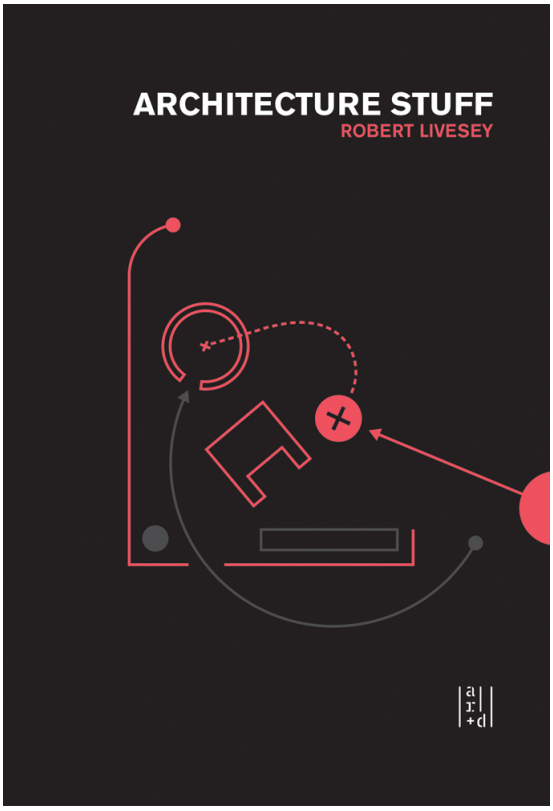
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Architecture Stuff, More Stuff

Robert Livesey

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- Offers readers a fresh way to engage renowned works of architecture
- By intentionally using unrelated works, the author demonstrates how to look at another architect's work with a different kind of appreciation in mind
- A truly fascinating study and liberating approach for anyone from novice to expert

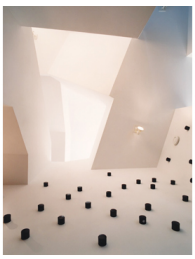
Architecture Stuff
is about a way of looking at architecture. It examines 7 seminal projects and shows how they might have been conceived with or without the design architect's awareness. More a working method than a theory, the book deals with questions pertinent to designers as well as to critics of buildings.***More Stuff*** then illustrates how the same sensibility and working method can be used in the design of buildings as a tool for creating architecture.

The 7 buildings featured are chosen for their breadth of styles and approaches to architecture, demonstrating that this approach to architecture can be applied to any building. Presented in reverse chronological order, the first project, Grace Farms, is a building by SANAA. Noted for its meandering river form and minimalist detailing, it is seen to be – among other things – a juxtaposition of orthogonal and sinuous forms. The second project is Villa Dall Ava by Rem Koolhaas/OMA. Located in the suburbs, the house is a transition from city to country. The third project is the Neue Staatsgalerie by James Stirling. The analysis shows how the 'bad boy' of architecture subverts conventional architectural tropes. Robert Venturi's Mother's House is shown to be a compressed stately manor and an architect's conceit. The Kimbell Art Museum by Louis Kahn can be understood as simple repetitive forms with elaborated elements that organize a diverse collection of spaces. Pierre Chareau's Maison de Verre is much more than types of transparency and mechanisation. One of its major themes is the use of 'L' shaped spaces. Finally, St George's Bloomsbury by Nicholas Hawksmoor is a parish church swallowed by a classical temple. The critique exposes how the architect used that idea to juxtapose the clerical and the civic to develop all of the details in the building.

These are not singular idea buildings and, as a way of seeing architecture, there are overlapping themes in this collection. The history of architecture of specific periods is a common theme, as is architecture's stasis with spaces expanding or contracting. A dry sense of humour is always appreciated. What separates these buildings from any other building is the density of ideas presented.

More Stuff accounts for the same working methods as a way to make architecture. Here the author illustrates eleven projects across the span of his career. Though often done in collaboration with others, in all cases the author generated the design ideas. One of the key aspects of architecture stuff is that it is unpretentious and accessible and these projects are meant to illustrate that quality. Architecture can be serious and playful at the same time.

Robert Livesey is a Professor and Director Emeritus in the Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University. As the principal of Robert Livesey, Architect, he has won numerous design awards and been published in national and international journals.






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