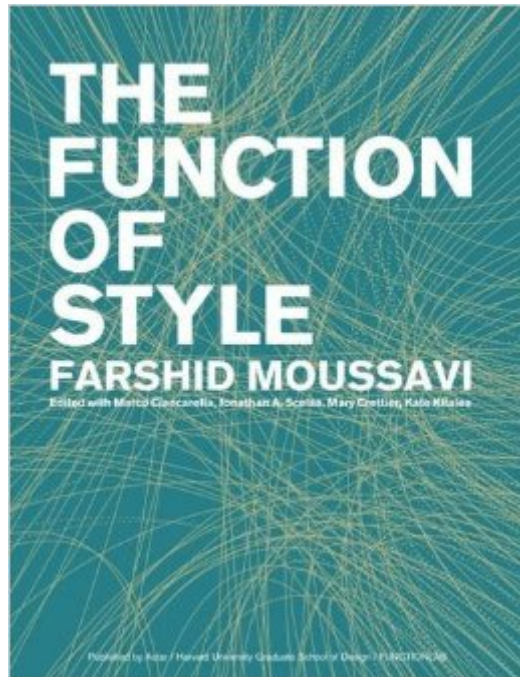


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# The Function Of Style



## Synopsis

What is the function of style today? If the 1970s were defined by Postmodernism and the 1980s by Deconstruction, how do we characterize the architecture of the 1990s to the present? Some built forms transmit affects of curvilinearity, others of crystallinity; some transmit multiplicity, others unity; some transmit cellularity, others openness; some transmit dematerialization, others weight. Does this immense diversity reflect a lack of common purpose? In this book, acclaimed architect and theorist Farshid Moussavi argues that this diversity should not be mistaken for an eclecticism that is driven by external forces. *The Function of Style* presents the architectural landscape as an intricate web in which individual buildings are the product of ideas which have been appropriated from other buildings designed for the different activities of everyday life, ideas which are varied to produce singular buildings that are related to one another but also different. This network of connections is illustrated on the cover of this book (and in more detail inside). Moussavi argues that, by embracing everyday life as a raw material, architects can change the conventions of how buildings are assembled, to ground style, and the aesthetic experience of buildings, in the micro-politics of the everyday. The third volume in Moussavi's *Function* series, *The Function of Style* provides an updated approach to style which can be used as an invaluable and highly productive tool by architects today. Assistant Editors: Marco Ciancarella, Jonathan A. Scelsa, Mary Crettier, Kate Kilalea

## Book Information

Flexibound: 336 pages

Publisher: Actar; Lam edition (April 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1940291305

ISBN-13: 978-1940291307

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.9 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #367,149 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture > Study & Teaching](#) #226 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Criticism](#) #649 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've received this gorgeous book today, exactly what I was expected. Well defined and I love every single part of it...the colour coding, pictures, texts all are thoughtfully managed. When I read through the book I feel like Farshid is sitting in front of me and explaining it to me which is amazing. To me it has got something more than The Function of Form and I totally feel the trend of developing the ideas in the context of the whole story. It was just a quick review from someone who bought the book before being available in the stock. ...great book, strongly recommend

One of a trilogy (with The Function of Form and The Function of Ornament) of excellent survey/catalogs by Ms. Moussavi of mostly 21st century architecture/projects. The format and content are similar to many contemporary architectural project surveys having been and being published these days - two pages project, catalogued by type. At close to 600 pages, it is another "fat-book" by a contemporary architect... but absent of the typical pseudo theory and diatribes that these books usually purvey. All three of these books are particular useful to a practitioner.

Farshid Moussavi's newest compendium seeks to find shared conventions (or what she terms "affects") among certain typologies which create spaces for residing, for listening to concerts, for working, for viewing exhibitions, for traveling through, for learning. Materials have no influence on style here, for her purposes. The format of the book wastes verso pages with basically decorative black and white CG views of characteristic elements but otherwise this is an intriguing if perhaps quixotic survey of contemporary solutions, what determined them and how they relate to one another. A good tool to turn to when you need to orient yourself to a particular building type.

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