

THE NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY IN HELSINKI



MASTER CLASS 2013
Aarhus

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CENTRAL LIBRARY
2017

And the winner is...

First price:

“Käännös” by ALA Architects

Shared third prize

“Kasi” by Verstas Architects

“Liblab” by Playa Architects

Five honourable mentions were awarded

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“The Central Library will be completed in 2017 to celebrate the centennial of Finnish independence. **The library is the Finnish Government's official centennial project**”.

Minister of Culture and Sports
Paavo Arhinmäki, 14.6.2013

CENTRAL LIBRARY
2017



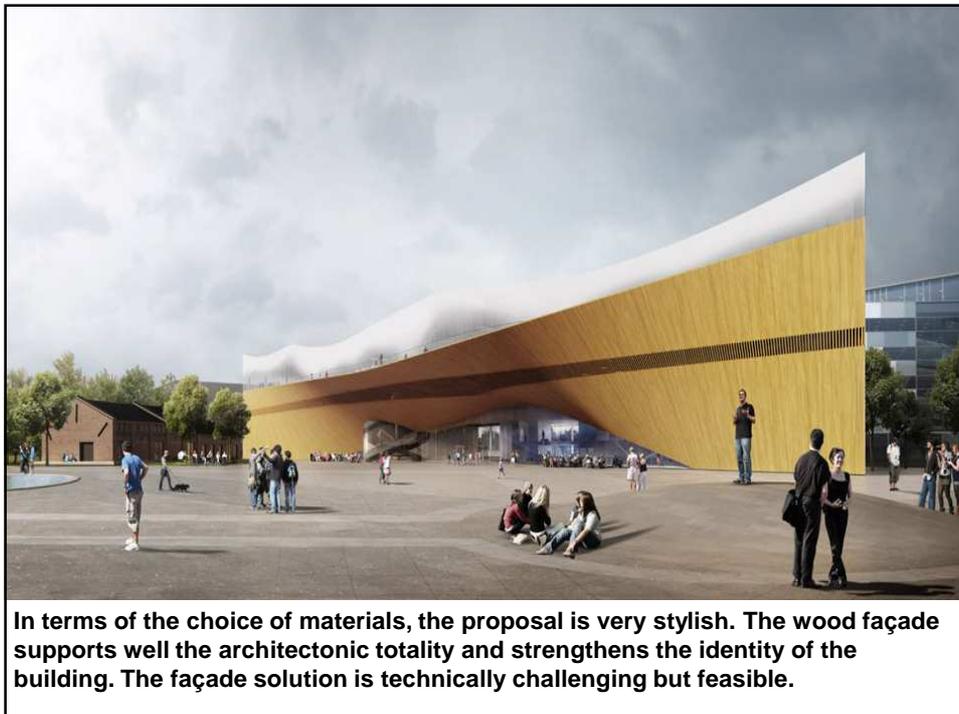
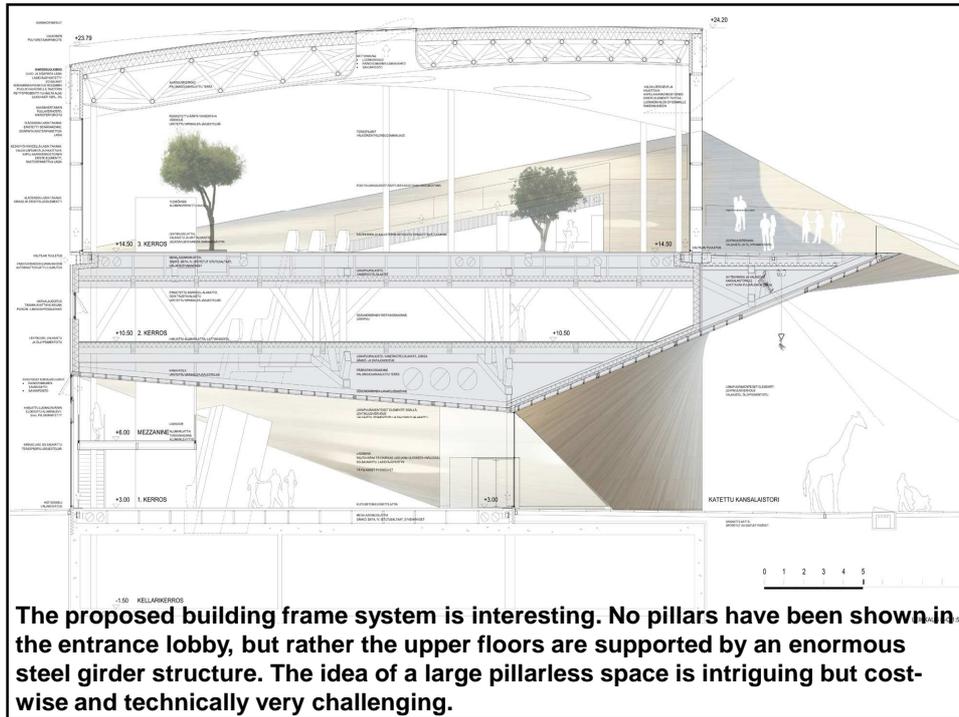
The building is confidently connected with its surroundings, while at the same time standing out and taking its place as an important public building. The building is inviting, easy to approach and identity with.



