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Bertrand Goldberg: Architecture Of Invention (Art Institute Of Chicago)



Synopsis

Bertrand Goldberg (1913-1997) was a visionary Chicago architect whose designs for housing, urban planning, and industrial design made a distinctive mark in the modern era. This handsome publication, the first to focus in-depth on the entirety of Goldberg's life and work, traces his development from his early Bauhaus training to his notable architectural achievements. Featuring previously unpublished material, it also includes Goldberg's plans for unrealized projects as well as his collaborations with other prominent modern architects, such as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Buckminster Fuller. Goldberg's interest in the social dimension of architecture was reflected in many of his cutting-edge designs. In 1959, he conceived the plan for his most iconic structure, the sixty-story Marina City residential towers, in the heart of downtown Chicago. He created a number of hospitals that offered a new paradigm for how patients and staff interacted within the space. Goldberg's progressive designs also extended to schools, prefabricated structures, and furniture.

Book Information

Series: Art Institute of Chicago

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Art Institute of Chicago (October 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300167040

ISBN-13: 978-0300167047

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.8 x 11.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #585,587 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #255 in Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Industrial & Product Design #603 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning #612 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Individual Architects & Firms

Customer Reviews

Bertrand Goldberg in some senses pioneered areas of architecture that no other American architect really even explored, especially in his use of form and his interest in the application of spheres in architecture and his explorations of unconventional approaches to health care architecture. This book is really the only comprehensive monograph on him and his career and is the fruit of an exhibit the Art Institute of Chicago had on Goldberg. As an exhibit catalog, it seems understandably a little

more compact than some architect monographs (though it is a coffee table book, albeit a slim one in page count). The writing and examples of Goldberg's work alike are high-quality and overall it's a very fine book though some of the production values could be better (the cover especially: while the design is top-notch, the printing and choice of cover stock aren't the best on that). Still, these are small things and ones that only stand out because it's a design book and I expect design books to in their own composition be examples of above-average design. You'll learn a lot about Goldberg from this book and the photos are certainly a diverse enough selection to get you started on understanding what makes him and his career so unique and worthy of attention.

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