

An Essay On Architecture

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this translation uses the text of the original 1753 edition it also includes additions made by laugier for the edition of 1755 as well as the avertissement for that edition which contains laugier s rebuttal to his critics an introduction by wolfgang herrmann gives details of laugier s life and the context in which this book was written the essai is important as a key document in 18th century art theory it is invaluable for a

thorough understanding of the neoclassical aesthetic and its development from the rationalism of the enlightenment

british architect and critic paul shephard is a fresh new voice in current postmodern debates about the history and meaning of architecture in this wonderfully unorthodox quasi novelistic essay complete with characters and dialogue but no plot shephard draws a boundary around the subject of architecture describing its place in art and technology its place in history and its place in our lives now at a time when it is fashionable to say that architecture is everything from philosophy to science to art to theory shephard boldly and irreverently sets limits to the subject so that we may talk about architecture for what it is he takes strong positions names the causes of the problems and tells us how bad things are and how they can get better along the way he marshals some unlikely but plausible witnesses who testify about the current state of architecture instead of the usual claims or complaints by the usual suspects these observations are of an altogether different order constructed as a series of fables many of them politically incorrect what is architecture is a refreshing meditation on the options hopes possibilities and failures of shelter in society

combining the modes of historian and critic in unique and compelling ways scully has profoundly influenced the way architecture is thought about and made this illustrated and elegantly designed volume distills scully s incalculable contribution 300 illustrations

this scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original due to its age it may contain imperfections such as marks notations marginalia and flawed pages because we believe this work is culturally important we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting preserving and promoting the world s literature in affordable high quality modern editions that are true to the original work

preface by kenneth frampton winner of the 1985 architectural critics award for the best book published on architectural criticism over the past three years since the early 1950s alan colquhoun s criticism and theory have acted as a conscience to a generation of architects his rigor and conceptual clarity have consistently stimulated debate and have served as an impetus for the pursuit of new directions in both theory and practice this collection of 17 of his essays marks a watershed in the development of architectural thinking over the past three decades comprising a virtual theory of modernism in architecture in his earliest essays colquhoun concentrated on themes that for him comprised the modernist attitude in architecture language typology and the structure of form his stance since then has consistently been to try to relate these issues to current practice and to analyze the nature of architectural expression in relation to culture alan colquhoun divides his time between england where is is a principal in the firm of colquhoun miller and the united states where he is professor of architecture at princeton university an oppositions book

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