



## a5 Architecture Series

### Los Angeles

a = Architecture  
 5 = Examples from the past (five) 5 year time period  
 a5 = Worldwide Documentary Series on Architecture of the past 5 years

The architecture of Los Angeles suggests "a magnetic dichotomy for architects who practice elsewhere and have tended to be simultaneously fascinated by, and wary of, it" states Berlin-based architect Casey C. M. Mathewson, editor of a5 LA. Mathewson's fascination with the region lies in the timelessness he finds in the reduction of forms, and the precise, non-erring detailing of these forms. His own work as an architect is ignited by these qualities, and he used this as criteria for selecting projects to include in this volume of a5 LA with Los Angeles editor Ann Videriksen.

The a5 Architecture Series is a new book series focusing on architecture, interiors, and landscapes in select global cities. This first volume showcases the work of twenty-two innovative firms working in the vibrant Los Angeles scene. To illustrate the construction technologies behind the architecture the book features a special focus on construction detailing of 20 select buildings that enables readers to gain insight into how the buildings are made and enables the book to serve as a valuable design tool for architects and others interested in design and the arts.

The book features exclusive, state-of-the-art architectural photography, with images by Julius Shulman+Juergen Nogai, Benny Chan, David Lena, and many others and hence provides a dramatic cross-section of the art of today's architectural photography in the world's film capital. Additionally, interviews conducted by a5 contributor Frances Anderton with some of the major figures in LA's architecture community are included.

For the inventive and gutsy young architect, Los Angeles has long been a magnet, with its promise of adventurous clients, affordable virgin land, its vacation climate and dramatic topography, as well as a lack of history and bureaucracy to impose constraints. A5 LA stands as a testimony to a moment in LA time – a moment when high consumption met panic about declining resources and global warming, and when a revival of interest in mid-century Modernism met phenomenalism and digital design. The architects whose work is shown in this book channeled these impulses and these buildings are the fascinating result.

— Frances Anderton

After the uncontrolled cycle of property overvaluation and the resultant economic consequences that now confront not only Los Angeles, many architects are (now) taking the time to assess their role and purpose. A new sensitivity can be witnessed in their work. Los Angeles - long damned and/or praised as the hotbed center of artificiality, but now evidenced by the quality of the body of new work presented here - is hovering on the verge of a more inclusive future.

— Casey C.M. Mathewson

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