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Roomscapes: The Decorative Architecture Of Renzo Mongiardino



Synopsis

The glorious, deft hand of design maestro and magician Renzo Mongiardino sparkles in this new edition of the 1993 classic *Roomscapes*, now bought by collectors for hundreds of dollars. From elegant palazzo residences to magnificent city apartments, this edition is a surpassing revisit of Mongiardino's work as told by the architect himself, and will be much coveted by devotees and new admirers alike. Features include: 115 new images and 175 images from the earlier volume completely digitally re-mastered. A total of 290 images as compared to 225 in the 1993 edition. A completely new layout. All new and expanded captions. A new section of 14 sketches, printed on special paper. An index for both houses and names. Edited by Francesca Simone, Mongiardino's niece. A preface by the renowned art historian, Giovanni Agosti. This beautiful testament to Mongiardino's imaginative creations, showcases the magnificent rooms he re-shaped and decorated in ancient Italian and Parisian palaces, English houses, and New York apartments with important text that analyzes space, function, decoration and lighting of rooms. It is meant as a guide to conceive spaces that are inhabited through time and by time. Sketches, drawings, and models by Mongiardino, next to the images of the finished rooms, make the creative process clear and showcase his extraordinary ability and taste. Contents Include: Preface by Giovanni Agosti and Introduction. Part one: The genesis of a room; Sketches; Chapter one: Space, measure, and models; Chapter two: The function of a room and its appearance; Chapter three: Decoration: ways to invent it, transform it, correct it; Chapter four: Decoration and the appeal of the exotic. Part two: Illusion: the eye deceived; Chapter five: Materials and the simulation of materials; Chapter six: The birth and development of perspective; Conclusion. Appendix: 16 unpublished sketches by Renzo Mongiardino.

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Customer Reviews

Mongiardino still elicits instant reverence. With his alchemic blurring of eras, the sheer scope and commitment of his massive projects and insistence on valuing ambience above so-called authenticity, he attained mythic stature. - --The New York Times Style Magazine, April 6, 2016 (from a sixteen-page full-color cover story.)

RENZO MONGIARDINO, born in Genoa in 1916, was one of the world's most renowned designers of the 60s, 70s and 80s, and remains highly influential. Although trained as an architect, and at a time when modernism ruled design, Mongiardino found inspiration in the likes of Bernini, Piranesi, Palladio, and the theater. He counted among his clients Gianni Agnelli, Lee Radizwill, Gianni Versace, Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza, Rudolf Nuryev, Valentino, and Baron Guy de Rothschild. Equally at home in the world of performance, he collaborated with Franco Zeffirelli on many films, including *The Taming of the Shrew* with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton; and designed the set for Maria Callas's triumphant return to opera in *Tosca* at Covent Garden. He died in 1998 at the age of 82.

Nice book. Great customer service by when first copy arrived damaged. More sketches than I expected and fewer photographs but good anyhow.

Spectacular

I won't pretend to be a Mongiardino scholar, I simply picked up the original 1993 edition because I was fascinated by his interiors and this review is simply comparing the two editions. I have both editions in front of me and I think the earlier edition was better. I prefer the softer tonal qualities of the photographs. This new edition has removed some of the photos that have "dated" over the course of some 25 years. The new additions have emphasized the designer's timeless and they do add some additional insight to his vision. In some cases, the editors have simply reversed the original negative to make the photos appear fresh. In other cases, they have selected different angles from the original photo shoot. The text too has been edited, but I'm really can't say which is

better. Entire paragraphs appear to be removed, but I don't think their omissions make a holistic difference. Curiously, the wording has simply been changed such as the insertion of the phrase "the last century" (meaning 20th) in order to emphasize the fact that this is a new edition. I bought this volume second hand considerably below retail and I'm glad I did. I do like the new additions, however slight they may be, and the production value overall is still very good, albeit below par with the 1993 edition. This is certainly heaps better than the Verchere title - there's no question about that. Essentially, the original edition still seems to be going for over \$100.00 at time of writing this. If you're a great fan of the designer, I think this new edition is worth the expense (especially if you can find an inexpensive second hand copy). It's also a great alternative to the much more expensive original edition if you simply haven't been able to justify the expense. Again, I must emphasize, the original edition is better. This is a good second edition and a nice alternative. It comes down to affordability and availability and this edition, of course, wins hands down.

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