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An Ontology of Construction

Presence of Space in Architecture

Edited by Piet Eckert

Edited by Wim Eckert

ISBN	9783038605232
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	320 mm x 230 mm
Pages	320 Pages
Illustrations	207 color, 199 b&w
Price	£35.00

- A comprehensive introduction to understanding different types of architectural space and their characteristics
- A textbook and handbook for students and practitioners of architecture alike
- Presents 10 archetypal spaces and their characteristics, illustrated through 30 case studies from the late 19th to the early 21st century
- Visually analyses the 30 examples by distinguished architects using large-format images and newly created elevations, sections, and detail drawings
- The original German edition was honored as one of Germany's best designed books in 2024

An Ontology of Construction, first published in German in 2024, is a sharp introduction to the design and construction of architectural spaces. It describes buildings both in their structural principles and cultural dimensions. It is about the fundamentals of good architecture.

The book has emerged from the practice and teaching of the editors Piet and Wim Eckert, principals of the Swiss design firm E2A and professors in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at TU Dortmund University. It examines ten archetypal spaces and their impact, analyzing the ideas and specific conditions that form the core of structural decisions and thus shape the experience of space. Conceptual factors drive these choices, from surrounding landscape and geological conditions to reimagined materials and new forms of living and working. The book emphasises as well critical issues such as resource-awareness, vital material cycles and recycling, and flexible uses and future-proof building uses.

An Ontology of Construction draws on a wealth of references and in particular on 30 case studies from the late 19th to the early 21st century, illustrated with some 400 images, plans, and drawings.

Piet and **Wim Eckert** founded their Zurich-based firm E2A in 2001 and also teach jointly as professors in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at TU Dortmund University.

Publish date 10th May 2027