

ALVAR AALTO LIBRARIES

– THE REALM OF KNOWLEDGE IMMERSED IN NATURAL LIGHT

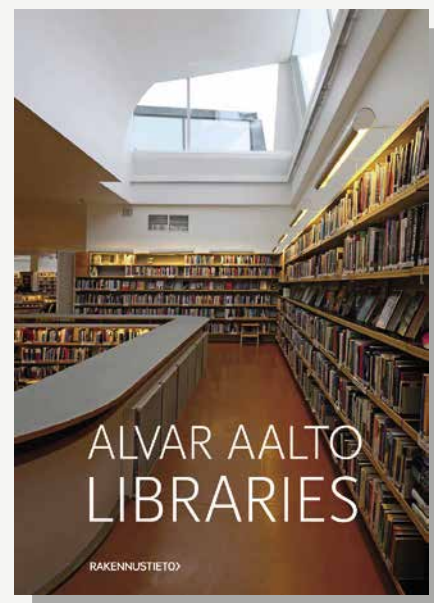
Seinäjäki Library

Jari and Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen's monograph on the libraries of Alvar Aalto presents all 18 of his completed libraries as well as the Academic Bookstore. Chronologically the sites range from Viipuri Library in the 1930s to Alajärvi Library in the 1990s, which was realised after Aalto's death. In an introductory essay, Teija Isohauta writes about Aalto's unrealised library projects.

Aalto's libraries have served various needs. Some of them are public libraries, such as those in Seinäjoki, Rovaniemi and Wolfsburg. The libraries at the University of Jyväskylä, Helsinki University of Technology and the Mount Angel monastery are scholarly libraries. The libraries in private houses such as Villa Mairea and Maison Carré, offered a tranquil work space.

In the libraries it was important to create spaces for different kinds of functions and users. In some of them Aalto arranged the functional differences by means of combinations of fan shapes for the main library spaces together with a strict rectangularity for the work rooms. Side by side one encounters visibility and openness and, on the other hand, also sheltered and tranquil places to sit and read. Both natural and artificial light fulfil their respective purposes. Skylights and clerestory windows bring natural light into the core of even deep building frames. Natural light creates a strong positive ambience in the reading and lending halls. The individual lamps on the reading tables in turn create enchanted circles of light.

Aalto felt a particular affinity for designing libraries. He himself was interested in literature and reading. Nowadays almost half of all Finns are regular users of libraries, the functions of which, however, have changed and continue to change – in addition to books, many other services have become integral parts of the libraries.



Alvar Aalto Libraries

Jari Jetsonen / photos

Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen / texts

Teija Isohauta / introductory essay

250 pages

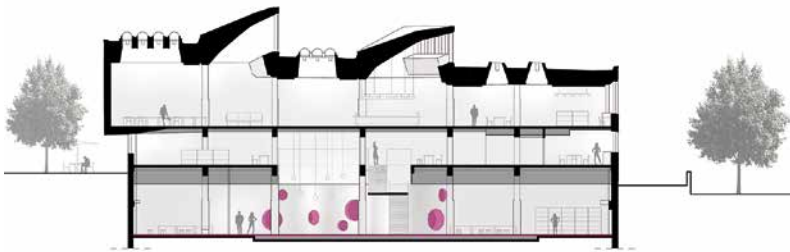
250 photos and drawings

60 e (+ vat 10 %)

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Superb colour photographs, and an abundance of previously unpublished pictures.



Aalto University Section

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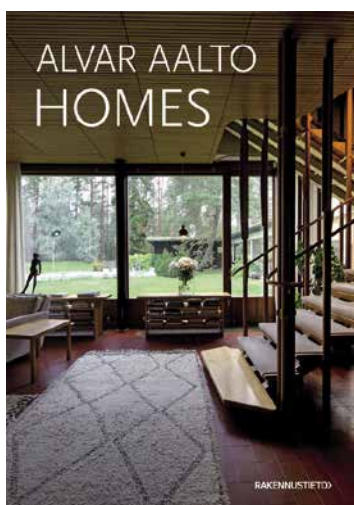
Mount Angel



Wolfsburg Library



Villa Mairea



Alvar Aalto Homes

The book presents 30 homes by Aalto from 1920s to the end of the 1960s, built in Finland, United States, Germany, Switzerland, Estonia and France: single-family houses, various apartments blocks, student dormitories and summer homes.

Jari Jetsonen / photos
 Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen / texts
 Jussi Rautsi / essay
 Foreword / Álvaro Siza Vieira
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