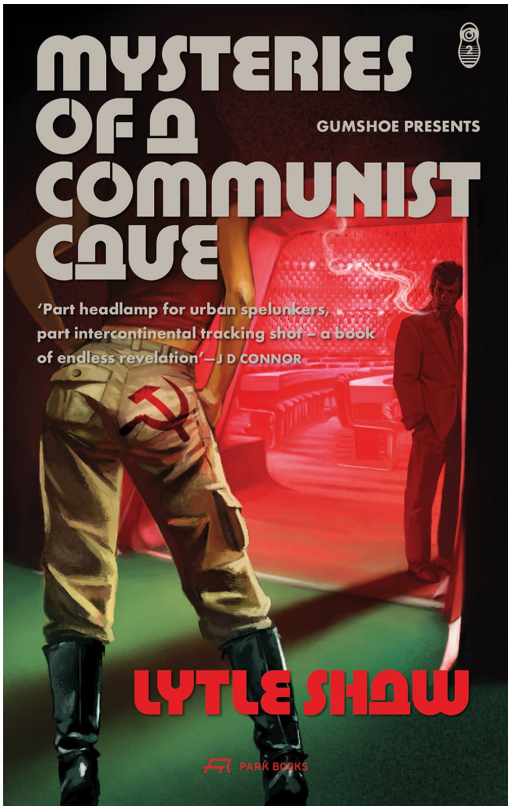
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Mysteries of a Communist Cave

Lytle Shaw

Edited by Thomas Weaver

Edited by Françoise Fromonot

ISBN	9783038604471
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	175 mm x 110 mm
Pages	288 Pages
Illustrations	210 b&w
Name of series	Gumshoe
Price	£15.00

- Illustrates how Oscar Niemeyer's building for the French Communist Party in Paris focalised the massive philosophical and political debates of the 1960s
- First book about Structuralist Marxism that explores its possible relation to an actual Marxist structure
- Fundamentally re-conceives the relationship between theory and architecture
- The *Gumshoe* series investigates singular buildings, emulating the style and book format of a detective novel
- Distinguished authors from various countries write on notable buildings from across architectural history

Gumshoe is a new series of architectural books that introduces an original approach to the writing of architectural history. Emulating the detective novel, the focus is on actual buildings rather than on speculative designs and theories. The style and form is fresh and scholarly but also easy and enjoyable to read. In ***Mysteries of a Communist Cave***, the second book in the *Gumshoe* series, Lytle Shaw conducts an investigation of Oscar Niemeyer's building for the French Communist Party's (PCF) central committee in Paris.

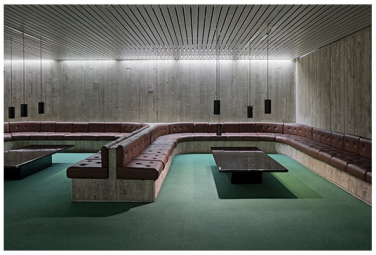
Designed in 1965, just as party theorists began to rethink many bedrock assumptions about representation, Oscar Niemeyer's PCF building is a microcosm of the shifting political and architectural landscape of the 1960s. It is also a literal Marxist structure that can thus help us concretely picture just exactly what Structuralist Marxism might have been. Shaw draws out the PCF's language and context one element at a time and puts the elegant curtain-wall building with its cave-like assembly hall into revelatory dialogue with interlocutors in film, philosophy, anthropology, and politics.

Perhaps the ultimate mystery of the communist cave is that its owners have not more often and more powerfully presented their landmark building as the vivid source of imagery it could be for the kind of world the PCF might like to construct.

Lytle Shaw is Professor of English at New York University and a contributing editor for *Cabinet Magazine*. His books include *The Mollino Set, New Grounds for Dutch Landscape* and *Frank O'Hara: The Poetics of Coterie*. He has also published catalogue essays on artists including Gerard Byrne, Zoe Leonard, Robert Smithson and the Royal Art Lodge, and for institutions including the Dia Center for the Arts, the Museo Reina Sofia, and the Drawing Center. **Thomas Weaver** is an architectural writer, educator, and editor based in London. He also lectures at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio, Switzerland. **Françoise Fromonot** is a professor of design, history, and theory at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-Belleville and William Wayne Caudill Professor of Architecture at Rice Architecture Paris.







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