

Ambitious wood architecture

North Karelia as a travel destination for wood construction professionals, students and enthusiasts.



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North Karelia is the easternmost region of Finland with a population of 163,000 and an area of almost 22,000 km². As approx. 70% of the total area is covered with forests, forest-based bioeconomy is one of the most important sectors in the region. North Karelia is a home for over 500 forest bioeconomy companies and has a unique network of educational and research organizations related to forest bioeconomy and wood construction. These include the University of Eastern Finland, Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Natural Resources Institute

Finland, and the European Forest Institute. There are over 600 bioeconomy experts employed in the region.

North Karelia has long traditions in wood construction. Joensuu, the regional capital of North Karelia, has promoted wood construction projects for decades and is a pioneer in building large public wooden buildings. Groups of Finnish and international travelers and professionals regularly visit the regions for its ambitious wooden architecture.

Attractions



Lighthouse Joensuu is the tallest wood-frame building in Finland – the 14-storey building stands 48 metres high. Lighthouse Joensuu was built in 2019 for student housing, and has 117 apartments with one or two rooms. LVL and CLT elements are utilized in the building, which is fully wooden apart from the concrete ground floor. The building was praised for its short on-site assembly time - installation of one storey took less than two weeks.

Photo: Arcadia Oy Arkkitehtitoimisto



Metla house was the first large wooden office building of modern time in Finland, finished in 2004. The three-storey building has wooden structure and façades. Metla house has been internationally acknowledged by its architecture and illumination. The building utilizes an innovative and modifiable post-beam-slab structure.

Nature-based offerings in North Karelia

People interested in wood architecture are likely willing to experience the wilderness, too. Nature is present everywhere in North Karelia. The region is known for its natural elements – forests, hills, vast peatlands, and thousands of lakes. North Karelia accommodates four national parks – Koli, Patvinsuo, Petkeljärvi and Kolovesi – and the popular Ruunaa hiking area. Nature-based activities offered include hiking, trail biking, fishing, white water rafting, horse riding tours, cross-country and downhill skiing, snowshoe hiking, wildlife photographing, husky safaris, and much more. From the top of Koli hill, an iconic view opens over the lake Pielinen.



Mehtimäki Baseball Stadium is a multi-purpose arena for Finnish baseball and other events such as concerts. The stadium was finished in 2018 and it has 2,500 covered seats. In this venue design by Lappalainen & Korjonen Architects, wood is used both as a load-bearing structure and surface material.

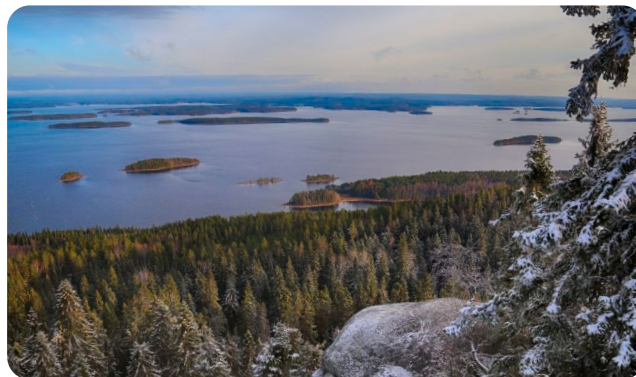


Photo: Gryf - adobe.stock.com

North Karelia has interesting innovations and ambitious examples of large-scale wood construction

The region offers possibilities for professional tourism – for future and current professionals as well as other construction enthusiasts

Numerous nature-based activities and attractions, including four national parks, serve the ones searching wilderness.

Further information

Puuinfo. Metla house. <https://puuinfo.fi/arkkitehtuuri/public-buildings/the-metla-building-the-finnish-forest-research-institute/?lang=en>

Puuinfo. Lighthouse Joensuu. <https://puuinfo.fi/arkkitehtuuri/block-of-flats/lighthouse-joensuu/?lang=en>

Visit Karelia. Nature attractions. <https://www.visitkarelia.fi/en/nature-attractions/>

Wood Joensuu. Wood construction. <https://woodjoensuu.fi/en/themes/wood-construction/>