

Introduction:

The design aims to create a hybrid housing project for independent artists, designers or craft men. It also combines the collective housing which focuses on people who would like to move to this area in the future. After the renovation of the former military building, the ground floor would be commercial space and the space of workshop. The upper two levels would be housing space mainly. In the middle of the building, it will be common space, such as exhibition space, café, art workshop and club room for the habitants.

The concept of the project was produced according to a series of strategies:

1. Urban Strategy

The location of the building is at the corner of this area. It touches the boundary. So the main gesture of the building can be opening to the outside area. It would very good if the old building can acquire a new façade which shows interesting programs and attract visitors.

2. Architecture Strategy

The architectural appearance of the whole old military area would be kept even it will be changed to other usages. The main concept is still to keep the original brick façade as much as possible. The new part would be at the bottom of the old building by taking advantage of the height of original architectural base. On the north side, a half of the roof would be removed for creating terrace and introducing light for living space.

3. Feasibility Strategy

The urban density is not very high in the location of the site. Besides, there is no development plan in the future to increase the density due to the reason of historical protection. It would be very risky to change the building to a public building. The strategy of this design is to purpose an independent business mode. The similar case can refer to a mode of Fiskars, a rather small village where designers and craft men would live there. The visitors would travel to Fiskars for design products and hand-made souvenirs. A similar mode also can be applied to Lappeenranta. The designers and craft men could buy or rent housing space in the building. Furthermore, they can also have workshop at the ground floor and sale their products by the new open façade along the street. There are different types of housing space in this building. People would have options according to their personal plans.

