

European 15 Hyvinkää - Come Together

“Come together” plan transforms Hyvinkää station area and its surroundings to a connected urban environment that creates a continuous, vibrant and green urban flow. The plan connects the key functions of the city center through series of memorable public places. With the addition of well-placed new functions and the enhanced proximity through new urban connections the east and west side are brought closer together physically, visually and mentally. This allows for the area to prosper as a productive urban core.

FF815 The proposed plan is based on five main themes:

Network of meaningful places

For the urban fabric to create proximity in the city center, key functions must be integrated through a series of Memorable, functional and beautiful public spaces. While the physical distances between places affects on people’s willingness to move on foot, it is also a lot about visual distances. When walking in a wide open area the distance between a few typical urban blocks might feel like miles whereas in the city you get a better sense of the walkable distances. But proximity in an urban setting is also a mental thing. When walking through a pedestrian-friendly, well-crafted urban environments, the walk feels much easier already before you started it.

Prioritizing pedestrians

The concentration in the remolding of the Hyvinkää station area should be on walkability. Walkable city centers are successful business centers. “Come together” makes a clear prioritisation of traffic modes in the Hyvinkää station area towards walking, cycling and public transport. Car traffic is not banned but in most parts of the area it needs to give space to more efficient urban transit modes. Hence all urban dwellers arrive to target as pedestrians, accessibility on foot is the key element for livable cities.

Some of the key elements in the plan for pedestrian-friendly design are

- The most direct routes in the station area are reserved for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Routes are made comprehensible, accessible and visually pleasing
- The built development along pedestrian routes should be thought with a thought on the scale on the pedestrian level.
- With the bus terminals on Uudenmaankatu bridge the station area can be made prominent hotspot for urban light traffic with the enhanced connections and better bike paths and walking routes. This is made possible by transforming the Hyvinkäänkatu street in the station area to one-way street for taxis and kiss & ride purposes. This allows to make more space to sustainable modes of transport and enables the transformation of Uudenmaankatu – Siltakatu – Hyvinkäänkatu five-way crossroads to a comprehensible roundabout arrangement.

- New pedestrian alleys in the Koritsooni and Rentto areas are designed as urban streetscapes instead of suburban pathways to encourage social encounters, business activities and leisure. Imagine the nice.
- **Parking:** Walking entrances and exits to Park and ride facilities are placed on pedestrian alleys and streets to create pedestrian flows and thus business opportunities on the ground level

Vibrant, artful and Green identity

Come together aims at cherishing and further developing Hyvinkää's already strong character. The proposal creates a memorable entrance for people arriving at the station area. The identity of the station area is based on

- FF815**
- Beautiful mix of old and new building with unique character
 - art in the making in the station- Koritsooni- and Rentto areas and artists of Hyvinkää's past as murals in the underpasses
 - the lush railway park strip welcomes people with instantaneously recognizable views. Once you set your foot off the train or bus, you'll notice you've arrived in Hyvinkää.

Moderate built scale and the small-town-like atmosphere with lots of greenery is taken as a key element on designing new urban elements in the area. While the existing buildings in the competition area might be modest in scale, there are a lot of interesting buildings with unique character in the area. The new developments in the area continue on a similar path. The aim is not to build as high as possible but to create something distinctive while allowing more residents and workers to bring livelihood to the area.

The prioritization on pedestrians allows the urban core in the design area to be green without being suburban. When the streetscapes are designed with lesser space for cars a better green cover may be achieved. And when the setting e.g. when crossing the railroad requires for more open space, it is designed as a high-quality urban park

The new built developments provide lots of opportunities for artists to maintain Hyvinkää known for its art scene. The new arts and crafts quarters (C3. in the plan) offers artist residencies and house exhibition and workshop places for artists on the ground floor. The ground floor exhibition spaces and the sculpture parks in the courtyards form a visible artful entrance to the station area. In the blocks Koritsooni A and B (C11 and C12 in the plan) there are 2-storey high artisan / artist studio lofts with optimal northern lighting conditions and possibility for noisy activities facing the railway. The Future lab Hyvinkää (C4.) in Rentto area provides a platform these artist and like-minded to get together and share ideas.

Green at heart

The core of the new urban development in the western side of the track is made a green haven. The existing railway park is extended over the Hanko railway to form a continuous green heart on the west side of the main rail road. The original park is preserved and the first new part of the green strip is the topographic Railway arboretum. It acts as a landscaping and access route to Koritsooni overpass but it also displays a wide range of plants and flowers typical for railway environments. Across the Hanko railway the arboretum extends all the way to Solbo square, which is now a green urban square after the removal of excessive traffic areas. Across the Riihimäenkatu street the formerly unformed park area is made a proper park by moving the traffic on a more specific path.

The green heart is connected to the western side of the city center through 2 pedestrian bridges – the rebuilt Meriluodonsilta with the new Y-shape that better serves different directions and a new bridge from Riihimäenkatu towards Opintie educational area and further to the eastern park areas. The aim is to create a continuous urban green flow while avoiding suburban character.

The greenery is not only something to look at but key pieces to shape urban spaces and allow for ecological coherence and better storm-water management.

Healthy, active and smart living

A productive city needs productive citizens. That is why the aim of the new housing in the area is to provide healthy and active environment. This is enhanced through modern smart solutions for sharing and renting the places. While e.g. the common spaces of a residential building can be shared easily through mobile apps, the buildings in the block can have lesser m² for common spaces but with far greater quality.

The main stock of new residential buildings in the Koritsooni area are designed to create unique architecture but also to provide a productive living environment for the residents. The railway noise is blocked with the masses along the railway and streetscapes and squares around the block are made urban to encourage physical activity on foot. To provide business opportunities for the commercial spaces in the area, the western park & ride is built under Koritsooni A and B. The smart solutions allow for people parking in the premises to also use the common services in the block e.g. a gym by paying with an app. This transforms the experience to Park & ride & enjoy.

A day in future Hyvinkää

Story of a visitor's day in the renewed Hyvinkää station area:

"Today i had a meeting with a client in Hyvinkää. I arrived a bit early to catch a lunch at the food court next to the staion. It's has a nice setting in the summer. Just grab a lunch and either sit on the terrace or go hang out in the stepped park ride next to it.

After lunch I headed towards Koritsooni overpass to meet my client in Future lab Hyvinkää in rentto area. On my way I saw some cool new small electric scooter on test in the Mobility hub. The test personel were riding them up & down the bike spiral. I continued and admired some flowers at the railway arboretum, crossed the Hanko railway and headed towards Future lab through Rentto underpass. Downstairs in Rentto

FF815

met my client in the energetic winter garden event space.

After the meeting I went to feed my friend Riikka's Cat. She lives in Koritsooni-A block on the southern end of the Koritsooni area. I got inside the house with the link that Riikka sent through a mobile app. The app comes even handier when I've arrived with the car and used the park & ride facility under the courtyard. With the same app you can e.g. pay for the parking, order a car wash in the garage or use the common spaces of the building block such as the gym, sauna etc. It's great when you can fit a gym session seamlessly to your journey when you're on a tight schedule. I've also tried the sauna in the block and met this cool sculptor who lives and works in a loft in the basement level of the block. The app makes parking also a lot easier, since you get real-time data as you approach and if the garage seems to be full, you can drive on the other side of tracks.

Well, but today I came with a train so before heading to Helsinki I crossed the Meriluoto bridge to take a peak on the greenhouses on top of the eastern park & ride since there was a vegetable market today. On my way back I admired the striking appearance of the Koritsooni block. No wonder why Riikka likes to stay here in Koritsooni – it truly has a unique character 😊"