What will Otaniemi look like in 2050? p. 20
More green on campus – transforming outdoor spaces p. 4
University at the heart of the startup ecosystem p. 24
Otaniemi has over the years become an increasingly vibrant and open community, a truly unique place in Europe. The latest additions have made our campus a home for the entire Aalto community.

A BRAND-NEW building invited the rest of the students of the School of Arts, Design and Architecture from Arabia to the Otaniemi campus from the beginning of the new academic year 2018. In the beginning of 2019, we will welcome the students and staff of the School of Business from Töölö (pages 6–9).

We are much closer to our dream of a university where different fields of science, identities, cultures, and perspectives can meet in the same place. For students, this means new opportunities. For example, the layout of workshops in School of Arts, Design and Architecture’s new Väre building helps to draft and to implement artistic projects. New spaces also allow multidisciplinary encounters between students in different fields.

Learning new perspectives open-mindedly is the heart of being part of the Aalto community (pages 10–11). The new services and restaurants located around Väre will delightfully refresh Otaniemi’s service offering. Students’ needs are diverse, and Otaniemi’s development as an independent neighbourhood will benefit all its inhabitants, businesses and communities (pages 24–35).

And we’re still on a journey. The next development projects are already going forward. For example, Aalto Works will provide new facilities for the School of Engineering and the School of Electrical Engineering. Design Factory and Kiuus will also eventually move into the same block (pages 12–17).

Students are involved in building the future campus. The Student Centre planned near the Metro Station is a joint venture between Aalto University Student Union (AYY), Aalto University Business Students (KY) and Teknologföreningen (TF), which aims to create a common meeting place for all members of the community. The project is in the design phase, whereby every member of the community has been able to present their ideas about the Centre’s services and functions. Aside from the student restaurant and workstations, even minigolf and drone rental were added on the wishlist.

At the same time, a vision is being prepared to carry out the development of the campus up to year 2050. This is where we need your help. On pages 20–23 you will be able to familiarize yourself with three alternate future scenarios that we wish to receive feedback on.

Welcome to Aalto University’s campus!
Otaniemi and the Aalto University campus are set to undergo rapid change, with plenty of new development in the works. At the same time, the character of the urban areas will be transformed into an inviting oasis of outdoor environments and verdant spaces.

"Future-Onatiemi will be a living breathing part of the city. People live and work here in increasingly diverse ways and in greater numbers than before," she says.

The City of Espoo plans to develop housing for 4,000 people in the area. The essential aim is that approximately half of Otaniemi’s residents will be students. In addition to the residential developments, numerous other buildings will be erected. These will be used by the university and its collaborators and partners. For example, work on the new Student Centre is set to begin soon. The building is intended for use by the university’s student bodies and is situated opposite Harald Berlin Learning Centre and the Metro station.

Transportation connections will also be modernised. There are already in place the Jokela Light Rail to wind its way around Otaniemi by 2030. It is clear that plans to update the outdoor areas across the whole campus are needed. Aalto University has commissioned landscape architecture firm SLA to draw up plans for the wide array of environments in Otaniemi.

"In this vision, Otaniemi becomes a coherent urban hub, surrounding both the university and the Metro station. The need for a future-proofed and sustainable vision permeates every aspect of SLA’s design. They have considered the impact of climate change, this ideal can be seen in the plans for pedestrianisation and making the outdoor areas comfortable and lush with urban verdancy," Kan- kanla says.

Different perspectives Various conditions had to be taken into consideration when planning the regeneration of Otaniemi. A prime example of this is the Lagalaita Nature Reserve, which is home to an internationally important wetland area, a migratory destination for numerous species of bird. The northern wheatear and corncrake can be spotted there if you look carefully. It is a stepping stone for flocks of birds during their spring and autumn migrations. Otaniemi also boasts a number of culturally and historically important architecture. The environment and buildings must complement each other.

Yet another important consideration for the landscape architect is the sense of land ownership. Although Aalto University and Senavi Properties own the majority of the real estate, Otaniemi is also owned by several private landowners. The City of Espoo also has its own plans for Otaniemi. And the planning work must address the perspectives of various stakeholders. There is one important area on which all the landowners agree. They all view the many green areas as a strength," Saarikunnas says.

"In other words, biodiversity in Otaniemi is set to increase. In addition to preserving what is already there, by diversifying the natural environments in the areas close to the site. Currently, the green spaces are either entirely covered by lawns or have not been cultivated at all. More variation is needed," Saarikunnas says.

"There’s no reason why the trees on the site shouldn’t bear edible fruit. The yield of apples, plums, and berries could benefit everyone on site, Saarikunnas notes. According to Kankaala, the site’s biodiversity will be considered much more carefully than before. One example of this is the decision to no longer plant non-native species. A pedestrianised city

The central promise behind the development of green areas is the creation of appealing environments that encourage people to leave their buildings and continue learning outdoors. The corridor and connecting pathways of both the in- and outdoor spaces on the site are being reimagined as meeting places.

