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The Architecture Of Paul Rudolph



Synopsis

The first major study of one of the most important architects of the postwar era Equally admired and maligned for his remarkable Brutalist buildings, Paul Rudolph (1918–1997) shaped both late modernist architecture and a generation of architects while chairing Yale's department of architecture from 1958 to 1965. Based on extensive archival research and unpublished materials, *The Architecture of Paul Rudolph* is the first in-depth study of the architect, neglected since his postwar zenith. Author Timothy M. Rohan unearths the ideas that informed Rudolph's architecture, from his Florida beach houses of the 1940s to his concrete buildings of the 1960s to his lesser-known East Asian skyscrapers of the 1990s. Situating Rudolph within the architectural discourse of his day, Rohan shows how Rudolph countered the perceived monotony of mid-century modernism with a dramatically expressive architecture for postwar America, exemplified by his Yale Art and Architecture Building of 1963, famously clad in corrugated concrete. The fascinating story of Rudolph's spectacular rise and fall considerably deepens longstanding conceptions about postwar architecture: Rudolph emerges as a pivotal figure who anticipated new directions for architecture, ranging from postmodernism to sustainability.

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Customer Reviews

"The architectural monograph can be pedestrian, albeit dusted with a light icing of glamour. Not this one. Timothy M Rohan gives a brilliant account of the apocalyptic arc of Paul Rudolph's career. . . Rohan's book, frank, fair and intuitive, sets the record

straight. — Gillian Darley, Icon Magazine (Gillian Darley Icon Magazine 2014-10-01) — “Excellent. . . The first substantial account of Rudolph’s entire career based on original research, offering a detailed account of his life and work. — Eric Mumford, Washington University in St. Louis (Eric Mumford 2013-12-19) — “A well-researched, critical study of an architect who is in urgent need of re-evaluation. — Michael Webb, Form (Michael Webb Form) — “Paul Rudolph, a fascinating architect whose work has suffered from a broad spate of demolition, is receiving a handsome tribute in a forthcoming Yale University Press volume, Timothy Rohan’s The Architecture of Paul Rudolph — Anthony Paletta, The Awl (Anthony Paletta The Awl) — “A comprehensive look at one of the leading figures of post-war American architecture, from his early work in Florida to late work in Asia. It contextualizes the work as well as the man, who played a key role as the dean of Yale at a pivotal time in architectural history. Reading this book is like re-remembering who Rudolph really was. — Matt Shaw, Architizer (Matt Shaw Architizer) — “Well-argued, well-illustrated, well-edited. — Alexandra Lange, Architect Magazine (Alexandra Lange Architect Magazine) “A landmark study of one of the most powerful but also enigmatic architects that America has produced.” — Robert Brueggemann, University of Illinois, Chicago (Robert Brueggemann 2013-12-19) — “In his excellent new monograph on this complex and sometimes confounding figure, Timothy M. Rohan . . . emerges as today’s foremost advocate of Rudolph’s works. — Martin Filler, The New York Review of Books (Martin Filler The New York Review of Books)

The first major study of one of the most important architects of the postwar era, situating Paul Rudolph as a pivotal figure who anticipated new directions for architecture from postmodernism to sustainability.

I’ve been a fan of Rudolph’s work for 35 years and thought I knew everything about him. However, this excellent book by Timothy Rohan presents information I’ve never heard before, especially about Rudolph’s heartbreaking fall from prominence and his constant grief over the state of the A&A building. Architecture trends will come and go, and critics can complain about Rudolph’s individualism, but the man was incapable of designing a boring building. In a world of glass boxes, isn’t that what matters most?

Gave it to my sister who is a HUGE Paul Rudolph fan(he designed our high school, which our city

leaders decided to tear down!!) and she LOVED it. Said she had seen it and wanted to buy it.
Beautiful book!!

I'm not generally a fan of brutalism, but this book provides much information and good arguments.

Great, thorough summary of Rudolph's work. There are extensive photos and full-page drawings

Excellent, deeply-researched and beautifully illustrated account of this weird artist.

There are just a handful of books on the work of Paul Rudolph and most of those are catalogs of his work. To my knowledge, this is the first critical study of the work of this complex architect. Rudolph's ideas and personal life is placed in the context of the time in which he lived. His work as a late modernist form-giver was at first lauded but soon discredited as "out of touch" with prevailing architectural tastes. Using his major projects to illustrate, Timothy Rohan notes Rudolph's professional struggles, disappointments and ambitions and how he continued to produce innovative building right up until his death. This book is a rich piece of scholarship that finally makes Rudolph approachable. It has opened my eyes to see his work anew and makes me want to search out more of his buildings. I highly recommend this book.

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