

# SOUR

## SARA HILDÉN ART MUSEUM

## CASE STUDY

### Project Details

Location: Tampere, Finland

Date: 2020

Client: Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company,  
Sara Hildén Foundation, City of Tampere

Typology: Concept Design Complete

Area: 4000 m<sup>2</sup>



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Art moves us beyond our primal needs. It provokes thought, emotion and countless interpretations, reinventing itself with each viewer. Our proposed design for the international competition for the new Sara Hildén Art Museum in Tampere, Finland, is the embodiment of human relationship to art: a thoughtful architectural provocation with many layers and peels of exploration.

**How might we create a destination that is inspired by art, informed by the city, inclusive of all and equipped for the future?**

Much like how art opens up our minds to new thoughts, the building evolves from a quiet structure that blends in, into many layers of openness that invites the people of Tampere and the world at large. It bends the notion of a conventional museum and embraces change, becoming a destination for the current and inspiration for the future.

“Much bending breaks the bow; much unbending the mind.”

**FRANCIS BACON**



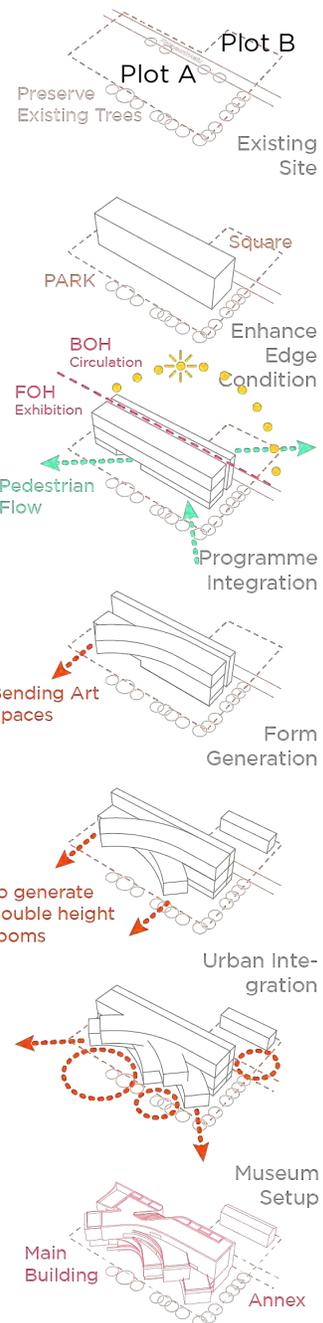
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## Metamorphosis

The proposal prioritizes human-experience, while taking the urban and environmental goals of the city of Tampere and vision of the Sara Hildén Foundation into account. While the proposed design is informed by diverse subjects such as architecture, sustainability, circularity, environmental psychology, accessibility and inclusion, it is inspired by the creative and complex nature of art itself.

Continually adapting and changing, the layers of the museum morph like life itself. Integrating the current and honoring it while making spaces for the future, our design embodies the spirit of evolution. The peeling back of traditional structures creates spaces of expression that serve as a melting pot for different people and ideas to come together. Prioritizing placemaking, a process by which we can shape our public spaces in order to maximize shared value, the museum's layers facilitate creative patterns of use. Different choices are given to the audience to allow them to explore and wander, daring them to change, transform, adapt, and reinvent - like a caterpillar emerging into a butterfly from its cocoon.

