

## ARCHITECTURE IN KVARKEN – TWO COUNTRIES - A WORLD OF CONTRAST



Get to know the modern cities as well as the old wooden towns in Kvarken. During an architecture tour, you will get to know Kvarken from an architectural perspective, its history, as well as stories about people who lived and live along the coasts of the Gulf of Bothnia.

Höga Kusten

Umeå

Vaasa

Seinäjoki

Kristinestad

Pietarsaari/Jakobstad

Kokkola

**KVARKEN DESTINATIONS**

Two countries, a world of contrasts

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## Höga Kusten and Örnsköldsvik

Örnsköldsvik, even called Ö-vik, is part of the High Coast and its fantastic nature.



**Naturum Höga Kusten** - is designed by White Architects.

Located in the shadow of the mighty Skuleberget. Naturum Höga Kusten, is an attention-grabbing building inspired by the nature that surrounds it. Interesting geometric patterns and angular displacements give the building rich and varied expression. It is precisely the rough and anything but 90-degree feeling that characterizes nature on the High Coast. The High Coast is characterized by odd angles and variation in rhythm, scale and color. The glazed long side represents the ice. The inner concrete wall symbolizes the mountain.



**ArkNat** – is a combination of architecture and nature.

Architect students from all over Scandinavia were invited to create unique “art” that reminds of typical wind shelters in the nature. As result you will find nine fantastic creations, places to rest or to have a picnic, located along the 128 km long High coast Trail.





**Ting 1** – is residential building in Örnsköldsvik

Ting 1 is designed by Gert Wingårdh, who was inspired by Bengt Lindström's art. The painting "Women's dance" has been the inspiration and was reproduced on the house facades. The facades of the lower ten floors are clad with glazed ceramics and the upper floor is clad in painted sheet metal. Facades, roofs, and undersides for balconies are all colored in Bengt Lindström's color scale, in eight shades of red, yellow, and green. The ceramic tiles are consistently 60 x 60 centimeters in size, and this size has partly determined the placement of windows and balconies.



**The High Coast Bridge** - is a mighty piece of architecture that you pass if you drive on the main road, E4, between the city of Härnösand and the village of Ullånger.

The building of the bridge was initiated in 1993 and was finished in 1997. The Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco was used as a role model. With its 180 meter above the water surface, the High Coast Bridge is one of the tallest buildings in Sweden. The span of the bridge is with its 1210 meters is the longest in Sweden.

## The growing city of Umeå



Youthful and open university city, which despite its location at the same latitude as Alaska and Greenland, is one of the fastest growing cities in Sweden. New, modern and almost shameless architecture has in recent decades, been woven together with old brick or wooden buildings in a dynamic and exciting way. Again, wood is used in construction, but polished glass is also very prominent in the newly built buildings. Together, the contrasts create architectural gems of a rarely seen kind.



**Bildmuseet** - was designed by Henning Larsen Architects in collaboration with White. The building was nominated in 2013 for the Swedish Kasper Salin Prize and the European Mies van der Rohe Prize and has been described as one of the world's most beautiful university museums.

The high-profile building of Siberian larch in seven floors on the Umeå Art Campus by the banks of the Ume River, next door to the Academy of Fine Arts, the Institute of Design, the School of Architecture, and the Science Center Curiosum.





**Väven and Stora Hotellet** – The Culture House Väven (2014) rises above surrounding elderly buildings as white high-rolling weaves. Väven was designed by Snöhetta and White architects and is built with a connection to Stora Hotellet (1894), through an exciting indoor square. City library, cinema, two hotels, children's culture center, theater salons, Women's History Museum, small shops, and restaurants are housing in the building complex.



**Umeå Östra station** - is an urban development project, a station building and part of the large regional development work with a new and more efficient railway connection between Umeå-Stockholm. The station building is also an example of the region's work to use wood constructively in larger buildings. The advanced glulam frame, designed as a net bag, gives Umeå Östra a distinctive character that lasts over time. Planned by White architects.



