

Professional Practice Afternoon 2025



Program

15.00 Get to know SAFA / Anni Varis, SAFA

15:15 SAFA membership and benefits / Katri Laakso, SAFA

15:30 Working as an architect in Finland / Advisers Jussi Nousiainen, Tiina Henry-Biabaud, TEK

16: 00 The KOKO Unemployment Fund / Lawyer Elina Johansson

16:20 Break

16.30 Experiences of an international architect living in Finland / Architect Arvind Ramachandran

16.50 What do employers expect from international architects / Architecture director, partner
Arndt Heinzmann, ARCO

17:10 General information on professional practice / Senior advisor Pia Selroos, SAFA

17:30 End

Get to know SAFA

The Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA)

- Established as “Arkitektklubben” in 1892.
Previous Chairs of the Executive Board include famous Finnish architects such as **Alvar Aalto** and **Eliel Saarinen**.
 - Current Chair: **Asko Takala**
- 3800 architect and student members.
- SAFA is a member of **Akava** (the Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland) and **Architects’ Council of Europe** (ACE).
- Cooperation with **TEK** and **the KOKO fund**.



What do we do?

- Our main role as a professional association is to look out for the interests of architects working in Finland.
- We promote architecture and high-quality living environments.
- We make sure that the voice of architects is heard in **the Finnish legislation**. We provide statements on proposed legislation related to the built environment e.g. the new Construction Act.
- For example in November 2024 we stated with TEK that “Unpaid internships have no place in architecture”

Rakennukset

Hallitus kiihdyttää purkuvimmaa rajoittamalla valitusoikeutta – viime vuonna purettiin 8000 rakennusta

Arkkitehtiiliiton mukaan tällä hetkellä on käynnissä purkuaalto, joka vetää mittaluokassaan vertoja 1960-luvun hävitysvimmalle. Suomessa purettiin viime vuonna 8000 rakennusta.



What do we do?

- We publish **Arkkitehti / Finnish Architectural Review** which is one of the oldest still running architectural publications in the world – and the only architecture-centric cultural magazine in Finland.
- All content appears in both Finnish and English, making *Arkkitehti* the only bilingual Nordic architectural publication.
- This year the ark.fi website will be updated with more content. More information on this soon!
- You can propose articles and projects for the magazine ark@ark.fi.



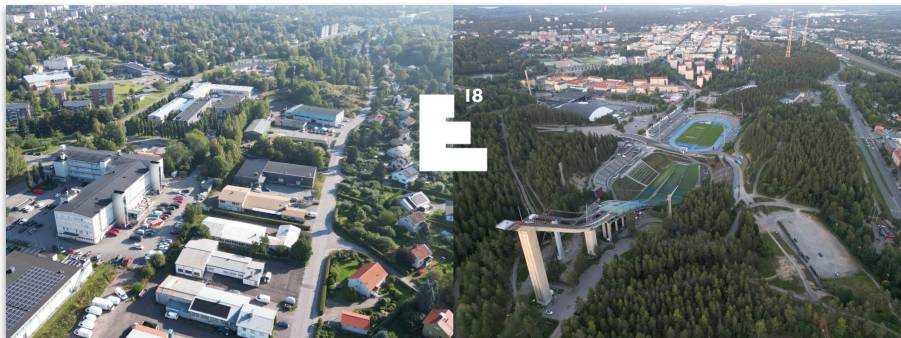
What do we do?

- We present the biggest architecture prize in Finland, **The Finlandia Prize for Architecture**. The prize was established in 2014.
- The purpose of the prize is to highlight the importance of architecture in generating cultural value and increasing well-being, as well as to attract broad-based interest in Finnish architecture.
- The winner is chosen by a public figure nominated by the Executive Board of SAFA. The juror selects the winner from a shortlist of projects chosen by the Pre-Selection Jury.



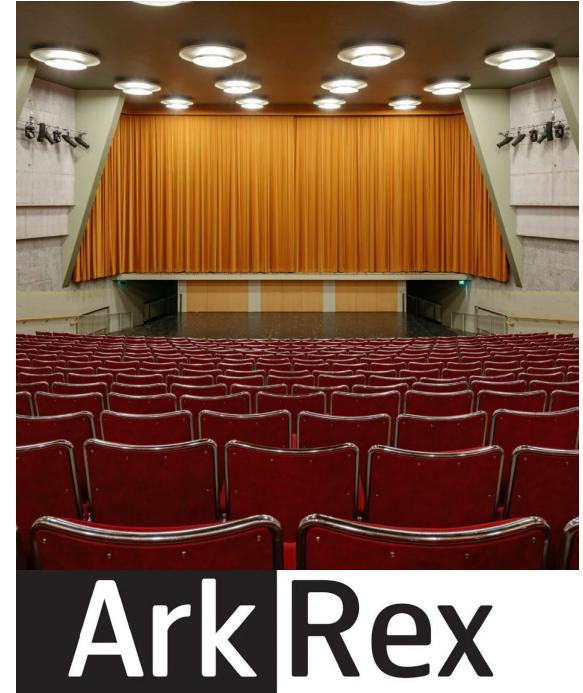
What do we do?

- We are the foremost expert on **architectural competitions** in Finland.
- We work in cooperation with both public and private bodies in arranging and consulting in architectural competitions in Finland.
- We publish a list of competitions we are currently organising, and we maintain a comprehensive archive of past competitions.
- **The competition calendar** is mainly in Finnish: safa.fi/kilpailut



What do we do?

