



The Shape of the Land

Topography & Landscape Architecture

Edited by Marc Treib

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- The first book to address the role and aesthetic potential of shaping the land as the basic act of making landscape architecture and gardens
- The essays range in content from pre-industrial precedents in the work of Humphry Repton to new digital topographic modelling systems without the use of contour lines, the treatment of waste products to the land art of the American Southwest

The Shape of the Land: Topography & Landscape Architecture — the first book to centre on this subject — presents the contributions of 13 well-known practitioners and academics who discuss the forms and ramifications of reconfiguring terrain. The essays range in content from pre-industrial precedents in the work of Humphry Repton to new digital topographic modelling systems without the use of contour lines, the treatment of waste products to the land art of the American Southwest.

Practicing landscape architects focusing on the modelling of topography in the works considering both utility and aesthetics. In all, the book reviews the history, reasons, and results of at least three centuries of topographic interventions, while suggesting pathways into the future — as new technology and new necessities increase the functional demands placed upon landscape architects, while at the same time potentially offering new forms of artistic expression.

Marc Treib, Professor of Architecture Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, is a historian and critic of landscape and architecture who has published widely on modern and historical subjects in the United States, Japan, and Scandinavia. Books published by ORO Editions include *Landscapes of Modern Architecture*; *Austere Gardens*; *The Landscapes of Georges Descombes: Doing Almost Nothing*; and *Thinking a Modern Landscape Architecture, West and East*, and more recently *The Aesthetics of Contemporary Planting Design* and *Serious Fun: The Landscapes of Claude Cormier*.

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