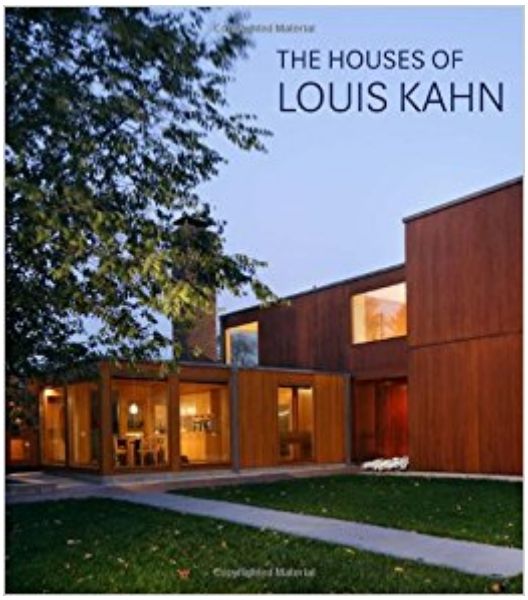
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The Houses Of Louis Kahn



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Synopsis

Louis Kahn (1901Ã¢â ¬â œ1974), one of the most important architects of the postwar period, is widely admired for his great monumental works, including the Kimbell Art Museum, the Salk Institute, and the National Assembly Complex in Bangladesh. However, the importance of his houses has been largely overlooked. This beautiful book is the first to look at KahnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s nine major private houses. Beginning with his earliest encounters with Modernism in the late 1920s and continuing through his iconic work of the 1960s and 1970s, the authors trace the evolution of the architectÃ¢â ¬â„¢s thinking, which began and matured through his design of houses and their interiors, a process inspired by his interactions with clients and his admiration for vernacular building traditions. Richly illustrated with new and period photographs and original drawings, as well as previously unpublished materials from personal interviews, archives, and KahnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own writings, The Houses of Louis Kahn shows how his ideas about domestic spaces challenged conventions, much like his major public commissions, and were developed into one of the most remarkable expressions of the American house.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Houses of Louis KahnÃ Â . . . provides an architectural bridge between the personal and the professional stories, focusing on the nine houses Kahn completed, and designs for two dozen more. The story told by the authors, George H. Marcus and William Whitaker, is one of warm client relations, attention to the smallest domestic detail and a philosophical search for the best

arrangement of rooms to call home."Ã¢â ¬â •New York Times"Reveals an architect of mythic stature working on an intimate scale."Ã¢â ¬â •Elle DÃƒÂ©cor"An important addition to the scholarship about Louis Kahn by addressing a portion of his oeuvre lesser known but certainly not less significant."Ã¢â ¬â •Docomomo"If you thought you knew all there was to know about Kahn, read this splendid bookÃ¢â ¬â •there is still more to learn about the greatest American architect of the second half of the 20th century."Ã¢â ¬â •Witold Rybczynski, Designers & Books"Marcus and Whitaker have not only directed superb scholarship to the study of Kahn's housesÃ¢â ¬â •both built and unbuiltÃ¢â ¬â •but have shown that the houses can be a lens on a broader understanding of Kahn's philosophy, his interpretation of Modernism, and his appreciation of the vernacular. They show how Kahn evaluated clients and how he designed spaces that would allow each house to become a personalized idealÃ¢â ¬â •a home."Ã¢â ¬â •Susan G. Soloman, Architectural Record"A spellbinding account of the artistic and intellectual maturation of one of the most important and influential architects of the last century. It is quite simply the most important book on Kahn to be published in over two decades."Ã¢â ¬â •Michael J. Lewis, Williams College, author ofÃ Â American Art and Architecture

George H. Marcus is adjunct assistant professor of the history of art at the University of Pennsylvania. William Whitaker is curator of the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania, which houses the Louis I. Kahn Collection.

This book was a gift to my son and his girlfriend who are both architects. I cannot rate it myself but they commented that, besides beautiful house pictures, it is more than just a coffee table book, thanks to the architectural drawing and diagrams also contained. They were very pleased.

A beautifully designed and executed book. Especially interesting were the background stories of each house, Kahn’s philosophy of what a "home" is and the interaction and integration of the the clients’ wishes with the design of the home.

Excellent

Superb book with excellent photos and renderings.

Great collection of Kahn’s residential work. Beautiful book full of photographs, sketches and

drawings. I've already recommended it to a few fellow architects.

Great book - excellent analysis of Louis Kahn's work but written for both non-architects and architects. It will be a great gift.

A good book is always a good investment.

This is one of the best studies of an architect's residential work that I've ever read. It thoroughly reviews Kahn's built and unbuilt residential projects, and provides many photos of the construction process, built works, plans, sketches and models of the various projects. The progression in Kahn's residential work over time is very well depicted and described. I have read many of the books on Kahn, and this one has so much I've never seen before--the authors' use of records from the Kahn Collection in the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania is significant. One of the best aspects of the book is the very well written description of Kahn's working process with clients. In so many books you see the finished works and as-built drawings in isolation from client background, discussions with clients, preliminary sketches, early plans, adjustments in scope related to client programmatic requirements and cost issues, refined drawings. This book gives you all that as well as great and numberous photos of the final building and plans. The pictures of plans are big enough to make out the text. You'll see photos of famous works that aren't shown in any other books on Kahn's houses. This is a great book that is easy to enjoy.

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