



Reading Kenneth Frampton

A Commentary on 'Modern Architecture', 1980

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Provides novel insights into the significance of Frampton's historiography of modern architecture.

"The book is a critical unraveling of Frampton's ideas; his use of Walter Benjamin, Hanna Arendt and Martin Heidegger, which the author elegantly analyzes. It is well structured and written. The approach (starting with the importance of epigraphy), the selection of key themes (the cultural, technical and territorial), and the close readings, are convincing and strong. The book speaks to Frampton's ongoing critique of contemporary architecture culture. Hartoonian's book is a timely contribution to this ongoing debate." —Patricio del Real, Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University, USA

"Kenneth Frampton is unquestionably one of the most influential and original architectural thinkers of the last hundred years. Now in its fifth edition, his *Modern Architecture: A Critical History* remains a mainstay in architecture schools and design offices around the world. In this brilliant study, Gevork Hartoonian offers us a lucid and in-depth account of the authors who shaped Frampton's thinking, from Walter Benjamin to Hannah Arendt. He also gives us a compelling interpretation of Frampton's engagement with leading protagonists of the modern movement, from Le Corbusier to Louis Kahn, from Ludwig Mies van der Rohe to Alvar Aalto. This book is necessary reading for students of postwar architectural thought, as well as for those seeking a deeper understanding of the debates and ideas shaping architecture today." —Nader Vossoughian, Associate Professor, Architecture, New York Institute of Technology, USA

This book focuses on the first edition of Kenneth Frampton's *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, published in 1980. It searches for clues and positions that will provide the reader with an unprecedented insight into the significance of Frampton's historiography of modern architecture.

Contents

Introduction, Chapter 1: The Violence of Quotation; Chapter 2: A Trilogy; Chapter 3: The Vicissitudes of a Critical History; Chapter 4: In Defence of Architecture; Chapter 5: The Agency of Critical; Chapter 6: Aalto Contra Mies: A Conundrum?; Chapter 7: From Critical to Resistance; Postscript.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Gevork Hartoonian is Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Canberra, Australia. He is the editor of *The Visibility of Modernization in Architecture: A Debate*, (Routledge, forthcoming) and the author of *Time, History and Architecture* (Routledge 2018), and *Ontology of Construction* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), among other volumes.

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