

## **SHORE[LINER]**

As one of Helsinki's marine national landscapes, South Harbour is already one of the most vibrant and activated port's in Finland and across the world. Currently, the market stands as the center to the harbour and attracts tourists and locals that activate the public space on a daily basis. SHORE[LINER] reestablishes the already flourishing harbour with a PUBLIC LINING that brings the entire shoreline back to the people. The SHORE[LINER] proposal creates a new public atmosphere through an intervention that serves three main criteria: 1. Establish South Harbour as being the central node to the green region 2. Give the shoreline back to the public realm and 3. Catapult the city as a world-class sustainable city through passive infrastructural needs such as flood control due to high tide fluctuations.

### **The Parkland**

First, the proposal establishes Helsinki as the central node of the green region. According to the 2002 Helsinki Master Plan, the focus of the region is on extensively enhancing and connecting the city's greenways and routes, bike routes, and district parks.

To re-establish the 'Green Fingers' strategy as the backbone of the greenway system, our proposal reconnects the region by shifting much of the current necessities below grade, such as parking, to re-establish the shoreline of Helsinki as a public park.

SHORE[LINER] sees the South Harbor as an integral part of the greater Helsinki Park and as a key component to connect the heart of the city with its surrounding park-scape. Similar to Chicago's Lake Shore Park or Barcelona's urban beaches it acts as a cohesive zone between the sea and the city offering a generous and open public space. Since the harbour is seen as becoming a public ecological corridor for the region, we provide new lighthouse towers that also serves as a rest stop for the millions of arctic waterfowls, divers and wader species migrating over Helsinki every year.

### **Park as Programmed Surface**

Second, SHORE[LINER] provides much needed public space for residents and tourists where space is given back to the public realm for recreation and outdoor activities. The water front area surrounding the south harbor becomes an open public space, thus connecting the harbor to the city and making it an integral part of the city life and its residents.

For the design of the harbour, very little is actually altered with much of the space preserved for the public realm. The current harbour does not allow for much public access other than the market area. The market is highly successful and we took cues from how it works and used it as benchmark for the rest of the proposal. The city residents and the many tourist passing through can enjoy the promenade, long biking trail, shopping and many cultural events and performances that take place in the new plazas around the harbor and in the new museum – the only new public program added to the proposal.

The park surface undulates creating spaces for activities that can have a wide range of public engagement such as sports, temporal gatherings for performances, etc. A large grid that adjusts itself to the topography of the park organizes the surface and creates fields of varied activities. These can be held outside as well as inside pavilions that contain also restaurants/coffees and shops.

Visible from the city streets and from the sea, the lighthouse towers also serve as markers along the park shoreline that demarcate where city and water connect. The light, which is generated through a flexible solar paneling system, can be used to colorfully announce different events in the city life and harbor. Their color of the light towers change to mark special days and holidays, signal when the market is open, etc.

### **Park as Ecological Infrastructure**

Beyond the parks use as public space it is also a large infrastructural element that offers integrated bike lanes, large amounts of underground parking, a coherent lighting system for the harbor and more importantly it acts as a giant flood protecting system by allowing sea and storm water to flood the park zone in a controlled manner via large underground retention basins that collect the water and avoid flooding of crucial areas.

SHORE[LINER] utilizes a multiple of strategies that remedy the occasional flood, storm surge, and tackles air pollution as well. The harbour becomes a thickened infrastructural liner that passively performs as an underground water retention system. The proposed surface of the plaza is a series of porous pools connected to a larger underbelly retention system that spans the entire inner lining of the harbor to protect against flooding. It not only remediates the flooding but also serves as a new landscape and public park for the city. The water pools above ground and the basins below ground store floodwater under the plaza during high rains or storms. Once water subsides, it is released back into the harbour. On a regular day, the pools are simply dry and usable as public space, recreation, amphitheatres, resting spots, etc.

Located in the arctic, Helsinki is in a region that stores 25% of world's carbon. The other components to the park are the Carbon Sinks that are sprinkled around the plaza. Our carbon sinks are underground, artificial reservoirs that accumulate and store carbon-containing chemical compounds for an indefinite period. The carbon sinks remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Occasional courtyards in the plaza let light down into the underground parking garages and sometimes serve as Carbon Sinks.