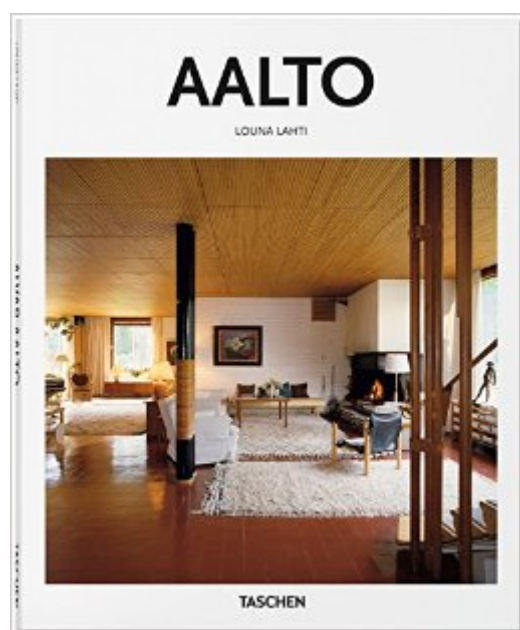


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# Aalto



## Synopsis

Modern grace: Lyrical forms from Finland Alvar Aalto (1898–1976) made a unique modernist mark. Influenced by both the landscape and the political independence of his native Finland, he designed warm, curving, compassionate buildings, wholly set apart from the slick, mechanistic, geometric designs that characterized much contemporary European practice. Whether a church, a villa, a sauna, or a public library, Aalto's organic structures tended to replace plaster and steel with brick and wood, often incorporating undulating, wave-like forms, which would also appear in his chair, glassware, and lamp designs. An adherent to detail, Aalto insisted upon the humanity and societal role of architecture, stating: "Modern architecture does not mean using immature new materials; the main thing is to work with materials towards a more human line." Many of his public buildings such as the Syntsalo Town Hall, the lecture theatre at Otaniemi Technical University, the Helsinki National Pensions Institute and the House of Culture, Helsinki may be seen as psychological as well as physical landmarks in the rebuilding of Finland after the ravages of war. This book brings together Aalto's key works to introduce the architect hailed as a champion of environmentally sound, progressive design, with a deep-rooted sense of home.

About the Series: Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Architecture Series features: an introduction to the life and work of the architect the major works in chronological order information about the clients, architectural preconditions as well as construction problems and resolutions a list of all the selected works and a map indicating the locations of the best and most famous buildings approximately 120 illustrations (photographs, sketches, drafts and plans)

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## Customer Reviews

When they call this book "basic," they mean it. There is nothing deep or philosophical contained within these pages. Instead, this is an overview of the main works that Aalto produced during his career. Projects range from his Savoy vases to entire buildings. This is a good starting point for anyone who is interested in learning more about Aalto's work and nice to have as a basic reference. For the price, this little book can't be beat!

I love Aalto's work, but this book was just dry. I give it 3.5 only because it's meant to be an inexpensive introduction to Aalto's work, and it is inexpensive..but the writing is just dry. You really get nothing from the articles about the buildings..but it is a nice intro to the architect's life and it does showcase a few of his best works...albeit in a dry manner..If you aren't really interested in his work, this is perfect for you. But if you want a decent look into some of his buildings and materials and philosophy, then your going to have to splurge a littleB-

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