**Utopia / Glitne** – Shopping mall, is built together with a high hotel, offices and nice penthouse apartments. All this in the most central place in the city, at Rådhusorget. In some parts of the block, there are old brick facades, and other parts are built of glass and wood - all in a cheeky mix.

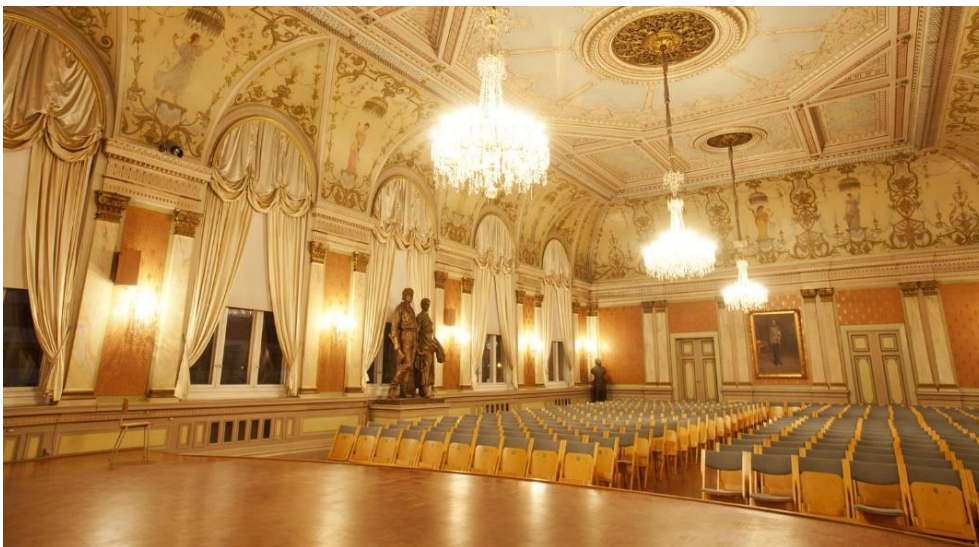
**Sara Lidman tunnel** - is a 170 m long walk and bicycle tunnel of handsome, green glass mosaic. Tunnel is a tribute to the author and poet Sara Lidman. Excerpts from her poems are written on the walls and on the ground.



## Vaasa – The Sunny City on the West Coast



In 1854, two years after that Vasa was burned down to the ground, the Swedish born Carl Axel Setterberg, became the city architect of Vasa and was commissioned with drawing up the new city. The new city had a modern square and was divided by wide streets. Setterberg also designed many of the city's public and private buildings. The church and the surrounding public buildings as well the lush parkland contribute to the city centre's historical and monumental stamp. In year 2000, Setterberg was voted the most significant person of Vaasa ever.



**Vasa city hall** - was built in 1879-83 according to drawings by the Swedish architect Magnus Isæus. The building materials were brick and wood. The assembly room's decorative paintings are made by Salomo Wuorio from Helsinki. The town hall was restored in the early 1960s. On the ground floor, which was previously used as a fire station, is today the Vaasa Art Gallery, which is part of the Ostrobothnia Museum.



**The Court of Appeal**- is one of C. A. Setterberg's most important public architecture works. Setterberg combined the Romanesque in the building with the heaviness of neo-Gothic decorative style elements in corner towers, buttresses, and window frames. When the county government moved to new premises on Palosaari in the 1980s, the building was renovated to meet the needs of the Court of Appeal. Some of the rooms from the Setterberg-era interior were restored, and parts were restored by scraping out abundant Neo-Renaissance-style fragments.



**Vaasa Church / Trefaldighets Kyrkan** - Carl Axel Setterberg had taken influences from the German and from English brick Gothic and, brought them to Vaasa. The town church, completed in 1867, is brick-built and represents the neo-Gothic style. The neo-Gothic style features of the church include flat towers, arched windows, and brick ornamentation. The interior of the church is made of wood, painted imitation oak.





