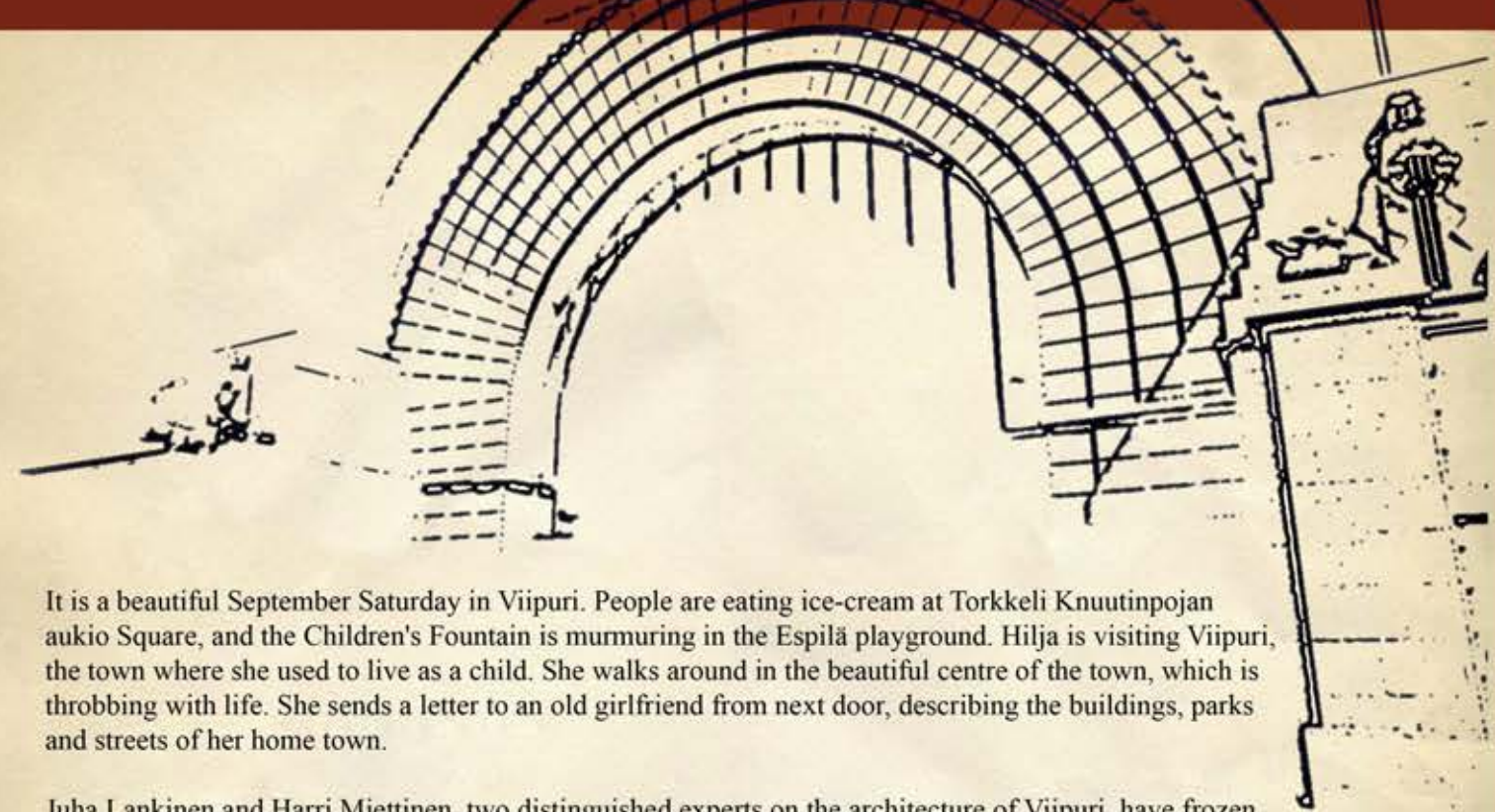


Viipuri on 2nd September 1939



Juha Lankinen & Harri Miettinen



It is a beautiful September Saturday in Viipuri. People are eating ice-cream at Torkkeli Knuutinpojan aukio Square, and the Children's Fountain is murmuring in the Espilä playground. Hilja is visiting Viipuri, the town where she used to live as a child. She walks around in the beautiful centre of the town, which is throbbing with life. She sends a letter to an old girlfriend from next door, describing the buildings, parks and streets of her home town.

