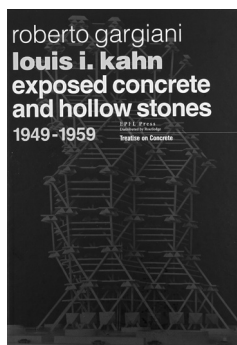
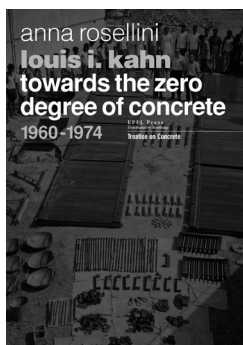


BOOK REVIEWS



Louis I. Kahn: Exposed Concrete and Hollow Stones 1949-1959

Author: Roberto Gargiani
 Publisher: EPFL Press. Distributed by Routledge.
 ISBN: 978-2-940222-76-6
 Language: English
 Year: 2014



Louis I. Kahn: Towards the Zero Degree of Concrete 1960-1974

Author: Anna Rosellini
 Publisher: EPFL Press. Distributed by Routledge.
 ISBN: 978-2-940222-77-3
 Language: English
 Year: 2014

Through sheer determination and courage, Kahn has researched the nature of concrete in the form of precast, cast in place or blocks. Each of his renowned works in exposed concrete, such as the Yale Art Gallery, the Richards Laboratories, the Bath House, the Salk Institute, the National Assembly, the Kimbell Museum, the Exeter Library and the Yale Center of British Art, is an important chapter in the history of architecture for the exploration into concrete's formal expression, beyond the lesson of Le Corbusier.

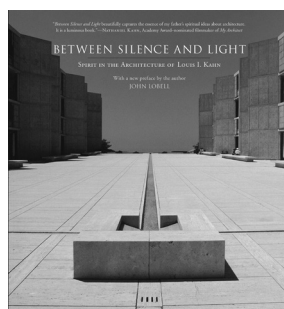
Kahn's obsession with concrete fabrication processes, on the formwork and the mix-design, is systematically examined in two volumes. They illustrate Kahn's vision with documents that have never been revealed in other essays, drawing heavily from original sketches, plans, specifications, worksite photographs, and

correspondences with collaborators, engineers, technicians and contractors.

The first volume *Exposed Concrete and Hollow Stones* focuses on the first 10-year period of Kahn's research on concrete. Moving through the many construction systems experienced by Kahn, from the discovery of exposed concrete in the form of *béton brut* at the Yale Art Gallery, to the precast and poured-in-place techniques, to the values of joint, growth and ornament, the essay culminates in the reconstruction of the artistic and technical characteristics of two great worksites, the Richards Laboratories and the First Unitarian Church and School.

The second volume *Towards the Zero Degree of Concrete* covers the following 14 years and leads the reader along Kahn's path to the true "nature of concrete", focusing on his main techniques and poetic discoveries such as the "liquid stone" of the Salk Institute, the "smooth finish" at Bryn Mawr, the expression of "growth" at the Dhaka Parliament and the concept of the "monolithic" at the Yale Center for British Art.

From the Publisher.



Between Silence and Light: Spirit in the Architecture of Louis I. Kahn

Author: John Lobell
 Publisher: Shambala Publications
 ISBN: 978-1-59030-604-8
 Language: English
 Year: 2008 [1979]

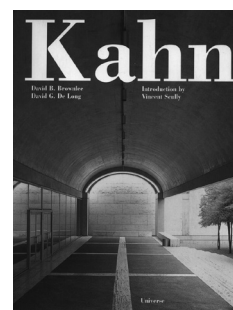
While a plethora of books is now available on Kahn, this volume published just five years after his death still offers a unique perspective. Author John Lobell focuses on the manifestation, in Khan's buildings and teachings, of the architect's belief "that there are realms that transcend our material lives, and that we can have access to these realms through architecture".

In the first part of the book, we hear from the great man himself on such matters as materials — "You say to Brick, 'What do you want, Brick?'" —, wonder — "the closest intouchness with your intuitive" — and of course, silence and light — "inspiration is the feeling of

beginning at the threshold where Silence and Light meet". In the second part, Lobell discusses Kahn's words in an essay entitled "Architecture as Spirit", while in the third, we see through photographs and plans how Kahn's spirituality was embodied in masterpieces such as the Salk Institute, Exeter Library, and Yale Study Center. The author concludes with a short biography.

