

ARCHITECTURE/DISABILITY STUDIES

"This book is an urgent and exhilarating manifesto that calls for nothing less than a complete rethinking of architecture. Rather than insisting that architectural forms need to be adjusted to accommodate a greater diversity of impairments, it uses diversities of physical, mental, social, and collective capacities to unlock new ways to conceive of architecture—to model it, design it, describe it, represent it, theorize it, and write histories about it."

—Beatriz Colomina, author of *X-Ray Architecture*

"*The Architecture of Disability* takes a historically rich, theoretically informed route beyond disability access as a functional problem in architecture (and one often poorly resolved). David Gissen centers disabled perspectives—including his own—to reveal new theoretical avenues to and poetic journeys through the built world."

—Bess Williamson, author of *Accessible America: A History of Disability and Design*

Disability critiques of architecture usually emphasize the need for modification and increased access, but *The Architecture of Disability* calls for a radical re-orientation of this perspective by situating experiences of impairment as a new foundation for the built environment. With its provocative proposal for "the construction of disability," this book fundamentally reconsiders how we conceive of and experience disability in our world. By recontextualizing the history of architecture through the discourse of disability, David Gissen presents a unique challenge to current modes of architectural practice, theory, and education. Envisioning an architectural design that fully integrates disabled persons into its production, he advocates for looking beyond traditional notions of accessibility and shows how certain incapacities can offer the means to positively reimagine the roots of architecture.

A disabled designer and historian of architecture, **David Gissen** is professor of architecture and urban history at Parsons School of Design at The New School.

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Introduction: From Accessible Design to an
Architecture of Disability vii

1. Impaired Monuments: Architecture, History, and the Preservation of Disability	1
2. Of a Weaker Nature: Wilderness, Urban Landscapes, and Biocapacity	25
3. The Urbanization of Disability	45
4. A Form of Impairment: Empathy and Disfigurement in Architectural Aesthetics	73
5. Disabling Environments: Human Physiology and Its Architectural Conditions	95
6. The Construction of Disability: Another Architectural Theory of Tectonics	115
Coda: The Practice of Disability	139
Acknowledgments	143
Notes	147
Index	183