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Local Architecture: Building Place, Craft, And Community



Synopsis

In architecture, as in food, local is an idea whose time has come. Of course, the idea of an architecture that responds to site; draws on local building traditions, materials, and crafts; and strives to create a sense of community is not recent. Yet, the way it has evolved in the past few years in the hands of some of the world's most accomplished architects is indeed defining a new movement. From the rammed-earth houses of Rick Joy and Pacific Northwest timber houses of Tom Kundig, to the community-built structures of Rural Studio and Francis Kärä, designers everywhere are championing an architecture that exists from, in, and for a specific place. The stunning projects, presented here in the first book to examine this global shift, were featured at the thirteenth and final Ghost conference held in 2011, organized by Nova Scotia architect, educator, and local practitioner Brian MacKay-Lyons. The result is the most complete collection of contemporary regionalist architecture available, with essays by early proponents of the movement, including Kenneth Frampton, Juhani Pallasmaa, and Pritzker Prize-winning architect Glenn Murcutt.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just attended a lecture by Mackay at the San Antonio Museum of Art (18 Nov 15). It was fascinating. He advocates using "Place, Craft, and Community" as the foundational elements of design, which he calls the "local vernacular." Basically, this means that he considers the geology, materials and building techniques, and aesthetic customs of the regional area. Because of this, he is considered a "regionalist" architect, which is not really accurate because he argues that this approach is applicable anywhere in the world. He presented a myriad of examples of his

work around the world demonstrating how this approach yielded structures that fit into their surroundings like beautifully crafted pieces of art. The book is primarily a collection of essays from like-minded architects associated with the Ghost Architectural Laboratory. I am not an architect, but I enjoyed these essays as my introduction into Mackay's process.

Great book

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