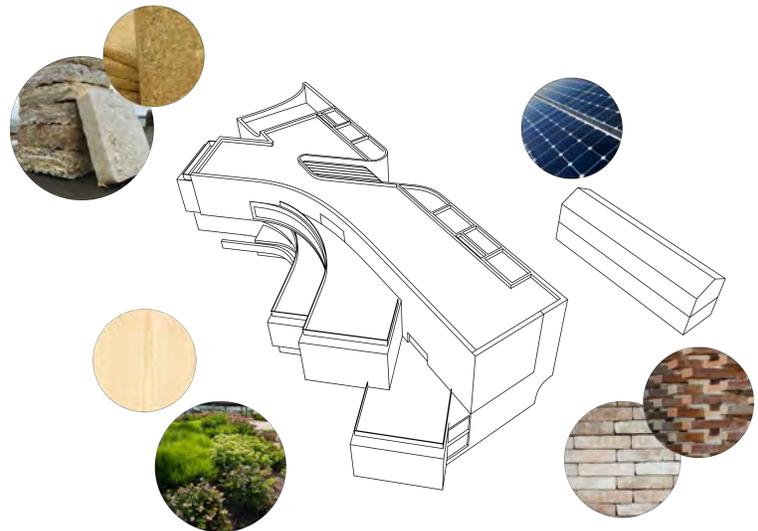
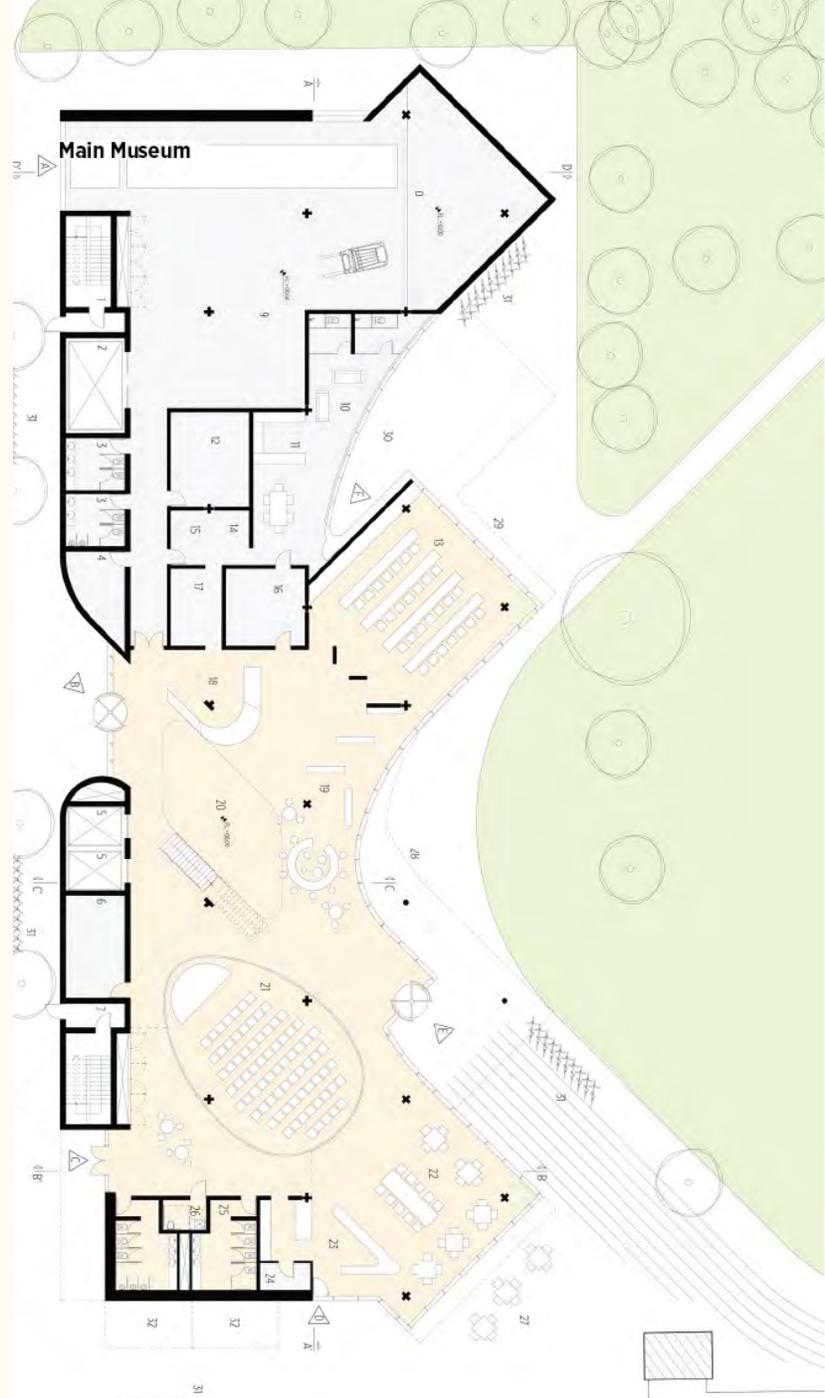


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## A Sustainable Proposal through Collaboration

The new Sara Hildén Art Museum is informed by measures of sustainability, circular economy and well-being. The building is mindful of reducing waste and carbon emissions, by factoring in its construction, life-time and deconstruction if necessary. The facades of the main building on the street end and the entire annex building, are designed to be built with recycled brick, sourced locally from Tampere. The facade on the park side is planned to be built with Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) of local spruce trees, glued together with non-hazardous glue. The use of wood will support our goal to minimize carbon emission, through carbon sequestration even prior to the construction of the building. The preservation of the trees on site will also help in reducing carbon footprint. As for insulation, both buildings will utilize 250 mm mycelium as a natural isolation material. The green roof of the building has a designated location for rainwater capture for onsite usage.

Our proposal promotes well-being and health, through interior interventions such as access to sunlight, use of natural materials, natural air ventilation through the main atrium, access to green terraces and park, and stress-reducing lighting fixtures. It also encourages physical motion and exercise through various pedestrian access and bicycle parking points. The building's main energy and technical storage - located on the lot across - will be eco-efficient and respectful to the environment, and contributes to the building's Green Factor and Tampere's goal to become carbon neutral by 2030.



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## How we did it

The insights that defined the design principles of the proposal for Sara Hilden Art Museum are generated through:

**Expert interviews** with people on the field of Regenerative Buildings, Museology, Sustainable Building Materials, Environmental Psychology, Museum Architecture, Placemaking, Universal Design

**Industry Diagnostics:** By desk research and a panel discussion on the current and future state of art, the challenges the industry faces and how to overcome these.

**Participatory Design Methods:** Including ideation workshops with the active engagement of locals and various stakeholders in the industry: artists, museum workers, curators, visitors

## Food for thought:

The definition of the function of a museum building is shifting. As it used to be a place for storing (inter)national treasures, grandeur and passive viewership, the contemporary definition by the ICOM (International Council of Museums) of a museum is "an institution in the service of society and its development".

Future-proofing a museum means creating a place that grows and evolves for, and with, society. In an ever-changing world, and with the growing issues around climate change, inclusion, equity, and digitization, museums need to open up and collaborate with their audiences, they must catalyze education, and create inspiration. As custodians of culture and visionaries for change, it is essential that they balance conservation and disruption, safety and freedom, divergence and adaptation, information and inception.

