

The Museum of Modern Art

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ARCHITECTURE WITHOUT ARCHITECTS by Bernard Rudofsky. 128 pages. 156 black and white illustrations. \$6.95 hardcover, \$3.95 paperbound. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, distributed by Doubleday & Co., Inc.

"Architecture Without Architects, An Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture" by Bernard Rudofsky, has been published by The Museum of Modern Art to accompany the exhibition of the same name (on view until February 7). The "Introduction" permits, in the words of Dean Pietro Belluschi, "an exhilarating glimpse of architecture as a manifestation of the human spirit beyond style and fashion, and, more importantly, beyond the narrows of our Roman-Greek tradition." It brings into critical focus those unfamiliar and unknown types of architecture that have been ignored due to our disparagement or unconcern, and presents them as a spontaneous answer to architectural problems in general, and as a key to understanding alien ways of life. "The wisdom to be derived from this architecture," writes Mr. Rudofsky, "goes beyond economic and esthetic considerations, for it touches the far tougher and increasingly troublesome problems of how to live and let live, how to keep peace with one's neighbors, both in the parochial and universal sense."

African cliff dwellings and storage fortresses, Chinese underground villages for millions of inhabitants (complete with schools, offices and factories), and a prehistoric theater district in Peru are among the hitherto unknown or unsuspected examples of communal architecture from the undatable past to the present found by Mr. Rudofsky in more than 60 countries.

It compares, if only by implication, the serenity of the architecture in so-called underdeveloped countries with the architectural blight in our country. Far from being accidental, this non-pedigreed architecture gives tangible evidence of more humane, more intelligent ways of living. "Ignorant as we are," says the author, "of the duties and privileges of people who live in older civilizations; acquiesce as we do in accepting chaos and ugliness as our fore-ordained fate, we neutralize any and all misgivings about the inroads of architecture on our lives with lame protests directed at nobody in particular."

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A graduate architect and engineer of Vienna Polytechnic University, multi-lingual Dr. Rudofsky gained his first-hand knowledge of historical and contemporary architecture in long, methodical travels, and years of residence in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Before making his home in New York, he practiced architecture in Austria, Italy and Brazil. He traveled in the United States in 1935 and 1936, when modern architecture was not yet widely accepted, and returned five years later at the invitation of The Museum of Modern Art as one of the winners in its Organic Design Competition.

Mr. Rudofsky has written and lectured widely on architecture and related subjects, and served as Visiting Critic to the Graduate Schools at M.I.T. and Yale. In connection with his searches and researches in vernacular architecture he was awarded Ford, Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships. He has written three other books: Are Clothes Modern? - based on his exhibition of the same name at The Museum of Modern Art - which the New Yorker magazine called "a psychoanalysis of dress;" Behind the Picture Window, "a work that deflates our most cherished illusions of national superiority;" (Christian Science Monitor) and, to be issued next spring, The Kimono Mind, an informal guide to the Japanese way of thinking. His Architecture Without Architects is the forerunner of an extensive book on the universal problems of human shelter.

The exhibition, Architecture Without Architects, was commissioned by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions under the auspices of the International Council of the Museum. After the New York showing, it will travel throughout this country and abroad.

Review copies and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.