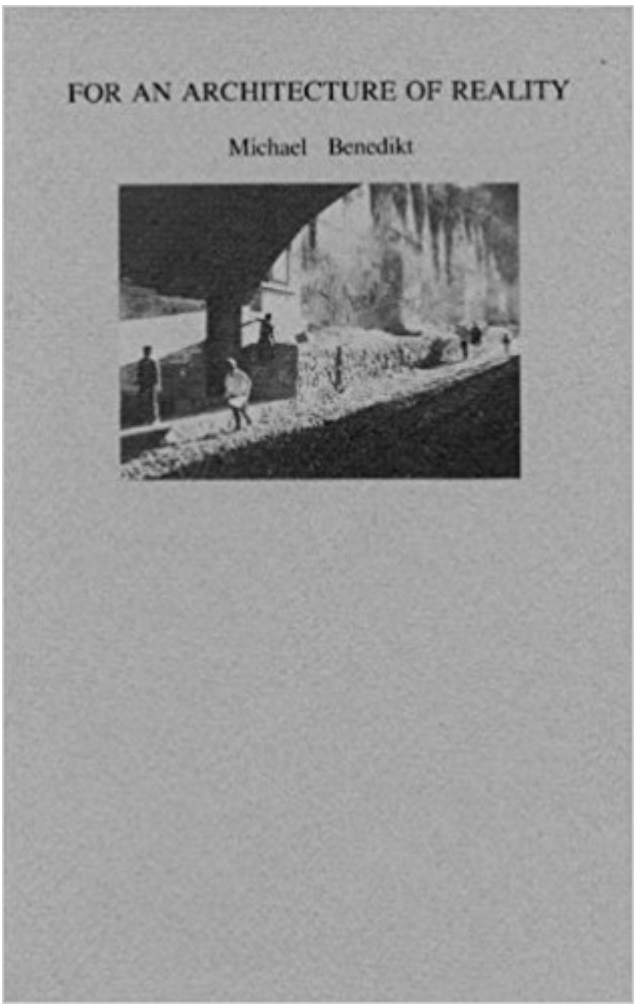
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For An Architecture Of Reality



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Synopsis

Michael Benedikt teaches, practices architecture, and writes in Austin, where he is a Professor of Architecture at the University of Texas. His second book, Deconstructing the Kimbell (0-930829-16-6), is also published by Lumen."Benedikt has written a bold theoretical essay, with stirring cultural implications, that argues to restore the missing sense of reality to architecture and insists on Ã¢â ¬Ëœthe direct esthetic experience of the real.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ . . . a timely manifesto. Thought-provoking and eminently quotable, it succeeds admirably in what it sets out to do: to recall architecture, and not only architecture, to those all but mute meanings so often passed over and yet inseparable from our everyday existence.Ã¢â ¬â •Karsten Harries"This book will still be useful when this year's round arches have all been remodeled (isn't it inevitable?) into pointed. And because it is so vividly -and thoughtfully--written, it will still be a pleasure to read."Ã¢â ¬â •Charles Moore"Every literate architect should take an afternoon off to read and ponder this brief and thoughtful and thoroughly engaging book. . . . Benedikt says more about some central aesthetic and philosophical issues confronting contemporary architecture than many celebrated pundits manage to squeeze into a shelfful of books. . . . He offers a straightforward account of his own struggle to understand the pleasures and responsibilities of architecture in an age when aesthetic pleasure is all but indiscernible from entertainment, and responsibility is often a cover for thoughtless conformity."Ã¢â ¬â •Roger Kimball, Architectural Record"Benedikt marches bravely into the philosophical thicket to find a working definition of reality. . . . In his sensibilities, he is quite transcendental, much like a Thoreau or an Emerson in a hotel lobby of potted ficus trees."Ã¢â ¬â •Howard Mansfield, Small Press". . . the book of the decade in Texas architectural circles. . . "Ã¢â ¬â •Texas Architect

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Customer Reviews

Beautiful book. Benedikt's argument serves as a humble answer to many of the highfalutin architecture theories of his contemporaries. Unlike much of 20th century architecture theory his criticism does not propose a radical break with tradition. Instead, Benedikt calls for a higher quality of building and qualitative spatial consideration. The pressing of the book is gorgeous and innovative use of the black and white typology and it is a great example of Benedikt's own design principles. While an architecture student of today's digital powered design environment might find the book's premise outdated, it can read well alongside Wes Jones' speculative approach to design.

Benedikt's essay defends honesty in architecture, from the use of materials to the honesty of the built system. He argues that architecture, when trying to make people feel in a certain way, becomes unreal, theatrics. Architecture, built honestly, economically and simple, provoques genuine feelings not provoqued but born from the people living the space.

Required reading in a history of architecture and for good reason. A great example of philosophical writing with a hint of architecture.

I originally purchased this book at the request of my studio professor.It's nice and short. I probably finished it in an hour or so.It asks some interesting questions. It's one of those books you should can read a few times.

Super

The book itself was ok. I actually had it before but needed it again for another class that I didnt realize I needed it for. Unfortunately the item got shipped late and by the time it got to me I had to have had it read already, so I had to buy another one. The seller informed me of the late shipping, and I understand, but it still was no use to me.

Half-knowledge is widespread among architects; with real knowledge less common; wisdom, excedingly rare.This is a wise, reflective little book; refreshingly uncramped and jargon-free, and at

least as relevant today as it was when it was written.At once modest and ambitious, there is more thought-provoking (and elegantly written) material in these 74 pages than in the entire pile sitting next to my desk.Recommended for those young students just starting out and for those older ones seeking to recalibrate their compasses along the way.

Overall the book is a short, simple, and interesting read. The first section is a bit outdated as it mostly relates to a refutation of post-modernism i.e. Michael Graves. The second section is a bit more interesting and current, outlining various largely poetic or tectonic characteristics of what Benedikt wants to call "High Realism". It quickly and simply lays out a few concepts to stick to. Reading this section felt very similar to Zumthor's Atmospheres.Ã Â Atmospheres: Architectural Environments - Surrounding Objects

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