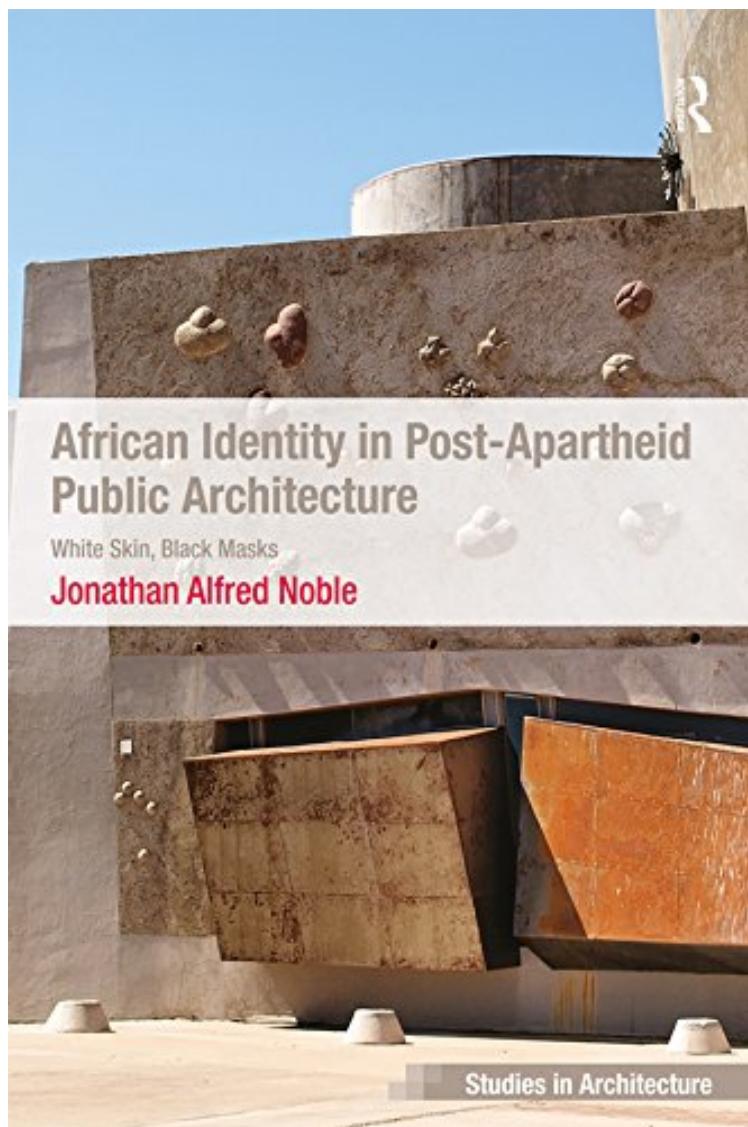


(Download) African Identity in Post-Apartheid Public Architecture: White Skin, Black Masks (Ashgate Studies in Architecture)

## **African Identity in Post-Apartheid Public Architecture: White Skin, Black Masks (Ashgate Studies in Architecture)**

*Jonathan Alfred Noble*  
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**Jonathan Alfred Noble : African Identity in Post-Apartheid Public Architecture: White Skin, Black Masks (Ashgate Studies in Architecture)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African Identity in Post-Apartheid Public Architecture: White Skin, Black Masks (Ashgate Studies in Architecture):

Since the end of Apartheid, there has been a new orientation in South African art and design, turning away from the colonial aesthetics to new types of African expression. This book examines some of the fascinating and impressive works of contemporary public architecture that 'concretise' imaginative dialogues with African landscapes, craft and indigenous traditions. Referring to Frantz Fanon's classic study of colonised subjectivity, 'Black Skin, White Masks', Noble contends that Fanon's metaphors of mask and skin are suggestive for architectural criticism, in the context of post-Apartheid public design. Taking South Africa's first democratic election of 1994 as its starting point, the book focuses on projects that were won in architectural competitions. Such competitions are conceived within ideological debates and studying them allows for an examination of the interrelationships between architecture, politics and culture. The book offers insights into these debates through interviews with key parties concerned - architects, competition jurors, politicians, council and city officials, artists and crafters, as well as people who are involved in the day-to-day life of the buildings in question.

'In this detailed and carefully argued study, Noble shows how a different kind of modern architecture is possible - contemporary in appearance, yet also public, democratic, political and symbolic. An inspiring piece of work.' Iain Borden, University College London, UK 'If the problem of creating a Palestinian state is today's pathological example of man's inhumanity to man, we mustn't forget that only a generation ago the South African apartheid regime was the world's rallying point. Huge transformations have been made in South Africa since then, and Jonathan Noble's remarkable book is one of the first to study the architectural and urban ramifications of the collapse of apartheid. Other scholars will no doubt seek to challenge the interpretations offered in this book - as befits a subject of such importance - but they will be indebted to Noble for having written such a lucidly analytical account.' Murray Fraser, University of Westminster, UK '... the book's careful unpacking of the formal undecidability that results when political ideology becomes entangled with architectural production gives it a relevance and value that transcend its South African setting. Noble offers a well-illustrated, thoughtful account of how cultural 'authenticity', whether manifested through political subjectivity or built environments, is always under construction, fashioned through the interplay of a heterogeneous array of factors, narratives and mechanisms.' Traditional Dwellings Settlements 'One of the book's chief merits is Noble's detailed presentation of his original research into the design competitions for each project. Comparing the winning schemes against failed ones, the text provides a rich insight into the values and priorities of the public officials, jury members and architects responsible for the final outcomes. Noble's exposition also illustrates the detrimental but sometimes fraught efforts to integrate South Africa's new democratic expectations into the design process.' African Affairs '... [Noble's] book makes a valuable contribution to both the study and practice of architecture in South Africa. Its primary value is that of a historical record of a particular moment in the country's history, an exceptional time when a number of exceptional buildings were being built.' --Journal of Architectural Education

About the Author  
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