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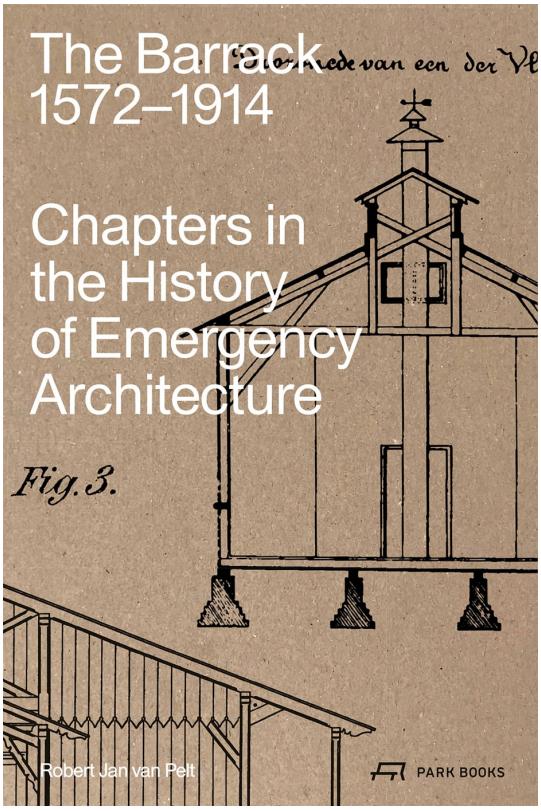


The Barrack, 1572–1914

Chapters in the History of Emergency Architecture

Robert Jan van Pelt

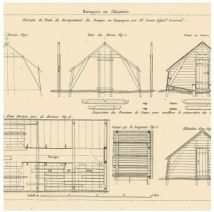
ISBN	9783038603658
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	240 mm x 160 mm
Pages	528 Pages
Illustrations	258 color, 19 b&w
Price	£42.00

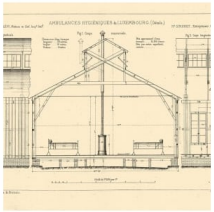
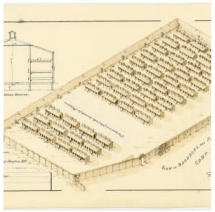
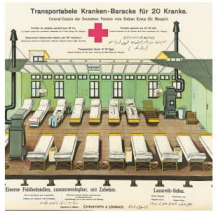
- Tells the little-known history of the barrack from the late 16th century to 1914
- Demonstrates how warfare, medicine, and emergency aid intersect in the history of architecture
- Offers a reappraisal of the barrack's significance today, when more people than ever are forced to live in temporary accommodation
- The barrack as a building type played a decisive role in shaping the political space of modernity

The Barrack, 1572–1914 tells the little-known history of a building type that many people used to register as an alien interloper in conventionally built-up areas. The barrack is a mostly lightweight construction, a hybrid between shack, tent, and traditional building. It is a highly efficient structure that sometimes also proves to be extremely durable. Easy to erect and to take down, it is—after the introduction of railways and later motor vehicles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries—also easy to transplant from one location to another. Originating as a standardised accommodation in the late 16th century, the barrack became a mass-produced utility of military and civilian mobilization in the 19th century, providing immediate shelter for soldiers as well as for displaced persons, disaster victims, or prisoners. The barrack played a decisive role in shaping the political space of modernity.

Robert Jan van Pelt traces nearly 350 years of barrack history up to 1914. That year, in which the Great War broke out, proved to be a turning point in the perception of the barrack, away from pragmatic emergency shelter and towards sinister forced housing. Richly illustrated with some 250 images, van Pelt's book records the traditions of barrack design and the technological inventiveness that went into it in the late 19th century.

Robert Jan van Pelt is a Dutch author, architectural historian, and Holocaust scholar. He teaches as a Professor of Cultural History in the Faculty of Architecture at Waterloo University in Ontario, Canada.



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