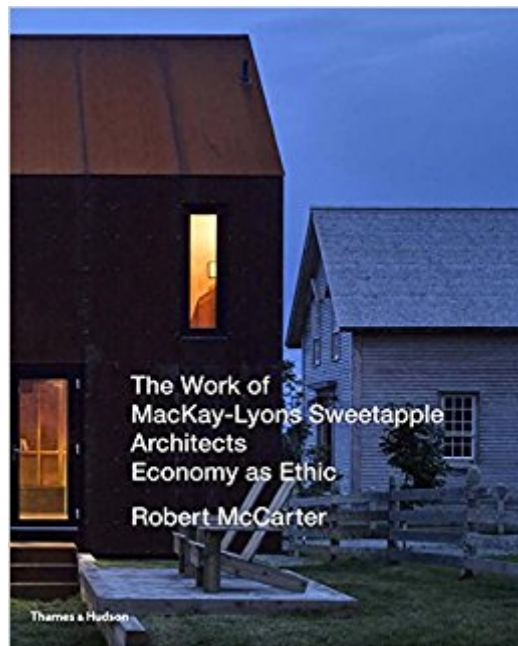




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The Work Of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects: Economy As Ethic



Synopsis

An inspiring monograph that captures the practical yet beautiful architecture of one of the leading architectural firms in the world. The work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects embodies two interrelated primary principles: economy and place. Economy as an ethical imperative leads to creating the “maximal” experience with minimal form, material, and cost. Reinforcing this imperative is the architects’ engagement of their place of practice, coastal Nova Scotia, and its climate, landform, and material culture. The practice has evolved plan types that allow the architects to engage the land and climate of their native Nova Scotia, and is also focused on the importance of the interior spatial experience. The work of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple is predicated on the belief that what really matters in architecture is not fashion and form but the material culture of building and the making of places. The result, evident in the nearly one hundred projects featured in the book, is both practical and poetic. 500+ illustrations in color, 150 line drawings

Book Information

Hardcover: 372 pages

Publisher: Thames & Hudson; 1 edition (April 18, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0500343314

ISBN-13: 978-0500343319

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 1.6 x 11.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #220,660 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Architecture > Individual Architects & Firms #228 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Residential #684 in Books > Textbooks >

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Customer Reviews

Robert McCarter is an architect and a professor at the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University, in St. Louis. He has written many books. Juhani Pallasmaa is a Finnish architect and former professor of architecture and dean at the Helsinki University of Technology. He was director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture 1978–83, and head of the Institute of Industrial Arts, Helsinki. Kenneth Frampton is a historian and theorist, and a professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, New York. His

many books include *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, *Le Corbusier*, and *Kengo Kuma: Complete Works*.

The book is beautifully produced with many projects shown. Great photos, plans and sections. As an architect I would appreciate some detail drawings and more on the materials used.

Clean, simple work. Good photos.

...as the previous two books published nearly ten years ago. I'm not one to typically write reviews but felt I didn't want someone to purchase this book searching for clarity and insight into the architects work. So, for what it is worth....First of I am a huge fan of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple and this is in no way a reflection upon their contribution to the built environment. Quite the contrary. Given the substantial heft and production value of the book itself, I expected way more than what I/we are given. I find this book to be an extreme disappointment for way too many reasons. It is a very haphazardly assembled book that provides little if any insight into the workings and process of the practice. It seems to be assembled as a mere portfolio for potential clients (again, not a fault by the architect but by the publisher) where there is no real order or chronology. The book begins with a project completed in 2006, jumps back to 1997, forward to 2010, back and forth, back and forth repeatedly and is difficult to gain any real insight into the growth and development of an impressive body of built works. Nor is there any ordering into the 'form' or type other than residential vs public. Furthermore seldom is a project given more than a single spread with sometimes two substantial project's documentation reduced to a meagre half page (1/4 spread). Even though brief as each projects documentation is a little bit more organizing and editing into chronological order and/or location and/or material & structural expressions and/or Ghost vs residential, could have made all the content provided worth the reduced \$43 price. As an architect that looks to MacKay-Lyon Sweetapple often as allies I find little in this book to be inspiring or insightful. With the book clocking in at +370 pages and boasting 750 illustrations, not a single illustration is a detail providing further analysis of the means and methods of a particular project. I will say it is impressive to see just how much work they have completed over the years but serves at best as a catalogue for which you will need to search online for more detail and documentation for a project of interest. If you are an architect seeking a better understanding of their work, I suggest the two books both published nearly TEN YEARS AGO with less than half of the work than this new publication and are both excellent primers into the firms practice and philosophy. And in my professional opinion are far more

insightful and inspiring. Both are by Princeton Architectural Press (always a sure bet if you are an architect looking for a book for an architect). The first which is an overall view of the work up to the date of publishing in 2005 is called Plain Modern. The other which is written by the architect on the whole of the Ghost projects up to the date of publishing in 2008 called Ghost: Building An Architectural Vision which is a beautiful and potent little book. Both of these books together although not trying to show off the quantity of the architects work clearly capture the quality and are both together half the price of the new one if you buy used. Again, praise to the architect but the publisher should have exercised some editing skills to avoid redundancy and monotony. Buy the other books if you want to explore the projects in more depth.

A spectacular book! A great combination of photos, plans, and other drawings!!

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