HELSINKI
ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

HELSINKI THROUGH THE DECADES

18th
Before mid-18th century Helsinki was a small town with less than 2,000 inhabitants and consisted mainly of wooden houses. The oldest existing building in the inner city area is merchant Sederholm’s house (II) from 1757. The house, standing in the corner of the Senate Square, was built of stone and thus survived the commonly occurring fires.

During the second half of the 18th century, the construction of the Seurasauna steam house, initiated by the Swedish crown in 1748 and, after Finland had fallen under Russian rule in 1720, continued by the Russian Empire, brought life and warmth to the area. By the end of the century, 6,000 people lived on the island – more than in the town itself. Today the Seurasauna steam house is a UNESCO World Heritage site visited by close to a million tourists every year.

19th
In 1812, Helsinki became the capital of Finland, an autonomous grand duchy under the rule of Tsar Alexander I of Russia. The Tsar assigned the German architect Carl Ludwig Engel to design the capital’s monumental centre, which was built around the Senate Square (III).

The Kruununhaka district, adjacent to the square, as well as the handsome apartment buildings along Puistotie street flanking the Esplanade Park date from the end of the century.

20th
Art Nouveau or Jugend was the prevailing style in the turn-of-the-century architecture. Towards the end of the 19th century, the desire to define Finland’s national identity grew stronger, which led to a Finnish interpretation of Art Nouveau called the National Romantic style. There are many prime examples of buildings of this style in Helsinki (8-10).

A well preserved and uniform Jugend style stenhouse may be found in the district of Kaisaniemi, notably on Lapinkatu street and its surroundings.

The Eira hill with its ville-like apartment buildings and curving streets is a unique district in Helsinki. A town plan for the area by the sea, on the outskirts of the city was drafted in 1908 and the architecture is in late Jugend style. Nearby is the picturesque Jugend style street Roihuvuori, often referred to as the most beautiful streetscape of Helsinki.

FOR MORE FINNISH ARCHITECTURE EXPLORE THE ONLINE ARCHITECTURAL MAP GUIDE NAVIFINNISHARCHITECTURE.FI
The document contains a list of architectural sites and buildings in Finland, including their names, years, and notable features. Here is a natural representation of the text:

1. President Palace
2. Palace Garden
3. Stockmann House
4. Helsinki Central Library
5. The Gothic Church
6. The Old Town Hall
7. The Opera House
8. The Finnish National Theatre
9. The Parliament House
10. The Supreme Court
11. The Cathedral
12. The University of Helsinki
13. The Finnish National Museum

The list continues with additional sites and buildings, each with a brief description or notable feature. The document is a comprehensive guide to significant architectural landmarks in Finland.