Juha Lankinen and Harri Miettinen, two distinguished experts on the architecture of Viipuri, have frozen time on Saturday, September 2nd, 1939. Following Hilja's footsteps they describe the buildings and the history of this energetic town. The reader will learn the interesting story of the most international town in Finland.



The book is full of pictures, both old photographs and 3D designs of buildings, modelled by construction engineering students from TAMK, Tampere University of Applied Sciences.



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THE LETTER IN THE LETTER BOX

FINNISH VIIPURI IN SEPTEMBER 1939

VIRTUALVIIPURI 1939, www.virtuaaliviipuri.tamk.fi

VirtuaaliViipuri 1939, Suomeksi

Virtuella Viborg 1939, På Svenska

Das projekt „Virtuelles Wiburg 1939“, Deutsch

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Virtueel project Viipuri 1939, Nederlands

バーチャル・ ヴィイプリ・プロジェクト 1939, Japanese

CONCLUDING REMARKS

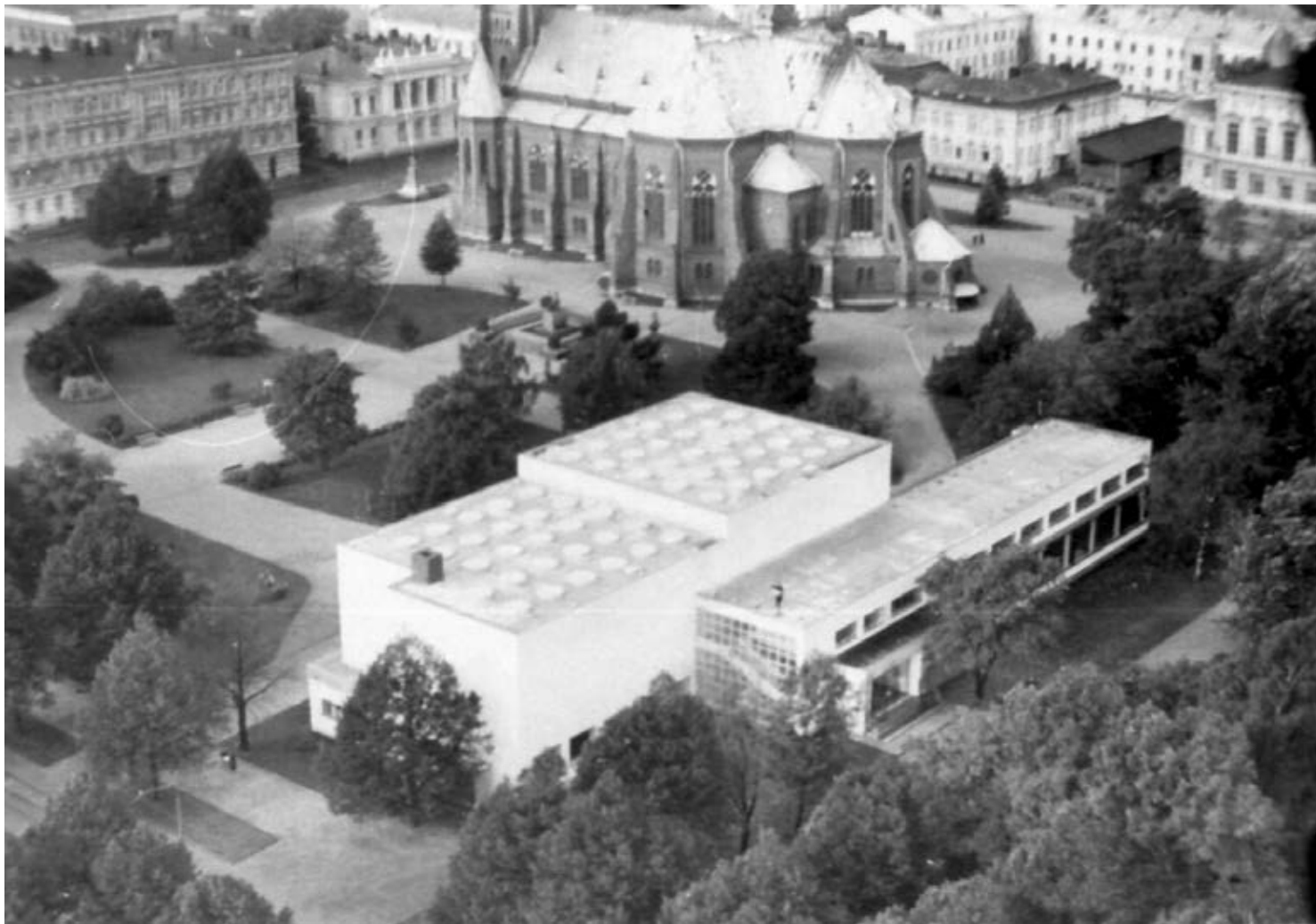
REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

