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Feature: Alvar Aalto Library Landscapes

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- This issue features libraries by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto

a+u's April issue features libraries by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Vyborg Library (then Viipuri Library), which took 7 years to complete after the project started in 1927, was designed by Aalto during a crucial period in his career – the moment when he broke away from classicism to pursue his own architectural methodology. Throughout this time, Aalto referenced works from his predecessors, and gradually developed a unique design language that would characterize his subsequent work – sunken spaces, use of natural materials, undulating lines, and cylindrical skylights. After the completion of Vyborg Library, and Paimio Sanatorium from 2 years earlier, Aalto began to gain international recognition. Following a+u 21:03 featuring Aalto's residential work, this issue presents 10 public libraries by the architect from the 1920s to 1970s, alongside photographs by Jari Jetsonen and texts by Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen.

Text in English and Japanese.

a+u - Architecture and Urbanism – is a monthly architectural magazine established in 1971 that highlights a broad range of the work and activities of top contemporary architects from around the world in a well-presented format.