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Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture

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Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture

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The second half of the 20th Century witnessed an outburst of theories and manifestoes that explored the possibilities of architecture: its language, evolution and social relevance. The many crises in architecture and emerging urban and ecological problems questioned the current orthodoxy: Modernism was criticised, questioned and overthrown, only to be extended, subverted and revivified. The result was a cascade of new theories, justifications and recipes for building. This anthology, first edited in 1997, brought together a coherent collection of texts that tracked these important shifts from all the major architectural thinkers and practitioners. In this new edition of the book, over twenty additional extracts are published that present an entirely new axis for architectural thinking.Whereas much of the 20th Century thought was dominated by the perceived crisis in Modernity, the new paradigm or complexity paradigm has been excited by the possibilities of Emergence in the Science of Complexity and Chaos theory.The reach of complexity is expressed through the primacy of Benoit Mandelbrot's theories on geometry, with an extract from his manifesto on fractals; and furthered through an outline of Emergence by Steven Johnson. It is also handled through texts that focus on the diagram and are demonstrated in its more applied form through passages dealing with the global city and culture. Essential for the student and practitioner alike, "Theories and Manifestoes" since its first edition has established itself as the touchstone book for architectural thought. It features seminal texts by Reyner Banham, Peter Eisenman, Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas, Colin Rowe and Robert Venturi. This is now ejected with greater currency with extracts from: Cecil Balmond, Foreign Office Architects, Daniel Libeskind, MVRDV, Lars Spuybroek, UN Studio and West 8.

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