

# AN INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR AN EXTENSION BETWEEN THE ALVAR AALTO MUSEUM AND THE MUSEUM OF CENTRAL FINLAND

From June 29<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup> 2015



JYVÄSKYLÄ



ALVAR  
AALTO  
MUSEO





## 1 COMPETITION GOALS

The museums of the Jyväskylä Ruusupuisto area, Alvar Aalto museum and the Museum of Central Finland, are both significant works of architect Alvar Aalto. The goal of the competition is to create a design for an extension to connect the two museums in a way that represents the high architectural level of the place. The new extension will have to adapt to its worthy environment in a balanced way, and to find a natural connection with the architecture of Alvar Aalto (1898–1976).

The new extension between the museums will serve as a connecting gateway between the museums, as a shared museum shop and as a technical space. The extension will enable the shared use of the already existing exhibition spaces, the passenger elevator, the auditorium, the cafeteria and the workroom spaces. The functionality of the spaces is an essential part of the high level design requirements.

## 2 COMPETITION INVITATION

### 2.1 Organiser of the competition

The competition is organised by the Alvar Aalto Foundation and the City of Jyväskylä. The land of the site is owned by the City of Jyväskylä. Both museum buildings are protected with the town plan (sr-1) and the site is listed as a nationally valuable cultural-historical environment.

### 2.2 Design competition as a public procurement

This competition is a public procurement not exceeding the EU threshold value. The contract notice has been published in HILMA, a Finnish service for public procurement notices, on 29 June 2015. The competition documents will be published in pdf form, in Finnish and in English. The competition entries can be presented in Finnish or in English.

## 2.3 Participation right

The participation right for the public design competition is free. The competition is intended for the citizens of all nations.

## 2.4 Prizes

The total prize sum in the competition is 30 000€. There are three prizes in the competition; first prize 14 000€, second prize 7 000€, and third prize 5 000€. In addition there are two purchases of 2 000€ each. The jury may unanimously decide to award the prize sum differently by the competition rules of the Finnish Association of Architects. Tax exemption will be applied for the prizes. The payments are made via the Finnish Association of Architects, SAFA. SAFA charges a percentage of 7% on the prizes in accordance with its competition rules.

## 2.5 Further actions after the competition

The jury will recommend giving the design assignment for the winning entry.

## 2.6 Jury

The jury comprises the following members appointed by the competition organiser:

**Esko Eriksson**, City of Jyväskylä, Real Estates, Real Estate Director

**Ari Karimäki**, City of Jyväskylä, Culture and Sports, Service Director

**Tommi Lindh**, Alvar Aalto Foundation, Director, Architect SAFA

**Ulla Rannanheimo**, City of Jyväskylä, Real Estates, Real Estate Planning Manager,  
Chairman of the jury

**Leena Rossi**, City of Jyväskylä, Urban Planning and City Infrastructure,  
Head of Urban Planning, Architect SAFA

**Leila Strömberg**, City of Jyväskylä, Urban Planning and City Infrastructure,  
City Architect, Architect SAFA

**Heli-Maija Voutilainen**, Museum of Central Finland, Director

The Finnish Association of Architects has appointed the following members to the jury:

**Asmo Jaaksi**, Architect SAFA

**Anu Puustinen**, Architect SAFA

The professional members of the jury required by the competition rules are Jaaksi, Lindh, Puustinen, Rossi and Strömberg. Where necessary, the jury can also consult the opinion of other experts.

**Nina Heikkonen**, Alvar Aalto Foundation, is the secretary of the jury.

The jury has a quorum when complete. If the decision of the competition needs to be voted, the voting will be decided by a simple majority of votes. Absence of one member of the jury in a force majeure situation will not prevent the quorum.

## 2.7 Rules of the competition and the approval of the competition program

The competition is organised according to the rules of the Finnish Association of Architects, SAFA. The competition program has been verified and approved by the organisers, the competition jury and the competition board of the Finnish Association of Architects, SAFA.

## 2.8 Competition schedule

The competition program and its attachments are free of charge. The competition invitation is published in the web site of HILMA, the Finnish service for public procurement notices from 29 June to 30 October 2015. The competition documents will be available from the web site of Alvar Aalto Foundation [www.alvaraalto.fi/ruusupuisto](http://www.alvaraalto.fi/ruusupuisto) from 6 July 2015.

# 3 TECHNICAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

## 3.1 Competition documents

The competition documents are:

- this competition program
- the town plan of Ruusupuisto area (pdf)
- town plan subscriptions and regulations (pdf)
- a map with the competition area outlines 1:500 (dwg, pdf)
- the drawings of the Museum of Central Finland (dwg, pdf)
- the drawings of Alvar Aalto museum (dwg, pdf)
- the drawings of the Museum of Central Finland and the Alvar Aalto museum by Alvar Aalto
- aerial photographs of the competition area
- photographs of the area
- photograph into which the plan is to be inserted

## 3.2 Submission of questions

Candidates may submit questions and request further information from the jury.

