

Seven American Utopias Architecture Of Communitarian Socialism 1790 1975

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from the time of its discovery the new world was regarded by american settlers as a new eden and a new jerusalem although individual pioneers visions of paradise were inevitably corrupted by reality some determined ideatists carved out enclaves in order to develop collective models of what they believed to be more perfect societies all such communitarian groups consciously attempted to express their social ideals in their buildings and landscapes invariably ideological predispositions can be inferred from a close study of the environments they created the interplay between ideology and architecture the social design and the physical design of american utopian communities is the basis of this remarkable book by dolores hayden at the heart of the book are studies of seven communitarian groups collectively stretching over nearly two centuries and the full breadth of the american continent the shakers of hancock massachusetts the mormons of nauvoo illinois the fourierists of phalanx new jersey the perfectionists of oneida new york the inspirationists of amana iowa the union colonists of greeley colorado and the cooperative colonists of llano del rio california hayden examines each of these groups to see how they coped with three dilemmas that all socialist societies face conflicts between authoritarian and participatory processes between communal and private territory and between unique and replicable community plans the book contains over 260 historic and contemporary photographs and drawings which

illustrate the communitarian processes of design and building the drawings range in scale from regional plans showing land ownership access to transportation and availability of natural resources through site plans of communal domains and building plans of dwellings and assembly halls down to detailed diagrams of furniture configurations to aid readers in making comparisons a series of site and building plans drawn at constant scales has been provided for all seven case studies

the utopian socialism of charles fourier spread throughout europe in the mid nineteenth century but it was in the united states that it generated the most intense excitement in this rich and engaging narrative carl j guarneri traces the american fourierist movement from its roots in the religious social and economic upheavals of the 1830s through its bold communal experiments of the 1840s to its lingering twilight after the civil war

2022 winifred bryan horner outstanding book award honorable mention a necessary rhetorical history of women s work in utopian communities utopian genderscapes focuses on three prominent yet understudied intentional communities brook farm harmony society and the oneida community who in response to industrialization experimented with radical social reform in the antebellum united states foremost among the avenues of reform was the place and substance of women s work author michelle c smith seeks in the communities rhetorics of teleology choice and exceptionalism the lived consequences of the communities lofty goals for women members this feminist history captures the utopian reconfiguration of women s bodies spaces objects and discourses and delivers a needed intervention into how rhetorical gendering interacts with other race and class identities the attention to each community s material practices reveals a gendered ecology which in many ways squared unevenly with utopian claims nevertheless this volume argues that this utopian moment inaugurated many of the norms and practices of labor that continue to structure women s lives and opportunities today the rise of the factory the shift of labor from home spaces to workplaces the invention of housework the role of birth control and childcare the question of wages and the feminization of particular kinds of labor an impressive and diverse array of archival and material research grounds each chapter s examination of women s professional domestic or reproductive labor in a particular community fleeting though they may seem the practices and lives of those intentional women smith argues pattern contemporary divisions of work along the vibrant and contentious lines of gender race and class and stage the continued search for what is possible

this interdisciplinary book examines archaeology s engagement with semiotics from its early structuralist beginnings to its more recent peircian encounters it represents the first sustained engagement with peircian semiotics in archaeology as well as the first discussion of how pragmatic anthropology articulates with archaeological archaeology its central thesis is that archaeology is a distinctive kind of semiotic enterprise one devoted to giving meaning to the past in the present through the study of materiality it compliments standard studies of linguistics and reformulates contemporary theories of material culture providing an introduction to saussure and a review of his legacy across structural symbolic and cognitive anthropology preucel goes on to present the peircian alternative and highlights its influence on pragmatic anthropology of special

interest are the discussions of the interrelations of structuralism and processual archaeology poststructuralism and postprocessual archaeologies and cognitive science and cognitive archaeology the author offers two original case studies demonstrating how material culture pragmatically mediates social relations one focusing on the aftermath of the pueblo revolt from 1680 1694 and the other on the new england utopian community of brook farm from 1842 1846 throughout his analysis preucel emphasizes the close links between archaeology and other social sciences but he also contends that archaeology by virtue of the powerful ideological character of the past can open up new spaces for discourse and dialogue about meaning and in the process make a valuable contribution to contemporary semiotics

in skyscraper benjamin flowers explores the role of culture and ideology in shaping the construction of skyscrapers and the way wealth and power have operated to reshape the urban landscape

offering the first comprehensive history of atlanta race relations ronald bayor discusses the impact of racial bias on physical and institutional development of the city from the end of the civil war through the mayorship of andrew young in the 1980s bayor explores frequently ignored policy issues through the lens of race including hospital care highway placement and development police and fire services schools and park use as well as housing patterns and employment

utopian thought though commonly characterized as projecting a future without a past depends on golden models for re invention of what is through a detailed and innovative re assessment of the work of three architects who sought to represent a utopian content in their work and a consideration of the thoughts of a range of leading writers coleman offers the reader a unique perspective of idealism in architectural design with unparalleled depth and focus of vision on the work of le corbusier louis i kahn and aldo van eyck this book persuasively challenges predominant assumptions in current architectural discourse forging a new approach to the invention of welcoming built environments and transcending the limitations of both the postmodern and hyper modern stance and orthodox modernist architecture

how nineteenth century social reformers devised a new set of radical blueprints for society in the middle of the nineteenth century a utopian impulse flourished in the united states through the circulation of architectural and urban plans predicated on geometrically distinct designs though the majority of such plans remained unrealized the shape of utopia emphasizes the enduring importance of these radical propositions and their ability to visualize alternatives to what was then a newly emerging capitalist nation drawing diagrammatic plans for structures such as octagonal houses a hexagonal anarchist city and circular centers of equitable commerce these various architectural utopians applied geometric forms to envision a more just and harmonious society highlighting the inherent political capacity of architecture irene cheng showcases how these visionary planners used their blueprints as persuasive visual rhetoric that could mobilize others to share in their aspirations for a better world offering an extensive and uniquely focused view of mid nineteenth century america s rapidly changing cultural landscape this book examines these utopian plans within the context of significant economic and technological transformation

encompassing movements such as phrenology anarchism and spiritualism engaging equally with architectural history visual culture studies and u s history the shape of utopia documents a pivotal moment in american history when ordinary people ardently believed in the potential to reshape society

how do readers transform utopia how do they manipulate imaginary worlds to gain new perspectives of their own worlds in order to answer these and other questions this study employs a wide spectrum of reader response approaches to define the nature and impact of utopian literature

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Introduction

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