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# Studies In Tectonic Culture The Poetics Of Construction In Nineteenth And Twentieth Century Architecture

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## KEIRA COLLINS

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*Proceedings of the EAAE ARCC 10th International Conference (EAAE ARCC 2016), 15-18 June 2016, Lisbon, Portugal*  
Princeton Architectural Press  
Edward Ford's forty years of practicing and teaching architecture have focused on one area: the architectural detail. Yet, despite two hugely influential books (The Details of Modern Architecture, volumes 1 and 2), numerous articles, and lectures given from Vancouver to Vienna, there are two questions Ford has, remarkably, never answered: "What is a detail?" and more importantly, "What is a good detail?" Ford is an architect as well as a

writer, so it is not surprising that rather than answering these questions in a third book, he spent six years on the design and construction of a house. Building it was not an exercise in the application of ideas about detail; it was, rather, a mechanism for answering those two simple questions.

*A Comparative Critical Analysis of Built Form* by Kenneth Frampton Routledge  
"In 1992, to celebrate the inauguration of the Supreme Court building, the [Yad Hanadiv] Foundation sponsored a symposium on the architecture of the public building. Prominent architects ... came to Jerusalem that year and for subsequent biennial meetings ... This book, ... documents these discussions."-- p.7.

Platt Byard Dovell White John Wiley & Sons

Published on the occasion of Brasilia's fiftieth anniversary: a celebration in contemporary photography of the building of Brazil's capital city."

Subnature Chronicle Books

Bring on the Books for Everybody is an engaging assessment of the robust popular literary culture that has developed in the United States during the past two decades. Jim Collins describes how a once solitary and print-based experience has become an exuberantly social activity, enjoyed as much on the screen as on the page. Fueled by Oprah's Book Club, Miramax film adaptations, superstore bookshops, and new technologies such as the Kindle digital reader, literary fiction has been transformed into best-selling, high-concept entertainment. Collins highlights the infrastructural and cultural changes that have given rise to a flourishing reading public at a time when the future of the book has been called into question. Book reading, he claims, has not become obsolete; it has become integrated into popular visual media. Collins explores how digital technologies and the convergence of literary, visual, and consumer cultures have changed what counts as a "literary experience" in phenomena ranging from lush film adaptations such as *The English Patient* and *Shakespeare in Love* to the customer communities at Amazon. Central to Collins's analysis and, he argues, to contemporary literary culture, is the notion that refined taste is now easily acquired; it is just a matter of knowing where to access it and whose advice to trust. Using recent novels, he shows that the redefined literary landscape has affected not just how books are being read, but also what sort of novels are being written for these passionate readers. Collins connects

literary bestsellers from *The Jane Austen Book Club* and *Literacy and Longing in L.A.* to *Saturday* and *The Line of Beauty*, highlighting their depictions of fictional worlds filled with avid readers and their equations of reading with cultivated consumer taste.

*Architecture 1903-1932* MIT Press

Composed of ten essays and an epilogue that trace the history of contemporary form as an evolving poetic of structure and construction, the book's analytical framework rests on Frampton's close readings of key French and German, and English sources from the eighteenth century to the present. Kenneth Frampton's long-awaited follow-up to his classic *A Critical History of Modern Architecture* is certain to influence any future debate on the evolution of modern architecture. *Studies in Tectonic Culture* is nothing less than a rethinking of the entire modern architectural tradition. The notion of tectonics as employed by Frampton—the focus on architecture as a constructional craft—constitutes a direct challenge to current mainstream thinking on the artistic limits of postmodernism, and suggests a convincing alternative. Indeed, Frampton argues, modern architecture is invariably as much about structure and construction as it is about space and abstract form. Composed of ten essays and an epilogue that trace the history of contemporary form as an evolving poetic of structure and construction, the book's analytical framework rests on Frampton's close readings of key French and German, and English sources from the eighteenth century to the present. He clarifies the various turns that structural engineering and tectonic imagination have taken in the work of such architects as Perret, Wright, Kahn, Scarpa, and Mies, and

shows how both constructional form and material character were integral to an evolving architectural expression of their work. Frampton also demonstrates that the way in which these elements are articulated from one work to the next provides a basis upon which to evaluate the works as a whole. This is especially evident in his consideration of the work of Perret, Mies, and Kahn and the continuities in their thought and attitudes that linked them to the past. Frampton considers the conscious cultivation of the tectonic tradition in architecture as an essential element in the future development of architectural form, casting a critical new light on the entire issue of modernity and on the place of much work that has passed as "avant-garde." A copublication of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies and The MIT Press.

