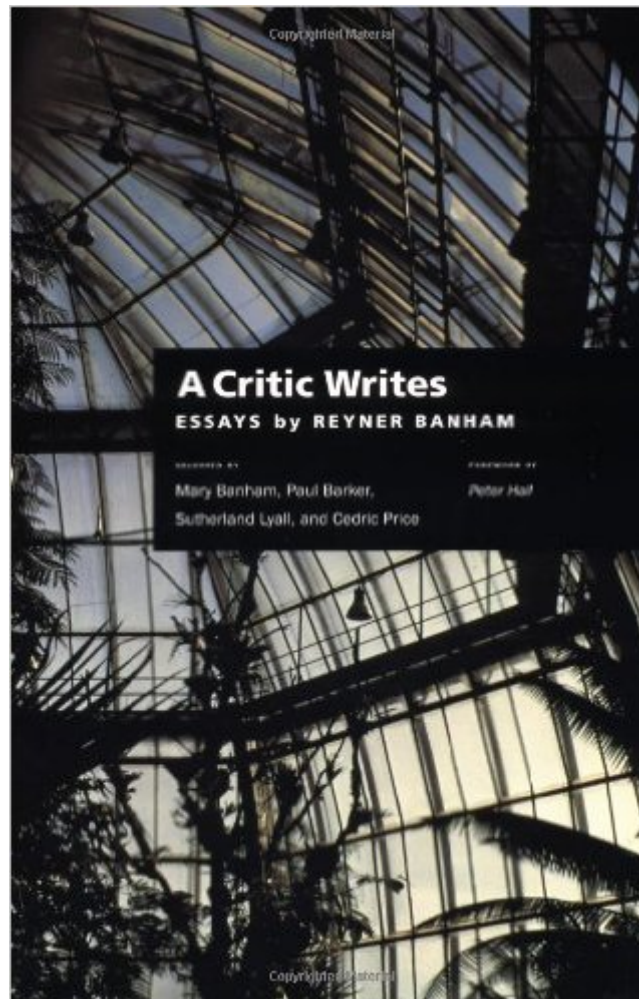


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A Critic Writes: Selected Essays By Reyner Banham (Centennial Books)



Synopsis

Few twentieth-century writers on architecture and design have enjoyed the renown of Reyner Banham. Born and trained in England and a U.S. resident starting in 1976, Banham wrote incisively about American and European buildings and culture. Now readers can enjoy a chronological cross-section of essays, polemics, and reviews drawn from more than three decades of Banham's writings. The volume, which includes discussions of Italian Futurism, Adolf Loos, Paul Scheerbart, and the Bauhaus as well as explorations of contemporary architecture by Frank Gehry, James Stirling, and Norman Foster, conveys the full range of Banham's belief in industrial and technological development as the motor of architectural evolution. Banham's interests and passions ranged from architecture and the culture of pop art to urban and industrial design. In brilliant analyses of automobile styling, mobile homes, science fiction films, and the American predilection for gadgets, he anticipated many of the preoccupations of contemporary cultural studies. Los Angeles, the city that Banham commemorated in a book and a film, receives extensive attention in essays on the Santa Monica Pier, the Getty Museum, Forest Lawn cemetery, and the ubiquitous freeway system. Eminently readable, provocative, and entertaining, this book is certain to consolidate Banham's reputation among architects and students of contemporary culture. For those acquainted with his writing, it offers welcome surprises as well as familiar delights. For those encountering Banham for the first time, it comprises the perfect introduction.

Book Information

Series: Centennial Books

Paperback: 366 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; First Edition edition (March 24, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520219449

ISBN-13: 978-0520219441

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.8 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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The aspect of the book is terrific. Every page is so badly trimmed that I had to order a second issue, which resulted so badly printed as the first one. I prevent everybody seriously to purchase California University edition. Sadly.

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