

**NORDIC**  
**ARCHITECTURE**  
NORDIC WOMEN

**EBENESER HOUSE**

WIVI LÖNN



<b>ARCHITECT</b>	<b>4</b>
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# WIVI LÖNN

Wivi Lönn was born in Tampere in 1872 and was the fifth woman to graduate as an architect in Finland. She studied construction for one year at an industrial school before she started to study architecture at the Polytechnical University of Helsinki. After she graduated, she got a scholarship for doing a study trip in Europe and Great Britain. In her carrier, she drew a lot of school buildings and won many competitions.



# EBENESER HOUSE

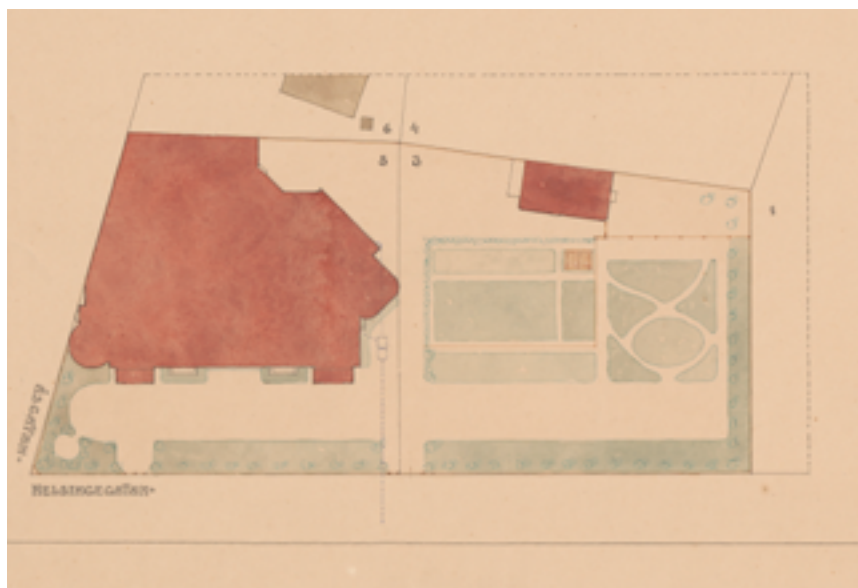
Ebeneser House is a kindergarten that was built in 1908 in Helsinki. It was one of the first kindergarten that was free for the working class in the Nordic countries and the pedagogics of Fröbel was practised by its users. The education was practical and the children participated in both cooking and garden activities. A loving relation between the student and the teachers was important. The style of the building is Art Nouveau and it is still used as a kindergarten as well as a museum.



# CONTEXT

The kindergarten is located in an area called Kallio in the outskirts of Helsinki. At this time, the area was transforming from farmland to an industrial area where the harbour, shipping companies and factories were the main employers. There were a lot of small apartments with low rents and it was mostly the working class who lived there. The commissioner of Ebeneser house, Johanna Sofia Rothman, had in 1888 founded the first free kindergarten in the Nordic countries.





# INTERIORS

The functions of the buildings are arranged to the different floor levels. On the ground floor, there is a cloakroom, and orphanage, a kitchen and rooms for practical activities. On the first floor was a preschool for Swedish children and on the second floor a preschool for Finnish children. On the third floor there was a seminar for the teachers. Daylight and spaciousness is characterizing for the different rooms.



Pictures from Helsinki kindergarten museum

# CONCEPT

Wivi took a lot of Inspiration from her study trip and she especially admired the tidiness and hygiene of the schools in Scotland. The underlying principle of British school architecture was to place the classrooms around spacious halls, which helped to avoid narrow and dark corridors. Pupils often left their coats in a special cloakroom on the ground floor. This became an important principle for all her school buildings including Ebeneser house.



Picture from Helsinki kindergarten museum

# FLOOR PLANS





# SECTIONS





## ELEVATION



# CONCEPT MODEL





# MAIN MODEL





# PROCESS







