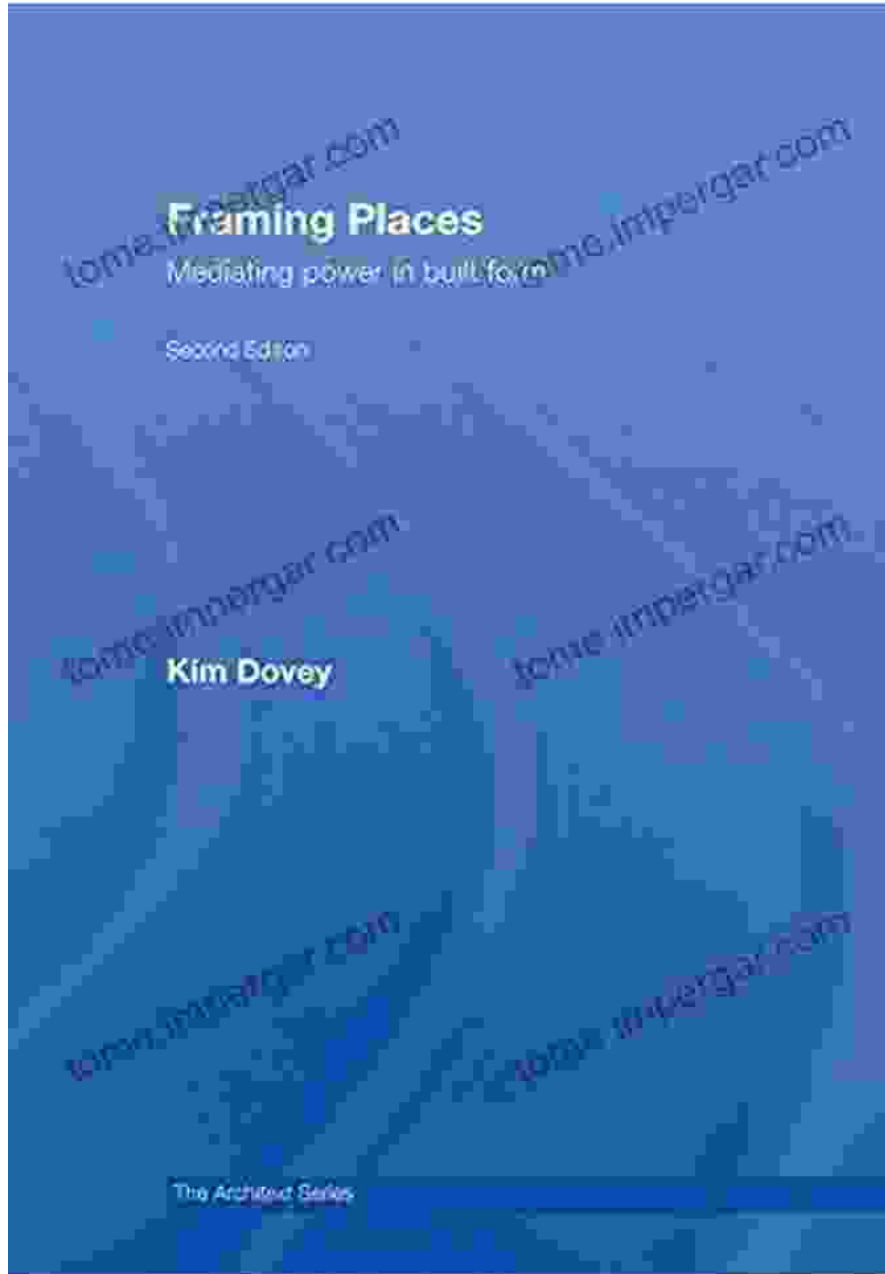


Framing Places, Mediating Power: Uncovering the Interplay of Architecture and Power



Framing Places: Mediating Power in Built Form

(Architext Book 5) by Kim Dovey

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 8112 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 257 pages



Architecture is not merely about bricks and mortar; it is a powerful force that shapes the way we experience and interact with the world. In the groundbreaking book "Framing Places, Mediating Power," renowned architect and urban theorist Judith de Val reveals the intricate relationship between built form architecture and power structures.

Through a comprehensive analysis of case studies ranging from ancient cities to contemporary skyscrapers, de Val demonstrates how architectural spaces are not neutral containers but rather dynamic arenas where power is negotiated, contested, and reinforced. She argues that the design of buildings, public spaces, and urban landscapes reflects and perpetuates social and political hierarchies.

Key Themes

- **The Politics of Space:** Examines how the distribution of space in built environments reflects and reinforces power relations.
- **Architectural Symbolism:** Explores the use of architectural elements and motifs to communicate power and authority.
- **Urban Planning and Control:** Analyzes the role of urban planning in shaping cities to serve the interests of particular groups.

- **Resistance and Subversion:** Investigates the ways in which architectural spaces can be subverted or reimagined to challenge power structures.
- **The Social and Cultural Implications of Architecture:** Explores how architectural design influences social interactions, cultural values, and community identity.

Case Studies

"Framing Places, Mediating Power" draws upon a wide range of case studies to support its arguments, including:

- The ancient city of Athens, where the Acropolis served as a symbol of civic authority and power.
- The Renaissance palace in Italy, designed to project the wealth and prestige of ruling families.
- The Haussmannization of Paris in the 19th century, which transformed the city to reflect the authoritarian rule of Napoleon III.
- The modernist housing projects of the 20th century, which were intended to impose Free Download and control on urban populations.
- Contemporary urban renewal projects that aim to gentrify neighborhoods and displace low-income residents.

Theoretical Framework

de Val's analysis is grounded in a multidisciplinary theoretical framework that draws upon:

- Sociology and Urban Studies

- Political Science and Power Dynamics
- Architectural Theory and History
- Cultural Anthropology

This interdisciplinary approach allows her to provide a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the complex ways in which architecture interacts with power.

Relevance and Significance

"Framing Places, Mediating Power" is a timely and important contribution to the fields of architecture, urban planning, and sociology. It offers a fresh perspective on the relationship between built form and power dynamics, challenging conventional assumptions about the neutrality of architecture.

The book's insights are essential for anyone interested in understanding how power operates in the built environment and the role that architecture plays in shaping our societies.

Critical Acclaim

"A groundbreaking work that sheds new light on the interplay between architecture and power. de Val's incisive analysis and thought-provoking case studies make this book a must-read for anyone interested in the social and political implications of built form." - Professor David Harvey, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

"An essential contribution to architectural theory and urban studies. de Val's meticulously researched work reveals the hidden narratives embedded within our built environments, uncovering the ways in which architecture

perpetuates and challenges power structures." - Professor Sharon Zukin, City University of New York

"Framing Places, Mediating Power" is a groundbreaking book that reframes our understanding of architecture's role in the world. Judith de Val's rigorous research and compelling arguments provide a powerful lens through which to examine the ways in which built form environments shape our experiences, values, and social interactions. This thought-provoking work is essential reading for anyone interested in architecture, urban planning, power dynamics, and the social implications of the built environment.



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