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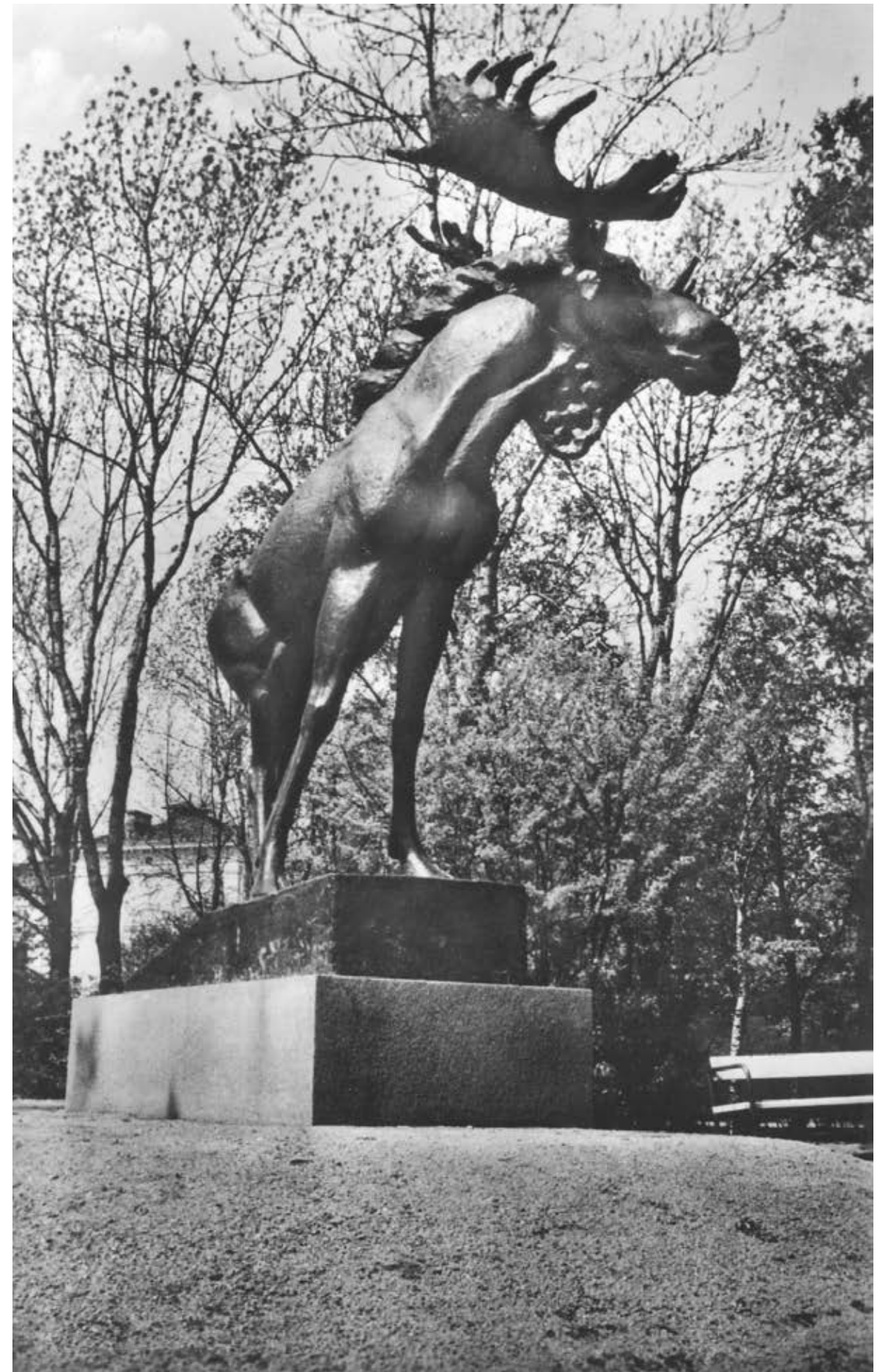
Olet varmaan lukenut lehdestä
tätä Viipurin uudesta kirjas-
tosta & sen oli suunnitellyt joku
tunnettu arkkitehti, jonka nimeä
en muista.

