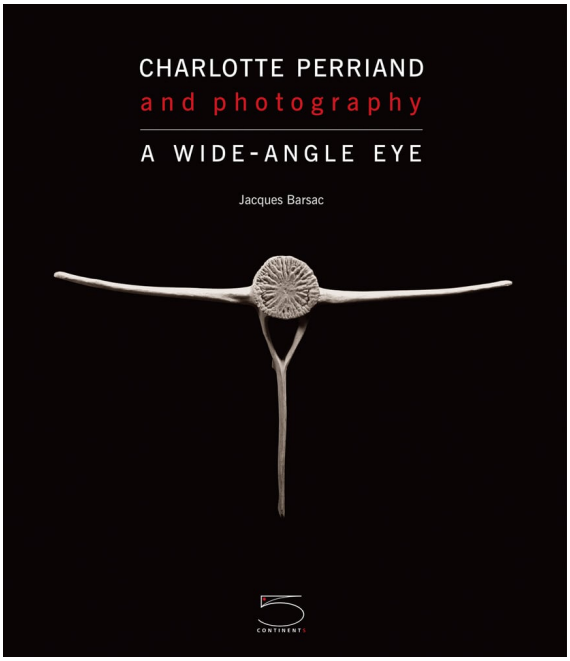
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Charlotte Perriand and Photography

A Wide-Angle Eye

Jacques Barsac

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- This stunning book presents Charlotte Perriand's photographic achievement in its entirety, offering new and valuable insights into the work of this important designer

Charlotte Perriand (1903-1999) was one of the most innovative furniture and interior designers of the twentieth century, long renowned for the tubular-steel chairs she created with le Corbusier. Her career spanned nearly seventy-five years and included work in her native France as well as in Africa, South America, Asia, and Europe, and today her designs are highly collectable. Recently, several hundred photographic negatives were uncovered in her archives, revealing for the first time the scope of her work as a photographer. In the late 1920s, French interior and furniture designer Charlotte Perriand was at the cusp of her career, just beginning her work as an architect, designer, town planner, and political militant. Starting in 1927, she turned to photography, which was to play a pivotal role in her development as a designer through the pioneering years of the modern movement. Her photographic venture ended in Japan in 1941, when the hope of a better world was shattered by World War II. For Charlotte Perriand, photography was a machine for thinking, taking notes, and stirring emotions, but it was also an instrument of political engagement. Today, her photographs are a revelation, offering unseen glimpses into her creative process and intellectual development. Her photographs express the important themes and questions explored by modern artists of the day, and are part of the vast stream of avant-garde movements in which painters, architects, and photographers – and sometimes all three combined – worked together in a common spirit.

Jacques Barsac has made some forty documentaries on art and historical subjects, winning twenty prizes in international festivals, including a silver medal from the Académie d'Architecture. With this book, which follows his *Charlotte Perriand. Un art d'habiter* (2006), he continues to explore the work of this pioneer in the twentieth-century modern movement. **François Cheval**, sociologist, anthropologist and great expert in the world of photography, is the director of Musée Nicéphore Niépce in Chalon-sur Saône, a temple of photography dedicated to the one who invented it in 1816. **Alfred Paquement**, curator of Monumenta 2008, has been the director of the Musée national d'art moderne Centre Pompidou since September 2000.

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