



Makers of 20th-Century Modern Architecture: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook

By Donald Leslie Johnson, Donald Langmead

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Makers of 20th-Century Modern Architecture is an indispensable reference book for the scholar, student, architect or layman interested in the architects who initiated, developed, or advanced modern architecture. The book is amply illustrated and features the most prominent and influential people in 20th-century modernist architecture including Wright, Eisenman, Mies van der Rohe and Kahn. It describes the milieu in which they practiced their art and directs readers to information on the life and creative activities of these founding architects and their disciples. The profiles of individual architects include critical analysis of their major buildings and projects. Each profile is completed by a comprehensive bibliography.

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Editorial Review

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This scholarly reference is a guide to more than 80 twentieth-century architects who, in the opinion of the editors, have shaped modern architecture. The primary criterion for inclusion is "proof in timber," meaning that an architect's designs have actually been built and have had "proven influence." Entries are arranged alphabetically and follow the same format: a brief introduction provides basic facts and dates, followed by a detailed critical examination of each architect's career and body of work as well as an overview of contemporary historical and social conditions. Articles range from one or two paragraphs on designers such as John Dinkeloo or Nat Owings to up to five complete pages for luminaries such as Le Corbusier or Mies van der Rohe.

Information varies from statistical facts to in-depth analyses of artistic styles and influences. Occasional personal anecdotes are also included. The international scope goes beyond North America and Europe; several Japanese architects (Arata Isozaki, Kenzo Tange, etc.) are included, as are Oscar Niemeyer from Brazil, Luis Barragan of Mexico, and Hassan Fathy of Egypt. Women are represented by Alison Smithson, Denise Neelakofski Scott Brown, and Marion Mahoney Griffin. There are also a few articles on influential styles and movements, such as Futurism and De Stijl.

Of particular use to students and scholars are the extensive bibliographies that follow all selections. Numerous books and articles are divided into "Writings" (the architect's own works), "Biographical," "Assessment" (criticism and commentary), "Bibliographical," and "Archival" references. Publication dates generally range from the 1940s through the mid-1990s. Much of the material is in English and comes from publications and periodicals that should be readily available in most academic and larger public libraries. There are 54 references provided for Alvar Aalto; more than 80 are given for Frank Lloyd Wright. References are limited to printed materials only. Additional features include black-and-white photographs, drawings, and architectural plans. There are two indexes, one by place and the other by name.

The editors (both university professors and authors) have produced a scholarly reference work that will be of particular interest to architecture students and practitioners. It updates some of the information in the second edition of *Contemporary Architects* [RBB Ja 15 88], which, though more comprehensive, is now quite old. Johnson and Langmead do not add many new architects to the canon--only a handful, including Tadao Ando and Mario Botta, do not appear in the earlier source. Still, large public and academic libraries where *Contemporary Architects* is used may want to add *Makers of 20th Century Modern Architecture* because it provides new information on lives and works as well as more current bibliographies.

Review

'large public and academic libraries ... may want to add Makers of 20th Century Architecture because it provides new information on lives and works as well as more current bibliographies.' Reference Books Bulletin 'Recommended for undergraduate, graduate and larger public libraries.' CHOICE "The editors (both university professors and authors) have produced a scholarly reference work that will be of particular interest to architecture students and practitioners . . . and large public and academic libraries." - Reference Books Bulletin "Recommend[ed] . . . for libraries serving an architectural community -- universities and colleges with architecture programs, public libraries with strong architectural collections, and architectural firm libraries." - Reference Quarterly

About the Author

DONALD LESLIE JOHNSON was born and raised in Washington State, received his professional architectural degree from the University of Washington, and was a member of Louis Kahn's master's class (1959-1960). He taught architectural design, theory, or history at universities in America and Australia, taking early retirement in 1988 from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, where he founded the Australian Studies program. He also founded and is a director of the Architecture Archives, which now has a permanent home at the University of South Australia. His more important books are Frank Lloyd Wright versus America.. The 1930s (1990); The Adelaide City Plan (with Don Langmead, 1986); Australian Architecture 1901-51; Sources of Modernism (1980); and The Architecture of Waiter Burley Griffin (1977). Articles on architectural history, mainly about Walt Griffin and Wright, appear in many journals in England, Australia, and throughout America. He has been a curator for a number of exhibitions and his research has been supported by national, private, and university grants in India, Australia, and the United States.

DONALD LANGMEAD was born and raised in Adelaide, South Australia, and received his professional architectural degree from the University of South Australia (formerly the South Australian Institute of Technology), where he subsequently taught and is now head of the School of Architecture and a director of the Architecture Archives. He obtained a master's degree in architectural history under Bruce Allsopp at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England, and a doctorate from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. His more important books are Accidental Architect (1994) and The Adelaide City Plan (with Don Johnson, 1986). His articles on architectural history, mainly on Dutch and South Australian architecture, have appeared in journals in Europe and Australia.

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