Orchestra by the riverbank. Turku Music Centre Fuuga by PES-Architects

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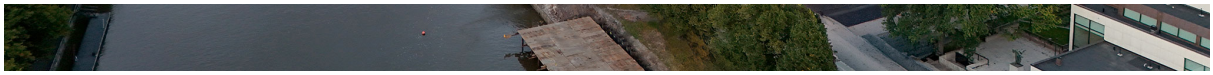
Architecture practice PES-Architects has designed the new Fuuga Music Centre in Turku, Finland. Together with the WAM Contemporary Art Museum—an iconic Brutalist-style building that has recently reopened—and the City Theatre, Fuuga is part of a transformation of the Aura River waterfront in Turku.

Fuuga will house the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the oldest orchestras in the world. The building provides 15,300 m² of space dedicated to music, including a concert hall with 1,342 seats and a multi-purpose hall with 321 seats.

Fuuga, designed by PES-Architects, is the new home of one of the world's oldest orchestras: the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra. The building offers 15,300 m² dedicated to music, including a 1,342-seat concert hall and a 321-seat multipurpose hall, expanding the cultural facilities of Turku, Finland's oldest city.

Located on the banks of the Aura River, the building features rounded forms and undulating interior walls inspired by the flow of water, the movement of people, and the region's natural materials. The acoustic design was developed by Kahle Acoustics in collaboration with Akukon. The integration of architecture and acoustics creates spaces designed to provide an exceptional musical experience.





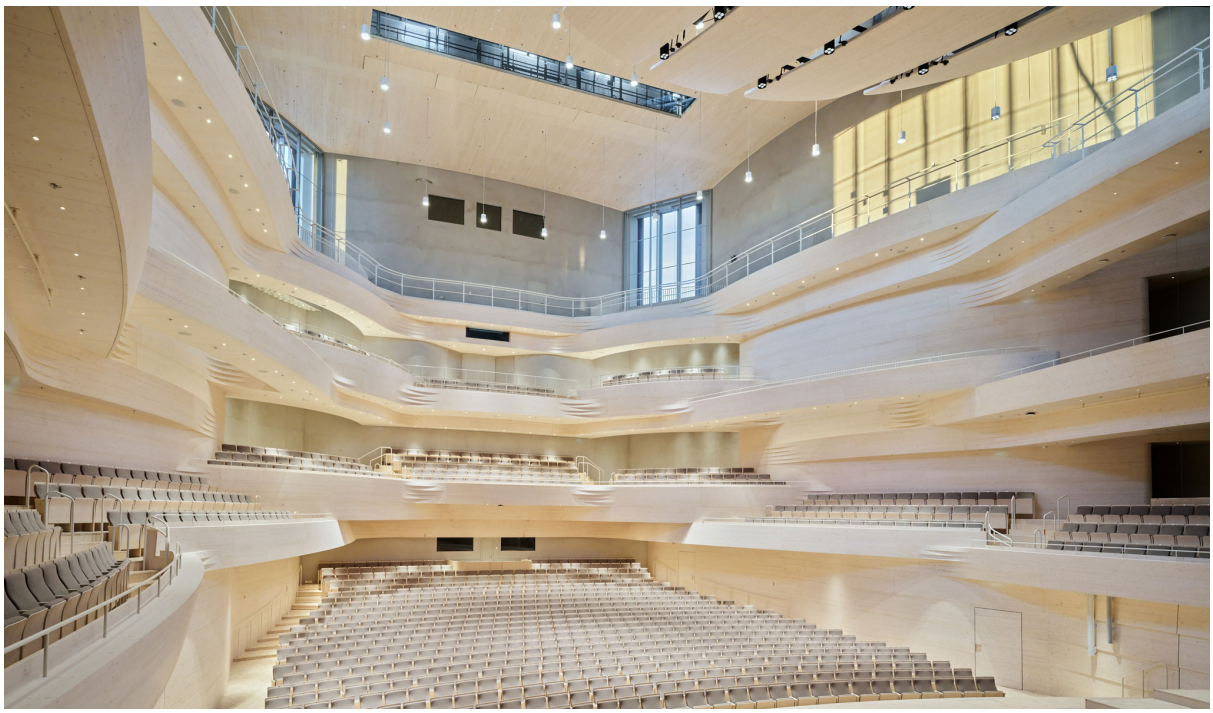
Turku Music Centre Fuuga by PES-Architects. Photograph by Marc Goodwin.

