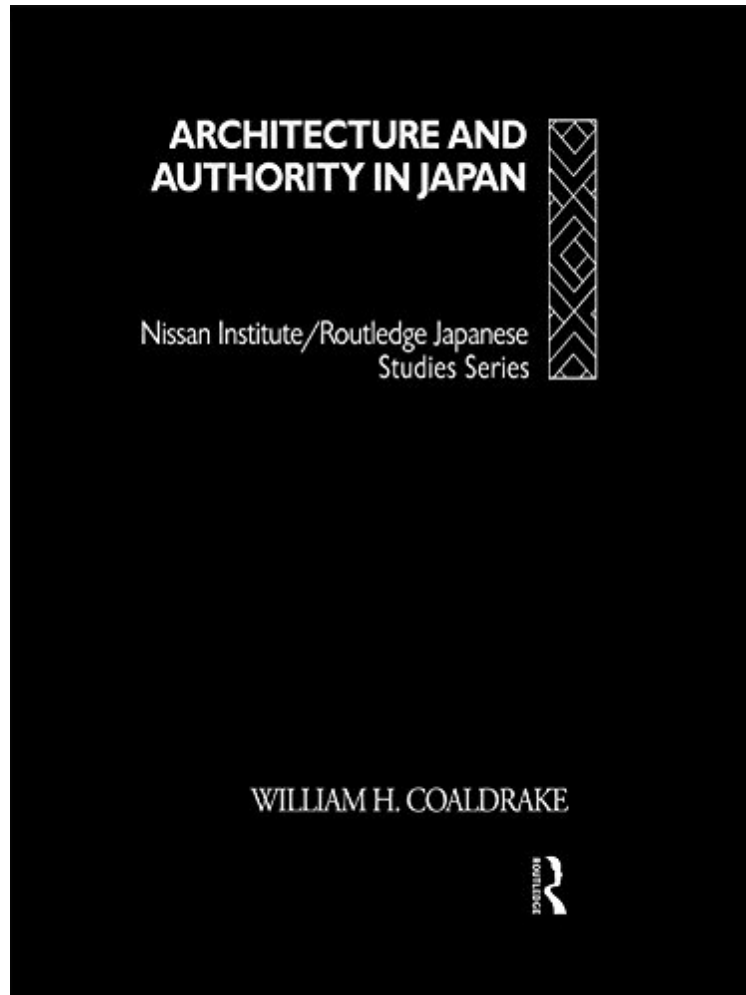



Architecture and Authority in Japan (Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies)

William H. Coaldrake

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William H. Coaldrake : Architecture and Authority in Japan (Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture and Authority in Japan (Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very well written and the subjects well selected By Bryan MacKinnon I very much like this book. The range of examples are well selected and thought provoking. I have lived in Japan for 14 years and I have come to view Japanese architecture in a different way after reading. The author shows a real command of the subject and writes in a way that is enjoyable to read. In addition to providing much more in-depth information of many buildings in Japan of historical importance, I find it a good travel guide to these buildings and simply enjoyable to read. I have not read cover to cover but rather read a particular section on a building depending on what is of interest at the time. As an example, one of the subject buildings (Shofuku-ji) is a temple near my house and

is the only official kokuho ("National Treasure") structure in the Tokyo area. Although a beautiful building, I was not able to appreciate why it was so recognized until I read the chapter in the book about it. The author was able to set the historical context and point out what makes it unique. My only issues with this edition are: 1) The binding - it is of medium quality paperback construction, and 2) the quality of the photographs inside are not as good as I would expect. Given its relatively higher price, I would have expected hardcover and better quality photographs. These reservations aside, I recommend this book.

There is nothing in English which covers quite this area of knowledge, and there is none better qualified to write such a book. Bill Coaldrake has written a book which will be an excellent resource for students and professional scholars alike. It should become a classic in the field and I also think it will stand the test of time.—Joy Hendry, Oxford Brookes University This will be by far the best book on the place of architecture, especially monumental public architecture, in Japanese history and culture. Dr Coaldrake gives focus to his work, and to the political role of architecture, by concentrating on buildings not only as symbols of authority but as active carriers of authority ... But the book is much more than an architectural history. It is a major contribution to the cultural history of Japan.—Martin Colcutt, Princeton University This excellent book will become the authoritative work on architecture in relation to Japanese history and politics.—David Forfar, THE The book is well-written and edited. While it contains technical material, it is not so technical that it will be inaccessible to ordinary readers. I anticipate using the book in my courses on Japanese history and culture at Princeton, and I am sure it will appear on other college reading lists in the United States for courses in art history, architecture, history and culture.—Martin Colcutt, Professor of East Asian Studies and History at Princeton University About the Author William Coaldrake is Head of the Department of Japanese and Chinese at the University of Melbourne, Australia. His previous appointments include Founding Member of the East Asian Architecture and Planning Program at MIT.