

Efficient use of natural stone in the Leningrad Region and South-East Finland

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Natural stone in historical construction

Southeast Finland and Leningrad region

Local hard stone had been important in the Finnish romanticism but also modernism had involved the use of imported materials.

OUTCOMES

The project aimed also to point out and promote the beauty and cultural relevance of the stone in the studied city environments also with downloadable guides of Kuopio, Helsinki, Kotka, Lappeenranta, Vyborg and St.Petersburg, for which it is illustrating 5 different walking paths.



The results of research are collected on the website while a book had been printed relative to the Kazan Cathedral.



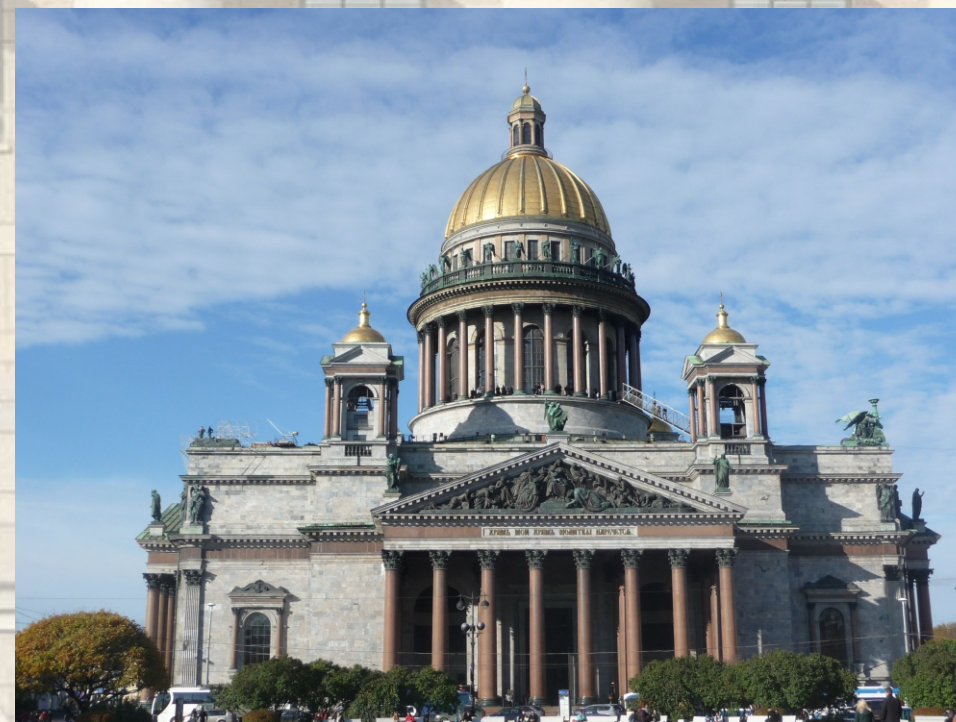
<http://projects.gtk.fi/ENPI>



Historical use

Natural stone has been largely used in the areas studied, even though the traditional constructions involved mainly wood. The first medieval constructions built of stone have been churches and castles, and castles had undergone often important renovations. In Finland, Olavinlinna castle (end of 15th century) and Suomenlinna sea fortress (mid 18th century). In Finland, only from the middle of the 18th century it is possible to see stone buildings erected in cities, the peak era in the use of massive natural stone has been 1895-1910, during the National Romantic era, as well as the Art Nouveau period. The buildings had been built as massive or as brick wall clad by thinner stone slabs.

St. Petersburg was built from the 18th century showing influence of European architecture. The town had used extensively natural stones on its monuments and constructions, first choosing those from nearby areas, then importing more exotic materials, crafting 30 kinds of materials. It has enlarged during the years from baroque and classical styles to eclectic and modern styles. The town has been reconstructed after the heavy damages caused by the wars, latest by World War II.



Massive and clad constructions, architectural choices and styles, use of details and decorations had contributed to the artistic image of the sites reflecting the local cultural heritage. Stone has been used as a symbol of power and of richness both in interiors and exteriors.

