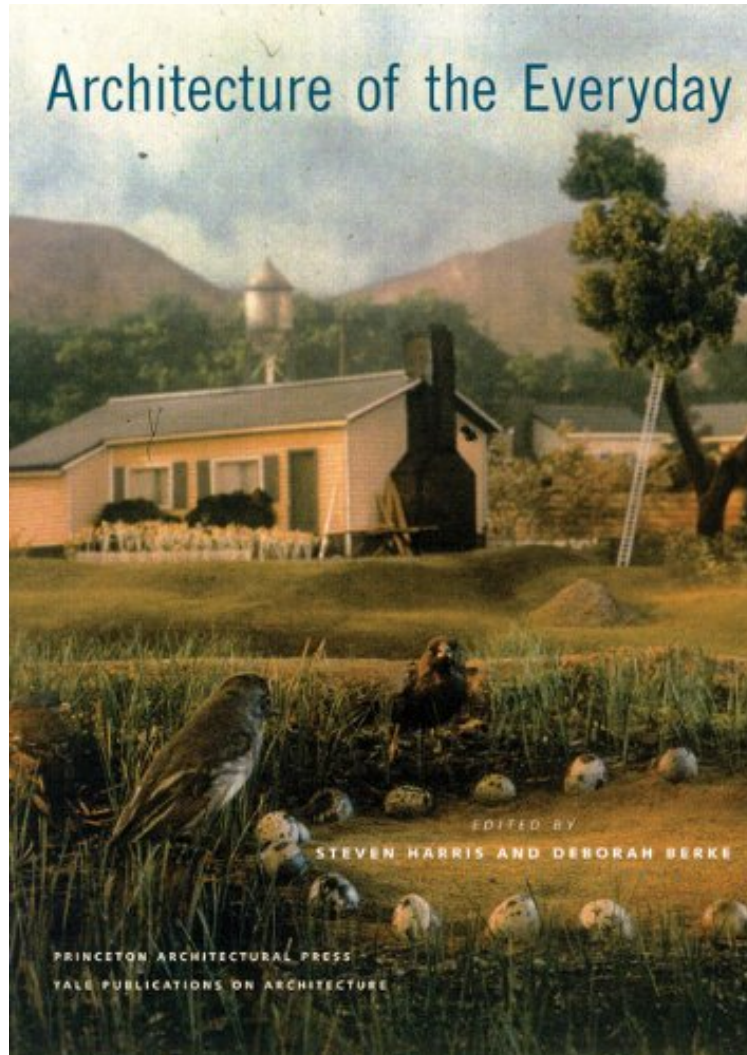


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Architecture of the Everyday

Steven Harris

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Steven Harris : Architecture of the Everyday before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture of the Everyday:

Ordinary. Banal. Quotidian. These words are rarely used to praise architecture, but in fact they represent the interest of a growing number of architects looking to the everyday to escape the ever-quickenning cycles of consumption and fashion that have reduced architecture to a series of stylistic fads. Architecture of the Everyday makes a plea for an architecture that is emphatically un-monumental, anti-heroic, and unconcerned with formal extravagance. Edited by

Deborah Berke and Steven Harris, this collection of writings, photo-essays, and projects describes an architecture that draws strength from its simplicity, use of common materials, and relationship to other fields of study. Topics range from a website that explores the politics of domesticity, to a transformation of the sidewalk in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo, to a discussion of the work of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. Contributors include Margaret Crawford, Peggy Deamer, Deborah Fausch, Ben Gianni and Mark Robbins, Joan Ockman, Ernest Pascucci, Alan Plattus, and Mary-Ann Ray.

""Architecture of the Everyday" edited by Yale professors and New York-based architects Steven Harris and Deborah Berke, demonstrates a more fiercely articulated political agenda in a collection of what are mostly obtuse, academic essays. Behind several of the essays is the argument that everyday or generic architecture, as lived in by most of us, resists capitalist demands to keep up with the Joneses. By limiting their discussion primarily to issues of class, the essayists-and the editors who chose them-have narrowly selected their audience." -- Architectural Record
For Steven Harris, design inspiration comes not from architectural icons but from "anonymous" buildings like barns, factories and sheds. Ergo "Architecture of the Everyday," the book he edited for Princeton Architectural Press. For the actor John Leguizamo, Harris designed an office using steel scaffolding and plastic wall panels. -- New York Times
About the Author
Deborah Berke and Steven Harris are currently associate professors of architecture at Yale University, and have their own practices in New York City.