In addition to its concert halls and multipurpose spaces, Fuuga remains open to the public throughout the year, offering restaurants, a wine bar, and a landscaped rooftop terrace overlooking the Aura River. In line with Turku's sustainability goals, the building features 260 rooftop solar panels, which provide approximately one-third of its annual energy consumption.

Alongside the WAM Museum of Contemporary Art —a recently reopened Brutalist building— and the Municipal Theatre, Fuuga forms part of the transformation of the Aura River waterfront, strengthening Turku's position as a cultural and leisure destination in Northern Europe.

“The opening of Fuuga marks a new chapter in Turku’s nearly 800-year history. It is a major investment in culture and community, and the people of Turku have already embraced it as their own. Fuuga has quickly become a new landmark for our city and a powerful symbol of its transformation. Together with the Turku City Theatre and the WAM Museum of Contemporary Art, it forms a unique cultural hub along our evolving riverfront. I am confident that Fuuga’s striking timber architecture, pioneering acoustics and world-class artistic programme will make it a must-visit destination for international music lovers.”

Piia Elo, Mayor of Turku.





Turku Music Centre Fuuga by PES-Architects. Photograph by Marc Goodwin.

Architecture Designed Around Acoustics
PES-Architects designed the building's form, materials, and interior geometry with acoustics as the central consideration.

The main hall, with 1,342 seats, reinterprets the classic shoebox configuration through a more compact space and balconies oriented towards the stage, improving sightlines and bringing the audience closer to the musicians.

The acoustic design was developed in collaboration with specialists and musicians, using 3D modelling and simulation tools from Aalto University's sound laboratory. This research helped optimise sound quality from every seat and adapt the hall to different musical genres, both acoustic and amplified.



