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The Houses Of Louis Kahn



Synopsis

Louis Kahn (1901–1974), one of the most important architects of the postwar period, is widely admired for his great monumental works, including the Kimbell Art Museum, the Salk Institute, and the National Assembly Complex in Bangladesh. However, the importance of his houses has been largely overlooked. This beautiful book is the first to look at Kahn's nine major private houses. Beginning with his earliest encounters with Modernism in the late 1920s and continuing through his iconic work of the 1960s and 1970s, the authors trace the evolution of the architect's thinking, which began and matured through his design of houses and their interiors, a process inspired by his interactions with clients and his admiration for vernacular building traditions. Richly illustrated with new and period photographs and original drawings, as well as previously unpublished materials from personal interviews, archives, and Kahn's own writings, *The Houses of Louis Kahn* shows how his ideas about domestic spaces challenged conventions, much like his major public commissions, and were developed into one of the most remarkable expressions of the American house.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the best studies of an architect's residential work that I've ever read. It thoroughly reviews Kahn's built and unbuilt residential projects, and provides many photos of the construction process, built works, plans, sketches and models of the various projects. The progression in Kahn's residential work over time is very well depicted and described. I have read many of the books on

Kahn, and this one has so much I've never seen before--the authors' use of records from the Kahn Collection in the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania is significant. One of the best aspects of the book is the very well written description of Kahn's working process with clients. In so many books you see the finished works and as-built drawings in isolation from client background, discussions with clients, preliminary sketches, early plans, adjustments in scope related to client programmatic requirements and cost issues, refined drawings. This book gives you all that as well as great and numerous photos of the final building and plans. The pictures of plans are big enough to make out the text. You'll see photos of famous works that aren't shown in any other books on Kahn's houses. This is a great book that is easy to enjoy.

A beautifully designed and executed book. Especially interesting were the background stories of each house, Kahn's philosophy of what a "home" is and the interaction and integration of the the clients' wishes with the design of the home.

This book was a gift to my son and his girlfriend who are both architects. I cannot rate it myself but they commented that, besides beautiful house pictures, it is more than just a coffee table book, thanks to the architectural drawing and diagrams also contained. They were very pleased.

Great book - excellent analysis of Louis Kahn's work but written for both non-architects and architects. It will be a great gift.

This is a question about the book, with a review to follow. Does the book include enough information to allow me to find the houses? I'm currently in PA two hours from Philly and would like to see them.Thanks.

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