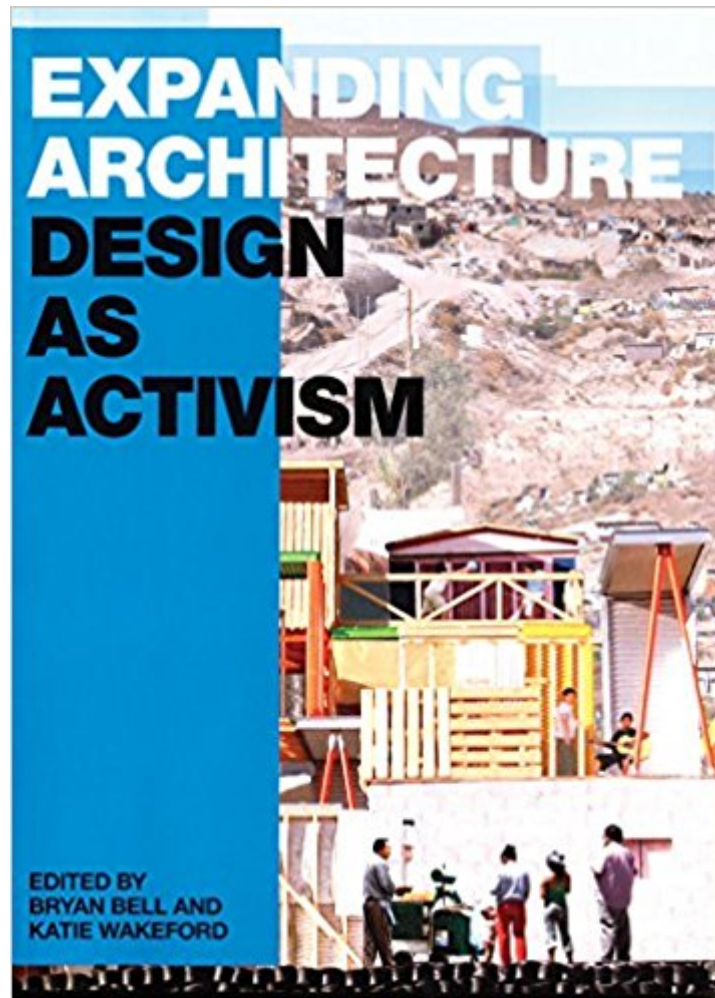




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Expanding Architecture: Design As Activism



Synopsis

Expanding Architecture presents a new generation of creative design carried out in the service of the greater public and the greater good. Questioning how design can improve daily lives, editors Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford map an emerging geography of architectural activism--or "public-interest architecture"--that might function akin to public-interest law or medicine by expanding architecture's all too often elite client base. With 30 essays by practicing architects and designers, urban and community planners, historians, landscape architects, environmental designers and members of other fields, this volume presents recent work from around the world that illustrates the ways in which design can address issues of social justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford's *Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism* harkens to a period of socially engaged architecture and is also aesthetically pleasing. (Bennett Baumer *The Independent*)

"...This visually rich book, (published by Metropolis Books) is an inspiring read for anyone, but its clear and instructive descriptions also make it a reference book of sorts for those interested in acting through architecture... This book presents diverse examples of architectural projects directed towards the greater public good, in stories told from the perspectives of the architects. The stories aren't about the individuals themselves, but about their experiences. As they discuss projects that

range from a public transit shelter in a disadvantaged neighborhood to new dwellings in a rural part of Taiwan, each designer describes the design process, challenges they faced and the proposed solutions... Expanding Architecture is arranged into eight chapters of various topics that allow designers of all interests to relate. As a professional designer, I found it easy to be inspired by a project. What I found extremely helpful was that this book offered guidance on how to proceed with projects in a similar way to those described, showing me exactly how I could make a difference myself. The architects profiled discuss their processes step by step, telling what worked and the actions they took. It's wonderful to have a collection of stories that so strongly makes this point, by showing the broad array of projects that are already making a difference, and hopefully inspiring more like them in the future.

I used this book for a Public Interest Design class and thought it was very helpful. I would recommend it to absolutely anyone who loves to learn - it's an easy book and one that anyone will really enjoy.

Tried for future

Expanding Architecture Design as Activism collects thirty in-depth essays about the concept of "public-interest architecture", that is, building designs created explicitly with the benefit of the public in mind. Illustrated with full-color photography on virtually every page, individual essays discuss examples ranging from building housing or water systems to best serve the needs of a refugee population, to participatory planning in a Taiwanese mountain village that transforms an abandoned creek into swimming ponds for the village's future, to exploring different ways to create strong designs with minimal environmental impact, all at a reasonable profit. Enthusiastically recommended to anyone with a serious interest in expanding the humanitarian role of modern architecture, from professionals in the field to any concerned citizen voting on city planning projects.

I'm about half-way through this book and am already amazed at all the ways designers have made a difference in their local communities, and beyond. Because a range of projects, small to large, have been included it is even more inspiring to be able to imagine how one person with a good idea and the energy to implement it could have a big impact. I think that even those outside the design profession would find that some of the included projects could serve as a model for how other professions can make similar contributions. I've had other people who are not designers pick up my

book and start flipping through and ask if they can read it when I finish. I can't wait to read the rest and pass it on!

As an educator, admirer and follower of Frank Lloyd Wright, I have admired the best of contemporary architecture for many, many years. This edition brings out not only the best of current thinking, but more importantly, it holds open a welcoming door to the future. Kudos to the editors. I hope that they publish a new version every five years. Charles Eilber, Durham, North Carolina.

This book is filled with examples of good designs that redefine architectural resources. I am challenged to share architectural ways of thinking and space making in my own town. This book shows how good design can improve the way we work and live together!

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