



Architecture and the Unconscious

By John Shannon Hendrix, Lorens Eyan Holm

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There are a number of recent texts that draw on psychoanalytic theory as an interpretative approach for understanding architecture, or that use the formal and social logics of architecture for understanding the psyche. But there remains work to be done in bringing what largely amounts to a series of independent voices, into a discourse that is greater than the sum of its parts, in the way that, say, the architect Peter Eisenman was able to do with the architecture of deconstruction or that the historian Manfredo Tafuri was able to do with the Marxist critique of architecture. The discourse of the present volume focuses specifically for the first time on the subject of the unconscious in relation to the design, perception, and understanding of architecture. It brings together an international group of contributors, who provide informed and varied points of view on the role of the unconscious in architectural design and theory and, in doing so, expand architectural theory to unexplored areas, enriching architecture in relation to the humanities. The book explores how architecture engages dreams, desires, imagination, memory, and emotions, how architecture can appeal to a broader scope of human experience and identity. Beginning by examining the historical development of the engagement of the unconscious in architectural discourse, and the current and historical, theoretical and practical, intersections of architecture and psychoanalysis, the volume also analyses the city and the urban condition.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

John Hendrix is a professor at the University of Lincoln, UK, and Roger Williams University, US. He has authored and edited several books on architecture, philosophy and psychoanalysis, including *Unconscious Thought in Philosophy and Psychoanalysis*, *The Contradiction between Form and Function in Architecture*, *The Cultural Role of Architecture*, *Architecture as Cosmology*, *Architecture and Psychoanalysis*, and *Architectural Forms and Philosophical Structures*. Lorens Holm is Reader in Architecture and Director of the Geddes Institute for Urban Research at the University of Dundee. He has taught at the Architectural Association, the Bartlett, the Mackintosh, and Washington University in St. Louis. His teaching/research focusses on the thought threads that link architecture, philosophy and psychoanalysis, in so far they concern cities, space and machines. Publications include *Brunelleschi, Lacan, Le Corbusier: architecture, space and the construction of subjectivity* (Routledge 2010). His papers have appeared in *The Journal of Architecture*, *Perspecta*, *Critical Quarterly*, *Architecture Theory Review*, and *Assemblage*.

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