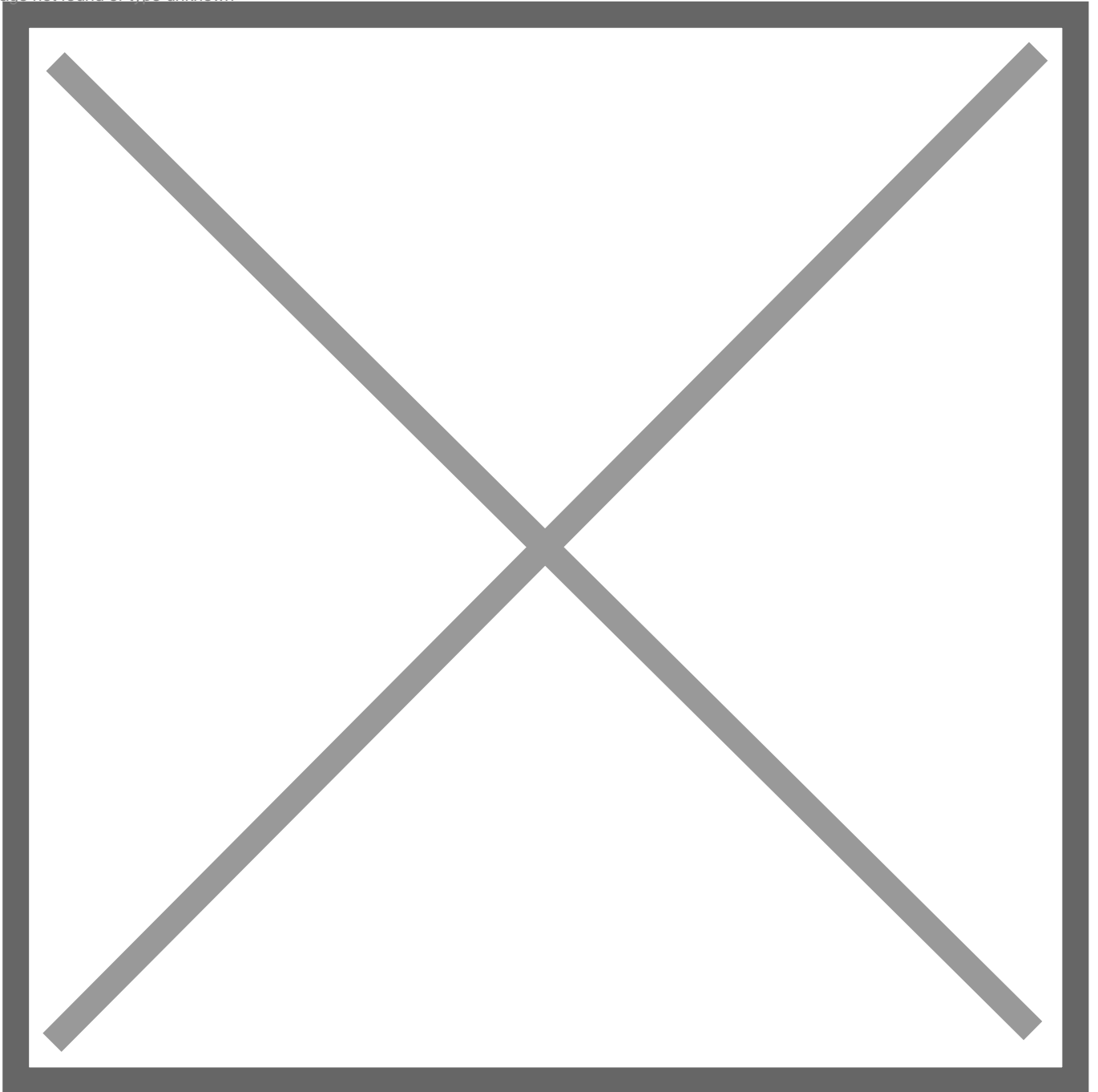


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**Kulttuurisiilo / Kulttuurivoimala [Culture Silo /
Culture Power Station ry]**

Finland

Alvar Aallon kat 5
North Ostrobothnia (Region) 90520 Oulu

Commission

1930

Completion

1933

Original name

Toppila Cellulosa Fabrik [Toppiola Cellulosa
Factory]

Other denominations

Toppila Sellutehdas [Toppila Pulp Mill] / Wood Chi
Silo in Oulu

Original use

Industry/silos

Current use

Culture/leisure/tourism/Social cultural centre

Architects

Alvar Aalto

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/diaphragmatic arches, Two-
dimensional/ [shear] wall

Description

This paper mill for the company Serlachius is a little-known work by the renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto and one of his first commissions for an industrial building. The complex, built in the early 1930s, included all the buildings and facilities necessary for the manufacture of cellulose. Some of them, of little architectural value, were torn down after production was halted in 1980. Fortunately, others, such as the building for drying wood chips pictured here, have survived to this day.

It is a small building which stands out for its architecture, despite its industrial purposes. The shape of the steep gabled concrete roof, truncated at the top, satisfies the functional needs of the industrial production process, while generating a characteristic profile: its form – which Aalto called “organically functional” – is emphasized through the expression of the constructive and structural geometry, taking the form of delicate concrete ribs on the exterior surface.

Bright colors, now gone, once enlivened the exposed concrete surfaces of the exteriors and elements of the building systems, such as pipes or fans. Since the factory was shuttered, the silo, pending renovation, has housed cultural uses.

Links

[Culture Silo Official Website](#)

[YouTube - Aerial Video](#)

[YouTube - Silo Light and Sound Installation by Heikki Johannes Riitahuhta and Michael Edward Edgerton in 2009](#)