



# Shared spaces promoting community spirit

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VOAS

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# Assignment

The Student Housing Foundation in Vaasa (VOAS) provides a home for approximately 2600 students. One of the foundation's key strategic goals is to promote a sense of community.

In recent years, VOAS has built new shared spaces in the city centre and Palosaari, and the next space is being planned for the Q-building in the Olympiakortteli area. On either side of the Q-building's main entrance, there are two old commercial premises that can be combined and converted into communal spaces. The Q-building also houses a lunch restaurant, a CrossFit gym, and office tenants. Residents of the block also have access to sauna facilities and laundry rooms. Additionally, the lunch restaurant rents out the 6th-floor sauna facilities to external customers. The entire Olympiakortteli area is home to approximately 700 residents.

The shared spaces offer residents the opportunity to meet others and participate in various events. The aim is to strengthen the sense of community and enhance the living experience. The challenge is to design a concept that engages residents, encourages social interactions, and makes the best possible use of the spaces, the building, and the entire block's potential. The concept could also be integrated into a resident app, which will be launched later for VOAS tenants.



# Assignment and evaluation criteria

## Task:

Design a concept where shared spaces support and promote a sense of community:

1. Physical spaces – What types of spaces should be included? How can their design encourage interactions and social engagement?
2. Events and activities – What kinds of events or community activities could be organised?
3. Services – What services could be provided to enhance the use of the spaces and support community building?
4. Resident app – How could a digital platform or app support community engagement and the use of shared spaces?

Take into account the full potential of the entire block!

## Implementation:

You can present your idea in various formats, such as a written plan, diagrams, a prototype, or a pitch.

Utilise innovative approaches and consider the needs of the users.

## Evaluation criteria:

- Innovation and creativity
- Feasibility
- Impact on community building
- User-friendliness

