

Healing

Design Museum Gallery from 26 February to 11 March 2018

Healing explores the physical and mental dimensions of healing and recuperation through architecture and design. It discusses with Finnish and Scandinavian examples from the 1930s to the present day reflecting the ways in which architecture, the design of objects, choices of materials and technologies have promoted healing,

The exhibition takes as its starting point the Paimio Tuberculosis Sanatorium (1933) designed by Alvar Aalto and the exhibits include a large number of objects from this facility.

'The Paimio Sanatorium is an interesting historical example of the impact of design and architecture on healing', observes Chief Curator **Suvi Saloniemi** of Design Museum, who is one of the two curators of the exhibition.

When the Paimio Sanatorium was designed, anti-tuberculosis medication had not yet been developed. TB vaccine was not invented until the 1940s.

'The isolation of patients, sunlight and fresh air were the only treatments for the disease. Alvar Aalto believed he could make the building a machinery of healing functioning like a medical instrument, in keeping with the ideas of orthodox functionalism. In his designs he focused on the comprehensive nature of healing, its physical, mental, material and technological dimensions.'

Participatory, egalitarian and closely involved with nature

The exhibition showcases different areas of design from several decades, leading visitors to the world of healing through selected objects, spatial concepts, **architecture** and services. The chosen examples express in their own ways distinctive features of Nordic design, such as a close connection with nature, practicality, an egalitarian and participatory way of thinking and respect for the perspective of children.

The children's perspective is particularly respected in the exhibits models for patient clothing for Helsinki's New Children's Hospital. The garments were designed by **Paola Suhonen** and **Piia Honkanen** of Ivana Helsinki, but their starting points were created together with children. Ideas for clothing for the new hospital were created jointly in participatory workshops. Educational Curator **Hanna Kapanen** of Design Museum and designer **Aino Kiviranta** directed children's joint design workshops at Design Museum in 2016. These events were organised by the Children's Clinics Sponsors association.

Hanna Kapanen, one of the curators of the present exhibition, points out that design is an aid to creating an environment that is better in human terms. The core notions of design can be realised, for example, specifically in terms of participation, joint development and a human-based approach. The models of the patient garments of the New Children's Hospital are now on display for the first time.

In addition to the above, the exhibition features, among others, the following examples of design for healing: the Children's Castle Hospital (1948) designed by Kaarlo Borg, Elsi Borg, Otto Flodin and Olavi Sortta; Ihmisten Apteekki (A Pharmacy for People, 2014) in Helsinki's Hakaniemi conceptualised by the Hellon design agency; the E300 medicine dispenser robot developed by the Evondos company; and Flower Vase Tree (2016) designed by Aamu Song and Johan Olin (Company) for the Espoo Hospital.

Exhibition team: Educational Curator Hanna Kapanen and Chief Curator Suvi Saloniemi with exhibition architecture by Hanna Annonen.

For more information, please contact Ms Päivi Balomenos, Head of Communication and PR, tel. +358 40 753 67 25, paivi.balomenos@designmuseum.fi

Design Museum is a national specialist museum of Finnish design. It engages in the research, collection, documentation and display of design in Finland and in international touring exhibitions.

Design Museum Helsinki

Opening hours

1 Sep – 31 May:

Tue 11-20

Wed - Sun 11 – 18

Mon closed

Tickets:

Adults 12€, pensioner 10€, 6€ students, under 18 free of charge

Visiting address

Korkeavuorenkatu 23, 00130 Helsinki Finland

www.designmuseum.fi