The questions in Finnish or in English are to be sent by e-mail by Monday 19 August 2015 16:00 to [ruusupuisto@alvaraalto.fi](mailto:ruusupuisto@alvaraalto.fi). The questions and the answers will be published in Finnish and in English on the web site of Alvar Aalto Foundation by Tuesday 15 November 2015.

## 3.3 Judging the competition and publishing and displaying the results

A written judgement will be made of the competition entries. In case of a very large amount of entries, the judgement will be done in groups according to the consideration of the jury. A pub-

lication and prize ceremony will be held on the birthday of Alvar Aalto on 2 March 2016 16:00 in the auditorium of the Museum of Central Finland. The winners will be informed about the results of the competition and the ceremony in advance. The competition entry evaluations will be available on the organizers web site after the publication and prize ceremony.

The entries will be presented in the exhibition space of the Museum of Central Finland from 2 March 2016.

### 3.4 Right to use the competition entries

The competition organizer has the right of ownership to the competition entries awarded prizes or purchased, while copyright remains with the authors of the entries.

The publication rights for the entries awarded prizes or purchased shall remain with the competition organizer, the Finnish Association of Architects and the Architectural Museum of Finland.

The competition entries will not be returned.

The decision of the realization of the extension will be done separately.

## 4 COMPETITION TASK

### 4.1 Background of the competition task and the competition area

The Museum of Central Finland is a cultural-historic museum. The museum serves both as the provincial museum of Central Finland and the town museum of Jyväskylä. In addition to the exhibitions, the museum carries out research of its field, collects archives, provides education and fosters the research and inventorying of the build heritage and cultural environment.

The history of the Museum of Central Finland dates back to 1932, when the museum was opened and administered by the Museum Association of Central Finland, which had been established a year before. The museum building designed by Alvar Aalto, was opened in 1961. It is situated in Ruusupuisto, in an area called Älylä, which has been named by the teachers who used to live in the area. In 1989-1990 an extension was build to the museum. The extension and the renovation done at the same time was designed by Alvar Aalto & Co. Elissa Aalto being in charge of the project.

The Association of the Alvar Aalto museum was founded in 1966. The museum began operating in 1969, and the museum building designed by Alvar Aalto opened in 1973. Also the Alvar Aalto Foundation was founded in 1969. From the year 1998, the museum and the foundation have been operating as one single organisation. The foundation operates in two cities, Jyväskylä and Helsinki, where it is the custodian of four buildings that are open to the public.

