

This is a remarkable work of critical scholarship that relentlessly assembles and interprets a colossal archive. In a stunning hypothesis, Efrat argues that the State of Israel is a conscious architectural project. The book presents a multi-layered and highly detailed historical analysis of each phase of the self-construction of the state—investigating the motivations, philosophy, tactics, realization and impact of a single architectural project at the scale of a nation. Our perception of the entanglement of architecture and politics is permanently transformed.

Beatriz Colomina



Zvi Efrat's *The Object of Zionism* is the most important research undertaken on the history of Israeli architecture to date. Architecture in Efrat's hands is a means of interrogating the politics, culture and ideology of a state that sprung out of the drawing boards of young planners and landed atop the tabula rasa of destroyed and emptied Palestine. The decades-long, monumental research leading to this volume—based on thousands of documents, drawings, photographs and interviews and already iteratively exposed in a series of exhibitions and publications—has both constructed a comprehensive, critical account of the state's formative decades and given rise to a new generation of critical architectural scholars, myself included. Full of original insight and closely tuned to detail, texture and form, this book is itself a piece of architectural construction, and as such is destined to become a contemporary classic.

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