

BOOK REVIEWS



Mies van der Rohe. Das kunstlose Wort. Gedanken zur Baukunst

Author: Fritz Neumeyer
 Publisher: DOM Publishers
 ISBN: 978-3-86922-264-6
 Language: Deutsch

Year: 2016 [1986, Berlin, Siedler]
 (Cambridge/London, 1991; Madrid/Paris/
 Milan, 1996; Seoul 2007)

Fritz Neumeyer's work, published in 1986, has become a classic of architectural theory. In this first scientific study of the Mies van der Rohe ideas, the word is the focus - as a key to his building philosophy. Fritz Neumeyer reveals direct personal influences as well as internal contradictions in the development and self-understanding of Mies as a representative of the modern age, through the profound analysis of original documents and through the intensive discussion within the reading of the great master builder. He also emphasizes the close connection between philosophy and architecture in his oeuvre. In addition, Mies himself speaks: The appendix documents all available texts by Mies, which deal fundamentally with the art of building in the age of modernity. They are eloquent testimonies of the architects' intellectual confrontation with architecture, and have not lost their basic importance to this day.

Translated from the Publisher.



Mies in Berlin

Edited by Terence Riley and Barry Bergdoll
 Publisher: The Museum of Modern Art
 ISBN: 978-0810962163
 Language: English
 Year: 2001

When Mies van der Rohe left Germany for the United States, in the summer of 1938, he was 52 years old. He had practiced as an architect for over 3 decades; had published, lectured, and exhibited; had produced designs not only for Germany but for The Netherlands, modern-day Poland, Spain, the modern-day Czech Republic, Belgium, and the United States; and had been a leader of the architectural community in his native land. Yet the book that accompanied his first retrospective exhibition, at The Museum of Modern Art in 1947, could nevertheless open with the remark, "Of all the great modern architects Mies van der Rohe is the least known."

Despite the historical importance of Mies van der Rohe's architecture, this observation holds in certain respects, for Mies van der Rohe's Berlin work has never been fully explored. Outside the handful of manifesto projects and built works that have become famous, his German practice has tended to be seen retroactively as but the first step toward the triumph of the International Style, which came during his years in the United States. Mies himself edited the story of his early career, focusing attention on his most dramatic designs.

Mies in Berlin undertakes a new study of Mies van der Rohe's Berlin production — not only his best-known projects but the work he excised from the record. The book is newly sensitive to the urban, suburban, and intellectual contexts of Mies van der Rohe's thought. Discussing his metropolitan skyscrapers and office buildings, it also examines the dense and vibrant urban fabric of central Berlin; analyzing his private houses, it relates them to German ideas about nature, and to the great work of environmental art constituted by

the cultivated landscape of Potsdam. It also explores Mies van der Rohe's responses both to Berlin's inherently conservative building tradition and to the city's artistic avant-gardes. Essays on recent discoveries and ideas, and on Mies van der Rohe's understanding of America, expand our knowledge of Mies van der Rohe's German career and offer new perspectives on his work as a whole. A plate section richly documents forty-six projects from his German years and includes an explanatory text on each one. Finally the book contains a project by the contemporary artist Thomas Ruff in reaction to Mies buildings. *Mies in Berlin* — which accompanies an exhibition of the same name at The Museum of Modern Art, New York — offers new insights into the work of this architect, so vitally significant both historically and in our own new century.

From the Publisher.



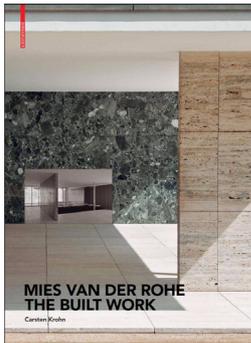
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Architecture for the Silk Industry

Author: Christiane Lange
 Publisher: Nicolaische Verlagsbuchhandlung GmbH
 ISBN: 978-3-89479-673-0
 Language: English
 Year: 2011

Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969) is one of the most important architects of the 20th century. Until 1938 he worked in Europe, ten years of which he cooperated with a small group surrounding the Krefeld collector and silk manufacturer Hermann Lange. During this extraordinary long term collaboration between Mies van der Rohe and his partner Lilly Reich with the Krefeld friends numerous important buildings were designed that are extensively presented in this splendid book. Mies van der Rohe's planned but not realized

projects are introduced with large-size computerized visualisations that have never been published before. This publication illuminates the close relationship of the architect and the Velvet and Silk City and gives fascinating insight into Mies van der Rohe's work.

