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LIBRARY AS A SPINE OF INFORMATION - THE NEW TARTU LIBRARY

RAAMATUKOGU KUI INFORMATSIOONI TUGISAMMAS - UUS TARTU RAAMATUKOGU

MAGISTRITÖÖ / MASTER'S THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Some of the most iconic library buildings, such as the Stockholm City library by Gunnar Asplund, Viipuri library by Alvar Aalto, Musashino Arts University Museum & Library by Sou Fujimoto or Oodi library by ALA architects have provided in their own ways an open interior made of books, thus demonstrating the core idea of the library: the free and equal access to information. Today information is no longer only in books, but also in the new information channels and media, most of them even digital. How can this be made visible in new library architecture?

Not all of the information is rightful or licit. With the digital flood of new information along with it comes a lot of disinformation and fake news. Countries, like Russia, are using propaganda news to distort outside media to influence their people. In the 2016s presidential campaign, Trump used mostly false facts to influence his voters for support. How can society encounter this growing problem and differentiate truth from false? Is it the duty or the right of a country to determine what is wrong or right information? How can the library institutions fight against disinformation; which are the tools that they can provide for combating this raising flood of false information?

The traditional library has mostly been a space for circulating, storing and preserving of printed media. As times have changed, the needs of library visitors have increased – reading books is not enough. From basic book lending services, the new libraries have turned into communities that provide knowledge and teach new skills. There any individual has a right for new opportunities, experiences, education and equal access to reliable information. The contemporary library is a equal hub of free information with the aspect of social gathering. Those changing functions of library are reflected for example in the Library Ranking Europe evaluation.

This thesis examines out what, in the digital age of information, is the role of libraries and what libraries have and can offer to the people with the case studies by the new contemporary library in the heart of Tartu.

ABSTRAKT

Tänapäeval mõned ikoonilisemad raamatukogud nagu, Gunnar Asplundi Stockholmi linnaraamatukogu, Alvar Aalto Viipuri raamatukogu, Sou Fujimoto Musashino kunstiülikooli muuseum ja raamatukogu või ALA arhitektide Oodi raamatukogu, on oma avatud interjööriahendustes esile tõstnud raamatud, eesmärgiga kuvada raamatukogude põhiideed – piiramatu ja võrdne juurdepääs teadmistele. Tänapäeval informatsioon ei ole enam ainult kättesaadav raamatutest. Info tarbimine toimub järjest rohkem läbi uute infokanalite ning alternatiivsete kommunikatsioonivahendite, millest enamik neist digitaalsed. Kuidas kajastada tänapäevast informatsiooni tarbimiskultuuri läbi uue Tartu linna raamatukogu?

Tarbitav informatsioon ei ole alati tõene ega õiguspärane. Digitaalajastul uue informatsiooni pealetulek on järjest kasvamas, sellest tulenevalt on saadavast informatsioonist valeinformatsiooni osakaal kasvamas. Tarbijani jõudev teave võib olla juba mõjutatud. Näiteks riigid, nagu Venemaa, kasutavad propagandauudiseid, et moonutada välismeediast tulevat infot, et rahvast oma valikutes riigi kasuks mõjutada. Või kuidas 2016 aasta Ameerika Ühendriikide presidendi valmistel, Donald Trump kasutas häälte saamiseks vale fakte oma valijaskonna mõjutamiseks. Kas ühiskond suudab iseseisvalt tarbitavast meediast eristada valeinformatsiooni? Kas sõnavabaduse tagamiseks peaks valitsus ise reguleerima informatsioonivoogu ning otsustama mis info on vale? Kuidas saavad raamatukogud valeinformatsiooni vastu võitlemisel kaasa aidata; Milliste töövahenditega saavad raamatukogud aidata ühiskonda ning sõnavabadust säilitada?

Tänapäevane stereotüüpne raamatukogu on oma olemuselt olnud peamiselt koht paberraamatute ladustamiseks ja hoiustamiseks. Aegade muutustega on raamatukogu roll muutunud, samuti ka tarbijate vajadused tõusnud; raamatute laenutamine ja lugumine ei ole enam piisav. Tänapäevased raamatukogud on tavapärasest rahva raamatukogust muutumas kogukonnakeskuseks, kus külastajal on ligipääs õiglasele informatsioonile ning koht teadmiste täiendamiseks ja erinevate oskuste arendamiseks. Igaühel on õigus uutele kogemustele, võimalustele, haridusele ja tagatud ligipääs usaldusväärsele informatsioonile. Kaasaegne raamatukogu on muutunud ühiskonna selgrooks, koht

mis peale teadmiste edendab ühiskonna sotsialiseerimist. Need ajakohased raamatukogude muutuvad funktsioonid kajastuvad Euroopa raamatukogude ededabeli hindamismeetodis.

Antud lõputöö selgitab välja, milline roll on infoajastul raamatukogudel ning mida üks kaasaegne raamatukogu saab Tartule pakkuda.

INTRODUCTION

PROBLEM STATEMENT

With the coming of digital age, has come the flood of information. Access to internet has made information far more reachable than ever. Be it a younger or older person, they now have the access to endless possibilities for self-learning and educating themselves. But can the growing flow of knowledge be too much to handle for the citizens? Some of these sources of “free” information is already influenced by propaganda channels from autocratic countries, such as Russia or China. For differentiating the bad from wrong, there is an ongoing fight against disinformation.

The European Union has initiated plan by the European Democracy Action Plan, where one of the six policies is to strengthen the fight against disinformation (European Commission, 2020). The base tool for fight for democracy is the Code of Practice (European Commission, Code of Practice on Disinformation, 2022). Major internet platforms have started to work together with the EU to filter out propaganda and disinformation with digital tools based on the Code of Practice. The aim is to remove the burden of knowing what’s right or illicit from their citizens.

Can an individual still learn by themselves what information is rightful or biased? In Estonia people are learning more and more (Statistikaamet, 2022). There are already signs that the flood of information is too much to handle for all generations. Younger individuals have good adapting abilities, but they have problems to distinguish the right from biased information. Older generation are still using more traditional sources of information like books, newspaper, television. They lack the need to use the internet and in so are having harder time learning necessary tools for accessing digital sources. Can this be addressed with the help of libraries?

Is this the turning point for traditional libraries to become bastions of information, providing citizens with tools for developing their knowledge and foster critical thinking about disinformation? Traditional libraries are still good sources for knowledge accessing. Study made in 2018 showed, that more than 50% of Estonians have visited a library in the last 12 months (Ettevõtluse ja Innovatsiooni Sihtasutus (EAS), 2018). In the context of the information war, the role of libraries should be to

support society as a whole: to broaden people's knowledge of resource evaluation and to develop a critical mind from childhood. Younger generation of librarians have many good ideas for developing new services and existing one’s efficiency. Provision of more opportunities for citizen in interactions, can change the views of a traditional library and thus turn the space of information into new gathering place for communities, with it can the individuals feeling of isolation also be mended.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the thesis is to find out how libraries, mainly in the European Union, are adapting in the age on digital information. What are the changes generated by the flood of digital information? How are people and libraries coping with these forced shifts. Are libraries still going to be only information hubs or is this now the turning point for them - turning into new, safe gathering places in communities. And lastly how does the Library Ranking Europe reviewing system fit into all this?

STRUCTURE

This master thesis consists of three parts - theoretical research, case studies and the project solution. First part of theoretical research looks into how the World is adapting to the new form of information access and how is the handling of disinformation happening. What are the downsides of it and if needed how can these problems be turned around? Second part is the aspects of the Library Ranking Europe, showing how the system and the evaluation criteria’s can be helpful for the development of future library architecture.

Chosen case studies for this project help to understand how much libraries have changed in today’s world and how do they display access to information. What are the strong points of these new and old libraries and what important design principles should be adopted?

An application of the theoretical research and the analysis of the case studies is presented the last part of the thesis - the project for the contemporary library in the hearth of Tartu. The last part consists of description of the chosen location, site analysis, architectural concept of the new library and finally the self-evaluation based on the Library Ranking Europe criteria.

METHODOLOGY

The main used methodology for the theoretical part is qualitative research based on research articles and statistics, government strategies, publications.

NEW AGE OF LIBRARIES

From the coming of the internet has the digital impact on the libraries been a topic of importance. There has been a general consensus, that digital media and the internet services are making libraries more and more obsolete. Libraries and their professionals have recognized this and are very aware of this problem. With the digital impact on information accessing, this in turn has given public libraries a new and important role for general public and their communities.

“The public libraries could contribute to the digital empowerment of the citizens and thereby reduce the risk of an A- and B-team regarding IT-competencies, closing the digital divide. As we know today, neither the physical library nor the librarian was replaced by digital services. The librarian is still in demand, and libraries are still being built all over the world. What has happened is that the role of both the librarian and library has changed and that the possibilities of the physical library have been replenished by different Internet-founded offers.....At the same time, public libraries still play an important role as providers of access to the Internet and as supporters of the digital skills of individual citizens.” (Vårheim, 2020, p. 248)

Looking in a traditional way, the public library has always been a traditional book lending service. In the 21st century that is not case anymore – there is a lot more to expect. Today’s contemporary libraries have turned around the idea of libraries – from being a quiet institution with big, noisy room, filled with physical books, shifting into communal hubs with services. (Lankes, 2016, p. 30) “Bad libraries only build collections. Good libraries build services (and a collection is only one of many). Great libraries build communities.” (Lankes, 2016) As said by R. David Lankes: “The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in the community” (Lankes, 2016, p. 31)

Leaving out children’s literature and online databases of information, libraries are already changing. With these changes libraries have begun leaving behind the importance of physical books and media. In turn these institutions have turned around and have begun giving new services to individuals – some are providing on smaller scale, like sewing classes, community reading rings, others on bigger scale, like digital workshops, food banks or even postal services. With the physical copies of movies,

books or audio losing relevancy, libraries have begun focusing on local creations. Turning interiors around and giving the need spaces or rooms for makerspaces, writers working or students studying on computers. Also then the local artists, writers or workshops can showcase their creations around libraries. (Janes, 2013)

“There will be a lot more talks and workshops about everything, as the custodians of culture formerly known as librarians work harder to bring people together for something besides books. Arts and crafts, computers, life skills, instead of competing with local bookstores, libraries will start competing with the more practical offerings of local community colleges. Out of sheer necessity, public libraries will be more engaged in active education than passive education for the first time in their history.” (Vårheim, 2020)

Peoples access to libraries in the digital has become more varied. Based on collected data form EU countries - Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Germany how people visited their public libraries. From the survey’s respondents, just under half, 40.5 percent, of answered people visited libraries going there in person. 14.7 percent visited both ways in person and through digital platforms and a less of quarter of users, 14 percent, used libraries by only with digital platforms. Only 20.8 percent of respondents do not visit libraries. (Vårheim, 2020, p. 253). Based on the survey the libraries still have an important role in societies. Whatever reason behind the usage of public libraries is this is an important institution for citizens.

“Children will still come to hang out in a safe place after school. The homeless will still find warm and cosy seats and restrooms. People will still come to use the computers and read the news. Meeting rooms will be full and any classrooms busy. There will still be socializing and discussion. The library won’t be a bad place at all. In fact, it will still be a good place, of central importance for the community. It just won’t quite be a library anymore.” (Janes, 2013, p. 6)

DIGITAL AGE OF INFORMATION

Libraries have not suffered the same fate as physical newspapers, they are still being used, but the internet has had an impact on use of libraries. With the digital age people habits how to use the library or consume media and information has changed. (Vårheim, 2020, pp. 74,75)

From statistics collected in 2021 89 percent of Estonians have access to the internet, but the growth has stagnated. With a few years Estonia has moved on the internet accessibility from top 10 to the 16th spot in the EU countries. (Statistikaamet E. , 2021) How they spend their time on the web has yet to be analysed thoroughly. But on the 3rd spot sits Sweden with internet usage rate of 97 percent. In 2018, Sweden did a research on the internet habits of citizens, called Swedes and the Internet. The study's report shows that almost everyone has access to the internet and uses it on a growing rate on a daily basis.

„All young people under 26 years of age use YouTube, nearly 97 percent of the population between 16–25 years of age listen to music on the streaming service Spotify, and 37 percent of the population listen to audio books or read e-books.... Nearly every third internet user, 32 percent, watches movies and videos over the internet daily.... 61 percent google every day, while 85 percent use Wikipedia and 39 percent weekly. More than half of 12 to 15-year-olds use Wikipedia every week. People use commercial e-books and audio services to a greater degree than before and search for them on their own.“ (Vårheim, 2020, pp. 74,75). With growing usage of internet information accessing, rises the problem on spotting disinformation.

Swedes have understood that libraries have an important role for development of democratic society. In 2015, Swedish government assigned the Royal Library duty of to grow and advance the services of the Swedish library system. The important aspects of the task were to promote the library culture and with to promote the access to free literature and to bring awareness to the importance of free speech and democracy. With the awareness campaign with Royal Libraries duty was to expand on tools and technologies for accessing information and for public libraries to provide. (Blomgren, 2020, p. 80) Sweden understood that in democracy, the citizens should have equal access to public services and to no biased information.

The importance of flourishing democracy has been recognized by the European Union. A new challenge for EU countries is defending democratic values that today are threatened by growing extremism, intervening in elections, spread of false and misleading information. In a well-functioning democracy, people have to have the freedom to express their views and elect political leaders who they seem to fit to lead and have a say in shaping the future. Free media, academic and civil societies should be able to fill the role of public debates, without the malicious interference both from abroad and at home. (European Commission, Euroopa demokraatia tegevuskava, 2020)

FAKE NEWS, MISINFORMATION & DISINFORMATION

In the research article "Academic library guides for tackling fake news: A content analysis" by Sook Lim, based on a review of 34 published academic studies regarding fake news, the term "fake news" is terminology for deceiving the readers. There are six types of fake news: "news satire, news parody, native advertising, propaganda, photo manipulation and fabrication." (Sook Lim, 2020, p. 2). In the context with misinformation and disinformation, fake news is used mainly for criticizing media outlets for spreading false facts (Sook Lim, 2020, p. 2). The term fake news was popularised by the 2016 presidential elections, when Donald Trump used the term as way to discredit medias facts to his supporters. For illicit information it is better the use the terms misinformation or disinformation.

Disinformation means "false information, as about a country's military strength or plans, disseminated by a government or intelligence agency in a hostile act of tactical political subversion." (Dictionary.com, 2020) It is also used more generally to mean "deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda." (Dictionary.com, 2020)

In various ways disinformation can be dangerous tool for spreading false information. For example, journalists have been put in a difficult position. When trying to find out the truth on facts. When politician state facts, all them might not be true. When journalist do the research on given facts and find them to be misleading the can't go and call these politicians liars. Given the contest of the fact, the accusation can be turned around as defamatory and journalist get a reason to be sued or even worse be targets to voters with extremist views. (Dictionary.com, 2020)

For an average person this problem of disinformation shows in a different light. "We are regularly confronted with inaccurate statements like these, conveyed through news reports, online discussions, and face-to-face conversations. If people critically evaluated the veracity of presented information, consulting qualified sources and considering relevant data, inaccurate statements would be rejected as useless for future discussions and deliberations." (David N. Rapp, 2016)

Spotting illicit information is hard. The research data suggests that when individuals do not have any prior knowledge on the related topic, they are automatically going to assume the fact as a statement.

This false fact the will be in stored in their knowledge base as a source and could be the base for the next fact checking, putting them in a circle of disinformation. When some of these facts stated by politicians are to believe to be truthful, voters are involuntarily put in place where spread their favourite candidate's false claims. (David N. Rapp, 2016)

"People tend to seek or interpret information that is compatible with their existing beliefs, which is known as confirmation bias. Confirmation bias is the best-known phenomenon of problematic human reasoning in the psychology literature" (Sook Lim, 2020, p. 3)

The key to reduce reliance on the confirmation bias is to have self-awareness and critical thinking. Some facts individuals can easily identify as false statements, however if these facts contain some familiar information, they could be turned into rightful information. Overconfidence in your abilities to evaluate facts, is a sign of lack of critical thinking. Individuals need to understand, that the information we are accessing could be false. It is important to learn that, if there is a lack of source or the fact aligns with your worldviews it can be still be wrong and needs to be researched. (David N. Rapp, 2016)

„The solution requires a more integrated, multi-disciplinary approach that combines an in-depth examination of cognition with possible technological solutions that are cog-nizant of current political constraints.“ (David N. Rapp, 2016) For individuals, best practice for spotting disinformation is to hone your reading skills. Having a better body-of-knowledge makes it easier to differentiate truth from false. For media and politicians to provide their voters and readers with correct facts and statements, its best for them to start providing reliable sources to their claims. (David N. Rapp, 2016)

FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION

To tackle the growing problem of disinformation in today's society, countries around the world are already implementing different kinds of tools. For example, the European Union has come up for 2019-2024 six new priorities to increase the wellbeing of the whole union. One of six priorities is the European Democracy Action Plan, which aims to increase the citizens' empowerment and resilience of democracy throughout the EU. The three key aspects of the plan are: to promote free and fair elections, democratisation of media and strengthening the tools to fight against misinformation. (European Commission, 2020)

To stop the spread of misinformation, the EU has set out a comprehensive response. In response the Commission will: "Improve the EU's existing toolbox for countering foreign interference in our information space, including new instruments that allow imposing costs on perpetrators. Steer effort to overhaul the Code of Practice on Disinformation into a co-regulatory framework of obligations and accountability of online platforms, in line with the upcoming Digital Services Act. Issue guidance to enhance the Code of Practice in spring 2021 and set up a more robust framework for monitoring its implementation." (European Commission, European Democracy Action Plan, 2020)

The Code of Practice plays an important role for public libraries'. The Code of Practices section on the fight against disinformation is a set of rules and standards that public institutions have already begun implementing in their everyday accessing of media and social platforms. In October 2018, the written guidelines for information regulation was signed by the major digital platforms, like Facebook, Google, Twitter and Mozilla and also parts of advertising industries (European Commission, Code of Practice on Disinformation, 2022). „Its objectives have been setting a wide range of commitments, from transparency in political advertising to the closure of fake accounts and demonetization of curators of disinformation. It includes an annex identifying best practices that public industries will apply to implement its commitments." (European Commission, Code of Practice on Disinformation, 2022) This ruleset of regulations is an automatic tool for filtering out false media and information. For example, one of these tools used by Microsoft is the fact-checking service "NewsGuard". This fact-checking tool is implemented in their free internet browser Microsoft Edge and when accessing

media networks it can warn users when they might be reading propaganda or fake news. This practical tool has been also implemented to schools and public libraries within the European Union.