The hope is that people working and studying in different fields will spontaneously meet each other by being outside. We have people from the fields of business, technology, and the arts all making use of the site. They are from industry and the university, Talvitie says.

In addition to the plans for a more biodiverse campus, another important factor is that it will become a more pedestrian-friendly urban environment.

"Currently, cars and car parks dominate this part of the city. In the future, it will be much easier to go from one place to another on foot or by bike. There’s no reason for cycle routes to remain two-way. There are many paths and thoroughfares. The Corinthus area is home to an international important wetland area, a migratory destination for numerous species of bird. The northern wheatear and corncrake can be spotted there if you look carefully. It is a stepping stone for flocks of birds during their spring and autumn migrations. Otaniemi also boasts a number of culturally and historically important architecture. The environment and buildings must complement each other.

Yet another important consideration for the landscape architect is the sense of land ownership. Although Aalto University and Senavi Properties own the majority of the real estate, Otaniemi is also owned by several private landowners. The City of Espoo also has its own plans for Otaniemi. And the planning work must address the perspectives of various stakeholders. There is one important area on which all the landowners agree. They all view the many green areas as a strength," Saarikunnas says.

Work begins

The landscape design work will be carried out gradually over a few years. Each time a new building goes up or other substantial changes are made to the environment, the design implementation for the outdoor spaces will be reconsidered.

The final regeneration of the site’s outdoor area will begin to take shape from 2020 onwards. Work will first begin near the end of summer 2019, according to Kankaala, and will be carried out gradually over the years. Each time a new building is erected, the design implemented for the outdoor areas will be reconsidered.

The need for a future-proofed and sustainable vision permeates every aspect of SLA’s design. They have considered the impact of climate change, this ideal can be seen in the plans for pedestrianisation and making the outdoor areas comfortable and lush with urban verdancy," Kan- kanla says.

Future-proofing

Considering alternative scenarios is vital for environmental planning. Nobody knows what the future holds for cars. Are we going to be driving more or less? Now, we build multi-storey car parks above ground. If our forecasts for rare decreases in the future, these ground-level car parks can be knocked down and something else can take their place. There is no point sticking to a single vision of the future that may become problematic when change takes place, Talvitie notes.

It is precisely for this reason that landscape architecture must take climate change and the related factors into consideration. Increase in rainfall and high winds in Northern Europe are the result of global warming. SLA has designed different solutions to cope with rain and flood water runoff, including water features and the use of permeable surface materials. Another aspect considered by the proposed plans is the way in which vegetation locally affects the microclimates in the site’s various outdoor spaces. The flora chosen for the site will be able to provide protection from the harsh winds or even generate much needed cool air in the summer heat.

The development of green areas will create appealing environments that encourage people to leave their buildings and continue learning outdoors. The corridor and connecting pathways of both the in- and outdoor spaces on the site are being reimagined as meeting places. They all view the many green areas as a strength," Saarikunnas says.

Even more natural diversity

A myriad of verdant environments will dissect the Light Rail to wind its way around Otaniemi by 2030. This is the vision that Aalto University’s Campus Curator Heini-Matti Saarikunnas has for the future of Otaniemi.

"Future-Onatiemi will be a living breathing part of the city. People live and work here in increasingly diverse ways and in greater numbers than before," she says.

The City of Espoo plans to develop housing for 7,000 people in the area. The essential aim is that approximately half of Otaniemi’s residents will be students. In addition to the residential developments, numerous other buildings will be erected. These will be used by the university and its collaborators and partners. For example, work on the new Student Centre is set to begin soon. The building is intended for use by the university’s student bodies and is situated opposite Harald Berlin Learning Centre and the Metro station.

Transportation connections will also be modernised. There are already in place the Jokela Light Rail to wind its way around Otaniemi by 2030. It is clear that plans to update the outdoor areas across the whole campus are needed. Aalto University has commissioned landscape architecture firm SLA to draw up plans for the wide array of environments in Otaniemi.

"In this vision, Otaniemi becomes a coherent urban hub, surrounding both the university and the Metro station. The need for a future-proofed and sustainable vision permeates every aspect of SLA’s design. They have considered the impact of climate change, this ideal can be seen in the plans for pedestrianisation and making the outdoor areas comfortable and lush with urban verdancy," Kan- kanla says.

Different perspectives Various conditions had to be taken into consideration when planning the regeneration of Otaniemi. A prime example of this is the Lagalaita Nature Reserve, which is home to an internationally important wetland area, a migratory destination for numerous species of bird. The northern wheatear and corncrake can be spotted there if you look carefully. It is a stepping stone for flocks of birds during their spring and autumn migrations. Otaniemi also boasts a number of culturally and historically important architecture. The environment and buildings must complement each other.

