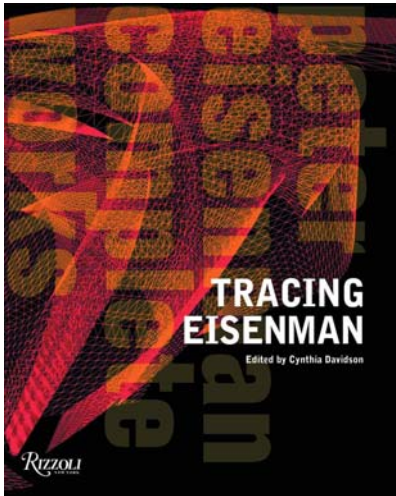


**Tracing Eisenman: Complete Works** / Edited by Cynthia Davidson.—New York, NY: Rizzoli International Publications, November 2006.—400p.: ill.--ISBN 0-8478-2889-1: \$75.00.



*Tracing Eisenman* is the first comprehensive, single-volume survey of the work of one of America's most influential "starchitects." Peter Eisenman gained prominence in the late 1960s as a member--along with John Hejduk, Michael Graves, Charles Gwathmey, and Richard Meier--of "The New York Five," who expressed allegiance to a modernist aesthetic, that traced its roots to the work of Le Corbusier. Eisenman established himself as a theorist and philosopher, as much as an architect, and in his work he draws from and is influenced by a diverse group of intellectuals including Friedrich Nietzsche, Noam Chomsky, and Jacques Derrida.

Beginning with the early, sequentially numbered House projects and ending with the 2005 design for Il Giardino dei Passi Perduti (Verona, Italy), this book documents Eisenman's oeuvre, actual and theoretical. In the House projects, Eisenman played with idealized modernist principles--classical boxes reconceived in a tangle of right angles, seemingly functionless columns, and cutout white planes--in his geometric and theoretical investigations of space, meaning, and signs. The development of a more varied and complex

vision is reflected in well-known projects such as Ohio University's Wexner Center, the recently completed Cardinal's Stadium in Arizona, 1986 jewelry and tableware designs, and a proposal for the rebuilding of the World Trade Center. Each project is elucidated in a short essay that describes the architect's concept and goals and is accompanied by a multitude of images, such as axiomatic diagrams, sketches, cardboard models, and floor plans. Contributing scholars and critics include Greg Lynn, Sanford Kwinter, and Stan Allen. Their essays appear at regular intervals, disrupting the clear chronological organization of the book, and are accompanied by documents providing insight into Eisenman's intellectual life. One such example is a page from Eisenman's copy of "Notes on the Index" by Rosalind Krauss, complete with his underlining, stars, arrows, and margin notes. This inclusion, appearing alongside Stan Allen's essay referencing Krauss's work, creates a meaningful framework for understanding Eisenman's thinking and influences.

Cynthia Davidson, editor of *Log*, a contemporary architecture serial published by the Anyone Corporation, knows her subject matter and has compiled a volume that has exciting visuals and thought-provoking text. It is recommended for academic and architecture libraries.

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