As it is, spread of disinformation has been serious and growing problem that most EU countries have recognized. Through the European Democracy Action Plan most countries are in the process of minimizing false information's influence on their citizens. With the co-operation of major internet platforms, the gravity of disinformation is already starting to be understood and with the implementation of the Code of Practice, these platforms have developed self-regulating digital tools to stop disinformation on their platforms. One of the fact-checking tools provider "NewsGuard" is already working together with public institutions to filter out illicit information for the safer education. Widespread of usage and strengthening these tools is an ongoing process for democratic freedom and betterment for the people of the EU.

LIBRARIANS AS COUNTERACT TO FAKE INFORMATION

On a smaller scale organization like academic libraries are in an ongoing process of eliminating the influence of disinformation. One of their strategies is, where these institutions are providing their librarians with guides on how to tackle false information. Based on the pilot study on academic libraries, how librarians understand fake news and the specific methods or strategies they suggest for detecting fake news by analysing their guides from academic libraries. (Sook Lim, 2020) This study provides a few suggestions to implement: "First, librarians must further clarify the term fake news so that it reflects its multiple layers. Second, librarians must incorporate new strategies, such as lateral reading and click restraints, in combination with a few prioritized elements of a checklist into their guides regarding detecting fake news. Finally, librarians must pay attention to psychological factors more when interpreting facts in their strategies about news sources and fake news." (Sook Lim, 2020, p. 1) Because the internet provides a wide range and volumes of information and social media amplifies this spread so no one is immune to the risks of disinformation. The study suggests that best approach is for individuals to have a sceptical stance and a self-awareness of own biases and world view in assessing information sources or content. Thus, librarians also abiding the rules of these guides, should also focus their efforts more on helping students develop a habit of scepticism regarding the information they are accessing. (Sook Lim, 2020, pp. 8,9). These uses by the information accessing guides and the teachings of scepticism and self-awareness by academic libraries should also be implemented by public libraries for the betterment of citizens' knowledge.

LIBRARY AS A BACKBONE OF INFORMATION

“The library has an important democratic mission as a democratic infrastructure, providing an independent arena that pushes enlightenment and education ideals in the era of digitalization. It should be an independent arena free from commercial special interests focusing on citizens and the development of democracy” (Blomgren, 2020, p. 81)

Public libraries being on the democratic mission on providing free and rightful information, are also turning around public opinions about their institutions. From having to only give people rooms full of physical books, now providing them with all kinds multiple types of services - variety of activities and tools for learning. What seemed to be a threat to libraries – the digital media services are now a strong selling point of a public library.

Providing all information, it has to offer, on a digital platform does not lessen the need of a library. Still, internet has provided us a place where, if we have a need to learn or know something, it can be done in a few seconds, in so given people a new way for learning. Some learn through reading, some through video, others through doing, and the vast majority through combining these. We should expect our libraries to support all of these modalities of learning. (Lankes, 2016, p. 31)

Essentials for learning also come from different tools and skills. For example, Oodi library in Helsinki provides citizens all kinds of various experiences, activities and tools for honing their skills and knowledge. They have multiple working spaces for many kinds of needs - all the time open workshops with 3d printers, laser cutters or sewing machines for all the age groups. Another excellent facility in Norway is the Biblo Toyen. The library is created only for kids aged between 10 and 15 and who all have come to love the place. The architect Aat Vos stated: “I wanted to design a space that allowed children to float away into fascination, whilst also keeping up with the constant shift of their interest.” (James-Breakell, 2019)

Biblo Toyen with its magical interior has a lot more to offer besides reading. Like Oodi library they also provide their kids with various workshops with different tools, but also give them opportunities for cooking and writing and other group activities. These important experiences, to be social and

always learning, that new libraries are providing and existing ones can adapt to provide are helpful tools for managing their everyday lives be it a kid or an elderly person. (James-Breakell, 2019)

To support these new kinds of learning tools and experiences, for kids and also citizens from every kinds of backgrounds, libraries are starting to hire younger, tech-savvy personnel. Younger staff with technical skills are becoming essential core for libraries. “Communities are starting to see younger-than-average librarians like me with technical skills taking on administrative positions—broadening our reach and influence beyond things with bits, bytes, and cords. The techies, in short, are taking over,” said Sarah Houghton director for the San Rafael Public Library. (Sarah Houghton, 2013)

“Libraries “for the people” is an old way of looking at libraries. It sees the library as apart from the community, a service the community can use and pay for, but ultimately ignore or discard. The new view is the library “of the people.” The community is an integral part of what the library does, and librarians are full-fledged members of the community. Librarians do their jobs not because they are servants or because they are building a product to be consumed by the community, but ultimately to make the community better. (Lankes, 2016, p. 35)

LIBRARY RANKING EUROPE

Over the recent decades Europe has gotten itself many wonderful libraries, some even called best libraries in the world, but others not rightfully recognized. Are there any official tools, that evaluate these institutions and keep track of them? People have them already some options like the Google reviews. Citizens give and see others semi-anonymous opinions and basic info about these facilities, thus getting a general feel of the place. This is good start, but where can you see what professional think about libraries? Popular places with a lot reviews have the problem, where there are thousands of reviews and no option to distinguish the professional review from trivial feedback. A tool for this has come in 2014 by the Library Ranking Europe website. (Maija Berndtson, Mats Öström, About us, 2022)

Two prestigious library directors, Maija Berndtson and Mats Öström, with over 40-years of library business, have come up with Library Ranking Europe (LRE) website, where their main purpose is to evaluate, be it a small or large city's or towns, library services from the perspective of the visitors. Their main approach by the "mystery shopping" and anonymous visits. By mystery shopping they mean: "Aspects we especially investigate are access to information about the respective library, location and the customer service. Site, visibility and accessibility are of main importance including public transport, accessibility for the disabled and opening hours. Services and supplies that are included in the surveys are for example media and fees, cafés, lavatories and identifiable staff. Architecture, aesthetics and premises, the standard of lighting and facilities for children and youth are also observed. Service to immigrants is important. The diversity of the library regarding the supply of media and the presence of controversial titles and authors are also evaluated, of course." (Maija Berndtson, Mats Öström, 2018). These criterias provide them necessary information for total evaluation what is based on 1-6-star rating, witch scales from poor to exceptional, with a review. (Maija Berndtson, Mats Öström, 2022)

This approach is unique in its own way, by giving the potential visitors, other professionals as well as the librarians an in-depth feedback in the position of visitors, thus highlighting the weaknesses of those public libraries. The aim of these reviews is not to harshly criticize public libraries, but to give

them an evaluation, so the libraries can advance their performance. These benchmarked results can be used for an overall betterment for the visitors and raise the standards of public libraries, in so helping with the fight against disinformation. (Maija Berndtson, Mats Öström, About us, 2022)

The Criteria for calculating the scores of public libraries in Europe put in percentages:

Information about the library (6%)

- In guidebooks for tourists
- In city maps
- On the internet, including the library's own website and any social media representation
-

Location, visibility and Access (25%)

- Architecturally interesting building
- Location in the city/town
- Public transport
- Facilities for pedestrians and bikers
- Car parking
- Entrance – accessibility
- Signposts to the library in the city
- Signs on the building
- Opening hours
- Accessibility for the disabled
- Signs in the building

Service and supply (44%)

- Access for all – locals and guests
- Charge/no charge for services
- Scope of collection including different forms of media
- Exposure of collection
- Collection of newspapers and periodicals
- Exhibitions, stage
- Café / restaurant
- Lavatories
- Dedicated spaces: meeting, learning, lab, etc.
- Identifiable staff
- Service from the staff
- Information and communication technology
- Children
- Youth
- Immigrants
- Special services: SMEs, consumers, tourists, etc.
- Programs, events, lectures

Facilities (13%)

- Aesthetics
- Lighting
- Seating
- Quiet areas
- Social areas
- Area for children and youth

Collection content (6%)

- Versatility/variety according to the content

Freedom of expression and of choice (6%)

- Controversial titles and authors

(Maija Berndtson, Mats Öström, Ranking System, 2022)

Based on these criteria's the existing Tartu library facility has been rated three stars:

A brief review of the evaluation: „ A traditional building in the city centre, not from the beginning aimed for a library. Not easy to furnish, equip and use for library purpose. Not inviting seating. The service is rather passive, but the collection of media is good. The it-resources, computers and free Wi-Fi, are acceptable. THREE stars: Good. “ (Majja Berndtson, Mats Öström, 2017)

CASE STUDIES

HELSINKI CENTRAL LIBRARY



Oodi library from outside, photo by Tuomas Uusheimo n.d.

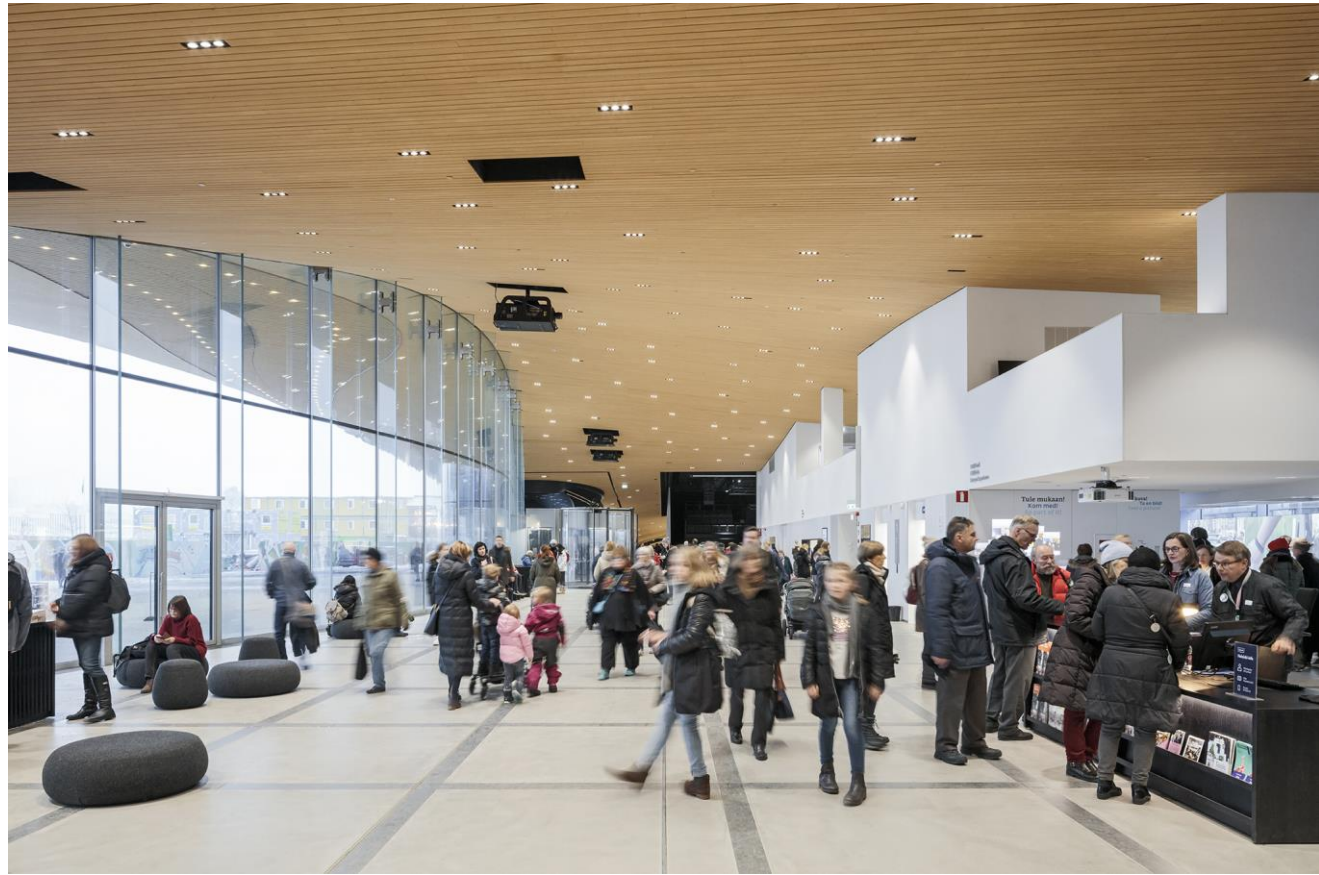
- Architects: ALA Architects
- Area : 17250 m²
- Year : 2018
- Location : Helsinki, Finland
- Population: 630 000

In the heart of the capital of Finland, Helsinki is situated the Helsinki Central Library Oodi. The contemporary library is designed by ALA Architects, who won the international open competition for Helsinki's central library in 2013. The winner was chosen by the general public. The Oodi library is the result of a long process, which planning started first in 1998. After the long process of preparations, the City of Helsinki want to know from the general public what a library the future library of Helsinki should be. In 2008 they published an extensive survey to understand the new needs of potential visitors. In 2012 the competition for "The Heart of the Metropolis" was announced. The winners of the competition, ALA Architects, were chosen from 544 entries. (Johanna Lemola, 2021)

„Oodi is one of the freest buildings in Helsinki, or even the Nordic Countries, where the visitor can do many things and take initiative in what they want to do. It is a constantly learning and developing tool for those living in or visiting Helsinki, “says Antti Nousjoki from ALA Architects. (Antti Nousioki, 2018)

With its unique shape, the library easily stands out from the surrounding buildings. The shape comes from an idea of bridge – bridge to information. It uses large, complex structure of steel to create completely open space. The library is mostly built with local materials that suite the conditions of local Finnish weather. The building's exterior is covered with 33-millimetre-thick Finnish spruce planks. The giant wave on the facades is used to merge the outside from inside and also provide cover outside.

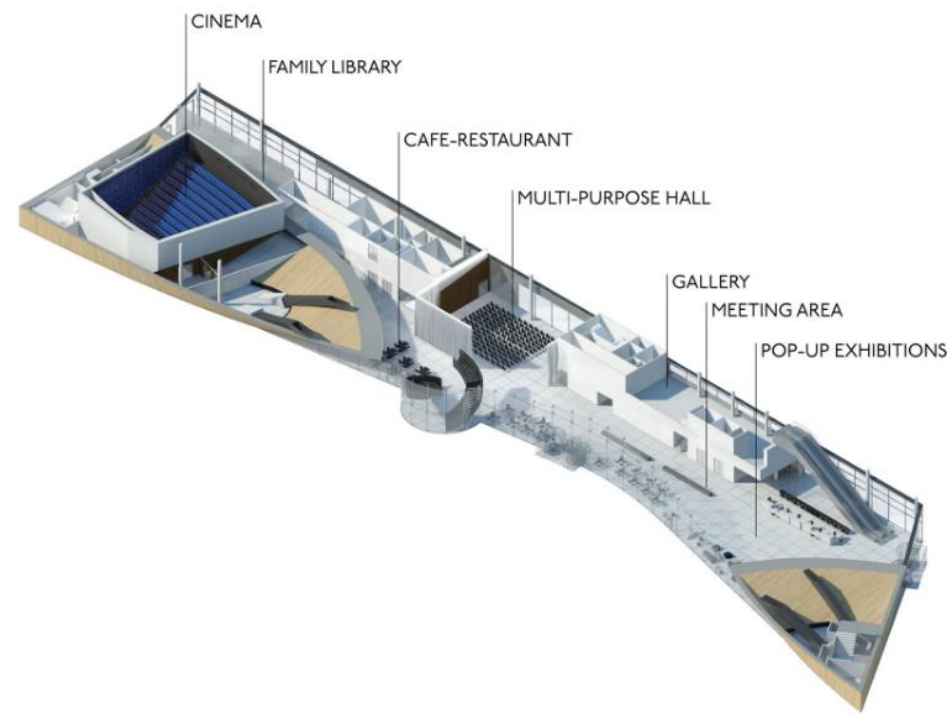
As described by the curator of the ArchDaily article: “Oodi has a peaceful open-plan reading room on the upper floor that has been nicknamed “book heaven”, but books only fill one third of the space within the library. By reducing on-site storage and consulting library-users on how they access culture, the designers and librarians of Oodi have been able to introduce facilities including a café, restaurant, public balcony, movie theatre, audio-visual recording studios and a makerspace. This is representative of broader experimentation within Finnish libraries to offer new services in addition to loaning books.” (María Francisca González, 2018)



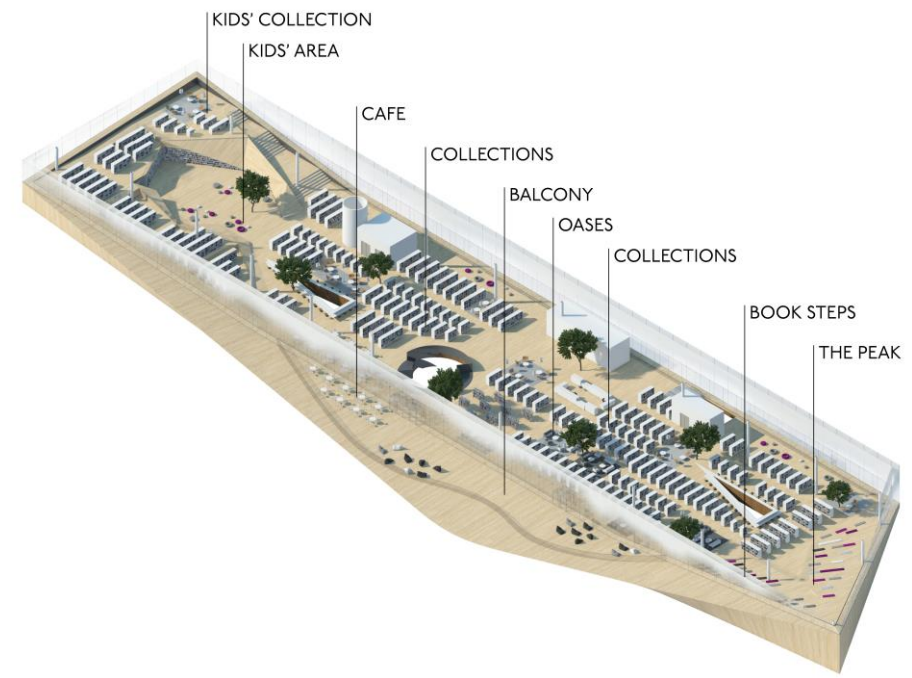
Entrance interior photo by Tuomas Uusheimo n.d.



