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Concrete Concept: Brutalist Buildings Around The World



Synopsis

No modern architectural movement has aroused so much awe and so much ire as Brutalism. This global survey profiles 50 brutalist beasts around the world (built between the 1950s to 1970s), and demonstrates how Brutalism infected popular culture. This is architecture at its most assertive: compelling, distinctive, sometimes terrifying. But, as Concrete Concept shows, Brutalism can be about love as well as hate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A breathless love letter to a disappearing epoch. This funny, smart and beguiling book will make you want to jump on a plane before it's too late." "A snappy and surprising read. The expansive selection of buildings and waggish commentary help take apart tired definitions and break open the prematurely closed canon of brutalist architecture." "This is not a worthy but dull architecture book. This is not a coffee table statement. Yes, it looks beautiful. Yes, you'll seem sophisticated for owning it. But shockingly, it's also insanely engaging. Beanland's commentary is fast-flowing, smart and very funny. Exactly what you want from a book about concrete." "A witty, high-adrenalin, concrete-fuelled mega-tour of some of the world's unfairly maligned 'monstrosities'. Concrete Concept is a gutsy, bombastic love song." "This tour around some of the world's great buildings is a treat for any brutalist architecture fan." "The text of this book, which profiles 50 brutalist beasts, is witty, lively and informative. The numerous photographs are first class. Concrete Concept gave me new eyes." "we'd suggest leafing through

Christopher Beanland's Concrete Concept, a dazzlingly shot whistle-stop of the much-maligned style's greatest hits ... the book showcases the confidence, clarity and historical importance of the movement. "The buildings chosen by Beanland truly evoke their period and each have something to say to us today." 'a fine slab of brutalism... it's a belter.' A simply must have book for any fan of Brutalist architecture' "Concrete Concept... celebrates so-called brutalist buildings across the world" "Brick-like new tome Concrete Concept demonstrates the unexpected serenity of some of the world's greatest Brutalist buildings ... Open the pages up and you'll be greeted by light, cheerful photographs and an accessible, tongue-and-cheek commentary." "a surprisingly light-weight book that provides us a visual world-tour of tortured edifices." "It's a fascinating glimpse into an area of architecture where abstraction seems to solidify into cold, hard - and sometimes beautiful - reality." "a lively journey around the world's brutalist buildings." "Concrete Concept reinforces our love for all things grey, textured and modern." "a wholesome first introduction to the wonderful world of concrete brutes for those yet uninitiated" "An almanac of fashionably extreme concrete" "An almanac of fashionably extreme concrete" - Financial Times "A wholesome first introduction to the wonderful world of concrete brutes for those yet uninitiated" - Icon "A snappy and surprising read. The expansive selection of buildings and waggish commentary help take apart tired definitions and break open the prematurely closed canon of brutalist architecture." "Concrete Concept reinforces our love for all things grey, textured and modern." "a lively journey around the world's brutalist buildings."

CHRISTOPHER BEANLAND lives in London and writes about architecture, culture and the arts for newspapers including The Independent, Guardian, Telegraph and various magazines around the world. He's also written two novels.

The only reason I didn't give it five stars was that the book, as presented, is already showing signs of wear and tear. As a book, not well designed. A great introduction to Brutalist architecture with, perhaps, a little too much emphasis on England.

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