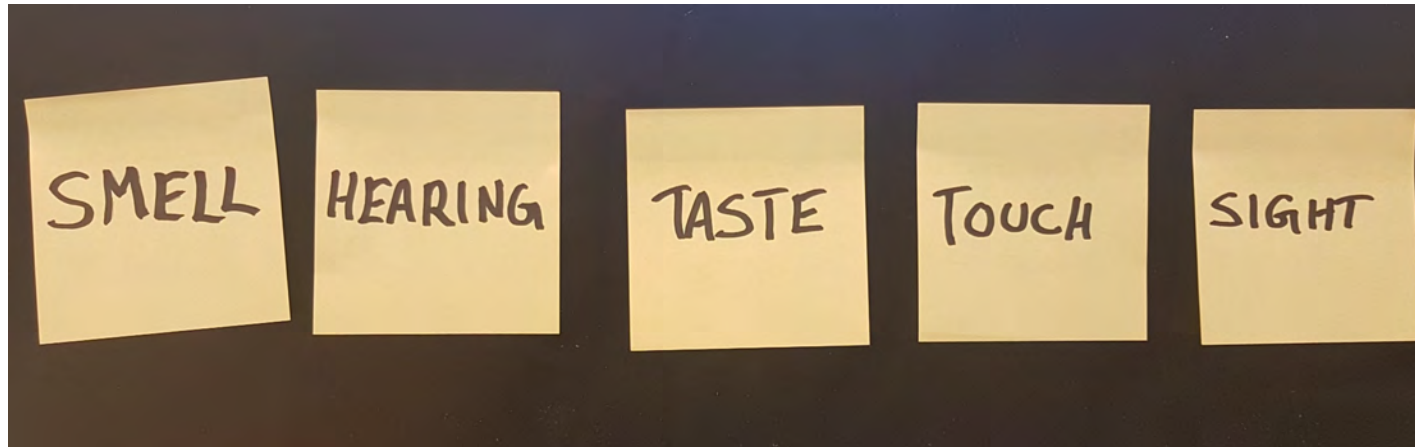


# Landscapes, soundscapes

We have (about) five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch.



...but a majority of us lives in a visual world!

Sounds, noise, something on the background

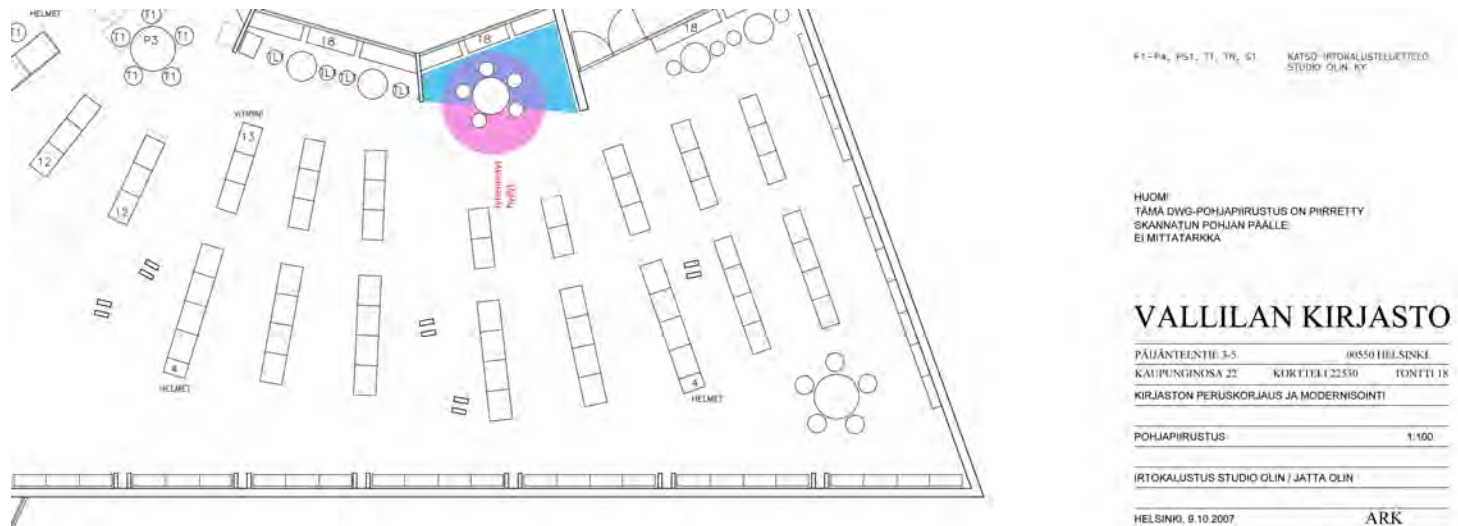
Just listen for 15 sec!