Yet another important consideration for the landscape architect is the sense of land ownership. Although Aalto University and Senavi Properties own the majority of the real estate, Otaniemi is also owned by several private landowners. The City of Espoo also has its own plans for Otaniemi. And the planning work must address the perspectives of various stakeholders. There is one important area on which all the landowners agree. They all view the many green areas as a strength," Saarikunnas says.

Work begins

The landscape design work will be carried out gradually over a few years. Each time a new building goes up or other substantial changes are made to the environment, the design implementation for the outdoor spaces will be reconsidered.

The final regeneration of the site’s outdoor area will begin to take shape from 2020 onwards. Work will first begin near the end of summer 2019, according to Kankaala, and will be carried out gradually over the years. Each time a new building is erected, the design implemented for the outdoor areas will be reconsidered.
A BIG building site has dominated Otaniemi for almost three years, but in September 2018, the campus has hatched from the scaffolding. Most of the brand-new building complex has now been taken to use, and the rest of the facilities will be completed at the turn of the year.

The new block consists of three integrally interconnected buildings: Väre, the School of Business and the shopping centre A Bloc, in connection with Aalto University’s metro station entrance. Each building has its own entrance and address.

Alvar Aalto’s historic buildings next to a new neighbour

The red brick building complex comprising four floors is a perfect match for Otaniemi’s visual identity and architecture. It consists of rectangular modules, whose lines are designed to follow the coordinates of the closely situated buildings designed by Alvar Aalto: Aalto University Undergraduate Centre and Harald Herlin Learning Centre.

An international architectural competition was organised in 2012–2013 regarding the design of the heart of the campus, and the winning entry was submitted by Verstas Architects. The design was described as fresh, clear and distinct.

One of the strengths of the proposal was its flexibility of space, should the need for new space solutions arise. User orientation and sustainable development were already emphasised in the competition programme. Solar panels and geothermal energy now produce energy for almost the entire building.

Shopping centre A Bloc located next to the metro station entrance was the first new building to open its doors. It offers a wide range of services such as coffee shops, restaurants, shops, and sports facilities.

Aalto University’s own shop opened in August 2018. It sells university publications as well as products designed by students.

There are numerous permanent artworks in the new buildings, following the percentage for art principle Aalto University is committed to. All artists are connected with the university through study or work. Galleries and exhibition spaces displaying changing exhibitions also showcase art created by students.

The entire community involved in designing the facilities

Väre, the new building of the School of Arts, Design and Architecture, was officially opened in September 2018. It houses workshops, studios, rooms for small group work, teaching and office facilities, facilities for independent work, as well as places for hanging out and meeting people.

School of Arts, Design and Architecture and the School of Business move to their new and modern facilities.
The main entrance of Väre opens into a spacious lobby. A wide wooden staircase leads to the hustle and bustle of workshops, which can be observed through glass walls. The majority of the activities of the School of Arts, Design and Architecture were located in the former Arabia factory in Helsinki. The building project and the transition to Otaniemi were prepared carefully by the whole community, and we wanted to ensure that the views of end-users were considered,” says Project Manager Sari Dhima. “We have organised approximately twenty user workshops from 2012 onwards, during which students, staff and partners have had a chance to tell us about their wishes regarding the new premises.”

A designer also needs to understand concrete matters

Teaching in the field of art and design requires a large amount of physical space, and it is still available in the new building, but in a more efficient manner. “The spaces are flexible and configurable: furniture can be moved and lighting adjusted. The modularity of the spaces makes it possible to add and remove partition walls as required. The departments do not have their own studios, but facilities meant for building prototypes or making patterns, for example, are in shared use,” Sari Dhima continues.

Although design today is largely computer-based, workshops are needed for testing the functionality of engineered solutions, experimenting with materials, and making prototypes and models. “The designer must understand concrete matters in order to visualise a functional solution. High-quality workshop and studio facilities provide a connection between manual skills and thinking, thus combining theory and practice. They are the strength of Aalto University on an international scale, and we want to maintain them,” says Dhima.

The new building brings together the School of Business

Master’s degree students, doctoral candidates and staff of the School of Business will move to the new building from the traditional Töölö campus in February 2019. Bachelor level students have been studying in Otaniemi already for a couple of years. There are four floors altogether. The ground floor has a restaurant, a wine bar, a café and teaching facilities. The upper floors contain space such as the Biz Learning Hub for students, meeting rooms and facilities for departments and services.

The interior design solutions are aligned with the spirit of the School of Business and inspired by the school’s history and the architecture of the building: a lot of wood and repeat patterns can be seen. “Users of the School of Business have been heard in the planning of the new premises, and in addition to students and staff also alumni have taken part. The new facilities and technology offer great opportunities for the development of teaching. We piloted technology solutions already in Töölö, and solutions proven to be good will be implemented in the new building,” says Pertia Kähärä who manages the School of Business relocation project.

