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Glitter Stucco & Dumpster Diving: Reflections On Building Production In The Vernacular City (Haymarket)



Synopsis

Speeding across the California landscape, Chase pauses frequently to see whatâ€™s really there: not just what the movies have taught us to expect, but the range and variation of the built environment that occupies what he calls â€˜everyday spaceâ€™. A practising architect and urban planner, as well as an important architectural critic, Chase explores a myriad of locales and examines their architectural featuresâ€”from the gay community space of West Hollywood, to the stucco box apartment complexes of the 1950s, to the truly weird mix of domestic arrangements in Venice Beach, to gated communities, to some of the historic houses of Hollywood and Beverly Hills and to the most recent transformations of the casino architecture in Las Vegas. At once learned, witty and ironic, Chase makes the mundane world of Southern California vistas come alive on the page.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

â€œAn architect by training, Chase is also gaining long-overdue accolades as a historian, critic and often very funny writer.â€• â€œLos Angeles Timesâ€œAn interesting argument for further legitimizing popular architecture.â€• â€œI.D. Magazineâ€œChase adeptly probes the intersecting principles that affected Los Angelesâ€™ building design, showing, for example, how the bungalows built by developers in the 1920s aped the large period revival houses of the same decade.â€• â€œPublishers Weeklyâ€œChase, who has been a â€˜journalist, architectural designer, critic, and Disney Imagineer,â€™ puts all of his skills on display in this sprawling and enjoyable tour of the Los

Angelino landscape. • "Interiors Magazine" Chase's arguments are refreshing and challenging ... they have the advantage of understanding contemporary architecture without the pitched crisis and naïve celebration which postmodern theorizing tends to provoke. • "Fuse Magazine" His findings reveal a fiercely democratic, if ad hoc, urbanism in which developers, homeowners, renters, retailers, pedestrians and the homeless all demarcate, and thereby create, civic place ... he spouts infectious prose and incendiary theories as easily as Dave Hickey or Mike David do to explain LA's ever-proliferating landscape. • "Loud Paper" Setting aside costume jewels such as the Getty Centre, Los Angeles architecture "think reckless Spanish-tiled mansard genre mixing, mammoth doughnuts and L-shaped mini-malls" gets little respect in highbrow circles. Thankfully John Chase is around to defend it. Every page of his *Glitter Stucco & Dumpster Driving* exhales an affectionate architectural populism and a refreshing disdain for art snobs. • "LA Weekly

John Chase has worked as a journalist, architectural designer, critic and Disney Imagineer. He is currently the urban designer for the City of West Hollywood. His previous books include *Everyday Urbanism*, *Las Vegas: The Success of Excess* and *Exterior Decoration*.

The book doesn't really do much discussing of building production. Most of it is him waxing poetic about colorful neighbors, trash, and homeless living near his home. The name makes it seem like a book about vernacular design and creativity in the built environment will be in there, but a sad percentage is.

The author has perfectly captured LA. A must for anyone wanting an inside look at the true nature of Los Angeles by someone who knows the language.

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