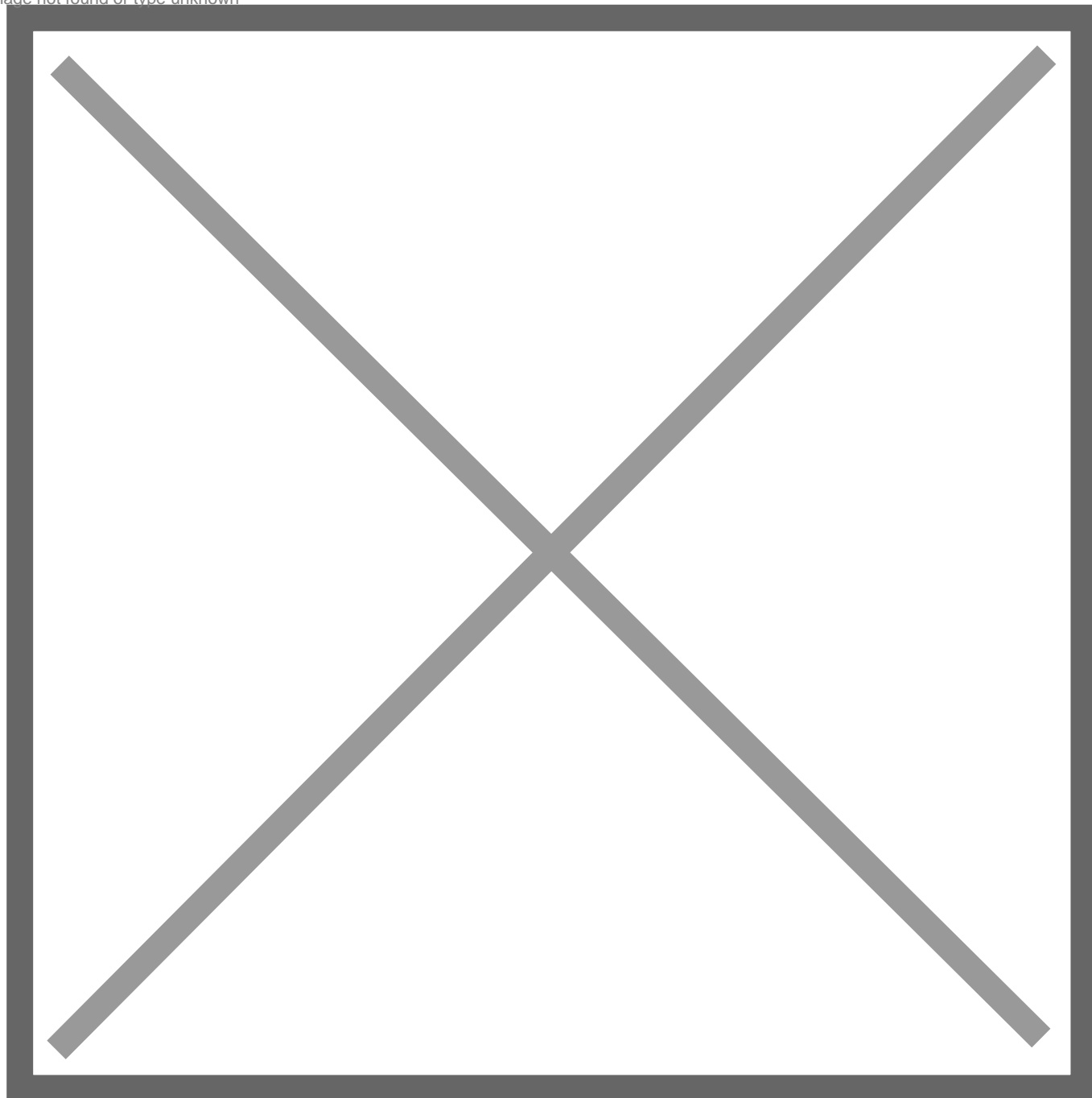


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**Dipoli, Aalto-yliopisto [Dipoli, Aalto University]**

## Finland

Otakaari 24  
Uusimaa (Region) Greater Helsinki (Sub-region)  
02150 Espoo

## Commission

1961

## Completion

1966

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### Original name

[Polytechnic Student Union Building] / Dipoli  
Kongressikeskus [Dipoli Congress Center]

### Other denominations

[Dipoli Conference Center]

### Original use

Education/Student Union, Exhibitions/congress hall

### Current use

Education/centre for higher education

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### Architects

Reima Pietilä, Raili Pietilä

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### Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

### Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

### Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

### Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame, Two-dimensional/Slab

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## Description

Like with the church in Tampere, by the same designers, here Alvar Aalto's influence is clearly recognizable in the characteristic curved forms of the Dipoli building, an emblematic and experimental complex originally owned by the student union of the Helsinki University of Technology.

The concave and convex walls combine smoothly and make the building appear to have grown organically or naturally. In contrast, the less emblematic parts of the program are organized in a grid, clearly generating a front for the building – characterized by its expressiveness and its fragmented volume – and a back, noteworthy for its order and organization in keeping with basic practical criteria.

Although concrete is the dominant material in the structure, it is left exposed mainly in the interior of the building, while on the outside it is covered with copper sheet metal combined with wooden joinery.

The interior stands out for its delicate expressive use of exposed concrete, with complexity in the details, a careful execution, and quality in the final finishes. All this in an architecture of heightened

spatial and geometric complexity, which generates surprising and varied interior spaces, with landscape-like qualities created by combining concrete with large blocks of uncut stone and the use of wood in multiple shapes and textures. This consideration in the treatment of the interior spaces extends to the exterior of the building through attentive landscaping and a mindful design of the surrounding spaces.

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## Links

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