland and **abroad**, and...

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EMBASSY OF FINLAND IN NEW DELHI RENOVATION

Reima and Raili Pietilä won the competition for the Finnish Embassy to be located in the diplomatic enclave in Chanakyapuri in 1963 with a beautiful and powerful competition entry called “Snow speaks on the mountains”. The project was commissioned and redesigned based on the original concept in 1980, and the building was finally opened in 1986 with the large single expanse of roof broken up into the six lateral separate buildings standing on the embassy compound today.

The interiors were designed by Antti Nurmesniemi in collaboration with the Pietiläs and the landscaping on the compound is by Maj-Lis Rosenbröjer and the Pietiläs. The large ceramic bas-relief in the Ambassador’s residence is by Rut Bryk.

The building’s most significant architectural feature, its roofs, resemble the forms of the snowy Lake Kitkajärvi near Kuusamo, Northern Finland. The facades are made of locally manufactured natural sandstone tiles, white plastered bricks and white painted concrete with wooden parts of oiled teak.

The renovation of this mythical masterpiece of Finnish modernism has brought this ingenious building complex back to its original

glory. The project consisted of a complete overhaul of technical systems, some functional updates and changes to the buildings, new entrance gates to the compound, as well as the architectural restoration focusing on restoring the original spirit of the design and repairing misguided maintenance efforts both indoors and outdoors.

TYPE: Commission, 2013

STATUS: Completed, the embassy reopened in November 2018

PROGRAM: Chancery, ambassador’s residence, staff residences, consular office, technical building, sauna and new pool house and gate houses, 4,400 m² total

LOCATION: New Delhi, India

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: Approx. 10,000,000 €

CLIENT: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Simo Nuojua, Lotta Kindberg and Mirja Sillanpää

COLLABORATORS: Sitowise (engineering), WSP Finland (project management), Annukka Pietilä (Pietilä architecture specialist), C. P. Kukreja Architects (local architect partner), Jasleen Waraich Landscape Architecture (updates to landscape design)

ORIGINAL DESIGN: Raili and Reima Pietilä Architects, 1986

SUSTAINABILITY: LEED Gold

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HANASAARI RESIDENTIAL AREA

The scheme consists of five perimeter blocks of varying heights covered with the roof terraces of the apartments on the uppermost floors. The blocks form gigantic bowl shapes with crossing sea views from all terraces, and a sense of community and togetherness for the inhabitants.

The courtyards will form semi-private spaces, which the residents of Helsinki are very fond of, in contrast with the public streets with shops and services on ground level. Building heights vary from two to up to 16 floors, with varying housing typologies and apartment sizes included in the same block.

The methodology of this project was rigid. We first started by analyzing the views to and from the site, the functions surrounding it and the nature of the immediate surroundings. The eastern shore was given an industrial feel, the western was made into a park.

A traditional Helsinki city block structure projected onto the site was shaped to fit long vistas across the site and broken up to minimize wind acceleration. The corners of the buildings were rounded to smooth out wind loads. Sea views were maximized by lifting up the buildings by the shoreline and by opening up the

public spaces outward to the sea. Streetscapes were given a human scale by lowering the buildings down to two floors in central areas. These moves gave the area its bowl-like topology.

The general public responded with enthusiasm to the promise of something different on the very conservative Finnish housing market. The plan, however, was put on hold, to wait for the closure of the Hanasaari heating plant and the clearing of the plant's coal storage, eventually resulting to the City completely reworking the plan by the plant's April 2023 closure.

TYPE: Invited competition, 2007, 1st prize, followed by a planning commission

STATUS: Concluded

PROGRAM: New housing area and a school and kindergartens, 97,000 m² total

LOCATION: Helsinki, Finland

CLIENT: City of Helsinki

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Julia Hertell, Kalle Berggren, Risto Wikberg, Auvo Lindroos and Aleksi Niemeläinen

COLLABORATORS: Trafix (traffic planning), Airix (services engineering), MASU Planning (landscape design)

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we also work on projects related to **urban planning**, as well as...