**The university of Vasa** –The city's old cotton mill also houses part of the university.

These buildings were finished in 1994 and planned in the spirit of the former county architect Carl Axel Setterberg. The part of the university placed in the old mill is called "Fabriikki" (English: Factory). The whole campus is near the waterfront and surrounded by park areas. It is sometimes called the most beautiful campus in Finland.



**Ropnäs Church** - Planned by Aarno Ruusuvuori is an example of Finnish architecture from the 60s with new concrete churches.

The idea is a grey snail on the muddy seashore. The grey tail crawls around in a semicircle - look at the yard with the annex! There is only one window to the church hall. The sunlight forms a sharp triangle on the central altar wall. In the untreated concrete inside the church, you can still see the imprints of the form boards on the pulpit itself. The floor becomes a warm contrast with its red brick color.

## Seinäjoki in footsteps of Alvar Aalto



Seinäjoki is a university city with pleasant urban environments, short distances, and diverse forms of housing characterise the everyday life in the city.

The city is known for its unique administrative and cultural centre, designed by the architect Alvar Aalto - Finland's most notable and internationally renowned architect. The artistic style of Aalto's architecture developed from the clear functionalism of the first period towards more varied modernistic expression represented by the Aalto Centre. During his exceptionally wide and varied career, Aalto designed glassware, individual houses, and culture buildings as well as entire residential districts, industrial communities, and city centres. In his architecture, Aalto wanted to preserve the connection between human and nature. Down to details, he designed all his buildings as comprehensive works of art. Seinäjoki is also the location of the Defence Corps Building built in 1925, the only unaltered work from Aalto's youth.

**The Aalto Center** - As an architectural whole, the Aalto Centre is unique in the world. It



is the administrative and cultural center of the City. It comprises six buildings, designed by Alvar Aalto and completed between 1960 and 1968, as well as the Civic Square completed 1988.





**The City Hall** - The dark blue ceramic bar-shaped bricks of the facade glimmer in different lights.” The facade must be of the Seinäjoki City Hall, not of anything else”, Aalto reasoned about the choice of the material. In the City Council’s debating chamber, which due to its height resembles a tower, the seats of the council members are placed radially. The same composition is also reflected in the facade. The City Hall’s west wing, which was originally intended for residential use, was in the 1970–80’s altered for use as workspaces.



**Apila library** – The library’s lending hall, has the shape of a hand fan, and is the building’s most distinctive visual feature. The daylight, which is beautifully reflected through the latticework, is elegantly directed towards the ceiling, walls, and shelves. The Aalto library was restored to its original appearance and was opened for public in May 2015. The new and the old library, which are neighbours, were connected to each other by means of an underground basement storey. The library also shows the biggest collection of Aalto’s glass pieces in the world.



**Cross of the Plains Church / Lakeuden Risti** - In 1951, Aalto participated in an architectural competition, where Seinäjoki was looking for someone to plan a church. According to the competition jury, Lakeuden Risti was a superior plan. The roof of the cathedral becomes lower towards the chancel and the floor slopes towards the altar. The luminaire, the chandeliers in the church room, the communion vessels of silver and the altar cloths as well as the stained-glass windows in the chapel and the fountain at the foot of the belfry have been planned by Aalto.



**Seinäjoki City Theatre** - Aalto prepared the drawings for the theatre in 1968, but the building was completed under architect Elissa Aalto's (Alvar Aalto's widow) management, 1987. The facade of the building is covered with pale white rod-shaped ceramic tiles. The open entrance halls have been decorated with furniture from Artek. Aalto's unique series with six reliefs of bent wood can be seen in the entrance halls.



Kristinestad or Christinae Stadh anno dazumal

- a harmonic and picturesque seaside setting



The straight lines adored during the Renaissance still play a crucial role in the street plan of the city centre of Kristinestad. The development of the last hundreds of years is evident in the various styles of wooden houses that line the narrow streets and lanes. The crown jewels are the Empire style merchants' trade buildings. The seaside blocks have previously housed ship owners and the rest of the bourgeoisie. The further away from the seaside, the smaller the houses become - following the social classes. There are almost 300 wooden dwellings and outbuildings of the old city centre that are protected by city plan regulations. The building guidelines and the inclination to preserving the old style have had a delightful effect on improving the condition of the houses in recent decades.

