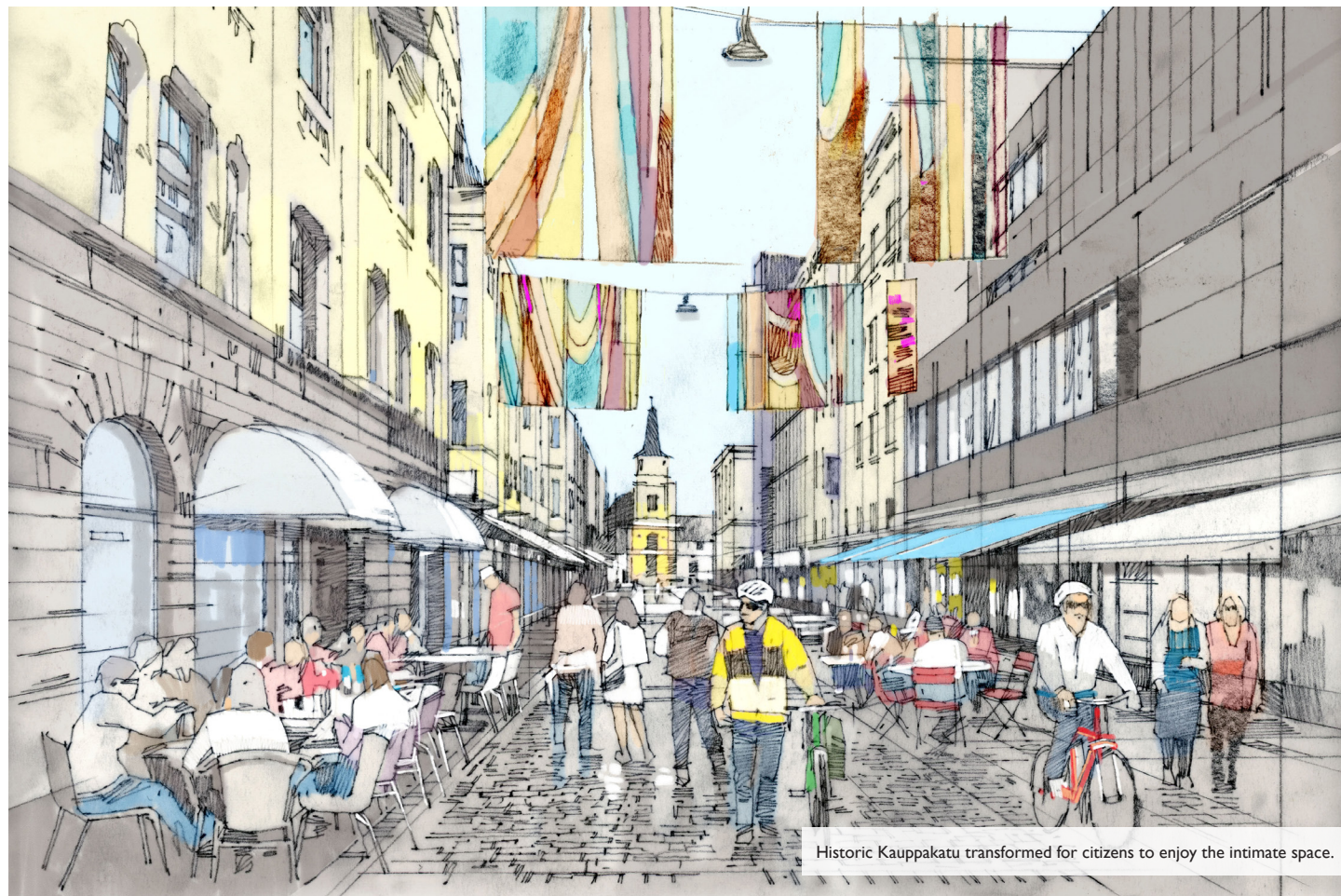
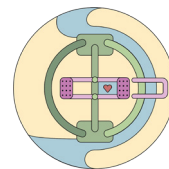


A Vision for Tampere West+

Collaborative Placemaking for Tampere City, Finland

broadsheet 30. September 2020



Historic Kauppakatu transformed for citizens to enjoy the intimate space.