Between Silence and Light is an accessible introduction to Kahn's wisdom and oeuvre, and the 2008 edition benefits from a new preface from Lobell as well as a list of additional resources. In a sea of publications arising in the 40 years since Kahn's passing, this "dialogue" between the modern master and his student Lobell remains a definitive work.

Laura Phelps



Louis I. Kahn: In the Realm of Architecture

Authors: David B. Brownlee
 and David G. De Long
 Publisher: Universe Publishing
 ISBN: 978-0-7893-0099-7
 Language: English
 Year: 1997 [1991]

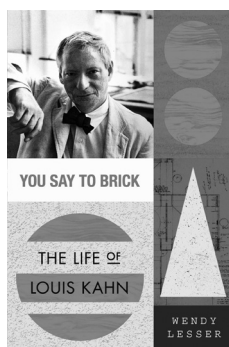
This condensed edition of *Louis I. Kahn: In the Realm of Architecture* is a definitive and richly illustrated volume that presents the oeuvre of one of this century's most influential practitioners, teachers, and thinkers in architecture. Here is the detailed account of the architecture and philosophy of Louis Kahn, whose buildings have become the very signature of the modernist aesthetic and whose vision permanently changed the direction of American architecture.

Kahn's career is documented here with meticulous attention to all aspects of his work—from his own fascinating biography to the unique philosophy that underlies his buildings to the structures themselves. The stunning range of Kahn's architectural vision becomes fully apparent: his structures are at once solemn and resonant, elemental and musical. Extraordinary, exclusively commissioned color photographs of his masterworks—the Yale Center for British Art, the National Assembly complex at Dhaka,

Bangladesh, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Indian Institute of Management, the Salk Institute – exquisitely demonstrate how Kahn’s architecture wholly reinvents space and light. In all, more than two hundred illustrations, including numerous drawings and floor plans, accompany the painstakingly researched text.

This volume – published in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and with the exclusive participation of the Louis I. Kahn Collection – contains six principal essays that critically address different dimensions and periods of Kahn’s architecture. The essays and photography are accompanied by succinct notes and captions, as well as a complete list of buildings and projects and an index, making this book the preeminent scholarly and illustrative source for Kahn’s architecture.

From the Publisher.



**You Say to Brick:
The Life of Louis Kahn**

Author: Wendy Lesser
 Publisher: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux
 ISBN: 978-0-374-27997-4
 Language: English
 Year: 2017

Wendy Lesser’s acclaimed biography of Kahn, published last year, has achieved a near-impossible feat: bringing serious writing on an architect and their work to a mass audience. Although there is much in *You Say to Brick* to appeal to those in the field, Lesser writes about the man and his masterpieces with universal appeal, avoiding a chronological account and allowing the recurrent themes of his personal and professional lives naturally to emerge.

The author conducted extensive original research, including interviewing Kahn’s descendants, colleagues and students, to produce an account of his life that still has the capacity to surprise. This is interwoven with shorter essays on the buildings considered to be Kahn’s “big five”: the Salk Institute, Kimbell Art Museum, Phillips Exeter Library,

the National Assembly of Bangladesh and Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad. Lesser made visits to each and presents not their specifications but their stories. It is made clear, through her engaging prose that highlights visual and human details, that they could only have come from the incomparable mind of Kahn.

Though *You Say to Brick* is portable, affordable, and emphasizes Kahn’s humanity – he famously anthropomorphized the material by asking how it would like to be used – the book also adds to a growing body of scholarly work on the beauty, but also the “contradictions and paradoxes” of the architect’s feted structures. More of its ilk would be welcome.

Laura Phelps



**Louis Kahn
The Power of Architecture**

Editors: Mateo Kries, Jochen Eisenbrand,
 Stanislaus von Moos
 Publisher: Vitra Design Museum
 ISBN: 978-3-931936-92-1; 978-3-931936-91-4
 Language: English; German
 Year: 2013

This catalogue was published on the occasion of *Louis Kahn – The Power of Architecture*, an exhibition of the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, in cooperation with the Architectural Archives of The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and the Netherlands Architectuurinstituut, Rotterdam.

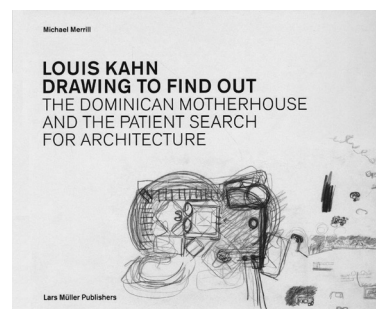
The American architect Louis Kahn (1901–1974) is regarded as one of the great master builders of the twentieth century. With complex spatial compositions, an elemental formal vocabulary and a choreographic mastery of light, Kahn created buildings of archaic beauty.