I am sure you have read in the papers about the new library in Viipuri. It has been designed by a famous architect, but I can't remember his name, I'm afraid.



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The Town Library of Viipuri. The Tuomiokirkko Church is in the background, up on the left is the Wiklund Building and the residence of the Governor. The Central Primary School of Viipuri was in the block, which can be seen just on the right.



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The statue of an elk ('Hirvipatsas') by Jussi Mäntynen stood near the Library in the Torkkelinpuisto Park.



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THE VIIPURI TOWN LIBRARY

The Viipuri Town Library

Alvar Aalto, an architect, started to design the Viipuri Town Library in 1927, when he drew his proposal for an architectural competition.

Alvar Aalto won the first prize, but for various reasons the actual designing work began as late as in 1933.

The planned location of the Library had been changed after the competition designs were submitted. At the end of 1933 Alvar Aalto presented his new designs, which were accepted by the Library Board. The design stage continued, and the competitive bidding for the contract was arranged in the spring of 1934. The winning contractor was Pyramid Oy, a construction company from Viipuri, which started the construction work in April 1934.



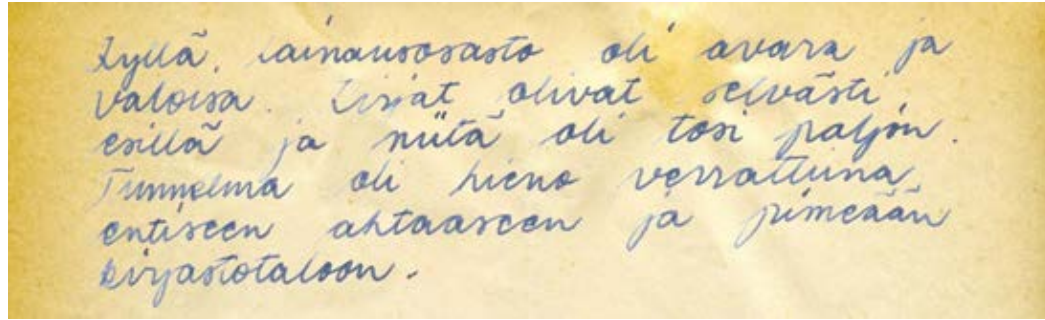
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The new, shining white library was inaugurated on October the 13th, 1935, and was unanimously accepted by the citizens of Viipuri. The number of library visitors surprised the officials of the town, which was one proof of the library's good design.

