

The Swedish Alvar Aalto Society

The Swedish Alvar Aalto Society was founded in 1996. Its main task has been to collect funds for the restoration of the library in Vyborg, a mission that has been successful. But this fundraising has also gained otherwise. In the meetings, exhibitions and in the publications that the society has produced for the Vyborg project, something of Aalto's ethos has been conveyed. His values, condensed in the title of the text he wrote in Architectural Forum 1940 – The Humanizing of Architecture - are present in all his design, but constantly threatens to be hidden behind everything else that Aalto came to signify: the famous architect, the Finnish, or even Scandinavian patriarch of design, the icon of modern quality.

For Aalto, architecture was something more than graceful form and definitely something more than a function of technical and practical requirements. With two, partly distorted, remaining buildings in Sweden, Aalto's architecture can hardly interact with our lives to any larger extent. Just because of that an Aalto society does serve a purpose beyond the fundraising. It is about saving the ethos of architecture from being limited to the arty.

The Aalto Society is thus a cultural association based on architecture, with an ambition to reach beyond Aalto's life and works. The symposium is an expression of this. A membership for one year is included in the registration fee.

Welcome.
Rasmus Wærn, chairman

Homepage: www.alvaraalto.se

8.15 Doors open, fruit and juice served.
8.45 Introduction and background. Rasmus Wærn
9.00 Gert Wingårdh. Nordic experiences.
9.35 Introduction: The Nordic model.
9.45 Bjarke Ingels. The conditions for contemporary architecture from a Danish horizon

10.15 Coffee

10.45 Introduction: Scandinavia internationally.
11.00 Antti Nousjoki. To be an architect in Finland and abroad.
11.30 Summary and presentation of the afternoon

11.45 Lunch

13.00 Ingerid Helsing Almaas. The new status of Norwegian architecture.
13.30 Kristina Grange. The creation of the contemporary architect. Systems and structures in the building trade today.
14.00 Peter Davey. Developments in Nordic architecture 1975-2005 from an international point of view.

14.30 Coffee

15.00 Barry Bergdoll. The image of Scandinavia.
15.30 Discussion. Is there a Nordic architecture today? Questions from the auditorium captured via SMS.
16.00 The Bruno Mathsson Prize is presented by Barry Bergdoll.
16.20 Follow-up talk, wine and snacks

Introductions and moderators:
Professor Henrietta Palmer and Rasmus Wærn, chairman of the Swedish Alvar Aalto Society.
The language will be English.

WHAT'S UP?

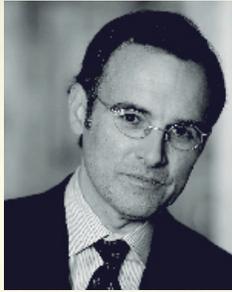
A SYMPOSIUM ON THE MAKING OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE NORTH.

Architecture from the Nordic countries faces increasing attention today. International cavalcades and awards often put houses from the north on top of the podium today and numerous new books relate to the Nordic societies as a specific building culture. At the same time, the notion crumbles. The Nordic countries, or Scandinavia, is no longer the clear unity it once was. On the other hand collaborations over the borders are larger than ever. These contradicting movements call for an investigation.

The Swedish Alvar Aalto Society and The Swedish Museum of Architecture presents together with the Karin and Bruno Mathsson fund, a symposium on the conditions for contemporary architecture in the Nordic countries. Leading practitioners and theorists take the stage to offer their knowledge on how the architecture evolved, how the conditions differ, how Scandinavia is perceived in the rest of the world and what should be done to create better buildings.

Welcome to an exciting and unusual day at The Swedish Museum of Architecture on September 25, 2009

The symposium is supported by: Karin and Bruno Mathssons Foundation the embassies of Finland Norway and Denmark Sveriges Arkitekter Arkitektur förlag Stockholms Arkitektförening



Barry Bergdoll

As head of MoMA's department of architecture and design and professor of modern architectural history at Columbia, Bergdoll has a deep and broad knowledge of today's architecture. Here he will talk about how the Nordic countries are perceived from an international perspective.



Kristina Grange

Grange is one of Sweden's foremost specialists on the emergence of the modern Swedish architect. Based on the thesis "The Architects and Construction Industry; On the Importance of Establishing a Collective Self-confidence" she presents both the causes of the many crises faced by the construction industry, and a vision of the road ahead.



Peter Davey

Editor of The Architectural Review 1978 - 2005 and publisher of ARQ. As author of a large number of articles about the Nordic countries and books on Heikkinen & Komonen among others, Davey was probably the world's most well-oriented editor in the 20th century's later part. He will talk about changes in the situation throughout these years.



Gert Wingårdh

The ambition to build outside Sweden has given Wingårdh mixed experiences. With built projects in Finland as well as Denmark, and many unsuccessful attempts in Norway, he has rich knowledge of the different conditions of architecture in the Nordic countries as well as in the outside world.



Ingerid Helsing Almaas

The role as the editor of Architecture N and as an internationally active critic have made Helsing Almaas a both skilled and distanced commentator of the success of the Norwegian architecture. Themes in her speech will be the country's special economic and cultural conditions.



Bjarke Ingels

Noticed, but unbuilt, proposals for the concert hall in Stavanger, hotels in Umeå and Stockholm, as well as projects at Odenplan and Slussen have given BIG a lot to compare to their success in Denmark. Ingel's lecture will focus on the conditions for the projects.



Antti Nousjoki

Ala architecture in Helsinki is Finland's most internationally oriented young office. Their first major public building, a cultural building in Kristiansand, Norway, will be finished in 2011. Nousjoki is head of the company and will explain the Nordic architect's status on the basis of many successes abroad.

Media are welcome to attend the seminar for free. Questions regarding the event will be answered by Monica Rydberg at the Swedish Museum of Architecture or by Rasmus Wærn at the Alvar Aalto Society.
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