

## **Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits 2018**

### **The Finnish Museum of Games, Vapriiki (Finland)**

The Finnish Museum of Games has created a sophisticated exhibition that explores the evolution of video game technologies and gaming culture. Striking a balance between local and international histories, FMG's curators chose to emphasize the specific contributions of Finnish companies and consumers rather than recapitulate established narratives that focus on the United States and Japan. This decision has broader historiographic ramifications as scholars seek to more effectively integrate the regional with the global. Implementing their ideas led the museum staff to reach out to a diverse array of stakeholders, including game developers, retrocomputing hobbyists, and academics at nearby universities. FMG also launched a crowdfunding campaign to secure operating capital and raise the institution's profile among the gamer community. The result of these efforts is a creatively designed facility within Museum Center Vapriikki, which adroitly assembles hundreds of individual artifacts into a cohesive storyline and enables visitors to engage directly with vintage video game systems in immersive settings such as a child's room from the 1980s, a 1990s video game store, or a classic arcade.