Architecture and Embodiment: The Implications of the New Sciences and Humanities for Design

Harry Francis Mallgrave
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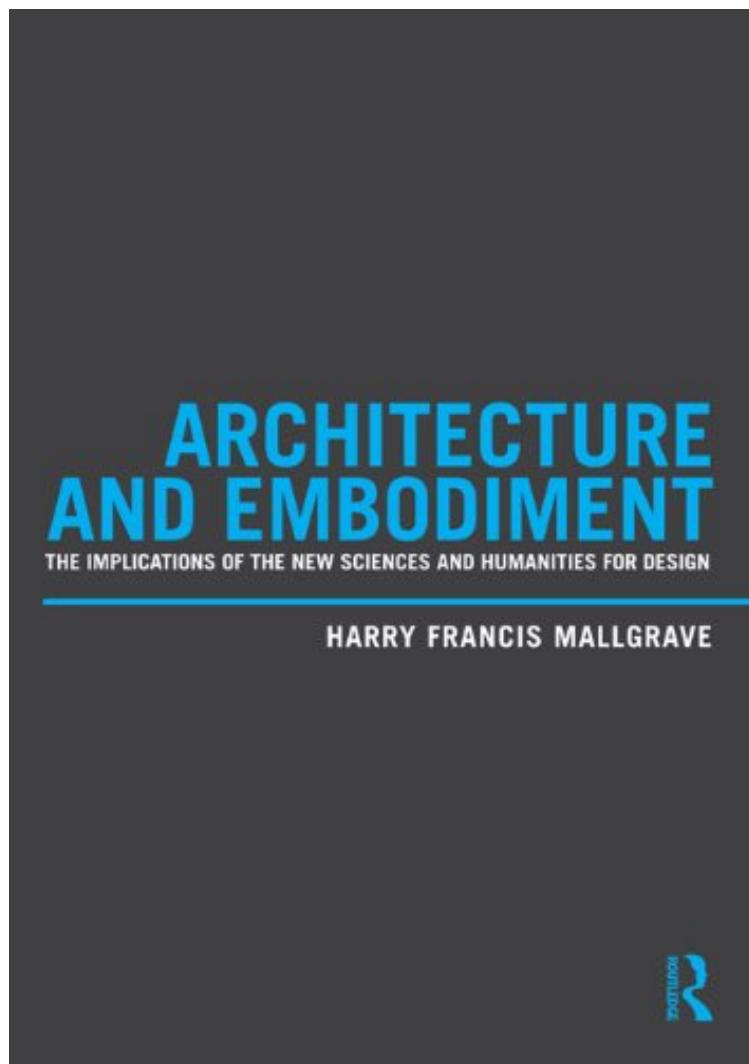
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Harry Francis Mallgrave : Architecture and Embodiment: The Implications of the New Sciences and Humanities for Design before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture and Embodiment: The Implications of the New Sciences and Humanities for Design:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. G.G.By Gilbert GorskiA number of now famous break-through theoretical works have gone unnoticed by the public for a long time after they are first published. I hope that is not true of this work which needs to garner more attention now. Mallgrave's book questions many core assumptions of modern aesthetics by examining ongoing research dealing with how the human mind works. Science is now providing

evidence for why people respond positively to things like ornament, natural materials, and human scale.

In recent years we have seen a number of dramatic discoveries within the biological and related sciences. Traditional arguments such as "nature versus nurture" are rapidly disappearing because of the realization that just as we are affecting our environments, so too do these altered environments restructure our cognitive abilities and outlooks. If the biological and technological breakthroughs are promising benefits such as extended life expectancies, these same discoveries also have the potential to improve in significant ways the quality of our built environments. This poses a compelling challenge to conventional architectural theory...This is the first book to consider these new scientific and humanistic models in architectural terms. Constructed as a series of five essays around the themes of beauty, culture, emotion, the experience of architecture, and artistic play, this book draws upon a broad range of discussions taking place in philosophy, psychology, biology, neuroscience, and anthropology, and in doing so questions what implications these discussions hold for architectural design.Drawing upon a wealth of research, Mallgrave argues that we should turn our focus away from the objectification of architecture (treating design as the creation of objects) and redirect it back to those for whom we design: the people inhabiting our built environments.