



FINLAND'S AALTO WORKS JOIN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Thirteen landmark sites celebrating human-centred modernism by Alvar, Aino and Elissa Aalto receive global recognition

HELSINKI, FINLAND (JULY 27, 2026) – Finland's [Aalto Works](#) – a series of thirteen architecturally significant sites designed by **Alvar, Aino and Elissa Aalto** – have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**, marking a major milestone for Finnish cultural heritage and modern architecture.

Spanning across the country, the Aalto Works series represents a uniquely human approach to modernism – where architecture is shaped by light, nature and everyday life. These sites illustrate how the Aaltos redefined modern architecture by placing people, wellbeing and the environment at the heart of design. From iconic concert halls and civic centers to experimental homes and industrial communities, the sites invite visitors to explore a design legacy that feels as meaningful today as it did nearly a century ago.

Below, please find the 13 Aalto Works that are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

[Finlandia Hall, Helsinki](#)

A defining landmark on Helsinki's Töölönlahti waterfront, Finlandia Hall is one of Aalto's most recognizable works. Its striking marble facade and monumental presence reflect its role in cultural diplomacy, while its ongoing use for concerts and public events highlights its importance as a space for cultural democracy. The venue also features the permanent exhibition Visions of Alvar Aalto and Finlandia Homes – two design apartments offering an immersive stay inspired by Alvar Aalto.

[The Aalto House, Helsinki](#)

The Aaltos' family home in Munkkiniemi represents the essence of modern living and the architects' personal design philosophy. Combining an authentic interior with a diverse use of materials, the home reflects a seamless blend of family life and creative work. Its human scale and carefully designed spaces exemplify Aalto's human-centered modernism. The house can be explored on guided tours, offering insight into the Aaltos' everyday life and design philosophy.

[Studio Aalto, Helsinki](#)

The Studio building served as the heart of Alvar and Elissa Aaltos' architectural practice in the suburb of Munkkiniemi, just a short distance from the family home. Designed around natural light, open workspaces and experimental solutions, it offers a tangible insight into the Aaltos' design process and collaborative working methods. The studio can be visited on guided tours.

[National Pensions Institute \(KELA\), Helsinki](#)

The National Pensions Institute headquarters exemplifies the architecture of the emerging welfare state. Combining high-quality materials, thoughtful spatial design and natural light, the building symbolizes societal modernization while demonstrating how administrative spaces can remain accessible and human-centered.

[House of Culture, Helsinki](#)

A modernist landmark, the House of Culture represents the intersection of architecture, culture and civil society. Its flexible interiors and distinctive design reflect its role as a venue for public events and performances. The building also houses Bistro & Bar Sopu for lunch, and KULT club – a vibrant stage for live music, comedy and cultural events.

[Paimio Sanatorium, Paimio](#)

A masterpiece of humanist modernism, Paimio Sanatorium was designed as a holistic healing environment. Architecture, lighting and color were carefully calibrated to support patient wellbeing, pioneering a new approach to healthcare design. Today, it remains one of the most complete and best-preserved tuberculosis sanatoriums in the world, offering guided tours, exhibitions, a restaurant and accommodation for visitors.

[Villa Mairea, Pori](#)

Villa Mairea is widely regarded as one of the great masterpieces of modern residential architecture. Its synthesis of art, architecture and nature – together with its richly detailed interiors and landscaped surroundings – represents a refined vision of modern living and organic design. Guided tours offer visitors an opportunity to explore the villa's architecture, history and art collections.

[Sunila Pulp Mill Residential Area, Kotka](#)

Sunila is a landmark of functionalist town planning, where industry, housing and nature form a coherent whole. Designed for mill workers, the forest-set residential environment emphasizes equality, health and individual needs. The site represents early industrial modernism, where architecture, social welfare and working life intersect.

[Church of Three Crosses, Imatra](#)

This innovative church merges religious architecture with modernist expression. Its dynamic use of natural light, flexible spatial design and forested surroundings create a powerful dialogue between spirituality, nature and architecture.

[Säynätsalo Town Hall, Jyväskylä](#)

An architectural expression of modern municipal democracy, Säynätsalo Town Hall integrates governance, community and everyday life. Its spatial design, including courtyards and public areas, encourages interaction and civic participation, while its distinctive brick architecture reinforces a strong sense of place. The town hall can be explored on guided tours.

[University of Jyväskylä, Aalto Campus, Jyväskylä](#)

The Aalto Campus at the University of Jyväskylä is a cohesive university environment where architecture, landscape and function work together to support learning. Its organic layout and brick buildings create a balanced and inspiring setting for education and scientific development.

[Muuratsalo Experimental House, Jyväskylä](#)

Located in a natural lakeside setting, the Experimental House served as the Aaltos' laboratory for architectural research. Its courtyard and varied brickwork demonstrate a spirit of experimentation and a deep exploration of materials and form. During the summer, the Experimental House can be visited with public guided tours. Open to visitors during the summer season, the house can be explored on guided tours.

[Seinäjoki Civic Center](#), Seinäjoki

Seinäjoki's civic center is a holistic urban composition, bringing together administrative, cultural and religious buildings into a unified architectural environment. It reflects the ideal of public architecture as a way to strengthen democracy and civic identity through shared spaces.

Together, the UNESCO-listed Aalto Works sites form a cultural route across Finland – from vibrant capital districts to tranquil forests and lakeshores. The series shows how architecture can shape everyday life, fostering connections between people, communities and nature. For visitors, experiencing Aalto's work is an invitation to step inside spaces designed for living, resting, healing and gathering – where every detail has purpose and meaning.

In addition to the thirteen World Heritage sites, the broader [Alvar Aalto Route](#) connects a wide range of significant Aalto destinations across Finland, offering travelers an even deeper way to explore the legacy of one of the world's most influential architects.

PHOTOS

High-resolution images are available [here](#) and [here](#).

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