

TITLE / HELSINKI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION

Lighting as part of the Urban Space and its Functions

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AN ABSTRACT

Topic of this thesis is the exterior of Helsinki Central railways station and the surrounding areas lighting as part of the Urban Space and its Functions and to present a new conceptual lighting design plan for the whole area.

The planning site is a complex multifunctional area, lacking in quality of light, security and a unified style of lighting missing a well established and maintained hierarchy of lighting design. The frontal area of the station including Kaivokatu is the busiest on the site. A more defined and consistent light is needed, complimenting the architecture and improving the safety of the users.

In order to find out how people experienced the site there was a need to look at the lighting in the area beyond the technical standards of illuminance levels and city guidelines. A user experience survey was performed in order to pick up key elements from the users' point of view; results indicated a concrete need for a pleasant consistent cityscape, clarity of movement and increased safety. Current situation analysis was executed in order to get a technical and functional understanding for the area by measuring the luminance and illuminance values, colour temperature and colour rendering index. In order to create a final conceptual design, the process of lighting in the City of Helsinki including a breakdown of the various components, special rules and aims, were taken into account. The opportunities and constraints of the site were weighted and considered in the formation of the conceptual lighting design.

The new lighting plan is based on the possibilities of the area, the ease of navigation, safety and achieving the desired atmosphere. Creating a unified and a holistic dark-time look, which binds the station and the functions of the surrounding areas together. Ensuring the comfort and safety of commuters by improving the lighting also has a positive effect to the cityscape and enhances the overall movement in the area.