

# **ARCHITECTURE DEPENDS**

**Jeremy Till**

**The MIT Press  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
London, England**

# Contents

Preface : Mess Is the Law xi

**Introduction : The Elevator Pitch 1**

## **I CONTINGENCY 3**

### **1 Deluded Detachment 7**

The Paternoster 7

Beaux-Arts Mao 11

2BorNot2B? 17

Purity Is a Myth 18

### **2 A Semblance of Order 27**

New Labour Vitruvius 27

Rogue Objects 29

Bauman's Order 31

The Ridding of Contingency 35

Counting Sheep 41

### **3 Coping with Contingency 45**

A Balance of Colossal Forces 45

The Juggernaut 48

Rorty's Retreat 51

Walking the Girder 54

Situated Knowledge 55

## **II TIME, SPACE, AND LO-FI ARCHITECTURE 63**

### **4 Time ofWaste 67**

- Waste in Transit 67
- Rubbish Theory 70
- Time and Waste 73

### **5 Out ofTime 77**

- The Terror ofTime 77
- From Eternity to Here 80
- Here and Now 84
- Tampering with Time 89

### **6 In Time 93**

- Le Temps 93
- Thick Time 95
- Dirty Old Time 100
- The Unfinished 104
- Drawing Time 109
- From Noun to Verb 116

### **7 Slack Space 117**

- Making Space 117
- Hard Space 119
- Social Space 125
- Inauthentic Space 127
- Slack Space 133

### **8 Lo-Fi Architecture 135**

- Elvis Lives 135
- Exploding into Reality 137
- Monstrous Hybrids 143
- How They'll Tell if Your Building Is Cay 146

## **III ARCHITECTURE : A DEPENDENT PROFESSION 149**

### **9 Architectural Agency 153**

- Lost in Action 153
- Self-Control 156

Left Brain, Right Brain 159  
Remember I'm the Bloody Architect  
The Crucible 163  
The Problem of the Problem 166  
Letting Go 169

**10 Imperfect Ethics 171**

Bad Ethics 171  
Phony Ethics 174  
Social Scales 178  
Codes of Misconduct 179  
The Ethics of Responsibility 184

**11 Hope against Hope 189**

Gymnasts in the Prison Yard 189  
The Flight to Utopia 190  
Formative Contexts 191  
Angels with Dirty Faces 194

Acknowledgments 197

Notes 201

Bibliography 239

Figure Credits 247

Index 249