

Books Received

Mary Catharine Johnsen (MCJ) and Victor Margolin (VM)

Alien Encounters: Popular Culture in Asian America. Edited by Mimi Thi Nguyen and Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007. ISBN 9780822339229 (pbk); 374 pages with 16 illustrations.

Interdisciplinary study of Asian Americans' varied interactions with contemporary popular culture as both creators and consumers, with essays on multi-media art, rap music, pulp fiction and cuisine.

Architecture for Humanity (Organization). *Design Like You Give a Damn: Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crisis.* New York, NY: Metropolis Books, 2006. ISBN 1933045256 (pbk); 333 pages; color illustrations, bibliographical references.

About eighty articles on design and construction of emergency housing and temporary dwellings for disaster victims.

Janet Abrams. *Else/where: Mapping New Cartographies of Networks and Territories.* Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Design Institute: Distributed by University of Minnesota Press, 2006. ISBN 0972969624 (pbk); 320 pages, colored illustrations and maps, bibliographical references and index.

On digital mapping and geographic information systems.

Les Ateliers d'Art de Courtrai de Coene Frères: 80 Ans d'Artisanat de d'Industrie Mobilier-Intérieurs-Architecture (The Coene Brothers Art Studios of Courtrai: 80 Years of Artisanry of the Furniture, Interiors, and Architecture Industry). Brussels: Le Livre Timperman, 2006. ISBN 9077723447. 255 pages. Color illustrations. In French.

This book recounts the history of the important Belgian furniture firm De Coene Frères. The firm has produced furniture in all the important styles of the past century from Art Nouveau and Art Deco to modernism. The book includes considerable material about the history of the company as well as its products. VM

James Aulich. *War Posters: Weapons of Mass Communication.* New York: Thames & Hudson, Inc., 2007. ISBN 9780500251416; 256 pages; chiefly illustrations (300+), index, bibliography.

Book accompanies exhibition of posters from WWI to the present, global in scope, jointly produced by Manchester Institute for Research and Innovation in Art and Design and London's Imperial War Museum. Project included cataloging and publication on the web of 10,000 posters: <www.iwm.org.uk> and <www.vads.ahds.ac.uk>

Stephen Bayley and Terence Conran. *Design: Intelligence Made Visible.* Richmond Hill, Ontario, CA: Firefly Books Ltd. 2007. ISBN 9781554073108 (hbk) 336 pages; index, chiefly color illustrations (300+)

Reference book of bright, crisp color photos of the canon of 20th century greats, global in scope. Sixty-page introductory essay.

Stephen Bowe and Peter Richmond. *Selling Shaker: The Commodification of Shaker Design in the Twentieth Century.* Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2007. Distributed in U.S. by University of Chicago Press. ISBN 9781846310096 (pbk); 414 pages, illustrated with a few fuzzy b/w photos, bibliography, index.

The authors examine the clash between modernism and nostalgia, cultural authenticity and marketplace demands as the world of art dealers and scholarship propelled Shaker art into its current popularity.

Olaf Breidbach and Robert Proctor. *René Binet: From Nature to Form.* London: Prestel, 2007. ISBN 379133784X (pbk.); 100 illustrations, 75 in color.

Reproduction of Binet's Art Nouveau Esquisses decoratives (1896) featuring ornamentation based on nature's forms; with introductory essays on history and context.

Lasse Brunnström. *Telefonen en Designhistoria (Telephones in Design History).* Stockholm: Atlantis: 2006. ISBN 917353109X (pbk); 352 pages. Black and white and color illustrations. In Swedish.

A history of the telephone that covers changes from the beginning up to contemporary mobile phones. An extensive text with ample illustrations. VM

Cheryl Buckley. *Designing Modern Britain.* London: Reaktion Books, distributed by University of Chicago Press, 2007. ISBN (pbk) 1861893221; 272 pages, 120 halftones, index.

History of 20th C design, modernity and identity in Britain. "Integral to a capitalist economy that was in transition, design provided an effective tool in Britain's self-fashioning..." —Introduction, p. 7.

