



a+u 18:10, 577

Making Friends with the Land, People and Time - Architecture in Taiwan

Edited by A+U Publishing

ISBN	9784900212275
Publisher	Shinkenchiku-Sha Co., Ltd
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	8.66 in x 11.51 in
Pages	192 Pages
Price	\$40.00

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This issue features the architecture in Taiwan, an island state in East Asia largely covered with rugged mountain ranges throughout its length, whilst densely populated along the perimeter.

Over the past 25 years, architecture in Taiwan has transited from a field exclusive to professionals, to one that is relatable and enjoyed by the masses. Even amidst volatile political and challenging economical situations, the administering of public works and commissioning of projects managed to maintain the country's creativity and rationality. This is also where architects overseas found unprecedented design freedom, realizing one of their best works in the island.

The featured projects are borne out of their unique conditions, those that reflect the architects' concerns with the environment, cultures and histories. Through them, we begin to understand and appreciate the island that was once named "Ilha Formosa (beautiful island)".

a+u - Architecture and Urbanism - is a monthly architectural magazine established in 1971 that highlights the work and activities of top contemporary architects from around the world. a+u features architecture and a broad range of other new design sources in a well-presented format. Text in English and Japanese.