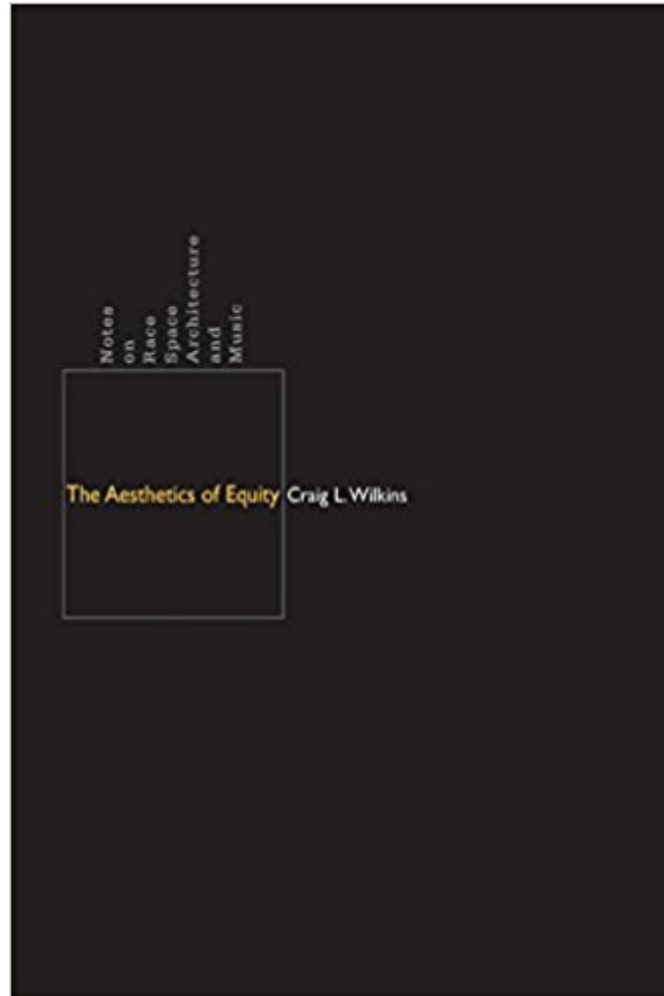


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The Aesthetics Of Equity: Notes On Race, Space, Architecture, And Music



Synopsis

Architecture is often thought to be a diary of a society, filled with symbolic representations of specific cultural moments. However, as Craig L. Wilkins observes, that diary includes far too few narratives of the diverse cultures in U.S. society. Wilkins states that the discipline of architecture has a resistance to African Americans at every level, from the startlingly small number of architecture students to the paltry number of registered architects in the United States today. Working to understand how ideologies are formed, transmitted, and embedded in the built environment, Wilkins deconstructs how the marginalization of African Americans is authorized within the field of architecture. He then outlines how activist forms of expression shape and sustain communities, fashioning an architectural theory around the site of environmental conflict constructed by hip-hop culture. Wilkins places his concerns in a historical context, and also offers practical solutions to address them. In doing so, he reveals new possibilities for an architecture that acknowledges its current shortcomings and replies to the needs of multicultural constituencies. Craig L. Wilkins, a registered architect, teaches architecture and urban planning at the University of Michigan.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press; 1 edition (October 26, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816646619

ISBN-13: 978-0816646616

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #277,977 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #164 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Criticism #702 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Architecture #1559 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > African-American Studies

Customer Reviews

A well written and informative book! Dr. Wilkins covers everything from the history of African American's in the field of architecture to the current educational model which has been appropriated from the *ecole des beaux arts*. As a student I see the merit of his argument everyday and it is an issue which needs to be brought up more in the educational field. Although the book is on the topic

of race and architecture it does a really good job covering some of the philosophical viewpoints of Foucault, and Locke with some very informative diagrams. The way the book is written is the real selling point for this book by covering an audience of academic professionals and everyday individuals; his "Remix" (rap style) summary sections are quite ingenious. Dr. Wilkins aggressive writing style is not out to make any friends in the profession and may set off some of this books potential readers but hes not out to make friends hes out to enact some systemic changes in the profession which are long overdue.

Refreshing and thought provoken, - an eloquent and comprehensive discussion regarding social justice and environmental design in response to contemporary urban culture.

Great book by an awesome author.

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