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ETELÄ-PASILA HIGH-RISE AREA

The redeveloped competition entry “Etelä-Pasila” creates a new typology north of the perimeter blocks of downtown Helsinki. We believe that the best possible future for the city includes a wide variety of neighborhoods for the diversifying population to choose from.

Finnish cities rarely rise above the height of eight floors. Some high-rise areas are being developed along urban perimeters, but none of those truly create a new high-rise district. None of those developments offer places with naturally contrasting towers creating multidimensional, deep space – in our opinion multiplying one tower is not enough.

The new Etelä-Pasila high-rise area creates an excellent possibility to connect the Pasila railway station to central Helsinki via a continuous chain of green areas. One of the main goals of this proposal is to also bring the beautifully rough character of the Pasila railyard up through the new high-rise district all the way to the station. This connection is shown primarily through landscaping; the whole main square with its stairs and pathways are laid in brick and the outdoor areas are turned into seemingly wild meadows and groves with deciduous trees and rainwater pools.

Each individual tower has been given a specific character arising from it's content and location on the site. The idea is not to create one uniform sculpture, but to describe the content and uses of the buildings, be it residential uses or offices and commercial spaces.

Spatially diverse life between the buildings is catalyzed by the low buildings bordering the open spaces, level variations, long and short vistas, and a wide selection of possible routes through the area. The outdoor spaces are green and intimate, yet metropolitan in nature. “Etelä-Pasila” has everything it takes to finally merge the area split for decades by the main railway, into a new vibrant neighborhood.

TYPE: Design & build competition, 2017-2018, followed by development commission

STATUS: In progress

PROGRAM: Housing, retail, office and parking, approx. 100,000 m² total

LOCATION: Helsinki, Finland

CLIENT: Skanska CDF & Skanska Talonrakennus

TEAM AT ALA: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston with Harri Humpi, Ivana Nordqvist, Maria Lomiak, Jack Foisey, Anastasiia Tomka, Anniina Kortemaa and Epp Jerlei

COLLABORATORS: MASU Planning (landscape design)

design and development of **high-rise** districts.



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From left, our design principals, Samuli Woolston, Juho Grönholm and Antti Nousjoki.

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PARTNERS

The office is led by three partners Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston. They collaborate on all of the firm's projects to create an ideological, conceptual and practical design scheme. They supervise, instruct and participate in the development of these schemes and concepts into fully functional and executable design documentation.

All of the ALA partners have over 20 years of professional experience, mostly in designing large public buildings both in Finland and abroad. They are seasoned designers with experience in leading world class projects from start to completion.

In addition to the daily office work, the partners have also taught advanced studios in public building design in Finland, as well as at two North American universities: Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis.

They have received numerous prizes and awards, including the Pietilä Award for Young Architects in 2008 and the Finnish State Prize for Architecture in 2012.

JUHO GRÖNHOLM (Finland, b. 1975) Architect M.Sc. SAFA, Co-Founder, Partner
Juho Grönholm holds a master's degree in architecture from Helsinki University of Technology. He has 25 years of professional experience in designing large public buildings in Finland and abroad. Juho is both an experienced team leader and a visionary artist promoting rich, memorable architecture independent of any set styles.

ANTTI NOUSJOKI (Finland, b. 1974) Architect M.Sc. SAFA, Co-Founder, Partner
Antti Nousjoki has 22 years of professional experience in working with leading practices worldwide on projects varying from public buildings to master plans. He enjoys both the political and the technical struggles of architecture, but is first and foremost a creative, ideas-to-execution designer. Antti has a particular interest in library design. He was a member of the board of The Association of Finnish Architects' Offices ATL until the end of 2017.

SAMULI WOOLSTON (Finland/UK, b. 1975) Architect M.Sc. SAFA, Co-Founder, Partner
Samuli Woolston is known for his considerate and artistic design approach. Samuli has 23 years of professional experience, and a strong interest in interdisciplinary and cross cultural design and planning projects. He is an accomplished lead designer in charge of multinational teams. Samuli is a graduate of the Department of Architecture of Helsinki University of Technology. He was a member of the editorial board of ARK The Finnish Architectural Review for a period of 10 years.

