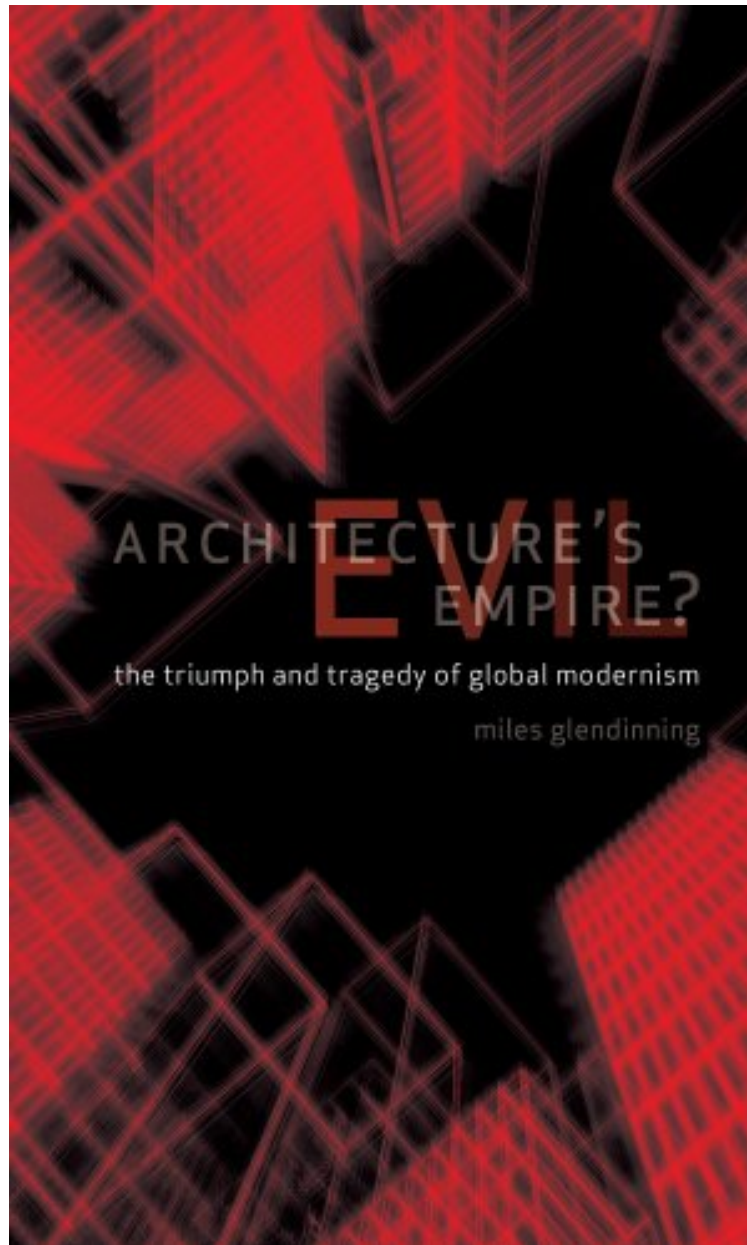


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# Architecture's Evil Empire? The Triumph and Tragedy of Global Modernism

*Miles Glendinning*

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**Miles Glendinning : Architecture's Evil Empire? The Triumph and Tragedy of Global Modernism** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture's Evil Empire?

## The Triumph and Tragedy of Global Modernism:

From Los Angeles to London to Bilbao, cities around the world nowadays boast iconic buildings by celebrity 'starchitects' that compete for attention on the skyline and in the media. But in recent years, criticism of these 'gestural' structures, famous for their exaggerated forms, has been growing. Miles Glendinning's impassioned polemic, *Architecture's Evil Empire?* looks at how such cult works have fatally subverted the built environment as a whole. How a world-wide 'empire' of contemporary modernism emerged within the context of global capitalism's excesses is explained in this book. Arguing against the excesses of iconic design, Glendinning advocates a modern renewal that seeks to remedy the tragically alienated state of contemporary architecture, although his is a renewal that contrasts strongly with the traditionalist visions of America's New Urbanists or Britain's Prince Charles. Mingling scholarship with wry humour and a genuine concern for the present situation, *Architecture's Evil Empire?* will raise heated debates across the continents, for this book is essential reading for architects, planners and everyone else concerned about the built environment of now and tomorrow.

"One of the effects of our brand-led and time-starved world is that whatever cultural endeavour you choose to undertake: staging an art exhibition; hosting a club night; or commissioning a building of a new skyscraper, people only seem to notice if there is a big named involved. Consequently, architecture has seen a rise in celebrity 'Starchitects.' This handful of names is often given carte blanche to dump masses of concrete and steel in conceptual yet dysfunctional heaps around the world with scant regard for the cultural mores of the folk who live there. The trend for such gestural constructs is finally and rightly challenged here in this wry and passionate polemic addressing the state of contemporary architecture. An unsettling book for some, but of interest to all."