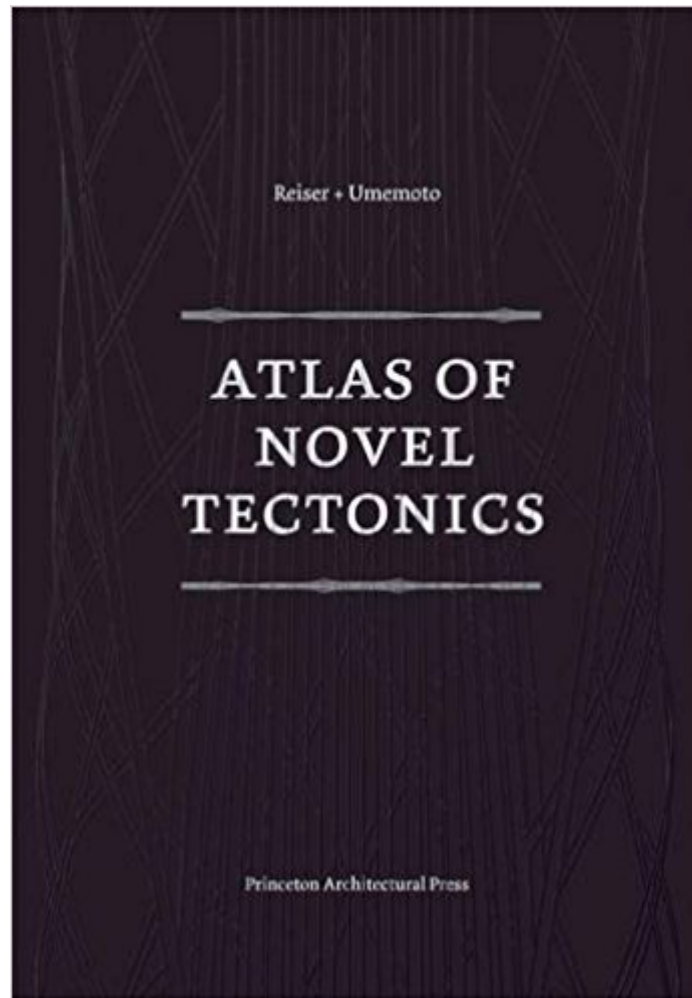




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# Atlas Of Novel Tectonics



## Synopsis

Architects Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto have been generating some of the most provocative thinking in the field for nearly twenty years. With *Atlas of Novel Tectonics*, Reiser+Umemoto hone in on the many facets of architecture and illuminate their theories with great thought and simplicity. The Atlas is organized as an accumulation of short chapters that address the workings of matter and force, material science, the lessons of art and architectural history, and the influence of architecture on culture (and vice versa). Reiser+Umemoto see architectural design as a series of problem situations, and each chapter is an argument devoted to a specific condition or case. Influenced by a wide range of fields and phenomena Brillat-Savarin's classic *The Physiology of Taste* is one of their primary models the authors provide a cross-section of thinking and inspiration. The result is both an elucidation of the concepts that guide Reiser+Umemoto through their own design process and a series of meditations on topics that have formed their own sense as architects. *Atlas of Novel Tectonics* offers an entirely fresh perspective on subjects that are generally taken for granted, and does so with a welcome punch and energy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Any book that starts with an essay on 'The Judo of Cold Combustion' deserves a place on our summer reading list. The authors offer reflections on matter and force, material science, art and architectural history, and the interrelationship of architecture and culture. -- Architect Magazine, July 2007  
Reiser and Umemoto are deep and original thinkers and I look forward to a renaissance in their work that fully reflects the wealth of clear ideas that populate this text. -- The Architectural Review,

October 2006 This cerebral little manual probes some of the more esoteric aspects of architecture in pursuit of novel approaches to design -- Metropolis, June 2006 This is a book that swims courageously against the tide... it reclaims the autonomy of theoretical discourse in relation to built architecture. That alone makes it an event... Atlas of Novel Tectonics is nothing if not a fascinating collection of finely wrought conceptual miniatures. Most are of Borgesian brevity (or shorter), and there are gems among them. My favourite is the tale of the 'devolved' glass nose of the Heinkel III bomber. -- AA Files, July 2007

Jesse Reiser and Nanako Umemoto are the founding partners of Reiser+Umemoto RUR Architecture PC, an internationally recognized architectural firm based in New York City. Their work encompasses a wide range of scales, from furniture design to landscape and infrastructure.

Extremely good book. It explains lots of problems and concepts that architects will encounter. This book was recommended to me by a professor. He stated that within a month of having the book it seemed like every page was bookmarked, simply because there is important information on every page.

This volume renders a comprehensive exploration and analysis of the forces (both sentient and unwitting) that influence the construct of architecture and contemporary design. Thoughtfully organized, elegantly illustrated, - an excellent addition to any designer's library.

Beautiful

Pictures coming off

Great book to have!

Great!

Highly recommended for those architects who seek to dig deep into the matter of design. In this case, a more fundamental way of thinking about design and thinking itself. Conceptual underpinnings are analyzed in a clear and systematic way, which is very rare in the field of architecture. The abstract concepts become clearer as you go through the book. What is great

about this book is the use of diagrams. There are faults and some problems but, this book does contribute to the discourse of architecture through its reformulating what architects and thinkers have learned for the past 20 years (more or less) into a easier-to-digest format. An admirable and respectable work on multiple levels.

Once you sift through the esoteric jargon you'll find that the underlying "big idea" of Atlas is a bit...well, narrow-minded. It relegates the architect to the \*singular\* role of funny shape maker. Philosophically speaking, I'm not so down with it. That doesn't mean Atlas isn't worthwhile however. If formalism is your bag, there's plenty of potential to tap. Certainly, it's not an easy read, nor are all of the concepts as profound as RUR would like to think, but there's definitely some provocative ideas contained therein: "But we have other ambitions for this vitality, which now must enter and find expression in the fabric of matter itself. Let's be clear: it is not the vulgar misconception that architecture must be literally animate...but its substance, its scale, its transitions and measurement will be marked by the dilations and contractions of the energy field." As is the case with most contemporary architectural theory, you have to do a lot of digging, re-reading and source-referencing to understand the ideas. The prose can be just as high-brow and sanctimonious as the decon philosophers that influenced it (Derrida, for instance). Complex as they may seem, the ideas embedded can be quite provocative not in a life-changing way, but more in a "novel" sort of way. If you're into form or just want to stay up on theory, then I'd buy it.

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