Julie Campoli and Alex S. MacLean. *Visualizing Density*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2007. ISBN 1558441719; 152 pages, color photos, plans, diagrams + CD (4 3/4 in.)

The book was commissioned by the Institute to help planners, designers, public officials, and citizens better understand—and better communicate to others—the concept of density as it applies to residential developments.

Rob Carter, Libby Meggs, Sandra Wheeler, editors. *Meggs: Making Graphic Design History*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2008. ISBN 9780470008393 (hbk); 256 pages, color illustrations.

Collection of writings and biography of book designer, typographer, historian and educator who wrote the landmark 1983 *History of Graphic Design*, now in its fourth edition.

Design for the Other 90%. New York: Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, 2007. ISBN 0910503974 (pbk); 144 pages; color illustrations.

The catalogue of an exhibition at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York. The exhibition features design projects with a social orientation aimed at people in poverty or in distressing social situations.

Martin Eidelberg et al. *The Eames Lounge Chair: An Icon of Modern Design*. New York: Museum of Arts and Design, 2006. Organized and published by Grand Rapids Art Museum. Published in association with Merrell Publishers Ltd, London. ISBN 1858943027 (hbk); 192 pages. with 343 illustrations (145 in color).

Eames chair as a centerfold! Lovingly produced monograph to celebrate the chair's 50th anniversary (1956). Archival drawings and photos showing manufacturing of the chair. VM

Mitsui Fukuchi and Harvey J. Marchant. *Antarctic Fishes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007. ISBN: 0801886104; 136 pages, colored illustrations, maps.

Text by Mitsuo Fukuchi and Harvey J. Marchant; illustrated in the gyotaku method by Boshu Nagase.

Olga Goriunova and Alexei Shulgin. *Readme: Software Art & Cultures*. Aarhus: Digital Aesthetics Research Centre, University of Aarhus, 2004. ISBN: 8798844040 (pbk); 396 pages, illustrated; bibliographical references.

"Papers from the Software Art and Cultures Conference 23–27.08 2004, Århus."

Gordon S. Grice. *Shift: Positions*. Foreword by Ed Burtynsky. Toronto: OCAD Student Press, 2007. ISBN 9780978327804; 168 pages; bw illustrations.

A series of essays by students at the Ontario College of Art and Design on topics related to design research and the multidisciplinary nature of design practice and education. VM

Raymond Guidot. *Industrial Design Techniques and Materials*. Paris: Flammarion; London: Thames & Hudson [distributor], 2006. ISBN 2080305190 (hbk); 351 pages, illustrated, bibliographical references, index.

Small schematic drawings of manufacturing processes. Good photos of machines in use and samples of products made by various techniques. Good introduction for beginning students.

Robert W. Harris. *The Elements of Visual Style: the Basics of Print Design for Every PC and MAC User*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. ISBN: 0618772456; 177 pages, illustrated.

Handbook on printing layouts, desktop publishing, typography and design.

In Pubblico: Azioni e Idee degli Anni Settanta in Italia (In Public: Actions and Ideas of the 1970s in Italy).

Curated by Matteo Focessati, Mario Piazza, Sandra Solimano. 142 pages. Color and black and white illustrations. In Italian.

The catalog of an exhibition of Italian arts in the 1970s. Media include painting, sculpture, video, photography, and furniture and graphic design. Much of the work exemplifies radical cultural and political activities and the exhibition as a whole provides an overview of the ferment in Italy's art community during that period. VM

John Jennings. *Findings. Eye Trauma Comix, 2006*. (www.eyetrauma.net); 127 pages, color illustrations.

A self-published book of drawings, posters, graphic narratives, and other visual projects by John Jennings, an African-American artist and design educator. VM

Roger S. Keyes. *Ehon: The Artist and the Book in Japan*. Seattle: New York Public Library, published in association with University of Washington Press, 2006. ISBN 0295986247 (hbk); 320 pages with 249 color illustrations.

