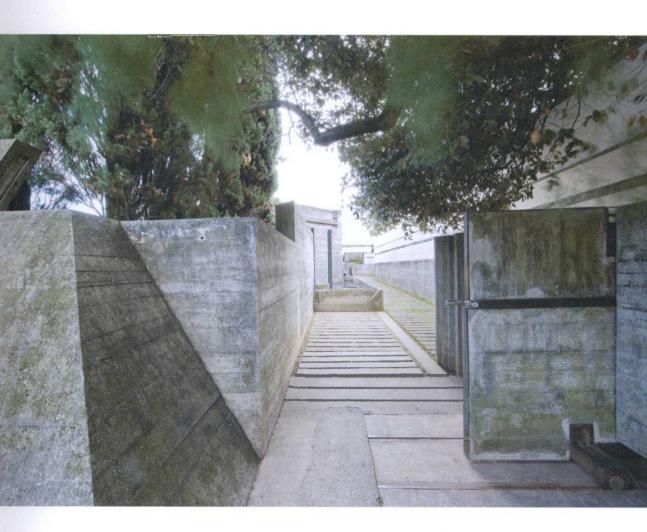
the experience of architecture

henry plummer





contents

introduction: places of possibility 6

1 floors of agility 20

THE DOCILE EFFECT OF FLAT GROUND 24

VERNACULAR STAIRS AND FOOTPATHS 25

GRAVITATIONAL CURRENTS 31

ACROBATIC STAIRCASES 35

THE SPRIGHTLY JAPANESE FLOOR 42

VERTIGINOUS EDGES 50

SKY CITIES AND RESIDENTIAL EYRIES 53

THE GRACEFUL FLIGHT OF RAMPS 59

CATWALKS: FROM THE EIFFEL TOWER TO ARNE JACOBSEN'S STAIRWAYS 61

2 mechanisms of transformation 66

INTERPLAY AND DISCOVERING THE SELF 69
THE RED HERRINGS OF MACHINE ARCHITECTURE 73
MODEST SLIDING SCREENS OF JAPAN 74
SIMPLE BUT REWARDING VERNACULAR DEVICES 79
GENEALOGY OF MODERN KINETICISM 87
MECHANICAL MARVELS OF THE MAISON DE VERRE 94
THE POETIC MUTATIONS OF CARLO SCARPA 102
TOM KUNDIG'S 'GIZMOS' AND STEVEN HOLL'S 'HINGED SPACE' 110

3 spaces of versatility 116

AMBIGUITY 121

DOUBLE-PERSPECTIVE IN 20TH-CENTURY POETRY AND PAINTING 123

THE FREEDOM OF ELBOW ROOM 125

COMPOSITE STAIRCASES 129

ITALIAN PIAZZAS, BOTH GRAND AND INTIMATE 132

WRIGHT'S 'SOVEREIGNTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL' 136

POLYVALENT FORMS OF HERMAN HERTZBERGER 140

MAURICE SMITH'S SPATIAL COLLAGES 146

GIANCARLO DE CARLO'S PARTICIPATORY ARCHITECTURE 150

THE BINARY VALUES OF ALDO VAN EYCK 152

4 depths of discovery 158

SECRETS OF RESIDUAL SPACE 162

JAPANESE GRILLES AND BLINDS 164

FOREST-LIKE VENTURES 167

THE MYSTERY OF SHADOWS 169

FOGGED IMAGES IN TRANSLUCENT WALLS 176

INTRICACY AND PATINA 179

TINY IMMENSITY 182

SPATIAL ELASTICITY OF SIR JOHN SOANE 187

ENIGMATIC DETAILS OF CARLO SCARPA 189

THE PRIMORIAL JOURNEY 191

THE COMPELLING GLIMPSE 198

ENFILADES AND RECEDING THRESHOLDS 201

5 fields of action 206

PAINTERLY IMAGES OF A PERVIOUS WORLD 209

UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND IN RUIN 211

THE FIELD OF FORCES IN SCIENCE AND ART 215

OPEN-FORM CITIES 217

STONE FORESTS 221

INTERLACED WEBS OF IRON AND GLASS 224

INTERFOLDING SPACE FROM WRIGHT TO KAPPE 230

CONSTRUCTION OF HOLES 240

THREE-DIMENSIONAL HABITABLE FIELDS OF MAURICE SMITH 253

THE JAPANESE SPATIAL LATTICE 259

notes 272 bibliography 278 photo credits 281 index 282 acknowledgments 287