What do you hear?

How often you do that?

# Principles for design

We design visual things → Blueprint is a Drawing



How do you draw sounds on a blueprint?

# Requirements, conditions for design

(however)

When designing a space aesthetics is not the only criteria.



Public spaces should be functional, economic, ergonomic and easy to clean...

## Requirements, conditions for design



Helsinki

Public libraries are open to all.

Libraries should welcome all, be easy to access and be safe... and look good!

Something missing?

Why design something momentary?

Just wait a second and its gone  
...or ask the kids to shut up!

(is that the only way?)

# Acoustics designed?

Many old buildings were not designed with acoustics in mind.

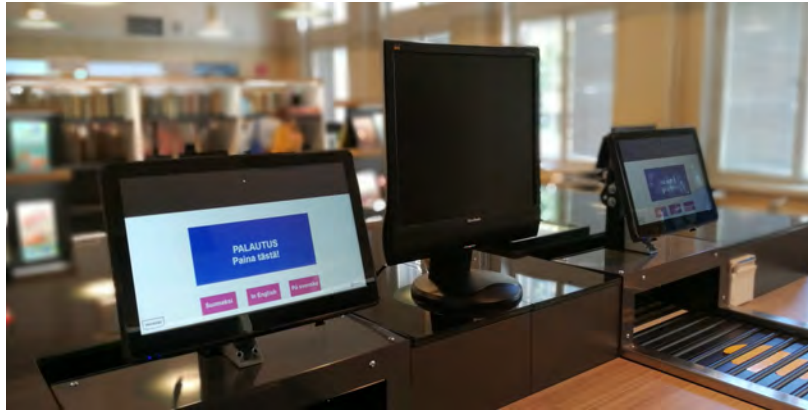


Most of libraries are situated in old buildings, some of them in very old stone buildings.



# Library field has changed

Libraries are not the same anymore...



Libraries wish to provide new services, make spaces and urban offices.  
Libraries wish to have broad customer base: children, the youth,  
students, readers, families, seniors are all welcome.



Side effects

Services are being designed but...

Soundscapes have developed by themselves... as unintended consequences of our actions.

Librarians do not even know how to develop the library soundscapes.

## Consequence

Library buildings were designed for quiet readers but the use has changed.

Library soundscapes are not designed at all

(they have only changed).

Acoustics can be designed

Library soundscapes should conform to new library services.

Library soundscape design should take into account how user use the space and how they behave in public places.

# Lord of the soundscapes?



**Soundscapes are a question about power game.**

**For some reason, some noises are accepted,  
some are not.**

# The lord of the soundscapes?



**By making noise one can take over the space...**

**Territories, personal spaces are marked by sounds, smells, etc.**

**The lord of the soundscapes?**

**Shhh! Quiet!**

**...is a sign of authority.**



**But librarians do not wish to be strict shhh! authorities anymore.**

# The lord of the soundscapes?

Nevertheless, library users appreciate **peacefull**  
libraries.

According to a poll,  
Finnish users prefer **light and calm** libraries but  
do not require **silence**.



You are in, or you are out



Soundscape is a tool to  
welcome users  
- or to exclude them!

It is a question of how  
comfortable you feel during  
your library visit.

You are in, or you are out



Silence vs. library as public living room, meeting point

You are in, or you are out



Comfortable urban office? I'd love to work here!

You are in, or you are out

If we wish to have multifunctional libraries, we must offer alternative soundscapes for users to choose from.

Libraries should have appropriate soundscapes for different actions.

Would you say that one chair is fine for all, and all purposes?



Thank you for listening!