Nesting: Body, Dwelling, Mind

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Increasingly, technology seems to be de-materializing our world. Yet our ideas and experiences -- both physical and cultural -- remain fundamentally patterned by the complex material interplay of brain, body, and world. With support from pioneering research in the cognitive and neurosciences, Sarah Robinson combines philosophy, poetry, and personal narrative to offer a poignant study of the many ways in which our built environment shapes us as significantly as we have shaped it. Nesting: Body, Dwelling, Mind explores how our very being is sculpted by our interactions in an environment that we ourselves have fashioned, making us our own greatest artifact. Includes an introduction by Juhani Pallasmaa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is an exciting breath of fresh air! A book on architecture that is actually small enough to hold in your hand? And filled with poetry? And so evocative you want to read it repeatedly? I was at a reading once when an audience member asked Mary Oliver that ubiquitous question posed to all artists: "what is your process?" In response she simply said "Inspiration and discipline." This is a seemingly simple, yet deeply complex idea, an alliance of intent that Robinson calls on us to truly embrace. Usually we have the discipline mastered- at least those who complete projects do. But so often the results appear to utterly lack inspiration, or any discernible connection to its occupants or environment. My interest in Robinson’s book emerges from having spent almost 20 years operating, and helping to design, supportive housing for disabled and profoundly disenfranchised homeless people. Thankfully this specialty area of architecture has finally, in recent years, embraced a non-institutional aesthetic. Yet we are still learning to build homes that do more than just house
people but that recognize how we live in our environment and how it lives in us (as Winston Churchill said.) Robinson’s book helps us see that what has been missing in so much of the design conversation is, surprisingly, imagination. And less surprisingly maybe, heart. Her book shows all of us - architects and their clients and partners - that it takes an imaginative leap to get us beyond simply building "relevant". Her way of thinking about architecture get us much further than that, from the concrete to the generative, so that we can get back to the concrete and build differently.

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