



# Black Architect

## Sekou Cooke

PARK BOOKS

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**Sekou Cooke**

<b>ISBN</b>	9783038603825
<b>Publisher</b>	Park Books
<b>Binding</b>	Paperback / softback
<b>Territory</b>	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
<b>Size</b>	195 mm x 125 mm
<b>Pages</b>	160 Pages
<b>Price</b>	£25.00

- A provocative and personal investigation into the intersection of race, identity, and the built environment
- A compelling mix of Sekou Cooke's personal narrative and interviews with some of today's most influential Black designers and thinkers
- Charts the historical marginalisation of Black architects and the structural and cultural obstacles they face
- Highlights the alternative visions Black architects and designers bring to their discipline

**Black Architect** is a provocative and deeply personal investigation into the intersection of race, identity, and the built environment. Written by architect and educator Sekou Cooke, and author of *Hip-Hop Architecture*, this book blends memoir, cultural critique, and a series of candid conversations with leading Black practitioners to explore what it truly means to be a Black architect in America.

Cooke traces his journey from a childhood in Jamaica and an early fascination with architecture to Ivy League institutions and into a professional field shaped by Eurocentric ideals, confronting readers with an uncomfortable reality: architecture in the United States continues to be constructed—both literally and conceptually—through a predominantly white lens. But what happens when Blackness enters that space, not just as identity but as a mode of thinking, designing, and living?

Through a compelling mix of personal narrative and interviews with some of today's most influential Black designers and thinkers, **Black Architect** charts the historical marginalisation of Black architects, the structural and cultural obstacles they face, and the alternative visions they bring to the discipline. The book offers both a critical reckoning with architecture's exclusionary past and a hopeful blueprint for a more inclusive future.

**Sekou Cooke** is a Jamaican-born architect based in Portugal and the US. He runs his own architecture and urban design firm sekou cooke STUDIO and is the author of *Hip Hop Architecture* (2021).