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Press information

A new title by Quart Publishers:

Valerio Olgiati (ed.)
The Images of Architects

The visible origins of architecture

In the case of Sou Fujimoto it's the luminous depths of a primeval forest, for Kristian Kerez it's a stage-like architecture. Àlvaro Siza, on the other hand, provides playful sketches of cityscapes like the one of Piazza San Marco in Venice. It's the images in their heads that are the exemplary ideals and driving force behind the works of these architects. And it is these shapes of fantasy that the Swiss architect Valerio Olgiati - who himself is internationally known for his unconventional projects which have won him several awards - asked more than 40 renowned architects about. The results are presented in *The Images of Architects*, an impressive collection of pictures, sketches and metaphors.

What is the origin of architecture? Which images appear before the mind's eye of architects when they think of architecture? From where do they draw the energy for their imagination before laying their designs down on paper? The source of their creativity is shown in the up to 10 illustrations that each of the contemporary architects supplied: personal explanations on the deeper roots of their oeuvre. Nothing is said, commented on or analysed. And although the images themselves are mute they pass by like a series of little icons, becoming very legible indeed and thereby providing insights into the innermost imagery. The book is a collection of individual "musées imaginaires" which together take on the appearance of a picture gallery. "As individual collections, they present a personal view of an individual world, while as a whole they provide a universal view of the perceptible origin of contemporary architecture" says Valerio Olgiati in the preface. One could almost see this collection as an in-depth analysis of contemporary architecture. This bibliophile book addresses people who enjoy visual delights and are receptive to inspiration.

This picture gallery also reflects Olgiati's personal tastes. In his selection we find architects that in his opinion have made decisive and yet individual contributions to contemporary architecture that are full of character. Among the 44 architects he approached are such names as Ben van Berkel, David Chipperfield, Peter Eisenman, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, Anne Holtrop, Toyo Ito, Winy Maas, Peter Märkli, Jürgen Mayer H., Kazuyo Sejima, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Peter Zumthor.

Valerio Olgiati (ed.)
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Quart Publishers was founded by Heinz Wirz in June 1999 and is located in the Swiss town of Lucerne. The publishing house is specialised on books focusing on architecture and distributes them to an international market. A quart defines a nowadays uncommon book format. Its size is equivalent to the fourth part of a print sheet. This format was chosen for several of the larger volumes published by Quart Publishers.