Architectural Theories of the Environment: Posthuman Territory

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As architects and designers, we struggle to reconcile ever increasing environmental, humanitarian, and technological demands placed on our projects. Our new geological era, the Anthropocene, marks humans as the largest environmental force on the planet and suggests that conventional anthropocentric approaches to design must accommodate a more complex understanding of the interrelationship between architecture and environment

Here, for the first time, editor Ariane Lourie Harrison collects the essays of architects, theorists, and sustainable designers that together provide a framework for a posthuman understanding of the design environment. An introductory essay defines the key terms, concepts, and precedents for a posthuman approach to architecture, and nine fully illustrated case studies of buildings from around the globe demonstrate how issues raised in posthuman theory provide rich terrain for contemporary architecture, making theory concrete. By assembling a range of voices across different fields, from urban geography to critical theory to design practitioners, this anthology offers a resource for design professionals, educators, and students seeking to grapple the ecological mandate of our current period.

Case studies include work by Arakawa and Gins, Arons en Gelauff, Casagrande, The Living, Minifie van Schaik, R & Sie (n), SCAPE, Studio Gang, and xDesign.

Essayists include Gilles Clément, Matthew Gandy, Francesco Gonzáles de Canales, Elizabeth Grosz, Simon Guy, Seth Harrison, N. Katherine Hayles, Ursula Heise, Catherine Ingraham, Bruno Latour, William J. Mitchell, Matteo Pasquinelli, Erik Swyngedouw, Sarah Whatmore, Jennifer Wolch, Cary Wolfe, and Albena Yaneva

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Editorial Review

Review

"In its strength of research, its sharp investigation, its originality of view and its colossal significance, this is an outstanding work. Ariane Lourie Harrison has edited one of the most innovative collections on environmental architecture theory I've read."

Mitchell Joachim, New York University, USA and Co-President, Terreform ONE

"This excellent compendium assembles a select group of thinkers and designers engaging in the challenge of posthuman thought, and suggests avenues forward which will expand architecture's capacity to perceive, comprehend, and respond to this paradigm shift in thinking. It is a much needed survey that should indeed help us to go beyond the human while remaining, somehow, thinkers and builders of the human."

Edward J. Keller, Parsons The New School for Design, USA

"This significant collection of essays and case studies edited by Ariane Lourie Harrison explores some of the most critical questions surrounding sustainability vis-à-vis the notion of posthumanism. Harrison's thoughtful introduction sets forth a clear framework for the book, while the format of combining theoretical texts with well-analyzed and illustrated case studies is as rarely seen as it is highly effective, enabling connections to be made between concepts and actualizations."

Amanda Reeser Lawrence, Northeastern University, USA

About the Author

Ariane Lourie Harrison is a lecturer, School of Architecture, Yale University, and a principal of Harrison Atelier.

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