

Mies van der Rohe bei der Arbeit // Phaidon, 2005 // 2005 // 9780714894690 // Peter Carter

"Ludwig Mies van der Rohe is widely regarded as one of the most influential architects and architectural theorists of the 20th century. His work is unmistakable in its clarity and the rigor with which it embodies the principles of rationalism and functionalism, as well as in its spatial qualities, material expression and detailing. Typical for his style is the clear definition of place, the idea of universal space, the legible logic of the construction and precise detailing. For Mies, technological advances were a driving force of architecture, a spirit of the times that architecture should. Mies van der Rohe's architecture has been well documented, yet his writings, which contain the key to understanding his work, have been largely unexplored. From a body of writing that is surprisingly large for the self-described "unwilling author," Fritz Neumeyer reconstructs the metaphysical and philosophical inquiry on which Mies based his modernism. Acclaimed Japanese photographer Yoshihiko Ueda embarks upon an introspective pilgrimage to discover the architecture of Mies van der Rohe in this elegant photo book. His passion for the famed Modernist's work is palpable, as he approaches each subject with loving, almost ritualistic care. Mies van der Rohe: A Critical Biography is a major rewriting and expansion of Franz Schulze's acclaimed 1985 biography, the first full treatment of the master German-American modern architect. Coauthored with architect Edward Windhorst, this revised edition, three times the length of the original text, features extensive new research and commentary and draws on the best recent work of American and German scholars. The authors' major new discoveries include the massive transcript of the early-1950s Farnsworth House court case, which discloses for the first time the facts about Mies's epic battle w