

# LIVELY TULLI SQUARE:

## ENHANCING VIBRANCY WITH WINTER DESIGN

On a beautiful summer day, the Tulli area is an ideal place to catch up with friends or enjoy a drink on outdoor terraces in the company of other citizens. However, in winter, the area is a dull and dark place to visit, with no outdoor activities to enjoy. This highlights the need to prioritize designing the area for winter. We will highlight the importance of designing Tulli for winter weather and offer some solutions that can make the Tulli area appealing all year-round.

Winter lasts for a significant part of the year and therefore, designing for winter is crucial to increase Tulli's vibrancy. By designing Tulli for winter conditions, we can:

- Enhance the visual appeal
- Increase year-round tourism
- Encourage outdoor activities
- Boost economic activity throughout the winter
- Improve public health and safety

Considering winter in Tulli's design would not only make the area **more appealing** all year to pass by or to spend time at, but also benefit the **economic and social well-being** of the area and people. The stakeholders of the area could have more customers and visitors thanks to the **increased liveliness** of the area, boosting the economic flow of Tulli. The events and the overall vibrant and lightful area would bring joy to people, increase their **feeling of safety** and even affect their **mental health** positively during the darkest time of the year. Tulli would become a place to spend time, rather than just an area to pass by.



## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The benefits of green infrastructure for the urban environment are undeniable, yet underexplored. Winter Green Infrastructure (WGI) includes a range of design strategies, such as green roofs, green walls, and street trees, that can mitigate the negative effects of winter, such as reduced air quality, noise, and cold stress. WGI cools down the urban setting by 1 Celsius degree in summer, while warming up the street by 2 Celsius degrees in winter.(1)

Thuja trees could be ergonomically planted in pots on the Tulli square; however, the location can pose air pollution that might be damaging for street trees. LIQUID3's urban photo-bioreactor uses microalgae to remove carbon emissions and produce oxygen in limited spaces with air pollution. It replaces one tree or 200m<sup>2</sup> of lawn, operates in Serbia since 2021, and has solar panels on the roof to support algae growth, provide lighting, and charge devices while sitting on its bench.

## SEASONAL LIGHTING

In Northern countries, the amount of light is minimum during the winter months, which creates a need for artificial lighting in outdoor spaces. Lighting is a crucial part of the expression we perceive of a space and the atmospheres light can create in a space.

Lighting makes a great contribution to the safety perception of the area. People are attracted to well-lit spaces and enjoy the area. Better lighting in Tulli square can increase the interest of people to stay in the neighborhood because they feel safe in the lighted space. For the comparison, imagine a square before and during the Christmas market — the difference in liveliness is significant. But it should not only be the holiday season to attract people. Extending the Light Week to Tulli square would attract people to enjoy the space and visually connect it to the main streets.

## ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

Art and unique coloring decisions would give the square character, appropriate to the large variety of activities expected there. Seasonal and event related lighting, such as the lighting weeks or light shows around the town would complement the vibrancy of the space. Besides visual stimulation, soundscapes and sound art could help visitors take a calming breath even when just passing through and to attract them to visit the area in the first place.

Art could be also included in the necessities of the area. For example, Moomin-themed seats or lighted street furniture made for sitting and enjoying the area, protecting from the winter weather, like Mokša (3) in Lahti, could excite people to visit the area and its services and complement the look of the square. Another inspiration for keeping people warm is creating igloos connected to the cafes on the square, where people can enjoy their time. The art installations, events such as the light week and soundscapes or sound art could increase the comfort of the square. The square could hold small-scale events and gatherings that people could engage with and create a sense of community and livelihood.

Another way to liven up the area are individual activities: something that people can just come to enjoy anytime. Winter-themed activities could be, for example, small-scale winter markets and cafes, making snowmen and ice sculptures made by local artists.

**All of these aspects should be taken into account when developing the Tulli area. With these suggestions we could turn Tulli into a warm and welcoming, all-year appealing space, emphasizing its value and potential and improving the street scene of central Tampere city.**



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