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Mies Van Der Rohe (Basic Art Series 2.0)



Synopsis

Less is more: Finding perfection in purity

Famed for his motto "less is more," Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886–1969) was one of the founding fathers of modern architecture and a hotly-debated tastemaker of twentieth century aesthetics and urban experience. Mies van der Rohe's philosophy was one of underlying truth in pure forms and proportions. With the help of contemporary technological and material developments, he sought a stripped-down purity to architecture, showcased by the likes of the Seagram Building and Farnsworth House. Some spoke out against this stark approach as the precursor to bland, generic cityscapes. Others cite Mies van der Rohe as the ultimate master of an abidingly elegant essence. This book presents more than 20 of Mies van der Rohe's projects from the period 1906–1967 to introduce his groundbreaking practice and influence in both America and Europe.

About the Series: Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Architecture Series features: an introduction to the life and work of the architect the major works in chronological order information about the clients, architectural preconditions as well as construction problems and resolutions a list of all the selected works and a map indicating the locations of the best and most famous buildings approximately 120 illustrations (photographs, sketches, drafts and plans)

Book Information

Series: Basic Art Series 2.0

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Taschen (October 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3836560429

ISBN-13: 978-3836560429

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #35,404 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Individual Architects & Firms

Customer Reviews

Claire Zimmerman's Mies van der Rohe is a fine addition to the collection of works on one of the Modern masters, Mies van der Rohe. The book traces Mies' background from his early years in school to his iconic buildings of the mid-20th century. Mies van der Rohe is accessible to people

who may not be familiar with Mies or Modernism, wonderfully illustrated, and expertly tracks the life and work of Mies van der Rohe. The book breaks things down to help make it easier for everyone to understand. From the beginning, Zimmerman explains why buildings are arranged certain ways, or what the primary materials Modernism uses to help a reader new to this type of architecture understand what made Mies so masterful. The author does not bog the reader down with too many technical terms, but gives just enough information to help understand Modernism with baseline knowledge. The use of photographs also helps break down the architecture to further a general public's understanding. The numerous illustrations are one of the greatest strengths of the book. There are lots of great photographs in color to help exhibit principles of Modernism, Mies's work, and other influences like art and architecture of previous time periods with which to contrast or show influence. The pictures are highly useful in tandem with the text as Zimmerman can explain why Mies designed a building in such a way and contrast that building with something more traditional. The photos can help shed light on what made Mies different than some of the other exemplary architects. Another strength of the book is that it does a nice job of giving background on Mies.

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