A Vision for Tampere West+

Keskutori as the revitalised heart of West+ including a wintergarden, mobility hub, new footbridge links and exciting events all year round: establishment of a new vibrant mixed use urban quarter with a new 'culture loop' linking visitor attractions within West+; investment in parks and green spaces around West+ with new connections focussed on active travel, including pedestrianisation of Kauppakatu linking through to a rejuvenated Hameenpuisto; a review of new housing development opportunities, parking and building height policies in the central West+ area. These are just some of the ideas to emerge from the Vision for Tampere West+ charrette which was presented to the local community on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

Background

The city of Tampere invited an international team led by JTP and Von Zadow International (VZI) to undertake a nine-month, interactive charrette process, working with stakeholders and the wider community to create a Vision for the regeneration of the western part of the city centre, known as West+. In common with many city centres around Europe, the West+ area needs to respond to various forces and development pressures, including the changing face of retail and leisure, demand for affordable homes and workspace, sustainable transport initiatives and climate change, all set in the context of a post Covid-19 world.

"West+ needs to understand its current strengths - we want to create a joint vision that emphasises the qualities of the western city centre and brings its development up-to-date!"

Community Planning

A range of stakeholder workshops, meetings, West+ walkabouts and cycle tours were held in the run up to the Tampere West+ charrette held over six days and starting on Friday 25 September 2020. In the run up to the charrette the local community was invited to comment on the local area and give their dreams for the future using the online 'Communities' platform. The community was also invited to participate over the first two days of the charrette in workshops at Suomalainen klubi. The design team then analysed and summarised the outcomes of the participation process and drew up a Vision for West+ which was presented back to the community to a physical and virtual audience of around 300 people.

Next Steps

The JTP/VZI team will prepare a final report of the process. Proposals for action will be taken forward by both private actors and the City of Tampere. The Vision will be presented to the City Board, after which the city's shared Action Plan will be implemented as part of the Five Star Centre development program. Proposals based on the Action Plan will be selected and programmed based on how they can be integrated with ongoing projects.

West+ Vision 2040

Illustrative masterplan



Keskustori - The Heart of Tampere

- 1 New public space with shops, eateries and market-place
- 2 New wintergarden building defining green space to the east and main congregation space to the south
- 3 Rejuvenated green park linking Keskustori Square with Rapids and footbridges
- 4 Northern 'hotel square' with new mobility hub building adjacent to bicycle route

Cultural Loop

- 5 Bicycle route from east of Rapids to Pyyntikintori
- 6 Pyyntikintori with bus terminus and public green space
- 7 Facilities in green space along Hallituskatu

Rapids - Walking Along and Across the Water

- 8 New bridges across Rapids to Koskipuisto park
- 9 Extended footpath from Finlayson to Laukontori
- 10 Improve interfaces of footpaths and buildings

Hämeenpuisto

- 11 Rebalancing of road layout to prioritise walking and cycling, including 'cross-overs'
- 12 Introduction of pavilions for outdoor and indoor eating and drinking

South Park

- 13 New sports facilities on waterfront spaces
- 14 Development on plots to west of Klingendahl
- 15 Leisure ring

The Nine Blocks

- 16 Improvements of public realm
- 17 Kauppakatu pedestrianised

Laukontori

- 18 Creation of attractive spaces looking south onto Tammerkoski
- 19 Avenues of trees to create spatial definition

Amuri

- 20 Rearranging existing areas of parking to be underground or multi-storey in building frees up land for buildings
- 21 New centre with hybrid buildings accommodates supermarket, kindergarten
- 22 Strengthen north-south green link

