



# Finlandia Foundation<sup>®</sup> National

Inspiring, celebrating and connecting the Finnish-American community since 1953

## CENTENARY LECTURERS

**Peter MacKeith:**  
“A House of Finland”



**(Clockwise) Thomas A. DuBois: “Finland and the *Kalevala*”**

**Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen: “The History of Finnish Independence”**

**K. Marianne Wargelin: “Beyond the Atlantic: Finland’s Independence Viewed from Across the Sea”**

**Börje Vähämäki: “Film, Literature and Finnish Identities”**

A once-in-a-lifetime event like 100 years of Finnish independence deserves to be celebrated, but it should also spur reflection on a remarkable story. In recognition of the centennial of Finland’s declaration of independence, Finlandia Foundation National is pleased to present an expanded Lecturer of the Year program featuring scholars who are experts on topics related to Finland’s national independence and identity.

The Centenary Lecturers are available for FFN chapter programs between June 2016 and May 2018.

# A House of Finland

This lecture traces the emergence, development and ongoing vitality of Finnish cultural identity through a century of significant architecture and design, presenting examples from across the last 100 years, and emphasizing the building of community through public architecture.

With their strengths and expressiveness, the precedent architectural exemplars of 20th century Finnish architecture ---works by Lars Sonck, Eliel Saarinen, Alvar Aalto, Aarno Ruusuvuori and Reima Pietilä, among others---form a powerful body of work by which to comprehend a Finnish tradition of public building.

But contemporary Finnish architecture also possesses a continuing and contemporary emphasis on a rich public architecture, attuned to emergent societal values and diverse community ambitions.

Drawing upon these long decades of socially attentive and responsible design, “A House of Finland” addresses this Finnish preoccupation in historical and contemporary terms and examples.

If nothing else---and it is already quite a lot---Finnish architecture’s contemporary devotion to education, health and wellness, cultural performance, display and engagement, and the care of children, is a comprehensive demonstration of the vital sense of community in Finnish identity.

## About Peter MacKeith

Peter MacKeith is Dean and Professor of Architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas.

For the last 20 years, since receiving a Fulbright Fellowship to Finland in 1990, he has worked as a liaison between the architecture cultures of the United States, Finland, and the Nordic nations, in the fields of education, professional practice, exhibitions, research and publications.

Peter served as the Honorary Consul of Finland in St. Louis, Missouri, from 2012 to 2014. He is a member of the Finnish Cultural Institute-New York Advisory Board.



In February of 2014 he was recognized by the President of Finland with the insignia of Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland.

## PAST LECTURERS OF THE YEAR:

**2015** Taina Elg with Heli Sirviö

**2014** Suzanne Jurva and Erin Smith, filmmakers of the documentary *Yoopera!*

**2013** Yvonne Lockwood, “Traditional Material Culture in Modern Finnish America”

**2012** Glenda Dawn Goss, “Sibelius: A Composer’s Life and the Awakening of Finland”

**2011** Carl Rahkonen, “The Finnish-American Musical Journey”

**2010** Arnold Alanen, “From Finland to North America: Buildings, Landscapes and Cultural Change”

**2007-09** Mark Coir and Susan Saarinen, “The Saarinen Architectural Legacy”

**2006** Ben Stout and *Fire and Ice*, a documentary about The Winter War between Finland and Russia

Find more information on their programs at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org)

Finlandia Foundation National is the premier network of Finnish-American organizations in the United States.

Founded in Pasadena, California in 1953, FFN administers grants, scholarships and programs supporting and celebrating Finnish heritage and Finnish-American culture and traditions, and contemporary Finnish America.

FFN is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information: [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org)



Finlandia Foundation National  
P.O. Box 92046  
Pasadena, CA 91109-2046  
Phone: 626.795.2081  
Email: [office@finlandiafoundation.org](mailto:office@finlandiafoundation.org)