

## Helsinki of the Future

### English Summary

At their best, cities can constitute a creative and innovative environment where business life blossoms. Pekka Korpinen, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, presents his own views on this challenge in the EVA report "Helsinki – a city of the future". The journey to the Helsinki of the future envisaged by Korpinen consists of many projects and challenges, some small and some large.

Helsinki is an expensive city to live in. The main reason for the high cost of housing is the scattering of dwellings across too vast of an area with poor public transportation connections. This effect is further exacerbated by Helsinki's semicircle shape, which increases the average distance from the city centre by 40 per cent compared to a circular city of the same population density. Korpinen maintains that by strengthening area centers, increasing population density near public transportation connections and by extending the Metro-line towards the east, which will also help to fill the vacant space in the city of Sipoo, living costs can be permanently decreased in Helsinki and neighbouring regions.

Korpinen also evaluates the proposals for creation of a top-class university and art university from standpoint of city planning. The location of the University of Art and Design, the Academy of Fine Arts and the Theater Academy on the eastern edge of the Helsinki peninsula has provided a positive counterweight for the higher education sites in western Helsinki and Espoo. Moving the University of Art and Design to Otaniemi would be a serious setback for the strengthening activities of East-Helsinki and the business-oriented "Art and Design City" cluster in Arabianranta. When the Metro connection to Otaniemi is completed in a few years, the best solution would be to combine the two projects, i.e. the creation of a top-class university and art university, and situate them on the same Metro-line. Technical sciences would be in Otaniemi, the School of Business in Kamppi and art universities (excluding the Sibelius Academy) near the Kalasatama Metro station.

Forests and the sea are key elements shaping the special character of Helsinki, which should be used to a greater extent in the making of the Helsinki brand. Shores, the sea and the archipelago offer unique competitive advantages for attracting businesses and employees to the leading creative centre of Northern Europe. This competitive advantage has so far not been utilized successfully enough. Construction in Jätkäsaari, Hernesaari as well as in the shore districts of Sörnäinen, Hermannin and Kruunuvuori during the next 10 – 20 years will change the situation significantly. After construction of the northwest parts of Sipoo, the time may be ripe for construction of Santahamina and some other islands around the year 2050. The utilization of the prime seaside regions will also require the construction of a special sea-Metro connecting the Kamppi-Jätkäsaari-Suomenlinna-Kuninkaansaari-Santahamina-Herttoniemi line.