As the first comprehensive publication on this architect in 20 years, the book *Louis Kahn – The Power of Architecture* presents all of his important projects. It includes essays by prominent Kahn experts and an expansive illustrated biography with many new facts and insights about Kahn’s life and work. In a number of interviews, leading architects such as Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano, Peter Zumthor and Sou Fujimoto underline Kahn’s signifi-

cance in today’s architectural discourse. An extensive catalogue of works features original drawings and architectural models from the Kahn archive. The compendium is further augmented by a portfolio of Kahn’s travel drawings as well as photographs by Thomas Florschuetz, which offer completely new views of the Salk Institute and the Indian Institute of Management.

From the Publisher.

To know more about the exhibition, read the news section of this issue.



**Louis Kahn Drawing to Find Out:
The Dominican Motherhouse and the
Patient Search for Architecture**

Author: Michael Merrill
 Publisher: Lars Müller Publishers
 ISBN: 978-3-03778-221-7
 Language: English
 Year: 2010

Drawing to Find Out is a treasure trove of more than 200 documents and drawings produced by Kahn in the late 1960s, as he worked on his designs for the Dominican Motherhouse in Philadelphia. Although the convent was never built, his sketches – laid out chronologically, and summarized diagrammatically at the end of the text – offer a profound insight into Kahn’s preoccupations and methods. While they are arranged here to provide a narrative, with commentary from author Michael Merrill alongside each, in many cases the illustrations are also objects of beauty in their own right.

The book recounts a four-year journey, beginning with the architect’s first meetings with the sisters and ending with their rejection of his final scheme on financial and other grounds. En route we see the individual elements of Kahn’s convent, delicately drawn and collaged, combine in iteration after iteration as Kahn scales back plans to meet the sisters’ needs. The result is a fascinating glimpse into the mind of a man at the peak of his creative powers, or as Merrill calls it, “an intimate biography of an architectural idea”.

Laura Phelps

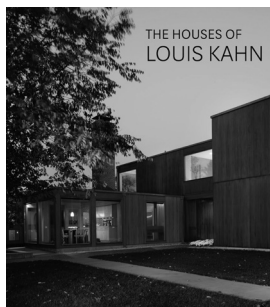


Louis I. Kahn and the Yale Center for British Art: A Conservation Plan

Authors: Peter Inskip, Stephen Gee and Constance Clement
 Publisher: Yale Center for British Art
 ISBN: 978-0-300-17164-8
 Language: English
 Year: 2011

The standing of the Yale Center for British Art as one of the world's great museums and study centers finds expression in its remarkable building, designed by Louis I. Kahn (1901–1974). In this important and innovative volume, two architects offer a plan to ensure the proper stewardship of the building in order to preserve its essence as a great architectural structure. Peter Inskip and Stephen Gee describe the design, construction, and subsequent renovation of the building; assess its cultural significance; analyze the materials that comprise it (steel, concrete, glass, white oak, and travertine); and shed light on its evolution over the four decades since it was built. Drawing on their extensive experience developing conservation plans for both historic sites and modern buildings, they propose a series of policies for the Center's conservation into the future.

From the Publisher.



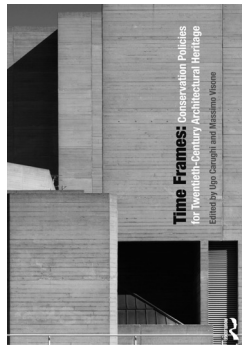
The Houses of Louis Kahn

Authors: George H. Marcus and William Whitaker
 Publisher: Yale University Press
 ISBN: 9780300171181
 Language: English
 Year: 2013

Louis Kahn (1901–1974), one of the most important architects of the postwar period, is widely admired for his great monumental works, including the Kimbell Art Museum, the Salk Institute, and the National Assembly Complex in Bangladesh. However, the importance of his houses has been largely overlooked. This beautiful book is the first to look at Kahn's nine major private houses. Beginning with his earliest encounters with Modernism in the late 1920s and continuing through his iconic work of the 1960s and 1970s, the authors trace the evolution of the architect's thinking, which began and matured through his design of houses and their interiors, a process inspired by his interactions with clients and his admiration for vernacular building traditions.

