

a selection of contemporary books on colour and architecture

Simon Texier

Accords chromatiques : histoires parisiennes des architectures en couleurs 1200-2010

Paris: Éditions du Pavillon de l'Arsenal, 2008

This catalogue explores the varied colour palette of the city of Paris, a city whose architecture is typically described as monochrome grey.

Jan de Heer

The Architectonic Colour: Polychromy in the Purist Architecture of Le Corbusier

Rotterdam: 010 Publishers, 2008

An account of Le Corbusier's development of a personal architectonic polychromy in the early 1920s and his subsequent ideas on natural polychromy and colour as ornament.

Mariet Willinge, Emmanuel Guigon,
Hans van der Werf

L'Aubette ou la couleur dans l'architecture

Strasbourg: Musées de Strasbourg, 2008

This book looks at the Aubette, an eighteenth-century building remodelled in the 1920s by Theo van Doesburg, Hans Arp, and Sophie Taeuber-Arp. Essays, correspondence and writing examine from diverse angles how we understand colour in this important De Stijl work.

Byron Mikellides

Colour for Architecture Today

London and New York: Routledge, 2008

A sequel to the influential *Colour for Architecture*, published in 1976, this book helps explain the role and impact of colour on urban spaces using examples from contemporary practice and colour theory.

Sherrie Levine

Salubra

Cologne: Jablonka Galerie/Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, 2007

Inspired by the "polychromie architecturale" created in 1931 by Le Corbusier for modern interior decoration, Sherrie Levine's *Salubra* focuses on the polyphony of "polychromie". Catalogue ed. by Kay Heymer

Barbara Nemitz, ed.

Pink: The Exposed Color in Contemporary Art and Culture

Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz Publishers, 2006

Pink: The Exposed Color in Contemporary Art and Culture is a wide-ranging cultural survey which explores the contrasting associations of rosy tints in high and low culture.

Hundertwasser

foreword by Ingeborg Flagge

Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Ein Sonntagsarchitekt: Gebaute Träume und Sehnsüchte

Frankfurt: Die Galerie and DAM, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, 2005

"A person in a rented apartment must have the possibility of leaning out his window and scraping off the masonry for as far as his hands reach. And he must be allowed to paint everything around pink as far as he can reach with a long brush, so that people can see from far away, from the street: a man lives there who differs from his neighbours." – Hundertwasser, 1958

Lisa Robertson

Occasional Work and Seven Walks from the Office for Soft Architecture

Portland: Clear Cut Press, 2003

This book documents a decade of recent transformations in the city of Vancouver. In this compendium, "How to Colour" by Lisa Robertson presents a history of the world from a perspective of surface and pigment.

David Batchelor

Chromophobia

London: Reaktion Books, 2000

The main premise of this book is that fear of corruption or contamination through colour lurks within much Western cultural and intellectual thought. Attempts to purge colour are many and varied, relegating it to the realm of the superficial, the supplementary, the inessential or the cosmetic.

Arthur Rüegg, ed.

Polychromie architecturale: Le Corbusier's Color Keyboards from 1931 and 1959

Basel and Boston: Birkhäuser, 1997

A reprint of the two collections of colours designed by Le Corbusier for the Salubra wallpaper company, the "Clavier de couleurs" of 1931. As in the original, tones are organized in such a manner that one could use a slider to isolate or combine different sets of colours. Each combination contains a different chromatic atmosphere, intended to produce a particular spatial effect.

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