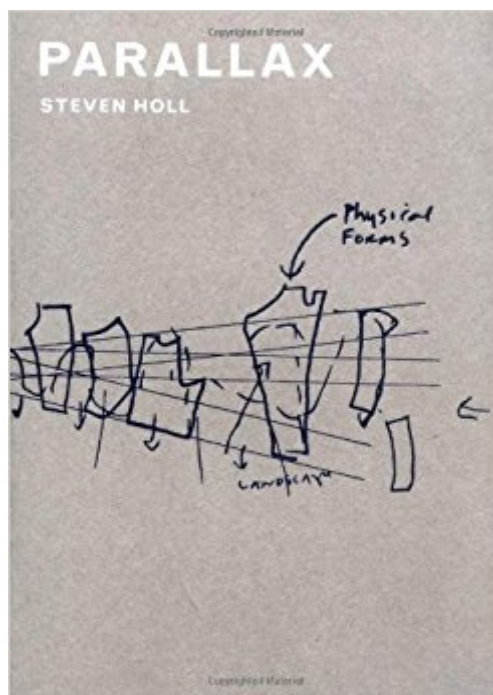


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# Parallax



## Synopsis

What makes Steven Holl one of the most celebrated architects working today? As we learn in *Parallax*, his success comes from his sculptural form making, his interest in the poetics of space, color, and materiality, and his fascination with scientific phenomena. Holl reveals his working methods in this, his biggest and most ambitious book yet on his work—part treatise, part manifesto, and part, as Holl writes, "liner notes" to fifteen recent projects, some never before published. *Parallax* traces Holl's ideas on topics as diverse as the "chemistry of matter" and the "pressure of light," and shows how they emerge in his architectural work: "strange attractors" at Cranbrook, "porosity" in his new dormitory at MIT, "tripleness" in the new Bellevue Art Museum in Washington. The result is a book that provides a personal tour of the work of one of the world's most esteemed architects. *Parallax* is designed by Michael Rock of the award-winning design firm 2x4. It is our fourth book on Holl's work, following *Anchoring*, *Intertwining*, and *The Chapel of St. Ignatius*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Steven Holl is probably a pretty cool architect. With its clean, racy curves both inside and out, his recent Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art (and biggest project to date) in Helsinki looks like an artfully cut-out chunk of a late '50s sports car, or better yet--given its minty-blue tones and au courant materials--a huge iMac. His very intimate Chapel of St. Ignatius in Seattle (about which he published a previous book, *The Chapel of St. Ignatius*; he's also put out *Anchoring* and *Intertwining*), with its exterior reflecting pool and beguiling interior play of light, curves, and color couldn't be more iconoclastic for a Catholic house of worship, yet it exudes a queer grace in the same spirit as Le

Corbusier's famous Chapel at Ronchamp. And surely the banks of Boston's Charles River have never seen anything like the dormitory complex Noll has designed for MIT--the model of which, included here, promises a multicube city unto itself with an intricate, discontinuous facade of overlapping grids and screens, so radical in concept that it defies written description (or a really good one, at any rate). And yet the reason why the very chicly designed Parallax (with a list price of \$40, it's probably the world's most expensive cardboard-covered book) only probably affirms that Holl is a cool architect is that there are simply not enough full-color photographs of his completed work here to tell. Holl is a very conceptual architect, and most of the pages here contain what he refers to as his "liner notes" on his projects--leaden, humorless meditations on such themes as "chemistry of matter," "pressure of light," "strange attractors," and "porosity" as they relate to his work. Beyond that, there's a profusion of computer renderings, simple sketches, and tiny black-and-white photographs of small portions that, alas, also do very little to illuminate his work for the reader. What little color photography is offered here is excellent, going a long way even in its paucity toward suggesting why Holl has already created a stir (and you can click on our unique Look inside this book! link below the cover image to get a sense of it). Just one limited shot of even a modest project like his 1996 Ikebana House in Makuhari, Japan, seizes the eye with its almost astonishing manipulation of color, texture, and curvature, leaving the beholder hungry for more. If you're already familiar with Holl's work and really curious about his scientific-minded musings on them, you'll appreciate Parallax. Otherwise, keep your fingers crossed that in the next book of his work, Holl shows more and tells less. --Timothy Murphy

All good.

This book begs to be placed on the shelf of the great Alexandria Library. However you'd never let it leave your side. It is by far one of the most inspiring books to date written on and about the catalyst of light. Holl, brilliantly strings together a tapestry using his own works and interests in science as examples. This book is a must for anyone practicing or studying in a climate affected by light (that means you!!)

the most inspirational book i have ever had the pleasure of reading. as a student i would always depend on this book to help me when i got stuck on a design problem. holl uses connections between essays and real projects to inspire one to think. he does not slap you in the face with some lofty design philosophy of his. he lets you try to make the connections.this forces you as a designer

to think and develop your own ideas without being controlled by what he is doing. must have for architectural students

Steven Holl's Parallax is the most insightful handheld account into the world of architecture in some time. Taking architecture to the next realm, Holl has allowed the reader to better understand his process of design through excellent photography and thought provoking essays. More than just describing his latest projects, he uses these projects to illustrate and explain his most fundamental design philosophies. This handbook for bundle of information is a must have for the architect of the future.

This is a fabulous book for any architect. Holl breaks down the concepts behind his projects and includes several watercolors and photos that provided inspiration for his work. As an architecture student, I found this book to be a wonderful tool to understanding parti and concept.

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