

This design for the new Helsinki Guggenheim has been inspired by the unique harbour location and the artistic traditions of its Finnish and Nordic roots, combined with the Guggenheim Foundation's values and ethos. The proposal is to develop social, artistic and educational spaces in a building that clings to the Nordic coast and skims the waves like a landing swan.

The building is low to convey the feeling of calmness, and responds to the space around it, making it light and airy in the summer and cosy and comfortable through the winter. The internal areas are created by the large number of columns that rise like native Finnish tree trunks to hold up the roof. The internal staircases are majestic and wide and give excellent vistas of the internal space. The range of social areas, such as the shop and cafes, makes best use of the views of the harbour.