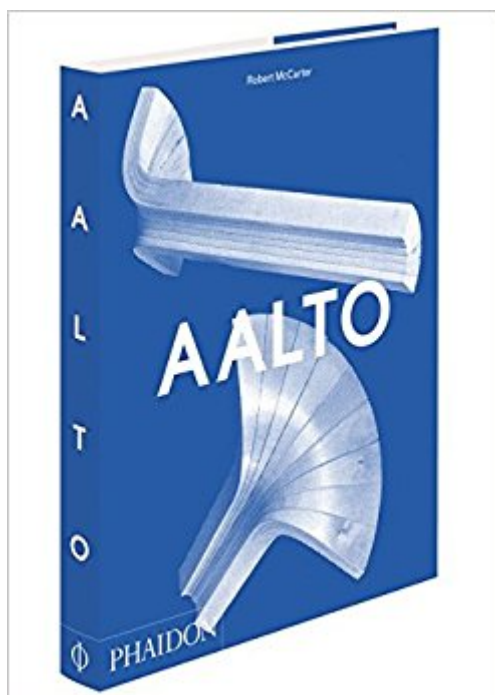


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Aalto



Synopsis

A covetable new study on the work of Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, one of the 20th-centuries most popular and accessible masters. Clear, concise and compact, it explores all his major works, including their environmental, cultural and social contexts.

Book Information

Hardcover: 246 pages

Publisher: Phaidon Press; 1st Edition edition (May 30, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 071484442X

ISBN-13: 978-0714844428

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #232,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #159 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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Customer Reviews

"Alvar Aalto was a jack of many trades – architecture, product design, furniture, textiles and glassware – and arguably a master of all." – Wallpaper.com

Robert McCarter is a practicing architect and has been Ruth and Norman Moore Professor of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis since 2007. He taught previously at the University of Florida, where he was Director of the School of Architecture from 1991-2001, and Columbia University, among other schools. He has written for numerous international publications, and his books include: Carlo Scarpa (2013); Understanding Architecture (2012); Louis I. Kahn (2005); On and By Frank Lloyd Wright: A Primer of Architectural Principles (2005); Frank Lloyd Wright (1997); Unity Temple (1997); and Fallingwater (1994), all by Phaidon Press. He has also published Wiel Arets: Autobiographical References (2012); Frank Lloyd Wright: Critical Lives (2006); and William Morgan: Selected and Current Work (2002), among other books.

I love this book, it shows How Alvar Aalto was a head of his time.

Robert McCarter has conveyed the thought processes of Alvar Aalto from concept through realization. He has defined Aalto's Architectural Philosophy as follows: a response to individual and collective interests in the definition of volumetric space; Integration with typography, climate and modulation of light in the creation of interior environments; Balance between design process and the transformation of new ideas resulting in elevated sensory experiences; And a definition of the criteria for a sustainable environmental movement in the 1930's. Very important were the fine illustrations, interior space plans and the interior descriptions clarifying the intent of each design, range of materials and architectural details. One discovers reference points, strong architectural concepts, understanding of structure and the essence of quality- the best materials, studied proportion and refined details. Robert McCarter provided historical references, but most important he discussed the thinking process of an architect/designer. Now we know why these structures exist. This "thinking process" I have also conveyed in my writing on 20th c Furniture, Lighting and forthcoming 20th c Flatware.

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