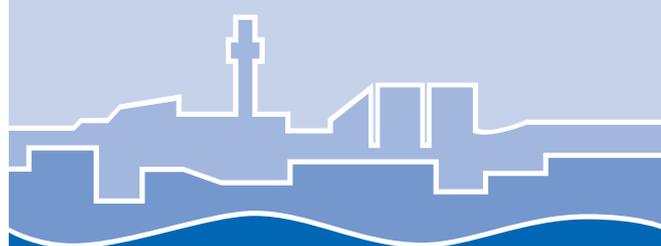


SEINÄJOKI

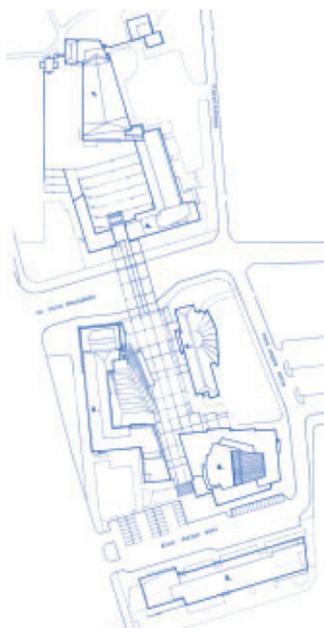


Alvar Aalto



■ Alvar Aalto created in his home region a cultural milieu and image factor, which has grown into an international-level tourism destination.

The Aalto Centre, the pride of Seinäjoki



The administrative and cultural centre of Seinäjoki is one of the most important creations of Alvar Aalto. The Aalto Centre, composed of six buildings and speaking directly to the spectator in clean and timeless form language, was mainly completed between 1960 and 1968.

The first building to be erected was the church, Lakeuden Risti ('Cross on the Plain') and the last one, the theatre, in 1987. Consequently, nowadays you can admire in Seinäjoki a group of buildings and architectural whole, which is rare by Finnish and even by international standards.

The Aalto Centre was implemented in the spirit of the great master down to the last detail. The finishing touches



included the coating of the Civic Square with granite slates and dice stones in summer 1988. The pattern of squares was made correspond completely to the design by Aalto.

In Seinäjoki, you can also visit the Staff Building of the Civil Guard, which was inaugurated in 1925. The group of three buildings is a good showcase from Aalto's classical period and his only early work that has remained unchanged.



Buildings of the Aalto Centre (year of completion)

- Lakeuden Risti church ('Cross of the Plain') (1960); also the interior, textiles and the stained glass window of the chapel are designed by Aalto; height of the bell-tower 65 m.
- City Hall (1962); the architectural competition was started for the design of a "borough hall"; Seinäjoki was granted its town charter in 1960.
- City Library / Regional Library (1965); a "fan solution" typical of Aalto.
- Parish Centre (1966); in particular its entrance hall and parish meeting hall are architecturally important; also the adjacent church park is designed by Aalto.
- State Office Building (1968); the main interior of the building is the courtroom.
- City Theatre (1987); on the walls of the upstairs and downstairs foyers, there are bent wood relieves by Aalto.



SEINÄJOKI

Welcome to Seinäjoki,
the city of the
architecture of Aalto.

You will find
the whole city at:
www.seinajoki.fi

■ This is where it began. The church and tower of Lakeuden Risti gave an initial boost to the building of the unique Aalto Centre.



Alvar Aalto (1898-1976)

Alvar Aalto, a Finnish architect and professor, is one of the notable innovators of architecture and interior decoration. Aalto's design is characterised by individuality combined with the perception of current trends. As to his working methods, Aalto was a delicate observer of man and his environment as well as a designer striving after reasonable solutions.

How did Alvar Aalto's architecture come to Seinäjoki? Alvar Aalto was born in Kuortane, South Ostrobothnia. He graduated as an architect in 1921, but while still studying, he designed the Youth Society building of Alajärvi, his then home municipi-

ality. As a result of an architectural competition in 1951, Aalto was charged with the design of the new church and parish centre of Seinäjoki. Then, a brave and ambitious decision was made: the implementation of "The Cross of the Plains" was started according to the plan, which meant, among other things, the designing of a 1200-seat church for the parish of over 10 000 people.

The Administrative and Cultural Centre designed by the world-famous architect was erected as a municipal effort. Five of the six buildings were completed in the 1960's; during the subsequent years, the emphasis was on the development of other targets and services in the city, whereas the 1980's marked a return to Aalto's plans.

■ Harmony and fine details. The furniture, light fittings, and numerous works of art of the interiors of the Aalto Centre, including the gavel in the Council Hall, were designed by Aalto.

Aalto-related websites:

- www.alvaraalto.fi
- <http://virtual.finland.fi>, from where go to 'Famous Finns'



■ Wood bends and becomes art. The unique works of art by Aalto enrich and complement his architecture.

CONTACT US:

CITY OF SEINÄJOKI
Seinäjoki info
Kirkkokatu 6
PO Box 215
FI-60101 SEINÄJOKI
tel. +358 6 416 2999
fax +358 6 416 2506
www.seinajoki.fi

*"Yes, of course
you can and must fly,
but it should be with one foot on the ground
- or at least a big toe."*

Alvar Aalto

