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# Elements Of Venice



## Synopsis

The metamorphic nature of Venice, a city in which most buildings underwent throughout the centuries substantial volumetric and formal transformations informed by political and cultural shifts, is revealed in *Elements of Venice* through the analysis of single architectural elements. Developed as a parallel research project of *Fundamentals* – the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale curated by Rem Koolhaas – the book offers insights on Venetian facades, stairs, corridors, floors, ramps, ceilings, doors, hearths, windows, balconies and walls. "Product not [only] of the mind but of societal organization" the elements are isolated from their picture-perfect context and from the postcard view of Venice that is impressed in our retinas, introducing the reader – through a combination of collages, drawings, photographs, paintings, film stills and quotes – to a radically new way of seeing Venice. Like a camera obscura photograph cuts through the often irrelevant embellishments of architecture to reveal the underlying skeleton of a building (i.e. its elements), this guide will allow the reader to better understand the fundamental transformations that have shaped Venice during the past ten centuries. This city, which for many is – architecturally speaking – permanently frozen in time, has in fact often been at the forefront of challenging the architectural conventions, both during the days of the Republic (until 1797), in which gothic and renaissance styles were seen as carriers of political and ideological meanings, and in the past two centuries when, despite the introduction of the dooming motto "Com'era, dov'era" ("As it was, where it was"), Venice underwent an unprecedented urban transformation.

## Book Information

Paperback: 560 pages

Publisher: LARS MULLER (October 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3037784296

ISBN-13: 978-3037784297

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 1.5 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #136,902 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > Venice](#) #70 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Criticism](#) #146 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History](#)

## Customer Reviews

Great way of organizing the information. It provides the reader with venetian architecture vocabulary (and the its evolution through time) instead of focusing on particular buildings. This way, one may go into venice and look critically to any building, specially the non-outstanding ones. Very interesting approach. It isn't recommendable aimed for those who want to know the history/analysis of specific notable buildings, though.

Amazing book. Dense with details and history. An important primer towards understanding what you're actually looking at in Venice.

A very interesting book which suffers from being too small in physical page size to be comfortably legible.

Extensive research just what I wanted after a recent trip to Venice

Very nice book

A excellent book enjoyed it very much

Gorgeous.

Very interesting book

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