READING ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURE

RESEARCHING BUILDINGS, SPACES AND DOCUMENTS

EDITED BY
ADAM SHARR
## Contents

**List of illustrations**  
**Illustration credits**  
**Notes on contributors**  
**Acknowledgements**  
**Introduction**  

### Opening

1. **Breathing walls**  
   David Leatherbarrow  
   13

### Part one: Extraordinary buildings, divergent readings

2. **An augury of collapse: Herzog and De Meuron’s CaixaForum in Madrid**  
   Adam Sharr  
   29

3. **Fostering relations in Kazakhstan**  
   Edward Wainwright  
   46

4. **Reading the site at Sverre Fehn’s Hamar Museum**  
   Suzanne Ewing  
   62

5. **A hellish cloud and a very clear air: industry, nature and weather in early eighteenth-century England**  
   Jonathan Hill  
   74

### Part two: Familiar buildings, unfamiliar readings

6. **Extension stories**  
   Flora Samuel  
   93

7. **Lounge space: the home, the city and the service area**  
   Samuel Austin  
   106
CONTENTS

8 The architecture of urban life: 67 rue des Meuniers
   Diana Periton 121

9 The setting and the social condenser: transitional objects in
   architecture and psychoanalysis
   Jane Rendell 136

Part three: Redolent details, insightful documents 151

10 Four lines
   Michael Cadwell 154

11 ‘God is in the details’/‘The detail is moot’: a meeting between
   Mies and Koolhaas
   Mhairi McVicar 165

12 Specifying transparency: from ‘best seconds’ to ‘new glass
   performances’
   Katie Lloyd Thomas 179

13 Making plans: Alberti’s ichnography as cultural artefact
   Paul Emmons and Jonathan Foote 197

14 How the mind meets architecture: what photography reveals
   Hugh Campbell 211

Epilogue 223

15 An architectural good-life can be built, explained and taught
   only through storytelling
   Marco Frascari 224

Select bibliography 235

Index 239

Figure 1.1 1949–66; in UPR, Rio P. Health, Rio

Figure 1.2 1

Figure 1.3 1

Figure 1.4 5

Figure 1.5 5

Figure 1.6 5

Figure 1.7 5

Figure 1.8 5

Figure 2.1 in Tokyo’s

Figure 2.2

Figure 2.3

Figure 2.4

Figure 2.5

Figure 2.6

Figure 2.7 from outside

Figure 3.1