“Great that we can now move to the joint campus and become an even more integral part of the Aalto community. The activities of the School of Business are essentially based on people and interaction, and we have wanted that to show in the new premises,” Kähärä says. Väre and the School of Business building contain teaching and study facilities and services that are available to both schools. Amongst the first people moving to the new premises were Aalto University’s multidisciplinary Master’s Degree Programmes in International Design Business Management and Creative Sustainability.

The building project and the transition to Otaniemi were prepared carefully by the whole community, and we wanted to ensure that the views of end-users were considered.

The main entrance of Väre opens into a spacious lobby. A wide wooden staircase leads to the hustle and bustle of workshops, which can be observed through glass walls.

Solar panels and pergolaed roof produce energy for almost the entire building. Sustainable development was maintained already during the design competition phase. Image: Mikko Raskinen.
Today, Aalto University is a leading research and education institution in Finland and internationally. It is home to six schools offering a wide range of studies at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels. The university is renowned for its interdisciplinary approach, strong collaborations with business and industry, and a focus on sustainable development. Aalto University is located in Otaniemi, Espoo, a city about 30 minutes from Helsinki. The campus is a vibrant hub of innovation, creativity, and global partnerships.

The School as a Service model inspires

The School as a Service model is a new approach to organizing educational services. The model is inspired by the School as a Service Model, which originated from the municipality of Otaniemi. Under this model, educational services are provided as a service to schools. The model includes a central platform for shared thinking and learning, and a school that offers basic education. The School as a Service Model is designed to be flexible and scalable, allowing it to be adapted to different contexts and needs.

The School as a Service Model is expected to bring several benefits. Firstly, it will allow for more efficient and effective use of educational resources. Secondly, it will enable schools to focus on their core mission of education and learning. Thirdly, it will provide opportunities for innovation and experimentation in education. Finally, the School as a Service Model will foster partnerships between schools, universities, and other stakeholders, creating a more collaborative and dynamic learning environment.

Over the centuries, Otaniemi has lived through various transformations. From a small village to a booming industrial area, Otaniemi has adapted to the changing needs of its residents. Today, Otaniemi is a thriving community, home to many businesses and organizations. The future of Otaniemi is bright, with ongoing urban development and new opportunities for growth and innovation.
Architectural gems

The architecture in Otaniemi pays homage to the legacy Alvar Aalto, Raili & Reima Pietilä and Heikki & Kaija Siren. The campus is emerging as a completely new and open place for study, work, living and leisure. The site is rapidly becoming a new kind of open and lively space in which to study, work, live, and spend free-time.
Otaniemi was superimposed over central Helsinki, it would cover the area from Hakaniemi to Rusilaiti. And owing to its super-size, Otaniemi workshops, creative events, business community, Otaniemi’s main campus in Otaniemi, everyone knew that.

The origins of the red brick architectural style are found in both the former Helsinki University of Technology’s main building and the first student dormitory from 1966 can be found at the Jämerän halli sport complex, completed for the Helsinki Olympics, and the Shopping Centre completed in 1960 are both red brick with planters.

The Aalto University main campus is Otaniemi, everyone knew there was a lot of building work ahead. The heart of Aalto University’s campus area is constructed in line with Alvar Aalto’s land use plan. The well-known buildings now called the Undergraduate Centre was previously occupied by the Otaniemi manor house, once owned by the von Wright family. Aalto left the manor house’s original lime windows. Image: Reija Hirvonen.

The Otaniemi chapel, and Dipoli are all protected by the Office of the National Director of Cultural Heritage, following the Office’s so-called ‘biodiversity protection plan of buildings, sites and landscapes in Helsinki. Image: Tuomas Uusheimo.

A modern campus of many summits was the case for the Student Centre. Image: Antti Ahlava.

Otaniemi was designed and built using the Nordic tradition of landscape architecture. The landscape-dominating entity, replete with inventive wooden roof structures of Alvar Aalto’s Otaniemi was designed and built using the Nordic tradition of landscape architecture. The landscape-dominating entity, replete with inventive wooden roof structures of Alvar Aalto’s Otaniemi capaciousness and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement).

The end of the 1940s, Alvar Aalto was commissioned to design the Undergraduate Centre at the Helsinki University of Technology prepared for its move from Hätsähallit, Helsinki. Aalto chose to position several buildings in a way that complimented the site’s many hills, setting aside the lowland area for green fields and car parks. In fact, there wasn’t much by way of forestry in the area at that time, with arable and pasture land previously dominating the site. Otaniemi has a rich history of manor houses dating back to the 16th century. Indeed, alongside many of the area’s more traditionally well-known features, the Haglund manor courtyard, located behind the School of Chemical Engineering’s main building, often goes unnoticed. The site of the current Undergraduate Centre was previously occupied by the Otaniemi manor house, once owned by the von Wright family. Aalto left the manor house’s original lime windows.

