



Photo: Hannele Kuusisto

# CELEBRATING COPPER CRAFTSMANSHIP



**Replacement of the failed galvanized tin roofs on this distinctive house with beautifully detailed copper has added a new dimension to its unique design.**

Perched on a rocky slope overlooking the seashore in Rauma on the West coast of Finland, the house was designed by local Architect Jukka Koivula and built some 20 years ago. The multi-level house follows the natural contours of the terrain and its mannerist design – borrowing both from traditional and modern sources – presents various different forms seen from both sea and land.

## Copper Convinced the Owners

Originally, the house had a galvanized tin roof which required increasing, periodic maintenance to resolve problems such as blistering of the green roof paintwork. Therefore a decision was made to replace the whole roof. With this coastal location, the changing weather conditions expose the external materials to extreme strain. According to the building's owner, Raimo Hilakari, copper was the only sensible solu-

tion left. Its durability and malleability were important considerations when deciding on the material for the various different roof forms. Additionally, the shade of copper and its natural patination over time will give a natural match to the yellow-toned stone surface of the house. A new copper roof was installed last year and all the other sheet metal cladding was replaced with copper.

Text by Hannele Kuusisto/Chris Hodson

**Owners:** Tuire and Raimo Hilakari, Rauma  
**Architects' Office:** Jukka Koivula, Rauma



## Superb Workmanship

The roof was clad with 60-cm-wide copper strips, supplied in 200-kg coils ready to be cut and shaped into correctly sized pieces for use in different places. The 500m<sup>2</sup> roof has various details demanding a particularly high level of skill from the installation crew – a local sheet-metal company. Copper has also been used in the unusual rainwater system, the distinctive architect-designed chimney, and even protective cladding for the fence. The highly individual window frames are copper-clad, too. This house is full of small, delightful details – all beautifully executed and a real celebration of copper craftsmanship. It's now a year since the new copper was installed and it has oxidized into a soft brown colour. The owners are pleased with their choice and know that the roof will last for many generations.

