

Exit Utopia: Architectural Provocations, 1956-76



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This topical examination of a key moment in modern architecture pointedly and critically evaluates the role of the neo-avant - garde in today's world. International in scope and exhaustive in detail, the book explores important exponents of "visionary" and "utopian" architecture in the closing juncture of the modernist era, coinciding with the cultural upheavals and social transformations of the 1960s and 1970s. By revisiting "New Babylon", the magnum opus of the Dutch painter Constant Nieuwenhuys, whose vision of a situationist urban environment made him one of the most influential artists of this time, this collection of essays re-examines decisive work by Yona Friedman, the Archigram group, the Italian Radicals Superstudio and Archizoom, Koolhaas/Zenghelis and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture and Leon Krier. In-depth essays and exhaustive project documentations trace the decline of avant-garde projects in architecture. The result is a significant work of architectural theory and history, which should interest anyone studying ideologies of the past and dreaming the cities of tomorrow.

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