Aalto’s early designs were strongly influenced by his own time cannot be emphasised enough. ‘In addition to the ways be made advances in physical architecture, Aalto also realised a new, more humanistic, organic, and everyday style.’

Although the Otaniemi chapel is now all that remains of the Haglund manor house, its form was a mixture of MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts. In fact, the time he spent on American campus work clearly can be seen to have influenced his plans for Otaniemi.

’Aalto said that the red bricks are both highly modern and wild or rugged way that suited the landscape’, Antti Ahlava observes.

The origins of the red brick architectural style are found in both the former Helsinki University of Technology’s main building and the first student dormitory from 1966 can be found at the Jämerän halli sport complex, completed for the Helsinki Olympics, and the Shopping Centre completed in 1960 are both red brick with planters.

The heart of Aalto University’s campus area is constructed in line with Alvar Aalto’s land use plan. The well-known buildings now called the Undergraduate Centre was previously occupied by the Otaniemi manor house, once owned by the von Wright family. Aalto left the manor house’s original lime windows.

Aalto’s early designs were strongly influenced by his own time cannot be emphasised enough. ‘In addition to the ways be made advances in physical architecture, Aalto also realised a new, more humanistic, organic, and everyday style.’

Although the Otaniemi chapel is now all that remains of the Haglund manor house, its form was a mixture of MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts. In fact, the time he spent on American campus work clearly can be seen to have influenced his plans for Otaniemi.

‘Aalto’s so-called ‘red brick period’. In the early days ofOtaniemi’s re-development, the decision to use red bricks was dictated both by chance and practical reasons.

On the first night of heavy bombing in Helsinki during the Continuation War, the Soviet Embassy was heavily damaged. The Finnish government donated the red bricks from the collapsed building to the technology students of the time. Once they had been cleaned, the bricks were first put to use in the construction of the student residences designed by Heikki Sirén and Martti Melanen.

The belief that Otaniemi is entirely covered by red brick buildings is not entirely true. Not even all of the buildings designed by Aalto himself are red bricked. For example, the Onahalli sports complex, situated at Otaniemi and completed for the Helsinki Olympics, and the Shopping Centre completed in 1960 are both red brick with planters.

The Otaniemi chapel was constructed in line with Alvar Aalto’s land use plan.

Otaniemi has traditionally been the stronghold of Finnish technical education and research, but now a multi-disciplinary and diverse Otaniemi is being built for all to enjoy.

The heart of Aalto University’s campus area is constructed in line with Alvar Aalto’s land use plan.
Towards a human-centred urban environment

In addition to Alvar Aalto’s masterpiece, Otaniemi naturally hosts some less-frequented districts and buildings.

In contrast to today’s way of thinking, the urban planning that took place at the midpoint of the 20th century emphasized cars and especially the distance between buildings, as well as the monumentality of the architecture. When we asked people using the area what their hopes for the future of Otaniemi were, they wanted less referencing of the past and a less institutional feel and, instead, more variety and a pedestrian-friendly approach, Antti Ahlava notes.

He too hopes that Alvar Aalto’s legacy employers brings architectural creativity true to contemporary ideals, rather than restricting the development of Otaniemi. ‘The university wants to continue to be an internationally significant architectural site.’

Welcoming and energised

It is estimated that by 2025 there will be three to four times as many people living and working in Otaniemi than in 2015.

The architectural style of the former Helsinki University of Technology very much represented the in-between approach to urban planning around car transport and monumentalism, where homes, life, work, and public services were thought of separately. According to Antti Ahlava, the tenets of contemporary design are human-centredness, walkable environments, multifunctional outdoor spaces, and the blurring or merging of organisations. While nature on campus has not been preserved, its vibrancy will only increase.

The more tightly-knit Otaniemi of today also has a new-age group to serve—the hundreds of schoolchildren who use the university’s buildings as part of its ‘School as a service’ operating model. New apartments are being built in the Kivimies area on Otaniemi’s southern point. These will be joined by a Chemistry district in the vicinity of the Metro station, which will also include recreational space for students, funded separately through a project run by the university’s student organisations. Apartments are also being built alongside the Otakaari district, in Maasi and Service.

The multifunctional spaces on the building’s ground floor will be open to everyone and home to innovative and welcoming workplaces, cafés, and restaurants.

The idea behind this plan is that students and employees will create the daytime buzz about the place, while the apartments’ new residents will continue this into the night. And thanks to the excellent transport connections, including the Metro and the upcoming Jokeri Light Rail line, Otaniemi is the ideal venue to organise events serving the whole Greater Helsinki region.

In Antti Ahlava’s estimation, Otaniemi has been a test case for ways to develop the suburban areas of the 1950s and 60s into more people-centred, multifunctional, and enjoyable spaces. ‘The same principles can be applied to developments in similar areas to ours. In fact, the successes we’ve had are being closely followed by other cities.’