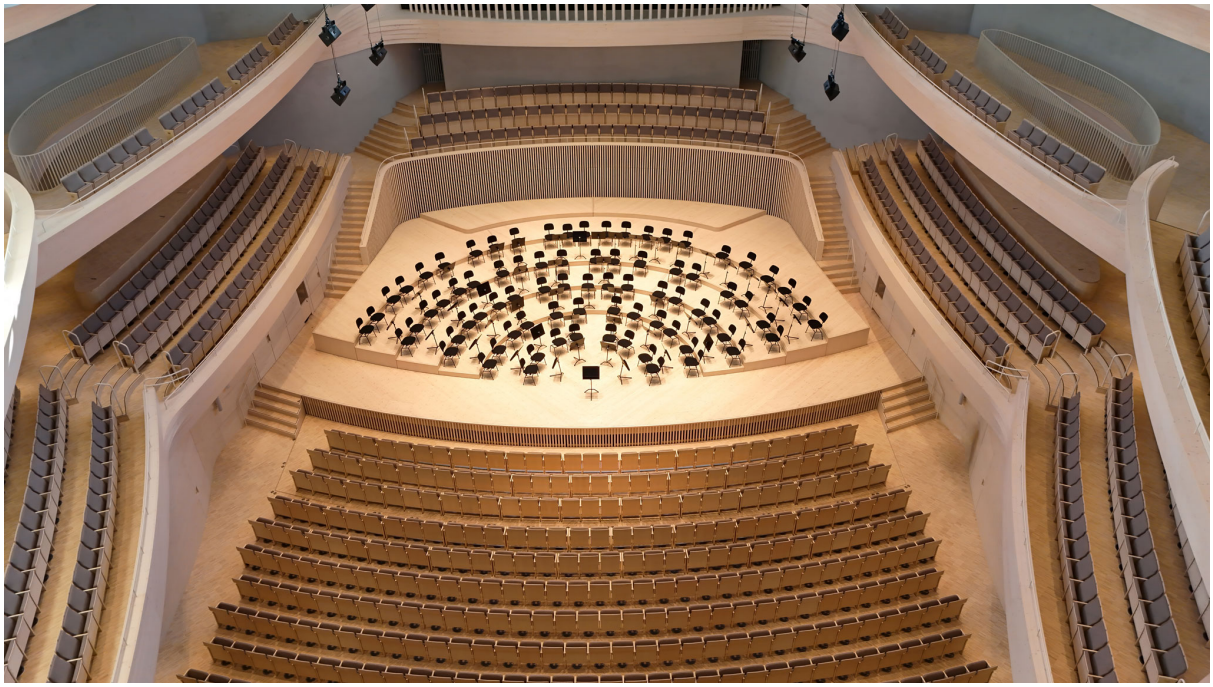


Turku Music Centre Fuuga by PES-Architects. Photograph by Marc Goodwin.

“Few concert hall projects are conceived with acoustics so fundamentally embedded in every stage of the design process. As the new home of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, Fuuga enables us to reach new artistic ambitions while sharing exceptional musical experiences with audiences from Finland and around the world. It will strengthen our ability to attract international musicians and audiences, while drawing more visitors to Turku and reinforcing the city’s position as a leading cultural destination. For artists and audiences alike, it offers an intimate and immersive listening experience that will place Turku firmly on the international cultural map.”

Nikke Isomöttönen, CEO of Turku Philharmonic Orchestra.

The main hall is characterised by its curved forms, warm tones, and use of solid spruce wood, a material closely linked to Finnish building traditions and the manufacture of musical instruments. Skylights bring natural light into the interior, making the upper part of the building a prominent feature during the day and an illuminated landmark at night.



Turku Music Centre Fuuga by PES-Architects. Photograph by Marc Goodwin.

The interior contrasts with the angular geometry of the façade, clad in pre-patinated copper, establishing a dialogue with the nearby Turku Municipal Theatre and government building. The vertical windows offer views of the surroundings, while the ceramic cladding in the foyers references the local industrial tradition. At street level, a curved glass façade strengthens the building's connection with the public space.

Inspired by the Aura River and Turku's historic architecture, Fuuga becomes part of the waterfront as a new cultural venue open to the city.

“Our ambition was to create an exceptional home for music that also feels deeply connected to its place – open, welcoming and approachable.

Transparent facades offer glimpses into the building, while the street-level restaurant and events in the foyer invite people to step inside and make Fuuga part of their everyday lives.

That connection to place extends to the roof, where a public garden gives green space back to the city.

In the main hall, we utilised sculpted timber forms that bring performers and listeners closer together. The hall’s character comes from the meeting of the familiar and the extraordinary: Finnish spruce, an everyday material, with its knots left visible, shaped through advanced digital design and craftsmanship.”

Tuomas Silvennoinen, Chief Designer of PES-Architects.





Turku Music Centre Fuuga by PES-Architects. Photograph by Jussi Virkkumaa.

“Fuuga is the outcome of decades of research and practical experience in the acoustic design of concert halls. It is a concert hall with a distinctive acoustic character, which does not just serve as a backdrop to the music but actively contributes to shaping the orchestra’s sound. It can therefore be understood as a large acoustic instrument played by the orchestra. One that allows you to hear all details of the music while simultaneously enhancing its emotional impact by fully enveloping you in sound.”

Eckhard Kahle, Founder of Kahle Acoustics.

A World-Class Programme for a New Cultural Landmark
Fuuga's programme is developed in collaboration with the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra and various music festivals. Its inaugural season brings together internationally acclaimed performers, including Pekka Kuusisto, Michael Mayo, Viktoria Tolstoy, and Jacob Karlzon. In May 2027, it will also host the Berlin Philharmonic.

Founded in 1790, the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the oldest orchestras in the world. Its programme combines the symphonic repertoire with other musical genres and features renowned international conductors and soloists. The orchestra begins a new chapter with its move to Fuuga.