The Otaniemi area is situated in the eastern part of Espoo – practically in the centre of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area these days. The area is recognized as the cradle of modern Finnish technology and industry as well as the main campus of Aalto University.

Before the construction of the campus, Otaniemi was part of the centuries-old Espoo rural landscape. The need for technical laboratories as well as the rise in the numbers of students in higher education required a move of the Helsinki University of Technology away from Hietalahti as well as investment in the construction of a higher education infrastructure. The State purchased Otaniemi Manor for this purpose in 1949.

Architect Alvar Aalto won the area’s design competition along with his spouse, Aino Aalto, who succumbed to a difficult illness over the course of the competition. The plan was deployed as the basis for the area in 1950. It included not only the State research premises and Helsinki University of Technology but sports facilities and a student village as well. In the same connection, the area received its current nomenclature.

Part of the Teekkari Village and the sports facilities were the first buildings to be completed for the 1952 Olympic Games. After the end of the Games, Otaniemi has frequently functioned as a sports village for European and World Championship events. Of the research institutes, the first to be completed were the Geological Survey of Finland building and the University of Technology’s sawmill, which were needed not only for research in wood technology but as a material supplier for the construction of the area.

Due to a strike, the planning of the Otaniemi area was extended to the end of the 1950s, when the first larger buildings for the Helsinki University of Technology were completed. The first part of the university’s main building was opened for use in 1964, and the inauguration was held in connection with the promotion ceremonies in 1966.

Otaniemi grew into a nucleus for research supporting Finnish industry during the 1970s and 1980s. Approximately 40,000 people currently work in the area. That number is set to grow in the years to come as Aalto University concentrates its operations on Otaniemi. (Panu Nykänen, Ph.D.)

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Walking on Campus

This brochure invites you to familiarize yourself with the buildings, nature and stories in Otaniemi.

Where is the most obvious ‘fifth façade’? Which building is located at Otaniemi’s highest elevation?

The campus is continuing to develop: the West Metro section will launch its operations, a new university building will be completed at Aino Square, and residential construction will be increased. Regional planning is directed by sustainable development and the goal is self-sufficiency in energy.
1. **OTAKAARI 1**
The main building of the former Helsinki University of Technology, designed by Alvar and Elissa Aalto, was completed in 1964. It dominates the central area of the campus from a small hill where the main building of the Ota-

2. **THE LIBRARY**
The library building designed by Alvar Aalto was completed in 1963. It is Finland’s oldest library of functional design. The structure is clearly connected with the former main building next to it with respect to its size and outline. The furnishing in the interiors, designed by Aalto and Elin Tormäki, area fixed part of the whole: a large number of the shelves, tables, counters and lamps are original items. Address: Otaniementie 9

3. **SHOPPING CENTRE**
At the outset of the 1960s, Alvar Aalto designed a shopping centre and bank building for the centre of Otaniemi. The copper gabled roof of the long, one- and-a-half storey building culminates in a fifth, clamped-like façade, which descends in front of the busi-

4. **HEATING PLANT**
The campus-based heating plant building designed by Alvar Aalto was realised at the outset of the 1960s. The most visible sec-

5. **SAW BUILDING**
The saw building designed by Alvar Aalto is the oldest building on campus, completed in 1955. For a long time, it was merely a cold shell on top of a sawing line, as the building did not even have insulation. The saw served the Helsinki University of Technol-

6. **OTAHALLI**
Otahalli Sports Centre, designed by Alvar Aalto, was completed for the 1952 Olympics. The building’s larger hall was at one time the country’s largest structure of its kind, and the apes between its wooden rafters is 45 metres. Otaniemi’s sports centre boasts a grassy field, grounds for track and field, a skating area, two outdoor basketball courts, three tennis courts and a jogging track. Address: Luolamiehentie 7

7. **JÄMERÄNTAIVAL 1**
This building, completed in 1966, is the only dormitory on campus designed by Al-

8. **DIPOLI**
The Student Union building designed by Reima and Raili Pietilä was completed in 1966. The materials of the structure, which represent organic architecture, derive from Finnish nature: pine, copper and natu-

9. **TEKNOLOGFÖRENINGEN**
The Swedish speakers’ society house, part of the former Helsinki University of Tech-

10. **TEEKKARI VILLAGE**
Teekkari Village was planned and designed by Heikki Siren and Matti Melakari. The first stage of the village — nine ‘point’ houses - was completed for the 1952 Olympics. The construction of these buildings represents the world’s largest stunt ever performed by students: engineering students helped on-

11. **SERVIN MÖKKI**
Kajsa and Heikki Siren designed this stu-

12. **OTANIEMI CHAPEL**
The chapel, designed by Kajsa and Heikki Siren, is situated on the highest hill in the Otaniemi campus area. It stands on a plateau on the hilltop, resulting in a splendid series of premises from the front courtyard to the low and reed-filled gulf, it is bordered by

13. **POLYTECHNICAL STUDENTS’ MUSEUM**
The Polytechnical Students’ Museum is an absolute jewel of its kind. According to the International Council of Museums (ICOM), acting under Unesco, this is the board and structures that have left visible. The original Servin Majun mökki has evident-

14. **VÄRE**
Verstas Architects is designing a new building for Aalto University. It will enclose the campus area with a public square forming a heart, together with the former main building and library designed by Alvar Aal-

15. **MANOR ESTATES**
An impressive utilitarian and decorative gar-

OTHER BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY ALVAR AALTO IN THE AREA:

19. VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Metallimiekonpuisto 2 (VTT Lining Technology Laboratory, 1985/1962)
20. Aalto University, Lämpömiehenkuja 2 (VTT Thermal Engineering Laboratory, 1963)
23. VTT, Biologinkatu 5 (VTT Osa and Pae Technology Laboratory, 1960)
24. Aalto University, Puunmiehenkuja 2 (TKK/VTT Wood Technology Laboratory, 1966)
25. Aalto University, Otakaari 8 (Otaniemi Administrative Board Offices and Workshops, 1960)

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