Everyone visiting, living, and working in Otaniemi is currently bearing witness to the fictional building work going on throughout the area. In the years to come, the Aalto Works district, home to innovation and start-up enterprises, the Aalto Studios media centre, and much more will all sit alongside the area’s new residential developments.

Some people seem to think that when the work on Virta and the School of Business are over, the development stages there. In actual fact this is just a small taste of what the future holds!’

By 2025 there will be three to four times as many people living and working in Otaniemi than in 2015.
AALTO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
Outi Turpeinen, Aalto University’s Art Coordinator

Public art sparks our imagination

Research has shown that public art improves our wellbeing and also elicits many different emotions. It can even make us angry. In my opinion, art should always make us think.

AALTO University is the first university in Finland to commit to the principle of the art percent. The art percent is a funding model for art purchases, whereby approximately one percent of a building project’s funds are allocated to art purchases. Aalto University applies this principle to new construction and renovation projects, as well as to expansions and infrastructural development. Art procurements are made either by purchasing finished works of art, commissioning site-specific pieces or organizing art competitions.

A strategy document has been prepared by the university in order to guide the procurement of public art. The approach is both structured and systematic in its vision. The renovated Dipoli and two of the new buildings on campus have each been assigned their own theme or artistic concept, the aim of which was to incorporate the views of the buildings’ users – primarily university staff and students – into the aesthetic of the buildings.

Dipoli’s Radical Nature

The Radial Nature art collection comprises 30 works selected specifically for the Dipoli building. The building, designed by architects Ralli and Reima Pietilä was completed in 1966. The collection’s name, Radical Nature, not only refers to Dipoli’s wild spaces, with their varying shape, but also the sense of responsibility people feel for the wellbeing of nature and the environment as a whole. For example, in artist Renéta Jakobson’s work, the enchanting spectacle of thousands of glass droplets can be seen sparkling in front of a backdrop of concerns about marine pollution. The exhibited artworks are by Aalto University alumni and represent numerous different fields. The majority of the works are from recognized and experienced photographers such as Elina Broth- ars, Jorma Puranen, Ulla Jakobson and Hanka Hahlin. These site-specific pieces where commissioned for the Dipoli building: Christian Berg’s kinetic acrylic installation Ocular Space – Color Lenses, Renata Jakobson’s glassworks masterpiece Gloria, and Inari Päätalo’s plywood wall ornament Arvo (Engl. ‘Meadow’).

Väre – Global Equality

The thematic essence of the collection on display in Väre, the School of Arts, Design and Architecture’s new building, elicits a characteristically Finnish sense of social equality and emphasizes the school’s strong international identity. There is a conceptual emphasis on the important role art plays in sparking public debates.

The collection’s artworks address a wide array of issues, including identity and difference, nationality, asylum-seeking, gender, and sexuality. The works are fundamentally brave and arouse precisely because they are placed under the direct scrutiny of both current and future artists and other professionals in the field of the arts.

In total, there are around 25 works of art. In fact, the collection includes works by alumni, former professors, and current students. Broad both in terms of their scope and range of media, the artworks consist of textile, ceramics, photography, painting, drawings, and sculptures. Multimedia art also comes to the fore in the shape of the ever-changing info-boards and in the exhibition spaces themselves.

There are three site-specific artworks: Tommi Grönlund and Petteri Nisunen’s installation Lumen, Kari Kauanen’s steel sculptures Lumes, and student Gloria Lauterbach’s sculpture Rävintarua, situated on the concrete wall adjoining Väre and the School of Business.

The School of Business takes a human approach

In transitioning from the School of Business situated in the district of Töölö to the Otaniemi campus in Espoo, artistic means were employed to smooth the way and create a new identity during a time of great change.

Central to the current school’s operations is the notion of human interaction and it was this concept that the procured artworks evoked. This conceptual approach sought to pay homage to the past while always keeping one eye on the future. For example, the china clay used by artist Kari Kimmonen harks back to the relief work façade of the School of Business’ former main building. The piece is entitled Shape and conjures up a cosmographic atmosphere in the way it conveys a space for people to meet and exchange thoughts.
What will Otaniemi look like in 2050?

New buildings and services, more residents and plenty of green. The outlines for the next stage of development at the campus are already being drawn on the map.

Text: Noora Stapleton

What do you think?

Are we on the right track with the campus vision? Would you change something? What things would you emphasise? You can participate in creating the campus vision at https://www.aalto.fi/campus/Aalto-university-campus-2050
In the future, Otaniemi may, for example, develop as an ideal city. Local identity is supported by luscious gardens, parks, and greenery. Local identity is reinforced by artful environmental planning. Otaniemi's built-up environment is based on both the urban culture and artistic offerings. There are many different kinds of events, and people come to Otaniemi from far away.