Northern Harbour

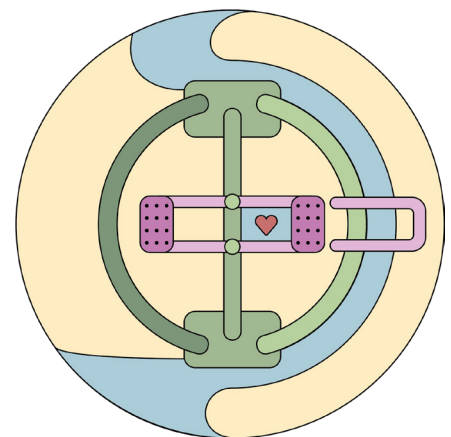
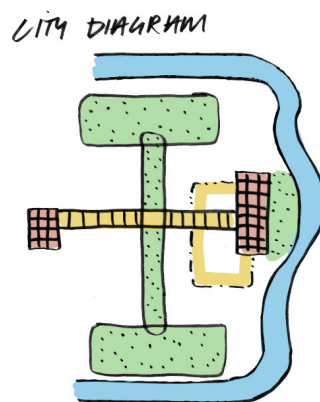
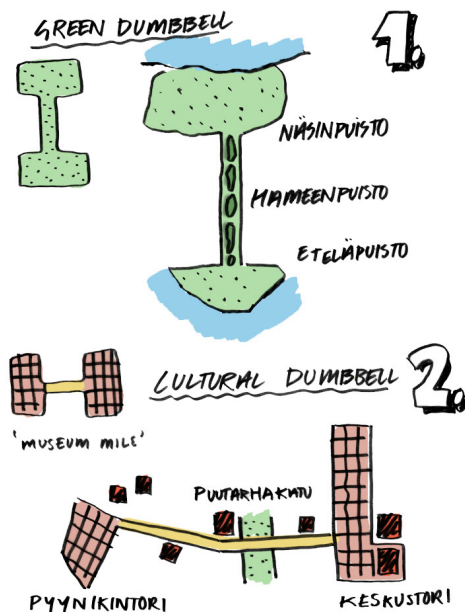
- 23 Kiosks and signs in Keskustori and Hämeenpuisto to publicise Särkänniemi
- 24 Investment in Särkänniemi including harbour area

A Vision for Tampere West+



West+ City Concept

West+ Concept Logo



The West+ placemaking process has been carried out by the team of VON ZADOW INTERNATIONAL (Berlin) and JTP (London), ACA (London), EMP (Tübingen), RAMBOLL-STUDIO DREISEITL (Hamburg), RAMBOLL and IDEAScOUT (Tampere) on behalf of the city of Tampere in co-operation with companies Varma, EQ, Metsä Group, Finnpark, Sponda, D-Kulma, Lahtiset, VTS, POK and Särkänniemi.

For more details please visit:

www.tampere.fi

www.jtp.co.uk

www.vonzadow.de

A Vision for Tampere West+

Key Themes



Laukontori redesigned to enjoy views over the south-facing waterfront.

The following key themes are a summary of the outcomes from the Tampere West+ community planning process. All quotes are from participants unless otherwise stated.

Support for West+ Renaissance

The western part of Tampere city centre has a strong heritage, with many pleasant buildings, parks, streets and squares, with some hidden treasures, cultural and community assets and of course access to the rapids and the lakes. But the area is currently lacking identity and purpose and in common with many city centres is confronted with challenges, including changing trends in retail and leisure and the ramifications of Covid 19. The community has understood that West+ must reinvent itself, building on its unique assets to bring back life and activity, and attract more people and investment into the centre and create a more liveable city.

“Bring West+ back to life!”

Revive the Parks and Green Spaces

A key part of the character of West+ is the many accessible parks and green spaces. These green assets are much valued and the pandemic has reminded everybody of their importance for wellbeing and quality of life. However, there is a strong view that investment is needed to improve the quality, connectivity to and through, and activities in many of these park and spaces. In addition, there is scope to green many of the harder urban streets and spaces in West+.

“Green is enough, quality and variety is lacking.”

Revitalise the Grid

Many streets are in need of investment, particularly in the commercial heart, to improve their attractiveness as places to visit and linger. The grid offers the opportunity, through its hierarchy of streets, to create and define character areas. Potential for pedestrianisation of certain streets can be piloted to create people focussed places and uses. There should be attractive open spaces and squares in the city and blocks can become more permeable creating cut throughs and intimate courtyard spaces. Public spaces should cater for both summer and winter activities and each space, whilst being part of the greater whole, should have its own identity. *“Small is beautiful” - create smaller spaces which are functional and meaningful.*

Tame the Car, Promote Active Travel

Many participants feel that West+ is dominated by the car and a better balance should be created. The opening of the new tram service in 2021 will help create a shift in emphasis in the city and there is a strong desire to push for better walking and cycling routes in the centre, including bridges from Kirjastonpuisto to Koskipuisto Park. To enable and encourage more active travel and consequently improve the quality of streets and places. Opportunities to pedestrianise streets and unpick the one-way system should be investigated.

“Strengthen pedestrian and cycle routes between the lakes and generally within the whole of WEST+.”

