



G. E. Kidder Smith Builds

The Travel of Architectural Photography

Angelo Maggi

Foreword by Michelangelo Sabatino

Samuel Pujol Smith

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- The first comprehensive overview about a talented 20th-century writer, photographer, and “builder” of books who greatly impacted architecture appreciation in America and beyond
- G. E. Kidder Smith produced a remarkable corpus of beautifully illustrated books primarily about modern buildings and sites. Architects, writers, graphic designers, cultural historians, will all find something of interest in this book
- The volume represents the very first book dedicated to George Everard Kidder Smith, who passed away 25 years ago in New York. It deals with his life and work underlining his ability to document and interpret historical architecture and the great buildings. His books were aimed at the layman, and books such as *Brazil Builds*, *Italy Builds*, *The New Churches of Europe*, *Pictorial History of Architecture in America*, to mention only a few of them, received tremendous critical and popular acclaim
- GE Kidder Smith Builds won the 2024 SAH Exhibition Catalogue Award for Society of Architectural Historians

“...the structure of *G. E. Kidder Smith Builds*, which traces his career first through books and then with exhibitions, means the book is more bibliographical than biographical... it illuminates many aspects of his life not widely known.” — **Archidose**

“His life’s work captures an evolutionary era in world history and—as a result—*G.E. Kidder Smith Builds* is, simply, a book to savor.” — **More to Come**

George Everard Kidder Smith (1913–1997) was a multidimensional figure within the wide-ranging field of North American architectural professionals in the second half of the twentieth century. Although he trained as an architect, he chose not to practice within the conventional strictures of an architecture office. Instead, Kidder Smith “designed,” researched, wrote, and photographed a remarkably diverse collection of books about architecture and the built environment. His work and life were deeply interwoven and punctuated by travel related to the research, writing, and promotion of books that sought to reveal the genius loci of the countries whose built environments he admired and wished to share with a broader audience. From the early 1940s to the late 1950s his interest in architecture led him to describe visually the architectural and historical identity of many European countries. After his far-flung travels over the decades, with his wife Dorothea, Kidder Smith focused on his own country and produced a series of ambitious books focused on the United States. Kidder Smith’s vision and narrative betray the gaze of the traveller, the scholar, and the architect.

Angelo Maggi is Associate Professor of Architectural History and History of Architectural Photography at Università Iuav di Venezia. Maggi trained as an architect at the Università Iuav di Venezia, and he obtained his PhD in Architecture and Visual Studies at Edinburgh College of Art.

Michelangelo Sabatino, is Professor of Architectural History and Preservation in the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He currently directs the PhD program in Architecture and is the inaugural John Vinci Distinguished Research Fellow.

Samuel Pujol Smith is a fully qualified architect based in Zurich with his own studio. It was the reputation of his grandfather, G. E. Kidder Smith, that led him to study architecture.