



# Alvar Aalto Library in Vyborg – Saving a Modern Masterpiece

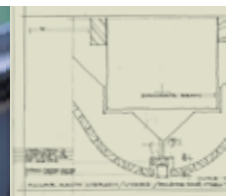
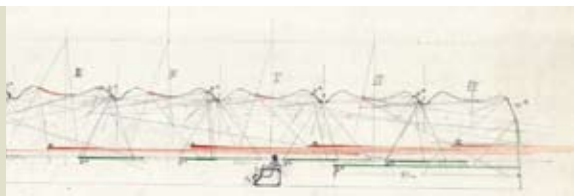
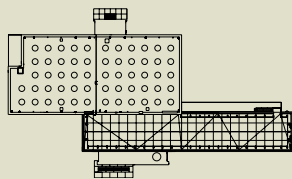
*The challenges and solutions in the restoration of modern architecture in Alvar Aalto's Functionalist masterpiece, Viipuri Library.*



The library, completed in 1935, was one of the works that marked Aalto's international breakthrough. The library belonged to Finland for only a few years before the city of Vyborg was ceded to the Soviet Union during the Second World War. The building was left abandoned and underwent decay for a decade until it was repaired in the 1950s with methods and materials available in the Soviet Union at the time. Since 1994 the Viipuri Library has been undergoing a methodical restoration.

The restoration work has been divided into sub-projects implemented in order of urgency. All the sub-projects completed up to the present time are included in the book: the glass façade of the main lobby, the former caretaker's apartment, the roofs, the circular skylights, the external doors, the external staircase of the lending hall terrace, the entrance to the children's library, the metal windows, the periodicals reading room, and the lecture hall with its famous undulating wooden ceiling.

Each of the restoration stages is presented in detail with design drawings and photographs taken on the building site. Selected original drawings and photographs from the 1930s of the newly completed building are compared to the situation before and after the restoration, thus providing background to the design solutions. Expert articles describe, among other topics, the restoration principles applied in the library.



*"It is no exaggeration to say that the whole of the international architectural conservation world is watching this project, and is learning from it."*

John H. Stubbs



### Alvar Aalto Library in Vyborg – Saving a Modern Masterpiece

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- The architectural competition • The planning phases •
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