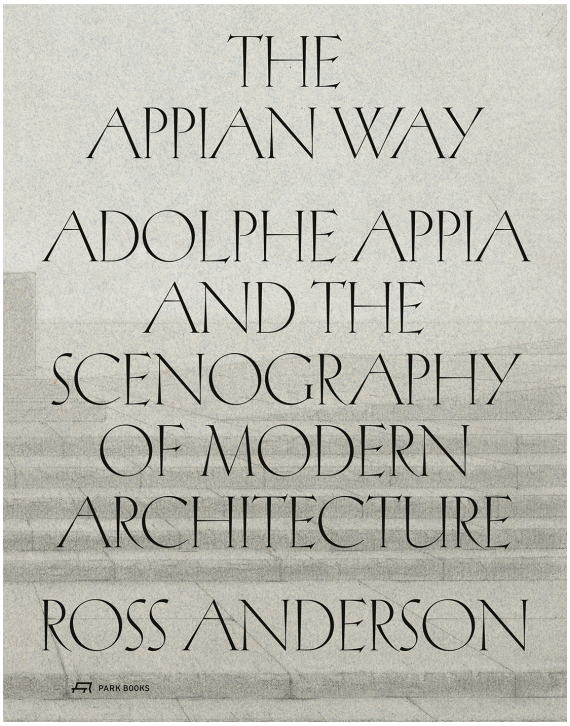
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The Appian Way

Adolphe Appia and the Scenography of Modern Architecture

Ross Anderson

ISBN	9783038604051
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	280 mm x 240 mm
Pages	438 Pages
Illustrations	268 color, 77 b&w
Price	£45.00

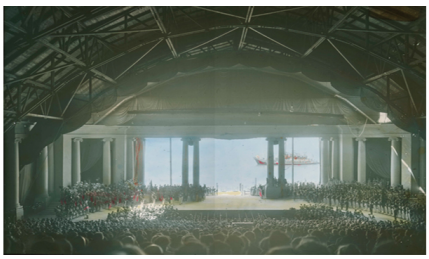
- First comprehensive critical biography of modern Swiss scenographer Adolphe Appia (1862–1928) with a focus on his relevance to architecture
- Articulates the understated role of scenography in the development of modern European architecture and aesthetics
- First book to feature all of Adolphe Appia's outstanding drawings in large scale and in full colour

Adolphe Appia (1862–1928) is an eminent figure in the history of the modern theatre, best-known for his writings on the mise-en-scène and stage design for the operas of Richard Wagner. Far lesser known is the Swiss scenographer's importance in 20th-century architecture and aesthetics.

The Appian Way is the definitive account of Appia's significance also in this field. It is centred on his remarkable drawings that are at once austere and mysteriously atmospheric. Framing a series of monumental yet minimal scenes taking in runs of stairs, landings, platforms and terraces, all staged before a distant horizon under a luminous sky, the drawings are generally described as monochrome, but the subtle hues of the paper imbue each one with a distinctive ambient undertone. Appia himself might be thought about the same way. He was always distant yet also always enigmatically present in the ensuing drama of modern architecture and avant garde stage design.

Comprising four main chapters and a coda, this engaging and accessible book is structured as a dramatic story that traces the contours of Appia's life — his personal circumstances, convictions, aesthetic preferences, desires and motivations — all aimed at constructing a comprehensive portrayal of his life and his work, within the horizons of his time. All of Appia's drawings are reproduced here in full colour, accompanied by a vast range of archival material, much of which has never been published before.

Ross Anderson is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Sydney. He writes on the pivotal role played by drawing in the development of modern architecture and aesthetics within the European context.







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