



The Death of Drawing: Architecture in the Age of Simulation

By David Ross Scheer

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The Death of Drawing: Architecture in the Age of Simulation By David Ross Scheer

The Death of Drawing explores the causes and effects of the epochal shift from drawing to computation as the chief design and communication medium in architecture. Drawing both framed the thinking of architects and organized the design and construction process to place architects at its center. Its displacement by building information modeling (BIM) and computational design recasts both the terms in which architects think and their role in building production. Author David Ross Scheer explains that, whereas drawing allowed architects to represent ideas in form, BIM and computational design simulate experience, making building behavior or performance the primary object of design.

The author explores many ways in which this displacement is affecting architecture: the dominance of performance criteria in the evaluation of design decisions; the blurring of the separation of design and construction; the undermining of architects' authority over their projects by automated information sharing; the elimination of the human body as the common foundation of design and experience; the transformation of the meaning of geometry when it is performed by computers; the changing nature of design when it requires computation or is done by a digitally-enabled collaboration. Throughout the book, Scheer examines both the theoretical bases and the practical consequences of these changes. *The Death of Drawing* is a clear-eyed account of the reasons for and consequences of the displacement of drawing by computational media in architecture. Its aim is to give architects the ability to assess the impact of digital media on their own work and to see both the challenges and opportunities of this historic moment in the history of their discipline.

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The Death of Drawing: Architecture in the Age of Simulation By David Ross Scheer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #881454 in Books
- Published on: 2014-08-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 5.50" w x .75" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 258 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

This is a significant book at the time of widespread uncertainty and confusion in architectural theory, education and practice. - *Juhani Pallasmaa, architect and author of The Eyes of the Skin*

In this timely and important study, David Scheer offers a lucid analysis of a dramatic, unprecedented, epistemological shift in architecture and its production. - *Michael Sorkin, architecture critic, Distinguished Professor of Architecture and Director of the Graduate Program in Urban Design, City College of New York*

David Scheer offers a clear and unvarnished assessment of what architects have to lose and gain as we move from representative to simulated experiences, from controlling to collaborative practices, and from Euclidean to parametric/algorithmic form-making. - *Thomas Fisher, author of Designing to Avoid Disaster, professor of architecture and the Dean of the College of Design, University of Minnesota*

David Scheer's important book on the role of drawing in the digital and virtual age reminds us that the actual relationship between the hand and the mind is neither casual nor expendable. - *Renata Hejduk, Assistant Professor of Architectural History and Theory in the School of Architecture, Arizona State University*

As an architect and educator, engaged in professional debates in the United States, David Ross Scheer is a credible writer on contemporary architectural practice. The discussion is well grounded and contextualized within architectural history and it is timely, given substantial policy and commercial incentives for better information management through building life cycles. - *Jennifer Whyte, University of Reading, UK*

If one wants to know what is going on in the profession and schools of architecture, this book is a must read... Scheer says we need to understand the myriad tools available to us, but be smart enough to lead with design rather than performance. - *Sophia A. Gruzdys, Architectural Record*

No question: Scheer is an ideas junkie and has done his homework. In the book you will find Immanuel Kant's theories on knowledge and beauty mixed with practical details and the theoretical foundations of CD and BIM simulations. If you believe ideas shape the expectations of what is seen, and that seeing the novel and universal is a desired outcome for designers of great buildings, this is a matchup you will want to follow and a book to read. - *J. Michael Redd, 15 bytes*

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Amanda Bell:

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