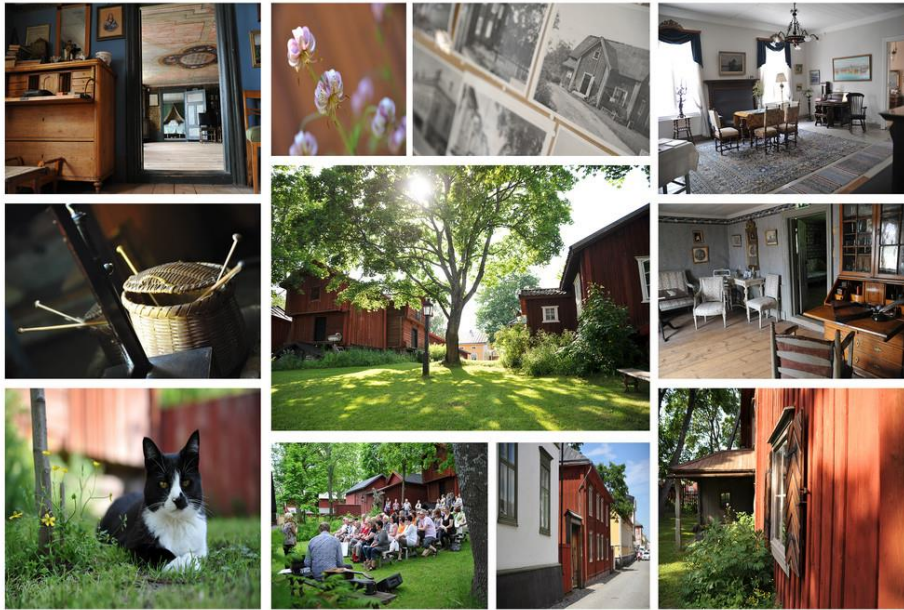


**Unique customs buildings** - dating back to 1680 and 1720, reminding us that customs duty used to be charged to people arriving in the city during the Swedish reign. The old customs house from 1680 is located at the end of Strandgatan, in the northern part of the

old city plan. And another one, from 1720 close to the old wooden church Ulrica Eleonora.

**The Stone bridge** - leading to the market square is over 300 metres in length, possibly the longest bridge of its kind in the Nordic countries. The bridge was first opened to public in 1845 and it is a powerful monument commemorating the cooperation of the province's inhabitants.





**The Lebell's merchant house** - one of the best-preserved buildings in Finland, that reflects the living environment among 18th-century merchant citizens.

In addition to the two-storey residential house that is located along the street line, there is also another residential building and four outbuildings on the plot. Lebell's merchant house is today a museum. The interior of the house is truly authentic: the 18th century baroque hall is the only one of its kind in Finland, with original ceiling paintings and wallpaper, and probably the country's oldest green tiled stove!



**The Carlsro museum** - built in 1896 as a summer villa by the commercial counsellor and ship-owner Carl Alfred Carlström.

The high society of the city built summer villas and lived a good life on the banks of the Storträsket at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Carlström went bankrupt. Carlsro was turned into a summer hotel and had several owners. Today the villa is a museum and during summer concerts are arranged in the museum.





**The Ulrika Eleonora church** - one of the oldest buildings in the city and is also one of the best-preserved 18th century wooden churches in Finland.

This is a typical seaside church complete with a votive ship hanging from the ceiling. The ship building skills are also otherwise evident in the architecture of the church, for example in the ceiling structure. Due to faults in the construction phase, the tower leans to the south and is sometimes popularly called "The Leaning Tower of Kristinestad". The widowed queen Ulrika Eleonora has given the church its name.



Around the city, several **Romantic wells** have been preserved from the time when water was carried into the homes. Now, clear spring water flows down to the taps from gravel ridges. In the background, to the right, the city hall designed by E.B. Lohrmann, completed in 1856.

While walking along narrow streets and alleys you can admire the many **decorative gates** at the entrance of the wooden houses expressing rich carpenters joy characteristic for the old town.