As a university, we should be able to develop a model community and ideal city.

As a university, we should be able to develop a model community and ideal city. A self-sufficient local district that is always open

Community Works
A compact community of opposites

Otaniemi has become a more compact and diverse local district in which old and new buildings are woven together to form a unique fabric. At the same time, it has shaped up to become a centre of cultural life. Cultural networks mix with both creative communities and also long-established technology and business networks. Art and design organizations together with their members and workers attract visitors and social actors to the area.

The campus offers for people of different ages a lifelong learning environment in which future forms of experimental learning and teaching are supported and researchers. Otaniemi is one of Finland’s most international local districts and its community-oriented planning mechanisms areimitated elsewhere.

The multifaceted reuse of old laboratory buildings attracts new users to Otaniemi. Old buildings offer spaces for artists and workshops for experimenting with new technologies. The hybrid buildings and quarters that flexibly mix different activities support human interaction. Local identity is built up through both the urban culture and artistic offerings. There are many different kinds of events, and people come to Otaniemi from far away.

The district’s ecosystem supports urban culture, for example through the addition of city gardens and roof gardens. It has been possible to alleviate the worst effects of climate change through careful environmental planning. Otaniemi's different neighbourhoods have radically different identities and environments.

The campus is a Nordic hub of entrepreneurship, innovation and top-level education. The local district is known internationally for its abundance of new patents, multidisciplinary skills and new business models.

Otaniemi is only lacking a thriving hospital. In an often-busy place which emphasizes the area’s self-sufficiency. A diverse range of amenities and services are available in nearby areas and residents. Automatic transport options have room for flexibility and for parking areas.

The campus is more compact, and many building plots have been repeatedly rebuild for decades. So many blocks on the edge of the campus are already pretty high-tech. Advanced building technologies are used to combine old and new in imaginative ways. Energy production, energy storage and food production on the campus have been maximized.

Climate change has been combated using cutting-edge technology. The campus has also seen the development of smart autonomy which helps to protect against wind and enable complete, real-time management of air-conditioning, water and energy usage. The challenge, however, comes from the campus energy use and continual need to be updated.

As a university, we should be able to develop a model community and ideal city.

Community Works
A compact community of opposites

As a university, we should be able to develop a model community and ideal city.

Information Resort
A self-sufficient local district that is always open

The campus is a Nordic hub of entrepreneurship, innovation and top-level education. The local district is known internationally for its abundance of new patents, multidisciplinary skills and new business models.

Otaniemi has become a more compact and diverse local district in which old and new buildings are woven together to form a unique fabric. At the same time, it has shaped up to become a centre of cultural life. Cultural networks mix with both creative communities and also long-established technology and business networks. Art and design organizations together with their members and workers attract visitors and social actors to the area.

The campus offers for people of different ages a lifelong learning environment in which future forms of experimental learning and teaching are supported and researchers. Otaniemi is one of Finland’s most international local districts and its community-oriented planning mechanisms areimitated elsewhere.

The multifaceted reuse of old laboratory buildings attracts new users to Otaniemi. Old buildings offer spaces for artists and workshops for experimenting with new technologies. The hybrid buildings and quarters that flexibly mix different activities support human interaction. Local identity is built up through both the urban culture and artistic offerings. There are many different kinds of events, and people come to Otaniemi from far away.

The district’s ecosystem supports urban culture, for example through the addition of city gardens and roof gardens. It has been possible to alleviate the worst effects of climate change through careful environmental planning. Otaniemi's different neighbourhoods have radically different identities and environments.

As a university, we should be able to develop a model community and ideal city.
The startup space to explore

How Aalto University’s campus became the hottest startup hub in the Helsinki region.

**The home of innovation**

One of Aalto University’s own rising stars is ICEYE, a company developing and commercializing synthetic-aperture radar technology for satellites. ICEYE’s founding partners are both Aalto University alumni, and the company has been based on the campus since it started in 2014. ICEYE in fact grew out of a university-led nanosatellite research program called Aalto-1.

Early on, Aalto University gave us help in reaching the right decision makers in Finland, as well as with conducting research and finding talent,” says the company’s head of marketing, Mikko Karinen. “Back then it was crucial for us to have access to the university’s facilities, especially as the eschool-chamber where we’ve tested our radar satellite instruments.

Aalto University does a really good job of promoting the startup community and in providing facilities,” he says. “The metro has been a great improvement for commuting both from the Helsinki and Espoo sides. And it’s wonderful to see the campus is flourishing with developments like A Bloc. For us, there are definitely more reasons to be here than anywhere else.”

**Making surgery safer**

Another Aalto-based startup to watch is Surgify, a medical-engineering company developing a physical solution to make bone surgery safer. Surgify’s drilling tool can distinguish between bone and other tissues, helping surgeons avoid damage during operations, reducing pain and suffering among patients, and lowering post-operative treatment costs.