From the Publisher.



Mies van der Rohe – The Built Work

Author: Carsten Krohn
 Publisher: Birkhäuser Verlag AG
 ISBN: 978-3-03821-287-4
 Language: English
 Year: 2014

This essential and comprehensive Mies van der Rohemonograph focuses in its analysis on Mies van der Rohe's design intentions: it reconstructs the buildings in their original state, examines them from the present day perspective and rediscovers the inspiring architecture of a great modern master. The book presents eighty of Mies van der Rohe's works in chronological order. Approximately thirty of these works are analyzed in detail in three parts. In the first part, the construction is documented in its built state; for this all the ground plans were re-drawn by the author. The second part outlines the changes to the buildings and the third part develops the results of this investigation with regard to their relevance to the contemporary view of Mies van der Rohe's work.

From the Publisher.



Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Mies 1:1.: Das Golfklub-Projekt in Krefeld / The Golf Club Project

Edited by Christiane Lange and Robbrecht en Daem architecten
 Publisher: Buchhandlung Walther König
 ISBN: 978-3-86335-644-6
 Language: English and Deutsch
 Year: 2014

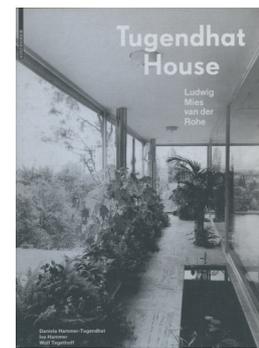
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's 1930 design for a golf club-house in Krefeld never reached the construction phase. In 2013, however, a full-size model that could be entered and walked around was built at the originally planned site in cooperation with the Belgium architects Robbrecht en Daem architecten, based in Ghent.

The 1:1 architectural model took shape on the basis of the original plans, available in Mies's estate in MoMA in New York. In this way, one of Mies van der Rohe's never implemented designs was turned into a visible and phenomenological experience for visitors.

Over the course of five months, it was possible to observe and walk through this exciting combination of architecture and nature and experience Mies van der Rohe's unique understanding of space as an open structure of tense balance. The 1:1 model also served as a temporary memorial of Mies van der Rohe's comprehensive work for the German silk industry which resulted in a total of ten contracts.

This volume documents a unique exhibition project, MIES 1:1. With revealing series of photographs by well-known photographers, it discusses possible insights that architecture could gain from such models, both with regard to our understanding of space as well as further research on Mies. The publication of both the historical plans and the construction drawings of Robbrecht en Daem architecten makes this volume an indispensable reference for appreciation of Mies van der Rohe.

From the Publisher.



Tugendhat House. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Authors: Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat, Ivo Hammer and Wolf Tegethoff
 Publisher: Birkhäuser Verlag GmbH
 ISBN: 978-3-99043-509-0
 Language: English
 Year: 2015

Built and designed by Mies van der Rohe 1928–1930, the Tugendhat House in Brno/Czech Republic is one of the most significant buildings of European modernism. In 2001, UNESCO added the house to the List of World Cultural Heritage Sites.

Building on the book published by Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat and Wolf Tegethoff in 1998 (English edition 2000) the three authors, in this new edition, give personal and historic insights relating to the house; also documenting aspects pertaining to art history and conservation-science studies.

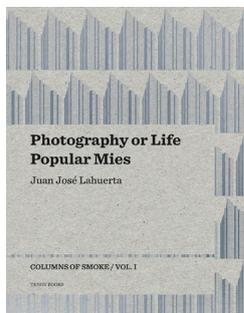
The appeal of this monograph lies in the published photographs which reveal an unusual view of the house and highlight the intended fusion between architecture and nature. The experimental artistic colour photographs by Fritz Tugendhat are among the pioneering achievements of amateur photography; that these images have remained intact is indeed remarkable.

Daniela Hammer-Tugendhat reflects on the question much debated in 1931, "Is the Tugendhat House habitable?" in a new, historico-cultural context. Using the example of the Tugendhat House Wolf Tegethoff explores the living concept of modernism. At the beginning, he critically reflects on the discourse surrounding the relationship between client and architect. Based on his research on the preserved plans and drawings he meticulously reconstructs the genesis of the project until the building's completion in late 1930.

