

Preface

From 1987 to 1988 seventeen speakers in the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Technology, Delft, explored the social conditions of architecture in depth. It was the first time the title 'The Invisible in Architecture' was used.

We thank Giancarlo de Carlo, Henri Raymond, Ernest Mandel, Geoffrey Broadbent, Amos Rapoport, Jean Leering, Michael Müller, Franziska Bollerey, Cees Hamelink, Charles Jencks, Rod Hackney, Santiago Calatrava, Peter Eisenman, Rem Koolhaas, Wolf Prix, Rob Krier and Kenneth Frampton for their contributions.

Their ideas were various and their points of view often decidedly contradictory. One could not say that there was any real exchange of ideas during the organised series of lectures. We felt that for an exchange of this sort to happen it needed to be given the right setting. To this end we pursued our project by preparing and compiling this manuscript which you now have before you in printed form.

No one person, or even two people, are capable of organising a conference or writing a book unaided. Many people have helped us during our long journey towards realising our goal. To all of them our heartfelt thanks are due. We think in particular of Dave Wendt, whose intellectual insight and editorial support have been invaluable. In no small part, the present book is also his work; he wishes to thank Suzanne Olde Monnikhof for her ongoing support. We also thank the writers who sent us their essays, the architects who answered our critical questionnaires and generously made their material available to us, the people we interviewed who welcomed us warmly giving us hours of their time, and the many artists, photographers and others who have put their work disinterestedly at our disposal.

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'To steal from one is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.' We would like to thank everyone for 'lending' us the intellectual properties that we needed to write and compile this book.

No words can express our deepest affection for Liesbeth Janson and Mirjam Westen for their love and critical comments during our lengthy saga.

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