

KORUNDI HOUSE OF CULTURE

ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

A 1930's mail car depot in Rovaniemi has taken on the role as Rovaniemi's new house of culture, The Korundi. The transformation included vast reconstruction and extension works. The building was previously used solely as a local museum for the Region of Lapland, but the extensions brought along with it a new home for the Lapland Chamber Orchestra: The Korundi hall.

According to Akukon's **Henrik Möller**, the acoustician in charge, the acoustics of Korundi hall were designed special attention being paid to the particular needs of the Lapland Chamber Orchestra. Mr Möller designed the hall, seating 340, in the acoustically ideal rectangular shape known in the industry as the 'shoe box'. The hall can be easily converted to suit a number of different events from concerts to conferences. The possibility of recording any performances has also been taken into account in the design.

The grand opening of the hall was on 25 May 2011, and was celebrated with a performance by the Lapland Chamber Orchestra. The event whetted the audience's appetites for the hall's acoustics, and the resulting feedback in the press was extremely positive. The sound of the hall was described as natural, warm and translucent.

The artistic director of the Lapland Chamber Orchestra, **John Storgårds**, in an interview for National broadcaster YLE, points out that the acoustical guitar recital by **Kirimo Lintinen** – also heard in the opening concert – proved a wonderful achievement even by international standards. The guitar did not need electrical amplification, and the acoustics of the hall nevertheless kept the guitar and the orchestra in perfect balance. Mr Storgårds commends the hall's new found ability to give the audience a hearing experience in such fine detail as never before.

Client	Lakka ry (Lapin kamariorkesterin tukiyhdistys)
Started	2009
Opened	2011
Project type	Reassigned purpose of use
Architect	Juhani Pallasmaa Architects, head architect Juhani Pallasmaa
Servises by Akukon	Acoustical and audio visual design
Akukon's team	Principal consultants: Henrik Möller and Janne Auvinen Other team members: Anni Haataja, Jaana Jokitulppo, Juha Storm Subconsultant: Timo Risku (Akumek)
Total cost of project:	9,3 million €



Photo: Arto Liiti