## Kokkola - Neristan & Oppistan



**Kokkola's old town – Neristan** is with its 12 blocks one of Finland's most valuable and best preserved urban wooden districts. The city of Kokkola was founded by Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus in 1620. Throughout the 17th century the city was one of the most important tar suppliers on the Ostrobothnian coast and, in the 18th century, Finland's most important exporter of tar. The tar trade, as well as the shipbuilding and burgher's trading and shipping operations, allowed the rapid economic expansion of the city and a high standard of living. Seafaring and trading also brought education and culture from other parts of the world to the city. The craftsmen's and sailors' quarter was called Neristan, while the merchants and ship-owners lived in Oppistan.



**Rahms' House - Isokatu** is the city's old main street. Along it the city's richest merchants and ship-owners built their houses. The Rahms' house on the corner of Isokatu and Pakkahuoneenkatu is one of the oldest preserved burgher houses in Kokkola. It was built in 1753 by

ship-owner Johan Rahm inspired by the baroque style of the Kaarlela vicarage. In its day, Rahm's trading house was one of the most successful in the city. According to a testament from Rahm's wife, the trading house's wealth in 1758 was around 150,000 kuparitaaleris (copper coins), which back then could have bought 50 city houses in Kokkola.





**The Mannerheim Square/Town Hall** - The city's old market square.

The current name of Mannerheim Square was brought into use in 1942. On the edge of the square there is the imperial-style old Town Hall (dating from 1842), which was designed by Carl Ludvig Engel and built by the ship-owner and commercial councillor Anders Donner. Over the years the Town Hall has acted as the city jail, customs house, magistrate's court, and treasurer's court. The city's first permanent hospital, the Libeck hospital, was opened on the upper floor of the building in 1853.



**The Children's School** - Finland's first school for small children was set up in Kokkola in 1839 by ship-owners Anders Donner and Matts Hongell. Right from the start, 38 pupils registered at the school. Pupils were given a midday meal and their parents could bring them to school as early as 6 a.m. and collect them at 9 p.m. at the latest. A new school building was inaugurated in 1842. The school continued to operate until 1872, when the decision to establish state schools was made.



**Roos' house** - The early 19th century was a period of wealth for Kokkola. One of the most notable private buildings in the city's history is the stone house built by Andreas Roos Jr. in 1813, which stands on the corner of Isokatu and Pitkänsillankatu. The building's architecture contains influences from both Gustavian neo-classicism and Rococo architecture. The Roos family were wealthy merchants and ship-owners. In his declaration of wealth for 1800, Anders Roos Sr. was Finland's richest man. During his lifetime Kokkola was among the country's leading seafaring towns.

Nowadays the building serves as home to the K.H. Renlund museum. In its spaces the valuable art collection donated by commercial councillor Karl Herman Renlund to the City of Kokkola, as well as changing art exhibitions. In the yard, photographer Leo Torppa's camera collection is on display in the old salt storage.



**Kaarlela Church** (16th century) - The medieval stone church was built between 1500 and 1530. It is one of the most magnificent Finnish neoclassical church buildings. The church furniture has valuable artefacts. The altar wall of Kaarlela Church was painted by the well-known church painter Johan Backman in 1749. In addition, the pulpit of the church is the oldest pulpit in the country in continuous and permanent use. The chair is a representative of the Renaissance and beautiful craftsmanship. The construction of stone churches was expensive, compared to a wooden church, about 50 times more money was needed. The church is currently used by the Finnish congregation in Kokkola and the Swedish congregation in Kokkola.





**The Pedagogium** - is Finland's oldest surviving profane wooden building within an urban setting. It was completed in 1696 and represented the modern architecture of the time. In addition to the school room there was the Synod house, where the Ostrobothnian clergy would convene.

