



INSIDE THE VILLA MAIREA

ALVAR AALTO MUSEUM • MAIREA FOUNDATION

Art, Design and Interior Architecture



Fig. 2.

INSIDE THE VILLA MAIREA

Art, Design and Interior Architecture

The Villa Mairea was built in 1937–1939 in Noormarkku as a modern residence for Maire and Harry Gullichsen, who were ardent lovers and promoters of art and architecture. Progressive and unprejudiced, they were interested in modernist abstract art and utopian ideology. Their friends, the like-minded architects Aino and Alvar Aalto, were asked to design a home for them and were encouraged to experiment. The designing of the Villa Mairea involved intense interaction between the architects and their clients. These propitious conditions generated one of the greatest masterpieces of 20th century architecture and design.

The Mairea Foundation and the Alvar Aalto Foundation have now published a new and extensive book on the inside world of the villa. This book deals with the furnishings, works of art and design objects, as well as the underlying idea of beauty for the everyday. The handpicked group of writers discusses the various aspects as well as the personas involved in the process of creating the interiors and bringing together all the beautiful objects to inhabit the architectural masterpiece by Alvar Aalto. The book presents over 300 photographs, half of which are specially commissioned and include close ups of the objects as well as details of the interior. Most of the archival picture material from the Mairea Foundation is published for the first time.

The new book features art historian Göran Schildt's interview with Maire Gullichsen at the Villa Mairea in 1977 as well as Maire Gullichsen's polemic writing "Where did we lose our design?" written in the 1970s.

Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

Fig. 1. (cover) Vingette depicting the dining room vitrine with a striped bottle by Venini and glass carafes by Maire Gullichsen. On the left Helios, a ceramic work by Georges Braque.

Fig. 2. Vase model 3031, colourless glass blown into a wooden mould, design Alvar Aalto, 1936.

Fig. 3. Maire Gullichsen's atelier at the Villa Mairea.

Fig. 4. The living room of the Villa Mairea.

Fig. 5. Fernand Léger, Etoile Polychrome, wool gobelin made by the Aubusson Art Weavers in 1952.

Fig. 6. Aino Aalto, Harry Gullichsen, Alvar Aalto and Maire Gullichsen by the pool at the Villa Mairea, evidently in 1939.



Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

