

This is a remarkably elegant orthographic work which is at the same time the result of a unique program of meticulous research into the technical constitution and construction of thirteen outstanding modern buildings realized in seven countries over the past fifteen years. What is audaciously effective is the way in which the author synthesizes on the same page, precise analytical drawings of the detailed construction involved with a photographic image of the result, compelling the reader to come to terms with the unavoidable gap between the technical complexity of the means and the often dynamic simplicity of the final form. All of which makes this into a uniquely didactic study which should prove to be equally useful for students and practitioners alike.

Kenneth Frampton; Columbia University - GSAPP, Ware Professor

Where a design concept meets material construction, the detail emerges – its importance parallel to its aspiration. This book is a source of inspiration, for students, architects, engineers, when asked both “why” and “how.”

Julie Jarjiski; Buro Happold, Sustainability and High Performance Design Leader

In this spirited and original tome, Christoph Kumpusch analyzes architecture by drawing new kinds of sections, ones that deconstruct and re-order comparative typologies, and examine the intimacy of the detail in relation to the epistemology of the concept.

Kimberli Meyer; MAK-Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House L.A., Director

Three challenges...

Architectural details are typically communicated through technical drawings. A photograph or model might convey details in context or the ultimate visual effect generated by a detail, but the drawing remains its standard referent and it is from drawings that details are archived, revised and appropriated.

One challenge of Detail Kultur is: How do we come to understand the relevance of details through their drawings? How are drawings handled as more than illustrations for text? Can text serve the drawings and suggest new ways of looking at these drawings?

Another challenge involves opening up details as typological elements with their own histories and cultural associations. A door, for example, is a physical thing and a metaphysical construct – and details get implicated in both directions of door-ness. Is it fair game to recollect all the implications of a door or threshold when also studying their handling by select architects for specific construction?

Lastly, how can one reformat a book to treat a subject that is not best served by a classical progression of arguments? Multiple case studies, many details, a profusion of drawings are a part of the story and their organization as a cross-referencing index is central to this investigation. In this way it is a compendium, but also a trigger for new work and research.

... three opportunities

Interviews with Zaha Hadid, Kazuyo Sejima, Eric Owen Moss, Lebbeus Woods, Carme Pinós, Peter Cook, Thom Mayne, Peter Zumthor, Neil M. Denari, Charles Renfro, Steven Holl, Giuseppe Lignano and Ada Tolia

Foreword by	
V	Therme Vals
M	Musikerhaus
Z	Zollverein
A	APAP Open School
K	Kunsthau Graz
G	Guangzhou Opera
H	High Line 23
S	Samitaur Tower
T	Torre Cube
C	Cooper Union
B	The Broad
S	Sliced Porosity Block
L	Light Pavilion
Amale Andraos	
Peter Zumthor	
Raimund Abraham	
SANAA / Kazuyo Sejima	
LOT-EK	
Peter Cook	
Zaha Hadid	
Neil M. Denari	
Eric Owen Moss	
Carme Pinós	
Morphosis	
Diller Scofidio + Renfro	
Steven Holl	
Lebbeus Woods & Christoph a. Kumpusch	

The detail has fallen into a cyclical misunderstanding within the conceptual and technical spectrum known as architecture. Detail Kultur is here to settle this mistake through an investigative matrix of case studies, scaled drawings, interviews, and analytical texts, claiming yet again the fundamental importance of the detail.

**If buildings had DNA:
Case Studies
of Mutations**

THE COMPLEX BEHAVIOR
OF COLLECTIVE DETAIL

10 LENSES,
12+1 PROJECTS

Christoph a. Kumpusch





