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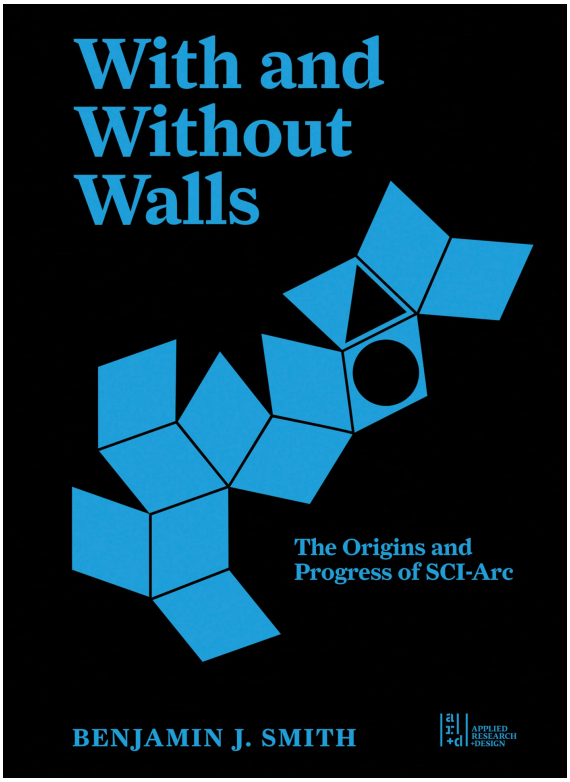


With and Without Walls

The Origins and Progress of SCI-Arc

Benjamin J. Smith

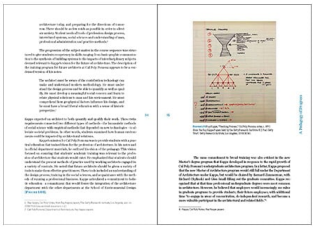
ISBN	9781961856936
Publisher	ORO Editions
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, and Australasia. India non-exclusive.
Size	254 mm x 178 mm
Pages	274 Pages
Illustrations	280 color
Price	£40.00

- ***With and Without Walls*** unfolds the history of the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), founded in 1972, as an alternative model for architectural education
- As the first book about SCI-Arc's history, the research relies on an abundance of previously unpublished primary source materials and includes archival research from the Getty Research Institute, SCI-Arc, and SCI-Arc's founding director, Ray Kappe, as well as original interviews conducted with Kappe and other SCI-Arc founding faculty

The institutional history, ***With and Without Walls***, reveals the origins and progress of the influential Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) through the 1970s and 1980s. After separating from the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 1972 amidst feelings of bureaucratic and ideological oppression, Ray Kappe, a Los Angeles-based architect and professor, proposed the formation of SCI-Arc and was the school's first director. Focusing on its early years under Kappe's leadership and the context of the social, cultural, and ecological idealism of the 1960s, the culture of the emerging school became an alternative model for training architects. Building off of the school's founding premise, that in providing freedom through self-study it would be possible to produce both architects and architecture, the book shows how SCI-Arc utilised the "college without walls" concept, a variation on a pedagogical approach popular in the 1970s. SCI-Arc's institutional culture adjusted over time, and it increasingly relied on the versatility of the institutional framework to forge its pedagogy. The principles engendered by the college without walls concept created challenges over the operation of the school and provided opportunities for the creative resolution of those challenges by empowering experimentation. In this way, SCI-Arc was, in itself, both a design problem and a solution in the field of architectural education.

Benjamin J. Smith, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of architecture at the University of Minnesota where he coordinates and teaches the first design course for undergraduate students and the capstone studio for graduate students. Smith is a design theorist whose research focuses on design education and architectural aesthetics.







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