

## Helsinki Airport's famous wood-plastic parquet

The two-storey terminal building at Helsinki Airport, designed by the architect Keijo Ström, was completed in the spring of 1969. Before the new terminal was completed, the airport had a wooden terminal building built for the 1952 Olympic Games and intended for temporary use.

The new terminal was large, spectacular and modern. The area of over 20,000 square metres made it one of the largest buildings in Finland. Finnish designers were used in the design and interior design, because the building was intended to be a business card for Finnish expertise.

Parquet was chosen as the floor material for the passenger areas, made by Neste Oy using a special method to be durable. The material was called 'wood-plastic'. The idea was to preserve the good qualities of wood and eliminate the bad qualities with plastic. 8,200 square meters of the floor of the new terminal was Neswood parquet.

The parquet had to be 'roughened' in 1985, when its 12,000 square metre floor area was the largest uniform parquet in the country. The slippery surface of the floor was a problem that had long been recognised and also received a lot of publicity. At that time, around 10 million passengers and people escorting and receiving passengers moved around the airport each year.

The oil crisis that began in 1973 made prices for a wide range of plastic-based products high. For this reason, the further development and production of Neswood was discontinued. At Helsinki Airport, the wood-plastic parquet is still in use, as it has been for over 60 years, in line with the original idea.

