

# dig it!

# Building Bound to the Ground

Bjarne Mastenbroek  
Esther Mecredy  
SeARCH  
Iwan Baan

TASCHEN

13-141

# Nature's Lack of Design

An essay that traces the history of humanity to better understand the relationship between the built environment and the ground on which it sits. It includes a timeline of pivotal moments in which humankind constructed, embraced and retreated to its own environment over the last millennia.

143-1365

# Building Bound to the Ground

Six strategies for reconnecting architecture and landscape, merging building and ground.

153

## Bury

The building sits below the earth's crust, allowing for an uninterrupted landscape above.

389

## Embed

Building and landscape share an equal position within the earth's crust. The building is embedded in the landscape and the landscape is manipulated to accommodate the building.

619

## Absorb

The building sits atop the earth's crust, receiving information from the land below. Externally, the building alters the landscape, but within the interior, landscape dictates.

**755****Spiral**

The spiral twists the ground upwards or downwards, multiplying the building's surface area without breaking it into discrete floors. The fluidity of movement and continuity of surface offer a way of unifying building, infrastructure and landscape.

**961****Carve**

Space is carved out of the centre of the building to form a new interior landscape. Natural elements of air and light are invited inside and enclosed.

**1141****Mimic**

The building learns from the landscape. It mimics and simulates natural features and systems, terracing, branching and growing. Building and landscape have begun to merge.

**1369****List of figures****1383****Bibliography****1389****About the authors****1390****Credits and acknowledgements**

**An essay that traces the history of humanity to better understand the relationship between the built environment and the ground on which it sits.**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                      | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Timeline</b>                          | <b>18</b>  |
| <b>From Cave to Canopy</b>               | <b>24</b>  |
| <b>The Ritualization of Life</b>         | <b>27</b>  |
| <b>Domesticating Nature</b>              | <b>32</b>  |
| <b>From Shelter to Shed</b>              | <b>36</b>  |
| <b>From Compound to Community</b>        | <b>48</b>  |
| <b>Establishing Order</b>                | <b>57</b>  |
| <b>Middle-Age Fortifications</b>         | <b>61</b>  |
| <b>The Age of Gunpowder</b>              | <b>73</b>  |
| <b>From Public Space to Private Icon</b> | <b>81</b>  |
| <b>The City in the Garden</b>            | <b>95</b>  |
| <b>1964: A Pivotal Moment</b>            | <b>105</b> |
| <b>From Dichotomy to Holism</b>          | <b>118</b> |
| <b>Constructing Nature</b>               | <b>125</b> |
| <b>Endnotes</b>                          | <b>139</b> |