

Built cultural heritage sites of national significance

Varkaus

Kommila-Kosulanniemi residential area



Description

The Kommila-Kosulanniemi residential area is part of the community created by the Varkaus mills around it. The modern church of the community is also located in the residential area, which was built according to the ideals of a garden city.

Kommila-Kosulanniemi is located on a peninsula protruding east of Varkaus Church. The area structure is based on a town plan drawn up by Valter and Ivar Thomé. The villa-style buildings date back to the 1910s and 1920s. On the church-side edge of the area is a two-storey terraced officers' house Onnela, designed by A.H. Gunnar Aspelin in the 1930s.

On the northwest side of the church in Varkaus, there is a workers' residential area, whose five-mansard-roofed tenement houses called Niittylä and a barracks called Korpela were built in the 1910s according to drawings by the Thomé brothers.

Next to the mill area, the apartments of lower officers and masters Koivula I, II, III and IV, originally built in the 1910s, as well as the apartments of the mill officers Tienkorva I, Tienhaara I and II, Tienvarsi I and II and Peltola I have remained. By the lake Komminselkä is the Viltinranta sauna designed by Karl Lindahl, which was completed in 1925 for the use of workers. In addition, there is a co-educational school, completed in 1921, and a primary school, completed in 1924, designed by Karl Lindahl.

The church, which is one of the outstanding works of modern church architecture, and the associated parish facilities and the rectory are located on a plot donated by A. Ahlström Oy at the corner of Ahlströminkatu and Savontie. The 35-meter-high tower with its time clock, built as an extension of the parish meeting hall next to the church, forms an impressive end point on Ahlströminkatu. The light brown-plastered church is simplified. The overall functionalistic architecture of the facades is lightened by thoughtful details made of natural stone, such as the three-part granite portal at the main entrance and stone masonry at the bottom of the high bell tower.

The church hall, which tapers towards the altar, is covered with a wavy concrete vault. The chancel wall is covered by a fresco painted by Lennart Segerstråle in 1953-1954. The fixed interior of the church and the lighting fixtures are mainly from the construction period. The interior and rooms of the parish hall have changed.

History

Kosulanniemi is named after Paavo and Heikki Kosonen, who owned the peninsula in the 16th century. Constructions in the villa area began in 1912, when the designers were the Thomé architect brothers; in the 1920s, the design was continued by architect Karl Lindahl. In the 1940s, architect Alvar Aalto made alteration plans to repair the buildings.

The Varkaus mill congregation, founded in 1861 by the parish of Leppävirta, became independent in 1932. The first church was, as in many other mill locations, a combined church and a school building, which also included the pastor's apartment. The location of the new, i.e. current church at the end of Ahlströminkatu was already included in the first town plan proposal made by the Thomé brothers in 1913.

The church and its premises were built according to a proposal prepared by architect Martti Paalanen, who won the second prize in the architectural competition held in 1935, and it was inaugurated in November 1939.

More information:

Arkitekten 7-8/1940.

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Hannu Ikonen, Varkautelaisten vuosisata. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura 2004.

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Kommila-Kosulanniemi residential area; Tienvarsi I. Jouni Marjamäki 2006.



Kommila-Kosulanniemi residential area in Varkaus; Koivula. Picture: MV/RHO Jouni Marjamäki 2006



The church of Varkaus, in the background in the park Kosulanniemi villas. Hannu Vallas 2005.

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