



An Ontology of Construction

Presence of Space in Architecture

Edited by Piet Eckert

Edited by Wim Eckert

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- 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 honoured as one of Germany's best designed books in 2024

An Ontology of Construction, first published in German in 2024, offers a concise introduction to the design of architectural space. Its focus is on identifying and exploring various types of space. It is about broader questions of character, desired effect, and the properties of various spaces. 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 Zurich-based design firm E2A Architekten and professors in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at TU Dortmund University. It examines 10 archetypal spaces, analysing the concepts and specific conditions at the core of structural decisions that determine spatial effect in each case. Factors such as surrounding landscape, geological conditions, availability of and new approaches to building materials, and new forms of living and working all play a role in the design process. A particular emphasis is on topical issues such as scarce resources, materials cycles, recycling, and flexible uses and future conversions of buildings.

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 Architekten in 2001 and have also been teaching jointly as professors in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at TU Dortmund University.