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Glass Structures



Synopsis

Flat glass opens up more possibilities for the planner than virtually any other material. Because of the technological complexity of using it, however, no specific structural forms have been developed for glass supporting frameworks as they have been for wood, concrete, and steel. This book is thus the first to present a coherent guide to the planning and design of glass supporting frameworks. The focus is on the pressure-resistant, flat supporting element as a basic building block for broad supporting structures. The spatial and constructive forms of multifunctional, self-supporting glass envelopes are vividly illustrated and systematically explained. The constructions presented exhibit new aesthetic qualities, based not on the dictum of "dematerialization but on the poetry of gleaming and transparent planes. They ring in a new chapter in the history of glass architecture.

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Customer Reviews

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Glass technology has improved tremendously in recent years. This book, by Birkhauser, is another publication that documents the possibilities of glass production and its design application. Material properties, both chemical and physical, are analyzed, then the book weaves into processing and

treatment that could occur on glass, to make it more compelling. Ample case studies are provided, both architectural and sculptural. Detail analysis on the glass treatment and innovative use of structural systems are given to each case study. Diagrams are superb. Prior to beginning a chapter summary diagrams are given, functioning almost as a previewing window box, to show graphically what the themes of discussions ahead are. What I personally like about the book is that the book is open-ended, still seeking and pioneering possibilities of glass, through sculptural objects, as a material for both innovative design and structural innovation.

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