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Complexity And Contradiction In Architecture

Synopsis

First published in 1966, and since translated into 16 languages, this remarkable book has become an essential document of architectural literature. A "gentle manifesto for a nonstraightforward architecture," VenturiÃ¢ ¬â„¢s Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture expresses in the most compelling and original terms the postmodern rebellion against the purism of modernism. Three hundred and fifty architectural photographs serve as historical comparisons and illuminate the author's ideas on creating and experiencing architecture. Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture was the winner of the Classic Book Award at the AIA's Seventh Annual International Architecture Book Awards.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Venturi is a partner in the firm of Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc., Philadelphia. He has taught at Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania, and was a Fellow and later Architect in Residence at the American Academy in Rome. His writing, teaching, and architectural work have had a decisive influence on the younger generation of architects throughout the world. Venturi is also the author of Iconography and Electronics Upon a Generic Architecture and, with Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour, Learning from Las Vegas.

This book is less a manifesto than it is a very interesting look at how architecture has evolved over the last 2000 years. Venturi evocatively shows that there was no straight line approach to

architecture, but rather an ever-changing and ambiguous path that Modernists chose to make short cuts through. In this sense, Venturi really does capture the complexity and contradiction in architecture in that there are many lessons to be learned, making this book as valuable today as it was in 1966 when it first appeared.Being one of the early "gray" architects, Venturi inspired a movement that eventually became characterized as "Post Modern." His early architectural work left a lot to be desired, since it seems less inspired by the many historical examples he favored, likeÃ Â Frank Furness, in this book and more by the banal trends in contemporary architecture at the time, eventually leading toÃ Â Learning from Las VegasÃ Â (1972), where the concept of a building being a "duck," or a decorated shed, emerged.This book's most appealing aspect is that it is immediately accessible. You don't have to be an architect to understand where Venturi is coming from, much less a grad student working on a dissertation. Venturi avoids all that senseless jargon that characterized architectural theory at the time and later came to engulf Po-Mo talk as well.

THIS BOOK BECAME THE GURU BIBLE OF YOUNG GRADUATES OF PENN, ETC.VENTURI WAS ONE OF MY PROFESSORS 55 YEARS AGO!!!!.

This is a famous historical document that was very influential in the 1960's. Robert Venturiwas the first of a proposed series but, rumour has it that he knocked it out of the park withvolume 1 and no others were published. Can anyone confirm this? I bought this because Ihad lost my original first edition and wanted the reference for historical purposes. Is it relevanttoday? Student architects may find it stimulating as the basic theories still have legs. The designparadigms have run their useful courses in most cases.

If for no other reason that, this is a much revered, and much quoted tome on the nuance character of architectural manifestation through the centuries. But, although this manifesto presents some gleaming nuggets of timeless insight, there are also layers of murky concepts and quixotic prattle. Nonetheless, a classic of architectural design and theory central to the work of most academician today.

cheap and good

Great book.

Essential reading by the modern Mannerist - Robert Venturi.

Love this book! Venturi has an interesting and fairly extreme way of thinking and this book covers it all. The photos are beautiful on the glossy pages.

Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture Simply Complexity: A Clear Guide to Complexity Theory Resistance and Contradiction: Miskitu Indians and the Nicaraguan State, 1894-1987 On Practice and Contradiction (Revolutions Series): Slavoj Zizek presents Mao The Borders of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation, and Archives of Contradiction Systems Thinking, Third Edition: Managing Chaos and Complexity: A Platform for Designing Business Architecture Systems Thinking: Managing Chaos and Complexity: A Platform for Designing Business Architecture inside: Architecture and Design: A guide to the practice of architecture (what they don't teach you in architecture school) Unstable Singularities and Randomness: Their Importance in the Complexity of Physical, Biological and Social Sciences Dynamics, Information and Complexity in Quantum Systems (Theoretical and Mathematical Physics) Complexity and Planning: Systems, Assemblages and Simulations (New Directions in Planning Theory) Mind and Nature: A Necessary Unity (Advances in Systems Theory, Complexity, and the Human Sciences) Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy Why Simple Wins: Escape the Complexity Trap and Get to Work That Matters Complexity and the Economy Statistical Mechanics: Entropy, Order Parameters and Complexity (Oxford Master Series in Physics) The Analysis and Cognition of Melodic Complexity: The Implication-Realization Model California Prehistory: Colonization, Culture, and Complexity Algorithms, Complexity Analysis and VLSI Architectures for MPEG-4 Motion Estimation Extreme Facilitation: Guiding Groups Through Controversy and Complexity