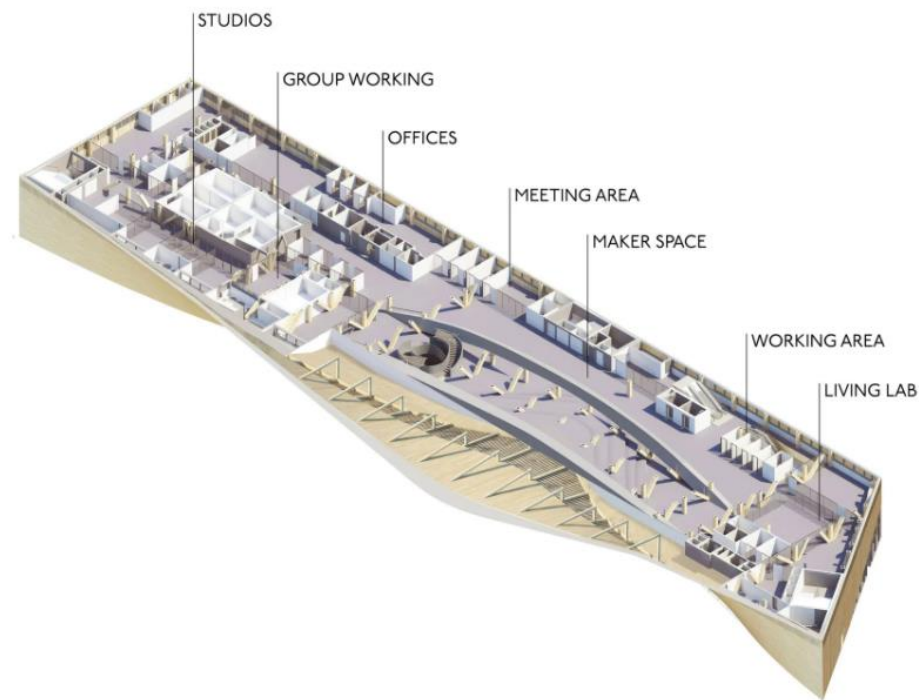
Interior photo by Tuomas Uusheimo n.d.



Ground floor view by ALA Architects n.d.



Second floor view by ALA Architects n.d.



First floor view by ALA Architects n.d.

MUSHASHINO ART UNIVERSITY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

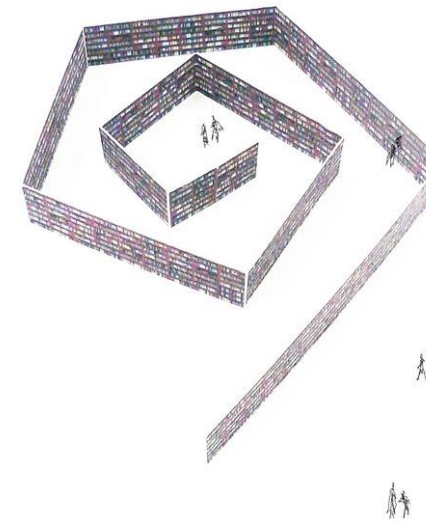


Exterior photo by Daici Ano n.d.

- Architects: Sou Fujimoto Architects
- Area: 6500 m²
- Year: 2007-2010
- Location: Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan
- Population: 190 000

Mushashino Art university Museum & Library is a highly distinguished art university in Japan. The aim of the project was to design a new library building and refurbish the existing facility into an art gallery. The union of an old and a new facility created the integration of the Library and the Art Gallery.

The design principle can be described as a linear container of books that can indefinitely be folded into an endless, angular labyrinth. The project design takes inspiration from two apparently contradictory ideas: research and exploration - components that correlate with the systemic and aimless aspects of the action of storing and reading books. (ArchDaily, 2011)



Concept image by Sou Fujimoto Architects (ArchDaily, 2011)

As described by the author: "When I thought of the elements which compose an ultimate library, I imagined books, bookshelves, light and atmosphere. I imagined a place encircled by a single bookshelf in the form of a spiral. The domain encased within the infinite spiral itself is the library. An infinite forest of books is created from the layering of 9m high walls, punctuated by large apertures.

This spiral sequence of the bookshelf continues, eventually wrapping the periphery of the site as the external wall to allow the external appearance of the building to share the same elemental composition of the bookshelf as the library. One's encounter with the colossally long bookshelf, within the university landscape, registers instantaneously as a library, yet astonishing in its dreamlike simplicity. It is the library most library-like and the simplest library." (ArchDaily, 2011)



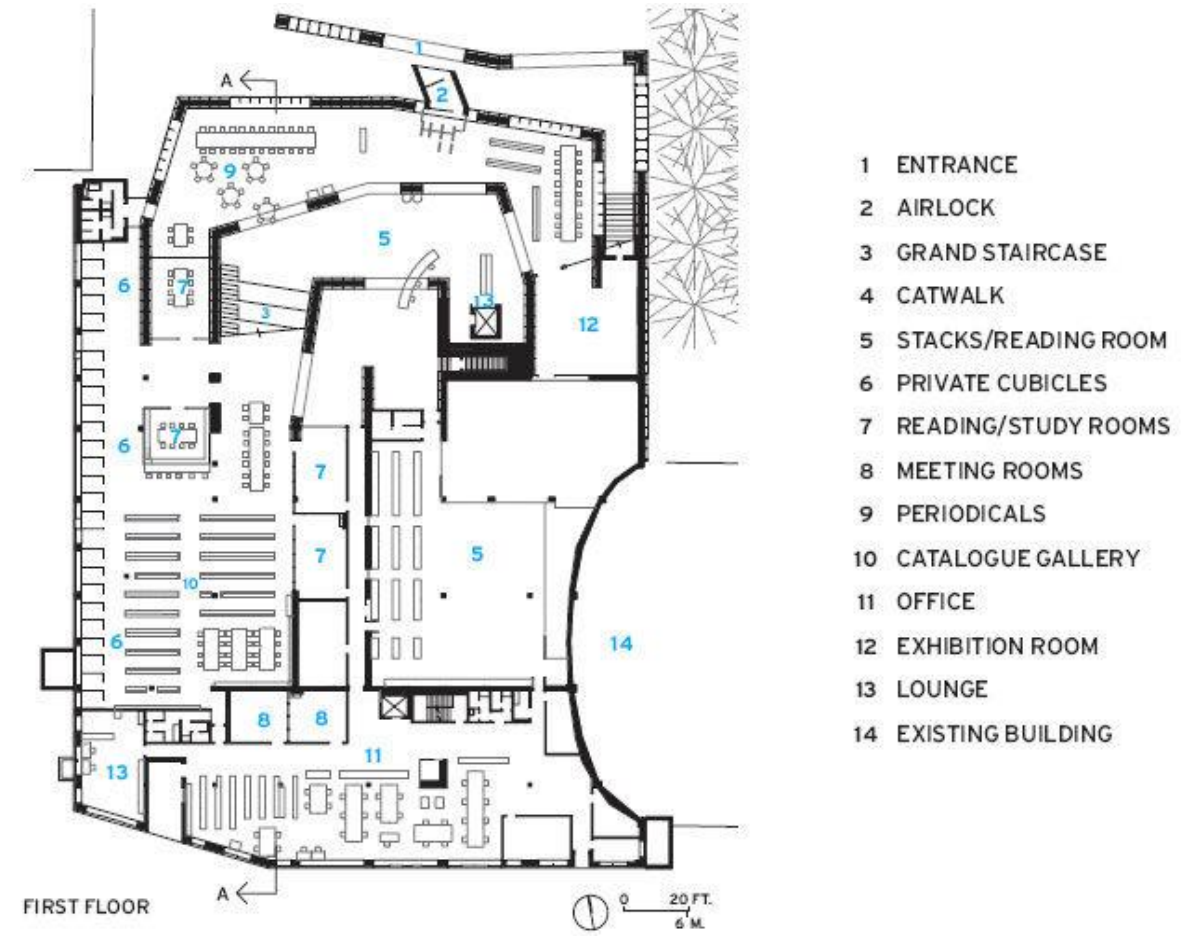
Maze of books, photo by Daici Ano n.d.

Acting as a huge ark, the new library collection includes approximately 320,000 books and 5,000 titles of academic and specialized periodicals with an emphasis on art and design, which is now one of the largest art-university collections in Japan. Half of the books are kept in a deposit and the rest are distributed in a linear container that, following a concentric law, gradually piles up the 100.000 books of the public area in 10-meter-high walls, when moving through them, one has the impression of being in a forest. In this spiral movement, the bookshelf covers the perimeter of the building, transforming itself, towards the exterior, into a talking facade through which it is possible to perceive the unique mechanism that shapes the library. (Viva, 2023)

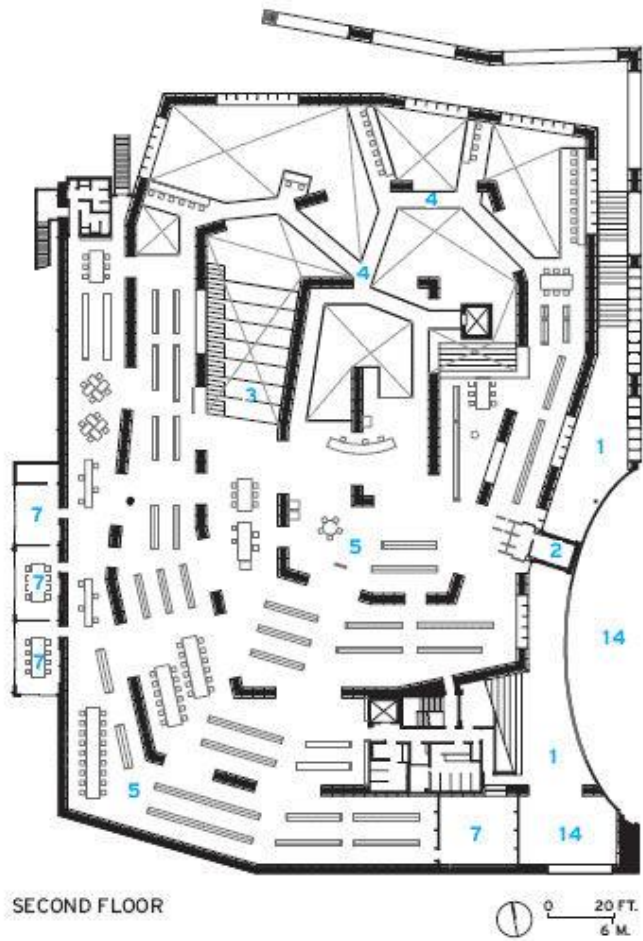
The library's facilities include group study rooms and individual study booths for graduate students and researchers, as well as a cutting-edge "ubiquitous information access environment" enabling library users to access information from anywhere on the premises. The Image library comprises a vast collection of visual materials from a broad range of genres including movies, documentary films, animation, and art films. With around 20,000 items, this unique educational resource includes not only works that are indispensable to the study of film and visual history, but also many that are rarely shown despite their outstanding artistic merit. These valuable materials may be viewed in the Image Library, and some may be borrowed. (Library, 2018)



Basement plan by Sou Fujimoto Architects (ArchDaily, 2011)

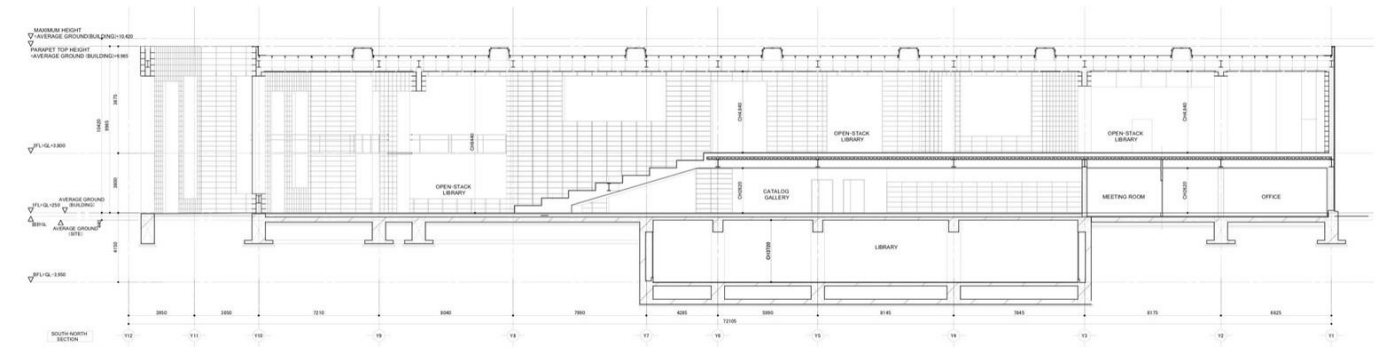


First floor plan by Sou Fujimoto Architects (Pollock, 2011)



Second floor plan by Sou Fujimoto Architects (Pollock, 2011)

- 1 ENTRANCE
- 2 AIRLOCK
- 3 GRAND STAIRCASE
- 4 CATWALK
- 5 STACKS/READING ROOM
- 6 PRIVATE CUBICLES
- 7 READING/STUDY ROOMS
- 8 MEETING ROOMS
- 9 PERIODICALS
- 10 CATALOGUE GALLERY
- 11 OFFICE
- 12 EXHIBITION ROOM
- 13 LOUNGE
- 14 EXISTING BUILDING



Section by Sou Fujimoto Architects (Pollock, 2011)

TAKETA CITY LIBRARY



Night exterior photo by Takao Shitsuka Atelier n.d.

Architects: Takao Shitsuka Atelier (TSA)

Area: 1550 m²

Year: 2017

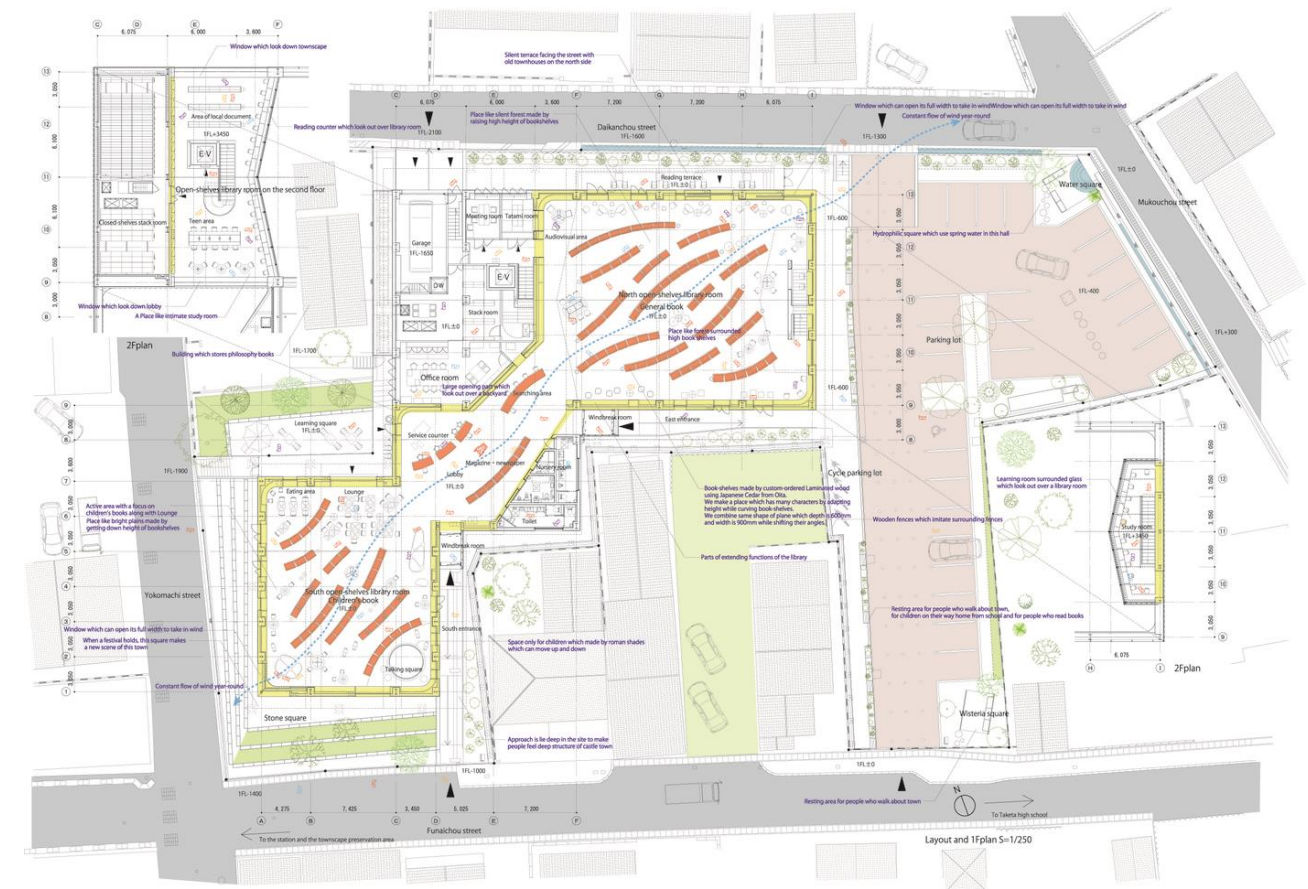
Location: Taketa city, Kyushu, Japan

Population: 25 449

Taketa is a town with a population just over 25 000 which borders Kumamoto Prefecture in the centre of Kyushu in Japan. The centre is a castle town surrounded by mountains and the existing of historical town divisions and roads remain and in so will not change or expand. This unchanging environment

continues to makes this town. However as beautify city Taketa is its main problem is seeing less and less people walking around the city. To tackle the declining activity of the citizens, the city initiated the “The Castle Town Revitalization Project”, where one of the key parts was to rebuild the cities library. (Takao Shitsuka Atelier, 2017)

In taking after the traditional elements of the castle towns environment, the TSA architects have come up with an interesting design. The library site is opened across the town, and the gable roof and walls are opened to draw in the environment of the castle, such as light, wind, and landscape, into the design of the architecture. The design intention is to encourage people to visit more and in such a way making people continuously move. (Takao Shitsuka Atelier, 2017)



Floor plan by Takao Shitsuka Atelier ArchDaily 2021



Interior photo by Takao Shiotsuka Atelier n.d.

