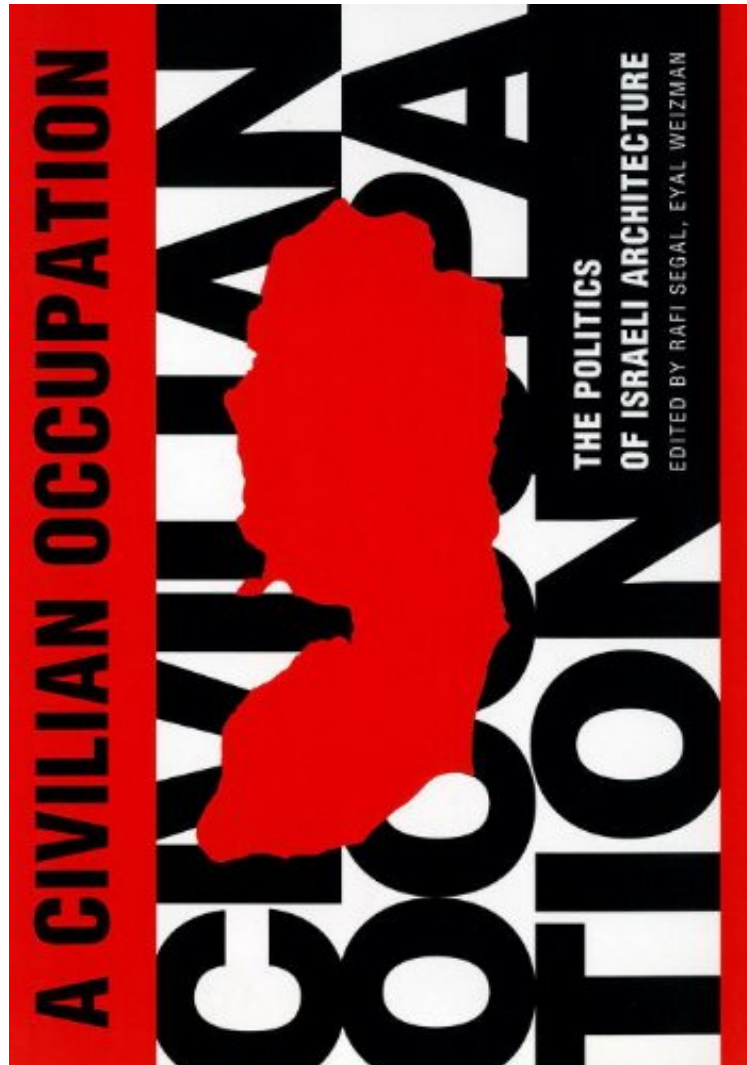


(Download pdf ebook) A Civilian Occupation: The Politics of Israeli Architecture

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From Verso : A Civilian Occupation: The Politics of Israeli Architecture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Civilian Occupation: The Politics of Israeli Architecture:

46 of 50 people found the following review helpful. architecture and politicsBy an Israeli architectDuring decades, while pretending to be mere "professionals", Israeli architects collaborated massively with Israel's expansionist agendas, and thus had a central role in the bleeding territorial conflict that divides Israelis and Palestinians.By exposing the simple truth that architecture and planning cannot be dissociated from political power, and by revealing systematically Israeli architecture's most basic condition (and most hidden secret) from the Thirties to our days, this book has succeeded to jam a whole profession: in Israel it no longer possible to be an architect without taking into

consideration the political dimension of any "architectural" choice or dilemma. Therefore, the true lesson of this pioneering small book is not only about the evil banality of Israeli architecture, but also about the potential evil banality of any architecture. The debate inaugurated in "A Civilian Occupation" should serve us as a reminder that the idiosyncratic and narcissistic approaches that characterize a great deal of the contemporary architectural discourse, either through its spectacular expressions (Liebeskind, Gehry), through its pro-capitalistic ideologies (Koolhaas) or through its pseudo-avant-garde strategies (Tschumi, Eisenman), are today a luxury that very few can afford. The acute test case of Israeli architecture displayed in this important book is only one more proof that sometimes architecture can kill. 6 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Fresh but overstated By blackshredder This book describes a phenomenon that grew out of an innovative aerial photography technique developed by the Israelis which gave government officials and planners unprecedented ability to use terrain to further their social and political ends. An amazing revelation, especially since by the day Israel is becoming ever more stratified with barriers of all types and now has a terrain in which free movement is often impossible. But the authors seem to overstate their thesis that "Contrary to common belief and visual impression, it [Israeli space] was born not of haphazard improvisation, emergency solutions or speculative entrepreneurship, and certainly not of spontaneous diachronic development, but rather of the unprecedented objective of putting into practice one of the most comprehensive, controlled and efficient architectural experiments of the modern era." As often happens, the far-Left position on Israel mirrors the far-Right in dissimulating Israel's history by couching it in terms of a singularity. Much of the research presented in the book offers a great way to begin assembling a history of Israel, but unfortunately the authors do what is more expedient by allying themselves with an already articulated critique of Israel instead. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great Piece of Work By Doctor Sam This is a truly groundbreaking piece of work. The occupation in the West Bank is defined by Israeli architecture purposely ensnaring as much land as possible. The editors of this work did a great job compiling works proving this. Overall, highly recommended!

