

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE WORK OF FREI OTTO by Ludwig Glaeser. 128 pages; 159 illustrations; clothbound \$10.00; paperbound \$6.95; Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Cloth-bound edition distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd. in the United States and Canada; and Feffer and Simons internationally.

THE WORK OF FREI OTTO by Ludwig Glaeser, a complete survey in photographs, drawings and text of the work of one of Germany's most imaginative architects, will be published by The Museum of Modern Art on April 10, 1972.

Based on an exhibition first shown on the Garden Terrace of The Museum of Modern Art last year, this publication includes all of Frei Otto's major executed projects from the Bandstand in Kassel (1955) to the Olympic Stadia Roofs in Munich (1972); the experimental studies he undertook between 1961 and 1963; the Arctic City Envelope Project of 1971; and his best-known structure on this continent -- the German Pavilion at Expo '67 in Montreal. In addition to 100 full-page illustrations, the book has a systematic catalogue of the structures containing comprehensive technical data, explanatory text and supporting drawings and illustrations. The text and catalogue notes provide a biographical sketch of the architect and an authoritative commentary on one of the most important developments in contemporary architecture.

Like most modern architects, Frei Otto is preoccupied with the fundamental question of structure: how to achieve more with less -- to construct greater spans with less material and energy. This concern has prompted him to undertake an extensive investigation of lightweight structures, and the result has been both a comprehensive theory of minimal structures and a number of spectacular designs. The rich diversity of applications of tensile structures he has created is best illustrated by his pneumatic structures, which range from membrane dams to giant greenhouses and covers for entire cities. In addition, there are a variety of tents -- temporary structures ideal for exhibition pavilions and retractable roofs for theaters and

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stadiums. Their relevance in an age of rapid change and increased mobility, as well as the promise they hold for a future that will call for ever larger surfaces to be roofed on this and other planets, make these structures one of the most significant modern building types.

Ludwig Glaeser, formerly Curator of Architecture at The Museum of Modern Art, is presently Curator of the Mies van der Rohe Archive at the Museum. He is also the author of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Drawings in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, and was director of the exhibition The Work of Frei Otto at the Museum.

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