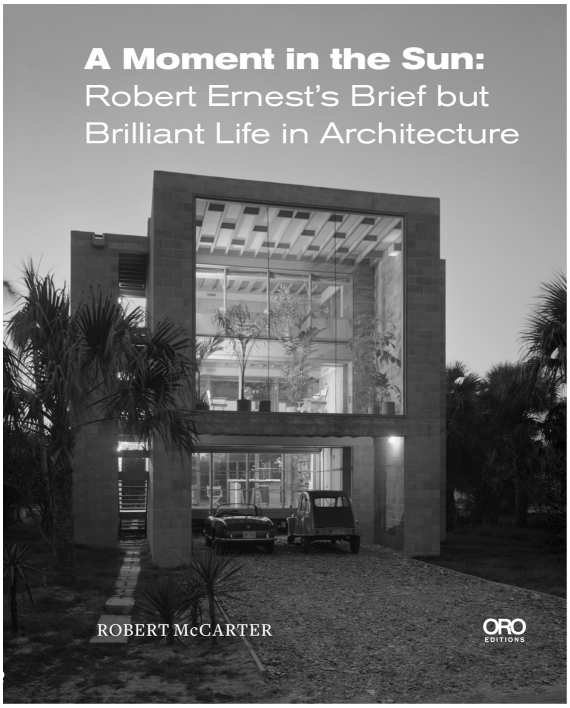
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A Moment in the Sun

Robert Ernest's Brief but Brilliant Life in Architecture

Robert McCarter

ISBN	9781954081437
Publisher	ORO Editions
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Australasia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan
Size	215 mm x 140 mm
Pages	178 Pages
Illustrations	120 color
Price	£25.00

- A monograph on Robert Ernest, a forgotten figure in American mid-century modern architecture, who, before passing at the tragically early at the age of 28, designed three built works that, in ways both direct and indirect, influenced the development of architecture in Florida for the following three generations
- Based on the personal and professional archives of Robert Ernest, material that has never before been published, which indicate a remarkable talent potentially equal to and even surpassing the most recognised and awarded architects of his generation, had he lived to a normal lifespan
- Ernest's interactions with important figures in mid-century modern architecture such as Paul Rudolph and Louis Kahn reveal new aspects of architectural culture
- Presents Ernest's academic projects from the University of Virginia (1952-57) and Yale University (1958-59) which will be of interest to educators, pedagogical researchers, and students of architecture

Robert Ernest was an architect of rare promise and remarkable early success, whose award-winning career was cut short by cancer at age 28 in 1962. Despite the brevity of Ernest's life, his education and practice were intertwined with some of the most important figures in architecture, including his interactions with Louis I. Kahn and Paul Rudolph. Ernest's exceptional architectural designs, though honoured during his lifetime with three Progressive Architecture Awards and one Record Houses Award, have never been documented in a comprehensive manner, and are now almost completely lost to disciplinary history. Yet the materials in the architect's personal and professional archives — upon which this book is almost entirely based — clearly indicate that Ernest was a remarkably talented and unusually gifted architectural designer, whose future promise and potential were inestimable. Ernest's two built works, both realised before he had turned 28, his one work built after his death, as well as the remarkably innovative unrealised projects documented in his archives, indicate that had Ernest lived to a normal lifespan, he would have without question been one of the most important architects of his generation, with the potential to design precedent-setting buildings equal to those realised by the most recognised architects in the 60 years after his death.

Robert McCarter is a practising architect, author and Ruth and Norman Moore Professor of Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis; his architectural practice has realised 25 works, and he has authored and edited 24 books on modern and contemporary architecture.

Published 2nd Nov 2023