



American Framing

The Architecture of a Specific Anonymity

Edited by Jayne Kelley

Edited by Paul Andersen

Edited by Paul Preissner

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- A visual and textual exploration of the evolution, conditions, and consequences of softwood timber-framed construction in the American architecture since 1832
- Highlights how this quintessentially American type of construction has come to dominate the USA's built landscape and erased typological and social distinctions in a socially and economically deeply divided country
- Features newly commissioned images by American photographers Linda Robbennolt, Daniel Shea, and Chris Strong
- The book is the official publication of American Framing, the United States Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale 2021

Originating in 1832 in Chicago with a balloon-framed warehouse designed by George Washington Snow, timber framing - also known at the time as 'Chicago construction' - introduced softwood construction to the world. The easy availability of the principal material, its simplicity of construction, an ability to be erected by low or unskilled workers, and the growing economies and populations of the American Midwest proliferated an architecture that has since dominated the American built landscape and erased typological and class distinctions of architectural production. The richest and poorest people live in houses that are built the same way: all framing is the same and all framing is good.

American Framing: The Architecture of a Specific Anonymity is a visual and textual exploration of the conditions and consequences of these ubiquitous structures. Archival drawings and images from origin, along with newly commissioned photographs by Linda Robbennolt, Daniel Shea, and Chris Strong, as well as and plans and drawings show this quintessentially American type of construction that has enabled an all-American architecture.

Paul Andersen is the director of Independent Architecture, a Denver-based office with projects that speculate on the roles that form, repetition, and pop culture play in architecture. **Jayne Kelley** is an editor and writer based in Chicago and currently a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Architecture. **Paul Preissner** is the principal of Paul Preissner Architects in Oak Park, IL, and an Associate Professor of Architecture at University of Illinois at Chicago.