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The firm was founded in 2005 and currently employs 45 architects and designers.

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WORKING METHODS

ALA utilizes contemporary design tools such as building information modeling, 3D printing, and parametric design software in all their projects. These methods are combined with the more traditional ones, such as model building and materials research to find the best solution to the question at hand. The office facilities include a research library, a materials library and a model workshop. The equipment, the software and the libraries are being constantly updated as the office expands.

The design team works in a fully integrated 3D building information modelling environment, where the client and the future users have a real-time access to visualizations and the walk-through animation of the up-to-date project. Especially all newbuild projects are designed as 3D building information models using up-to-date equipment and the latest version of the Autodesk Architecture Engineering & Construction Collection software.

The designs created in Revit are complemented with work done on such software as AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, Grasshopper and Enscape. BIM is utilized in quantity, volume and cost estimation as well as in project communication with other planners and engineers during the projects' design and construction phases.

Both Helsinki Central Library Oodi and the expansion of Helsinki Airport have been awarded with the Tekla BIM Awards.

ALA also relies on its network of highly competent international collaborators and specialists to stimulate the exchange of up-to-date knowledge. The tools and methods used at ALA have been developed together with Gravicon. All administrative tasks are also being handled in a computerized environment.

The Management System of the Association of Finnish Architects' Offices ATL and its associated documents are utilized in all commissions.

SOFTWARE: Autodesk Architecture Engineering & Construction Collection; Autodesk BIM360; Autodesk BIM Collaborate Pro; Solibri Model Checker; Dalux BIM Viewer; Rhinoceros; Chaos Group V-Ray; Grasshopper; VisualARQ; Enscape; Adobe Creative Cloud All Apps; Adobe Acrobat Pro DC; Microsoft Office 365 Business Standard; Microsoft Project; Slack; Zoom; F-Secure Computer Protection Premium & Rapid Detection Response

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ALA Architects specializes in demanding cultural buildings, unique renovation projects and transportation architecture. The awarded Helsinki-based firm was founded in 2005 by four young Finnish architects: Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki, Janne Teräsvirta and Samuli Woolston. Their collaboration started in 2004 through success in architectural competitions. The 1st prize in the open international competition for the new theater and concert hall, Kilden Performing Arts Centre, in Kristiansand, Norway in January 2005 granted them their first commission. Today, ALA is run by three of the co-founding partners: Grönholm, Nousjoki and Woolston, and in addition to them employs a team of 42 architects, interior designers, students and staff members, representing 14 different nationalities.

ALA's most recent completed projects are the new main entrance of Helsinki Airport, three stations along the western extension of the Helsinki area metro line, Saukonlaituri parking facility, Courtyard Tampere City hotel, Helsinki Central Library Oodi, and the renovation of the Finnish embassy in New Delhi. The firm is currently working on such projects as Event Centre Satama in Kotka, Learning Centre La Ruche just outside Lyon, the expansion of the Estonian Business School in Tallinn, Espoo City

Theatre, an R&D building for Nokia, as well as the renovations of the building Finnish embassy in Copenhagen and the Finnish Institute in Rome.

ALA is committed to seeking fresh angles, flowing forms and surprising solutions on all levels of architecture. We challenge ourselves to provide alternatives, develop prototypes and look for innovations. We trust in beauty achieved by combining the intuitive with the analytic, the practical with the extravagant, and the rational with the irrational.

FOUNDED: 2005

REGISTERED IN: Finland, Norway

MEMBER OF: Association of Finnish Architects' Offices ATL, Arkitektbedriftene i Norge

TURNOVER IN 2022: Approx. 4,515,000 €

CREDIT RATING: AA+

STAFF: 3 partners, 30 architects M.Sc./M.Arch., 3 architectural designers B.Sc./B.Arch., 1 architectural technologist B.Sc., 1 concept designer, 3 interior architects M.A., 1 technical assistant, 3 administrative employees

WORKING LANGUAGES: Finnish, English, Chinese, Estonian, French, Norwegian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian

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