



Spatial Intelligence: New Futures for Architecture (Architectural Design Primer)

By Leon van Schaik

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The book is organised into three distinct sections that in turn highlight the significance of spatial intelligence for architecture: the first section provides an overview of spatial intelligence as a human capability; the second section argues how the acknowledgement of this capability in architectural education and the profession should enable the demystification of the practice of design, forming the basis of a more democratic interface between society and practice; the final section explores exciting new opportunities for practice in the linking of real and virtual environments in the information age.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

A new series from John Wiley & Sons, the publisher of *Architectural Design*, the AD Primers invite some of the leading international figures of the architectural world to impart their knowledge, experience and understanding of a particular aspect of their work. Though many threads, in terms of both thought and inspiration, run through any single architect's work – evolving and shifting in emphasis over time – it is generally a central preoccupation that marks them out from their contemporaries and future generations of architects.

AD Primers was launched in with Peter Cook, *Drawing: the Motive Force of Architecture*, other titles are currently planned with Juhani Pallasmaa and Nigel Coates.

Spatial Intelligence: New Futures for Architecture draws on a wide range of knowledge and discipline in its discussion of an essential human capability. This includes everything from the latest neurological research to urban design. Leon van Schaik also refers to and illustrates a wide number of buildings and architectural projects across time these notably include:

- Alvar Aalto, House of Culture, Helsinki
- Charles Barry, Cliveden, Berkshire
- Gordon Bunshaft, Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, Yale University
- Sean Godsell, Peninsula House, Victoria
- Zaha Hadid, Maggie's Centre, Fife, Scotland
- Herzog & de Meuron, Laban Contemporary Dance Centre, London
- Toyo Ito, Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, London
- Tom Kovac, Virtual Australian Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy
- WR Lethaby, Melssetter House, Orkney
- Frank Lloyd Wright, Frederick C Robie House, Chicago
- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona Pavilion
- Reed & Stern and Warren & Wetmore, Grand Central Station, New York
- Ushida Findlay, Soft and Hairy' House, Baraki, Japan
- Peter Zumthor, Kunsthhaus, Bregenz, Austria
- Gunther Domenig, Stein Haus, Steindorf, Germany
- Le Corbusier, Mill Owners' Association, Ahmadabad, India

From the Back Cover

Spatial intelligence is one of man's most underrated human capabilities. The result of millions of years of evolution, it enables us to navigate our way through our daily lives. It is less consciously applied than linguistic, mathematical, kinetic, natural, musical or personal intelligence. Despite architecture's dependence on spatial knowledge and experience, the discipline remains bereft of a theoretical underpinning. Understanding and knowledge of space is only pursued through precedent and challenged with experience, but the role of every individual's history in space, the unfolding and developing of their spatial intelligence is largely unaccounted for. This book argues for a greater continuum between our spatial intelligence and the built environment, and thus a greater connection between architecture and everyday life.

Providing an overview of spatial intelligence as a human capability, the book also acknowledges how

widespread recognition of it in architectural education and the profession should enable the demystification of the practice of design, forming the basis of a more democratic interface between society and practice. Ultimately, suggesting how spatial intelligence might provide exciting new opportunities for practice in the linking of real and virtual environments in the information age.

About the Author

Leon van Schaik is Professor of Architecture (Innovation Chair) at RMIT, Melbourne, Australia. From his base in Melbourne, he has promoted local and international architectural culture through practice-based research. In 2006 he was awarded an Order of Australia, Officer (AO) in the General Division, for service to architecture as an academic, practitioner and educator, and to the community through involvement with a wide range of boards and organisations related to architecture, culture and the arts. He is the author of *Mastering Architecture: Becoming a Creative Innovator in Practice* (John Wiley & Sons, 2005), and *Design City Melbourne*, (John Wiley & Sons, 2006).

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