

International architectural competition for museum area in Jyväskylä's Ruusupuisto



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An open, international competition run by the Alvar Aalto Foundation and the City of Jyväskylä starts on Monday 29.6.2015. The competition is for the design of an extension connecting the Alvar Aalto Museum and the Museum of Central Finland, and the surrounding outdoor area. The aim is to develop these two key Aalto works to form an attractive, high-quality museum centre.

The idea of adding an extension came up in the City of Jyväskylä's museum-network analysis completed in 2011. The change to the town plan for the area of the Ruusupuisto already under consideration allowed for the building of an extension between the museums.

"On the initiative of the Alvar Aalto Foundation we set about taking the matter forwards, our hope being to hold an international design competition. It is wonderful to be involved, via the competition, in linking the museum buildings together, something that Alvar Aalto had originally intended," says Director of the Alvar Aalto Foundation **Tommi Lindh**.

The aim of the extension planned to go between the Alvar Aalto Museum and the Museum of Central Finland is to improve the shared use and functionality of the museums' premises. It is hoped that competition entrants will, within the constraints of the competition area, also make proposals for developing the articulation of the outdoor areas, so that the area in front of the museums will be more integrated into the whole. Construction will only take place on the marked site between the museums.

In its criteria the competition's jury stresses the necessity of an integrated architectural approach, fitting the new extension in a balanced way between the two Alvar Aalto-designed buildings, and the technical and economic feasibility of the plan.

"Competition entries are expected to be of an architecturally high standard. The primary criteria are that the winning entry should suit this nationally important cultural environment, and that it should find a way of creating a natural link with Alvar Aalto's architecture," says Lindh.

The members of the jury are: **Esko Eriksson** (Real Estate Director, City of Jyväskylä, Real Estates), **Ari Karimäki** (Service Director, Culture and Sports), **Tommi Lindh** (Director, Alvar Aalto Foundation, Architect SAFA), **Ulla Rannanheimo** (Real Estate Planning Manager, City of Jyväskylä, Real Estates, Chair of the Jury), **Leena Rossi** (Head of Urban Planning, Architect SAFA, Urban Planning and City Infrastructure), **Leila Strömberg** (City Architect, Architect SAFA, Urban Planning and City Infrastructure) and **Heli-Maija Voutilainen** (Director, Museum of Central Finland). The Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) has appointed **Asmo Jaaksi** (Architect SAFA) and **Anu Puustinen** (Architect SAFA) to the jury.

The public design competition for an extension for the Alvar Aalto Museum and the Museum of Central Finland opens on 29.6.2015 and ends on 30.10.2015. The competition winner will be announced on Alvar Aalto's birthday, 3.2.2016. The competition programme and appendices are now on the Alvar Aalto Foundation's website: www.alvaraalto.fi/ruusupuisto.

Further information:

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Photo: The public design competition for an extension for the Alvar Aalto Museum and the Museum of Central Finland. Credit Alvar Aalto Museum.