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Interweaving The Senses In Architecture



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Throughout my career as an architect, I have been able to combine teaching and practice. It has been a way of justifying my thinking, both for the design work and within academia. As a practicing architect, I work alone with smaller projects in Finland, such as one-family houses and exhibition designs. Together with my colleagues Saija Hollmén and Helena Sandman, we work mostly with projects in low resource settings in different African countries. There is a fruitful dialogue between collaborative work and working alone. My goal is to create architecture that feels effortless and genuine and will age with dignity. Our senses give the first intuitive approach to the spaces around us. To me, it is a grounded inspiring landscape where to find the right solutions. As a continuity of construction wisdom. Seeking for the sustainable, long lasting, simple solutions, gentle to the senses may be a silent activism and questioning common norms.

In a time of mass production, the role of handicrafts has changed. There is a certain longing for materiality and making things with your hands. This was emphasized during the pandemic when people had time to slow down. I grew up in an old house on a farm in the countryside, and I think that even though I nowadays live in and enjoy the city, my early architectural references are vernacular. I have a strong bodily relation to materials, colors and atmospheres.

My lecture will express the multisensory experience in five of my own projects:

- Straw Bale Cabins, Parainen, Finland
- KWIECO, Moshi, Tanzania (Hollmén Reuter Sandman Architects)
- Villa Sjövikén, Kemiö island, Finland
- Huvila, Turku Archipelago, Finland
- The Snow Show, Rovaniemi, Finland (Hollmén Reuter Sandman Architects)