



Graphic design: Saskia Krautman

CREATIVE BRIEF

Workshop “Tamsalu Schoolyard” for young architects and architecture students

Introduction

The Estonian Association of Architects and the Youth Council of the association in collaboration with Tamsalu School are organizing a workshop „Tamsalu Schoolyard“ for architecture students and young architects, from June 12 to 15, 2025 in Tamsalu. The workshop aims to improve the outdoor space of the school, making it fulfil the requirements for efficient outdoor learning and promote movement. The solution should improve the quality of public space in Tamsalu, prospering regional development, bettering the quality of life of the immediate community as well as strengthening local identity. The basic principles of high-quality space and inclusive design will be followed throughout the process.

Objectives of the Workshop

1. Design at least two sheltered outdoor classrooms;
2. Propose different movement-promoting design solutions for the areas surrounding the school;
3. Enrich the school grounds with greenery – design thoughtfully planned green spaces;
4. Make necessary infrastructure changes, reducing the amount of paved surface in the schoolyard;
5. Redesign pathways to improve accessibility for both the school community and visitors.



Focus Area

Tamsalu is a town in the southeastern part of Tapa municipality, with just under 2,500 residents. The town structure is typical of small settlements – it lacks a defined centre, and key public functions are clustered in different parts of the town. Nevertheless, the infrastructure is well-developed: sports, cultural, and administrative services are well-represented compared to many other small towns in Estonia, and the local community is very active.

Tamsalu school, located in the centre of the town, houses the local division of Tapa Municipality High School and Tamsalu School, which provides primary and secondary education. The primary focus area of the workshop is the courtyard behind the main school building, currently occupied by an oversized parking lot and a shed that is set to be demolished soon. The secondary area that needs to be solved is the empty north-western part of the plot next to the stadium. When working on the task, the schoolyard should be considered holistically, including its surrounding impact zone. Currently, a fence with limited access points encloses the yard, and a large part of the site does not offer clear usage prompts for students. The influence area of the school site includes the Tamsalu Cultural Centre and its surrounding park, as well as nearby shops and apartment buildings.

Presentation Format

The proposed solution will be presented as a PowerPoint and an A1-sized poster in landscape format, providing a conclusive overview. The presentation must include:

- A site plan in a freely chosen scale;
- Drawings, schemes, and diagrams that characterise the solution;
- A short explanatory text;
- 3D visualisations and/or collages illustrating the idea.

Additional creative explanatory materials will also be highly valued.

Mentors

The workshop will be mentored by the Finnish architect and sound artist Joonas Parviainen (Arkkitehtitoimisto Joonas Parviainen) and Finnish artist and designer Susse Seppälä, the Estonian mentor will be announced later. In addition to professional mentors, specialists from the "Schools in Motion" program will provide preparatory lectures and guidance. The workshop will also introduce framework documents outlining the core principles of high-quality space to both young architects and local governments.

Organisation

The three-day workshop is open to architecture students and young architects from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Ukrainian war refugees residing in Estonia. A total of 28 participants are expected to take part. The participants will be divided into teams of four to five members, formed at the beginning of the workshop. Each team will have members from different schools/countries. On the first day, the work will take place in Tamsalu Cultural House; on subsequent days, the event will be held at Tamsalu School.

On the introductory day, the evening of June 12, participants will get acquainted with the project area and the general concept of the task. The following three days will focus on developing projects. Participants will receive feedback from mentors three times a day, and the workshop will conclude with a public

presentation of the final ideas. The local community, the school council, and representatives from Tapa municipality will also be involved in the process.

Preliminary schedule

Thursday, June 12

- ...-... – Tour at the Thermory factory (TBC)
- ...-18:13 – Arrival in Tamsalu (TBC)
- 18:30 – Welcoming, introductions, a walk around Tamsalu
- 19:30 – Dinner
- 20:30 – Checking in / Independent exploration of Tamsalu

Friday, June 13

- 9:00 – Workshop introduction, sponsor presentations, forming groups
- 10:00 – Start of project work
- 11:00-11:15 – Coffee break
- 13:00 – Lunch at the school
- 14:00 – Work continues
- 16:00-16:15 – Coffee break
- 18:00 – Summary of the day, feedback from the mentors
- 19:00 – Dinner
- 20:00 – Swimming trip to lake Porkuni (cycling / optional) or Visit to the former center of Põdrangu sovkhos (cycling / optional) (TBC)

Saturday, June 14

- 9:00 – Start of work
- 11:00-11:15 – Coffee break
- 13:00 – Lunch at the school
- 14:00 – Work continues
- 16:00-16:15 – Coffee break
- 18:00 – Summary of the day, feedback from the mentors
- 19:00 – Trip to Rakvere

Sunday, June 15

- 08:30 – Start from Rakvere
- 9:00 – Finalizing and formatting ideas
- 11:00-11:15 – Coffee break
- 13:00 – Lunch at the school
- 14:00-15:00 – Submitting the work
- 15:00-16:30 – Presentations to the jury
- 17:30 – Announcement of the winner, celebration (TBC)
- ... – Train back to Tallinn (TBC)

Adjudication

President of the Estonian Association of Architects, Aet Ader

Mentors

Representatives of Tamsalu School

Representatives of Tapa Municipality

Representatives of Schools in Motion

Prizes and remuneration

Awards will be distributed as follows:

- 1200 Euros for the best group project,
- 900 Euros for second place, and
- 600 Euros for third place.

Copyright

The author(s) of the design submitted in the workshop own the moral and economic copyrights to the design in accordance with the applicable copyright law.

Additional Information and registration

The working language of the workshop is English.

[To register, fill out the registration form.](#) Registration is open until Wednesday, May 28.

In case of questions, please contact the Youth Council of EAL.

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Supporters: Cultural Endowment of Estonia, Estonian Ministry of Culture, Thermory, Equitone, Tamsalu School and Tamsalu Sports Complex Hostel.