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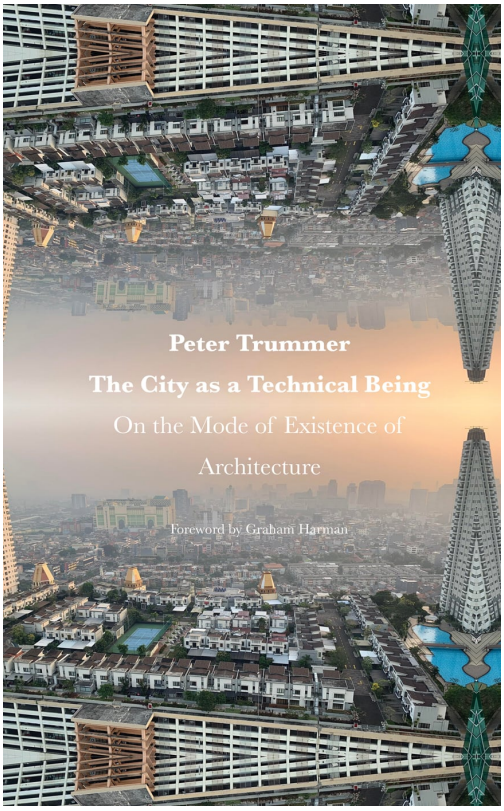

The City as a Technical Being

On the Mode of Existence of Architecture

Peter Trummer

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Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive.
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- The book is an attempt to formulate a new ontology of the architecture of the city
- For academics, scholars, practitioners, students or any individual interested in cities, architects, urban designers

The city is the largest human artefact. It is made by us, yet simultaneously it makes us, as well as all other nonhuman entities. The particular discourse to which this book on the city contributes is the discipline of architecture. It explores a simple question: How does the city effect the mode of existence of its buildings?

The tradition within architectural history that identifies the city as the origin of our buildings poses a challenge to us, as architects, to theorise about the city's form and use in order to rationalise our own actions. In opposition to other disciplinary approaches to the city and its architecture, the book argues not for type (Rossi, Ungers) as the deepest aspect of the architecture of the city. Neither will it be the function (Venturi & Scott Brown, Koolhaas) of the city to explain its material organisation, nor is matter considered (Jacobs, Banham) to be deeper than the real city. Instead, this book argues that the mode of existence of architecture is inherent to the city itself, which originates its architecture as part of its being as a technical object.

Peter Trummer is a professor for urban design and urban planning at the University of Innsbruck and currently the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture. He is a visiting faculty member for the architectural design and architectural theory program at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles.

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