Agora in a nutshell

Agora (In Greek) = a market or meeting place

The Human Technologies Centre is described well by its name Agora since it offers students, researchers and corporations a place to meet.

The main idea behind Agora is to focus on research concerning human development and the life cycle as well as information- and communication technology. Agora, which emphasizes the human centred approach to information technology, is the University of Jyväskylä's answer to the growing and changing need of the field of information technology. As a multi-disciplinary organization, the University has a strong foundation to develop information technology so that it can enhance human and social needs. Via the research and trainee programs, which will be closely linked with education, the University of Jyväskylä offers new know-how to the business sector.

Agora is a unique university construction project due to its private funding, which came from a German investment bank Landesbank Kiel. This sort of funding solution made it possible for the project to be finished in less time (all together 3 years) than usual, which would have been about seven years.

The Human Technologies Centre is well-located between Seminaarinmäki, Mattilanniemi and Ylistönrinne. The building was designed by architect Arto Sipinen. He used lots of windows in order for people inside to see the beautiful lakeside view and to create an image of a building without concrete walls and with harmony between the outside and the inside. The architect also designed the furniture for the downstairs lobby. The rest of the furniture seen in the halls was created by the most famous Finnish architect, Alvar Aalto and a Danish architect, Arne Jacobsen. The vision Arto Sipinen wanted to express by his work is completed by the use of materials such as granite and Finnish birch.

For more information:
Agora - Human Technologies Centre
http://www.jyu.fi/agora
Your intellectual needs as well as your desire for aesthetics will be satisfied in Agora. The experimental architecture sees to the aesthetics but the intellectual part is left to the following:

FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, www.infotech.jyu.fi

Information Systems
Electronic Commerce
Digital Media
Group Technologies
User-friendly Information Technology
Software Business
Multimedia (minor)

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, www.mit.jyu.fi
Embedded Systems
Line for Teachers
Mobile Computing
Software Engineering
Telecommunication
Scientific Computing

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS

PSYKOCENTER, www.jyu.fi/agora/ psykocenter
Centre of Excellence in Psychology

Child Research Centre
psykonet.jyu.fi/ LaTu/DEFAULT.HTM

Family Research Unit
www.jyu.fi/pty/index.html

Finnish Centre for Interdisciplinary Gerontology
www.jyu.fi/liikunta/tervtiede/SGT/index.htm

Peda.Net Schoolnet
peda.net/English/index.html

Teaching Developmental Unit
www.jyu.fi/oplaa/

Agora employs 500 people, 200 of whom are in companies and 300 in the facilities of the University. There are almost a thousand students in the new Faculty of Information Technology. In a few years this figure will rise to almost 1500.

Many plans concerning the future of Agora have been discussed. These include plans of gaining the leading position in Finland in the field of human technologies by 2005. In the future Agora also wishes to increasingly co-operate with other units of the University, which cover many fields of study. To support research activities the library services of Agora should be developed and possibilities of co-operation with companies in funding the information services should be explored.

Tokiko Horiuchi ja Nadia Sabour

COMPANIES

Cygate Networks Oy
www.cygate.fi

Enermet Oy
www.enermet.com

JSP Facilities Oy
www.jsp.fi

Kopliyvä Oy
www.kopliyva.fi

Republica Oy
www.republica.fi

Sonaatti Oy
www.sonaatti.fi

Sonera Oyj
www.sonera.fi