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# The Bauhaus Ideal Then and Now: An Illustrated Guide to Modern Design

William Smock

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#1731653 in Books 2009-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .40 x 7.001, .63 #File Name: 0897335902150 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**William Smock : The Bauhaus Ideal Then and Now: An Illustrated Guide to Modern Design** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bauhaus Ideal Then and Now: An Illustrated Guide to Modern Design:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book for any modern designer By Brian Wilkerson While Bauhaus may be considered the origin of current trends in design, this book spends a fair bit of time discussing the shortcomings of the movement and the ways in which it's ideals never really materialized. This is useful because it forces the reader to re-examine the thought process behind these designs rather taking them at face value. If you are

looking to better understand the process by which one can create impactful designs in this age, I'd recommend putting this book at the top of your reading list. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully illustrated design manifesto By Gromer Sprinkled liberally with the author's own pencil sketches of famous architects, buildings and other design icons, "The Bauhaus Ideal" is a small book chock full of unique perspectives on the history of design. It is pitched at the lay reader or college student - even someone with no interest whatsoever in Bauhaus or architecture would find this an absorbing read, which is why I think it would do very well in an intro liberal arts course for college freshmen hoping to pick up some ideas about modern art and architecture before they branch off onto the irreversible "med school" or "law school" track. It reads rather like the notebooks of da Vinci because of the deft pencil sketches; it also reminds me of John Ruskin's manifesto, "The Stones of Venice". Smock would very conversationally talk about an architect or a building, then throw in a little sketch - the effect is like dropping in on a professor who really knows his stuff but is cool enough to not beat you over the head with it. Smock is good enough to be a professional illustrator. In a few lead strokes he would capture the spirit of a real person's face, or the bare branches of winter. For the non-lay reader, the architect, or "those in the know", this book reaffirms one's thoughts about the giants in the architecture world and asks provoking questions about why things are what they are. All in all, a real treat and worth the price. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Newer Paperback By Thomas (Doc Savage 45) Saw this book on the shelves at Museum of Modern Art. they were having a Bauhaus exhibit. Looking on I thought hey why not! It is about design and chaos? The author aptly points out inconsistency between what a designer/architect says and does. It is a catalyst for thought, and well written. I would take issue about the building industry and what might currently be going on for the market prior to the recession. In the USA there is an exploration of more efficient building, and application of new technologies regarding the "greening" of America. Even timberframe homes are being laid out and cut by computer. But it is a truism that the public does not often agree with the concepts advocated by architects and designers. A good read!

"Smock energetically examines the legacy of the Bauhaus, a post-World War II German school of design founded by Walter Gropius to replace Victorian-era design with machine-age style. Citing embodiments of the famous dictums "form follows function," "truth to materials," and the linking commandment "less is more," Smock analyzes visual efficiency and modernism's appeal to reason, especially in architecture. He posits, however, that modern art stopped looking new in the 1970s, when architects sought more personal and fanciful forms of expression, becoming more showbiz in their orientation than aesthetic in their fusing of high and low culture. Smock concedes that the excesses of modernism include dogmatic solemnity, but he finds designers who rebound to be "flashy and ephemeral," and argues that their mannerist decor exerts its own tyranny. Highly politicized, amply illustrated with pencil sketches, and featuring a detailed annotated bibliography, Smock's short and lively book is long on controversy and ideas." Whitney Scott, Booklist