An extensive terraced area, called “citizens’ balcony”, is linked with the top floor. It adds, from many different viewpoints, a symbolic gesture to the form of the building and beckons the library users to take time to relax.

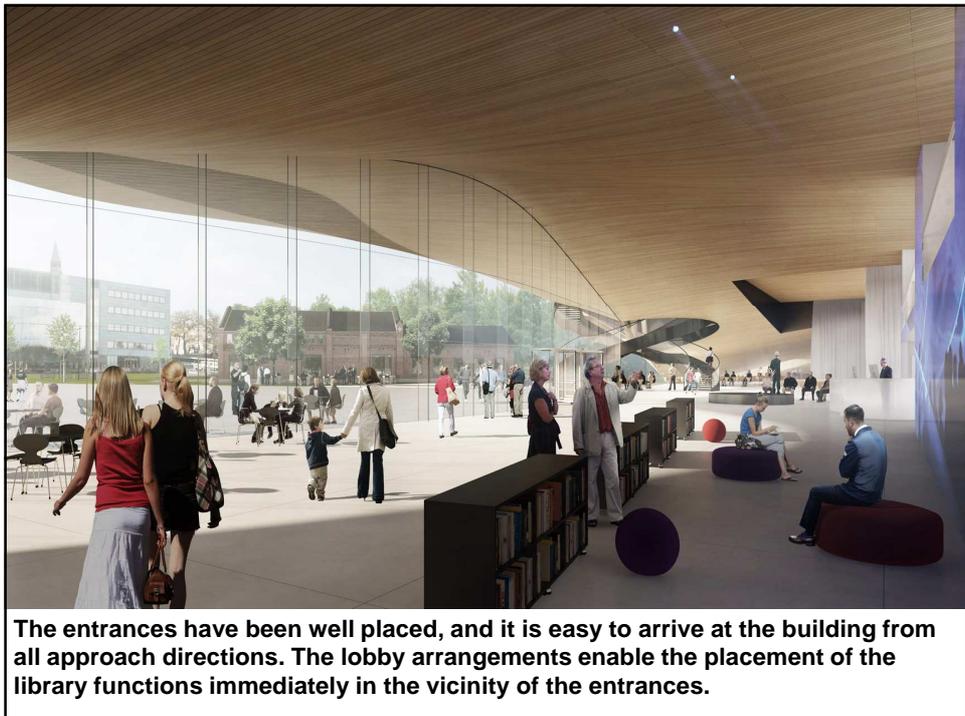


One of the strengths of the proposal is the rather different moods on the three floors of the building. The ground-floor level is strikingly impressive and attractive. Access from the ground-floor level to the upper floors creates a distinct, yet at the same time surprising, spatial sequence.





