



Pair of wall lamps, designed by Alvar Aalto for
Valaistustyö,
Finland, 1950s

Brass and lacquered steel.

Very rare example.

Total depth: 50 cm / 1' 6 1/2"

D: 30 cm / 9 3/4"

H: 18 cm / 6"

Alvar Aalto was a Finnish architect and designer. His work includes architecture, furniture, lighting, and glassware, as well as sculptures and paintings. He never regarded himself as an artist, seeing painting and sculpture as "branches of the tree whose trunk is

architecture." The pure Functionalist phase in Aalto's work lasted for several years. It enabled him to make an international breakthrough, largely because of Paimio Sanatorium (1929-1933), an important Functionalist milestone. Aalto had adopted the principals of user-friendly, functional design in his architecture, and it was characteristic of Aalto to treat each building as a complete work of art - right down to the furniture and light fittings. The design of his furniture combined practicality and aesthetics with series production, encouraging a more beautiful everyday life in the home.