



Ruins of Paide Castle - central area of the Opinion Festival. Photo: Arvamusfestival

# Spatial Design Summer School

at the Opinion Festival 2026

3-10 August 2026  
Paide, Estonia

3 ECTS - Erasmus+ BIP  
25 students - Free of Charge

***APPLY HERE!***

Department of Interior Architecture  
Estonian Academy of Arts

# About

The Department of Interior Architecture at the Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA) is hosting an Erasmus+ BIP summer school for 25 students as part of the 2026 Opinion Festival.

Opinion Festival is a meeting place for all layers of society, giving a platform for different worldviews. Its mission is to improve debate culture and civic education. The festival is free of charge and open to everyone in Estonia and beyond who would like to discuss and tackle issues that matter to all of us.

The summer school will be supervised by interior architect Päär Keedus, architect Johan Kirsimäe and artist Johannes Säre. Foreign students' travel costs are covered by either Erasmus+ short-term mobility scholarship or NBAA grant (Baltic and Nordic students)

This year, the focus is on the festival's food area in the Paide city square, where students will explore functional design through construction of seating and lounging environments, weaving together wood with existing materials from the festival's warehouse.



Paide central square - location of the food area. Photo: Maa- ja Ruumiamet

## Aims and context

The aim of the summer school is to create public areas that are inviting, emotionally engaging and clearly enhance the festival environment. Together with students will develop design solutions that respond to the character of Paide, but are also easy to modify, reuse and maintain in future editions of the festival.

The heart of the Opinion Festival is around the ruins of the medieval Paide castle, where a main stage and numerous smaller discussion areas host hundreds of conversations on politics, culture, technology and everyday life over two days. At the same time, the festival extends into the surrounding streets, parks and courtyards, so that much of Paide functions as an open-air forum. In this setting, seating and social spaces strongly influence the atmosphere in how people move and meet.

Within the summer school we focus on Paide's main square and the festival's street-food area. We will design and build experimental yet functional places for sitting, eating and resting, using wood and reusable elements from the festival's warehouse. The work will explore simple modular "building blocks" that can be combined into larger structures for lounging, shading and informal meetings. Where needed, temporary support structures may be used to add height or cover, but the exact material combinations and uses will be developed and tested by the students on site and during the pre-program.



# Programme

## Pre-programme:

Dates to be confirmed for online introductory sessions in May/June/July.

## On-site programme:

### Monday, 3 August

Arrive in Paide by 15:00 on August 3. Meet in front of the Järvamaa Vocational Education Centre (Tallinna 46).

16:00-19:00 First meeting, getting to know each other. Introductions, practicalities  
19:00- Self-catered dinner at a local restaurant or picnic in the city centre  
Free evening

### Tuesday, 4 August

08:00-09:30 Breakfast  
09:30-13:00 Workshop morning session  
13:00-14:00 Lunch  
14:00-19:00 Workshop afternoon session  
19:00-20:00 Dinner

### Wednesday, 5 August

08:00-09:30 Breakfast  
09:30-13:00 Workshop morning session  
13:00-14:00 Lunch  
14:00-19:00 Workshop afternoon session  
19:00-20:00 Dinner

### Thursday, 6 August

08:00-09:30 Breakfast  
09:30-13:00 Paide walking tour: architecture, heritage and the situation of a non-growing small town  
13:00-14:00 Lunch  
14:00-19:00 Workshop afternoon session  
19:00-20:00 Dinner

### Friday, 7 August

08:00-09:30 Breakfast  
09:30-13:00 Workshop morning session  
13:00-14:00 Lunch  
14:00-19:00 Workshop afternoon session  
19:00-20:00 Dinner

### Saturday, 8 August

Opinion Festival DAY 1 - Free day to participate

### Sunday, 9 August

Opinion Festival DAY 2 - Free day to participate

### Monday, 10 August

08:30-09:30 Breakfast  
09:30-13:00 Dismantling and cleaning up  
13:00-14:00 Lunch  
14:00-16:00 Dismantling and cleaning up  
17:00 Bus / train back to Tallinn

# Practicalities

## Getting to Paide:

Bus from Tallinn Coach Station to Paide bussijaam. Timetable: [tpilet.ee](http://tpilet.ee). Duration: 1 h 10 min. Buses: 10:10–11:20 and 13:00–14:10. Advisable to pre-book (sale opens a week before). Ticket: 9€, also available from the driver.

Train ([elron.ee](http://elron.ee)) to Türi (10 km from Paide). Trains: 07:38–09:11, 10:19–12:03, 12:05–13:41. Good option if you cycle from Tallinn. Regular bus between Türi and Paide (10A/10B/10C, every 30 min). [peatus.ee](http://peatus.ee)

## Return to Tallinn:

We finish on 10 August at 16:00. Bus from Paide: 17:05–18:15 (pre-book a week ahead). Last trains from Türi: 19:10–20:35 and 21:04–22:39.

Rideshare group: Tallinn–Paide rides on Facebook (usually 5–7€).

## Staying in Tallinn:

If you need accommodation in Tallinn before or after:

- Fat Margaret's Hostel
- 16eur Apartments
- Airbnb — Old Town, Kalamaja, Kassisaba or Pelgulinn (walkable from Railway Station)

Public transport: [visittallinn.ee](http://visittallinn.ee)

## Accommodation in Paide:



Järvamaa Vocational Education Centre - student dormitory

Student dormitory of the Järvamaa Vocational Education Centre ([map](#)), Tallinna 46, Paide. Blankets, pillows and sheets provided. Cost: 15€/night (150€ total for 10 nights). The Opinion Festival will issue invoices; payment by bank transfer or PayPal.

Basic kitchen in each unit. Artificial lake for swimming nearby ([visitjarva.ee](http://visitjarva.ee)) — bring swimming suits.

## Food:

Three meals a day at Wabakohvik, Pikk tn 1, Paide. Meals covered by the Opinion Festival.

# Previous work



Stag  for discussions on education, built during the 2025 Spatial Design Summer School.  
Photo: Merilyn Sepp



Paide Central Square spatial experiment during Opinion Festival. Remnants.  
Photo: M. Tomba



Sourcing materials from previous Opinion Festivals. Photo: Hanna Loora Arro

# Team

The Spatial Design Summer School is organised by the Department of Interior Architecture of the Estonian Academy of Arts



## **Gregor Taul**

Head of MA programme, Interior Architecture (EKA). Organisation and paperwork

gregor.taul@artun.ee



## **Johannes Säre**

Technical director of the Opinion Festival. Responsible for materials, tools and technical aspects.

johannes.sare@arvamusfestival.ee



## **Johan Kirsimäe**

Architect. Workshop supervisor.

johan.kirsimae@artun.ee



## **Päär Keedus**

Interior architect. Workshop supervisor.

paar-joonap.keedus@artun.ee