

# Muuratsalo Experimental House

case study  
By Emily Rosa

Location: Muuratsalo, Finland



**Architect:** Alvar Aalto

**Owner:** Alvar Aalto

**Year of completion:** 1953

**Climate:** Continental Subarctic Climate

**Material of interest:** Red Brick

**Application:** Exterior

**Properties of material:** This material allows for exploration of different configurations of the unit, and gives a sense of human scale and a haptic quality. Fifty different types of bricks which are arranged in various patterns as a material exploration. Brick is used in this case as an exterior façade material which allows for solar heating. Brick is also used floor material in the courtyard, which allows for a visual connection to the earth, but also a permeable ground surface. Brick was also tested by Aalto to see how it would respond to the harsh climate.

**Sources:**

<http://www.alvaraalto.fi/experimentalhouse.htm>

<http://www.archdaily.com/214209/ad-classics-muuratsalo-experimental-house-alvar-aalto/>

<http://anavedobomgosto.blogspot.com/2011/01/experimental-house.html>