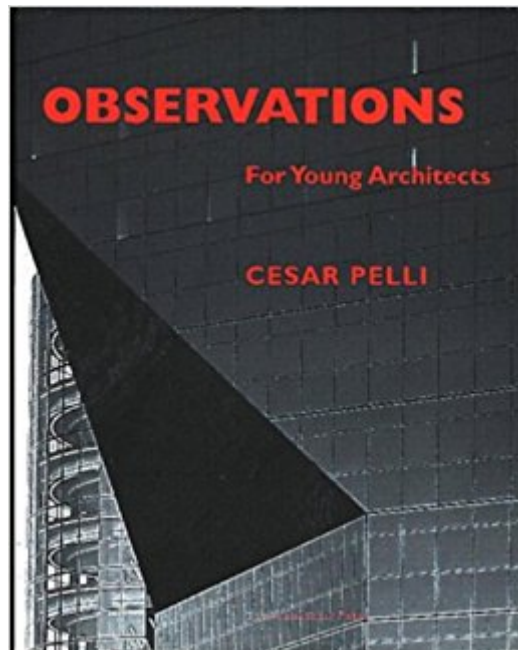




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Observations For Young Architects



Synopsis

World-renowned architect Cesar Pelli has distilled the wisdom and experience gained through many years of practice into this deeply felt book meant for those interested in or about to embark upon the profession of architecture. His passion and understanding for the richness and complexity of architecture is transmitted throughout this personal volume. Pelli discusses what it is that makes architecture unique among the arts: that it stands at the junction of a profession and an art, that its completion is final, that it is meant to be inhabited and taken over by its inhabitants. He bases his analysis on eight principal "connections": time, construction, place, purpose, culture, design process, constituency, and oneself. Each connection is discussed using historic and contemporary examples in both the text and illustrations. After the general discussion, Pelli turns to first-person commentary, using examples and illustrations from his own work, including such important buildings as Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (the world's tallest building), the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, and the World Financial Center complex in New York City. This heartfelt volume is both a practical account of the building of art and a lyrical reflection on the art of building. Guidebook, history, manual, it is truly an architectural autobiography with resonance far beyond the "young architects" for whom it is titled. Educated in Argentina and the United States,

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like a mentor dispensing wisdom to his disciples, architect Pelli prescribes for the student his ground rules for a modern architecture. The eight connections, or rules, through which he views

architecture--time, construction, place, purpose, culture, design process, constituency, and oneself--form a chapter here. Citing buildings designed by architects as well as more vernacular examples, Pelli aims to define the connections by telling us what he finds successful in each of his selections. Like architects' treatises from Vitruvius to Venturi, this is as much a platform for the promotion of Pelli's own work, which he immodestly describes in an italicized font. Unfortunately, Pelli does not tell us much that historians, such as Vincent Scully in *Architecture: The Natural and the Manmade* (LJ 10/1/91) or Spiro Kostof in *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals* (Oxford Univ., 1995), have not already expressed more eloquently. This volume also would benefit measurably from higher-resolution photographic illustrations, more complete figure captions, references to figures in the text, an index, and a bibliography. For architecture school libraries only.-Paul Glassman, New York Sch. of Interior Design Lib. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Cesar Pelli worked with Eero Saarinen for ten years before moving to Los Angeles to join the firms of Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall and, later, Gruen Associates. Pelli has always combined practice with teaching. From 1977 to 1984 he was dean of the School of Architecture at Yale University, and in 1977 he founded Cesar Pelli & Associates. Pelli received the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects in 1995.

In 200 pages or so and generously illustrated with photographs of his work, Cesar Pelli had summed up a lifetime of his own architectural insights. His thoughts are very pragmatic with a careful balance of theoretical insights. This book really shows how architecture should connect to our past, our present culture, and to our future. It reveals his design process and the way he envisions, plans, and designs his projects. It talks about how materials are related to architecture. His thoughts are incisive and demonstrate the importance of clear thinking in architectural work. In many ways, his book does not deal with all the academic architectural mumble jumble out there. It shows a very useful path for all "students" of architecture. I really wish more architects would write books like this one. Thanks Mr. Pelli!

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