

JOHANNISBERG

REUSE OF HEALTH CARE BUILDINGS

SARK-E5035 Researching Space 26.4.–2.6.2023

Aalto University & City of Porvoo



The design brief – Creative reuse of redundant social and health care buildings

The Finnish social and health care renewal along with the challenges in maintaining the welfare state in an increasingly ageing and urbanised society significantly impacts the building stock. Many social and health care facilities particularly in smaller municipalities have become redundant due to organisational changes or spatial mismatch with new service models and changing needs of service providers. Many such buildings are also in need of extensive renovation.

How to find environmentally, socially and economically sustainable ways for reusing redundant social and health care buildings to extend their life cycle? How to adapt the spaces to changing needs and to make them more flexible? How to develop feasible operational models and hybrid service concepts based on the local needs?

The design case – Syreeni building in Johannisberg, Porvoo

The *Johannisberg area*, situated in park-like environment on a hill near the center of Porvoo, has long history as site of social and health care services since the municipal nursing home for the elderly was opened there in 1884. The main plot, owned by the City of Porvoo, has ten buildings, many of which are protected by the land use plan.

Our design case, the *Syreeni building* (Johannisbergintie 31) was completed in 1984 as the new main building of the nursing home. Designed by city architect Hans Slangus, the building has three stories and a floor area of 3014 m², comprised of common facilities, staff rooms and rooms for 40 residents. The Syreeni building is currently vacant, albeit partly furnished, after the residential care unit operating in it moved to new premises in 2019. Future plans for the building are unclear. The city has recognised its architectural value and seeks to protect that. The heavy structural walls in the interior also limit reuse possibilities. The adjacent Poppeli building (1960) is rented for a budget hotel. The city is seeking to find new uses for the buildings in Johannisberg and to add infill construction. New housing is also planned nearby. The aim is to develop Johannisberg as an age-friendly, communal and accessible neighbourhood.

The course – Schedule, process and outcomes

The project is done as part of the *SARK-E5035 Researching Space* course (9 ects) that runs 26.4.–2.6.2023. The participants are 12–20 master's students mainly from the Interior Architecture major. The course follows the principles of human-centered design and aims at fostering spatial designers' skills in critically addressing societally relevant design problems. Study themes include adaptive reuse and temporary use, spatial agency, design foresight, and design strategies for reuse. Aside from the design project there are guest lectures, readings and discussions.

The design process has six phases: 1) Analysis of the characteristics, limitations and reuse opportunities of Syreeni and the area. 2) Identification of a design focus. 3) Gathering user knowledge and mapping local needs. 4) Building alternative future scenarios. 5) Defining the overall design strategy and spatial concept. 6) Designing the spatial solution.

The main outcomes are *alternative scenarios* for the reuse of Syreeni and more detailed *spatial (and service) concepts* targeting the scenarios. The concepts are documented through spatial diagrams, site plans, floor plans, relevant axonometries and 3D views. There are 3–6 final concepts depending on the number of students.

The city representatives provide background information and comment the projects in three points: visit to the building with question and answer session (28.4.), mid-review (17.5.), and final presentations (2.6.). During the analysis and user knowledge phase, the students will be in contact with city officials and other local stakeholders.

Contact: Antti Pirinen, Senior University Lecturer, Spatial and Service Design

Aalto University ARTS, Department of Architecture, antti.pirinen@aalto.fi, +358 40 5300828

JOHANNISBERG

REUSE OF HEALTH CARE BUILDINGS

SARK-E5035 Researching Space 26.4.–2.6.2023

Aalto University & City of Porvoo

Location: Väre, Otaniementie 14, room Q203

Remote link: <https://aalto.zoom.us/j/64118313007>

Teacher in charge: Antti Pirinen, co-teacher Esa Vesmanen

COURSE SCHEDULE

WED 26.4. COURSE START

- **09:15-12:00 Course intro and design brief**
- Course overview and practicalities
- Introducing Johannisberg, architect Markku Partanen, City of Porvoo
- Background: KAKS project, Ira Verma, Aalto
- The design brief, Antti Pirinen
- **13:15-15:00 Starting the analysis task**
- Forming the groups and getting organised
- Guidelines for the analysis task
- Start of first readings (Adaptive reuse)
- Groups discuss the brief and plan the analysis

FRI 28.4. EXCURSION TO PORVOO

- **09:00 Coach leaves from the parking place behind A Bloc to Johannisbergintie 31, Porvoo**
- Visiting and documenting the Syreeni building and Johannisberg area
- Q&A session with Markku Partanen
- 13:00 Lunch at restaurant Fabriken in the Art Factory, Läntinen Aleksanterinkatu 1
- 14:30 Guided architectural tour in historical Porvoo, return to Otaniemi about 17:00

Group tasks on week 2: Completing the analysis & defining the design focus

WED 3.5. ANALYSIS RESULTS & ADAPTIVE REUSE

- 09:15-12:00 Groups present results of analysis
- Summary of key characteristics, limitations and opportunities
- Guidelines for the focus definition and ideation task
- 13:15-14:00 Discussion about first readings & start of second readings (Spatial agency)
- **14:15-15:00 Examples of adaptive reuse, Ira Verma**

FRI 5.5. LECTURE DAY – CIRCULAR DESIGN & TEMPORARY USE

- **10:00-12:00 Circular design in built environment, Antti Lehto, Aalto**
- 13:15-14:00 Discussion about second readings & start of third readings (Scenario building)
- **14:00-15:00 Architects mediating the temporary use of space, Hella Hernberg, Aalto**

Group tasks on week 3: Continuing concept ideation, studying user needs & building scenarios

WED 10.5. IDEATION RESULTS & DESIGN FORESIGHT METHODS

- 09:15-12:00 Groups present design focus and first ideas
- Guidelines for the user knowledge task
- **13:15-15:00 Design foresight methods and scenario building, AP**
- Guidelines for the scenario building task

FRI 12.5. SCENARIO BUILDING WORKSHOP

- 09:15-10:15 Discussion about third readings & start of fourth readings (Design strategies)
- 10:30-12:00 Scenario building workshop, part 1

- 13:15-15:00 Scenario building workshop, part 2

Group tasks on week 4: Completing the scenarios and user study & starting concept design

WED 17.5. MID-REVIEW & DESIGN STRATEGIES

- **09:15-12:00 Groups present scenarios, concept ideas and user knowledge**
- Commentators: Markku Partanen & Esa Vesmanen
- **13:15-14:00 Design strategies for flexible and hybrid use, Esa Vesmanen**
- 14:10-14:30 Guidelines for the design documentation

FRI 19.5. TUTORING ON THE OVERALL CONCEPT

- 09:15-10:15 Discussion about fourth readings
- 10:30-15:00 Tutoring sessions for groups (45 min.)

Group tasks on weeks 5 & 6: Making concept documentation and designing the spatial implementation

WED 24.5. TUTORING ON SPATIAL DESIGN

- 09:15-11:00 Peer tutoring session
- 12:00-14:00 Tutoring clinic

FRI 26.5. TUTORING ON SPATIAL DESIGN

- 9:30-14:00 Tutoring sessions for groups (45 min.)

WED 31.5. OPTIONAL TUTORING IN ZOOM

- 09:30-14:00 Tutoring available by request (45 min.)

FRI 2.6. FINAL PRESENTATIONS Q203

- **09:15-12:00 Groups present final concepts**
- Commentators: Markku Partanen, Laura Arpiainen & Ira Verma
- Deadline for missing assignments Wed 7.6.
- Course grade by midsummer