



Commodification and Spectacle in Architecture: A Harvard Design Magazine Reader

William Saunders

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More than ever, architectural design is seen as a means to promote commercial goals rather than as an end in itself. Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, for example, simply cannot be considered apart from its intended role as a catalyst for the economic revitalization of Bilbao and its ability to attract tourist dollars, regardless of its architectural merits. A built environment intended to seduce consumers is more likely to offer instant gratification than to invite independent thought and reflection. But how harmful, if at all, is this unprecedented commercialization of architecture?

Framed with a provocative introduction by Kenneth Frampton, the contributions to Commodification and Spectacle in Architecture stake out a variety of positions in the debate over the extent to which it is possible—or desirable—to escape from, resist, or suggest plausible alternatives to the dominant culture of consumer capitalism. Rejecting any dreamy nostalgia for an idealized present or past in which design is completely divorced from commerce—and, in some cases, celebrating the pleasures of spectacle—the individual essays range from indictments of particular architects and critiques of the profession to broader concerns about what the phenomenon of commodification means for the practice of democracy and the health of society.

Bringing together an impressive and varied group of critics and practitioners, Commodification and Spectacle in Architecture will help to sharpen the discussion of how design can respond to our hypercommodified culture.

Contributors: Michael Benedikt, Luis Fernández-Galiano, Thomas Frank, Kevin Ervin Kelley, Daniel Naegele, Rick Poynor, Michael Sorkin, Wouter Vanstiphout.

William S. Saunders is editor of *Harvard Design Magazine* and assistant dean for external relations at the Harvard Design School. He is the author of *Modern Architecture: Photographs by Ezra Stoller*.

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Bobbie Burke:

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Donald Sams:

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Rodney Natale:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Commodification and Spectacle in Architecture: A Harvard Design Magazine Reader, you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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