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Alvar Aalto Today: his Legacy in Architecture and Design

Seminar on 28 September 2019, 2-5pm

What is Alvar Aalto's position in today's architecture and design? What relationship do Finnish and French creators have with the master, who was born in 1898 and died in 1976? What lessons can be learned from his career, works, concerns, and way of creating? At the time of celebrating the 60 years anniversary of the Maison Louis Carré, this seminar is an opportunity to focus on the topicality of this great 20th century artist.

Participants

Linda Bergroth, designer
Ronan Bouroullec, designer
Odile Decq, architect
Marianne Goebel, director of Artek
Antti Nousjoki, ALA Architects
Moderator: Nicolas Favet, architect
Language: English

Venue: auditorium of Maison Jean Monnet (opposite Maison Louis Carré)
7 chemin du Vieux Pressoir, 78490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne

A shuttle departs from Porte d'Auteuil, Paris, at 1pm, return at 6pm, arrival in Paris ca. 7pm.

The seminar will be followed by a visit of the Maison Louis Carré.

Free admission within the limits of available seats, [by reservation](#).

The seminar is organized with the kind collaboration of Artek.



© Paavo Lehtonen



Koti, installation at the Finnish Institute, Paris, 2017

Linda Bergroth

Linda Bergroth (b.1978) is a Helsinki- and Paris-based designer. Her projects range from industrial design and interior architecture to creating sets. Having studied both furniture design at the University of Art and Design and architecture at the École d'Architecture Paris-Malaquais, Bergroth moves fluently between different scales fusing commercial and experimental, lasting and temporary. In her work, Nordic traditions encounter bold and unpredictable ideas with a surprising outcome. Bergroth's vision is valued by leading Scandinavian design brands such as Fiskars, Marimekko and Artek. She was awarded in Finland as the Young Designer of the Year 2012. Her Zero Waste Bistro won the Sustainability Award at Frame Awards in Amsterdam in February this year.

<http://www.lindabergroth.com/>



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Ruutu, Iittala, 2016

Ronan Bouroullec

After completing his studies at the École nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs in Paris, Ronan Bouroullec (b. 1971) associated in 1998 with his brother Erwan (b. 1976). Their collaboration is a permanent dialogue challenged by their distinct personalities and a shared diligence aiming for balance and finesse. Their work has covered many fields ranging from the design of small objects as jewellery to spatial arrangements and architecture, from craftsmanship to industrial scale, from drawings to videos and photography. Winners of many prestigious awards, they collaborate with numerous international firms, such as the Finnish brands Iittala and Artek. Several monographic exhibitions have been devoted to their work, f. ex. at the Design Museum, London, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Vitra Design Museum, the Centre Pompidou Metz, and at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Several monographs have been released worldwide. Their studio is based in Paris.

<http://www.bouroullec.com>



© Franck Juery



Tangshan National Geopark Museum, China, 2015 © Roland Halbe

Odile Decq

Odile Decq is a French architect and urban planner. Being awarded the Golden Lion of Architecture during the Venice Biennale in 1996 acknowledged her early and unusual career. Other than just a style, an attitude or a process, Odile Decq's work materializes a complete universe that embraces urban planning, architecture, design and art. Her multidisciplinary approach was recently awarded with the Jane Drew Prize in 2016 and in 2017 she was honoured with Architizer's Lifetime Achievement Award for her pioneering work as well as her engagement and contribution to the debate on architecture. Odile Decq has been teaching architecture for the past 25 years, in France and abroad, notably at the Columbia University and at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. She was Director of l'Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris and in 2014 she created and launched her own school in Lyon: the Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture. Studio Odile Decq is located in Paris.

<https://www.odiledecq.com/>



© Tuomas Uusheimo



Helsinki Central Library Oodi, 2018 © Tuomas Uusheimo

Antti Nousjoki

In 2005, Antti Nousjoki (b. 1974) was one of the founders of ALA Architects. Today, the Helsinki-based firm is run by the three partners Juho Grönholm, Antti Nousjoki and Samuli Woolston, all graduates from the Helsinki University of Technology. Noticed for the Kilden Performing Arts Center in Kristiansand, Norway (2005-12), ALA attracted international attention for the brand new Helsinki Library, Oodi, open since December 2018. In France, they're currently building the Learning Center of the Université Lumière Lyon 2, in collaboration with Nicolas Favet Architectes. In 2012 they received the prestigious Finnish State Prize for Architecture. The founders of ALA seek fresh angles, flowing forms and surprising solutions: "We trust in beauty achieved by combining the intuitive and the analytical, the practical and the extravagant, the rational and the irrational."

<http://ala.fi/>



© Susanne Günther



Alvar Aalto, *Stool nr 60*

Marianne Goebel

After studying economics in Vienna and in Paris, Marianne Goebel worked in the design field and developed and disseminated numerous projects at the intersection of culture and commerce. From 2001 to 2011 she worked at Vitra, from 2011 to 2014 she served as Director of Design Miami and today she is the Managing Director of Artek.

Artek was founded in Helsinki in 1935 by four young idealists: Alvar and Aino Aalto, Maire Gullichsen, and Nils-Gustav Hahl. Their goal was “to sell furniture and to promote a modern culture of living by exhibitions and other educational means.” In keeping with the radical spirit of its founders, Artek today remains an innovative player in the world of modern design, developing new products at the intersection of design, architecture, and art. The Artek collection consists of furniture, lighting, and accessories designed by Finnish masters and leading international designers. It stands for clarity, functionality, and poetic simplicity.

<https://www.artek.fi>



Nicolas Favet

Nicolas Favet (b.1971) started his professional practice in Helsinki in 1993 right after graduation and an exchange period at the Architecture Department of the Aalto University. Through the 1990s, he ran his practice both in Paris and Helsinki, founding Reflex Design studio with designer Sari Anttonen, and teaming up with architects such as Kai Wartiainen, Panu Lehtovuori, Jan Verwijnen, Antti Eklund and others. He has also taught and made research at the University of Arts and Design in Helsinki. Since 2001, he has focussed on developing his practice, NFA (Nicolas Favet Architectes), in Paris and became one of the most advanced architectural firms in France in the field of sustainable architecture, both in practice and research.

A lover of Finland, Nicolas Favet sees himself as a footbridge and has had at heart, for 30 years, to get Finland better known in France, through partnerships, projects, research programs, publications, lectures, exchanges or study trips. Nicolas Favet has recently joint with ALA Architects to design the new Learning Center of Lyon 2 University, to be completed in 2022.

<http://www.nfa.fr/#0>



© Jari Jetsonen

Built for the art dealer and collector Louis Carré in 1959, the house preserves intact the furniture and the interior fittings designed by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Maison Louis Carré has been the property of Association Alvar Aalto en France since 2006. The cultural program includes exhibitions, seminars, concerts and lectures.

CONTACT

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Open: March to November on Saturdays and Sundays 2-6pm by online reservation.
Private visits and groups upon request.

