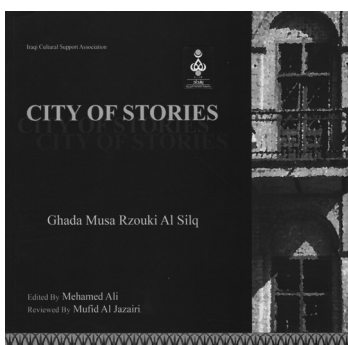


## BOOK REVIEWS



### City of Stories

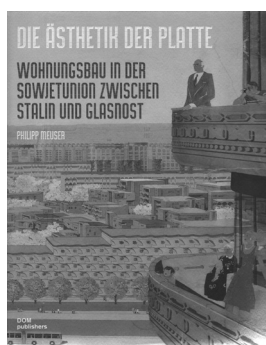
Author: Ghada Al Silq  
 Editor: Mehamed Ali  
 Publisher: Iraqi Cultural Support  
 Association  
 Language: English and Arabic  
 Year: 2011

*City of Stories* gives the reader a unique insight in the heritage of Baghdad, capital of Iraq. It pinpoints the duality of city development: on the one hand, economic development takes place, on the other hand its heritage needs to be conserved. Ghada Al Silq focuses on the latter by bundling 40 examples of the unique heritage of Baghdad. The book provides the reader a proper historical and spatial context in order to explain each example briefly in more detail and is accompanied by a large number of photographs. Furthermore, it engages with recent adjustments and rehabilitation actions.

In the end in the author's own words: "we need to [...] ensure that visitors and locals alike can cherish the beauty of the built landscape."

Ghada Al Silq is in charge of the recently established **docomomo** Iraq, approved last September 2016.

Julie Conradi  
 Collaborator of **docomomo** International



### Die Ästhetik Der Platte: Wohnungsbau in Der Sowjetunion Zwischen Stalin und Glasnost

Editor: Philipp Meuser  
 Publisher: DOM Publishers  
 ISBN: 978-3-86922-399-5  
 Language: German  
 Year: 2015

Housing built in the USSR between 1955 and 1991 is a contradictory theme barely noticed in recent research. Concerns and claims of this currently most comprehensive research on housing in the Soviet Union is a fitting tribute to this largest construction in the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century modern architecture. In addition to positioning mass housing in the historical context of Soviet modernity, this study defines 10 building parameters for the identification of housing types and applies them to the example of 3 selected cities in the former Soviet Union: Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent. *Die Ästhetik Der Platte* draws a new image of industrial housing construction in the USSR, which influenced not only the everyday life of more than 170 million Soviet citizens, but also the appearance of many cities from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok, up until this day.

Translated from the Publisher.



### Mix. Mixité Typologique du Logement Collectif de Le Corbusier à Nos Jours

Authors: Bruno Marchand  
 and Christophe Joud  
 Publisher: PPUR. Presses Polytechniques  
 et Universitaires Romandes  
 ISBN: 978-2-88915-064-9  
 Language: French  
 Year: 2014

There was never so much the question of diversity and, as a corollary, individualism in the architecture of housing. The cult of the self and the affirmation of otherness are parameters that have become widespread in recent decades and have contributed significantly to the recent evolution of lifestyles. In an attempt to meet the new aspirations of the inhabitants, architects explore the diversity of housing typologies within the same building or a limited set of buildings. This phenomenon is a historic anchor in several Corbusian projects of the 1920s and 1930s, just published, that already have the beginnings of visible combinatorial methods, even today.

This theoretical book also aims to analyze contemporary production, through a non-exhaustive series of well-illustrated examples listed according to their different procedures: from generic processes to the theoretical and ideological reflections that legitimize the different approaches of the typological diversity.

Translated from the Publisher.



