



War and Architecture

Lebbeus Woods

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Pamphlet Architecture was begun in 1977 by William Stout and Steven Holl as an independent vehicle for dialogue among architects, and has become a popular venue for publishing the works and thoughts of a younger generation of architects. Small in scale, low in price, but large in impact, these books present and disseminate new and innovative theories. The modest format of the books in the Pamphlet Architecture Series belies the importance and magnitude of the ideas within.

War and Architecture Details

Date : Published January 1st 1996 by Princeton Architectural Press

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Author : Lebbeus Woods

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From Reader Review War and Architecture for online ebook

Helen says

I was first introduced to Lebbeus Woods' work this past week, when, having some extra time on my hands, I visited the Broad Art Museum in East Lansing, Michigan. Woods, who was born in Lansing, and died in 2012, was an experimental architect whose sketches and theories, for me, overshadowed his actual buildings. The museum is currently holding an exhibition of his work, and if you're in the area, I encourage you to go see it. The museum itself was built by one of Woods' proteges, and is amazing.

In the pamphlet *War and Architecture*, published in 1993 by Princeton Architectural Press, the architect presents the idea that buildings and cities, after undergoing disaster, and especially after undergoing a war where bombings have destroyed or damaged the present architecture, should rebuild using the destroyed buildings as they are. In his sketches, he creates scars, mostly metallic, to cover over the damage in a way that you can still see, in the mind's eye, the damage underneath. He discusses the creation of freespace underneath these scars, and in the areas where debris has landed in the streets, making places of play and creative expression.

The sketches use buildings destroyed in Sarajevo, and are haunting, eerie, and futuristic. They were never built, but nevertheless they're inspirational. They make me want to write about a world in which such scars and free spaces exist. They are a reminder of what humanity has put itself through.

That was 1993. In 2014, imagine what such scars might do to heal Egypt, Iraq, Ukraine, Venezuela. Woods must have known that while the sketches would probably not be put in to play in his lifetime, there would never not be a need for them. Perhaps, there is a young architect out there right now, on the streets of these countries, who might be inspired by the work of Lebbeus Woods and, in some way, make these ideas a reality.

You never know. Woods, twenty years ago, predicts something very much like bitcoin in discussing how such projects would be financed.

Fredrick Zal says

One of the most important narratives for urban design and community-mindedness this millennium has to offer!

I recommend first reading a version without gazing upon the images, and then to read it again with the images in perspective.

Abraham says

Beautiful, passionate, and poetic. This book treads the so very thin line between the poetic and the rigorously conceived, building, ultimately, an argument for the generation of an architecture that is more than just democratic, that is a real response to the real dynamic world we inhabit. The renderings, which I just saw

first hand at the Sfmoma, are spectacular, and represent a rare devotion to craft and poetic, heart and structure. Rip lebbeus woods.
