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Clemens F. Kusch / Anabel Gelhaar

**Architectural Guide Venice**

Contemporary architecture in Venice? Where could one possibly find space for it? And given that space was found, how could one possibly find the buildings in this historic labyrinth, which at 3,200 listed monuments is the largest UNESCO world cultural heritage ensemble in the world? The *Architectural Guide Venice* focuses exclusively on post-1950 architecture, taking readers and travellers on a voyage of discovery among islands and canals. In the shadow of the Rialto Bridge, the Doge's Palace, and St Mark's the authors pinpoint contemporary architecture off the beaten track.

While books about historic Venice abound, works on contemporary architecture are few and far between, despite the fact that every two years, the city hosts the famous Venice Biennale of Architecture, attracting architecture buffs from all over the world. Clemens F. Kusch and Anabel Gelhaar have now undertaken to remedy this lack. Their architectural guide presents eight walks and boat trips showcasing new residential developments, converted dockside warehouses, works by Carlo Scarpa, Tadao Ando, and David Chipperfield. They introduce new as well as converted buildings and highlight the difficulties involved in building in the archipelago – respecting the historic fabric while at the same time adjusting the city to the needs of its inhabitants, who rarely cease discussing how much new architecture Venice can afford. Organized around the six central districts, the *sestieri*, the routes include stops at the museums along Canale Grande, at converted and expanded buildings between Rialto and San Marco, the Arsenal, the Biennale complex with pavilions from over six decades, on islands and on the mainland. Controversial building projects such as the flood protection pontoons or the spectacular conversion of the Fondaco dei Tedeschi by Rem Koolhaas are also discussed. Temporary buildings and unrealized plans by such architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, and Louis Kahn are presented in a separate chapter and attest to the fascination Venice has always had for architects.

Anyone planning to visit the world's largest open-air museum and wishing to see more than the historic Venice should have this handy guide in their pocket. Besides, the next Biennale of Architecture is coming up!

Clemens F. Kusch / Anabel Gelhaar

**Venice**

Architectural Guide

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