



# Reviewing Design Book Review

A Counteranthology

Edited by James Graham

Edited by William Littmann

Edited by Keith Krumwiede

Contributions by Luke Bulman

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- This book looks back on *Design Book Review*, a journal of architectural ideas published between 1983 and 2001, bringing together selected excerpts from *DBR*'s pages alongside an oral history and new essays
- Founded in Berkeley, California, *DBR* created a new kind of architectural journal aimed at communicating the debates and ideas of the field to the general public
- This was a major journal that was an epicentre of architectural conversation for many who came of age during these decades, but has been largely under-discussed since

*Design Book Review*, published between 1983 and 2001, was a wide-ranging journal of architectural ideas founded and edited in offices in Berkeley, California. Taking the book review as its primary format, the journal connected its community of readers with emerging ideas in architecture, design, urban planning, and beyond. *DBR* guided its readers through this expanding landscape of architectural publishing with a distinctly accessible voice — “no less than the indispensable record and the liveliest critique of contemporary architectural consciousness”, as the late **Michael Sorkin** put it. Gathering together a remarkable constellation of authors, it remains an enduring document of design discourse in the closing decades of the twentieth century. Assembled by the editors in a spirit of counteranthology, **Reviewing Design Book Review** features notable texts from *DBR*'s pages alongside an oral history and newly commissioned essays that extend the journal's ambitions into the present.

**James Graham** is an architect, historian, and assistant professor at California College of the Arts. He is an editor of *Climates: Architecture and the Planetary Imaginary* (2016), and he previously led Columbia Books on Architecture and the City and founded *The Avery Review*. **William Littmann** served as a Senior Adjunct Professor at California College of the Arts from 2012 to 2025. An architectural historian and former *Design Book Review* editor, he has published on the built landscape of Japanese-American incarceration and the use of walking as a tool for researching urban landscapes. His current work examines the architecture of maternity homes in postwar America. **Keith Krumwiede** is Dean of Architecture at California College of the Arts. His work examines architecture's cultural and political contexts. Author of *Atlas of Another America* (2017), he is a Rome Prize Fellow whose work has been widely exhibited and published. **Luke Bulman** works at the intersection of graphic design and architecture at Office of Luke Bulman. Clients include publishers, educational institutions and cultural institutions. He is a member of the faculty at Yale School of Architecture.

