

TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk





Democratic Architecture

Donald MacDonald

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Democratic Architecture offers viable and affordable solutions to ongoing housing problems. The book deals with tough urban problems and raises questions not just about housing policy, but about larger political and ethical issues as well. It provides a critique of the various approaches to post-war housing and then puts forth a number of innovative solutions to the problem. Many of the proposals are practical designs for low- and lower-middle-income housing, with an emphasis on increasing opportunities for home ownership. They include a variety of detached homes, multi-unit buildings, and some alternative types of housing for people whose lifestyles diverge from the mainstream. With more than 200 black and white and colour illustrations, Democratic Architecture is a book that clearly lays out solutions to housing crises that we see occurring all too often all over the world.

A graduate of Columbia University, MacDonald has developed a global understanding of the great need for housing all over the world. He has travelled to over eighty countries, in many cases, to observe the housing conditions that exist in both democratic and totalitarian government systems. He has passionately lectured in many of these countries about the ideas expressed in this book to encourage the stakeholders to embrace all forms of living spaces, from the smallest to the more conventional western norms.