Architectural Design and Regulation
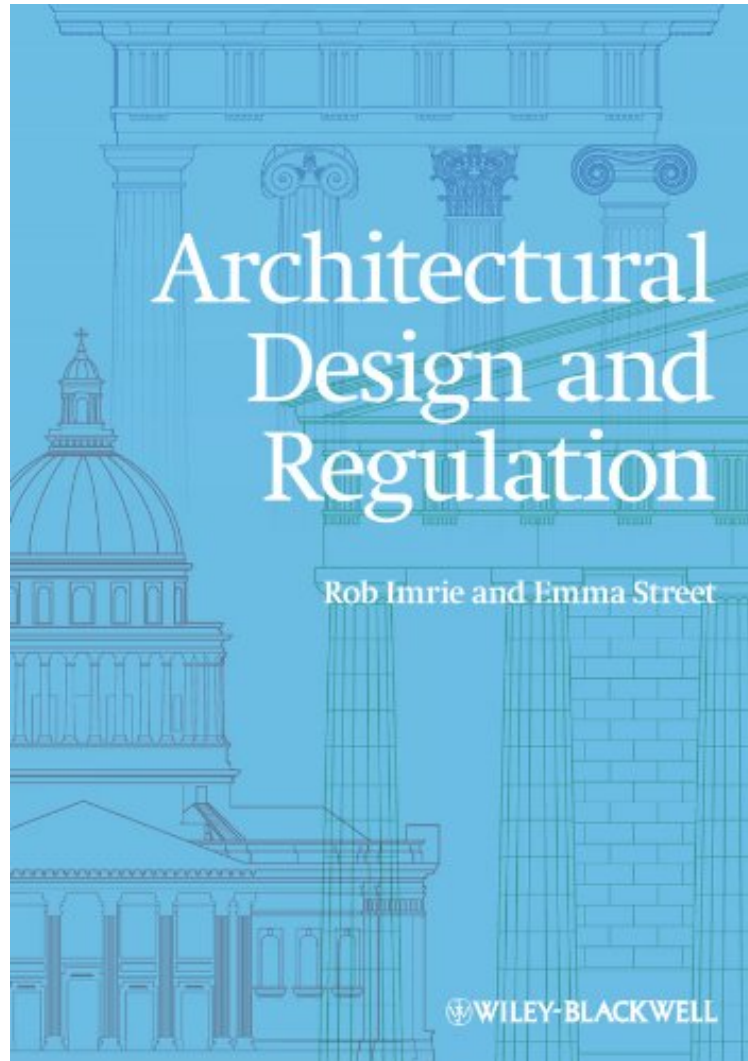
Rob Imrie, Emma Street
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Rob Imrie, Emma Street : Architectural Design and Regulation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architectural Design and Regulation:

From the earliest periods of architecture and building, architectsrsquo; actions have been conditioned by rules, regulations, standards, and governance practices. These range from socio-cultural and religious codes seeking to influence the formal structure of settlement patterns, to prescriptive building regulations specifying detailed elements of design in relation to the safety of building structures. In Architectural Design and Regulation the authors argue that the rule and regulatory basis of architecture is part of a broader field of socio-institutional and political interventions in

the design and development process that serve to delimit, and define, the scope of the activities of architects. The book explores how the practices of architects are embedded in complex systems of rules and regulations. The authors develop the understanding that the rules and regulations of building form and performance ought not to be counterpoised as external to creative processes and practices, but as integral to the creation of well-designed places. The contribution of Architectural Design and Regulation is to show that far from the rule and regulatory basis of architecture undermining the capacities of architects to design, they are the basis for new and challenging activities that open up possibilities for reinventing the actions of architects.