Richly illustrated with new and period photographs and original drawings, as well as previously unpublished materials from personal interviews, archives, and Kahn's own writings, *The Houses of Louis Kahn* shows how his ideas about domestic spaces challenged conventions, much like his major public commissions, and were developed into one of the most remarkable expressions of the American house.

From the Publisher.



Time Frames: Conservation Policies for Twentieth-Century Architectural Heritage

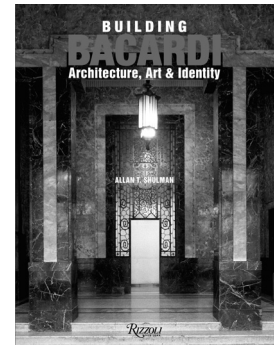
Editors: Massimo Visone and Ugo Carughi
 Publisher: Routledge
 ISBN: 978-1-47-248929-6
 Language: English
 Year: 2017

Time Frames provides a reconnaissance on the conservation rules and current protection policies of more than 100 countries, with particular attention to the emerging nations and twentieth-century architecture. The contributions illustrate the critical issues related to architectural listings, with a brief history of national approaches, a linkography and a short bibliography. The book also provides a short critical lexicography, with 12 papers

written by scholars and experts including topics on identities, heritages, conservation, memories and the economy. By examining the methods used to designate building as heritage sites across the continents, this book provides a comprehensive overview of current protection policies of twentieth-century architecture as well as the role of architectural history.

From the Publisher.

This publication has the institutional support of **docomomo** International, including a preface from the chair, Ana Tostões.



Building Bacardi: Architecture, Art & Identity

Author: Allan T. Shulman
 Publisher: Rizzoli
 ISBN: 978-0-8478-4748-8
 Language: English
 Year: 2016

Founded in 1862, the family-owned spirits company, Bacardi Limited, is best known for its trademark rum and the renowned red and black bat logo: "Any way you drink it... Bacardi rum is the mixable one". Parallel to the development of the spirits and the company's corporate identity, it was also a force in the development of avant-garde art and architecture.

Exceptionally illustrated, *Bacardi: Architecture, Art & Identity* is the first book exploring the 20th century architectural legacy of the company. Collecting a full range of vintage, diverse? and glamorous images, it tells the story of the iconic brand's interest in high design and how it was used to assert its corporate identity through buildings designed by the most varied renowned architects, from Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson to Caribbean and Mexican architects.

The story of Bacardi can't possibly be dissociated from the story of modern architecture, Cuban and Latin American history,

Pan-Americanism, and the role of marketing and branding in crafting identity.

Luísa Fernandes



100 Buildings

Project Manager: Eui-Sung Yi
Publisher: Rizzoli
ISBN: 978-0-8478-5950-4
Language: English
Year: 2017

An accessible primer to the most important architectural touchstones of our time by today's leading architects and teachers of architecture.

For this volume, over forty internationally renowned architects and educators – from Peter Eisenman and the late Zaha Hadid to Rafael Moneo and Cesar Pelli – were asked to list the top 100 twentieth-century architectural projects they would teach to students. The contributors were encouraged to select built projects where formal, spatial, technological, and organizational concepts responded to dynamic historical, cultural, social, and political circumstances. The capacity of these buildings to resist, adapt, and invent new typologies solidifies their timeless relevance to future challenges.

The result is presented here in this unique volume: a master list of the top 100 “must-know” built works of architecture designed and completed between 1900 and 2000. Ranging from houses and apartment buildings to museums and buildings for education and government, the book offers a wealth of

extraordinary works of design and construction and is an essential edition for anyone with an interest in architecture and design.

From the Publisher.

This publication has the institutional support of **docomomo** International and the participation of the Chair, Ana Tostões, on the selection of 100 20th-century buildings.

CONSERVING
MODERN
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An initiative of
The Getty Conservation Institute

Coming late fall 2018

CONCRETE: CASE STUDIES IN CONSERVATION PRACTICE

A new publication series from the Getty Conservation Institute featuring highly detailed and well-illustrated case studies demonstrating practical solutions to typical conservation issues affecting modern architecture.

Concrete: Case Studies in Conservation Practice (available late 2018)

The inaugural volume in the series, 14 case studies showcasing successful approaches to the types of deterioration affecting twentieth-century reinforced concrete.

Energy and Climate Management: Case Studies in Conservation Practice (available late 2019)

Balancing improvements in energy conservation and thermal comfort with the conservation of modern buildings

Learn more about the Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative:
http://bit.ly/conserving_modern_architecture

Image: National Theatre, London