**The Ortstockhaus  
in Braunwald: Rehabilitation  
and Renovation at 2016**

Editor: OSH Braunwald GmbH  
 Author: Althammer Hochuli  
 Architekten  
 Language: German  
 Year: 2015

For over 85 years the Ortstockhaus in Braunwald, Switzerland, by the famous architect Hans Leuzinger, has been enjoyed the lovers of mountain landscapes. (...) Since 2 July 2015, the Ortstockhaus in Braunwaldalp has been under new ownership. The former owner has retired and sold the property, as well as their shares in OSH Braunwald GmbH, to the new owner. (...) Particular attention has been given to the preservation and revival of its architectural qualities as the Ortstockhaus is an example of 1930s mountain building. The successful synthesis of regional building traditions and relationship to the landscape with new construction methods makes the Berghaus an important witness of modernity in the canton of Glarus. (...) The Ortstockhaus in Braunwald is considered one of the most important witnesses of modernity in the canton of Glarus.

Translated from the publication.



**Un Bâtiment, Combien de Vies?  
La Transformation comme  
Acte de Création**

Direction: Francis Rambert with Martine  
 Colombet and Christine Carboni  
 Publisher: Silvana Editoriale  
 ISBN: 978-8836629749  
 Language: French  
 Year: 2014

And what if we ceased systematically demolishing for building? After the Reconstruction led by the urgency of the post-war and the posterior “renovation-bulldozer” of the 1960-1970s inspired by the ideology of the tabula rasa, it’s time for the transformation of existent buildings and urbanized territories.

Facing the terrible reality of urban sprawl, a major consumer of natural areas, the city of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is seeking new and more compact models. Therefore, it is all a matter of reconquering, reappropriating, reusing and recycling. This urban renewal plunges us into the era of the superposition, the palimpsest, it opens up the field of reinterpretation, perhaps that of “reinvention”, so valued by Violet-le-Duc.

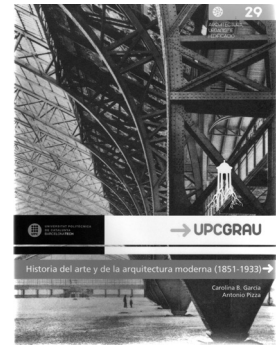
There is logic in transforming the built heritage, densification of the city comes from it and the reflection on sustainability leads to it. That is undoubtedly the new spatial, technical and programmatic experiment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in an economic equation necessary to be solved. “The sustainable is the transformable”, Christian de Portzamparc summarizes.

At a time of programmed obsolescence, the question of reprogramming arises with particular relevance. At first, attentions turn towards all those capable spaces from the industrial world (factories, gasometers, silos, warehouses...). However, within the diversity of today’s patrimonial offerings, the challenge is way more complex and concerns, in fact, every type of construction: from the railway station to the prison, from the church to the covered market, from the water tower to the office tower, from the garage to the tunnel, from the viaduct to the dry dock... Both architecture and infrastructures are affected

by this profound mutation.

This book, which accompanies the exhibition produced by *Cité de l’Architecture & du Patrimoine* in Paris, presents 72 projects selected in Europe, overcoming the requirement of the retrofitting of obsolete buildings or their rehabilitation to affirm the idea of transformation as a full act of creation. It is organized in 8 thematic sections, each one being introduced by an architect’s or a critic’s text on the issue of transformation, and proposes a chronological perspective at a global scale, setting the milestones of a 50-years evolution in the debate about transformation versus destruction.

Translated from the Publisher.

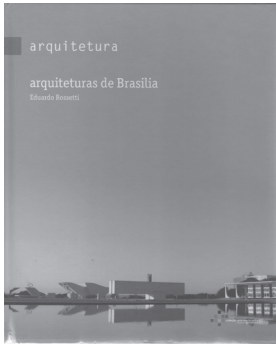


**Historia del Arte y de la Arquitectura  
Moderna (1851-1933)**

Authors: Carolina B. García, Antonio Piza  
 Publisher: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Iniciativa Digital Politècnica  
 ISBN: 978-84-9880-492-8  
 Language: Spanish  
 Year: 2015

The history of art and architecture, considered a closed corpus of theme specialization, in our opinion, has no reason to be. Thus, this publication addresses the present educational program addressing the years of modernity, not only the art and architecture of its time, but also urbanism, literature, philosophy, the economy and aesthetics, from a markedly interpretative point-of-view. Its main object of analysis is the “big city”, in a phase of irreversible metropolitanization: in urban environments, such as London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Moscow, Chicago and New York, it highlights the rich relationships between the new and the old, in contexts where traces of the past coexist with an imagined future.

