

# Material Imagination in Architecture

*David Dernie, Jacopo Gaspari*  
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**David Dernie, Jacopo Gaspari : Material Imagination in Architecture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Material Imagination in Architecture:

Material Imagination in Architecture draws on history and the visual arts, and contemporary architecture to explore this popular theme in architectural practice and education. In the context of a discipline increasingly driven by digital production, this text explores architecture and making and the diverse influences on the material reality of architectural form: it argues that the crafts, fabrication and assemblage of its making remain vital elements of contemporary architectural language. This broad-ranging text bridges the gap between a technical or otherwise fragmentary

knowledge of materials of the specialist, and the tacit or instinctive understanding of materials that the artist, sculptor or architect may have. It identifies key material themes pertinent to contemporary architectural debate and develops a discourse about future practice that is framed by environmental imperatives and grounded in a historical understanding of the meaning and use of materials. Material iconology in architecture is a well-established tradition and this book draws on that background to investigate the possibilities, and limits, of using materials in contemporary design to communicate the themes and contexts of an architectural project, a material's relationship to context, and to the history of practices that belong to the traditions of making buildings. Each theme is explored in case studies from twelve countries around the world, including the UK, USA, Spain, Italy, Germany, Australia and China.

About the Author David Dernie is an Architect and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at the University of Westminster, UK. He is author of *Victor Horta* (1995), *The Villa d'Este* (1996) *New Stone Architecture* (2003), *Exhibition Design* (2007), and *Architectural Drawings* (2010). Jacopo Gaspari is a Researcher at the University of Bologna, Italy, where he teaches Materials and Construction Systems as well as Technologies for Energy Efficiency. His research fields include Climate Resilient Environment, Adaptation and Sustainable Renovation. He holds a PhD in Technology for Architecture.