



# Non-Referential Architecture

Ideated  
by  
Valerio Olgiati

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Markus Breitschmid

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- Demonstrates a new approach to architecture in a world increasingly free of ideologies and references and offers a foundation for conceiving a non-referential architecture in such a non-referential world
- Valerio Olgiati is one of the internationally most highly recognised Swiss architects, his writings and lectures are received widely around the world
- The book's first edition in 2018, published by Simonett & Baer (Zurich) was out of print within months and the book has been much sought-after since

More than ever, architecture is in need of provocation, a new path beyond the traditional notion that buildings must serve as vessels, or symbols of something outside themselves.

**Non-Referential Architecture** is nothing less than a manifesto for a new architecture. It brings together two leading thinkers, architect Valerio Olgiati and theorist Markus Breitschmid, who have grappled with this problem since their first encounter in 2005. In a world that itself increasingly rejects ideologies of any kind, Olgiati and Breitschmid offer **Non-Referential Architecture** as a radical, new approach free from rigid ideologies. Non-referential buildings, they argue, are entities that are themselves meaningful outside a vocabulary of fixed symbols and images and their historical connotations.

For more than a decade, Olgiati and Breitschmid's thinking has placed them at the forefront of architectural theory. Indispensable for understanding what the future might hold for architecture, **Non-Referential Architecture** will become a new classic.

The book's first edition, published in May 2018 by Simonett & Baer, was sold-out within months. This revised and slightly redesigned new edition makes this key text available again.

**Valerio Olgiati** is a Swiss architect and a professor at the Accademia di Architettura der Università della Svizzera Italiana in Mendrisio, Switzerland. **Markus Breitschmid** is Professor of Architecture Theory at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.