

# HILTON HELSINKI-VANTAA AIRPORT - FOUR SEASONS

Text: Juhana Päivärinta  
Pictures: Johan Stenberg

Hilton Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, a top-quality international airport hotel, provides its guests with modern services in a comfortable environment. The five star luxury hotel has 246 excellently equipped rooms and suites. The hotel contains 10 flexible conference rooms, the largest of which is a ballroom for 340 people which can be transformed into three separate areas. The 250-seat restaurant contains a kitchen and a show kitchen where customers can watch the chefs in action while sitting at their tables. The hotel, located in the immediate vicinity of the airport's international terminal, was opened on 13 August 2007.

Ms. **Bronwynn Welsh**, an interior designer with Doos Arkitekter Ab, a partner of Hilton, designed the hotel's interior which radiates the peace of nature. Pure Finnish nature and the changing seasons were the starting points of her inspiration. The result is a hotel with a modern Finnish touch for international tastes.

The facilities of the Hilton Helsinki-Vantaa Airport hotel are spacious and filled with light. The interior contains plenty of wood and stone in warm and earthy colours. The rooms and public areas include furniture designed by Alvar Aalto, the world-renowned Finnish architect. The hotel's reception hall is decorated with birch trees and the reception office facilities are surrounded by a wall cladding resembling a snowy shingle roof.

## A challenging lighting project

The hotel's electrical lighting design was based on Hilton's utilisation plan, including objectives for creating the mood with lighting in the restaurant, conference rooms, corridors, gym, saunas and public areas according to different situations and times of the day. Sähköarina Helsinki Oy, a company specialised in electrical contracts in demanding special projects, defined the required equipment together with Electrosonic Lightinen, the Finnish distributor of Helvar lighting control products, and turned the plan into working drawings.

"A five star hotel is a very challenging design project. The major challenge was the project's tight 11-month schedule which was fulfilled as agreed. The facilities are architecturally and structurally ambitious – high spaces with arched walls. The restaurant, reception and kitchen environment were the most demanding targets," says **Kalervo Vaattovaara**, Technical Director of Sähköarina Helsinki Oy.

"The starting points of the project were open and the schedule was tight. We needed a reliable and cost-efficient lighting control system. We compared different

alternatives and selected Helvar's Imagine™ system," says Vaattovaara.

Electrosonic Lightinen, a company engaged in close cooperation with Sähköarina Helsinki, supplied the lighting control devices and commissioned the system. According to Vaattovaara, the lighting control project and its introduction in such a demanding building were carried out smoothly and the designs were valuable.

## Lighting creates the hotel's atmosphere

With the Helvar Imagine™ system, the lighting in the hotel's different facilities can be changed easily using control panels. For example, the reception areas contain seven scenes for different lighting atmospheres. In conference rooms, the control of AV technology is integrated with the lighting control. The lighting and lighting control in the hotel facilities has received high praise.

"The hotel facilities look very natural, including wood and stone. Through lighting we can easily change the atmosphere in the facilities. For example, a conference room can easily be turned into a comfortable banquet hall with round tables, candles and lighting suitable for the atmosphere," says **Matti Kuosmanen**, Conference Supervisor / IT Responsible at Hilton.

Light sources in different areas include fluorescent, metal halide and halogen lamps. Conference rooms contain controllable compact lamps. Lighting, controlled according to the situation and implemented using compact lamps, is installed in the gym. Optical fibre is used for lighting in the sauna facilities.

In addition to the general lighting, a tremendous work of art has been built into the ceiling of the large conference room using optical fibre - "the northern lights". Its colours can be changed and advanced in waves from one end of the room to the other, similar to the glow of northern lights in the winter sky of Lapland.

## Changeability and energy savings

Through lighting control, the hotel takes into account the different seasons and creates different atmospheres according to the needs of its customers. Using lighting control, the lighting can also be optimised according to the volume of daylight, resulting in energy savings.

"The lighting control, lighting and other technology of the new hotel operate well. It is important for us that the modern hotel takes energy savings into consideration in its operations. We are currently applying for a Nordic environment label, the Swan ecolabel, for our services. It requires energy savings from lighting. We are extremely proud of this hotel," emphasises **Anna Lumme**, Food and Beverage Manager at Hilton. ■

The conference rooms are lit with exciting colours.



Dark and light contrasts in decoration are softened with natural materials and indirect light.

