

## **Press information**

### **Alvar Aalto – Second Nature**

**27.09.2014 – 01.03.2015**

### **Special programme September 2014 – March 2015**

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein

### **Wilfried Kuehn & Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen – Aalto today**

**OPENING TALK (EN) | 26 September 2014**

**5:30 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

Nature, art, media: Aalto's work is astonishingly contemporary. Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen, professor at Yale University, explores Aalto's geopolitical significance as well as his dialogue with the artists of his day. Wilfried Kuehn, partner of Kuehn Malvezzi, brings together multiple perspectives: he was responsible for the exhibition design of »Alvar Aalto – Second Nature« and is himself a renowned architect and art collector. In the opening talk, Pelkonen, Kuehn and Finnish architect Juha Grönholm (ALA Architects, Helsinki) discuss Aalto's importance in contemporary architecture. Free admission, registration: [events@design-museum.de](mailto:events@design-museum.de)

### **Shigeru Ban – Starting from Nature**

**TALK (EN) | 2 October 2014**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

He is one of the most important Japanese architects: Shigeru Ban, 2014 Pritzker Prize winner. His buildings include the Centre Pompidou in Metz and innovative single-family homes as well as humanitarian and experimental projects, such as emergency shelters made of cardboard. Ban expressed his admiration for Aalto's masterly treatment of the material wood with two exhibition projects. Ban speaks about his design philosophy, his engagement with Aalto and Aalto's intensive relationship with Japanese architecture. Admission: € 10.00, registration: [events@design-museum.de](mailto:events@design-museum.de)

### **Contemporaries – Working with Aalto**

**TALK (EN) | 16 October 2014**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

Aalto called them his »Swiss Guard«: over the decades, he employed a number of Swiss architects in his studio. Four of these contemporaries, Walter Moser, Theo Senn, Ulrich Rüegg and Michaela Mina,

report on specific projects and share anecdotes and personal experiences. A cooperation with the Alvar Aalto Society, Swiss Chapter. Free admission

**Gramazio & Kohler – Digital Architecture**

**TALK (DE) | 30 October 2014**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

A computer-controlled robot that produces innovative structural elements: Swiss architects Fabio Gramazio and Matthias Kohler explore how digital technologies are bringing about fundamental changes in architecture. Such techniques were applied in creating the façade of the widely acclaimed Gantenbein Winery in Fläsch, Switzerland or the Flight Assembled Architecture in Orléans – the first architectural installation that was built by flying robots. Matthias Kohler demonstrates the potential of digital design, construction and fabrication methods for the future of architecture. Free admission

**Nina Stritzler-Levine – The Aaltos, Artek and America**

**TALK (EN) | 6 November 2014**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

In 1935, Aalto founded the company Artek together with his wife Aino and two colleagues. It became the epitome of Scandinavian design: reduced, elegant and natural. Artek still sells Aalto's furniture and designs today, but focused from the outset also on promoting modernist ideas. Aalto's success in the USA began with his Finnish Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. The New York curator Nina Stritzler-Levine explains the fascinating history of Artek and Aalto's enduring influence on American design. Free admission

**Claesson Koivisto Rune – Building New Scandinavia**

**TALK (EN) | 27 November 2014**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

Founded in 1995, the architecture trio Claesson Koivisto Rune is regarded as one of the most important representatives of new Scandinavian architecture and design. Their most important buildings include the Sfera Building in Kyoto, Japan (2003) with a façade of perforated titanium panels as well as the Örsta Gallery in Kumla, Sweden (2010). The company also creates lighting, furniture, wallpaper and accessories for such producers as Cappellini and Iittala. During the talk, the architects will explain their work and explore the question of whether a Scandinavian aesthetic in architecture and design still exists today. Free admission

**Armin Linke – Photographic Rediscoveries from Mollino to Aalto**

**TALK (DE) | 4 December 2015**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

»Aalto's buildings are viewing machines«: the Milan-born photographer Armin Linke documented numerous buildings by Aalto for the exhibition »Alvar Aalto – Second Nature«. The images transport the viewer into Aalto's spatial environments, situated between documentation and fiction and showing Aalto's buildings from a fascinating present-day perspective. Linke discusses his investigation of a great architectural oeuvre and draws parallels with his own explorations of the Italian designer Carlo Mollino. Free admission

**Finnish Dinner – Nordic Delights**

**SPECIAL (DE) | 11 December 2014**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

Experience the exhibition »Alvar Aalto – Second Nature« with a guided tour followed by a dinner featuring a delectable assortment of Finnish specialities. € 52.00 per person, incl. set menu, registration: [events@design-museum.de](mailto:events@design-museum.de)

