

The New Space: Movement and Experience in Viennese Modern Architecture

Christopher Long

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Christopher Long : The New Space: Movement and Experience in Viennese Modern Architecture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Space: Movement and Experience in Viennese Modern Architecture:

Scholars have long stressed the problem of ornament and expression when considering Viennese modernism. By the first decade of the 20th century, however, the avant-garde had shifted its focus from the surface to the interior. Adolf Loos (1870–1933), together with Josef Frank (1885–1967) and Oskar Strnad (1879–1935), led this generation of architects to interpret modernism through culture and lifestyle. They were interested in the experience of architectural space: how it could be navigated, inhabited, and designed to reflect the modern way of life while also offering respite from it. The New Space traces the theoretical conversation about space carried out in the writings and built works of Loos, Frank, and Strnad over four decades. The three ultimately explored what Le Corbusier would later—independently—term the architectural promenade. Lavishly illustrated with new photography and architectural plans, this important book enhances our understanding of the development of modernism and of architectural theory

and practice.

“The argument for a building as visage versus a site for complex, lived-in experiences is long-standing in architectural debates. Fixating on a fraught moment in this discourse within Viennese architecture, Christopher Long puts into relief the work and writings of Adolf Loos, Josef Frank, and Oskar Strnad—all concerned with the relationship between the architectural and the subjective interior.” —Metropolis