Book by the recently retired curator to accompany *major* exhibit on Japanese illustration techniques and genres at the New York Public Library with over 200 items spanning more than ten centuries.

Kalle Lasn. *Design Anarchy*. Vancouver: Adbusters Media Foundation, 2006. Distributed in the U.S.A. by D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers, New York. ISBN 0974680095; 418 pages with 316 illustrations (250 color.) and folded insert with 157 reference illustrations in pocket.

Look at this book a little each day; jolt awake; think and do something to improve the quality of life and design of communications.

Leo Lecci, ed. *Filippo Romoli: Manifesti d'Artista, 1928–1968 (Filippo Romoli: Posters of the Artist, 1928–1968)*. Genoa: Fondazione Carige, 2006; 135 pages; color illustrations.

This book chronicles the long career of Filippo Romoli, a poster artist from Genoa who has received far less attention than his peers. It consists mainly of poster images, which are preceded by a short biographical essay. VM

Ross Lovegrove. *Supernatural: The Work of Ross Lovegrove*. London: Phaidon, 2007. ISBN 0714847801 (pbk); 240 pages, colored illustrations, bibliographical references and index.

Originally published in 2004. Only monograph on prolific British designer. His recent work illustrates his “organic essentialism” of fluid aesthetics from the natural world reshaped into futuristic forms in new materials using up-to-date production methods. (Intriguing products, but poorly made book with important images spread on two pages with data lost in the gutter. MCJ)

Tomás Maldonado. *Digitale Welte und Gestaltung: (Digital Worlds and Design)*. Edited and translated by Gui Bonsiepe. Basel, Boston, Berlin: Birkhäuser Verlag, 2007. ISBN 102764278220; 412 pages, in German.

A collection of essays by a leading design educator and theorist. Maldonado was a former professor and then director of the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Ulm, Germany, and subsequently a professor in Bologna and then the Milan Politecnico. Though originally from Argentina, Maldonado published in German while at Ulm but most of his later writings appeared first in Italian. The essays in this book address themes related to technology, architecture, and design. Gui Bonsiepe was a student and then a colleague of Maldonado's at the HfG. VM

Diane Milliot. *José Guadalupe Posada and the Mexican Broadside*. Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago; New Haven: Distributed by Yale University Press, 2006. ISBN 0300121377 (pbk); 40 pages, [6] pages of plates (folded), color illustrations. English and Spanish.

“Published in conjunction with a two-part exhibition organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and presented from June 24–September 25, 2006, and October 7, 2006–January 17, 2007.”

Petra Cerne Oven, ed. *Edward Wright: Readings, Writings*. Reading: Department of Typography & Graphic Communications, University of Reading, 2007. 63 pages.

A small publication that accompanies an exhibition of work by the British graphic designer Edward Wright. The book includes writings by Wright as well as brief essays about him by scholars and colleagues such as Robin Kinross, Joseph Rykwert, Theo Crosby, and Ken Garland. VM

Jill Pearlman. *Inventing American Modernism: Joseph Hudnut, Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus Legacy at Harvard*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2007. ISBN 0813926025; 288 pages, b/w illustrations.

Author, who teaches history of architecture and urbanism at Bowdoin College, examines the interaction of the shapers of architectural education at Harvard's Graduate School of Design from the late 1930s to early 1950s.

Woodrow Phoenix. *Plastic Culture: How Japanese Toys Conquered the World*. Tokyo; New York: Kodansha International, 2006. ISBN 4770030177; 109 pages, color illustrations.

Chapters on toys in the postwar period, character merchandising and mascots, vinyl, toys as art and in the mainstream.

Revistas y Guerra, 1936–1939 (Magazines and War, 1936–1939). Madrid: Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, 2007. 383 pages; color illustrations. In Spanish.

The catalogue of a large exhibition dedicated to the journals and reviews published during the Spanish Civil War. It features extensive color reproductions along with an informative text (also translated into English) and an extensive bibliography. VM

Lucienne Roberts. *Drip-dry Shirts: The Evolution of the Graphic Designer*. Worthing: UK: AVA Publishing, 2006. ISBN 2940373086 (pbk); 192 pages, 200 color images.