## Skata -An old wooden house district in Pietarsaari/Jakobstad



Pietarsaari's Pohjoisnummi, an old wooden house district is called **Skata** by the region's residents. It is a protected district - as it is one of the best-preserved wooden house districts in Finland. The first blocks of Skata were designed in the late 18th century. The houses in the area were mostly inhabited by sailors and artisans with their families. Later, the area was inhabited by tobacco factory workers. Life was scarce and the scarcity is reflected in the small size of the houses and plots. However, you will find details made with professionalism and piety.

Today, the area is a wooden house district of about 22 hectares and 40 residential blocks. Each block is divided into 4-6 plots and some of the plots are divided in two. The names of the streets, such as Laivurinkatu – Shipper street, Luotsikatu – Port pilot street and Taljasepänkatu -Blacksmith street, remind us of the city's long history as a shipping and shipbuilding city.



### Fire station

The Art Nouveau Fire station was inaugurated in 1912. The house was designed by the Danish, but in Sweden active architect Torben Grut. He also designed the Stockholm Stadium for the 1912 Olympics. The similarity of these buildings is remarkable. Today, the building is mostly used by Finnish and Swedish amateur theatres. On the ground floor of the house, in the former fire truck hall, the premises for the new restaurant, which will open in 2021, will be renovated.





**Pedersöre Church** - one of the oldest medieval churches in Ostrobothnia.

The year 1250 above the main entrance, comes from a rather old and uncertain historical record. The oldest parts of the present church date from the church that was probably built in the 15th century. Reconstruction of the Church began in 1787. A difficult task was entrusted to 33-year-old Jacob Rijf. Fortunately, the drawings approved by King Gustav III were not fully followed. Thus, the beautiful 65-meter-high spire of the tower was saved for posterity. However, it was destroyed in a fire in July 1985, together with the church's altarpiece and organ. The new altarpiece "Timeless Time" painted by Jukka Noponen in 1991 shows the setting of the Lord's Supper like all his well-known predecessors. The painting is the fourth in a row with Schröder's beautiful frames from 1705.

After the fire, the completely renovated church was reopened as Advent in 1986. The fully mechanical organ has 39 voices and dates from 1988. This fifth organ of the church is made by the Danish Marcussen & Son. The 15th-century wooden statue of the Madonna is part of the altar cabinet. The 14-piece candlestick donated by the Skruf family dates from 1867.

The bottom layer of the Ostrobothnian-style belfry is made of stone. It was built under the direction of Thomas Rijf and Matti Honga in 1769-1775. One of Tapuli's bells dates from 1488. Probably the bell cast in Tallinn was originally in the Turku Cathedral, from which Jacob de la Gardie acquired it in 1615 and donated it to the church of Pedersöre, which was in his province. The octagonal bone room in the northeast corner of the stone wall of the churchyard was made in 1775 under the direction of Thomas Rijf.



**City Hall and Strengberg's clock** - The red-brick building, completed in the late 19th century, today serves as Pietarsaari City Hall. However, the building has a history as a Strengberg tobacco factory. Designed by architect Torben Grut, the newer yellow building was completed in 1909. The magnificent clock on the roof of the building is Finland's largest outdoor clock. The clock can well be considered a symbol of the rapid industrialization of the city.



**Pietarsaari/Jakobstad Gymnasium and High School** - The Jakobstads Gymnasium and Pietarsaari High School operate in the Art Nouveau style on the ridge of the park. The Art Nouveau part of the building was designed by architect Bertel Ljung in 1904. The extensions were completed in the 1960s and the newest part in the 21st century.





**The Malm House** (Malmin talo) is built by Peter Malm jr. in 1835-1838. The building was designed by Anders Fredrik Granstedt. Malm procured lime from Estonia, cornice stones from Riga and brass door hinges, handles and other decorations from Stockholm. Granstedt's drawings were followed for the layout of the room, the floor plan and mainly also for the facades. After a Chamber and Shipping Company period, the building passed to the Donner family, who donated it to the city of Pietarsaari in 1908 as a museum and library. In the backyard of the building there are: a typical, small residential house from the end of 1700s, a barn, a shop, workerflat from 1950s, an old hair salon, as well as a cottage and a shed where sails, ropes and other important equipment for the big ships were stored.