ldquo;These are minor points about an excellent and ground-breaking book, which will be essential reading for those researching architectural practice, regulation, design professions and planning, and also for those with an interest in discourses of creativity and cultural production.nbsp; Architectural design and regulation contributes much to our understanding of the practices and situated knowledges of architects vis-agrave;-vis regulation and so in turn about the ways in which the urban fabric is shaped.rdquo;nbsp; (Area, 15 August 2013) lsquo;Our discipline has [in this book] received a gift from outside the tacit values embodied in what we architects refer to as lsquo;studio culturersquo;. We can, of course, dismiss the critique and ignore the opportunity presented by the authors if we so choose. But if the entrenched architects of my generation do, I am confident that the next generation of city-makers will not because, like Imrie and Street, they already glimpse the creative potential of interdisciplinary invention.rsquo; - Steven A. Moore, Bartlett Cocke Regents Professor of Architecture and Planning, School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Austinlsquo;It often takes outsiders to point out what insiders have missed or chosen to ignore about themselves. Such revelations are exactly what geographers Imrie and Street bring to the discipline of architecture. The book is an assiduously researched documentation of the way the architects have responded to the increasing regulatory frameworks with a mixture of denial, boredom, resignation and fury ndash; when in fact, the authors show, the way forward is to work with rather than against the frameworks in a manner that is at the same time creative and realist.' - Professor Jeremy Till, Dean of the School of Architecture and the Builtnbsp;Environment, University of WestminsterImrie and Street have produced a vital text that opens up a new perspective on architectural practice and regulation as a co-evolutionary process of code-making that is reshaping the cities we inhabit. By highlighting the complex social organisation of these processes, the book opens up a new window on the materiality of design creativity and the politics enacted through regulatory interventions.rsquo; - Professor Simon Guy, Director of Manchester Architecture Research Centre (MARC), Head of School of Environment and Development, The University of ManchesterArchitectural Design and Regulation is an insightful tour de force. It provides a much needed critical examination of the exiting regulatory paradigm while bringing together theory, practice and a vision for change.nbsp; The implications of regulations on urban development are little appreciated and rarely discussed.nbsp; Yet, across the globe, communities are shaped by codes and regulations that virtually dictate all aspects of urban development. Regulations define how places can and canrsquo;t be developed, and how controls shape the physical space and buildings where we live and work.nbsp; By critically assessing the impacts of design regulations on the spatial and social quality of our built environment Rob Imrie and Emma Street offer a unique analysis and practical suggestions.nbsp; It is a must-read for anyone who is serious about understanding current urban development and architecture practice. - Eran Ben-Joseph, Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the author of the Code of the City: Standards and the Hidden Language of Place MakingFrom the Back Coverlsquo;Our discipline has [in this book] received a gift from outside the tacit values embodied in what we architects refer to as lsquo;studio culturersquo;. We can, of course, dismiss the critique and ignore the opportunity presented by the authors if we so choose. But if the entrenched architects of my generation do, I am confident that the next generation of city-makers will not because, like Imrie and Street, they already glimpse the creative potential of interdisciplinary invention.rsquo; nbsp;Steven A. Moore, Bartlett Cocke Regents Professor of Architecture and Planning, School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Austinnbsp;From the earliest periods of architecture and building, architectsrsquo; actions have been conditioned by rules, regulations, standards, and governance practices. These range from socio-cultural and religious codes seeking to influence the formal structure of settlement patterns, to prescriptive building regulations specifying detailed elements of design in relation to the safety of building structures. In Architectural Design and Regulation the authors argue that the rule and regulatory basis of architecture is part of a broader field of socio-institutional and political interventions in the design and development process that serve to delimit, and define, the scope of the activities of architects. nbsp;This understanding, of the interrelationships between architecture and its regulation, is a contribution to an emergent field of scholarly work that seeks to challenge the powerful discourse of the autonomy of architects and their practices. The discourse asserts that architecture is the creation of beautiful buildings that reflect the artistic talents of architects. The aesthetic activities of the architect are distinctive to the prosaic matters of building carried out by others who remain ephemeral to the specialist field of architecture. This distinction, between architecture and building, and creativity and craft, is one whereby domains of practice, such as the legal regulation of design, are conceived as external to the actions of architects, and unimportant to the task of artful and artistic creation.Architectural Design and Regulation highlights the contradictions and tensions contained in such

understandings of the interrelationships between regulation and the actions of architects. The book explores how the activities of architects are deeply embedded in complex systems of rules and regulations, which ought to be understood as integral to the creation of well-designed places. The contribution of the book is to show that far from the rule and regulatory basis of architecture undermining the capacities of architects to design, they are the basis for new and challenging activities that open up possibilities for reinventing the actions of architects.