

[Read ebook] Modernity and Housing

Modernity and Housing

Peter G. Rowe

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



#4734221 in Books MIT Press 1993-10-13Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF #
1 1.30 x 9.17 x 11.34l, #File Name: 0262181517424 pages | File size: 39.Mb

Peter G. Rowe : Modernity and Housing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modernity and Housing:

Starting from the question of how can the design of modern housing can be successful, Peter Rowe explores the social, cultural, and expressive history of housing at two crucial moments: the first large-scale developments along modernist lines in the 1920s, and the widespread reconsideration of modernist principles in the 1970s. Although the inquiry is conducted along historical and theoretical lines, it proposes to uncover practical principles that may guide the design of modern housing, each principle responding to a contemporary architectural paradox posed by modern conditions. Six detailed case studies form the illustrative centerpiece of the book. Modernity and Housing embraces three more or less parallel themes concerning modernity: the rise of technocracy and the attendant tendency of modern space to become universal while the experience of time is confined to the present; the problem of representation for a culture in which subject-centered reason has replaced metaphysical foundations; and social practices that give rise to urban concentrations and the production of mass housing on an unprecedented scale. Within these themes, the modern experience of space and time philosophically grounds discussion of local and traditional versus universal and novel building practices. The perspective of subject-centered reason grounds the exploration of the use of abstract forms and the comcomitant problem of providing for an expressive architectural language; while the unprecedented quantities of

housing production raise the thorny issue of widely defining a normative building program that allows for local particularity. The case studies cover Sunnyside Gardens, New York; Romerstadt, Frankfurt-am-Main; Kiefhoek, Rotterdam; Byker Redevelopment, United Kingdom; Villa Victoria, United States; Malagueira Quarter, Portugal. An appendix contains an annotated and statistical summary of all major housing projects described in the text (about 40) with notes that include the date, size, place, architect, client, housing type, relative densities, and other items of interest. Peter G. Rowe is Raymond Garbe Professor of Architecture and Urban Design and Dean of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. His previous books include *Design Thinking*, and *Making a Middle Landscape*.

"This desperately needed book will have special pertinence for the generation that has come of age since the idea of the Great Society withered and has been educated with little notion of the place that intelligently planned urban housing must have in any humane polity. . . . *Modernity and Housing* also offers a refresher course in the principles behind this century's most noteworthy attempts at establishing new urban communities. Six successful examples in the United States and Europe (three from the 1920s, three from the 1970s) are accorded the same clearheaded analysis in a series of detailed case studies that underscore the multiplicity of options that must be considered in our fragmented society." Martin Filler, *New York Times Book About the Author* Peter G. Rowe is Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where he is Raymond Garbe Professor of Architecture and Urban Design.