

Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment

By Henri Lefebvre



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Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment is the first publication in any language of the only book devoted to architecture by Henri Lefebvre. Written in 1973 but only recently discovered in a private archive, this work extends Lefebvre's influential theory of urban space to the question of architecture. Taking the practices and perspective of habitation as his starting place, Lefebvre redefines architecture as a mode of imagination rather than a specialized process or a collection of monuments. He calls for an architecture of jouissance—of pleasure or enjoyment—centered on the body and its rhythms and based on the possibilities of the senses.

Examining architectural examples from the Renaissance to the postwar period, Lefebvre investigates the bodily pleasures of moving in and around buildings and monuments, urban spaces, and gardens and landscapes. He argues that areas dedicated to enjoyment, sensuality, and desire are important sites for a society passing beyond industrial modernization.

Lefebvre's theories on space and urbanization fundamentally reshaped the way we understand cities. *Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment* promises a similar impact on how we think about, and live within, architecture.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Stanek's work has already taken scholarship on Henri Lefebvre's concept of space to an unprecedented level of philosophical sophistication. With the discovery of this new text, Stanek escorts Lefebvre to the center of architecture theory since 1968. Lefebvre's conceptual text and Stanek's exquisite Introduction together enable the possibility of thinking not about architecture, but thinking *architecturally* about how we inhabit our world. *Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment* takes us toward a concept of the architectural imagination that is a powerful mediator between thought and action."—K. Michael Hays, Harvard Graduate School of Design

"We finally have access to [Henri Lefebvre's] most forceful meditation on the spatial utopia he aspired to. We owe the rescue and publication of this notable book to the perseverance and talent of Lukasz Stanek, who wrote the volume's excellent and comprehensive introduction."—*Environment & Planning D: Society and Space*

"A work that is profound, relevant, and important."—Canadian Journal of Sociology

"This book, which focuses on architecture and redefines it. . . according to Lefebvre, architecture should work towards enjoyment and against aestheticism."—*Finnish Architectural Review*

"Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment not only provides critical insight into Lefebvre, whose impact is still palpable, but reveals new connections between his ideas and design and, ultimately, capitalism and the built environment."—Buildings & Landscapes

From the Back Cover

""His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..."" Ephesians 3:10

Churches have been uniquely called to impact our society for good.

In this book, Dr. Tony Evans moves beyond looking at "why" the racial divide and offers "the solution" we have all been looking for to bring about racial unity in our country and restoration to our communities. Unveiling a proven local model for the church he shows how when believers come together with a common goal and purpose our communities and ultimately our nation can be transformed.

About the Author

Henri Lefebvre (1901–1991) was a Marxist philosopher and sociologist. His many books include *The Right* to the City, The Production of Space, Everyday Life in the Modern World, and The Urban Revolution (Minnesota, 2003).

?ukasz Stanek is lecturer at the Manchester Architecture Centre, University of Manchester, and the author

of Henri Lefebvre on Space: Architecture, Urban Research, and the Production of Theory (Minnesota, 2011).

Robert Bononno, a teacher and translator, lives in New York City. His recent translations include *Speech Begins after Death* by Michel Foucault (Minnesota, 2013) and *Cosmopolitics I* and *II* by Isabelle Stengers (Minnesota, 2010–11).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jose Jones:

Now a day folks who Living in the era where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not involve people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment book because book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

James Brown:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a guide. The book Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

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Earl Parker:

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