

GERARD UNGER

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ALVERATA

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WHO IS GERARD UNGER?

Gerard Unger (1942–2018) was a renowned Dutch type designer known for creating highly legible and innovative typefaces. With a career spanning over four decades, he designed fonts for newspapers, books, road signs, and digital screens—always balancing functionality with beauty. His notable typefaces include Swift, Gulliver, Frutiger Next, Alverata, and his final work, Sanserata. Unger also taught at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and the University of Reading, inspiring a new generation of type designers. Through both his fonts and teachings, Unger left a lasting legacy in the world of typography. live on through the enduring use of his typefaces around the world.

rata Alverata Alverata Alverata Alvera

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg
Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

“A benefit of knowing about the history of type design is the possibility to build on the past, to chart developments from past to present, and to extend this into the future.”

Alverata was released in 2013 and is deeply rooted in the Romanesque letterforms of 11th to 13th century Europe. But rather than simply replicating the past, Unger reinterpreted it with a contemporary, humanist twist. The inspiration for Alverata came from Unger’s PhD research on medieval lettering. Alverata consists of three different fonts: Alverata, Alverata Informal and Alverata Irregular, that variate in form and width, but maintain the same spirit.

Alverata
Alverata
Alverata
Alverata
Alverata
Alverata

Light
Regular
Medium
Semibold
Bold
Black

Alevera Informal

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q
R S T U V
W X Y Z

a b c d e f
g h i j k l
m n o p q
r s t u v
w x y z

Alevera Irregular

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q
R S T U V
W X Y Z

a b c d e f
g h i j k l
m n o p q
r s t u v
w x y z

%
&

Alverata features both lining and oldstyle numerals in proportional and tabular forms, blending clarity with elegance. Its numbers match the sculptural style of the typeface, making them ideal for both text and data use.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

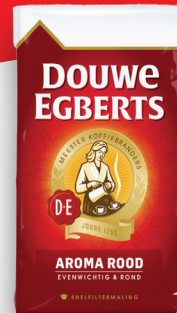
Alverata In Use



Spanish type and graphic designer Octavio Pardo has created the branding for the high quality bakery L'Atelier. The signage at the bakery and the business cards use Alverata, a typeface designed by Dr Gerard Unger.

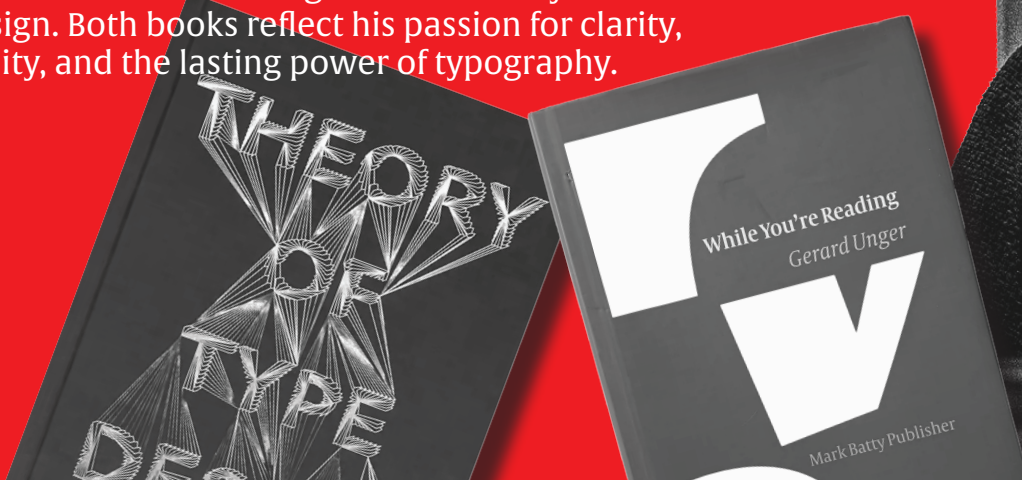
Douwe Egberts – selling coffee since 1753 – is the leading coffee brand in the Netherlands. In 2014, Design Bridge were tasked with bringing back lost brand equity. The challenge of the brief was to be authentic, yet not become a “nostalgic window into the past”.

The redesign came with a new wordmark, based on Gerard Unger's recently released Alverata. This mark combines some unusual choices for a mainstream brand: an early use of a retail typeface used as the brand's staple, and combining capitals, small caps and unicasel letter shapes within a logo that should evoke nothing but tradition and familiarity.



Books

Gerard Unger was not only a master type designer but also a thoughtful writer who deeply explored the connection between typography and reading. His book *While You're Reading* (1997) offers insights into how letterforms influence the way we process text. In his final work, *Theory of Type Design* (2018), Unger shares decades of experience, offering a detailed and accessible look at the logic and creativity behind type design. Both books reflect his passion for clarity, readability, and the lasting power of typography.



The Gerard Unger Scholarship

TypeTogether's Gerard Unger Scholarship supports emerging type designers by offering mentorship, funding, and a publishing opportunity. Open to students and recent graduates, the program helps develop typefaces into professional, retail-ready fonts. Winners receive expert guidance, a publishing contract with 50% royalties, €5,000 during a five-month remote internship, and up to €1,000 to attend a top design conference. Honoring the legacy of Gerard Unger, the scholarship aims to carry type design into the future.

2024 Gerard Unger Scholarship Winner

Dargon Book
Caverns and Creatures

Dargon Italic
Legends and Lairs

Dargon Bold
Tales and Treasures

DARGON UNCIAL UC
MYTHS AND MAGIC

DARGON UNCIAL LC
DUNGEONS AND DARGON

Anne-Dauphine Borione was awarded the 2024 Gerard Unger Scholarship for her typeface Dargon, a bold and contemporary take on uncial-inspired forms rooted in fantasy aesthetics.



