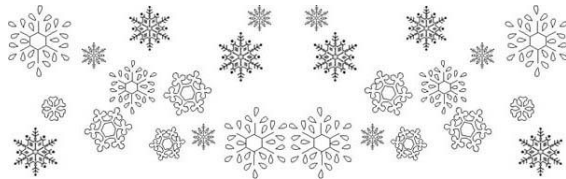

*Helsinki Sightseeing
Erasmus+ Teach and Learn*

Walking tour

February 2019



The Senate Square

The government buildings and museums in the historic quarters of the city centre reflect Helsinki's colourful past. Senate Square is the main central square in Helsinki. The first buildings here appeared in the 1640s, including a church, cemetery and town hall. The town was destroyed during the Greater Wrath (1713-1721), and the area around the square began to be rebuilt in 1721 at the end of the Great Northern War. In 1809 Finland was ceded by Sweden and annexed to the Russian Empire as an autonomous grand duchy. Helsinki was made the new capital in 1812, and work began on building a new city. The beautiful design of Senate Square was the work of the town planner Johan Albrecht Ehrenström and Carl Ludvig Engel, a native of Germany. Ehrenström designed a new geometric town plan inspired by Neoclassicism, and Engel designed the main buildings. Trading activities were moved to the Market Square, with Senate Square representing a symbolic space. Government, municipal, church and academic institutions were built around the square. The wooden Ulrika Eleonora Church was pulled down, and the original site of the church is marked on the cobblestones of the present square. Archeological excavations have uncovered over 130 graves beneath the square.



Helsinki Cathedral

Helsinki Cathedral is one of the most familiar landmarks in Helsinki. Completed in 1852 and originally known as St. Nicholas' Church, the cathedral overlooks Senate Square. Construction began in 1830 according to Engel's design and continued following his death in 1840 under Ernst Lohrmann, who added the four small towers around the main dome and the two side pavilions. The west pavilion houses the church bells, while the eastern one houses a chapel. Tsar Nicholas I contributed to the exterior appearance of the cathedral by commissioning the zinc statues of the apostles for the roof from four German sculptors. He also donated a painting by German-Russian artist T. K. von Neff to hang above the altar. The otherwise sparse interior of the cathedral also features statues of Luther and Melancton, as well as Mikael Agricola (c. 1510-1557), father of the Finnish Reformation and Finnish literature. When Helsinki became a diocese in 1959, the cathedral was renamed Tuomiokirkko in Finnish. In addition to serving its own congregation, Helsinki Cathedral hosts major state and university events. Exhibitions and concerts are also held in the vaulted crypt. Each year local residents and visitors gather in front of the cathedral to see in the New Year. The steps afford a superb view over the roofs to the South Harbour.



House of Estates Säätytalo

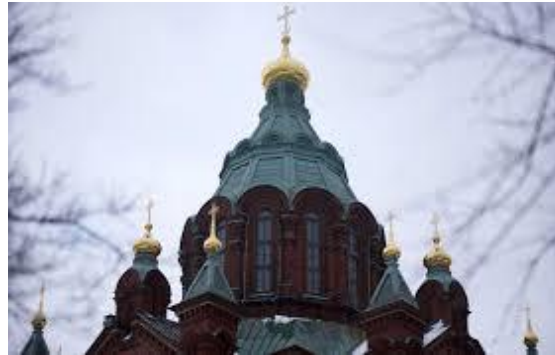
Opposite the Bank of Finland is the House of Estates, which is nowadays used to host State functions. In 1993 the building was awarded the Europa Nostra prize for its fine restoration. The building was originally completed in 1891 as a meeting place for the commoner estates consisting of the clergy, burghers and peasants. The nobles met at the House of Nobility. Like the National Archives, the House of Estates was designed by Gustaf Nyström, who was responsible for drawing many public buildings in Helsinki. The tympanum carries a relief by Emil Wikström depicting Tsar Alexander I at the Porvoo Diet in 1809.



Uspenski Cathedral

Overlooking Katajanokka is the Uspenski Cathedral, the largest Orthodox cathedral in Western Europe. With its golden cupolas and redbrick façade, the cathedral is one of the clearest symbols of the Russian impact on Finnish history. Beside the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, the Finnish Orthodox Church is one of the two

official national churches in Finland; its members account for just over 1 percent of the population. Uspenski Cathedral was designed by Russian architect Alexey Gornostaev and completed in 1868. The ornate vaults are supported by four giant granite columns. The painting behind the altar is the work of a Russian artist.



Katajanokka Island

Katajanokka is known for its cohesive Jugend architecture, as well as for its active port – once the busiest in Finland. The district remained little changed throughout the 19th century while the area around Senate Square underwent a complete transformation.

The President's Castle



Havis Amanda Statue



The Three Smiths – The most iconic meeting point in Helsinki



Source: <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/en/see-and-do/sights>