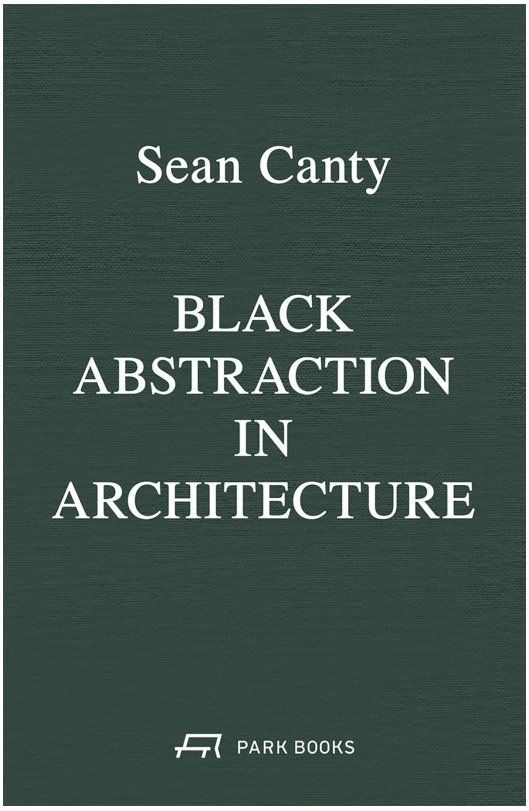
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Black Abstraction in Architecture

Sean Canty

ISBN	9783038604327
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	230 mm x 150 mm
Pages	160 Pages
Illustrations	80 color, 20 b&w
Price	£22.00

- A scholarly essay on social implications of abstraction in architectural form
- Offers a unique perspective that blends academic rigor with creative exploration
- Draws parallels and insights from works of David Hammons, Amanda Williams, and Theaster Gates
- Reflects a deep engagement with form, space, and the socio-political narratives that shape them
- Sean Canty is widely recognised for his thoughtful exploration of form and space, pushing the boundaries of contemporary architecture and design

In ***Black Abstraction in Architecture***, Sean Canty charts the evolution of architectural abstraction from its roots in Euclidean geometry, through its utilization as a vehicle for colonial expansion, to its contemporary reappropriation by Black cultural practitioners. Canty's comprehensive historical and critical scrutiny reveals the paradoxical nature of abstraction as both a mechanism of marginalisation and a potent instrument for socio-political discourse and renewal. By focusing on the transformative contributions of David Hammons, Amanda Williams, and Theaster Gates, this essay illustrates how these artists and architects employ abstraction to question, reinterpret, and enrich architectural standards, embedding within them a rich tapestry of cultural, political, and societal narratives.

Canty's approach not only subverts traditional architectural frameworks but also illuminates the potential of abstraction to cultivate a more equitable and introspective architectural conversation. He advocates for a methodology that is at once inventive, inclusive, and sensitive to the intricate interplay of history, identity, and form.

Sean Canty runs his architecture firm Studio Sean Canty in Cambridge, MA, and teaches as an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is also a founding principal of Office III, an experimental architectural collective that spans New York, San Francisco, and Cambridge, MA. **Esther Choi** is a distinguished architecture activist and scholar based in New York and known for her work exploring the intersection of architecture, art, and politics.

Publish date 12th Apr 2027