Books Received

Tim Fife

Aging in the Community: A Research on the Designing of Everyday Life Environment of the Elderly Research Report. Edited by Kwok Yan-chi Jackie. Hong Kong: World Making Workshop, 1999. ISBN 962-85444-2-X (pbk); 131 pages.

This report examines the data and analysis connected to a research project undertaken by the School of Design of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the St. James' Settlement to examine the impact of "the everyday living environment of the aging community in Hong Kong." The book is visual intriguing with well thought out examples of information design.

Allyn, David. *Make Love, Not War: The Sexual Revolution: An Unfettered History*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0-316-03930-6 (hardcover); 381 pages.

A historical and well-researched look at the social climate of the 1960s and '70s and the social changes that consequently occurred. It is an examination of a time in our nation's history with is often referred to, but seldom discussed in detail. Combining research with firsthand accounts, Allyn investigates a period of U.S. 93-93 history the likes of which he believes we will never see again.

Ashcroft, Frances. *Life at the Extremes: The Science of Survival*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, Berkeley, 2000. ISBN 0-520-22234-2 (hardcover); 326 pages; black and white photographs.

A facinating book of miscellanous explanation of how things survive in extreme conditions. Full of curious factoids, fascinating histories, and in-depth explorations, this book is both engaging and entertaining as it explains away hundreds of questions you have probably never thought of asking.

Bermingham, Ann. *Learning to Draw: Studies in the Cultural History of a Polite and Useful Art.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-300-08039-5 (hardcover); 304 pages; black and white and color reproductions.

A well illustrated book exploring the historical significance of drawing in England from the age of Elizabeth I to the era of early photography. By putting the art of drawing into its historical context, artists and designers may be able to better see how their arts can affect society and culture as a whole.

Brosterman, Norman. *Out of Time: Designs for the Twentieth-Century Future.* New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 2000. ISBN 0-8109-2939-2 (pbk); 96 pages; black and white and color illustrations.

A collection of illustrations and ideas from the late 1800s through the 1960s envisioning "what the future might hold." These collected works range from the frightening (the US Navy's "protection plan" for ship against H-Bomb attacks) to the downright absurd (have you ever wanted to own your own plush Capri satellite?), giving designers and architects an example of how far some ideas can go (and have gone).

Carroll, John M. *Making Use: Scenario-Based Design of Human.* Computer Interactions Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2000. ISBN 0-262-03279-1 (hardcover); 368 pages; black and white illustrations.

An examination and demonstration of how the scenario can be used to effectively create a more natural and intuitive information system design. Carroll attempts to move the design process out of the abstract and into the world of the concrete using models and examples to show the necessity of scenarios when designing information systems.

Chase, Linda and Laura Cerwinske. *In the Romantic Style: Creating Intimacy, Fantasy and Charm in the Contemporary Home.* New York: Thames & Hudson Inc., 2000. ISBN 0-500-28244-7 (pbk); 144 pages; color illustrations.

"Less a single visual approach than an attitude toward design, the romantic style satisfies our desire for rooms that we and those we love will find pleasurable." This collection gives ideas and examples of this particular take on the romantic style of interior design though vivid images and unexpected combinations.

Christie, Christopher. *The British County House in the Eighteenth Century.* New York: Manchester University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-7190-4724-2 (hardcover); 331 pages; black and white and color photographs.

A nearly textbook examination of the architecture, environment, décor, and social significance of the country house in England in the 1700s. The subject is exhaustively researched in this book, and resulting information cover nearly every conceivable facet of the British County House of the Eighteenth Century.

Clough, Patricia Ticineto. *Autoaffection: Unconscious Thought in the Age of Teletechnology*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8166-2889-0 (pbk); 213 pages.

An examination of Poststructuralist thought and cultural criticism in a technologically advanced community. By using the concept of teletechnology, the mass communications of the late 20th century, Clough suggests that our individual and cultural unconscious have formed new connections between such areas as postcolonial theory, queer theory, literary criticism, and many other fields.

Friedlein, Ashley. *Web Project Management: Delivering Successful Commercial Web Sites*. New York: Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 2001. ISBN 1-55860-678-5 (pbk); 324 pages; black and white illustrations.

A comprehensive approach to managing the building of commercial web sites. This book's eight-step building plan is aimed much more at business side than at the techie side, so expect it to tell you how to make the project run smoothly, not how to make the website function smoothly.

