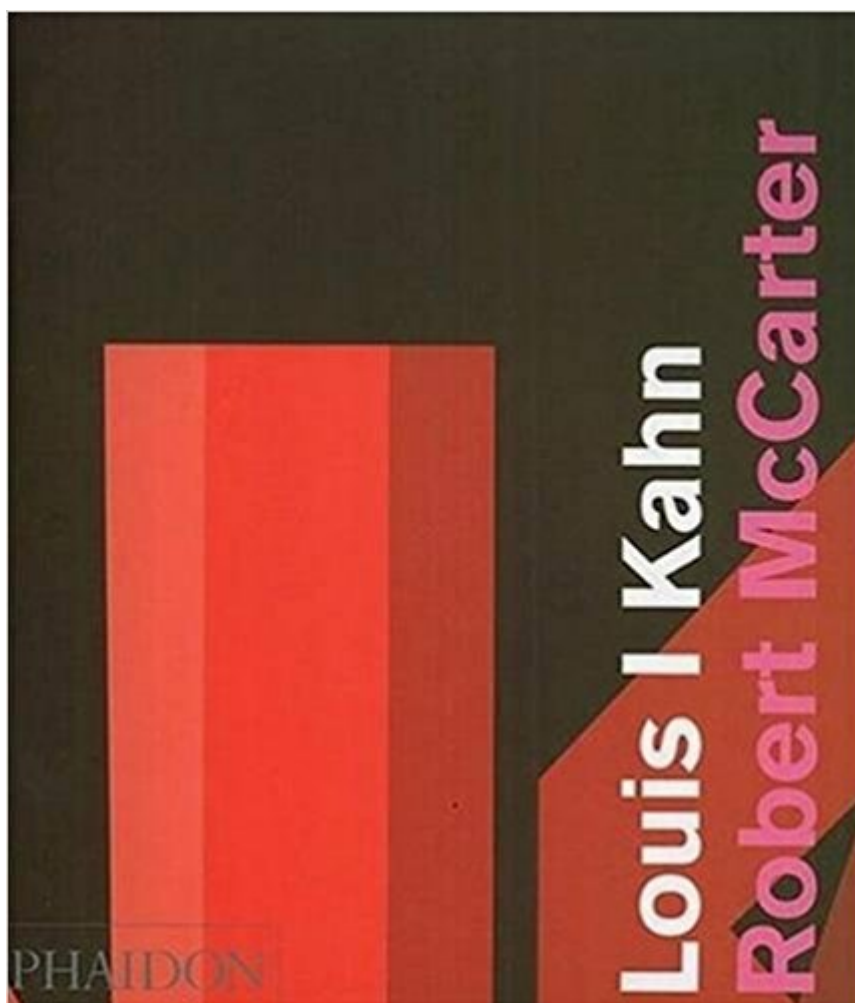


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# Louis I. Kahn



## Synopsis

An in-depth and scholarly monograph on the mid-20th century architect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The considerable beauty of Robert McCarter's book about Louis Kahn, one of the titans of modern architecture, is akin to a Kahn building: squarish, monumental, monkish yet passionate and cunningly designed. The layout is exemplary, the straightforward chronological account of Kahn's career interspersed with conceptual histories of each of his important buildings, from the Yale Art Gallery to the Salk Institute to the National Capital of Bangladesh. The light splashes off the bright, thick pages in a way that would delight the master, and he would approve the clarity of the text and illustrations. Though the ample passages of Kahn's own prose are more poetical than McCarter's, in his soberly scholarly way, he's intellectually lively too, alert to Kahn's influences, from Frank Lloyd Wright to Buckminster Fuller, Barnett Newman to Noguchi. Fascinatingly, he traces the conceptual development of each major project--Kahn's masterpiece, La Jolla's Salk Institute, derives from the Acropolis plinth, Diocletian's palace, Hadrian's villa, the Alhambra, medieval monasteries, Renaissance churches, and Piranesi's plan to rebuild the ancient Roman Campus Martius (which also inspired the Bangladesh masterpiece). With exhilarated admiration, McCarter explains how Kahn coated the Salk project's concrete forms with polyurethane for perfect smoothness, added travertine stone and pozzuolana in the old Roman fashion to fashion textures and warm the tones, and fulfilled the master's ambition to fulfill the material's potential: "Concrete really wants to be granite, but it can't manage." Wonderfully, McCarter provides computer renditions of masterpieces

Kahn never created, including the stunning Hurva Synagogue in Jerusalem, which was to echo Wright's Johnson Wax Building. He gives a sense of Kahn the man, in his lifelong lover's quarrel with Wright and his hatred of the automobile. For a still deeper portrait, see Kahn's son's brilliant documentary *My Architect*. No serious student of modern architecture can afford to be without this landmark book, a great teaching tool about one of the great teachers of the 20th century. --Tim Appelo --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

