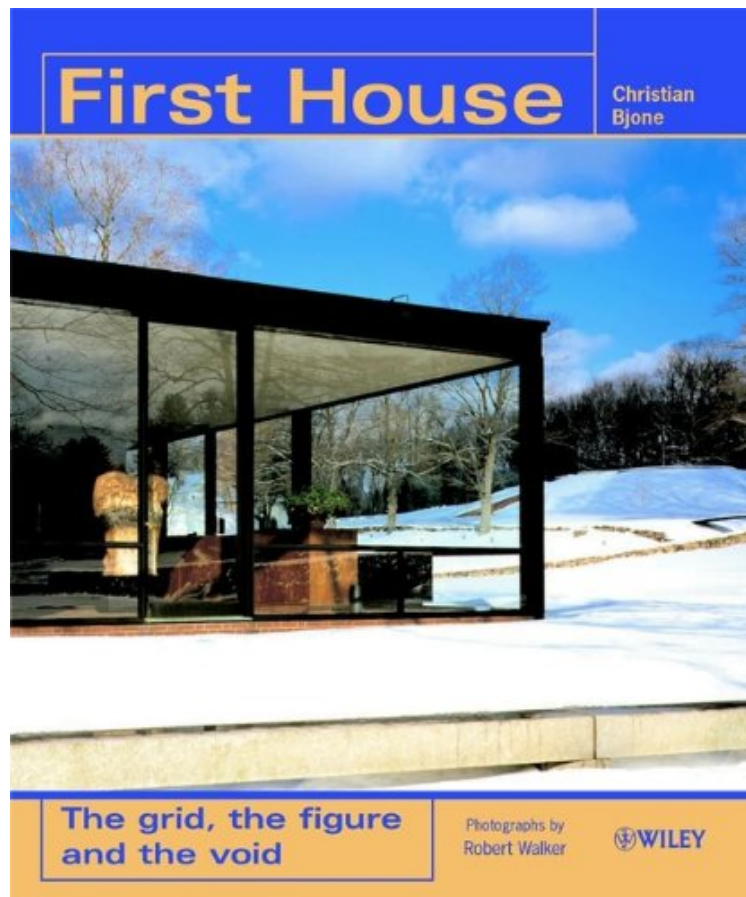


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First House: The Grid, the Figure and the Void (Architectural Monographs (Cloth))

Christian Bjone

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Christian Bjone : First House: The Grid, the Figure and the Void (Architectural Monographs (Cloth)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First House: The Grid, the Figure and the Void (Architectural Monographs (Cloth)):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. At Last !!By S. MishraThis book reviews the box type architecture of the '40s, but with a twist, with details. This author features the first homes' interior gems. Yes, paintings, furniture and from old photographs, first time owners are rediscovered. Philip Johnson (also wrote at the end), I M Pei, Noyes, etc. its like the first album for a superband or superstar. Mr Bjone as an architect himself does an excellent job in this endeavor. Refreshing, the new cool.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant and UnsurpassedBy A CustomerAs an architectural historian, I have read a number of books that approach this subject, but none so comprehensively and with such a thoughtful analysis. Clear and concise writing with intriguing visual comparisons and beautiful illustrations and drawings. I recommend this book by the brilliant author/architect to anyone interested in 20th-century American architecture.

First House: the grid, the figure and the void presents a range of innovative first houses designed by a group of famous Harvard graduates from the 1930s - many of which have never been published before. These include such influential figures as Edward Larrabee Barnes, Ulrich Franzen, John Johansen, Philip Johnson, I M Pei and Paul Rudolph. This examination shows both what these soon-to-be-famous American architects were taught by their émigré Bauhaus instructors Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, and the development of their personal artistic vision. Each building is accompanied by a rich collection of background period information. Artworks by American painters such as Calder, Pollock, Motherwell and Kline are incorporated as both emblems of their time and sources of design inspiration. The furniture designed and used in many of the buildings is also illustrated and ranges from the well-known work of Eames to the forgotten steel wire chairs of Landrum. The book concludes with a review of the personalities involved in publishing these modern houses: the photographer Ezra Stoller, writer Peter Blake and historian Vincent Scully. These men also tried their hand at self-designed 'First Houses' for their own families. This book provides an extensively researched text with previously unpublished discoveries that are tied together in a uniquely personal and emotional narrative that opens a clear view upon the designers and their time.

"...beautifully produced, clever and thoughtful..." (The 20th Century Society Newsletter, September 2002) "...shows the pleasure of discovery that the author obviously experienced doing research for the book..." (DOCOMO, Winter 2002) From the Inside Flap In 1937, two of the foremost figures in Germany's celebrated school of modern design, the Bauhaus - Marcel Breuer and Walter Gropius - fled the political turmoil of their native country and headed for the shores of America. This move was to have a profound effect on American architecture. The émigré architects began their new careers teaching at Harvard, and in this way had a direct impact on those students who were soon to become the most influential American architects of their generation. This book examines the first houses of a selection of the soon-to-be-famous Harvard architecture students of the 1930s to 1950s: Edward Larrabee Barnes Ulrich Franzen John Johansen Philip Johnson Eliot Noyes I M Pei Paul Rudolph As well as presenting detailed accounts of the houses themselves, First House includes essays and interviews with the figures involved, providing a unique insight into this key moment in architecture - the meeting point between the idealism of European modernism and the pragmatism of American culture. From the Back Cover First House: the grid, the figure and the void presents a range of innovative first houses designed by a group of famous Harvard graduates from the 1930s - many of which have never been published before. These include such influential figures as Edward Larrabee Barnes, Ulrich Franzen, John Johansen, Philip Johnson, I M Pei and Paul Rudolph. This examination shows both what these soon-to-be-famous American architects were taught by their émigré Bauhaus instructors Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, and the development of their personal artistic vision. Each building is accompanied by a rich collection of background period information. Artworks by American painters such as Calder, Pollock, Motherwell and Kline are incorporated as both emblems of their time and sources of design inspiration. The furniture designed and used in many of the buildings is also illustrated and ranges from the well-known work of Eames to the forgotten steel wire chairs of Landrum. The book concludes with a review of the personalities involved in publishing these modern houses: the photographer Ezra Stoller, writer Peter Blake and historian Vincent Scully. These men also tried their hand at self-designed 'First Houses' for their own families. This book provides an extensively researched text with previously unpublished discoveries that are tied together in a uniquely personal and emotional narrative that opens a clear view upon the designers and their time.