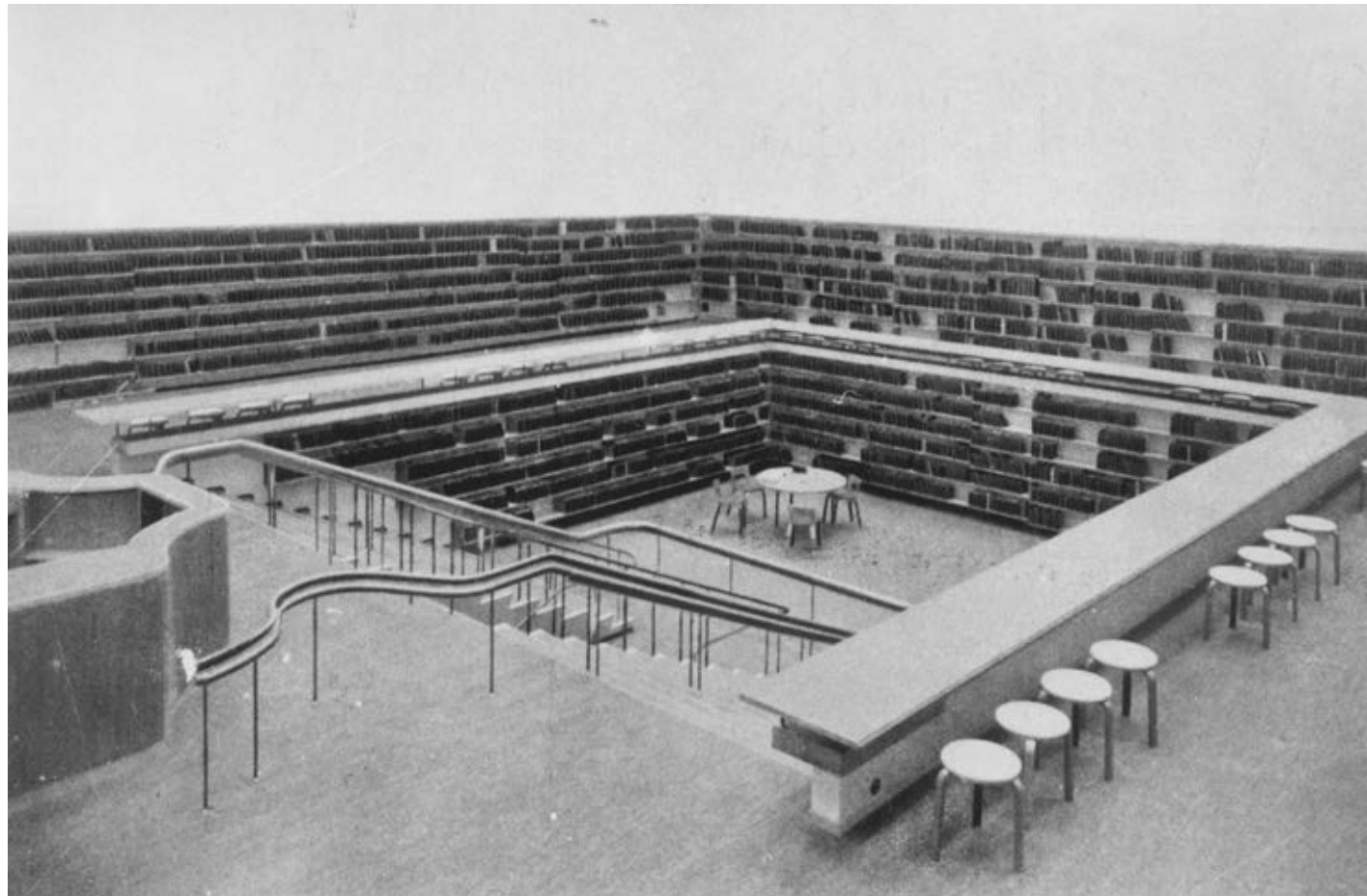


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The design of the building proved extremely successful, and there were about 90,000 volumes in the Library at the end of 1939.



The section housing the loan books was so spacious and well lit. The books were easy to find, and there were plenty of them. The atmosphere was congenial compared to the dark and confined old library.



The Borrowing Department of the Library. The entrance to the department was through the customer service counter, which is at the top of the stairs seen in the picture.

