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The project related to the wave silo received attention from the President of the European Commission – the ground floor of the silo is expected to be ready for use in 2026

Aalto silo and Oulu received special attention in the heavyweight category on Thursday.

Jarkko Harjumaa 11.04.2024 18:06



The Aalto silo in Meri-Toppila and the planned research centre next to it are taking a new step this year.

The wave silo is intended to become a cultural-historical landmark, research centre and meeting place in Oulu, with Tervabaari on the upper floor overlooking the city.

According to Project Manager **Valentino Tignanelli**, the measures starting this year involve the demolition of the inside of the wave silo.

"The demolition work will be carried out so that we can start the ground floor renovation process next year," Tignanelli says.

The project is strongly anchored in the European Capital of Culture year 2026. However, there is no way it will be completely finished.

If all goes according to plan, the ground floor will be ready for use by 2026.

- In the sense that Aaltosilo is ready, there will be a lot of events there in 2026, says **Petri Sirviö**, Account Manager at BusinessOulu.



Petri Sirviö (left) and Valentino Tignanelli were flying around BusinessAsema on Thursday. The two were excited about the New European Bauhaus.

PHOTO: JUKKA-PEKKA MOILANEN

The whole thing will not be completed overnight. According to Sirviö, the wave silo will not be fully completed until years from now.

He is referring to Barcelona's iconic church, the Sagrada Familia, which has been under construction since the late 1800s.

"It was originally a warehouse, not a cultural centre. It will be completed faster than the Sagrada Familia, but slower than residential apartment buildings in the city.

Tignanelli and Sirviö has been in close contact lately. The cooperation so far culminated on Thursday when Aaltosilo's project entity participated in the New European Bauhaus event. The day ended with a discussion event at BusinessAsema.

Although BusinessAsema gathered a large number of people related to and interested in the project, the nerve centre of the event was located in Brussels, Belgium.

The event included 200 satellite events across Europe, ten of which received special attention in the heavyweight category. Oulu made its way to the elite team.

The morning started with a live connection to Brussels and the President of the European Commission, **Ursula von der Leyen**.



If all goes according to plan, various events will be held on the ground floor of the Aalto silo in summer 2026. Stock photo.

PHOTO: MAIJU POHJANHEIMO

- Oulu was visible to the whole of Europe on Thursday morning, even as presented by von der Leyen, Sirviö enthuses.

According to Tignanell, this year will be important for building connections. The international attention has also caused a lot of emotions in the education and culture services of the City of Oulu.

- It has become clear that this is a very interesting thing internationally. **Alvar Aalto** himself is a true superstar of architecture, says **Hanna Jakku**, Project Manager of Cultural Services.

The Factum Foundation, which acquired **the wave silo** in 2020, gives the project a strong backing. However, that alone is not enough.

The aim is to develop the entire Meri-Toppila area.

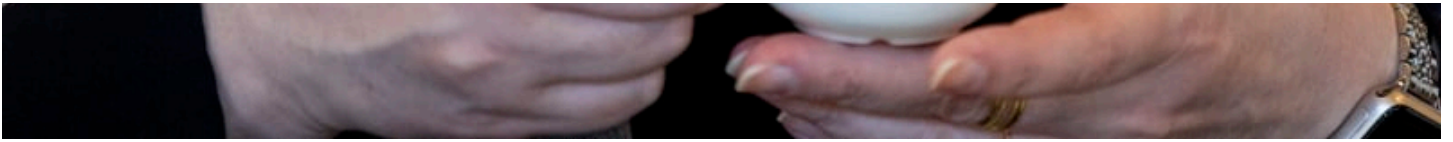
- It is important to be aware of what the people living in the environment want, and what Oulu wants and needs. These things do not come from the outside, but from the inside, **Pauliina Ståhlberg** from the Factum Foundation emphasizes.

Tignanelli is along the same lines. The wave silo and the Meri-Toppila area are the sum of many factors.

- We need the entire city of Oulu and all its floors to be involved. Private and public actors, business, universities and cultural associations, among others. If we can do this, we can do anything.







Oulun kaupungin kulttuuripalvelujen projektipäällikkö Hanna Jakku pitää torstain kaltaisia tapahtumia äärimmäisen tärkeinä.

KUVA: JUKKA-PEKKA MOILANEN

Hanna Jakku pitää torstain kaltaisia tapahtumia äärimmäisen tärkeinä. Erilaiset ihmiset ja tahot pääsevät jakamaan ajatuksiaan, mutta samalla Oulu luo yhteyksiä Suomen rajojen ulkopuolelle.

- Emme avaa vain näyteikkunoita Ouluun, vaan tulemme osaksi maailmanlaajuisia kulttuuriperintöä, arkkitehtuuria ja kehityskulkuja.

Juttu jatkuu mainoksen jälkeen

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Juttu jatkuu

Jos Oulussa onnistutaan, muut maat ja kaupungit saattavat napata vaikutteita omiin toimintamalleihinsa.

Ståhlberg, who has been exporting culture from Europe to Finland for ten years, is well aware that there is interest in the north.

- For example, in Bilbao and Seville in Spain, Oulu has been seen as a very exemplary place: how have we got a prosperous university here, how do we manage here, and so on. There is interest in Oulu from all over Europe.

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