Translated from the Publisher.



### Arquiteturas de Brasília

Author: Eduardo Rossetti  
Publisher: Instituto Terceiro Setor  
ISBN: 978-85-89834-19-3  
Language: Portuguese  
Year: 2012

The symbolic city of Brazilian modern architecture has its history told, in this publication, by the architect Eduardo Pierrotti Rossetti. The book is part of the collection *Arte em Brasília – cinco décadas de cultura*, which aims to fill the existing gap in the documentation of culture, art and sport in Brasília.

Translated from the Publisher.



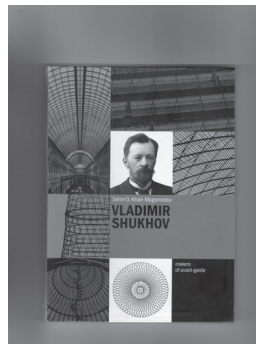
### Building Environment and Interior Comfort in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Architecture: Understanding Issues and Developing Conservation Strategies

Edited by Franz Graf, Giulia Marino  
Publisher: Presses Polytechniques et Universitaires Romandes  
ISBN: 978-2-88074-993-4  
Language: French and English  
Year: 2016

The notion of physiological comfort – meaning responses to temperature and humidity but also to lighting and acoustics – has been a driving force in architectural production throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Whether con-

cealed, embedded, exposed, or “featured”, building environment services have played a dominant role in architectural design. This book puts the spotlight on those paradoxically “bulky” yet “invisible” networks that accommodate our physiological needs. Coming from different disciplinary backgrounds, the authors look back over both the cultural and the material issues that have shaped modern and contemporary architecture’s pursuit of comfort by design. In addition, a number of recent, iconic restoration and renovation projects are presented here by the designers themselves. Seeking to strike the right balance between conserving modern built heritage and responding to today’s energy-saving paradigms, they demonstrate how the concept of material well-being, in the sense of today’s “sustainable comfort”, remains high on the agenda. And always at the heart of these reflections are the building services installations themselves.

From the Publisher.

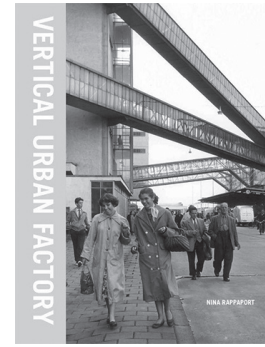


### Vladimir Shukhov

Author: Selim O. Khan-Magomedov  
Publisher: Sergey Gordeev  
ISBN: 978-5-43300-001-8  
Language: English/Russian  
Year: 2011

The book describes the creative work of Vladimir Shukhov, outstanding Russian engineer, whose name became famous not only due to his renowned radio-tower in Moscow but also thanks to his numerous designs, structures and patents opening a new era in using hyperboloid structures in the construction industry. His works had a significant impact on form-generation in avant-garde architectural concepts.

From the Publisher.



### Vertical Urban Factory

Author: Nina Rappaport  
Publisher: Actar Publishers  
ISBN: 978-1-940291-63-5  
Language: English  
Year: 2015

The 480-page hard-cover book focuses on the spaces of production in cities that are significant in their design and contribute to a vital urban environment. This book re-examines the modernist and contemporary factory and issues of labor in the city while provoking the future of urban manufacturing. It shows now that factories are cleaner and greener, smaller and taller, hybrid and flexible, they can be reintegrated into city life creating a new paradigm for a sustainable, mixed-use, and more self-sufficient industrial urbanism.

From the Publisher.

Organized in three sections (Modern, Contemporary and Future), *Vertical Urban Factory* provides a detailed history of design and factories and takes a sociological and economic approach by defining the role of industry in urbanism. Not only describes the book the past, it also sheds light on contemporary projects and even provides change-making sketches and proposals for the future.

The book is part of an independent project with the same name. Besides the publication, the project includes a traveling exhibition that aims to rethink factories as a sustainable factor in the city life.

Julie Conradi  
Collaborator of **docomomo** International