Goldberg, RoseLee. *Laurie Anderson*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 2000. ISBN 0-8109-3582-1 (hardback); 204 pages; black and white and color photographs and illustrations.

A biography of the work of Laurie Anderson, acclaimed performance artist and instrument inventor. Anderson's work from the early 1970s right up through 1999 are documented in this collection which included her preparatory sketches, installations, song lyrics, and instrument designs.

Goodwin, Godfrey. *Topkapi Palace: An Illustrated Guide to its Life and Personalities*. London: Saqi Books, 1999. ISBN 0-86356-067-9 (hardcover); 223 pages; black and white and color photographs.

A detailed look at the Ottoman palace of Topkapi. It is in essence a detailed guidebook for exploring the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. It gives painstakingly specific geography, history, and social relevance of the palace and its grounds.

Graham, Tony. *Unicode: A Primer*. Foster City, CA: MIS: Press; M&T Books, 2000. ISBN 0-7645-4625-2 (pbk); 475 pages; black and white illustrations, screen shots, and diagrams.

"Unicode is a character encoding standard that includes all of the major scripts of the world in a simple and consistent manner."—Preface. This book contains information ranging from "Unicode 101" to "Operating Systems Support" and "Programming Language Support," two presumably sophisticated applications of Unicode. The text itself contains a good amount of graphically represented information and, especially near the end, an abundance of sample code to help the coder along.

Graphic Design & Reading: Explorations of an Uneasy Relationship. Edited by Gunnar Swanson. New York: Allworth Press, 2000. ISBN 1-58115-063-6 (pbk); 221 pages; black and white illustrations.

A collection of essays ranging from the examination of printing as *The Crystal Goblet* and *Legibility* to *Visual Syntax* and the *Democratization of Typography*. The variety of topics covered all share the theme of "reading" graphic design—a topic still in much contention in the field of communication design. The book is well designed, with both appropriate and stimulating examples used to illustrate the concepts of the essays.

Heller, Steven and Louise Fili. *Design Connoisseur: An Eclectic Collection of Imagery and Type*. New York: Allsworth Press, 2000. ISBN 1-58115-069-5 (pbk); 208 pages.

An exquisite collection of typographical artifacts dating from 1900 through 1940. These artifacts include never-before-reprinted typefaces, ornaments, letterheads, and trademarks from this vintage era. This collection of art-deco typefaces and images could be an excellent resource for any design study of early 20th century typographical design.

Kalman, Tibor and Maira. *(un)FASHION*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2000. ISBN 0-8109-4500-2 (hardcover); 224 pages; full color photographs

A beautiful photojournal of actual everyday fashion from around the world. The book contains almost no text, using its stunning visuals to tell the story of people and their lives all over the world.

Kwok Yan-chi Jackie. *The Production of Space in Hong Kong.* Hong Kong: Crabs Company Limited, 1998. ISBN 962-85444-1-1 (pbk); 234 pages; black and white illustrations and photographs.

A uniquely designed investigation of the common mis-educated view of design in Hong Kong and how designing space in the urban setting is helping to recitify the common misconceptions. With information presented in both Chinese and English, this book attempts clarity the difference between effective design and trends in fashion in Hong Kong.

Le Corbusier. *The Modulor: A Harmonious Measure to the Human Scale Universally Applicable to Architecture and Mechanics* and *Modulor 2: Let the User Speak Next.* Germany: Birkhäuser, 2000. ISBN 3-7643-6188-3 (pbk); pages 244 and 336; black and white illustrations.

As Signor Ivan Matteo Lombardo, President of the ninth Triennale in Milan said, "The *Modular* is the pivot around which revolve all the problems of proportion in modern architecture." These books describe a mid-twentieth century move towards achieving "harmony through relations of dimension." The first book explores proportion and dimension as related to architecture, typography, and industrial design, while the second book serves as a record of the forum of responses to the origin *Modular*.

Lomax, Yve. *Writing the Image: An Adventure with Art and Theory*. New York: I.B. Tauris, 2000. ISBN 1-86064-474-0 (pbk); 238 pages; black and white illustrations.