In two contributions Ivo Hammer documents the eventful history of the house from the time its occupants emigrated until today. Based on the results of the international Conservation Investigation Campaign concerning the Tugendhat House he interprets

the materiality of this modern building in a cultural context, while outlining the results of the restoration from 2010–2012.

From the Publisher.



Photography or Life & Popular Mies

Author: Juan José Lahuerta
 Publisher: Editorial Tenov
 ISBN: 978-84-939231-5-0
 Language: English
 Year: 2015

“Photography or life” and “Popular Mies” make up the first volume of *Columns of Smoke*, a collection of essays which review the bases on which modernity has been constructed. Contrasting the canonical images of the history of 20th-century architecture with anonymous graphic materials or pictures from the popular press, Lahuerta creates an illuminating dialogue that dismantles stereotypes by revealing a less perfect but more plausible idea of modernity.

Pointing a camera at a building is not natural; rather it involves making decisions that are closely related to the meaning of architecture. Juanjo Lahuerta makes this clear in his analyses of, *inter alia*, the photographic gaze of Loos and Le Corbusier, whose irreconcilable approaches represent radically opposed ways of understanding architecture and life. Using this same method, Lahuerta’s analysis of the photographs of his works that Mies commissioned and published shows us how much the architect was influenced not only by Stieglitz and Camera Works but also by the popular tropes of a mass culture that included zeppelins, the music hall, X-rays and fantasmagorical gadgets. At the same time, in their portrayals of Mies van der Rohe’s work the press and anonymous photographers situated it in a popular context that provides the necessary counterpoint to conclude the account of a modernity that can no longer be thought of as heroic.

From the Publisher.



Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe. Una Biografía Crítica

Authors: Franz Schulze
 and Edward Windhorst
 Publisher: Editorial Reverté
 ISBN: 978-8429121285
 Language: Spanish
 Year: 2016

This book, published by Editorial Reverté, is the Spanish translation of the publication *Mies van der Rohe: A Critical Biography, new and Revised Edition* (The University of Chicago Press, 2012) – a major rewriting, reformulation and expansion of Mies van der Rohe’s “critical biography”, published by Franz Schulze in 1985 (and translated into Spanish in 1986), which was the first full comprehensive study of this master German-American modern architect.

Coauthored with Edward Windhorst, this revised edition, features extensive new research and the best recent work of both American and German scholars and critics. The authors describe Mies van der Rohe’s professional career from his incorporation in the modern avant-garde, with innovative architectural works but with a modest scale, until his second stage in the United States, where he created a new architectural language with objective structural expression. The authors’ major contributions and discoveries of this new edition include the massive transcript of the early-1950s Farnsworth House court case, disclosing for the first time the facts about Mies van der Rohe’s battle with his client.

The text provides new information on Mies van der Rohe’s relationship with women, including the nature and the break-up of his marriage with Ada Bruhn, his close professional and personal relationships with Lilly Reich, and new details drawn from interviews with his American partner Lora Marx. This edition gives voice to dozens of architects who knew and worked with Mies, largely thanks to the exceptional collection of “oral history” from the Architecture Department of the Art Institute of Chicago. This complete and comprehensive biography

tells the fascinating story of how Mies van der Rohe (and his students and followers) created some of the most significant buildings of the 20th century.

Translated from the Publisher.



Mies van der Rohe: Montage / Collage

Authors: Andreas Beutin and Wolf Eiermann
 Publisher: Buchhandlung Walther König
 ISBN: 978-3960980537
 Language: English and Deutsch
 Year: 2017

Mies van der Rohe (1886–1969), one of the 20th century’s most important architects, created numerous montages and collages between 1910 and 1965 that are fascinating illustrations of the design principles of his architecture. These works, most of them large-format, are far more than merely sketches that accompanied his creative process as an architect. They are works of art in their own right that show Mies van der Rohe’s structural vision in its purest form. Like almost no other visual art technique, collage and photomontage reflect the aesthetic principles, the *zeitgeist*, and the attitude to life of Modernism. At the beginning of the 20th century, war, revolution and industrialization caused a shift in the way the modern world and progress were experienced and perceived, a shift that found expression in equal measure in newspapers and magazines, in visual and performing arts. Collage and photomontage were also soon being used in architecture. Influenced by Dada, Constructivism, and De Stijl, Mies van der Rohe exploited these new techniques – to a far greater extent than most of his contemporaries – to visualize his creative ideas on “New Building” (*Neues Bauen*).

From the Publisher.