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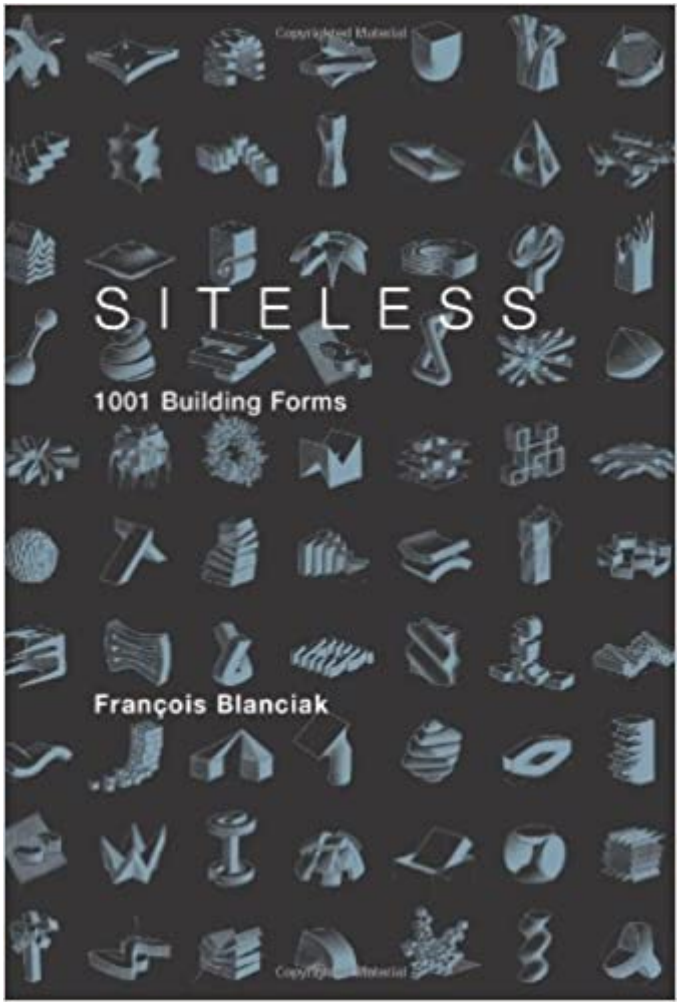
Siteless: 1001 Building Forms



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Synopsis

Some may call it the first manifesto of the twenty-first century, for it lays down a new way to think about architecture. Others may think of it as the last architectural treatise, for it provides a discursive container for ideas that would otherwise be lost. Whatever genre it belongs to, SITELESS is a new kind of architecture book that seems to have come out of nowhere. Its author, a young French architect practicing in Tokyo, admits he "didn't do this out of reverence toward architecture, but rather out of a profound boredom with the discipline, as a sort of compulsive reaction." What would happen if architects liberated their minds from the constraints of site, program, and budget? he asks. The result is a book that is saturated with forms, and as free of words as any architecture book the MIT Press has ever published.The 1001 building forms in SITELESS include structural parasites, chain link towers, ball bearing floors, corrugated corners, exponential balconies, radial facades, crawling frames, forensic housing -- and other architectural ideas that may require construction techniques not yet developed and a relation to gravity not yet achieved. SITELESS presents an open-ended compendium of visual ideas for the architectural imagination to draw from. The forms, drawn freehand (to avoid software-specific shapes) but from a constant viewing angle, are presented twelve to a page, with no scale, order, or end to the series. After setting down 1001 forms in siteless conditions and embryonic stages, Blanciak takes one of the forms and performs a "scale test," showing what happens when one of these fantastic ideas is subjected to the actual constraints of a site in central Tokyo. The book ends by illustrating the potential of these shapes to morph into actual building proportions.

Book Information

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Drafting & Presentation

Customer Reviews

Imagine Learning from Las Vegas as illustrated by Chris Ware, and you'll get a sense of FranÃƒÂ§ois Blanciak's marvelously inventive new book. (Metropolis)In Siteless: 1001 Building Forms, French architect FranÃƒÂ§ois Blanciak surrenders the usual anchors of function and site for an exercise in pure form. His astoundingly imaginative 1,001 designs could challenge architects and engineers for decades. (Santa Fe New Mexican)

FranÃƒÂ§ois Blanciak is an architect and Research Fellow at the University of Tokyo. He has worked for architectural firms in Los Angeles, Copenhagen, Hong Kong, and New York, with such architects as Frank Gehry and Peter Eisenman.

I received this book less than an hour ago and it blew my mind. I am an artist not an architect. Each little drawing is a wonderful perspective study. I will be using this book to copy, explore, and extend these forms. The only thing the drawings are missing are shadows, but I think this omission was on purpose to keep these forms truly siteless in the architectural sense.

Almost no text whatsoever if I remember correctly which isn't bad. It has very very interesting shapes. I seriously do not know what you can apply to those shapes but I use them to sketch and improve on my shadows and sketching. I bought it thinking it would inspire me to make some architectural models but that was not the case some of those shapes are very hard to make but as I get better at model making I will attempt them. (I just made my first model a couple of weeks ago so I am a beginner)Great shipping and quality of book.

bought mine during the summer. definitely worth to go through each form and try to develop a mini project out of that.The content in this book is extremely helpful in order to generate the initial massing during the design process. I'd definitely recommend this book for architecture students out there to check out this book.

I am an architecture student and whenever I get stuck on a project, I flip through this book to get some inspiration.

1001 kinds of masses are enough to make new ideas for architectural designHowever, It would be better to show more separated each mass of each one massto show the composition relation of them

Happy with shipping. Was what I wanted. Brand new

Just an amazing book and straight to point.

An architecture professor recommended this book years ago, but said that the author's love of Japan should be 'taken with a grain of salt'. However, Japan (Tokyo) is only the fourth of four sections. The first section is China (Hong Kong), the second section is England (London), and the third section is the Netherlands (Brussels). But, these names are deceptive. It is really a book of original illustrations, not history or lore. And in this way it marvelously succeeds.I love the way the miniature illustrations seem to permute, almost imperceptibly. Almost no one has been so successful with permutation. This effect has even inspired some of my own philosophical ideas, about systems and natures. It is a vastly technological book, in a very estimated sense. Almost nothing else has been so inspiring about the flight of ideas. If there is any danger, it is that this book cannot be written again. It's that precocious.

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