



# An Anthropology of Architecture

By Victor Buchli

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Ever since anthropology has existed as a discipline, anthropologists have thought about architectural forms. This book provides the first overview of how anthropologists have studied architecture and the extraordinarily rich thought and data this has produced.

With a focus on domestic space - that intimate context in which anthropologists traditionally work - the book explains how anthropologists think about public and private boundaries, gender, sex and the body, the materiality of architectural forms and materials, building technologies and architectural representations. Each chapter uses a broad range of case studies from around the world to examine from within anthropology what architecture 'does' - how it makes people and shapes, sustains and unravels social relations.

*An Anthropology of Architecture* is key reading for students of anthropology, material culture, geography, sociology, architectural theory, design and city planning.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“...Buchli's study is a very useful summary of the history and current status of the anthropology of architecture, achieved at a high level of philosophical analysis. Most importantly, it accomplishes its goal of attesting "to the novel material forms and registers by which architecture makes people" (p. 186). From now on, anthropologists must include the agentive objects of houses and other physical forms and possessions in their studies of culture.” ?*Jack David Eller, Anthropology Review Database*

“Architecture is far more than the materials and designs used in construction for, as anthropologist Buchli (Univ. College London) states in his first sentence, "buildings make people." Ethnographic glimpses range from Mongolian yurts to the "sick building syndrome" of certain London high-rises. Buchli's volume is "an anthropology," and deliberately idiosyncratic. His prose is not easily followed, and allusions may elude those lacking knowledge of the literatures to which he turns; still, intellectual rewards abound in Buchli's pages. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty.” ?*A. F. Roberts, University of California, Los Angeles, CHOICE*

#### About the Author

**Victor Buchli** is Reader in Material Culture at the Department of Anthropology, University College London, UK, and Editor of *Home Cultures*.

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