

# Terror and Wonder: Architecture in a Tumultuous Age

In times of great upheaval, when the foundations of society are shaken and the future is uncertain, architecture takes on a profound significance. It becomes a mirror of the collective psyche, reflecting both the fears and aspirations of a people. It can be a source of comfort and stability, or it can be a symbol of power and oppression. In its most ambitious manifestations, it can even be a catalyst for change.



## Terror and Wonder: Architecture in a Tumultuous Age

by Blair Kamin

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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The 20th century was a time of unprecedented turmoil. Two world wars, the rise and fall of totalitarian regimes, and the rapid pace of technological advancement all contributed to a sense of dislocation and uncertainty. Architecture, as a reflection of society, could not help but be influenced by these seismic shifts.

In his new book, *Terror and Wonder: Architecture in a Tumultuous Age*, author Mark Wigley explores the complex relationship between architecture and society during this period of profound upheaval. Drawing on a wide range of examples, from the monumental skyscrapers of the early 20th century to the brutalist towers of the Cold War era, Wigley shows how architecture has both reflected and shaped the human experience amidst chaos and transformation.

One of the most striking themes in *Terror and Wonder* is the way in which architecture has been used to express both the hopes and fears of a society. In the early 20th century, for example, the construction of skyscrapers was seen as a symbol of progress and optimism. These towering structures reached for the sky, representing the boundless possibilities of the future. However, as the century progressed and the world became more uncertain, skyscrapers began to take on a more sinister aspect. They became symbols of power and oppression, and their sheer size and scale could be overwhelming and alienating.

Another theme explored in *Terror and Wonder* is the way in which architecture has been used to create a sense of community and belonging. In the aftermath of World War II, for example, many governments embarked on ambitious building programs in an effort to provide housing for their citizens and to create a sense of national unity. These buildings were often spartan and utilitarian, but they also provided a much-needed sense of stability and security in a world that had been torn apart by war.

In the final chapter of *Terror and Wonder*, Wigley turns his attention to the present day. He argues that we are living in a time of renewed upheaval, and that architecture is once again playing a pivotal role in shaping our

experience of the world. The rise of global capitalism, the climate crisis, and the spread of digital technology are all creating new challenges and opportunities for architects. Wigley argues that it is up to us to decide how we will use architecture to shape the future.

*Terror and Wonder* is a timely and thought-provoking book that offers a unique perspective on the relationship between architecture and society. Wigley's insights are both incisive and illuminating, and his book is sure to spark a lively debate about the role of architecture in shaping our world.

**Free Download your copy of *Terror and Wonder* today!**

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