Create Quarters

Improving the walkability and liveability of streets will promote the creation of new quarters and places in West+. A new cultural loop can define a new urban quarter linking the rapids and Keskustori in the east through to Pyylikintori in the west, connecting up many key assets in West+ and incorporating the 'nine blocks' of the commercial centre. Investing in Hämeenpuisto will also define an improved north-south connection linking Särkänniemi and Näsinpuisto in the north with Eteläpuisto in the south. These quarters and places can be branded, programmed and promoted to encourage visitors and stimulate vitality.

"Green and urban grids and connections should be strengthened and be redefined."

Reimagine Keskustori

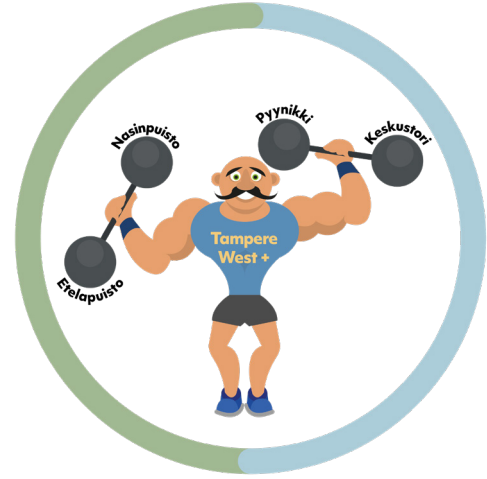
Keskustori occupies a pivotal position in West+ but is currently not fulfilling its potential as a "nexus" for the city and a driver of vitality. Removing surface parking and replacing it with a new public wintergarden building and mobility hub will help orientate people arriving in the space and provide a year-round visitor attraction related to the activities in and around the square. A year-round programme of events, including a Christmas market, will bring footfall which will ripple through the commercial quarter and beyond. New footbridges across the rapids will bring the two sides of the river together and create one park connected to the square.

"Keskustori is not working hard enough - a lot of potential should be unlocked!"

Refresh Hämeenpuisto

Hämeenpuisto is the main green route connecting the northern and southern parks and was masterplanned as a key space in the city. However, participants wanted to improve its quality and ambiance and there is a desire to reduce the dominance of cars and improve the walking and cycling experience. Participants wanted more variety along the green avenue with more activity and interest along the route.

"Hämeenpuisto should be upgraded, more human scale and less traffic and parking focused."



WEST+ Strong Town

Bring Life & Activity

Many events and activities currently occur in West+ but there is a feeling that a more holistic framework is needed to link these activities together. A particular emphasis should be given to spaces for youth and young adults. Overall, the creation of a new branded cultural quarter could include the curation and management of a full year-round programme in West+.

"Bringing everything together will create a whole offer which is more than the sum of its parts!"

Embrace the Participatory Process

Throughout the West+ community planning process participants have appreciated being asked for their thoughts and ideas before plans are made and finalised. A key outcome is to continue the participatory process and establish a West+ Team to take the process forward and help deliver the Vision. Projects will vary in complexity and scale but there is scope to be experimental and test low cost but effective initiatives to deliver early wins!

"WEST+ should become a unique place and we want to remain a significant part of this change!"



Participants on a cycling and walking tour in WEST+ area.

A Vision for Tampere West+

Possible next steps

PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS / TAMMERKOSKI

1. Tammerkoski north park area / Pajasaari and surroundings
2. Study for new pedestrian bridges and connections / Takonraitti, Keskustori, Ratina connections

HÄMEENPUISTO

3. Traffic calculations / tests after tram, detail planning 2022-2023, study for new pavillion buildings

AMURI - PYYNIKINTORI - ART MUSEUM

4. Detail planning ongoing, Parking Concepts Amuri - Pyynikintori area

SÄRKÄNNIEMI AREA

5. Connections from Western city to Särkänniemi, Planning of Näsinäkö square, Detail planning ongoing

TRAFFIC

6. Test for Aleksis Kiven katu pedestrianized street
7. Other tests for street alternations

COMMERCIAL CENTRE / CULTURAL LOOP

8. District/block studies
9. Marketing plan and Development WEST+ team EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL& CULTURAL

LOOP

10. Pyyrikintä sport facilities and connection to Pyyrikki

KESKUSTORI

11. Keskustori Garden
12. Kunkunparkki Light



Participants on a cycling tour in WEST+ area.