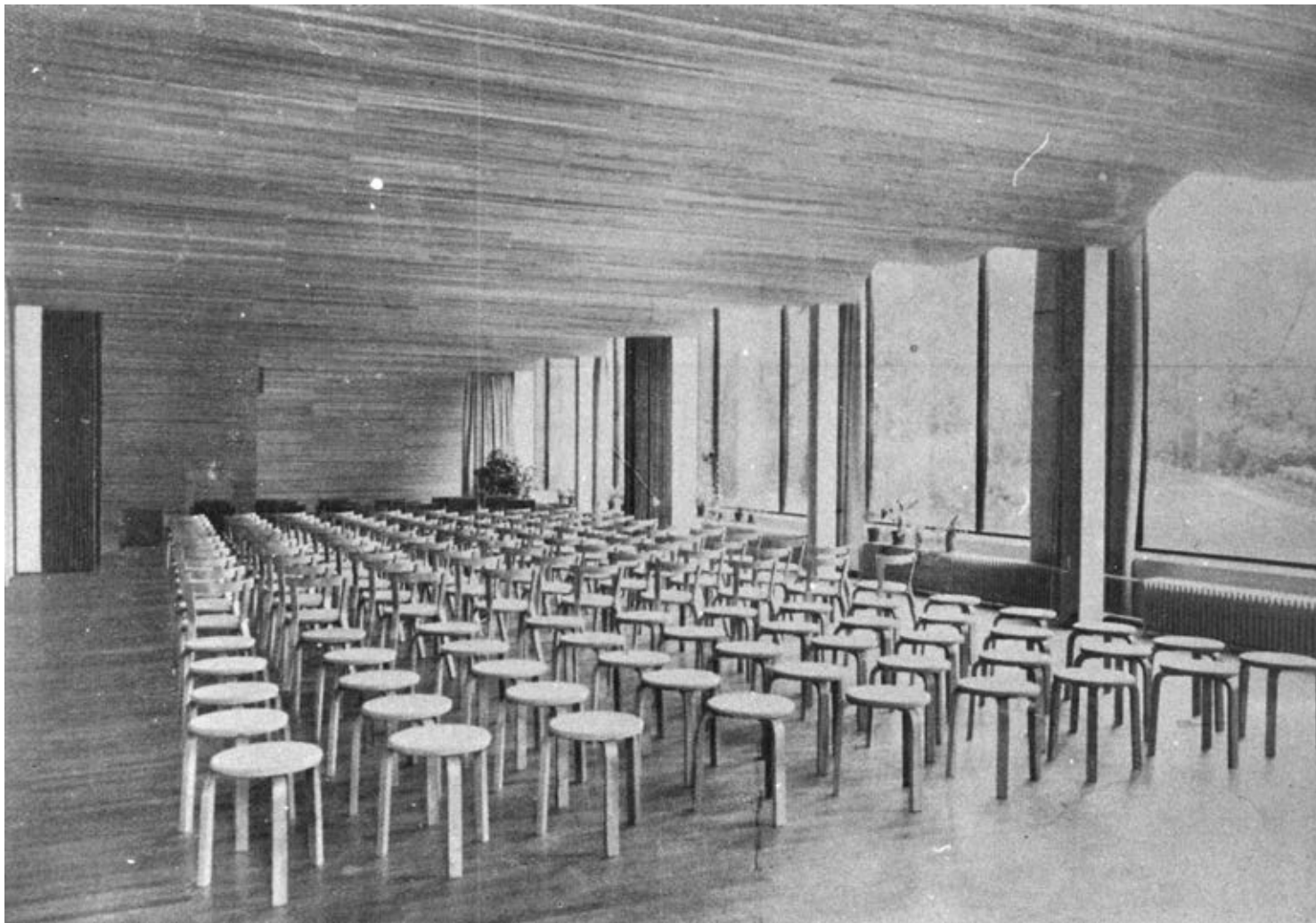


The Journal Reading Room, which was lit by the natural light emanating from the round skylight windows. The separating wall on the left stood between the Book Reading Room and the Journal Reading Room.



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The skylight windows of the library.



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The Auditorium of the Viipuri Library with the wavy wooden roof. This kind of roof panelling was acoustically effective, and the green Torkkelinpuisto Park could be seen through the windows.



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A detail from the roof of the Auditorium.

THE HISTORY OF THE VIIPURI LIBRARY

The History of the Viipuri Library

The first mention of a library in the history of Viipuri can be found at the time of Catherine II. There was a German school in the town at the time, and some kind of a library serving the educated classes operated in connection of the school.

The German Upper Secondary School, established in 1805, was much more significant from the libraries' point of view. A teacher at the school, Doctor August W. Tappe, and his good friends had established a reading society in the town, and the society was supported by voluntary donations. 'The Library' was owned by its shareholders.

At the end of 1807 Doctor A. W. Tappe encouraged the reading society members and other inhabitants of the town to collect all available books for mutual use. The result of the plea was delightful; more than 600 books were collected by the beginning of 1808. Mr Tappe suggested a new arrangement, according to which the 'shareholders' would relinquish their ownership of their books, and the collection would form the basis of a