The interior of the building is a connected space with a large volume, where bookshelves characterizes each different place. The bookshelf goes around the hall while gently curving like the flow of water or wind. The arrangement was inspired from incorporating the flow of wind flowing in a certain direction throughout the year into the architecture. The layout of the bookshelves encourages the movement of visitors, and the various heights provide different atmosphere that suit the locations. The southern part of library the shelves create bright plane-like place. The norther parts arrangement reminds of a quiet forest and the shelves layout on the second floor creates an intimate cave-like second-floor. (Takao Shiotsuka Atelier, 2017)



Interior photo by Takao Shiotsuka Atelier n.d.

WHY TARTU NEEDS A NEW LIBRARY

With the changing of times today's traditional libraries are in a state where they are in a need of transformation. Access to internet and the ease, and with it the dangers, of information accessibility has risen the needs and standards of library visitors. One library that is in need of change is the existing city library of Tartu.

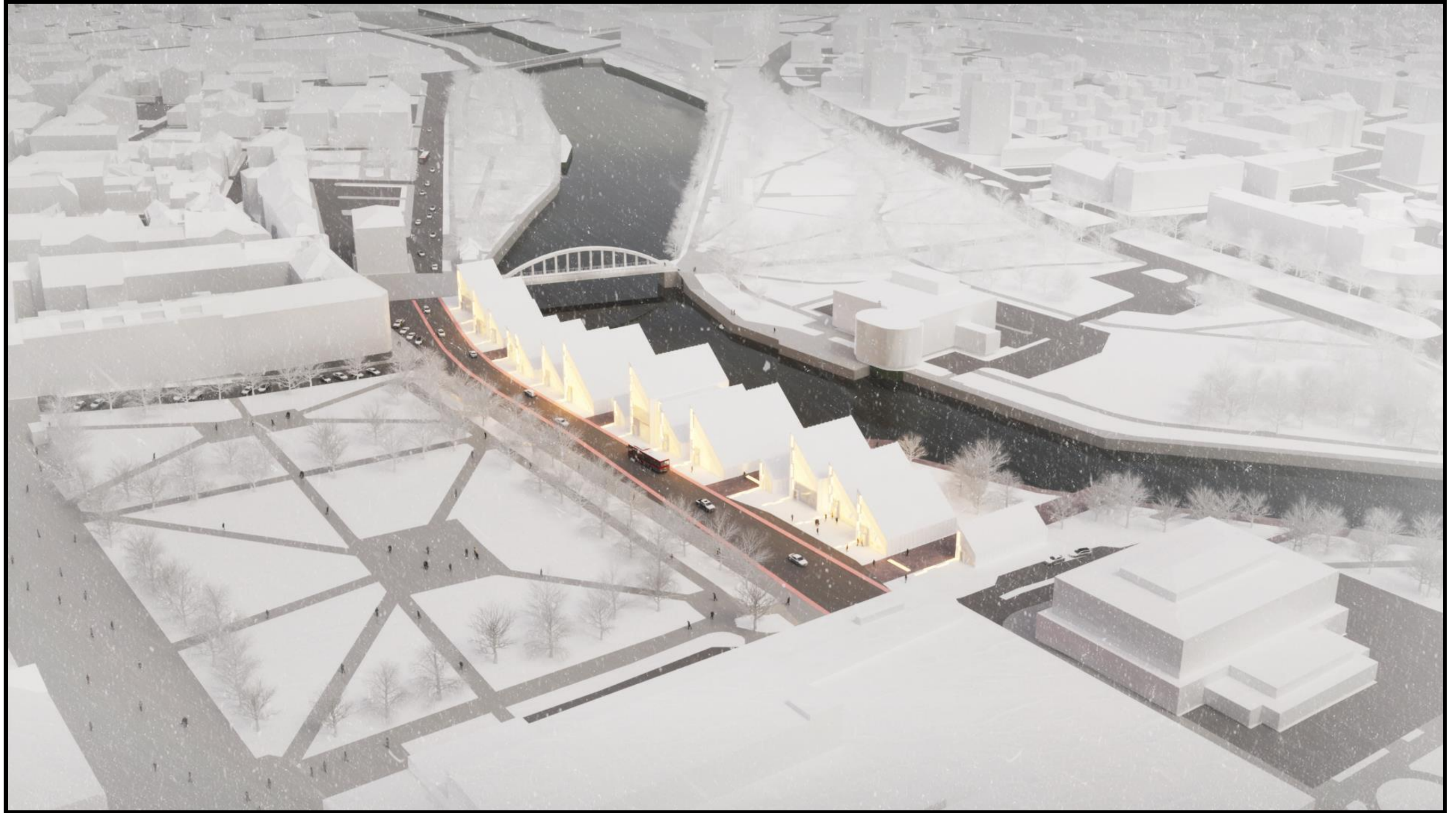
The existing library is located at the edge of the Tartu city heritage site and in so the library is in a traditional building. Because the building at first was not aimed to be used as a library, it is lacking its own space and identity in the city centre of Tartu. As seen by the Library Ranking Europe review the complex of the library space and the existing rooms are in need of change. The library at this moment is only able to soothe the basic needs of visitors – offering standard book lending services, some places to read, ability to use computers and access to Wi-Fi. Missing any kind of experience and the before mentioned shortcomings do not meet with today's standard of contemporary libraries.

In today's perspective, based on standards of the EU's contemporary libraries, the new Tartu library should have its own identity. The new library has to be easily spotted and with very good accessibility. One of the main aspects of the identity is to be a social gathering platform. The library building's interior and exterior should reflect the access to knowledge and information it has to provide. With a glance, individuals can see that the building has a lot to offer and get the need to step in and look around. What at this time is put on the side – the public library should be seen and found with ease in the city centre of Tartu.

To fight against disinformation, the new library with its librarians needs to be able to provide its visitors with necessary tools and knowledge on how to spot this illicit information. From entering the library space, first thing to see is all wisdom it has to offer. The library can offer various types of experiences - book lending service in the physical or digital form, tools for alternative information accessing, teaching tools for critical thinking, proper guiding tools for how to access information and to just provide a leisure space for hanging out, self-learning, working or reading.

Today's contemporary library is to be a democratic, free and safe platform for any individual. The role of the Tartu library is to provide equal opportunities, be it an individual or whole communities, and in the end enhance their knowledge and broaden their views.

PROPOSAL



LOCATION

The chosen location for the new city library is in the 2024 to be European capital of Culture Tartu – the city of good thoughts. As of 2021 Tartu, with the population of 94 662, is the second biggest city in Estonia with the total area of 154 000 km². Tartu is mostly known for its University, which is the nation's oldest and most renowned university. As of 2021 Tartu has 20 516 college students learning for higher degree. (Linnavalitsus, 2022)



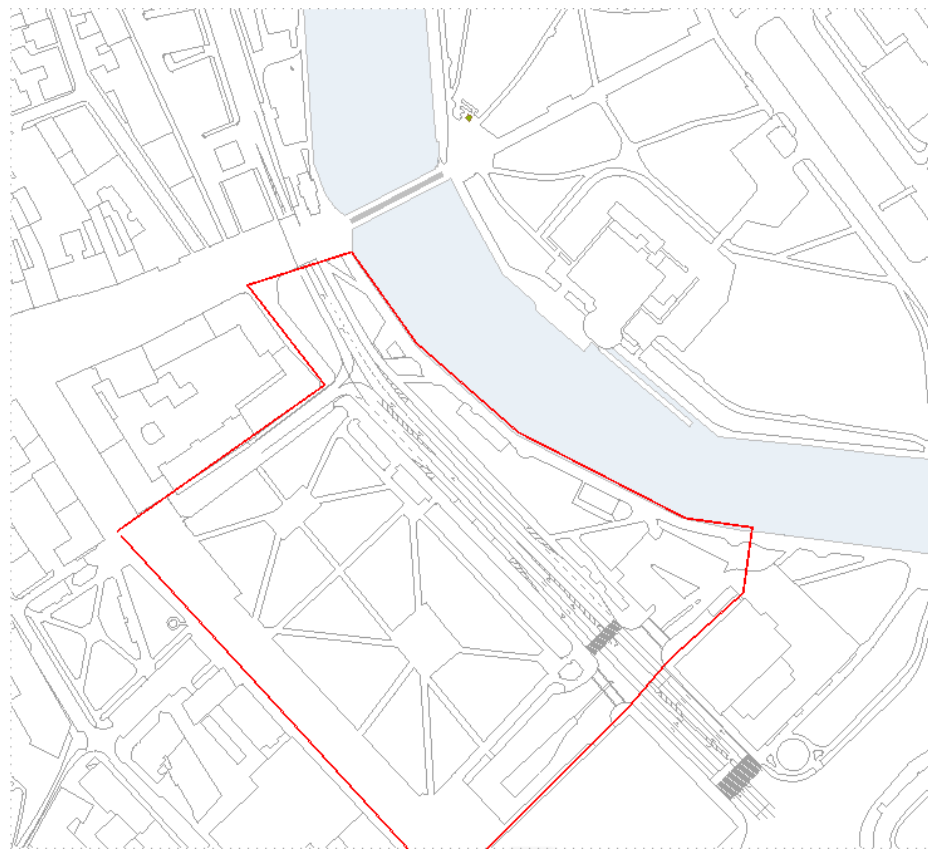
Tartu aerial view, Maa-amet, 2021

The intellectual capital city of Estonia is also promoting green and healthy living to the citizens like bicycling as an alternative to cars and the car free boulevard event in summer. As of 2021 there are 750 bicycles in circulation around the city and what have been used 898196 times and driver for 2 270 000km. The city is also investing more into bicycle lanes and into the safety of cyclists. The car free boulevard in the city centre is an ongoing yearly event for a few days that essentially closes off the Vabaduse street to cars and opens it to pedestrians. Main ideology of the event is the promotion of green living and to involve citizens to think about to the future of their urban space and give people an opportunity to weigh in the city development process. (Linnavalitus, 2022)

From the primary areas around the Emajõe banks in city centre, the best suited location for the new library facility would be the soon to be announced (at the start of 2023) international downtown cultural centres (SüKu) competition area on the Tartu Central Park. The downtown cultural centre facility (SüKu) would be made up of an art museum, city library and event centre with multifunctional black-box and other supporting functions, whereas the thesis proposal focuses on the contemporary library facility on the same competition area. (Linnavalitus, 2022)

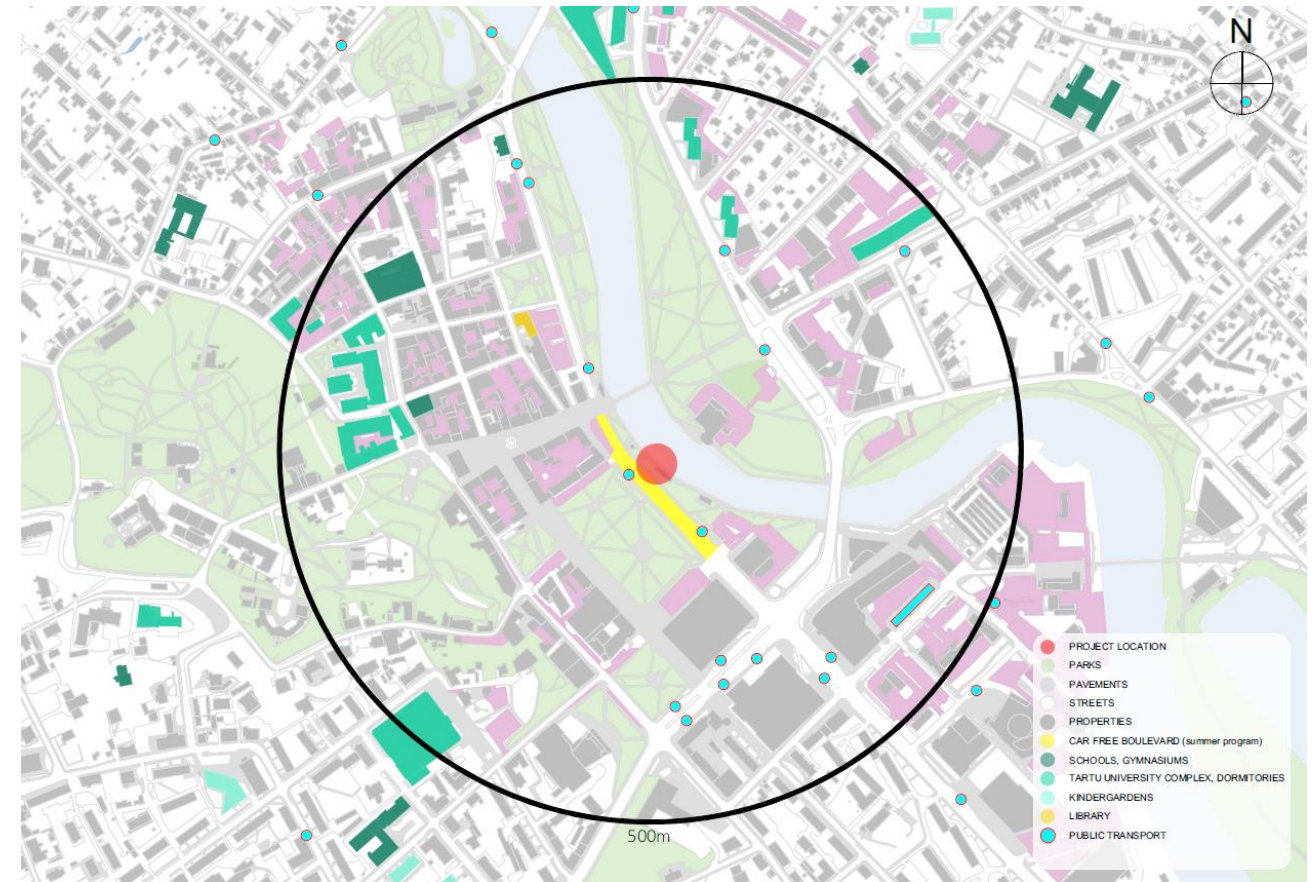
SITE ANALYSIS

The thesis project focuses on the riverside green area of the SüKu competition site, which is divided from Tartu Central Park with Vabaduse street. The location is next to Emajõgi and between the two bridges. The chosen part of competition area is on the edge of the city of Tartu heritage site.



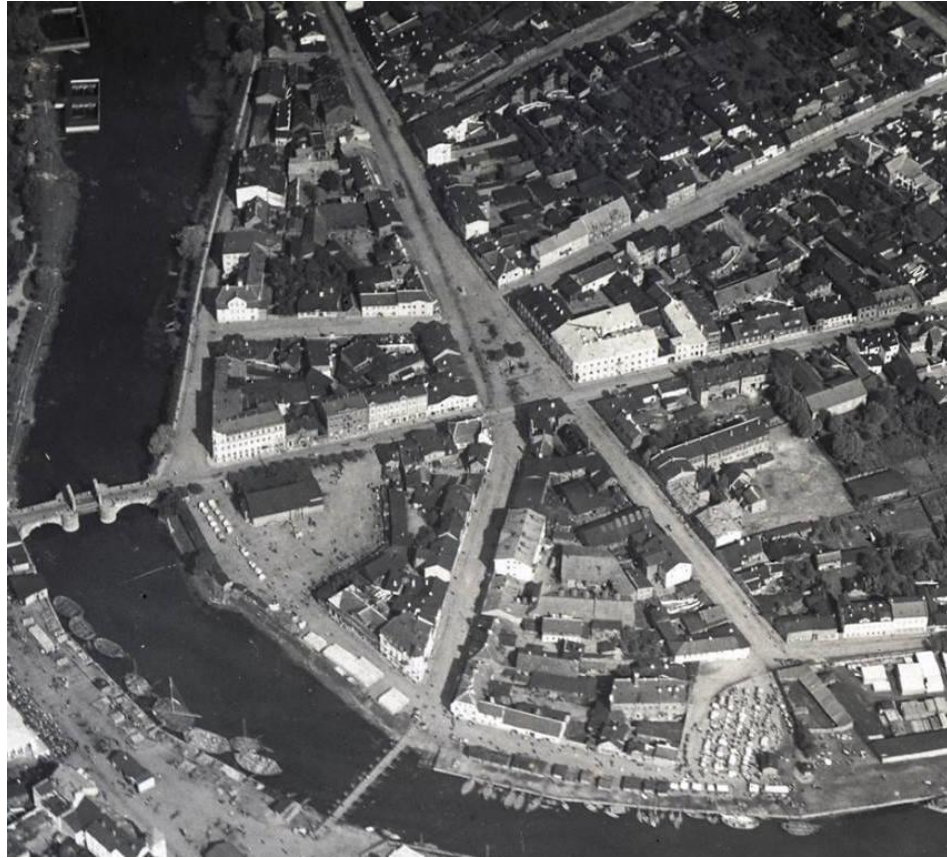
Competition site, authors drawing

The main criteria's for choosing the site are the great access point and beautiful location in the city centre. From the riverside, the new library facility is easily spottable and also made easily accessible, at the same time the location provides views to the city landscape and to the Emajõgi. Existing bus stops will be kept and used to further the comfort of reach and accessibility.



