The result of the Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition was announced today. Gehl Architects are proud to have been a part of the ‘Helsinki Five’ team led by haascookzemmnrich STUDIO2050 in collaboration with Prof. HG Merz, Knippers & Helbig and Transsolar. Although we did not win the 1st prize, it was an honour to participate as one of the 6 finalist teams out of 1715 entries.

A beautiful museum in combination with urban space
Five elegant towers create the spectacular Museum building. The tight building footprint gives room for generous open spaces around the museum. Titled ‘Helsinki Five’, the project was the only finalist to integrate a series of significant public spaces – a park, a square and a waterfront promenade - into the proposal. Gehl Architects developed the public realm strategy and design of these public spaces.

Creating public assets
The former industrial harbour is opened up and enriched with a beautiful museum and public spaces for locals and visitors alike. The outdoor spaces are open to the public, as well as parts of the museum, and can be enjoyed independently of the museum exhibits throughout the
“In a climate with long summer days and dark and snowy winter months. Along the harbour front with views to the Helsinki archipelago. On a site which is partly urban, partly nature. A new Guggenheim Museum, a civic park and square are emerging.”

day and night. Through the creation of these public assets in combination with the museum building, the proposal gives something back to the city of Helsinki.

**Strengthening existing city strategies**
The proposal is mindful to tie into the existing network of the city - to build upon Helsinki’s green plan and current cultural strategy. First, the promenade becomes a part of a longer walk along the waterfront. Finally, the waterfront site is reconnected to the city through high quality pedestrian and bicycle paths as well as a bridge linking the site to the Tähititorninvuori Park. Special attention was placed on opening up the waterfront site to pedestrians and bicyclists.

**Public spaces for all**
One question close at heart for Gehl Architects is: how do we create inviting and engaging public spaces for all?

Beyond the exhibitions within the Museum – the park, the square and the promenade will extend an invitation to everyone to experience the Guggenheim – young and old, art lovers and families, visitors and locals are all welcome. The park has programs for hosting both recreation and cultural events. The square and the promenade promote the flourishing public life already happening in the market hall and the hotel.

The waterfront becomes a stronger city asset by intertwining the museum’s events with the everyday activities of Helsinki’s citizens. A waterfront everyone can enjoy!

*Links to websites:*
[Haascookzemmrich](#)
[Guggenheim Official Competition site](#)

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