

THE FINLAND ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

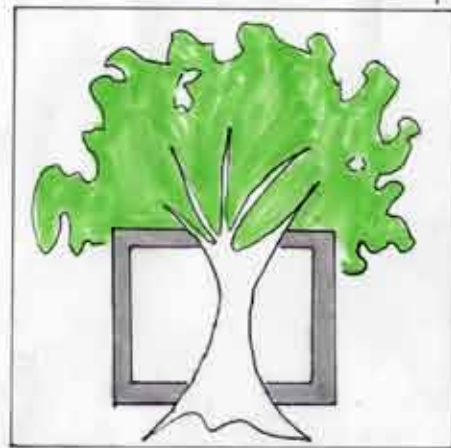
NW 8th Avenue & Couch Street, Portland, Oregon

This Nordic outpost intends to bring Finland to Oregon and allow the culture of Portland to inform the work of its transient occupants, a rotating array of artists and scholars who occupy the building for a few months at a time. The institute is also an opportunity to spread Finnish culture, with the general public welcomed inside to visit the art galleries, work in the library, linger over coffee in the corner café and bookshop, or attend one of many regularly scheduled events.

The Academy's shape - essentially a box - is determined by the regular urban grid it is enmeshed in. The Finns, with their strong cultural connection to nature, can be represented by a tree, contained in and growing out of this box. It is in the space between the hard edge of the box and the trunk of the tree that Portland and Finland interact. Public spaces are on the First and Second Floors, open to each other and the "trunk," which has transformed to an atrium, bringing necessary daylight into the Academy's heart. Private studios are in the "branches" on the Third and Fourth Floors, clustered around smaller collaboration spaces. The Fifth Floor "canopy" has common dining and lounge areas as well as a sauna. It opens to a rooftop garden terrace overlooking the North Park Blocks.

The tree makes itself known on the exterior with metal mesh bark screens covering the box, and Portland pushes in by including the Academy as part of the surrounding arts community.

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THE TREE IN THE BOX