Context, authors drawing

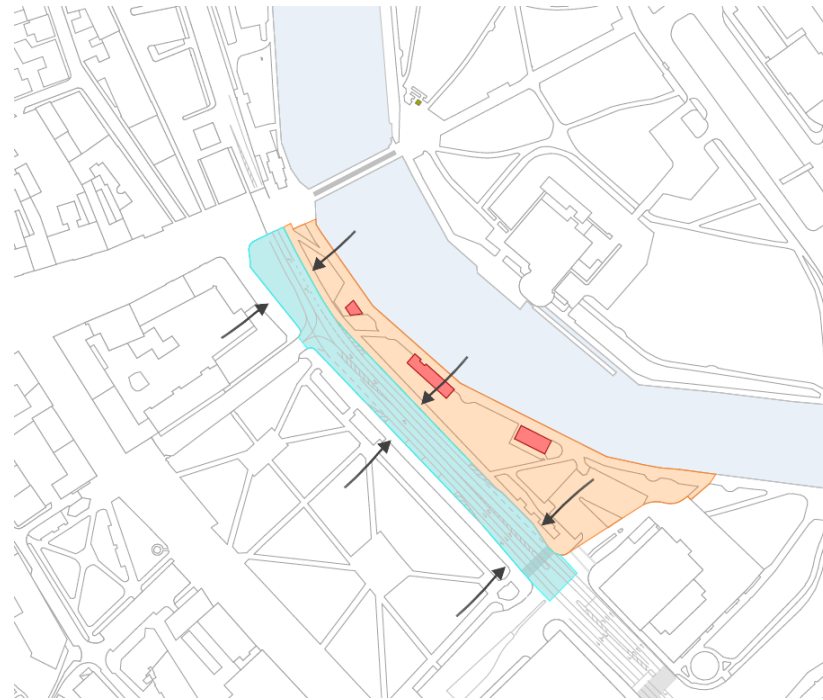
Vabaduse street is a wide, four lane street with side parking spaces, which turns into a two lane street after the Town Hall square. Vabaduse street does not have any bicycle lanes. Around the competition area and also next to the chosen site are multiple parking areas, in so the proposal will not add new parking spaces on the chosen part. In the middle of the summer Tartu has been hosting on the Vabaduse street the car free boulevard event.



Archive photo, Tartu 1920, Rindeleht 2016

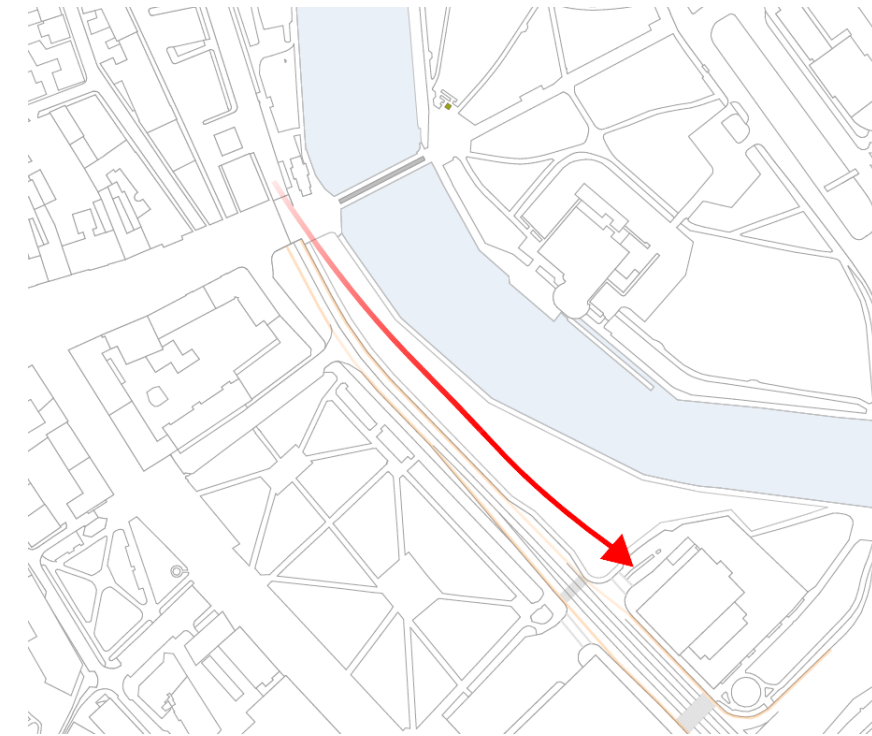
Historically, before The Second World War the proposal area hosted a port and later times the site was used as a food market. After The Second World War the area has been turned into a riverside promenade.

SITE PLAN



Area conversion, authors drawing

The new proposal starts with the chosen area conversion - firstly, modifying the Vabaduse street. The four lane street with side parking spaces on both sides will be reduced to a two lane street with added 1,25m wide bicycle lanes on both sides. With this the planned area volume can be increased, and it also lessens the traffic volume of the street. Before the four lane street extended to the edge of the Town Hall Square but with the new proposal, the streets lane reduction starts closer from the city centre and begins now from the cross-section of the back of Kaubamaja department store and the Market Hall.

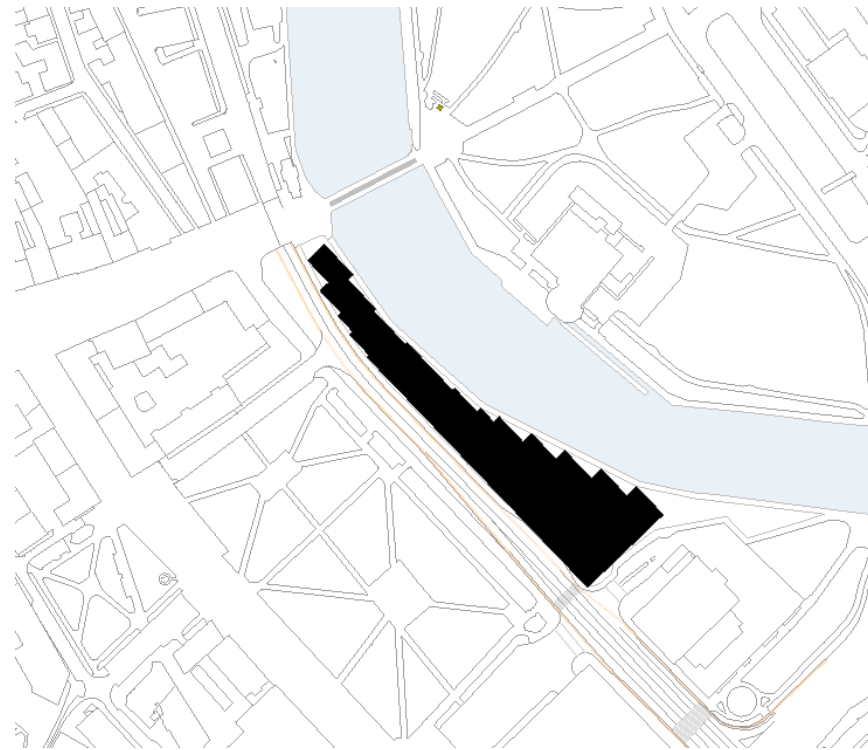


New traffic plan, authors drawing

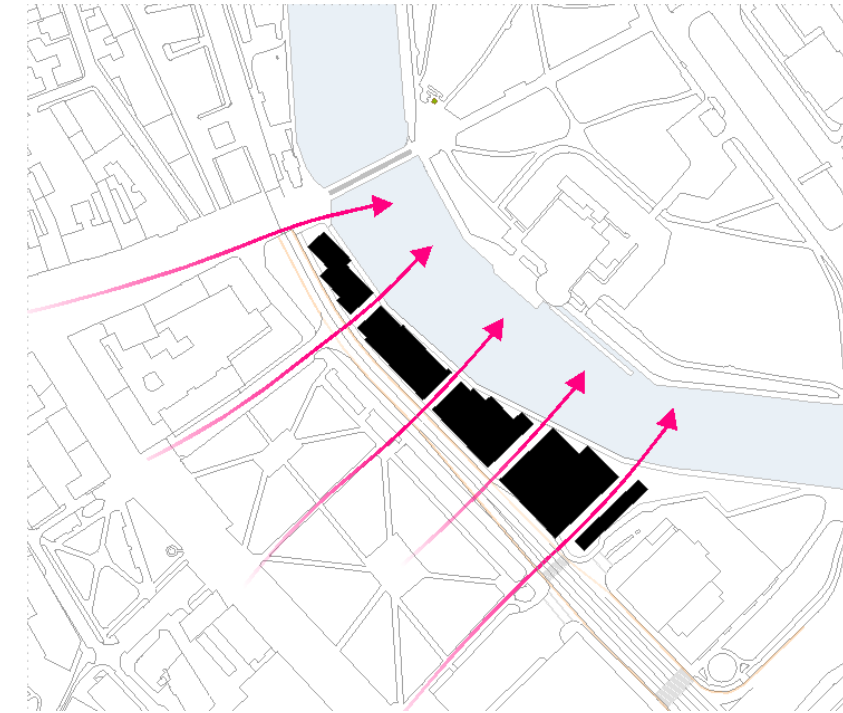
On site existing pedestrian paths are modified, the riverside promenade will be preserved but risen to the height of the Vabaduse street. The three small scale buildings are on the site lease until 2031 and in so are not permanent facilities on the promenade. The area between the Market Hall and site will be converted into smaller parking space. As the space will be used by the library bicycle parking house, waste management and the drop off zone for taxis and busses. The basis of the new library, information is placed parallel with Emajõgi and the Vabaduse street, but placed underground to be protected.

ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT

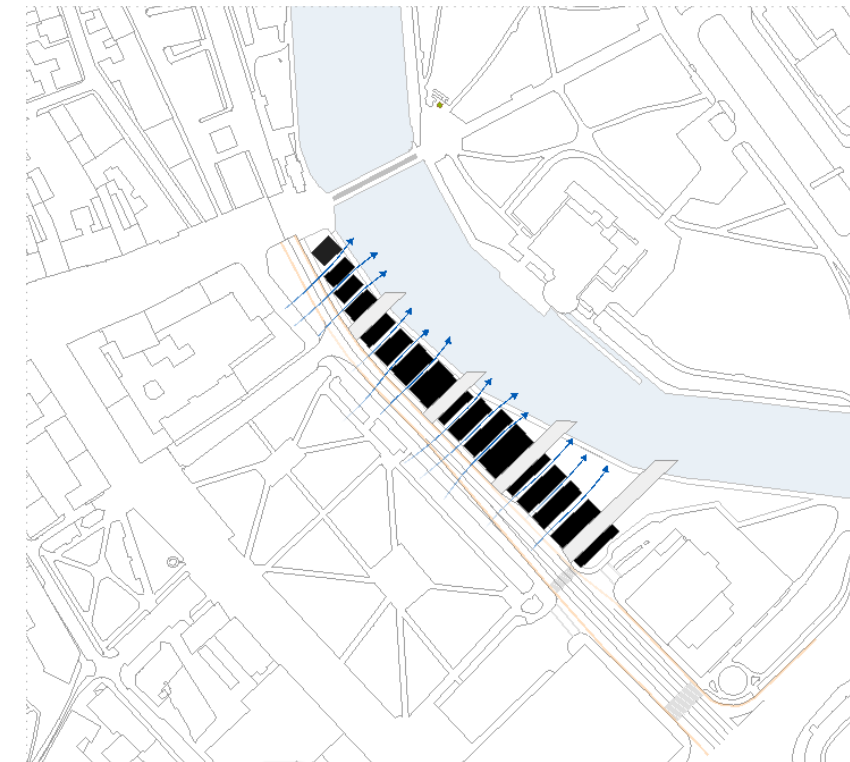
The aim of the proposal is to create an environment where everyone is welcome to explore, meet, work, study, educate themselves or just be. A place that enhances public space quality at the Tartu city centre. On to the ground level are placed all the different library facilities. If we were to use the maximum volume for the new library, the new building would block either side of the river. Instead using the connecting pathways from the Tartu Central Park to Emajõgi as means to divide the library facility into smaller blocks. That will provide pedestrian pathways and views to the Emajõgi. Second layer of fragmentation makes the library facility visually even more open, airy, luminous space with small pavilions and in so adds extra layer of openness from both sides of the new library. The new form resembles an linear fisherman village next to the river.



Maximum site volume, authors drawing



Access and view to Emajõgi, authors drawing



Added second layer of views to Emajõgi

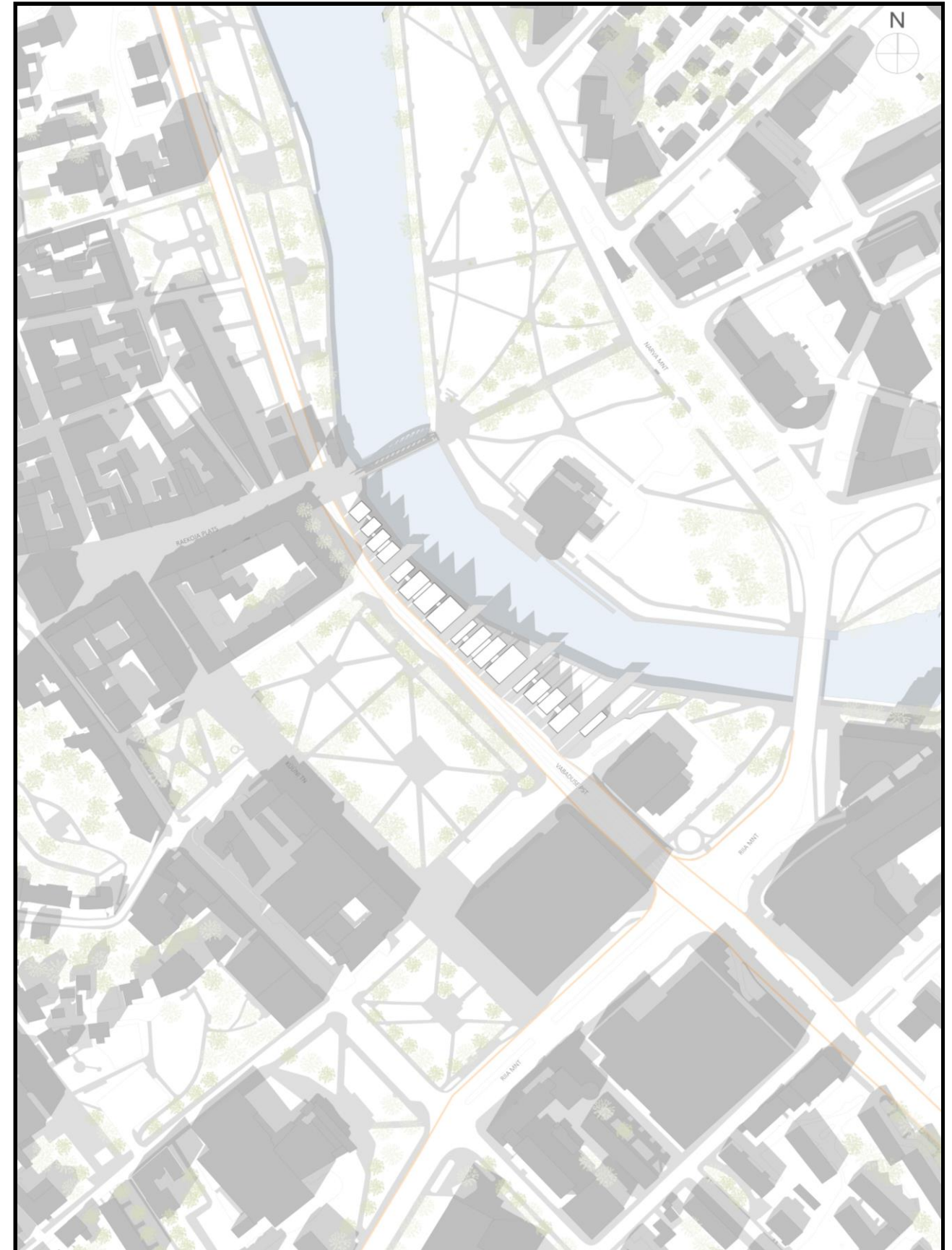
Breaking out large fiction collections into smaller, more browse able units may offer users an easier time in locating desired facilities and opens the space up to its surroundings. Entrances to the library are from the Vabaduse street side, every pavilion has its own separate entrance. To avoid a straight, dull façade on the street in front of the library facilities, all the pavilions are placed different distances from the Vabaduse street.

On the ground level the small pavilions are connected to each other in group of four, which turns the library facilities into four separate sets of pavilions. Second connection is made from the underground.

The path of information is unifying design element that brings all the pavilions together into one facility. Second reason for the pavilions connections is to give the facility an ease of accessibility by handicapped people. Every block of pavilions has an elevator with staircases connected from the underground to the ground level floors.

This concept provides a playful environment which promotes cultural exchange and social activity. The pavilion arrangement leads visitors through a sequence of different experiences. The volumes vary in height and width, but at same time follows strict rectangular form and single sided roof.

The spine of information represents a place that provides free and equal information in the heart of Tartu.



Site plan, authors drawing

ROOM PROGRAM

The Tartu new library room program is based on the old 2011 Tartu city library and museum facility completion brief. The existing room program has been modified to better express information and modernized by the designs provided in case studies like the Helsinki Central Library Oodi, Musashino Art University Museum & Library and the Takeda City Library.

