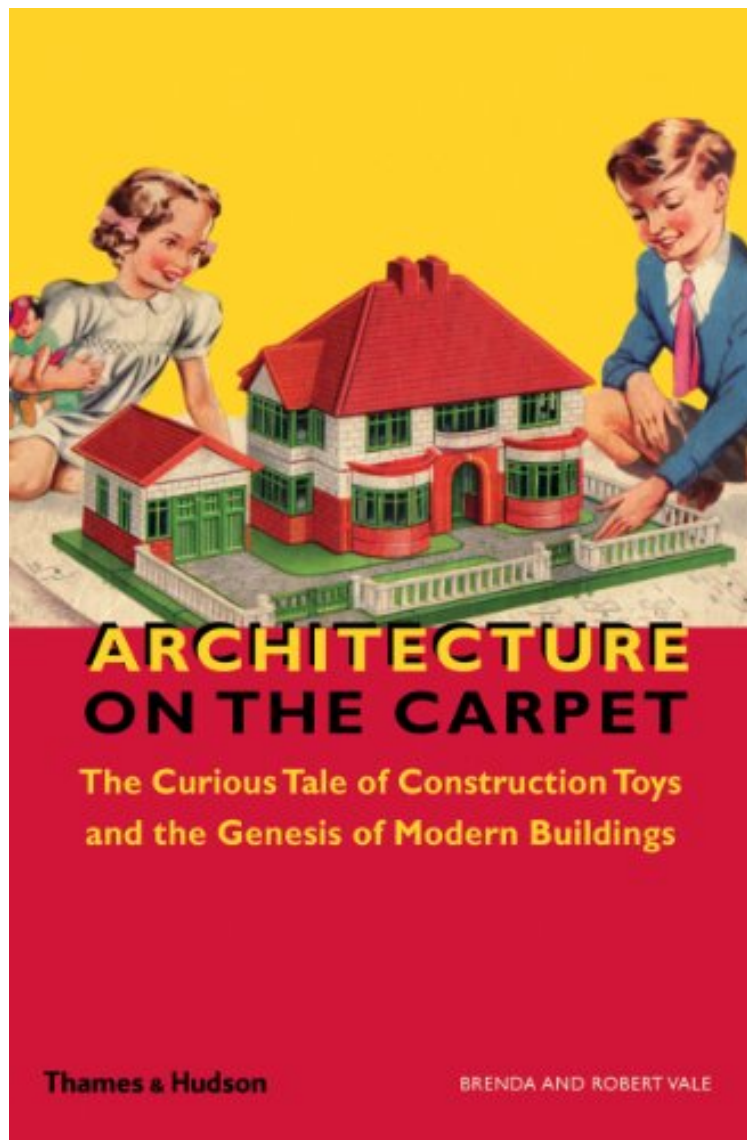


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Architecture on the Carpet: The Curious Tale of Construction Toys and the Genesis of Modern Buildings

Brenda Vale, Robert Vale

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Brenda Vale, Robert Vale : Architecture on the Carpet: The Curious Tale of Construction Toys and the Genesis of Modern Buildings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture on the Carpet: The Curious Tale of Construction Toys and the Genesis of Modern Buildings:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing how the author covered the subject.By Karl SlingsbyI

was hoping for a book that would define HOW the toy influenced the building style or building, or vice versa. What the book does is attempt to compare a toy with sometimes a construction method, sometimes a building style, and sometimes a word in the advertisement. The book makes no sense. The entire chapter of lego centers around 5 sets made in the last 2008 time frame about energy usage! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. We suspected this all along. By M. Burginger As an architect who himself invented a construction toy (Qubits Toy) we have long suspected a few of these stories prior to reading this fine book. Why not? Frank Lloyd Wright is often quoted as saying he remembers the hard maple wood Froebel blocks in his hands as he designed his highly geometric buildings. If given the chance at success with our construction toy, I will, as an licensed architect, design a livable structure that has roots in our construction toy. Great book that has served as an inspiration. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Rick V. Enjoyable read

An intriguing and nostalgic exploration of the relationships between childrens building sets and developments in modern architecture This entertaining book offers a novel view of architecture through the prism of construction toys. Ranging over the last century to the present, Brenda and Robert Vale draw parallels between the model-building sets of the modern period and architectural movements, social history, and national identities and myths. Some childrens construction toys such as Lincoln Logs and Tudor Minibrix have looked to the past. Others have looked to the future: as early as the 1920s, the American metal toy Bilt-E-Z could be used to construct a stepped-back skyscraper like the Empire State Building. The Vales investigate not only how models sets have reflected different building styles but also whether the toys themselves influenced the careers of the children who grew up playing with them. They explore connections between model-railway buildings and modernism; model sets such as Castos and reinforced concrete housing; and even between the creative but slightly surreal Playplax and postmodern deconstructivist architecture. 111 illustrations, 97 in color

Refreshingly original. - Interior Design Argues that construction toys such as Lego and Meccano not only reflect the architecture of the real world, but influence the way individual architects design. - The Casual Optimist Explores everything from gender bias to class distinctions of construction toys. - Notable Design Book of 2013, Designers Books Quirky but fun. . . . Recommended. - Choice Argues that modern buildings have some roots in construction toys. - Modern in Denver The authors intensive review of the commercial creation and specifications of the individual toys is truly unique. - ARLIS/NA sChock-full of research. - Florida Weekly About the Author Brenda Vale is a professor of architecture at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. Her previous books include The New Autonomous House. Robert Vale is a professor architecture at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. His previous books include The New Autonomous House.