

CEIBRIT Case

Waltteri School

A shared comprehensive school that serves pupils of all ages was built in Kuoppakangas, Varkaus.



WALTTERI

- A Luokat 3-9, apulaisrehtori, terv. hoitaja
- B Luokat 0-2, neuvottelu
- C Luokat 5-9, rehtori, kanslia, terv. hoitaja
- D Tekninen käsityö, kuvataide
- E Ruokala, musiikkiluokka

• Olet tässä





When the upper secondary school education of Kuoppakangas School in Varkaus moved to new facilities, the old upper secondary school building was left vacant. In order to put the vacant facilities to use and streamline the school network, the City of Varkaus decided to merge the city's two upper comprehensive schools, moving the Päiviönsaari upper comprehensive school to Kuoppakangas. With the subsequent increase in staff and pupils, the school needed more space, in addition to which some of the old upper secondary school classrooms needed to be refurbished to make them more suitable for comprehensive school teaching. As a result of the merger the school also gained a new name: Waltteri School.

The Waltteri School project involved alterations to the original school buildings and the construction of a new building to connect the two existing school buildings. The aim of connecting the two existing buildings was to create a unified comprehensive school, with pre-primary and comprehensive education under the same roof. In addition to this, new construction and alterations aimed at creating more space and classrooms better suited to comprehensive school teaching.

Fakta

Product:	Cembrit Faveton Ceram Cembrit Color
Building:	Waltterin koulu
Address:	Urheilukatu 21, Varkaus
Head developer:	Varkauden kaupunki
Architectural design:	Arkkitehtuuritoimisto Heimo Varis Oy
Structural design:	Joensuun Juva Oy
General contractor:	Rakennusliike U. Lipsanen Oy
Completion year:	2017





Pupils of all ages under the same roof

“With upper secondary school teaching moving from Kuoppakangas School to facilities shared with the city’s vocational institutes and Savonia University of Applied Sciences, we came up with the idea of moving the upper comprehensive school classes of Päiviönsaari to Kuoppakangas,” explains **Ari Kupiainen** from the City of Varkaus, recalling the inspiration for the project. The idea soon gained traction, with construction starting in spring 2016. The premise for the design of Waltteri School was the desire to form a unified comprehensive school, in which pre-primary and comprehensive school pupils could study side by side.

The need for more space and facilities better suited to comprehensive school teaching played a key role in the construction and alterations. Additional facilities were created with the construction of an entirely new building, as well as through the expansion of a technical work space in the “Taitotalo” building located next to the existing school buildings. The new, two-floor building will house pre-primary classrooms and comprehensive school classrooms for grades 1 and 2, as well as a teachers’ lounge, workspaces for teachers and two home economics classrooms. Meanwhile, the natural sciences classrooms located in the former upper

secondary school building were refurbished to make them more suitable for comprehensive school teaching.

Cost-efficient design

The design of the school was based on a room programme, which was part of the City of Varkaus’ project plan. “The aim was to connect the two school buildings to each other while also building an expansion,” says Architect **Heimo Varis**, who was in charge of the school renovation and expansion. The design of Waltteri School proceeded within the confines of a precise renovation budget prepared by the City of Varkaus.

Cost efficiency was achieved particularly through structural and material choices. “The design of the school is based on clear and simple solutions. The school building itself is rectangular, so we used facade materials to provide it with a more impressive appearance,” explains Varis.

Construction supported by clear plans

The load-bearing structures and inner envelope of the building were made from precast concrete, with insulation on top. “For the facade we installed support rails on top of the insulation, on which we affixed Cembrit Faveton facade boards,”



explains Managing Director **Antti Lipsanen** from Rakennusliike U. Lipsanen Oy, the project's building contractor. The project proceeded in accordance with the plans prepared by the architect.

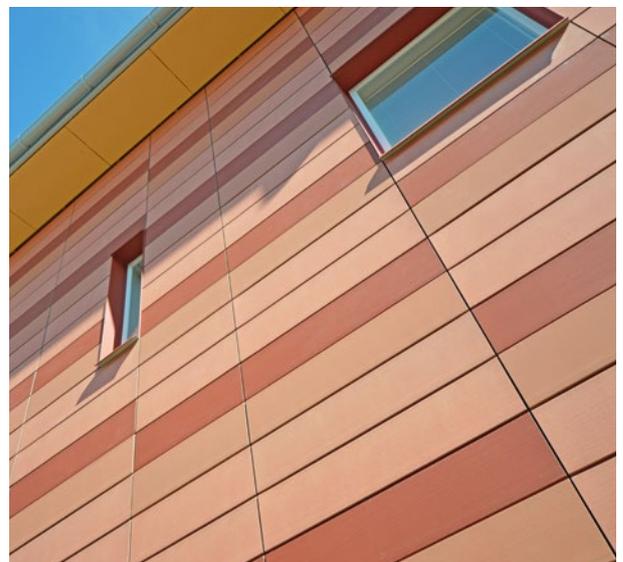
Some of the Cembrit facade boards arrived ready-to-install, while other boards required further processing at the site, consisting mainly of making sure that the tiles connected together at junctions and that they were cut to size. This was the first time that the building contractor used Cembrit's materials, but it didn't take long for them to get the hang of affixing the boards. The materials were also new to the general foreman of the site, Rakennusliike U. Lipsanen Oy's Jukka Simonen: "Making the facade was precise work, and the supporting rails had to be installed just so."

Focusing on the serviceability

The new building and the long facades and south end of one of the original school buildings were clad in ceramic Cembrit Faveton boards. "We ended up going with ceramic boards because it's still a fairly rarely used material and because it can provide a distinct look for a facade. The material also had to be graffiti-resistant and easy to wash," says Architect Heimo Varis regarding the choice of materials. "If the facade is damaged, the individual ceramic boards

are easy to replace. Before the choice of facade material was approved, the client also tested its durability against spray painting and washing," adds Varis.

Instead of traditional cladding, the soffit cladding under the eaves was made of Cembrit Color boards, as was the facade at the other end of one of the original buildings. The same boards were also used in the sealed parts of the continuous windows in order to make the buildings more uniform in





appearance. Varis emphasises that the Color boards have the advantage of being maintenance-free, whereas traditional cladding needs maintenance painting. “Another reason for choosing these particular boards is the fact that they are available in a wide range of colours,” says Varis. The colours of the boards were coordinated with colours found in the buildings’ surroundings, so that they would fit in with other nearby buildings.

A more efficient school network and better school spirit

The merger of two big schools also results in some big changes. As such, the aim was to design and build the facilities in a way that would foster school spirit and the formation of a unified school culture. “One of the aims of the school merger was to

create an internal school community for Waltteri School. The facilities were designed with the needs of a unified comprehensive school in mind, a good example being the shared teachers’ lounge and the shared workspaces for teachers,” explains Kupiainen. Another aim of the merger of the upper comprehensive schools was to make the school network of Varkaus more efficient. In the future, the new school will employ approximately 100 teachers and have just under 900 pupils.

CEMBRIT

Cembrit
P.O. Box 46
Mineraalintie 1
08681 Lohja, Finland

Tel. +358 19 287 61
info@cembrit.fi
www.cembrit.fi

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