**Basel Museums Night**

**SPECIAL (DE) | 16 January 2015**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

The exhibition »Source Material« presents objects and keepsakes that have had a pivotal effect on the work of 65 creative minds from the fields of art, design, music, film and architecture. At the Museums Night it is your turn: which objects have inspired you? During one long night, we will create a display with the keepsakes and souvenirs that trigger our fantasy. The audience will be involved by drawing, taking photographs and curating. The resulting display will remain part of the exhibition »Source Material« until its end. Additional information can be found in the Agenda in the middle of this brochure and at [www.design-museum.de](http://www.design-museum.de)

**architecten de vylder vinck taillieu – Collage Architecture**

**TALK (EN) | 29 January 2015**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

Interpreting proportions and combining materials in new and unique ways: Flemish architects Jan de Vylder, Inge Vinck and Jo Taillieu have attracted international attention for their work. With new building projects as well as conversions of existing structures, they adeptly play with traditional architec-

tural elements. The architects demonstrate how they continuously reinvent the codes of classical and regional architecture.

Free admission

### **Harri Koskinen – Learning from Aalto**

**TALK (EN) | 5 February 2015**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

Harri Koskinen, one of the most prominent Finnish designers active today, runs his industrial design agency in Helsinki. He also works as the design director for glass manufacturer Iittala, producer of Aalto's legendary Savoy Vase and many other design icons. Koskinen talks about inspirations and design processes in the many facets of his work: furniture, lighting, glass objects and more. Free admission

### **Second Nature? Sustainability since Alvar Aalto**

**Discussion with Andreas Ruby, Prof. Matthias Sauerbruch and Lena Kleinheinz**

**TALK (DE) | 19 February 2015**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

»Form must have a content, and that content must be linked with nature«, according to Alvar Aalto. What can we learn from Aalto's perception of nature? Can it be helpful in redefining sustainability in today's context? These questions are discussed by the architectural critic Andreas Ruby with Lena Kleinheinz of Magma Architecture and Prof. Matthias Sauerbruch of Sauerbruch Hutton. Kleinheinz and Sauerbruch are two of the most innovative representatives of sustainable building. At the Summer Olympics in London, Magma Architecture used PVC that was free of toxic plasticisers for the first time. Sauerbruch Hutton has been one of the pioneers of integrated sustainable planning for 20 years. Their most important projects include the Museum Brandhorst in Munich, the Federal Environmental Agency in Dessau and the planned M9 Museum in Venice. Free admission

### **Front Design – Swedish Delights**

**TALK (EN) | 26 February 2015**

**6 pm, Vitra Design Museum**

The three designers of Front Design are among the shooting stars of the international design scene. With their innovative and often humorously ambiguous objects for renowned manufacturers like Moroso, Ikea, Hansgrohe and Thonet, they explore new avenues in the field of design. Sofia Lager-

kvist, one of the three designers of Front, provides insights into one of today's most productive design studios. Free admission

## **SPECIAL TOURS**

### **Head to the North – Aalto for Kids**

**CHILDREN'S TOUR (DE) | 12 October, 9 November, 14 December 2014, 11 January, 8 February 2015**

**11 am, Vitra Design Museum**

We are heading north to discover the world of the Finnish architect and designer Alvar Aalto. His goal was to design the environment in a way that people would feel comfortable with. He mostly used round, curved forms. On completion of the tour through the exhibition, every child designs his or her own Aalto chair in miniature size. For children aged 5 to 12. Admission: € 7.00 per child, registration: [info@design-museum.de](mailto:info@design-museum.de)

### **Alvar Aalto and Art – Curator's Tour**

**WEDNESDAY MATINEE (DE) | 28 January 2015**

**10 am, Vitra Design Museum**

The curator Jochen Eisenbrand gives a guided tour of the exhibition, explaining how the project came together, sharing interesting background information and answering questions.

Admission: € 7.00 per person

### **Wooden Design Icons – Conservator's Tour**

**WEDNESDAY MATINEE (DE) | 4 February 2015**

**10 am, Vitra Design Museum**

Paimio armchair Stool 60 and the famous tea trolley: for his classic furniture designs, Alvar Aalto utilized wood in a wide range of forms. The Head of Collection at Vitra Design Museum, Susanne Graner, reports on the current-day conservation challenges posed by these museum pieces. Admission: € 7.00 per person

## **SPECIAL WORKSHOPS**

Workshop topics and dates can be found in the middle of the programme brochure. Additional information is available at [www.design-museum.de](http://www.design-museum.de)

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