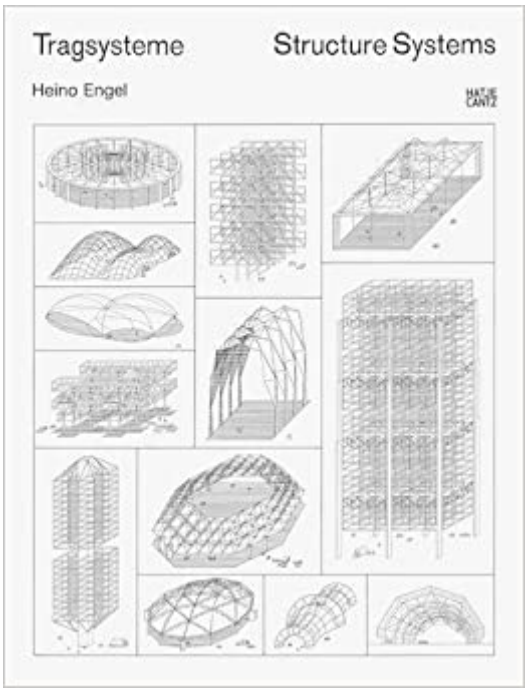
Structure Systems



Synopsis

Back in print--the standard work on Heino Engel’s structure systems. The hundreds of drawings and photographs reproduced in this hardback volume offer almost endless variations on the many structural systems that can keep buildings together: within a few pages of one another, tents, domes and cubes are shown supported by poles, cables, ribs, rafters and beams. Engel’s presentation and explanation of this highly complex material differs fundamentally from others’ work on the subject in that he focuses entirely upon the functions and design effects of these mechanisms, without regard for technical details: More than an engineering text, this is a catalogue of ideas and forms for architects and dreamers, a David Macaulay book for adults. Structure Systems skips over more commonly treated special designs and completed buildings for typical, representative and surprising shapes. As a reference work or daydream material, it is an indispensable repertoire of forms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Another reviewer mentioned that this book is the most important structures book for architects. I would agree, but do not necessarily agree that it cannot be read as a standalone book. There is a lot of intuitive insight that can be gained from this book with no prior learning, but the reader must pay close attention and have a very good idea of how to visualize forces and their impact on structures. Readers looking for a technical manual will be sorely disappointed as all the technical details are expected to be provided by the readers themselves.With that said, I was able to read this book without any formal knowledge of structural statics and grasp many of the concepts on the first

try. But coupled with hands-on structural learning material such as Form and Forces by Edward Allen and Waclaw Zalewski the information will become instantly powerful and applicable. In fact I would say Form and Forces and Structure Systems are the key pieces of a visual understanding of structures combined with the quantitative methods required to design and interpret structures. Start with Form and Forces, then after completing all the exercises therein, pick this up and read ALL of it. It is not just a guide for daydreaming or slick collection of nice line drawings - it is a user's manual for those bold and imaginative enough to use it as such.Many own it, few have really read it, and fewer still have actually used it. Be one of the latter and you'll blow people away.

This is ASTRONOMICALLY THE BEST architectural structures book of all time!! This is the second book for a serious architecture student or architect to buy after Deplazes' foundation book. My structures education was so frustrating because it was not VISUAL. I longed for a book like this 20 years ago!! But better than I could have ever imagined, this book is intensely visual, almost no numbers, instead an encyclopedic catalogue of structural spanning options in a maniacally ordered logic, drawn with a sweet German version of Ching's style. Just skimming this book several times will aquaint you with the logic, the systems, the options, and the breathtaking possibilities this great book throws at your feet. "Take that", it says, "and go do something great!"

Really like this book for the illustrations. explains different structure systems well and really helps you understand the difference between them. great for students and as a reference for continuing architects or engineers

Basic book for everyone, architects and engineers, who want to get to know the structures to compose a proper architecture.

It is a very simple way to understand how the structures function. Has a lot graphics that explain different structural systems.

great

Book about architectural structures, ..about basic principles underlying the invention of structures in order to show the design possibilities of structural systems..Approach of Heino Engel is unique, creative..it helps a lot, especially, begginers and students in understanding basic structural

principles, play of forces within structure and shows architectural potential of structural systems...to the architects and structural engineers it will give rich stimulus and new ideas for building design...Anyway, since its first edition in 1967, the concept of the book haven't changed much..there is neither one photograph of real structural system,....there are nice, clear and understandable graphics, but that's not enough..its obvious that mr Engel preferred surface active(shell structures) and form active systems(cable and tent structures),because sections regarding them are very well presented..which is not the case for frame and similar systems,that are overloaded with graphic, but poor and not so real examples, in some moments too advanced,unpractical and not so structurally sound..Big minus is bilingual publishing (one page in german and next in english) what makes it little bit difficult for reading..chosen handwriting font doesn't help either.

Lots of excellent diagrams illustrating structural systems. This book is an encyclopedia of structural diagrams for architects. Structural engineers will find it useful as well. The diagrams are explained quite well. The reader should have a sound understanding of basic structural behavior to fully appreciate this book. It's a picture book and not a book which explains any calculations. Excellent for bedtime reading and fantasizing.

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