- We provide architects **a network** for learning, discussion and influencing the world around you.
- Based on where they live, every SAFA member is part of a local section such as Hesa-SAFA in Helsinki or Tam-SAFA in Tampere.
- Members can also join theme based subsections →



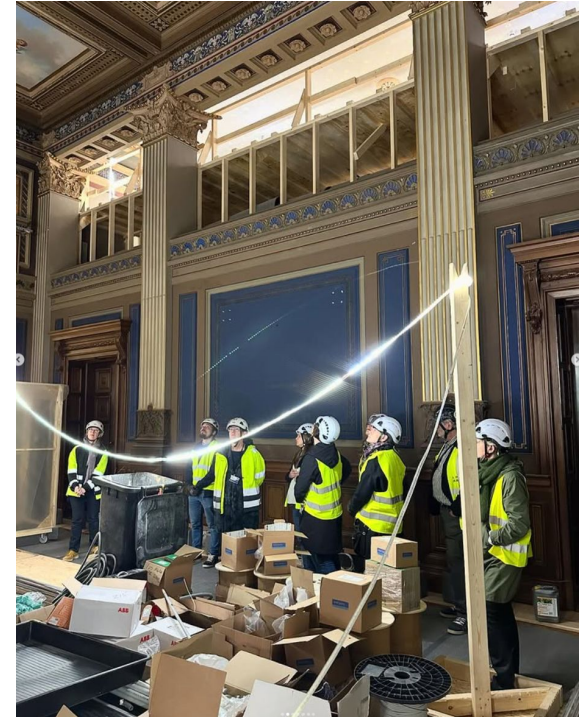
SAFA's subsections:

- **EKO-SAFA** is SAFA's sustainability subsection, which aims to promote sustainable and climate-conscious design in the built environment.
- **VATA-SAFA** is a subsection of civil service architects.
- **Opiskelija-SAFA or O-SAFA** is a subsection for architecture students.



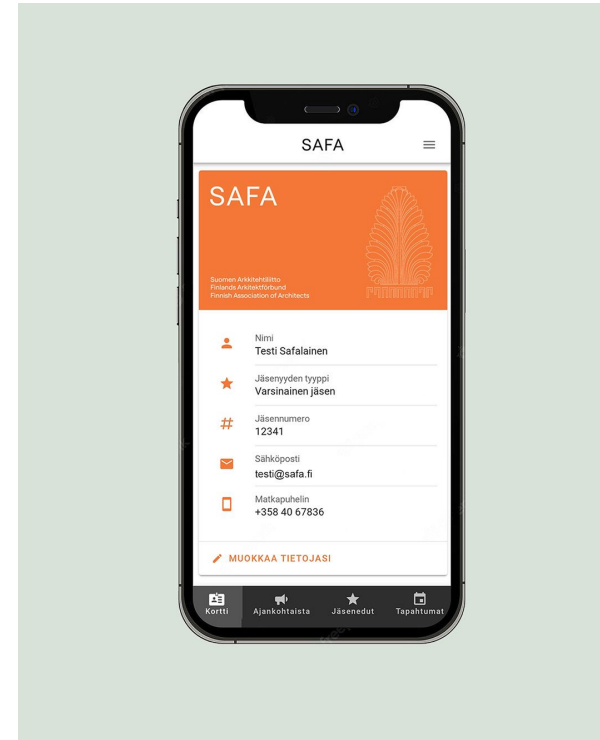
SAFA's subsections:

- **Yrittäjä-SAFA** is a subsection specializing in the affairs of independently operating architects, which promotes the conditions for self-employment and networking.
- **Rakennusperintö-SAFA** is a subsection specializing in the protection of cultural environments, supporting and developing the professional protection, preservation, repair, restoration and research of buildings, interiors, parks and gardens.



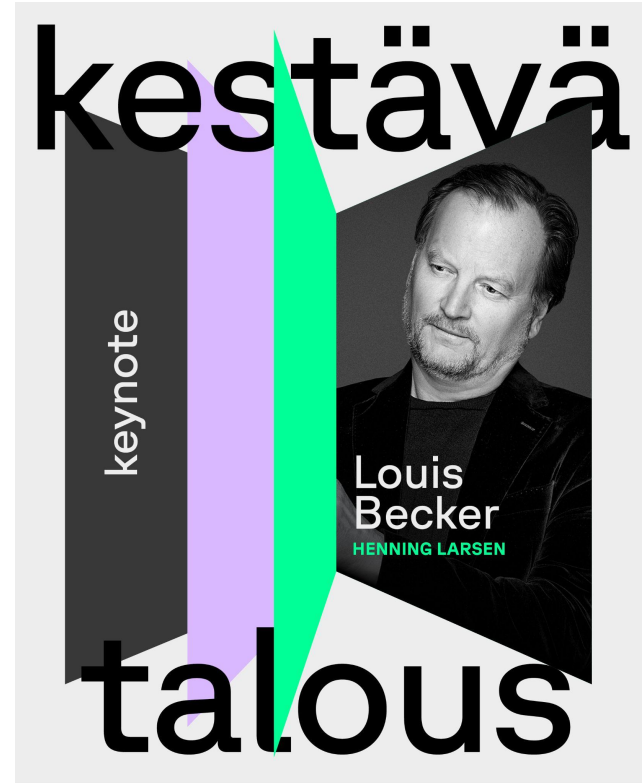
Join subsections on the SAFA mobile membership card

- mobiili.safa.fi
 - edit profile > subsections
- on the card you can update your contact information
- pay membership bills
- browse job openings and the event calendar
- all the membership benefits



Arkkitehtipäivä on April 4

- The biggest event of the year - the tickets are now on sale safa.fi/arkkitehtipaiva
- This year the theme is “kestävä talous” = sustainable economy.
- The keynote speakers are Louis Becker, the Global Design Principal of Henning Larsen and Arhitekt Must collective from Estonia.



SAFA also offers

- training
- webinars
- mentoring program (also in English!)
- grants

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn!

