

Press Summary

A fluid, sculptural building, evoking maritime forms, recognizes the site's location along the water and harbor. Unique to its context in Helsinki, it expresses the dynamic mission of the museum as an agent of change enlivening the urban environment and as a progressive venue for enjoying artworks.

The building form is strong and iconic as seen from the city and across the harbor. Yet its scale is human, with fine-grained articulation similar to that of adjacent historic buildings. Recalling and utilizing the Finish tradition of innovative wood construction, the building is shaped with a series of structural wood ribs, like the framing of a boat hull. An envelope of electronically tintable dynamic glass controls interior light levels while preserving views. In keeping with Finland's strong connection between architecture and nature, and since artwork is best viewed in natural light, the adaptable interior can feel as open as being outside.