Underground story:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Path of information | 780 m ² |
| Collection spaces | 4000 m ² |
| Technical rooms | 208 m ² |
| Restrooms | 42 m ² |
| Communications | 106 m ² |
| Underground total: | 5136 m² |

Ground story:

Block A:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Interactive space | 118 m ² |
| Music space | 98 m ² |
| Viewing, gaming | 124 m ² |
| Living lab | 108 m ² |
| Communications | 27 m ² |

Block A second story:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Interactive space | 109 m ² |
| Viewing, gaming | 141 m ² |
| Communications | 13 m ² |

Block A total: 738 m²

Block B

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Library shop | 126 m ² |
| Exhibition space | 210 m ² |
| Restaurant | 222 m ² |
| Multipurpose hall | 332 m ² |
| Communications | 18 m ² |

Block B total: 908 m²

Block C:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Working space 1 | 96 m ² |
| Office space 1 st story | 218 m ² |
| Lounge 1 | 195 m ² |
| Children space | 358 m ² |
| Communications | 27 m ² |

Block C 2nd story:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Office space | 214 m ² |
| Communications | 26 m ² |

Block C 3rd story:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Office space | 214 m ² |
| Communications | 26 m ² |

Block C total: 1374 m²

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Block D: | |
| Working space 2 | 85 m ² |
| Lounge 2 | 158 m ² |
| Cafe | 175 m ² |
| Small hall | 184 m ² |
| Communications | 22 m ² |
| Block D 2 nd story: | |
| Lounge 2 | 152 m ² |
| Communications | 22 m ² |
| Block D total: | 798 m² |
| | |
| Bicycle parking | 83 m ² |
| Waste | 19 m ² |
| Total | 102 m ² |
| | |
| Library total net area: | 9056 m² |

UNDERGROUND LEVEL

The core of underground level is the 220 meters long corridor, a linear path full of books where the ground reflects the information, in turn making this linear pathway into an infinite path of information.

Surrounding the path of information are collection spaces for books, technical rooms, lavatories and four access ways to upper level. The guarded collection is divided into 7 different themes: Youth and children, Estonian fiction, specialist literature, foreign language fiction, technical literature, everything related to music and foreign Estonian books, archive of older books, journals banned books. Where the collections provide all kinds of information, then the path of information's content is curated information and also usable and readable, not just as a decoration.

GROUND LEVEL

Library block A: Alternative information block

Spaces where information accessing and interacting is showcased in new, alternative ways.

Interactive space - Space where an individual can access information with virtual reality. The first facility provides visitors with 8 booths for information accessing. Every booth is supported with top of the line computer, virtual reality headset and with Omnideck technologies for better immersion.

Music space - Listening and trying out curated music be it on CD, vinyl or digital format. Listen on the spot with library provided devices or bring your own devices listen in the booths.

Viewing, gaming - Space for interaction with gaming and movies. The facility is equipped with digital and physical games and even board games. The aim for the space is to for groups or individual to play with games or watch videos. 1st floors always have something playing. Whenever anyone is passing by they can stop and join in watching whatever is showing on the big screen.

Living lab - Space, that is used as an immersive space. The interactive walls function as a touch screen. The space can be modified into a digital art gallery, whatever an individual desire, be it a jungle full of animals or in space, pretty much anything can be achieved. The last facility of the block functions as a multisensory space for learning.

Library block B: Cultural spaces

Library shop - Space for selling library goods, tourist materials, best sellers, office supplies etc.

Exhibition space - Space for holding various types of exhibitions. Effective space for displaying arts.

Restaurant - Elegant space for quality foods.

Multipurpose hall - Bigger hall with multipurpose usage. Connected to the restaurant for hosting events.

Library block C: Teaching spaces

Working space – A flexible workspace where you can work alone, or with others, in open space or in the working booths. Work on your own time on your own way, work with your own devices or with devices provided by the library.

Office space with 3 stories - First floor multiple spaces for teaching about information, information accessing, fact checking and strengthening about critical thinking and self-awareness about false information spotting. 2nd- 3rd floors are reserved for librarians as working and leisure spaces.

Lounge space - Lounge is for commune meeting, hanging around more relaxed spaces. Provide social platform and functions. A meeting, gathering space or space for working, learning.

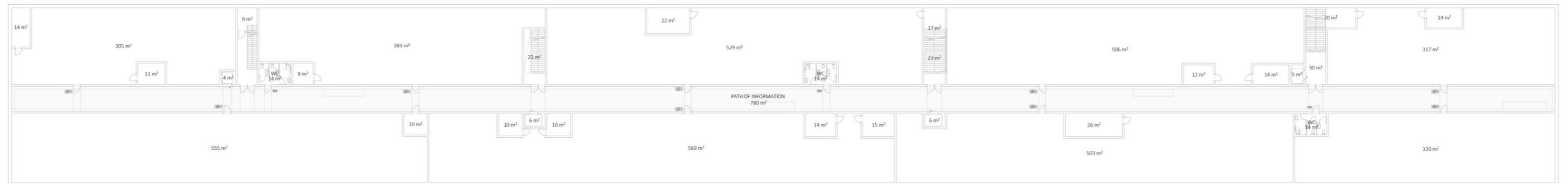
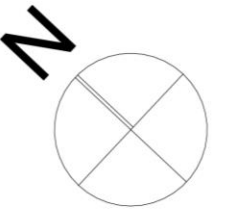
Children's space - One big space with different functions. It has a story time corner, crafts and art corner, playhouse in the middle next to an interior tree. Also the space provides learning areas for either quietly alone or in groups.

Library block D: Learning spaces

Block D provides additional extra spaces for lounge and working areas. The last block has a small café for a quick bite and with it is connected a small hall.

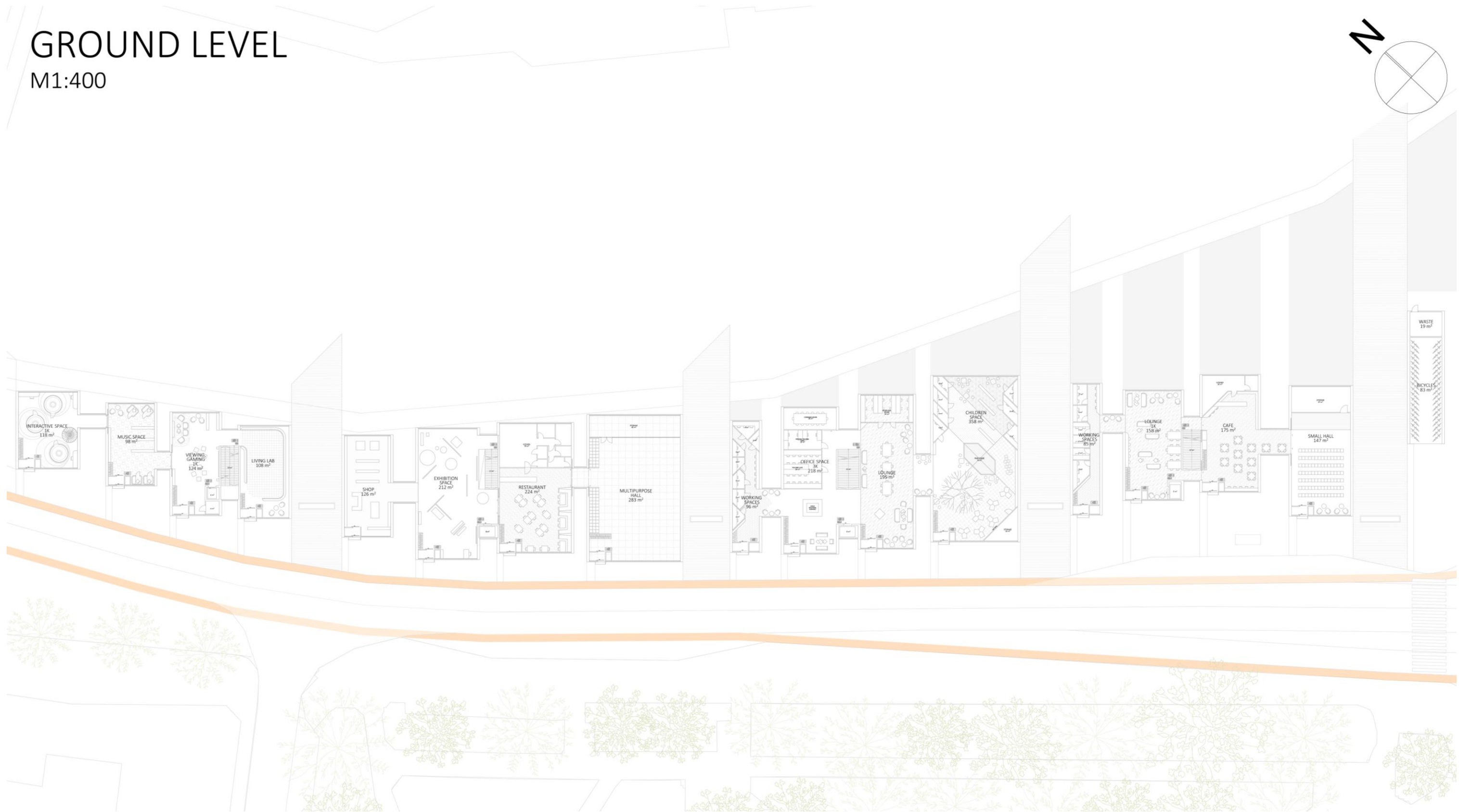
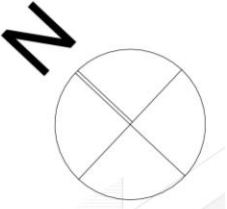
BASEMENT LEVEL

M1:400



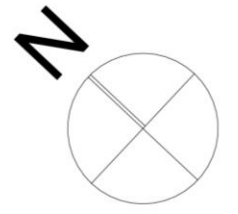
GROUND LEVEL

M1:400



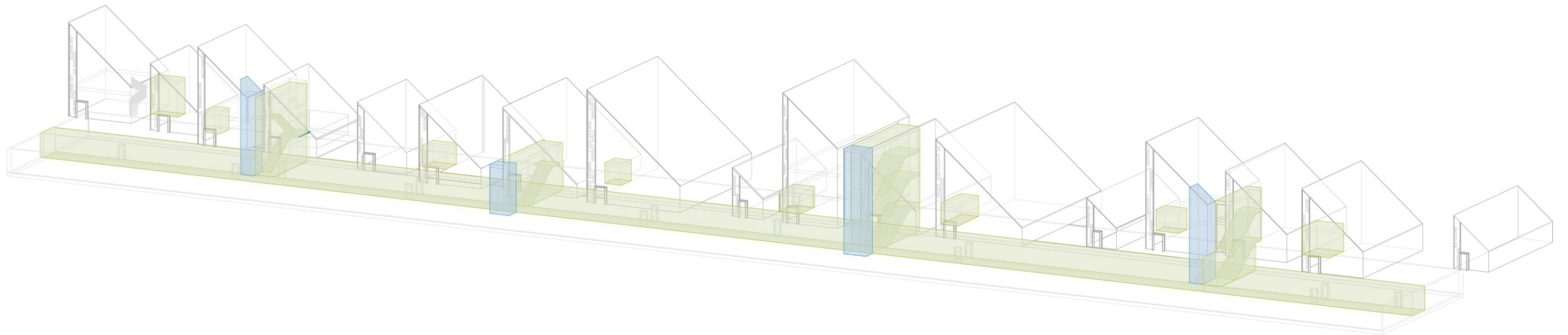
SECOND, THIRD LEVEL

M1:400



CONNECTIONS

M1:400



SPACE OF INDEPENDENCE

Like the path of information, the library facilities are used in a similar way – you walk on a linear path on the street to browse books. Instead of books you are browsing which library pavilion to visit and experience. The path of information is passing underground the facilities and is connected to all spaces. This makes the individual move around to find information and to experience the infinite information in the core of the library.

The new library provides dedicated spaces for working, studying, learning or hanging out - spaces you can use either by yourself or within groups. A switch toward do it yourself philosophy, where the user is autonomous. You are left alone and free to use the facility how you like or can. Visitors have the option to turn to the librarians for guidance for learning or the best ways to experience the library facilities and about information accessing.

Either you can go in blindly to enjoy the experience of path of information or use the library app to find the book you are needing. Books are equipped with smart chips, that when scanned provide you with extra information the book provides. Is the source trustworthy, does it contain disinformation and so on.

To check out a book, the user has two options, either to use their smartphone or the self-checkout booths, that most of the facilities have next to their entrances. It is a similar experience as the self-checkout booth at the stores.

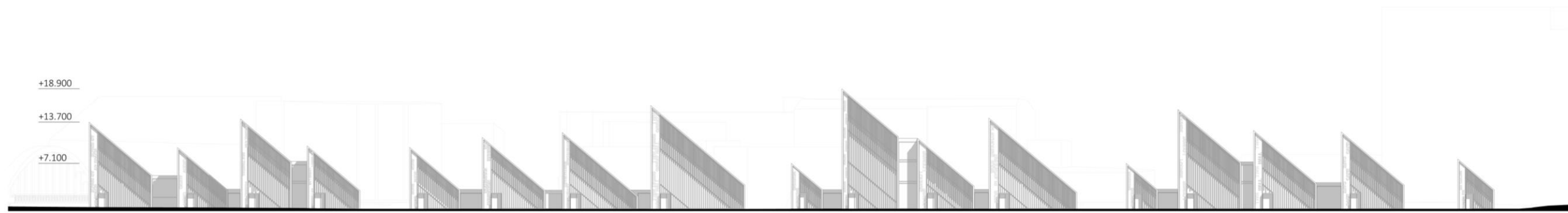
The design makes you think about your decisions and purpose of visitation. It guides habits with design. People are more free to move and look around or study where they would prefer and have a lot of independence of their choices.

EXTERIOR

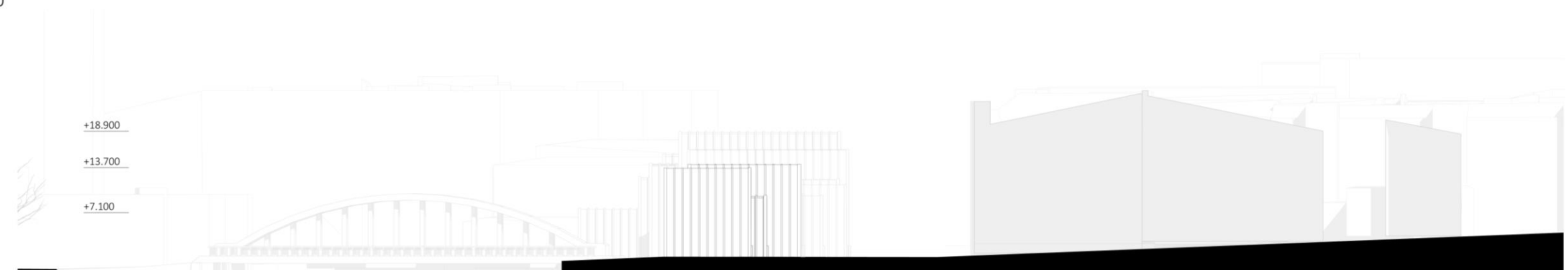
The white, silvery library pavilions are on the norther and southern sides covered with composite panels made of recycled materials. The structure is made of factory produced modules. Fixed, singular angled roofs are covered with custom roof sheet profiles. Used metals for roof also made from recycled materials. The outer layer of the roof is covered with solar panels where appropriate.

The pavilions eastern and western sides are covered from top to ground with glass profiles, which provide beautiful views to the Tartu city centre, Central Park and the Emajõgi. The windows profiles are all also in light colours and the profile gets denser as higher the glass facade gets. On the western side of the facades, the left sides of the pavilions are covered with LED display panels that extends from the roof on to the street, which makes the facilities easily spottable from afar. Next to the displays are the white entrance portals that extend outside.

