



Habitat Marocain Documents

Dynamics Between Formal and Informal Housing

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- Habitat Marocain is a prime example for the interplay between formal and informal building
- First book documenting the entire project comprehensively
- Contributes to an architectural thinking where the construction process is open to users
- Features rich previously unpublished material

The Habitat Marocain housing project was built in Casablanca between 1954-56 by two Swiss architects, Jean Hentsch (1921-84) and André Studer (1926-2007). The complex was part of the reconstruction and expansion scheme for the city under the French colonial administration in Morocco after World War II and meant to house local people rather than European expatriates. This led to a culturally specific architectural approach. Habitat Marocain is also a prime example for the interplay between formal and informal building. The new book *Habitat Marocain Documents* investigates the contradictions between the architects' cultural assumptions and the actual way of life of inhabitants. It documents the ethnographic influence on the design for the entire dwelling and shows the various transformations to the buildings later made by the residents. The rich material presented, including many photographs by architect André Studer, plans and other documents, illustrates the complex relations between ethnographic imagination, design synthesis and the increasingly informal further development once construction was completed. *Habitat Marocain Documents* tells the project's entire history from early planning stage to first occupancy and beyond. The book reveals a complex process of research, design, construction, and inhabitation that continues until the present day. Text in English and French.

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