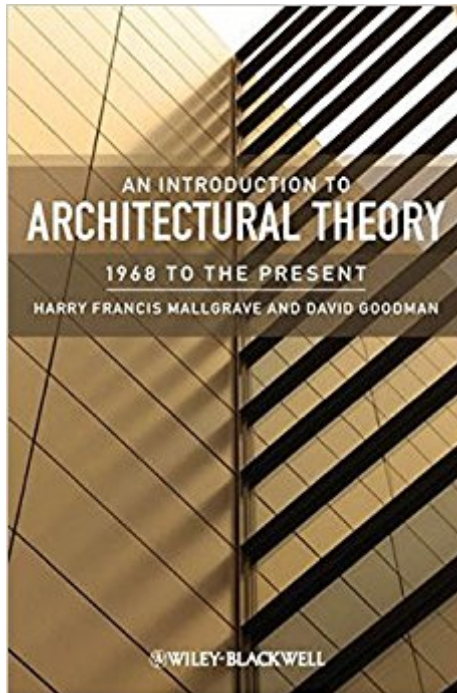




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# An Introduction To Architectural Theory: 1968 To The Present



## Synopsis

A sharp and lively text that covers issues in depth but not to the point that they become inaccessible to beginning students, *An Introduction to Architectural Theory* is the first narrative history of this period, charting the veritable revolution in architectural thinking that has taken place, as well as the implications of this intellectual upheaval. The first comprehensive and critical history of architectural theory over the last fifty years surveys the intellectual history of architecture since 1968, including criticisms of high modernism, the rise of postmodern and poststructural theory, critical regionalism and tectonics. Offers a comprehensive overview of the significant changes that architectural thinking has undergone in the past fifteen years. Includes an analysis of where architecture stands and where it will likely move in the coming years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book will provide a unique complement to several annotated anthologies covering this material. . . Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through professionals/practitioners; general readers." (Choice, 1 October 2011)

*An Introduction to Architectural Theory* is the first comprehensive and critical history of architectural theory over the last forty years. Mallgrave employs the words theory and architecture in a broad sense--the latter encompassing aspects of urban planning, structural, and landscape design, while theory too is often indistinguishable from practice. The text surveys the intellectual history of

architecture since 1968, including criticisms of high modernism, the rise of postmodern and poststructural theory, critical regionalism and tectonics, and the significant changes that architectural thinking has undergone in the past fifteen years, concluding with an analysis of where architecture stands and where it will likely move in the coming years. A sharp and lively text that covers issues in depth but not to the point that they become inaccessible to beginning students, *An Introduction to Architectural Theory* is the first narrative history of this period, charting the veritable revolution in architectural thinking that has taken place, as well as the implications of this intellectual upheaval.

Scholarly reading

Great!

This is not the best introduction on architectural theory, and certainly not the best work of Mallgrave, who is one of the most respected scholars of the field. For a start, there is a problem with the title, as the book covers much more in terms of the actual buildings of the period, than the 'ideas' that were behind them. Then, there is a bit of disjunction and overlap among certain chapters. For instance, chapter 4 on Modernism and High-Tech, including Japanese Metabolism, also includes a discussion of Christopher Alexander! Chapter 7 on the 'Gilded Age of Theory' covers the work of Eisenman and Tschumi, who should have been covered under the following chapter on 'Deconstruction', which again reiterates some of the ideas on 'Postmodernism', also covering Gehry, who has no business being in that chapter. These are some of the many ambiguities of this book, which is supposed to be an introductory work on the theoretical aspects of architecture, and which nevertheless includes some interesting and enlightening details on the relationships that triggered certain movements. A second edition of this book should revise completely the configuration of chapters, and better organize them, weeding out some aspects, and adding others.

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