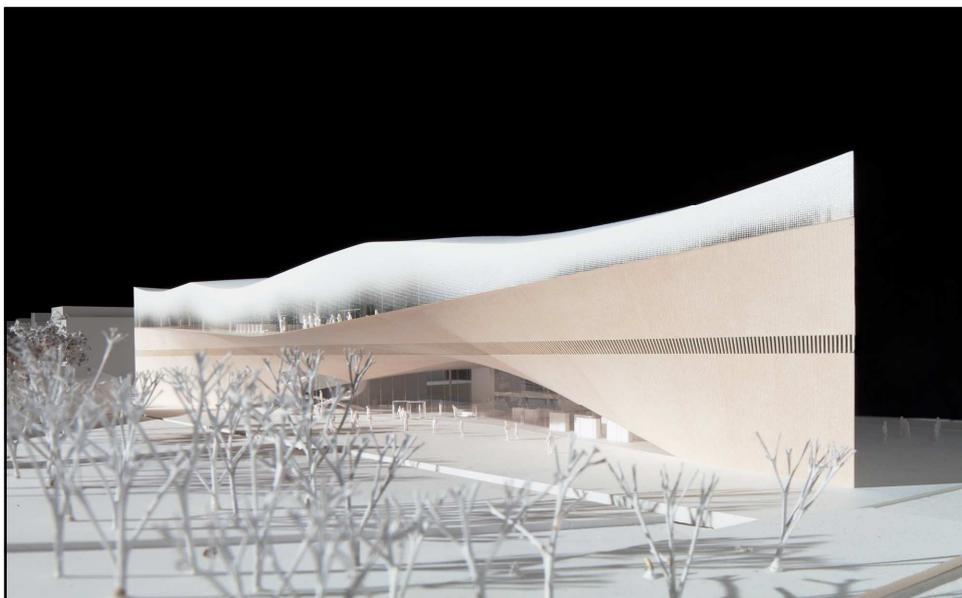
The top floor is beautiful, light-filled and pleasant. Exciting views open up from the spaces into the surrounding scenery. The free forms of the ceiling articulate the space pleasantly.



The entrances have been well placed, and it is easy to arrive at the building from all approach directions. The lobby arrangements enable the placement of the library functions immediately in the vicinity of the entrances.



The first floor has an intensive and intriguing atmosphere. The floor has a workshop-like character and offers an inspiring centre for diverse functions, which conveys 'doing things' and 'activity'. The functions are present in an informal way and are both easily approachable and easy to use.



The architecture of the proposal is of a very high quality, executed with relaxed broad strokes and memorable. The proposal provides excellent premises for the development of a completely new functional concept for the library.



The building has a unique appeal and the prerequisites to become the new symbolic building which Helsinki residents, library users, as well as the staff will readily adopt as their own.

The schedule

- Preparations with the winning team 8/2013-11/2013
- The consultant of construction and technical planners are chosen according to the EU regulations 11/2013
- The project plan is ready for the decision making 9/2014, legal 3/2015
- Possible changes in the City Plan 10/2013-3/2015
- The implementation planning 3/2015-3/2016
- Preparations for construction, EU tender requests 4/2016-10/2016
- Construction begins 11/2016
- The masonry of the "foundation stone" 4/2017
- The building is completed 8/ 2018
- Interior decoration and furnishing 9-11/2018
- The opening ceremony 12/2018

8.7.2013

Organization

Helsinki City Level
To be reorganised in August

Project level
Organised in the Autumn

In the Library
Six working groups just founded

1. Lobby and open areas in the library
2. Events and happenings
3. Logistics and guidance
4. Children and families
5. Media spaces and presenting the content
6. Working and learning spaces

CENTRAL LIBRARY
2017

Building the Central Library openly together

Citizens are invited to participate in the planning
The aim is to collect people's ideas and dreams

- Space for relaxing, slow life
- Space for happenings, work shops, city culture, DIY
- Space for working
- Concepts for peer-to-peer learning and for sharing
- Place for families and dialogue between generations
- Open for all, a non-commercial meetingplace

SAUNAL

