



architecture under the microscope

rem koolhaas's essential toolkit to building anatomies

"A resource that can be revisited over and over again, one that will arm the current and future designers of our built world with the knowledge they'll need to address the issues they have yet to even confront."

–ArchDaily

Architecture is a compelling **mixture of stability and flux**. In its solid forms, time and space collide, amalgamating distant influences, **elements that have been around for over 5,000 years and others that were (re-)invented yesterday**.

Elements of Architecture focuses on the fragments of the rich and complex architectural collage. Window, facade, balcony, corridor, fireplace, stair, escalator, elevator: The book seeks to excavate the **micro-narratives of building detail**. The result is no single history, but rather the web of origins, contaminations, similarities, and differences in architectural evolution, including the influence of **technological advances, climactic adaptation, political calculation, economic contexts, regulatory requirements, and new digital opportunities**.

Derived, updated, and expanded from Koolhaas' exhaustive and much-lauded exhibition at the **2014 Venice Architecture Biennale**, this is an essential toolkit to understanding the pieces, parts, and fundamentals that comprise structure around the globe. Designed by **Irma Boom** and based on research from the **Harvard Graduate School of Design**, the **2,600-page monograph** contains essays from **Rem Koolhaas, Stephan Trueby, Manfredo di Robilant, and Jeffrey Inaba**; interviews with **Werner Sobek** and **Tony Fadell** (of Nest); and an **exclusive photo essay by Wolfgang Tillmans**.

"A mammoth undertaking: smashing open the last 100 years of architecture and ripping out its innards for forensic analysis."

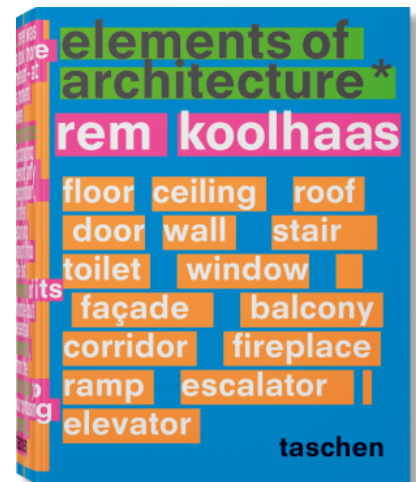
– *The Guardian*

The author:

Rem Koolhaas is a cofounder of the Office for Metropolitan Architecture. Having worked as a journalist and scriptwriter before becoming an architect, in 1978 he published *Delirious New York*. His 1996 book *S,M,L,XL* summarized the work of OMA and established connections of contemporary society and architecture. He was listed among *TIME* magazine's 100 most influential people in 2008, and among many international awards and exhibitions he received the Pritzker Prize (2000) and the Praemium Imperiale (2003). He directed the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale, coinciding with the first publication of *Elements of Architecture*.

The designer:

Irma Boom is a graphic designer specialized in making books. Since founding Irma



Rem Koolhaas. Elements of Architecture

Irma Boom

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Boom Office in 1990, she has worked with the likes of Chanel, the United Nations, OMA/Rem Koolhaas, Fondazione Prada, Pirelli, and Rijksmuseum Amsterdam. She received the Gutenberg Prize and the Johannes Vermeer Prize, the Dutch state prize for the arts, among others. Her work is in a permanent collection of the Design and Architecture Department of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Since 1992, Boom is a Senior Critic at Yale University in the USA.