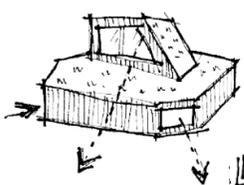


+ the design process

Projects can come about in many ways, maybe a conversation with a potential client, or as a competition entry - but they always start with a site, and a sketch, and usually end with a building. Many of our clients use Cetopo to create beautiful visualisations, and as a tool for sketch design, but we think we've got more to offer. Topography can inform decisions at all stages of the design process - from sketch visualisations to drainage details - and this hopes to highlight some more uses for Cetopo you might not have thought of!

BRIEF DEVELOPMENT

When discussing the brief with a potential client, it is likely that they are not a designer, and may struggle to visualise, or verbalise exactly what they want or need. If you are not meeting them on site, it may also be difficult for them to understand the site and how a building might look. Why not help them out (and help yourself) with an interactive Cetopo Preview. These interactive models can serve as a great visual aid, and help conversations and ideas flow more smoothly. You could even take a screenshot and sketch your ideas directly onto the model.



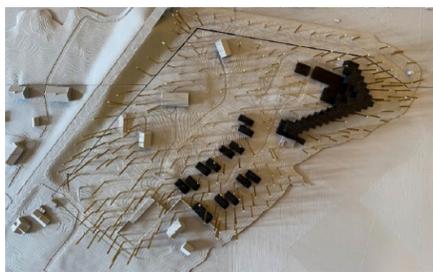
sketch on Cetopo preview

VISUALISATIONS

There will be various iterations of your visualisations, but it can be helpful for the client to see these situated on the site - since this will not change - to help them understand the changes you are making to the design.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN LUONNOSSUUNNITTELU

This stage of the design process involves working quickly and loosely to create sketch designs. It is probably the stage where you are most likely to use Cetopo models the most, as the lightness of the models, and the fact that you can collect all the information in one place facilitates working quickly and creatively. It is important to produce lots of iterative material at this stage, some of this may take the form of visualisations, models, and sketch plans and sections.



MODELS

Physical models can be a really tactile way of exploring ideas, and with Cetopo's laser cutting and 3d printing templates you can get the data you need easily, and manipulate it to suit your needs.

PLANS + SECTIONS

It's important to know early on how your design will interact with the terrain it sits on, and how this affects not only the build, but it's views and solar gain. Sketching plans and sections in context is much more valuable than on blank bits of paper, and can save you time in the long run.



sketch plan on Cetopo heightmap

READ MORE Our client Studio Puisto uses Cetopo data to create beautiful 3D printed models:

<https://cetopo.com/Blog?post=studio-puisto&page=1>

MASTER DRAWINGS PÄÄPIIRUSTUS

In order to gain permissions for your design, it is important that your Pääpiirustus drawings convey accurately how your design will interact with the terrain it sits on. It is also important that the officials can tell from your drawings how sensitive you have been to the surrounding buildings. Using Cetopo models in your plans, and particularly sections can make your drawings look more convincing, and may give you a better chance of getting your designs approved.

READ MORE Our client Mikko Kyläköski teaches us how he uses Cetopo data for permissions drawings.



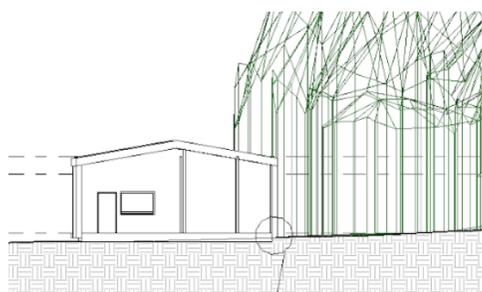
Pääpiirustus Drawings created using Revit with Cetopo landscape model



Cetopo previews can also be used at this stage to generate and check spot heights on plans. Even if you have edited the terrain in your model, you can always go back to previews to check heights. This can also be useful for checking coordinates.

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS TYÖPIIRUSTUS

Creating good detailed designs relies on an understanding of how your design meets the ground. We believe that working in 3D with accurate topographic information will make the process of designing small details in your building easier. Understanding the wider terrain can also make it easier to plan things like fire escape routes, drainage, and waste collection.



Foundation detail

ON-SITE CONSTRUCTION PÄÄSUUNNITTELU

Working with accurate topographic models throughout the design process should mean that both the design team and the client has a thorough understanding of the nature of the site, and what to expect when it comes to construction. This is not to say that you will not have any issues on site - what project ever has?! - but our customers agree that having a clear picture of the site from day one tends to result in less mistakes later in the design process, and also reduces the chances of the client demanding changes late in the process.