### **Virtual Aesthetics in Architecture**

Routledge

Robert McCarter provides a comprehensive study of Aldo van Eyck's 50-year career, guiding readers through the architect's buildings and unrealised projects, with a focus on the interior spatial experience as well as the design and construction processes. He investigates how van Eyck's writings and lectures convey the importance of architecture in the everyday lives of people around the world and throughout history, and by presenting the architect's design work together with the principles on which it was founded, illuminates van Eyck's ethical interpretation of architecture's place in the world.

### The Tectonics of Structural Systems

Phaidon Press

The old opposition between a digital culture of sensuous, ephemeral images and a tectonic culture of pragmatic building has given way to a new

collaboration between the two domains, a 'digital tectonics'. Computer linked fabrication techniques of many kinds have become an integral part of the design process, while new digital tools are allowing engineers and architects to understand in far more detail the behaviour of load carrying surfaces, and to generate new architectural forms. Digital and computer-linked design techniques is one of the hottest topics in architecture and in an ever-expanding world of digital technology this book tackles the practical elements of the field.

### **Adolf Loos** MIT Press

Amateur Attitude examines the recent work of the Chinese architect Wang Shu, Pritzker Prize winner in 2012. Exhibiting a contemporary aesthetic, the architect's buildings show his intense engagement with their setting and its history, coupled with reliance on traditional building techniques. He often reuses materials from city districts that have been torn down. This approach is based on a critical attitude toward the kind of overly rationalized architecture being built today in many of the world's cities, where efficiency seems to be the primary watchword. Wang Shu's architecture reveals instead a thoughtful attitude toward both design and implementation, as well as the ability to react flexibly to the context of a particular site-something he characterizes as an "Amateur Attitude." The essays place the architect's work in its contemporary context, while extensive illustrations provide exclusive insights into his varied creative work.

### **The Poetics of Construction in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Architecture**

Chronicle Books

Big, unexpected changes are here to stay. Slow, incremental change has

become a relic of the past. Today's shifts come fast and big, what Darrell West calls megachanges, in which dramatic disruptions in trends and policies occur on a regular basis. Domestically, we see megachange at work in the new attitudes and policies toward same-sex marriage, health care, smoking, and the widespread legalization of marijuana use. Globally, we have seen the extraordinary rise and then collapse of the Arab Spring, the emergence of religious zealotry, the growing influence of nonstate actors, the spread of ISIS-fomented terrorism, the rise of new economic and political powers in Asia, and the fracturing of once-stable international alliances. Long-held assumptions have been shattered, and the proliferation of unexpected events is confounding experts in the United States and around the globe. Many of the social and political institutions that used to anchor domestic and international politics have grown weak or are in need of dramatic reform. What to do? West says that we should alter our expectations about the speed and magnitude of political and social change. We also need to recognize that many of our current governing processes are geared to slow deliberation and promote incremental change, not large-scale transformation. With megachange becoming the new normal, our domestic and global institutions must develop the ability to tackle the massive economic, political, and social shifts that we face.

**Le Corbusier** Getty Publications  
 Studies in Tectonic Culture  
 The Poetics of Construction in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Architecture MIT Press  
Architectural Research Addressing Societal Challenges Rizzoli International Publications  
 The Tectonics of Structural Systems

provides an architectural approach to the theory of structural systems. The book combines: structural recommendations to follow during the architectural design of various structural systems and the tectonic treatment of structural recommendations in architecture. Written expressly for students, the book makes structures understandable and useful, providing: practical and useful knowledge about structures a design based approach to the subject of structures and a bridge in the gap between structures and the theory of design. Good architectural examples for each structural system are given in order to demonstrate that tectonics can be achieved by applying technical knowledge about structures. Over 300 illustrations visually unpack the topics being explained, making the book ideal for the visual learner.

Jørn Utzon and Transcultural Essentialism Phaidon Press

An authoritative, visual exploration of the eminent twentieth-century architect's buildings features newly commissioned photography and includes coverage of such structures as the Chapel of Ronchamp and the Carpenter Arts Center.