A collection of writings of Yve Lomax spanning 19 years, from 1981 to 2000. Her writings focus on the idea of placing the written word onto the same playing field as visual art. An unexpected informality of voice combined with a certain intellectualism makes these essays both touching and enlightening. At times, it is a refreshingly non-academic look at the adventure of combining artistic practice with theoretical writing.

McSheffrey, Gerald. *Planning Derry: Planning and Politics in Northern Ireland.* Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2000. ISBN 0-85323-714-X (hardcover); 136 pages; black and white illustrations and photographs.

A detailed look at the planning process of Northern Ireland area known as Derry by the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and numerous community leaders. The book takes a non-academic, real-life look at the ethical and social issues involved in urban planning.

Mirochnik, Elijah. *Teaching in the First Person: Understanding Voice and Vocabulary in Learning Relationships*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2000. ISBN 0-8204-4157-0 (pbk); 145 pages.

A study of the teaching style of three different UC Berkeley Undergraduate Architecture teachers and the metaphors they employ. The subsequent comparison of these techniques and metaphors, which are isolated after the teachers candidly discuss their interactions with their students, brings up an interesting examination of the educators' assumptions about knowledge and how these assumptions impact both their teaching and their students.

Pfammatter, Ulrich. *The Making of the Modern Architect and Engineer: The Origins and Development of a Scientific and Industrially Oriented Education*. Boston: Birkhäuser, 2000. ISBN 3-7643-6217-0 (pbk); 312 pages; black and white illustrations.

An in-depth look at the history of the evolution of the modern architectural engineering education. It includes an examination of the École Centrale des Arts et Manufacuter in Paris and the establishment of Technical Higher Education in central Europe. It also gives tribute to such engineering greats as Eiffel, Durand, and Le Baron Jenney.

Rogers, David F. *An Introduction to NURBS: With Historical Perspective*. San Diego, CA: Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 2001. ISBN 1-55860-669-6 (pbk); 323 pages; black and white diagrams and graphs.

NonUniform Rational B-Splines, or NURBS, are used in modeling systems to create, and later bury, lines, planes, and even spheres and complex sculptured surfaces. If you are not familiar with NURBS, this book attempts to bring the subject into the common realm, and does of good job of just avoiding "math-textbook-land" It is, however, admittedly "no 'NURBS for Dummies' book." To understand the underlying concepts requires some familiarity with simple calculus, and a lot of focus.

Sex Appeal: The Art of Allure in Graphic and Advertising Design. New York: Allworth Press, 2000. Edited by Steven Heller. ISBN 1-58115-048-2 (pbk); 272 pages; black and white illustrations and photographs.

A collection of essays on the role sex has played in the evolution of graphic and advertising design. The essays cover an impressive amount of ground with topics ranging from the expected (*Perfection* and *Art Paul: Designing Playboy*) to the unanticipated (*A Brief Look into Adult Typography* and *Dressing Love's Wounds: Purple Magazine and Post-Feminist Porn*). Many of the areas explored are ones in which the role of graphic design does not spring immediately to mind; consequently the essays are often surprising, provocative, and, at time, quite enlightening.

Thompson, J. William and Kim Sorvig. *Sustainable Landscape Construction: A Guide to Green Building Outdoors*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2000. ISBN 1-55963-646-7 (pbk); 349 pages; black and white photographs.

An environmentally friendly book which examines the impact of architecture and design on the surrounding environment. It is a veritable cornicopia of dos and don'ts when it comes to design impacting the environment, with healthy explanations of why some things are good and others bad.

Toy, Maggie. *Practically Minimal: Simply Beautiful Solutions for Modern Living*. New York: Thames & Hudson Inc., 2000. ISBN 0-500-51010-5 (hardcover); 192 pages; color illustrations.

A beautifully photographed collection of minimalistically designed home interiors. The architecture and design of the homes featured are inspiring and thought provoking, enough to make any designer or architect rethink his or her concepts of space and its usability as a form.

Venable, Charles, Ellen Denker, Katherine Grier, and Stephen Harrison. *China and Glass in America 1880–1980: From Tabletop to TV Tray*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2000. ISBN 0-8109-6692-1 (hardcover); 500 pages; color photographs.

A history of 20th century dining ware and its connection to the social and cultural history of the United States. With extensive histories of such production houses as Waterford and Wedgwood and their influence on the history and development of glass and ceramics in the US, this book is a good resource for the evolution of domestic products and their social impact.