



## **Guggenheim Museum, Helsinki Design Competition Revisited**

<http://designguggenheimhelsinki.org/en/about/>

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This studio will focus on the design of a new Guggenheim Museum for Helsinki. The site will be chosen in the historic center of the city, a thriving urban district characterized by a wide variety of activities and places. The competition which was held in 2014 for the museum resulted in several award winning designs that were ultimately rejected by the city of Helsinki. This studio challenges you to revisit the design competition on a new site presenting your ideas and solutions that would win the 'hearts and minds' of the architectural judges and, more importantly the people of Finland.

The harbor district in the center of Helsinki is the marine national landscape for Finland and has functioned since the end of the 17th century as a port and quay. Today the harbor district features public markets, plazas, parks, impressive civic buildings, modern master works by Alvar Aalto and others and a working port for ferries and cruise ships all of which tie into its expansive setting as it faces out to the Baltic Sea. The harbor's strategic location, symbolic and historic significance and its continuing commercial and civic vitality underscores its centrality to the health of the city and its future development. This is the setting for the Guggenheim Museum.

### **Challenge**

The challenge that faces the development of the harbor and the museum site centers on the harbor's dual roles: first as an honorific, symbolic and 'people' center of the city with a strong focus on recreation and, second, as a working port with concomitant demands for services and infrastructure which support its many activities—primarily those related to the thriving cruise and ferry operations on its edges. This latter condition creates a barrier between the city and its greatest natural asset: the harbor itself. The main urban factors for related sites include the harbor and its buildings, the market square, Observatory Hill and the Esplanade, Helsinki's central park. Into this setting the challenge will be to design an appropriate museum for the Guggenheim Foundation that meets the aspirations of both the museum and the city of Helsinki.

Students will be asked to undertake an urban design solution for the site of the museum and provide a schematic design for their project. It is envisaged that by term's end a preliminary architectural design will emerge that answers the questions, challenges and opportunities expressed above.

Other important aspects for this design solution include:

- a. Precedent Study
- b. Site Analysis with detailed physical site model
- c. Program Analysis

Students will be required to develop their project in depth and at multiple scales considering aesthetic and tectonic issues achieving a design that is both "integrative and comprehensive." Toward this end, students will be required to identify one interior gallery space for close study and design, including day lighting and electric lighting. In addition students will be asked to design a typical structural bay examining structural, constructional issues in detail. Environmental Control Systems and issues relating to sustainable design principles will also be addressed.