History of 20th century graphic design through highly illustrated interviews with Wim Crowel, Milton Glaser, Karl Gerstner, Ken Garland and Rosmarie Tissi.

Nancy N. Schiffer. *Knoll Home & Office Furniture*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Pub., 2006. ISBN 0764323954; 312 pages, chiefly illustrations, bibliographical references, index.

Complete documentation of Knoll's modern furniture from 1938–2005 including designer, years of design and manufacture, materials and dimensions. Also reproduces designer drawings and old marketing photos from the archives.

Dan Schiller. *How to Think About Information*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007. ISBN 0252031326 (hbk); 267 pages. Considers commodification, convergence and transnationalization in the culture industry, and questions about China, information, and the world economy.

Paul Schilperoord. *Future Tech: Innovations in Transportation*. London: Black Dog, 2006. ISBN 1904772439 (pbk); 192 pages, illustrated.

Technological innovations in transportation.

Jill Scott. *Artists-in-Labs: Process of Inquiry*. Zürich: HGK; Wien; New York: Springer, 2006. ISBN 3211279571; 136 pages, bibliographical references, chiefly color illustrations + 1 DVD (4 3/4 in.).

Thirteen artists-in-labs projects in physics, life sciences, and engineering labs.

Bonnie Kime Scott, editor. *Gender in Modernism: New Geographies Complex Intersections*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2007. ISBN 0252031717 (hbk) 02520741811 (pbk); 872 pages, illustrated.

Anthology of 21 essays of chiefly history and literary criticism with sections on the current major issues. Supplemental but useful to help designers understand various contexts of gender issues such as film, dance, medicine, war, race, journalism, etc.

Stanley Tigerman, editor. *The Archeworks Papers, Volume 1, Number 4*. Chicago: Archeworks, 2007. ISBN 0975340557; 45 pages.

Fourth of a series of annually commissioned lectures by independent scholars; this volume features Annie Pedret's paper "Beneath Ethics: Love, Being, and Non-action" with three responding essays.

Edward R. Tufte, *Beautiful Evidence*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 2006. ISBN 0961392177; 213 pages, maps, diagrams, photos, bibliographical references, index.

Tufte, sociologist, statistician and professor at Yale, champions good visualization of information, explains "sparklines" (intense, simple, word-sized graphics) and strongly discourages use of "chartjunk" and presentation graphics packages.

Eyal Weizman. *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*. London: Verso, 2007. ISBN 1844671259 (hbk); 318 pages, maps, bibliographical references, index.

On geopolitics, colonization, urban warfare, and land settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Author is Director, Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmith's College, University of London.

Gareth Williams. *The Furniture Machine: Furniture Since 1990*. London: V&A; New York: Distributed in North America by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2006. ISBN 1851774947 (hbk); 174 pages, colored illustrations, bibliographical references, index.

Twelve brief biographies of major furniture designers: Bey, Wanders, Morrison, Grcic, Newson, Dixon, Arad, Pesce Droog Design, Duune & Raby, Moss and I. Crawford. Six chapters on appropriation, new functionalism, neo-pop, material experiments, design manifestos, and lifestyle industry. Well-chosen images.

Michel Wlassikoff. *The Story of Graphic Design in France*. Corte Madera, CA: Gingko; Enfield: Airlift [distributor], 2005. ISBN: 158423220X (hbk); 356 pages, color illustrations.

Thoroughly covers the centuries between 1500–2005 in eight chapters, but the book is chiefly well-chosen images. Essential.

Ghislaine Wood, ed. *Surreal Things: Surrealism and Design*. London: V&A Publications, 2007. ISBN 9781851775002 (hardback). 362 pages; color and black and white illustrations.

The catalogue of a stunning exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum, which brought together furniture, fashions, interiors, stage design, and graphic design—all influenced by Surrealism. Featured in the catalogue are a number of scholarly essays on topics that will be new to most readers, along with extensive reproductions of objects in color and black and white.

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