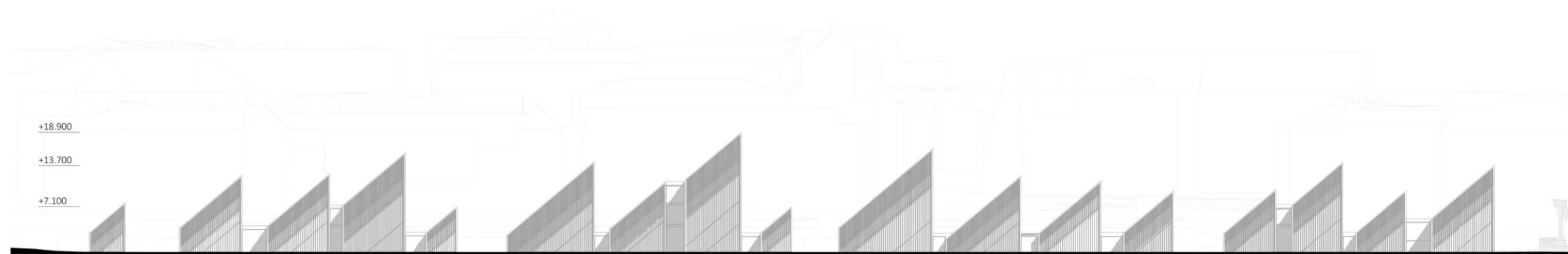




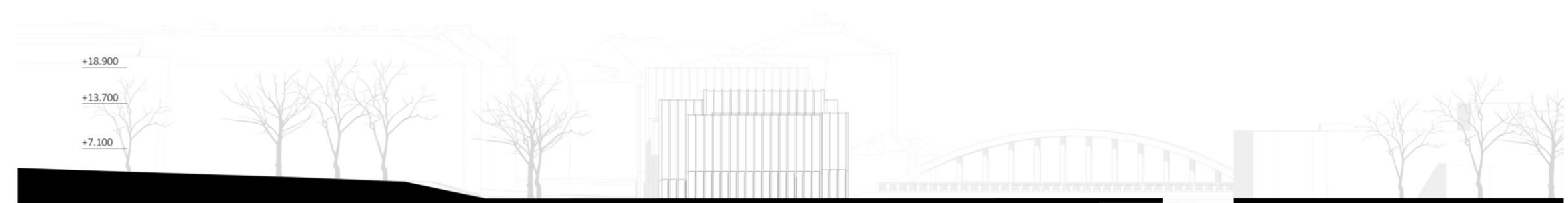
ELEVATION FROM VABADUSE STREET
M1:400



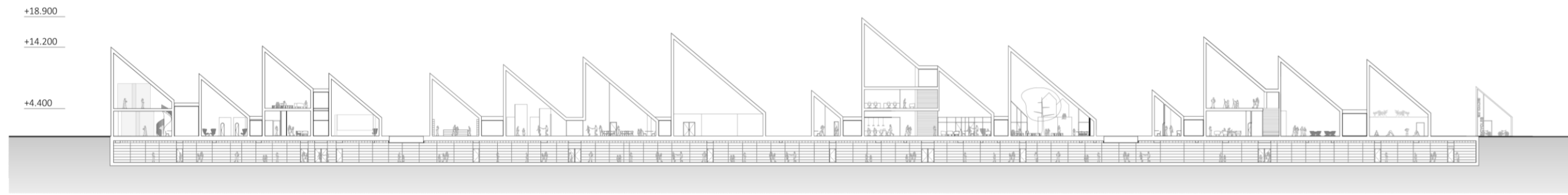
ELEVATIONS FROM ARCH BRIDGE
M1:400



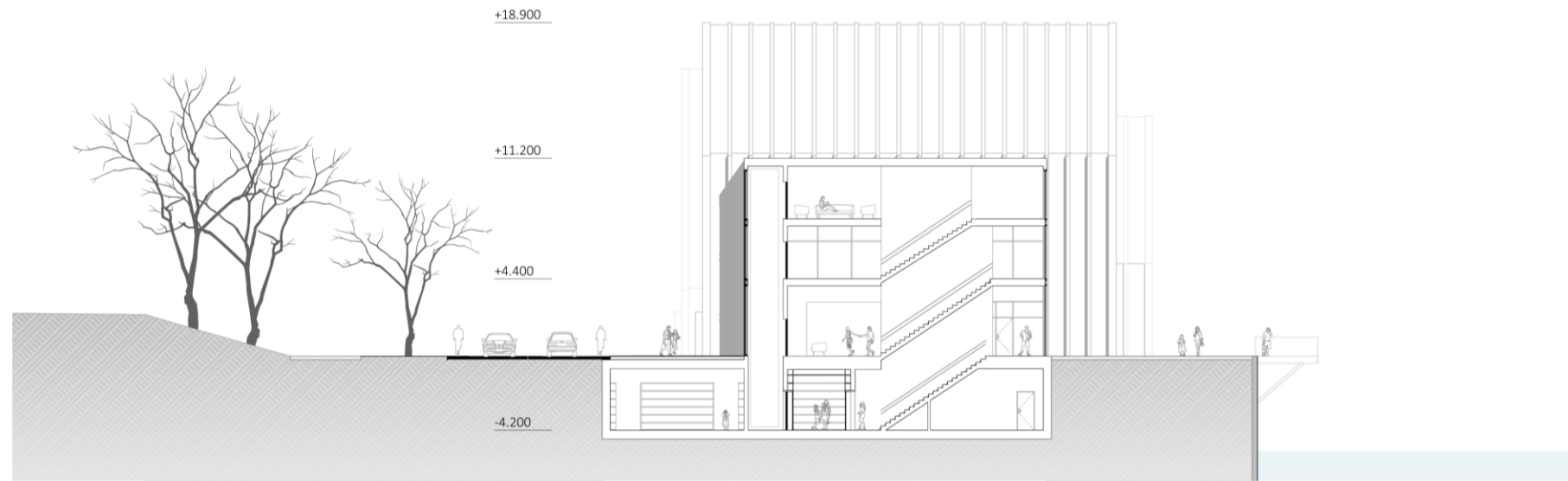
ELEVATIONS FROM EMAJÕGI
M1:400



ELEVATIONS FROM MARKET SIDE
M1:400



VERTICAL SECTION
M1:400



OFFICE SPACE SECTION
M1:200

SCORE BASED ON LIBRARY RANKING EUROPE

The new Tartu library will provide almost everything based on Library Ranking Europe evaluation score. Turning the library into an excellent facility. The new library is very easily recognizable in the city landscape next to the Emajõgi. Accessibility is perfect – two bus stops in front of the facility on the Vabaduse street and drop off zone between the library and the market hall. Open hours are made flexible and adjusted by the needs of visitors. No charge for services - Estonian libraries do not require to ask money for services only a library card, that will also be made use through digital. At first the element of exposure to physical books and newspapers is different, in that way when you enter you are not greeted with physical collections. But all signs lead to the ground level passage of information, which provides the visitor with a unique experience. There, any individual is free to browse all types of literature, even banned books. The library has spaces for events and lectures. Quiet, social, working, learning etc. spaces mixed in the new library facilities. The new library has open spaces and closed booths for various library activities. Large, open space for younger kids to use. The library staff will be identifiable by their outfits and always found in the central office block but they may not be easily reachable from every four blocks of library functions. Compared to the existing facilities, the new library has potential to get the exceptional rating score. Evaluation system from good to exceptional– six stars.



Score illustrative drawing, n.d.

The Criteria for calculating the scores of public libraries in Europe put in percentages:

Information about the library (6%)

- In guidebooks for tourists
- In city maps
- On the internet, including the library's own website and any social media representation

Location, visibility and Access (25%)

- Architecturally interesting building
- Location in the city/town
- Public transport
- Facilities for pedestrians and bikers
- Car parking
- Entrance – accessibility
- Signposts to the library in the city
- Signs on the building
- Opening hours
- Accessibility for the disabled
- Signs in the building

Service and supply (44%)

- Access for all – locals and guests
- Charge/no charge for services
- Scope of collection including different forms of media
- Exposure of collection
- Collection of newspapers and periodicals
- Exhibitions, stage
- Café / restaurant

- Lavatories
- Dedicated spaces: meeting, learning, lab, etc.
- Identifiable staff
- Service from the staff
- Information and communication technology
- Children
- Youth
- Immigrants
- Special services: SMEs, consumers, tourists, etc.
- Programs, events, lectures

Facilities (13%)

- Aesthetics
- Lighting
- Seating
- Quiet areas
- Social areas
- Area for children and youth

Collection content (6%)

- Versatility/variety according to the content

Freedom of expression and of choice (6%)

- Controversial titles and authors

Source: (Maija Berndtson, Mats Öström, Ranking System, 2022)

CONCLUSION

The master's thesis sought an answer to the question on how the digital media has influenced the libraries and their role in the today's cities and their communities. Because information is no longer only in the physical books, more and more information is being accessed through digital platforms. The libraries role of information platform has not been changed just the ways libraries provide and give access to information has changed. Based on visitors, and their higher standards of needs, library spaces have been going through advancements to provide visitors new spaces for comfort, education and extra services.

The thesis highlights the importance of free and equal information in today's digital age when information can be easily influenced, manipulated, or provided information comes without sources. On digital platforms the European Union has been already aware of influence of false information and have heavily invested into the protection and empowerment of democratic values. With the co-operation of major internet platforms through the Code of Practice, these platforms have begun regulating their sites with automatic tools that filter out false media and disinformation. Widespread of usage and strengthening these tools in public spaces is an ongoing process for democratic freedom and betterment for the people, but is this enough?

Best approach for individuals is to have a sceptical stance and a self-awareness of own biases and world views in assessing information sources or content. The thesis highlights how the library can be the best guide of information. Providing a place for learning, a space for developing critical thinking and expanding their awareness on information dangers – a platform that any individual can turn to for democratic, free and just information.

As the basis for the concept of the new Tartu library has been used the Library Ranking Europe criteria's that the library professionals Majja Berndtson and Mats Öström developed for the evaluating and scoring of visited libraries. These benchmarked results have been used for an overall betterment for the potential visitors and raise the standards of the new library and the provided spaces.

From basic book lending services, the contemporary libraries have turned into communities that provide knowledge and teach new skills. What seemed to be a threat to libraries – the digital media services are now a strong selling point of a new public library. Accessing physical forms of information is made into an experience. Mixing spaces and dividing them for new separate qualitative spaces. Library is the platform that furthers the culture in the city with being the safe haven of information for the people in the heart of Tartu. The concept and result of research can be applied to future libraries, but the site defines the libraries capabilities and how the library should or can be integrated with the city landscape.

KOKKUVÕTE

Magistritöö otsis vastust küsimusele, kuidas on digitaalmeedia mõjutanud raamatukogusid ja nende rolli tänapäeva linnades ja ühiskonnas. Kuna informatsioon ei ole ainult füüsilistes raamatutes, siis üha rohkem tarbitakse informatsiooni läbi digitaalsete vahendite ja platformide. Raamatukogude roll kui informatsiooni tugisambana ei ole muutunud, muutunud on vaid viisid, kuidas raamatukogud informatsiooni vahendavad ning mis viisil suudetakse teavet edasi anda. Tuginedes külastajatele ja nende tõusnud vajadustele, on raamatukogud läbimas muutusi, et pakkuda külastajatele kohta, kus pannakse rõhku mugavuse, hariduse ja teistele lisateenustele.

Lõputöö tõstab esile vaba ja usaldatava informatsiooni olulisust tänapäeva digiajastul, mil infot on kerge mõjutada, manipuleerida või keerukus allikata teabe õigsust kontrollida. Digitaalplatvormidel on Euroopa Liit juba teadlik valeinfo mõjust ning teinud suuri investeeringuid demokraatlike väärtuste kaitsesse ja mõjuvõimu suurendamiseks. Suuremate internetiplatvormide koostöös labi „Code of Practice“ on suuremad interneti platvormid asunud oma saite reguleerima automaatsete tööriistadega, mis filtreerivad välja vale meedia ja väär info. Loodud informatsioonikaitse vahendite laialdane kasutamine ja tugevdamine ühiskonnas on demokraatliku vabaduse ja inimeste paranemise pidev protsess, kuid kas sellest piisab?

Parim lähenemisviis individuaalile on teabeallikate või -sisu hindamisel skeptiline hoiak ning eneseteadlikkus oma eelarvamustest ja maailmavaadetest. Lõputöö toob välja, kuidas raamatukogu saab olla parim õiglase informatsiooni selgroog. Pakkudes kohta, kus toimub kriitilise mõtlemise arendamine, vale informatsiooni ohtude teadlikkuse suurendamine – platvorm, kuhu igaüks võib pöörduda vaba ja õiglase teabe saamiseks.

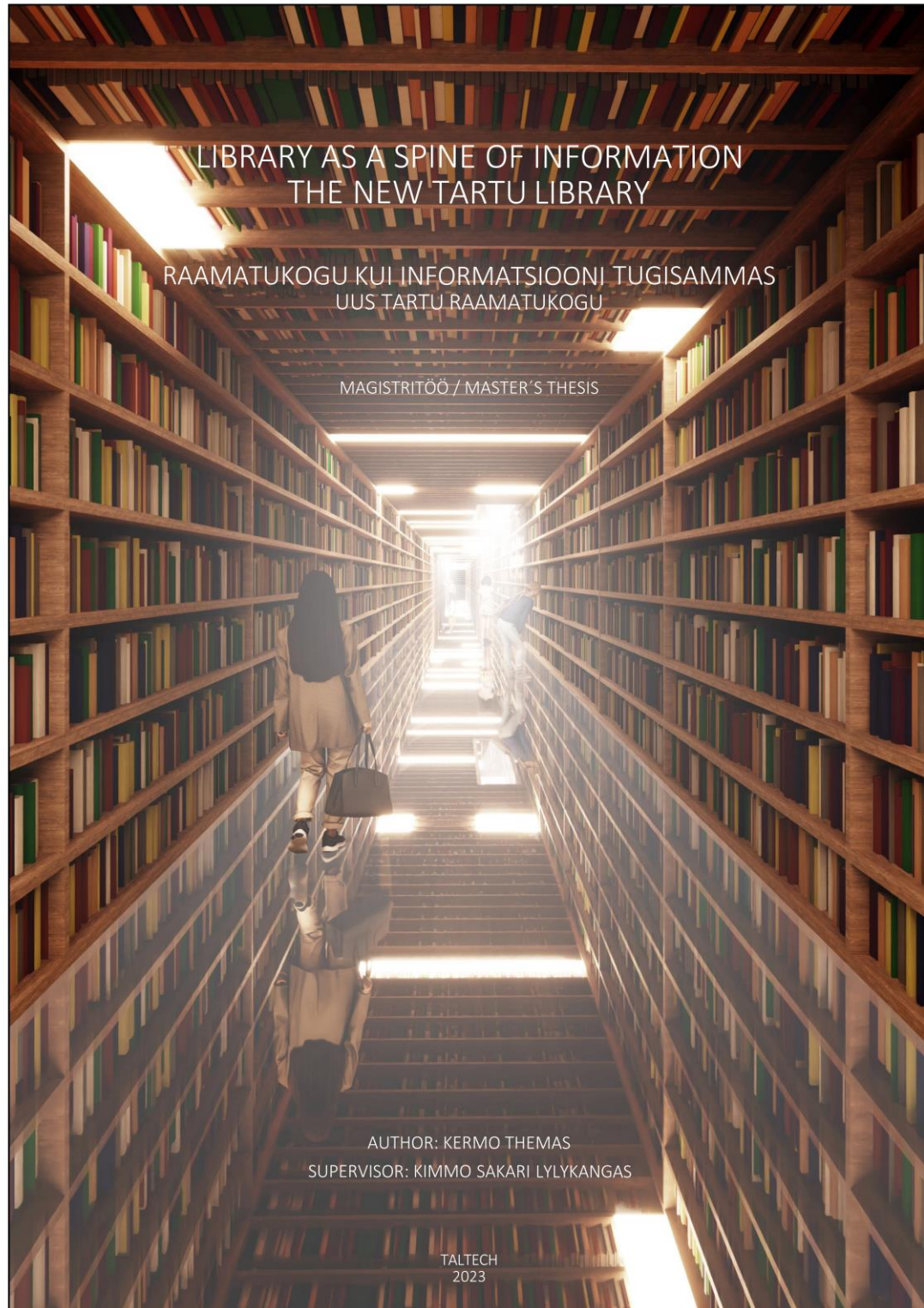
Tartu uue raamatukogu kontseptsiooni aluseks on Euroopa raamatukogude hindamismeetodid, mille raamatukoguspetsialistid Majja Berndtson ja Mats Öström on loonud raamatukogude kvaliteedi hindamiseks. Neid hindamiskriteeriume on kasutatud potentsiaalsete külastajate ajaveetmis kvaliteedi üldiseks parandamiseks ning uue raamatukogu pakutavate ruumide väärtuste tõstmiseks.

Raamatukogu, kui põhiline raamatutu laenutuspunktist on saanud teamisi ja uusi oskusi õpetav ühiskonna sõlmpunkt. Mis näis olevat raamatukogudele kui oht – digitaalsed meediateenused, on nüüd raamatukogude tugev müügiargument. Juurdepääs teabe füüsilistele vormidele on muudetud kogemuseks. Ruumide segamine ja jagamine uuteks eraldiseisvateks kvalitatiivseteks raamatukogu hooneteks tõstab loodud keskkonna kvaliteeti. Raamatukogu on platvorm, mis edendab linna kultuuri, olles kui Tartu südalinna elanikele turvaline informatsiooni tarbimise keskkond. Uurimistöö kontseptsiooni ja tulemust saab rakendada tulevaste raamatukogude puhul, arvestama peab asukohta, mis määratleb raamatukogu võimalused ja selle, kui hästi saab raamatukogu linnaga integreerida.

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LIBRARY AS A SPINE OF INFORMATION
THE NEW TARTU LIBRARY

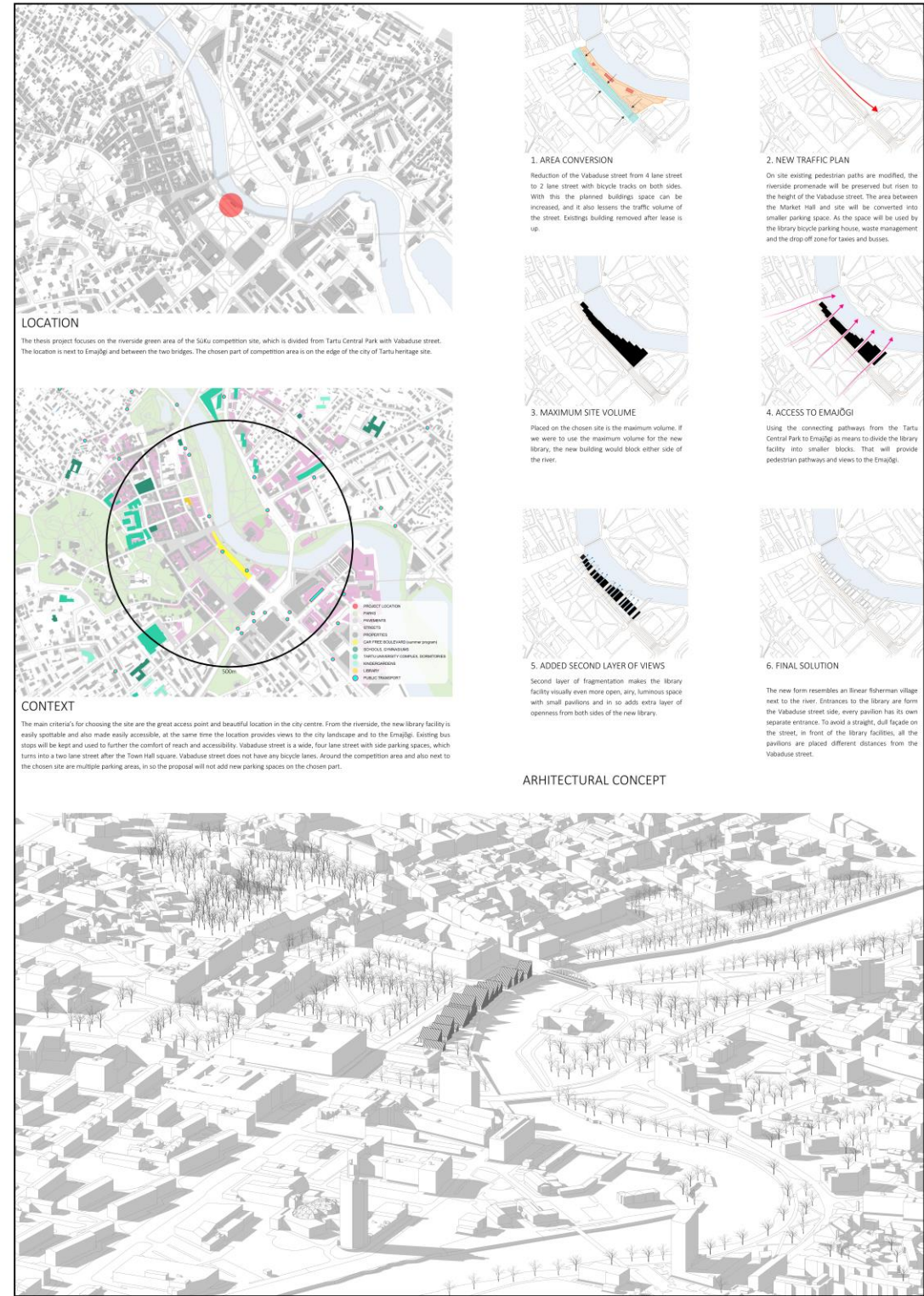
RAAMATUKOGU KUI INFORMATSIOONI TUGISAMMAS
UUS TARTU RAAMATUKOGU

MAGISTRITÖÖ / MASTER'S THESIS

AUTHOR: KERMO THEMAS
SUPERVISOR: KIMMO SÄKARI LYLYKANGAS

TALTECH
2023

PATH OF INFORMATION



LOCATION

The thesis project focuses on the riverside green area of the Suku competition site, which is divided from Tartu Central Park with Vabaluuse street. The location is next to Emaõgi and between the two bridges. The chosen part of competition area is on the edge of the city of Tartu heritage site.

