



Tools for Ideas: An Introduction to Architectural Design

By Christian Gänshirt



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Architects today must position themselves within an extremely wide-ranging field of qualifications. This makes it all the more important to have a fresh introduction to the field that makes up one of their core competences, the field of design. This introductory presentation describes and analyzes the theories, strategies, and tools of creative design for the purposes of practical work. With thoughtfulness and expertise, it opens the readers eyes to the processes that underlie design and demonstrates different ways of communicating about complex design work. The first section focuses on the much-discussed relationship between design and research, between architecture and the sciences. The second section describes basic design approaches, from Vitruvius and Alberti through Erwin Panofsky and Wolfgang Kemp to Otl Aicher and Vilém Flusser. The third and largest section presents the elementary tools of design, from gestures and words through drawings, models, and simulations to critique, all as instruments of creative design in architecture and its related fields.

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Editorial Review

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Dipl-Ing. Christian Gänshirt, freiberuflicher Architekt in Berlin, studierte Architektur an der TU Karlsruhe u.a. bei Jo Coenen und an der EPFL bei Luigi Snozzi. Er war Kostenplaner und Bauleiter für zahlreiche Architekten (u.a. für Alvaro Siza bei der Halle für Vitra). Seit 1998 arbeitet er auf dem Gebiet der Vermittlung von Entwurfstheorie und Entwurfspraxis, u.a. als Assistent am Lehrstuhl Entwerfen der TU Cottbus. Er ist Mitherausgeber der Internationalen Zeitschrift für Theorie und Wissenschaft der Architektur Wolkenkuckucksheim (Web-Zeitschrift).

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