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Tom Kundig: Houses 2



Synopsis

Our 2006 monograph Tom Kundig: Houses was an instant critical and commercial success. Over the past five years, Seattle-based Kundig has continued his meteoric rise, collecting numerous awards, including the 2008 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture Design. Tom Kundig: Houses 2 features seventeen residential projects, ranging from a five hundred-square-foot cabin in the woods to a house carved into and built out of solid rock. In his new work, Kundig continues to strike a balance between raw and refined and modern and warm, creating inviting spaces with a strong sense of place. The houses seamlessly incorporate his signature inventive details, rich materials, and stunning sites from the majestic Northwestern forest to the severe high desert.

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Customer Reviews

Although there are a couple of interesting projects in this book, I didn't find nearly as inspiring as the work represented in Kundig's first "Houses" book. There are larger projects in this book which seemed, to me, to lack the intimate interaction with detail that seemed prevalent in the first book's projects. It is a nice book with some beautiful projects, but I think the first volume set my expectations too high.

So, a disclaimer - I'm reviewing this as an architect, and also reviewing it as a HUGE fan of the first book, "Tom Kundig: Houses". I would give the first volume/book 5 stars. Here is my biggest issue

with this book - I am disappointed that it did NOT provide similar content/presentation/detail as presented in the first book. I would categorize this as a "coffee table" type of book. There are several projects presented (about 20 houses). There is a single presentation (hard-line) floor plan for each project, and an occasional presentation section. It has beautiful photography thoroughly depicting each project, including close-up photos of the Kundig "gizmos". Unfortunately, I'm missing the additional content - there are NONE of the hand-drawn sketches, diagrammatic drawings, process drawings, elevations or site plans, which were included in the first book. I'm bummed. I find Kundig's houses to be very compelling - he has fantastic sites, and his houses have clear organization, and meticulous craftsmanship and detailing. If you like his work, then this volume has a lot to digest, but pictures will be the your primary means to enjoy the work. I have noticed that Dung Ngo (whom edited the first volume) did not edit this volume. Megan Carey, is editing this volume. Ngo, is credited as the "designer" - not sure what that title means. Not sure if the change in personnel is any explanation for the format change. I suspect that a non-architect might like this volume better than the first, due to the predominately photographic presentation.

Tom Kundig, now working with Jim Olson as a principal at Olson/Kundig, is probably the most striking Pacific Coast Modern architect. While the style already often uses hard lines and industrial materials, Kundig amplifies this with steel paneling, unpainted metal, and exposed, specially designed mechanicals to open walls and doors. Kundig's work continues to mature, and Houses 2 showcases his most unique challenges: buildings on wheels, cut into stone (The Pierre, on the cover), and examples of purpose-built architecture - a winery and home+studio are included. This book shows a wider range than "Houses," and leads the way for a step forward in west coast architecture.

I'm converting a commercial warehouse in Sydney's Paddington to an open plan residence and want to give it an Industrial feel. His books have inspired me with his amazing use of concrete and steel. Stairs, windows, doors and the use of pulleys and mechanical devices are awe inspiring. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who likes an Industrial Design, creative ideas, quirky, but still maintaining a warm feeling.

Well, the first surprise was my not having known that my friend Juhani Pallasmaa wrote the introduction - always a very perceptive person with a lot to contribute to the way we think about architecture and the act of designing for site, client and time. I would recommend his books as well

to any young architect, or even an older one! Juhani, not having visited Tom Kundig's buildings, is very good at 'reading architecture'. Now, this book has some beautiful photographs, a few, very few plans, very small, incomplete, and no drawn details - it's a coffee table book for prospective clients. However, for those architects who follow Tom Kundig's work, we can do what Juhani has had to do, we have learned to 'read architecture' too. So, I do recommend this book to both clients and residential architects who appreciate Tom Kundig's works. This book is very well presented, the writing is excellent, the photos absolutely spectacular, but complete plans and some sections would have made it even better. Dan Friedman's closing essay completes the picture of the Pacific Northwest and in particular Tom Kundig's passion and development as a fine architect - inventor, his 'transformative' machines in the spirit of the old master, yet put to modern living use. What a fine statement.

This is just as much a photo book as it is a publication about Kundig architects. Beautiful images presented in a fantastic book and format. Kundig does some amazing work both material wise, site sensitive, as well as mechanical innovations. As an architect, this is a great book to have as an example of what we should all strive to do detail wise.

My favourite book ever. Amazing architect Tom Kundig who thinks out side the square and puts a special touch on every building, house or structure with a mechanical device. slightly industrial but very well thought out designs. This guy is a legend!

Tom Kundig's work is sublime and deeply spiritual. These houses are wonderful places to live with a strong connection to the site, achieved through careful orientation and the use of organic materials such as wood, corten steel and vegetation. All these elements combine to give each house a "holistic spirit of place".

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