Bringing together essays and photographs by leading Israeli practitioners, and complemented by maps, plans and statistical data, *A Civilian Occupation* explores the processes and repercussions of Israeli planning and its underlying ideology. It demonstrates how, over the last century, planning and architecture have been transformed from everyday professional practices into strategic weapons in the service of the state, which has sought to secure national and geopolitical objectives through the organization of space and in the redistribution of its population. In fact, as the book shows, Israeli architecture has consistently provided the concrete means for the pursuit of the Zionist project of building a national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. As such, it is the first study to supplement the more familiar political, military and historical analysis of the Israel-Palestine conflict with a detailed description of the physical environments in which it is played out. The banning of the first edition of this book by its original publisher was proof, if any were needed, that architecture in Israel, indeed architecture anywhere, can no longer be considered a politically naive activity: the politics of Israeli architecture is the politics of any architecture.

From Publishers Weekly After winning a competition among 10 major firms, Israeli architects Segal and Weisman were selected to represent their country in last summer's World Congress of Architecture in Berlin, and put together an exhibition for which this book was to serve as a catalogue. Both exhibition and catalogue were banned, however, by the Israel Association of United Architects. After the 5,000 copies originally printed were suppressed (with the authors grabbing up 850 or so), Tel Aviv-based Babel picked it up, co-publishing with Verso. It is unlikely this 6.25" x 8.5" book will cause as much of a stir in the U.S., despite some arts pages coverage this past summer, but, among other contentions, it draws direct connections between government operations like "Defensive Shield" (here depicted as a bulldozer destroying a Palestinian house and dragging the rubble across a road) and the planning and design of Israeli settlements within the West Bank. In a series of 14 short, linked essays that include 25 color and 116 bw illustrations, more than 10 architects and photographers argue that, among other tactics, the hilltop locations of many settlements are part of a strategy for military domination that values the holding of high ground via civilians (often heavily armed) and the Army deployed to protect them. Whatever readers make of the provocative arguments here, they are made by qualified writers in an even-voiced, well-documented manner. Any discussion of the subject of the Israeli settlements—an issue deeply related to the siting of Israel's highly fortified "fence" between Israel and the West Bank—would be incomplete without considering them. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The Politics of Israeli Architecture undertook the first detailed examination of the spatial form of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, examining how their physical layout is informed by the politics behind them. Esther Addeley, Guardian *A Civilian Occupation* is a stinging critique of the Israeli architectural community's role in the rapid colonization of the Occupied Territories, particularly the West Bank. With strongly argued, detailed maps and dramatic aerial photographs, it shows how 800-plus Israeli settlements—architect-designed, strategically perched on hilltops and sealed to Palestinians—are the keys to government control of the Territories. Nick Rockel, *Adbusters* *A Civilian Occupation* is a damning study of the politics of settlement. The architects show how ancient techniques (seizing the nearest strategic hilltop) and modern ones (print advertising to entice settlers) have been combined to

accomplish what is, euphemisms notwithstanding, an imperialist campaign. Martha Schwendener, Art Forum

Metropolitics of horror: Globalization is certainly not the end of the world, but nevertheless, it seems like a journey to the center of the earth. In this hyper-center, everything is telescoped under the formidable pressure of media and events in a false proximity that has nothing real except its own communicative hysteria. All, all at once! That is today's axiom of globalization. Hence, instead of ancient geopolitics the territorial extents managing the necessary intervals of space between the states emerges a metropolitics of the instant where the clash is permanent. From now on, this axis of the world has only one name, Jerusalem, the holy city that became the suicidal resonance box of the new millennium ... Therefore, it is only logical that Israeli architects would wake up and revolt against the atrocities. But can we still listen to the builders, when the demolishers are recruiting everywhere, sometimes even among architects, as the example of one of the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks shows? Paul Virilio

This remarkable collection indicts, with remarkable clarity, the role played by architecture in both the politics and practices of occupation. It exposes the tragic dissonance between an architectural culture born of optimistic and ameliorative dreams and its now willing collusion in the ugliest of repressions ... A Civilian Occupation, in sadness and anger, points up the ultimate irony, the way in which those white colonies, so arrogant on their hilltops, simultaneously promote the ghettoization of Israelis and Palestinians both. Here, once again, the putative rationality of technocratic solutions proves to be its chilling banality a truly modern form of evil. Michael Sorkin

It is a disheartening destiny that, unlike the agricultural settlements of left-wing Zionism, these arrogant latter-day Israeli encampments have settled nothing, least of all the land itself. In a score of aerial photographs one can observe the paradox of suburban, hill-top fortresses, totally and utterly inimical to the culture of an ancient landscape ... As mentioned in this book, no future resolution of the conflict will ever be able to heal the scar inflicted by this tragic combination of political and topographic violence. Kenneth Frampton

The concept of building the state of Israel was long central to the Zionist dream. But after Israel's independence in 1948, the phrase took on a more literal meaning. A half-century later, this slice of history helps explain the intensity of a dispute currently dividing Israeli architects. Some argue that the architectural profession has, perhaps unwittingly, contributed to escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Others respond that architecture is neither political nor ideological and, as such, has nothing to answer for. Alan Riding, New York Times

An incriminating piece of work that shows how deeply implicated Israeli architects have been in the state's expansionism. Anne Karpf, Jewish Chronicle

The Israel Association of United Architects thinks that these ideas are not architecture. Uri Zerubavel, chair of the IAUA

About the Author Eyal Weizman is Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he directs the Centre for Research Architecture and the European Research Council funded project Forensic Architecture. He is also a founder member of the collective Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency (DAAR) in Bethlehem, Palestine. He is the author of *Hollow Land*, *The Least of All Possible Evils*, and co-editor of *A Civilian Occupation*. He lives in London. Described by *Le Monde* as a thorn in Israel's flank, Gideon Levy is a prominent Israeli journalist. For over twenty years he has covered the Israel-Palestine conflict, in particular the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, for the Israeli newspaper Haaretz in his column *Twilight Zone*.