The Ethical Architect: The Dilemma of Contemporary Practice

By Tom Spector

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Many believe that the moral mission of architecture has been in serious decline for the last 25 years. In this important new book, Tom Spector points out the dilemmas of architectural practice and offers a theoretical and practical basis for an examination and transformation of the quandaries the profession now faces. What makes a good building or a good architect? Are there limits to an architect's ethical or legal responsibilities in a building process where architecture plays an increasingly smaller role? Is preservation a moral imperative? What happens when building codes and ethical responsibilities are in conflict? In *The Ethical Architect*, Spector investigates the moral underpinnings and implications of leading architectural theories, subjecting them to the analytical techniques of moral philosophy. His conclusions provide a road map to help architects make the right decision in the difficult tradeoffs that confront designers on a daily basis: Spector estimates that more than 100,000 decisions go into the design of an average sized building. *The Ethical Architect* is a work of theory but refers to real buildings and real-world problems. It is Spector's call-to-arms for his profession and a must-read for practicing architects and students alike.

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Editorial Review

Review
As its foundation, the book utilizes moral philosophy as the cornerstone to evaluate and precisely articulate the ethics of practice. As its focus, the book touches equally on contemporary architectural debates and historical examples to begin discussions regarding the role of architects within the production of culture and an all-inclusive built environment. --Choice, June 1 2008

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