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Programs And Manifestoes On 20th-Century Architecture



Synopsis

The present volume offers eloquent testimony that many of the master builders of this century have held passionate convictions regarding the philosophic and social basis of their art. Nearly every important development in the modern architectural movement began with the proclamation of these convictions in the form of a program or manifesto. The most influential of these are collected here in chronological order from 1903 to 1963. Taken together, they constitute a subjective history of modern architecture; compared with one another, their great diversity of style reveals in many cases the basic differences of attitude and temperament that produced a corresponding divergence in architectural style. In point of view, the book covers the aesthetic spectrum from right to left; from programs that rigidly generate designs down to the smallest detail to revolutionary manifestoes that call for anarchy in building form and town plan. The documents, placed in context by the editor, are also international in their range: among them are the seminal and prophetic statements of Henry van de Velde, Adolf Loos, and Bruno Taut from the early years of the century; Frank Lloyd Wright's 1910 annunciation of Organic Architecture; Gropius's original program for the Bauhaus, founded in Weimar in 1919; "Towards a New Architecture, Guiding Principles" by Le Corbusier; the formulation by Naum Gabo and Antoine Pevsner of the basic principles of Constructivism; and articles by R. Buckminster Fuller on universal architecture and the architect as world planner. Other pronouncements, some in flamboyant style, including those of Erich Mendelsohn, Hannes Meyer, Theo van Doesburg, Oskar Schlemmer, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, El Lissitzky, and Louis I. Kahn. There are also a number of collective or group statements, issued in the name of movements such as CIAM, De Stijl, ABC, the Situationists, and GEAM. Since the dramatic effectiveness of the manifesto form is usually heightened by brevity and conciseness, it has been possible to reproduce most of the documents in their entirety; only a few have been excerpted.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, German (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The present volume offers eloquent testimony that many of the master builders of this century have held passionate convictions regarding the philosophic and social basis of their art.

Overly simplified and left me wanting more. It serves best as a reference list for further research but nothing more. Spend the money and get a bigger book. Subjects like these need a lot of time and attention and you won't necessarily get it from this.

This is an architecture theory book with short (couple of pages) writings by different authors (mostly architects and designers) that show the historical background of some of the architectural ideas taught in school today. Some of the authors were not good writers so some of the manifestos are hard to understand but if read carefully you can get the main ideas.

Really interesting book. It shows how much more there is to architecture than just making functional buildings, It's an intellectual art.

Interesting book.

Essays from the architects that we look back constantly to design today's architecture. I really enjoy it, recommend it to anyone who has an interest in architecture

Everything just ok. I'm glad to receive this book in the best conditions possible.

Exactly what I wanted. It is a very interesting read. A must read for anyone who is interested in architecture or architectural history.

I had to buy this book for an Art History class in college. The course was a general education requirement and I've never taken any other AH classes (I majored in the sciences). That being said, I only ever read the first chapter of this book and then never opened it again. I didn't even use it for any research papers in the course. The chapters are long and boring. Unless you have a good foundation in architecture, a lot of the terms go over your head. The book itself is more of a collection of works. Each 'chapter' is a different paper, so the subjects tend to hop around a lot. I feel like I can't accurately judge this book since I'm not too familiar with the subject matter - so I'm giving it 3 stars. If it's a text that is required for a course, I wouldn't worry too much about it. Chances are you probably won't use it. If you're just buying it to read up on the subject matter for fun, I would say go for it. Used copies are pretty cheap, so it's a good gamble.

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