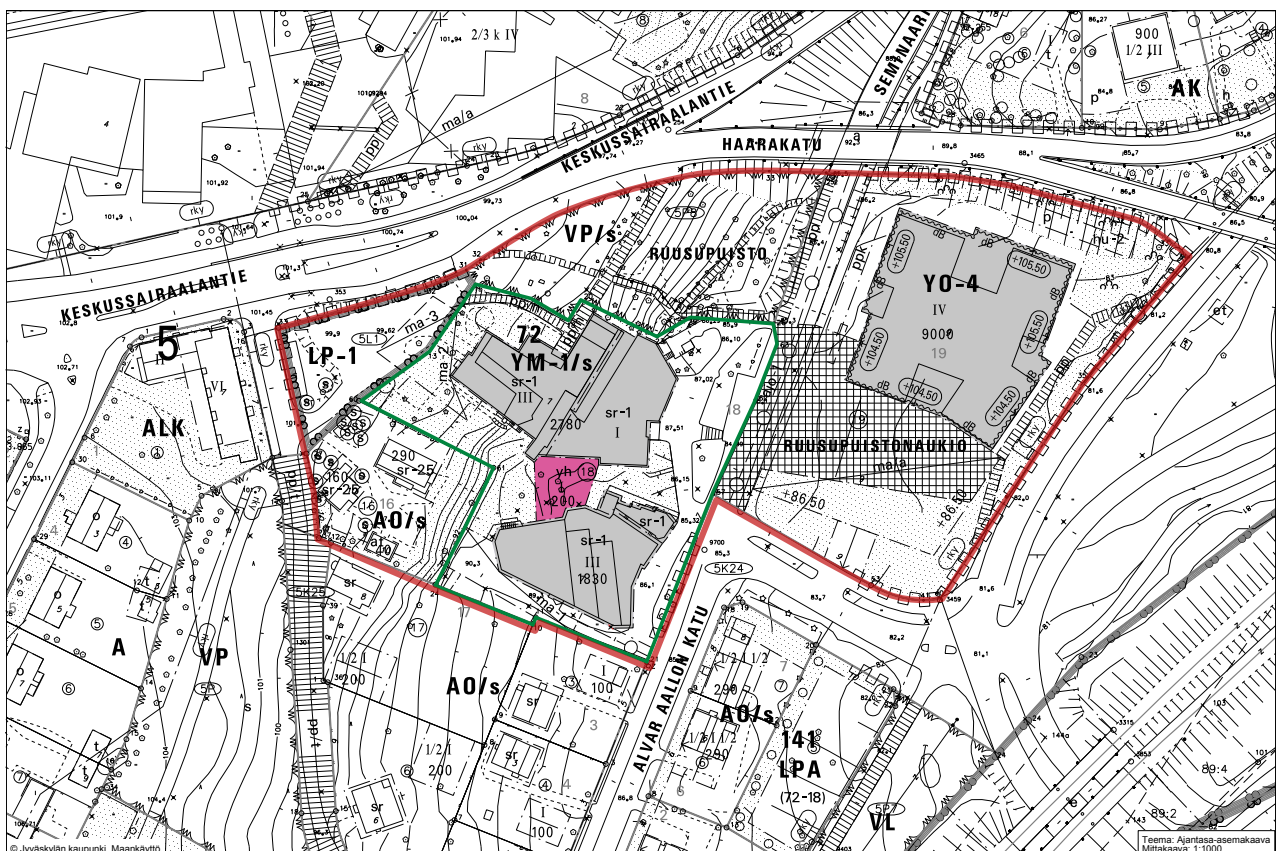




The competition area is located by the campus areas of the University of Jyväskylä; Seminaarinmäki in the very vicinity, and Mattilanniemi in the southeast of the area. The new university building called Ruusupuisto, is located in front of the two museums, leaving in between a visually shared square, which is however in two different plots.

The review area consists of the whole Ruusupuisto park. The competition area is the plot of the museums, in Alvar Aallon katu 7 (Alvar Aalto street 7). The construction site is the area marked in the town plan with "yh-alue" (area for administration and office functions). The buildings of the Museum of Central Finland and the Alvar Aalto museum, including the water fountain, are protected with the town plan. The construction site of the new extension in the town plan is binding, though minor exceptions from the plan are possible.

- The review area
- The competition area
- The construction area



## 4.2 Design guidelines

The new extension connecting the Museum of Central Finland and the Alvar Aalto Museum enables the versatile use of the spaces of both museums. A new museum shop will be situated in the extension and the connecting gateway will enable the accessibility of the Alvar Aalto museum. The extension will also enable the shared use of the auditorium of the Museum of Central Finland, the cafeteria 'Café Alvar' of the Alvar Aalto Museum, and the versatile use of other meeting, working and educational spaces.

The space in between the museums with its terraces and water basins creates an interesting outer space. The development of this space is one of the design goals. In addition, the competitors are encouraged to express ideas of connecting the museums site to the neighbouring Ruusupuisto square.

## 4.3 Summary of spaces

The indicative floor area of the extension between the museums is circa 280 m<sup>2</sup>. In the extension will be situated the museum shop and its utility spaces (circa 200 m<sup>2</sup>), while the shop area functions also as a connecting gateway between the two museums. A plan of three workstations in the museum shop will have to be taken into account. The extension will also consist of a storage space for the exhibition materials, and a technical room (circa 80 m<sup>2</sup>). These spaces are considered as utility spaces and there will not be situated permanent workstations. The two museums have to be accessible and connected with among other things via the new elevator.

- museum shop with utility spaces and workstations / connecting gateway: Connection between the Museum of Central Finland's first floor level (+87.554) and the Alvar Aalto Museum's second floor level (+88.920).
- lower connective gateway, storage space for the exhibition materials and the technical room: Connection between the Alvar Aalto Museum's first floor level (+85.960).

## 4.4 Assessment Criteria

In evaluating entries, attention will be paid to the consideration of the architectural totality and the suitability of the new extension in between the existing buildings of Alvar Aalto. An evaluation criterion will also be, how the new extension will create added value to the new museum centre formed by the two existing museums.

The new extension between the museums will have to be architecturally and in materials high standard and fit well in the nationally valuable cultural build environment. The technical and economical feasibility will also have to be paid attention.

The jury will grant the first prize for an entry, which most suitably will meet the set evaluation criteria, fits in the environment, increases the comfort of the area, and is architecturally high quality.

# 5 INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTRIES

## 5.1 Documents required and confidentiality

The entry will have to be presented in three horizontal A3-sized sheets (pdf). The required documents are:

- general layout plan 1:500
- section plan, where the connection of the Alvar Aalto Museum, the extension and the Museum of Central Finland is presented 1:200
- floor plans (two levels), sections and elevations with material and colour markings relevant to the entry 1:200
- illustration of the extension inserted into a given photograph
- summary report
- other material can be presented inside the given sheet space
- the entry material has to be sent in one file (max. 50 Mt)
- in addition to the competition entry material, a file containing the pseudonym information has to be sent (for example pseudonym.docx)

The competition is pseudonymous. All documents must be marked with the competitor's chosen pseudonym. The competition entry material has to include a text file, which contains the following information: the pseudonym, the name(s) of the author(s), (and assistants), contact information (address and telephone number) for the contact person, and the entry's copyright holder. The files will be opened only in case of the prize winning or purchased entries. All information that could identify the authors of the design is to be removed from the entry material files.

## 5.2 Submission of entries

The competition entries must be delivered by e-mail no later than 30 October 2015 16:00.

**The registration to the competition must be done no later than 16 October 2015 16:00 by sending an e-mail to the address [ruusupuisto@alvaraalto.fi](mailto:ruusupuisto@alvaraalto.fi).** The competitor will receive an answer including a username, a password and instructions for the submission of the entries. E-mails are confidential and the competition is pseudonymous.