Yale University Press

Wright at Avery / by Carole Ann Fabian --  
 Approaching Wright / by Barry Bergdoll --  
 Introduction / by Kenneth Frampton --  
 1894-1930 -- 1930-1932 -- 1931-1939 --  
 1939-1949 -- 1949-1959

**Wright's Writings** Phaidon Press

Virtual Aesthetics in Architecture:  
 Designing in Mixed Realities presents a curated selection of projects and texts contributed by leading international architects and designers who are using virtual reality technologies in their design process. It triggers discussion and debate on exploring the aesthetic

potential and establishing its language as an expressive medium in architectural design. Although virtual reality is not new and the technology has evolved rapidly, the aesthetic potential of the medium is still emerging and there is a great deal more to explore. The book provides a comprehensive overview of the current use of virtual reality technologies in the architectural design process. Contributions are presented in six parts, fully illustrated with over 150 images. Recent projects presented are distributed in five themes: introduction to mixed realities; space and form; context and ambiguity; materiality and movement; body and social. Each theme includes richly illustrated essays by leading academics and practitioners, including those from Zaha Hadid Architects and MVRDV, detailing their design process using data-driven methodologies. *Virtual Aesthetics in Architecture* expands the use of technology per se and focuses on how architecture can benefit from its aesthetic potential during the design process. A must-read for practitioners, academics, and students interested in cutting-edge digital design.

### **Exploring the Intersection of Design and Construction** MIT Press

Robert Harbison offers a novel interpretation of what architectural theory might look like. The title is based on Wallace Stevens' "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird", and like the poem, Harbison's work is a composite structure built of oblique meanings and shifts that give a portrait of architecture in which symbol and metaphor coexist. 10 illustrations.

### Modern Architecture and the Lifeworld Routledge

Comprehensive Tectonics considers building construction assemblies

holistically to help you make architectural detailing decisions from the earth to the sky. Seven case studies from architecture firms such as Perkins + Will, Lake | Flato, and Olson Kundig Architects include more than 250 color images showing component details, building sections, wall sections, and floor plans. For each project, the architects explain their design intent and the reasons for their material and tectonic choices, to help you form your own strategies. This book will provide you with assistance by its ease of use with legible keys, scales, and reference images. Its key insights about why the firm chose certain materials will allow you to create your own process for utilizing building construction assemblies. Comprehensive Tectonics aims to give you a more comprehensive overview of building construction assemblies to aid in the creation of well-designed and well-developed architecture. Including a glossary and guide for how to determine assembly, this book makes a welcome desk reference and is an ideal addition for students in architecture integrated studios dealing with structures and materials and is also a useful addition for professional architects.

### *Thirteen Ways* CRC Press

A study of over 40 years work by the Portuguese architect.

### *Building Brasilia* Rizzoli International Publications

This work continues the study of the relationships of the ideals of design and the realities of construction in modern architecture, beginning in the 1920s and extending to the present day. It contains information on the construction of modern architecture at a variety of scales.

### **Introducing Architectural Tectonics**

New York : Garland Pub.

Individually and in partnership, as architects, educators, and advocates, the four principals of Platt Byard Dovell White Architects have made an indelible impression on the contemporary and historic architecture of New York City and beyond. In projects that range from historic preservation--the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center in Central Park and the Supreme Court of New York's Appellate Division First Department--to modernist interventions--the Saginaw Art Museum in Michigan and New 42nd Street Studios near Times Square--the firm's work is notable for its balance of innovation and tradition, of working within an urban context while contributing to that context. The first monograph on this award-winning firm, *Architecture on* illustrates the philosophy of Platt Byard Dovell White in its presentation of buildings and projects. Portfolios of twenty-three institutional, commercial, and residential works are complemented by two essays--one by noted critic Kenneth Frampton--and a lively timeline showing the personal and professional evolution of the architects.

*The Poetics of Construction in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Architecture* Duke University Press

For the first time outside of Brazil, 2G presents the widest selection of the work of this great architect, considered to be the key figure of the architecture created in the city of São Paulo in the 1960s and 1970s. João Vilanova Artigas's work, which spans five decades in all, is prolific and extensive. Unfortunately, much of this work is in a precarious state of preservation today. As a result, the most expressive group of works that are well - or reasonably well - preserved consists of single-family houses and apartment buildings. These have been chosen according to criteria of aesthetic and discursive importance, mainly from the so-called 'brutalist' phase, which is without doubt the architect's most personal and radical period. Outstanding among his buildings is that for the Faculty of Architecture and Planning of the University of São Paulo (FAU-USP, 1961-1968), João Vilanova Artigas's undoubted masterpiece. All the photographs that document the buildings have been specially taken for 2G by Nelson Kon, and various project designs have also been redrawn.