CONTEXT

The main criteria for choosing the site are the great access point and beautiful location in the city centre. From the riverside, the new library facility is easily accessible and also made easily accessible, at the same time the location provides views to the city landscape and to the Emaõgi. Existing bus stops will be kept and used to further the comfort of reach and accessibility. Vabaluuse street is a wide, four lane street with side parking spaces, which turns into a two lane street after the Town Hall square. Vabaluuse street does not have any bicycle lanes. Around the competition area and also next to the chosen site are multiple parking areas, in so the proposal will not add new parking spaces on the chosen part.

1. AREA CONVERSION

Reduction of the Vabaluuse street from 4 lane street to 2 lane street with bicycle tracks on both sides. With this the planned buildings space can be increased, and it also lessens the traffic volume of the street. Existing building removed after lease is up.

2. NEW TRAFFIC PLAN

On site existing pedestrian paths are modified, the riverside promenade will be generated but risen to the height of the Vabaluuse street. The area between the Market Hall and site will be converted into smaller parking space. As the space will be used by the library bicycle parking house, waste management and the drop off zone for taxis and buses.

3. MAXIMUM SITE VOLUME

Placed on the chosen site is the maximum volume, if we were to use the maximum volume for the new library, the new building would block other side of the river.

4. ACCESS TO EMAÕGI

Using the connecting pathways from the Tartu Central Park to Emaõgi as means to divide the library facility into smaller blocks, that will provide pedestrian pathways and views to the Emaõgi.

5. ADDED SECOND LAYER OF VIEWS

Second layer of fragmentation makes the library facility visually even more open, airy, luminous space with small pavilions and in so adds extra layer of openness from both sides of the new library.

6. FINAL SOLUTION

The new form resembles an linear fisherman village next to the river. Entrances to the library are form the Vabaluuse street side, every pavilion has its own separate entrance. To avoid a straight, dull facade on the street, in front of the library facilities, all the pavilions are placed different distances from the Vabaluuse street.

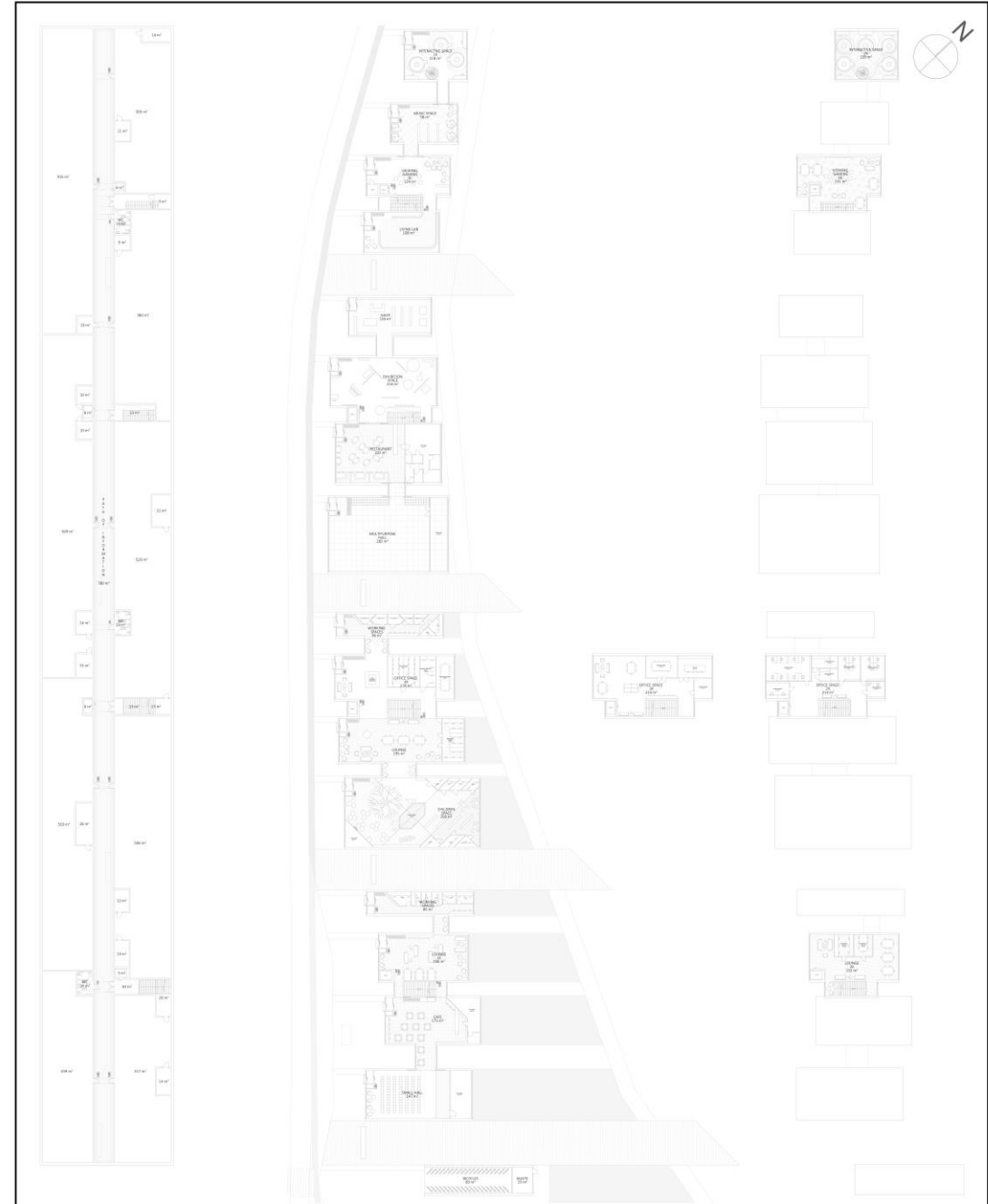
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT

AXONOMETRIC CONTEXT





SITE PLAN
M1:1000



GROUND FLOOR
M1:300

UNDERGROUND STORY
Path of information
Collections
Technical
Restrooms
Communications
Floor total:

BLOCK A I STORY
Interactive space
Music space
Viewing, gaming
Living lab
Communications

BLOCK A II STORY
Interactive space
Viewing, gaming
Communications

Block total

FIRST FLOOR
M1:300

BLOCK B I STORY
Library shop
Exhibition space
Restaurant
Multipurpose hall
Communications

BLOCK B II STORY
Office space 1
Lounge 1
Children space
Communications

BLOCK C I STORY
Working space 1
Office space 1
Lounge 1
Children space
Communications

BLOCK C II STORY
Office space 2
Communications

BLOCK C III STORY
Office space 3
Communications

Block total:

SECOND+THIRD FLOOR
M1:300

BLOCK D I STORY
Working space 2
Lounge 2
Cafe
Small hall
Communications

BLOCK D II STORY
Lounge 2
Communications

Block total:

Bicycle parking
Waste
Total:

LIBRARY TOTAL AREA:

FLOOR PLANS



SOME OF THE MOST ICONIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS, SUCH AS THE STOCKHOLM CITY LIBRARY BY GUNNAR ASPLUND, VIIPURI LIBRARY BY ALVAR AALTO, MUSASHINO ARTS UNIVERSITY MUSEUM & LIBRARY BY SOU FUJIMOTO OR OODI LIBRARY BY ALA ARCHITECTS HAVE PROVIDED IN THEIR OWN WAYS AN OPEN INTERIOR MADE OF BOOKS, THUS DEMONSTRATING THE CORE IDEA OF THE LIBRARY: THE FREE AND EQUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION. TODAY INFORMATION IS NO LONGER ONLY IN BOOKS, BUT ALSO IN THE NEW INFORMATION CHANNELS AND MEDIA, MOST OF THEM EVEN DIGITAL. HOW CAN THIS BE MADE VISIBLE IN NEW LIBRARY ARCHITECTURE?

THE TRADITIONAL LIBRARY HAS MOSTLY BEEN A SPACE FOR CIRCULATING, STORING AND PRESERVING OF PRINTED MEDIA. AS TIMES HAVE CHANGED, THE NEEDS OF LIBRARY VISITORS HAVE INCREASED - READING BOOKS IS NOT ENOUGH. FROM BASIC BOOK LENDING SERVICES, THE NEW LIBRARIES HAVE TURNED INTO COMMUNITIES THAT PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE AND TEACH NEW SKILLS. THERE ANY INDIVIDUAL HAS A RIGHT FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES, EXPERIENCES, EDUCATION AND EQUAL ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION. THE CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY IS A EQUAL HUB OF FREE INFORMATION WITH THE ASPECT OF SOCIAL GATHERING. THOSE CHANGING FUNCTIONS OF LIBRARY ARE REFLECTED FOR EXAMPLE IN THE LIBRARY RANKING EUROPE EVALUATION.

THIS THESIS EXAMINES OUT WHAT, IN THE DIGITAL AGE OF INFORMATION, IS THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES AND WHAT LIBRARIES HAVE AND CAN OFFER TO THE PEOPLE WITH THE CASE STUDIES BY THE NEW CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY IN THE HEART OF TARTU.

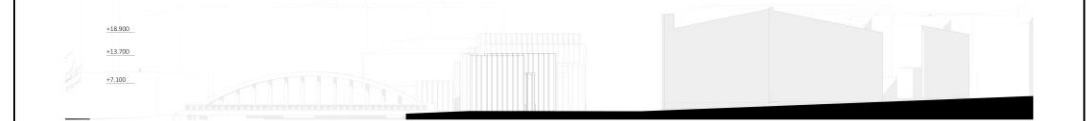


VIEW OVER EMAJÕGI



ELEVATION FROM VABADUSE STREET

M1:400



ELEVATIONS FROM ARCH BRIDGE

M1:400



ELEVATIONS FROM EMAJÕGI

M1:400

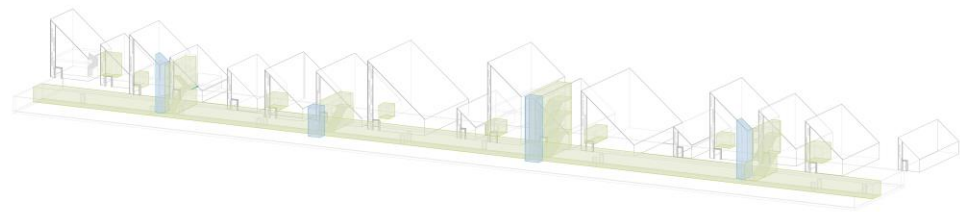
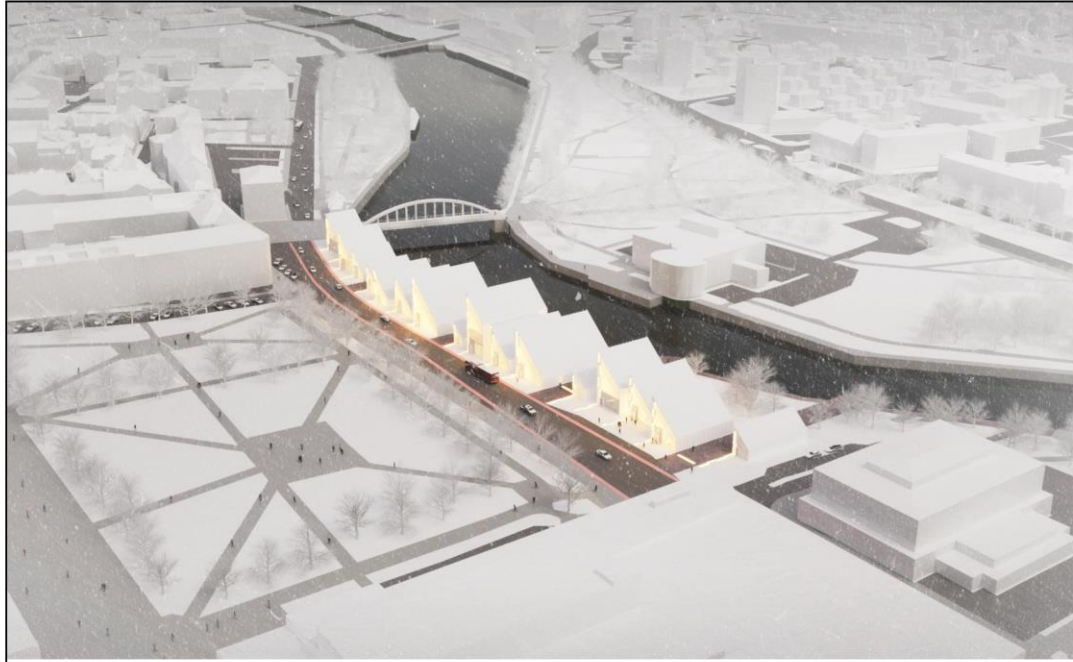


ELEVATIONS FROM MARKET SIDE

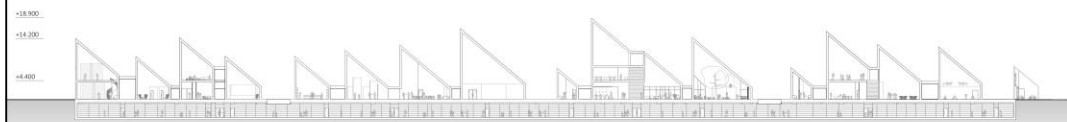
M1:400

ELEVATIONS

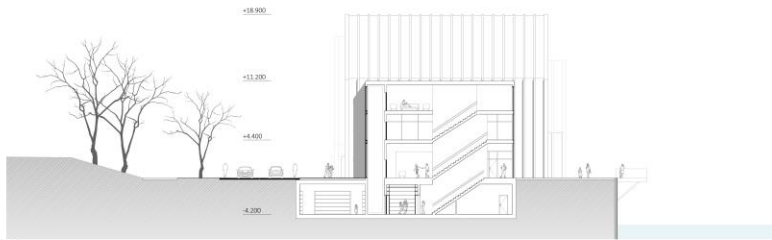




COMMUNICATIONS
M1:400

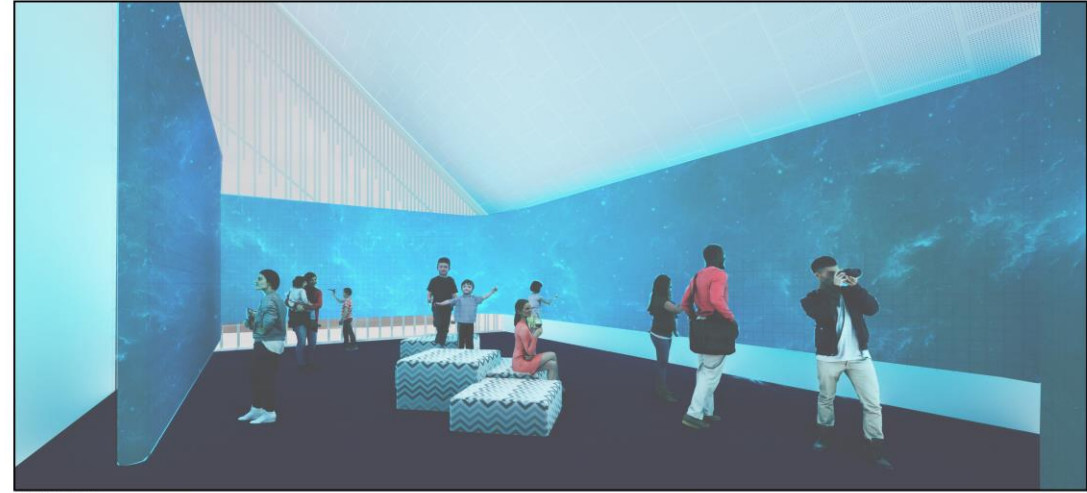


VERTICAL SECTION
M1:400



OFFICE SPACE SECTION
M1:200

SECTIONS



LIVING LAB



OFFICE 1ST FLOOR



INTERACTIVE SPACE

