



Iñaki Ábalos

The good life



A guided visit to the houses of modernity



**PARK BOOKS**

## The Good Life

### A Guided Visit to the Houses of Modernity

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- An intellectual introduction to iconic ideas of modern living
- Reveals relations between architectural and philosophical concepts
- Original 2001 edition is much sought-after
- Iñaki Ábalos ranks among the most significant contemporary teachers of architecture

With his book *The Good Life*, Iñaki Ábalos takes the reader on a tour of seven iconic 20th-century houses. Some of them were actually built, others merely imagined or film sets: Mies van der Rohe's House with Three Patios, Martin Heidegger's cabin in the Black Forest, the houses from Jacques Tati's movie *Mononcle*, Picasso's house in Cannes, the New York loft of Andy Warhol and the Factory, the self-build house from Buster Keaton's movie *One Week*, the house in David Hockney's painting *A Bigger Splash*.

Ábalos's selection represents a variety of concepts for living. It is based on a clear archetypal assignment of a place to a particular modern way of living. He analyses each house from key philosophical points of view. He demonstrates relations between architectural concepts, philosophical schools, and various approaches to planning and designing, constructing, and inhabiting a space. Ábalos offers an intellectual introduction to these icons, rather than a manual for the design of residential architecture. He focuses on the 20th-century's radical pluralism, rather than celebrating modernism as a triumph of positivism. This new and revised edition of this book, first published in 2001 by Gustavo Gili and out of print for many years now, makes the significant contribution to the perennial discourse on concepts of living available again.

**Iñaki Ábalos** is co-director of Ábalos+Sentkiewicz Arquitectos. He is also a Professor of Architectural Design and director of the Laboratorio de Técnicas y Paisajes Contemporáneos (LTPC) at ETSAM since 2002 and Professor-in-Residence at Harvard Graduate School of Design since 2012.