'Descriptions of each building and case study are extraordinarily successful...[this book] achieves what Kahn often outlined as the ultimate challenge for an architect: capturing the mind's vision.' (Blueprint) 'Deserves a place as a solid student textbook.' (Architect's Journal) 'Beautiful' (Prospect) 'Should be an inspiration for students and teachers in any design and technology, engineering or art department...This beautifully produced 500 page book could be used not only for the insight it gives into Kahn's design, but also for its extensive series of concept drawings, detailed plans, photographs of architectural models, and sketches and photographs of completed projects.' (Bill Richmond, Times Educational Supplement) 'The time is ripe for comprehensive critical assessment of [Kahn's] work...McCarter's [...] book is comprehensive in scope, thoroughly researched, well written, extensively illustrated ... and beautifully produced by Phaidon...at the end of the book, McCarter concisely grasps and articulates something of the essential truth about Kahn.' (The Architectural Review) 'This homage to Kahn is helped by the drama of his prodigious output of theoretical schemes and foiled master plans...when he succeeded, the results were spectacular...this book does him proud.' (Wallpaper\* (Wallpaper\* Design Awards 2006)) 'A labour of love...a conscientious review...Kahn, is, after Le Corbusier, the major architectural thinker of the twentieth century, revered as much by Norman Foster as by Robert Venturi.' (Robert Maxwell, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, Princeton University, Times Literary Supplement)

I have several books on the subject of L. Kahn, but with no doubt this one is the most complete. At an affordable prize, it deals not only with the buildings themselves, but also with the origin of the commissions and the shaping of the ideas relating with the architectural form. There are lots of documents, drawings and photographs of the epoch, and of course beautiful recent color photographs. Highly recomendable.

I purchased this book after watching "My Architect", a moving documentary by the illegitimate son of Louis Khan who was on a voyage of discovery - finding out who this man was who was his father.

He travelled to many of the most famous pieces of architecture that Louis created and met many characters who had known his father and who had insights for him. As a result of this I was keen to get a book with a record of the amazing buildings he created. This book gives a good mix of information, architectural plans and drawings and then photos of his more famous buildings. As is usually the case with Phaidon productions it was beautifully put together and good value for money. I would thoroughly recommend it.

The great value of this book is in the very comprehensive coverage of Kahn's work and in the excellent reproduction of many drawings and photos. Taking all this wealth of material into account, the book has an affordable price.

If you are to have just one book on Kahn, and anyone seriously interested in architecture ought to have at least one, this is the one.

This book on Kahn is essentially a "sequel" to McCarter's incredible book on Wright. McCarter traces the details of Kahn's projects and often uncovers little-known but important works. Like the book on Wright, this book focuses on the unfolding of Kahn's architectural philosophy through his career via a study of his built and unbuilt works. This discussion is immersed in the details of each project. An unfair review of McCarter's previous book overlooked the fact that the lush descriptions and details are essential to grasping the architectural ideas and philosophy. I doubt the reviewer had the patience to work through the entire book. Often you need to study a floor-plan, then return to McCarter's text, then study it again to really understand McCarter is telling you. Thus this book is interactive; you must engage it as thoroughly as it engages you. Yay, the floor plans are larger! My only criticism is that McCarter should have kept the layout the same as the Wright book. Pages lacking page numbers, references to photos far from the photos themselves, sideways text (???) on chapter headings, image subtitles far from the images themselves, and "backtracking" to give overviews of a project all create confusion. Therefore I disagree with the reviewer, I find the content to be wonderful, but the layout poor, unlike Kahn's works. I see many mentions of Le Corbusier. Perhaps another project for McCarter? I would buy it in a second.

This book is clearly written and wonderfully illustrated. It is a great way to learn about the work of Louis I. Kahn. There is one notable mistake. Kahn's middle name was "Isadore," not "Isidore" as Carter writes on page 12.

A chronologically informative as well as a descriptive book on architectural works of the great and most definitely the greatest architect of the second half of the 20th century none other than Louis I. Kahn. Not only are the works with their "unmeasurable" qualities profusely spread throughout the pages in drawings and photographic images so are the biographical glimpses into the inner world of the architect. Fortunately, Louis I. Kahn gives us the true "sense" of the essence of architecture and still remains a much needed beacon especially in the living age of architecture, which has unfortunately, turned mostly into a vogue, pastiche and origami. This book is for anyone who is curious about the Art of Architecture with its built examples and its poet.

great graphic and textual documentation, you can get a great insight of kahn's work: ground-plans, sections, sketches, drawings, photographs, including good explanations. a must-have

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