

Toshiko Mori  
Chair Department of Architecture  
Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Dear Professor Mori,

In the Alvar Aalto Foundation we are very worried about the renovation of the poetry room designed by Alvar Aalto at Harvard's Lamont Library.

It is one of the few Aalto interiors preserved in its original state from late 1940s. Its value lies in the authentic atmosphere created by the total design process. Plans to use new furniture, which "will reflect the Aalto style", is childish. In case restoration is totally out of question, there should be used at least new pieces of Aalto furniture still in production.

We are sure, that with good will and skilful design it is possible to save Alvar Aalto's small masterpiece in Harvard.

On behalf of the Alvar Aalto Foundation we sincerely hope the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University could use its influence and prevent a scandal, which reminds us of the process around Aalto's Kaufman Center in New York.

Helsinki, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Markku Lahti  
Director  
The Alvar Aalto Foundation