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CHRIS L. SMITH, *ARCHITECTURE AFTER DELEUZE AND GUATTARI*, BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC, LONDON/NEW YORK/OXFORD/NEW DELHI/SYDNEY, 2023.

In the book *Architecture after Deleuze and Guattari*, Chris L. Smith provides the reader with a multi-faceted discussion by focusing on the contemporary condition of architecture and place-making practices in resonance with the Deleuzian-Guattarian perspective. While exploring the diverse notions and concepts of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy, the author develops a manifold and cross-disciplinary discussion on spatial ontology in relation to the shifting architectural and socio-political discourse. Thus, by winding back the spool to the progress of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century architectural practice and to the extensive discussions on late 20<sup>th</sup>-century architectural theory and criticism—which had been exploring new pathways for the upcoming century—Smith scrutinizes the ecologies of 21<sup>st</sup>-century architecture. The book aims to trace “the entwining of the philosophy with contemporary architecture and explore how the relation between the two generates that which is new.”<sup>1</sup> The novel discussion that the book puts forth reverberates from the architectural discourse and practice and the emerging spatial landscape as its tangible domain towards the mental landscape of the user through the affective qualities of space and its perception.

Smith dismantles the global socio-political landscape of the late-modern and late-capitalist condition by deploying Deleuze and Guattari's philosophical approach and their conceptual framework. The book is

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<sup>1</sup> C. L. Smith, *Architecture After Deleuze and Guattari*, s.p. (“Foreword”).

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structured into four parts—*sympathies, exploration, experimentation,* and *minor architectures*—through which the author provides pathways for readers to acknowledge, explore, and in-form their understanding by offering an easily accessible language and clear definitions of complex philosophical concepts and terms. In this way, the discussion of abstract philosophical terms is supported through multi-dimensional assemblages of architectural cases' concrete presence and tangible materiality. The author develops a simple framing of the key components and conceptualization of the Deleuzian-Guattarian take on architecture while stitching their philosophical thinking with minor and niche cases of contemporary architecture and place-making practices. This framework identifies the position of architecture in relation to micro- and macro-political re-contextualization of the individual and the society.

In the first section of the book, Smith focuses on the essential notions by dismantling the precursory linkages between the Deleuzian-Guattarian philosophy and its penetration into the discussions of the communities of architecture and architectural theorists. Then, in the following section and its sub-sections, the author explores the ways and means through which architectural discourse and practice have borrowed the “regimes of thought” developed and utilized by Deleuze and Guattari, and how architecture has adopted and implemented them. The third section and its sub-sections focus on the experimentation in the field of politics and space, and the potential of architectural embodiment and place-making practices in conveying micro- and macro-political statements. Finally, in the fourth section and its sub-sections, Smith spotlights “minor architectures” to reveal the offspring of Deleuzian-Guattarian thought—their philosophy as “‘dark precursor’ of an architecture to come”—by tracing the remote, minor, but impactful cases from architecture that “have extended or exceeded definitions of architecture itself.”<sup>2</sup>

In the sixteen sections of the book—*fold, geophilosophy, sense, assemblages, constructivism, transversality, schizo-analysis, transcendent empiricism, islands, micropolitics, war machines, ethico-aesthetics, syntheses, cosmic artisans, new materialism, affect*—the author utilizes the structural motif of introducing the spatial pattern, the context, the design rationale, the concept, and the ambient characteristics of the place in a possible bodily experience, identifying the statements regarding the existing architecture and art history discourse, and the linkages with the philosophical

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 141.

discussions. The book furnishes references from art history and design culture, literature, journalism, and psychoanalysis while borrowing diverse methodologies and techniques to amplify the discussion.

As the book refers to a considerably rich readings of diverse spatio-temporal cases from multiple cultures and geographies, it sometimes appears as a travelogue or a book of travels. The author not only reflects the transforming path of architecture and place-making practice in time, showcasing and dismantling the selected cases, and chronicling the internal journey of an architect who confronts the architectural paradigm shift from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to 21<sup>st</sup>, but also moves between destinations, narrating the spatial-temporalities through cognitive and bodily experiences. This book also invites us to a minor journey by helping us to question our current spatial positions and attachments, while enabling us to develop our space-making practices with respect to our socio-political existence.