Surgify co-founder Visa Sippola witnessed the issue of drill-related injuries while working as a surgeon. ‘I was a bit embarrassed to say that in my career I have seen innocent people get injured by bone drilling, which can happen with most drills. It’s not really a problem with this new technology,’ he says. ‘In addition, we can actually look to see whether the drill is making contact with the bone or not, which gives the surgeon another way to check the bone during the surgery.’

The heart of collaboration

Much of the collaboration on the campus is driven by the Aalto Startup Center, founded in 1997 to bring new companies together with mentors, investors, academics and established corporations. The Startup Center reviews applications from companies interested in locating to the campus, assessing their needs and looking at what they would bring to the community.

‘The feedback we receive from the startups here is that they appreciate us taking their individual needs into account, rather than just putting them into a program with a start point and an end point,’ says Paakkala. ‘What makes this a community is that everybody is contributing something unique. Everybody is adding value and shining in their own way.’

The campus also has an abundance of communal spaces for work and play, such as the 1500 square-meter Startup Sauna co-working space. Open to anyone, the space is used for everything from hackathons to BJJ. ‘There are also more than 50 lunch cantons on the campus, as well as coffee shops and restaurants like the popular Fat Lizard, an American-style bistro and brewery,’ says Paakkala. ‘There is a lot of interaction between students and staff members, as well as with visiting entrepreneurs, academics and established companies. Together they are exploring new ideas and business opportunities.’

Back in 1994, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) released a report ranking Aalto University as one of the ‘rising stars’. The report recognized Aalto University for fostering innovation, conducting independent research, and supporting entrepreneurship through the vibrant startup community on its campus.

Visiting the university some four years later, one understands the potential MIT saw. Located less than 15 minutes from downtown Helsinki on the city’s sparkling new metro-extension, the campus has come of age as a thriving hub of academic, business and social life.

Emerging from the metro station into the new-built shopping centre A Bloc and Viivo building, one has a sense the campus has become much more than a place where people go to study. There’s something special happening in the buildings behind the tree, and a big part of it is down to the 800+ companies and organizations that call the campus home.

‘A lot of great startup ecosystems have a university at their heart,’ says Markku Puukallio, head of the Aalto Startup Center. ‘The campus plays a very important role in bringing talent together and spinning technology out into the business world.

‘The startups here often say how they value being close to student life, to the research programs and the university infrastructure, and to the big companies we maintain close ties with.’

School of Arts, Design and Architecture moved to the same location. This is integral to the university’s ethos of bringing business, tech and creative people together under several themes: Health Tech, Materials, Living, Energy, Experience, Digitalisation, and Entrepreneurship.

**How to explore**

The Startup Center reviews applications from investors, academics and established corporations. The Startup Center reviews applications from companies interested in locating to the campus, assessing their needs and looking at what they would bring to the community.

‘The feedback we receive from the startups here is that they appreciate us taking their individual needs into account, rather than just putting them into a program with a start point and an end point,’ says Paakkala. ‘What makes this a community is that everybody is contributing something unique. Everybody is adding value and shining in their own way.’

The campus also has an abundance of communal spaces for work and play, such as the 1500 square-meter Startup Sauna co-working space. Open to anyone, the space is used for everything from hackathons to BJJ. ‘There are also more than 50 lunch cantons on the campus, as well as coffee shops and restaurants like the popular Fat Lizard, an American-style bistro and brewery that’s even drawing in people from off campus.

‘Nobody knows better than our students that campus life is both about working hard and playing hard! So there’s always something fun happening here,’ says Paakkala. ‘With a combination of students, startups and other companies on the campus, you never know when you may meet your next client, be introduced to an investor, or discover a new opportunity of some kind.’

**The heart of collaboration**

Much of the collaboration on the campus is driven by the Aalto Startup Center, founded in 1997 to bring new companies together with mentors, investors, academics and established corporations. The Startup Center reviews applications from companies interested in locating to the campus, assessing their needs and looking at what they would bring to the community.

‘The feedback we receive from the startups here is that they appreciate us taking their individual needs into account, rather than just putting them into a program with a start point and an end point,’ says Paakkala. ‘What makes this a community is that everybody is contributing something unique. Everybody is adding value and shining in their own way.’

The campus also has an abundance of communal spaces for work and play, such as the 1500 square-meter Startup Sauna co-working space. Open to anyone, the space is used for everything from hackathons to BJJ. ‘There are also more than 50 lunch cantons on the campus, as well as coffee shops and restaurants like the popular Fat Lizard, an American-style bistro and brewery that’s even drawing in people from off campus.

‘Nobody knows better than our students that campus life is both about working hard and playing hard! So there’s always something fun happening here,’ says Paakkala. ‘With a combination of students, startups and other companies on the campus, you never know when you may meet your next client, be introduced to an investor, or discover a new opportunity of some kind.’