

## How Buildings Learn

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buildings have often been studied whole in space but never before have they been studied whole in time architects and architectural historians are interested only in a building's original intentions most are dismayed by what happens later when a building develops its own life responsive to the life within to get the rest of the story to explore the years between the dazzle of a new building and its eventual corpse stewart brand went to facilities managers and real estate professionals to preservationists and building historians to photo archives and to futurists he inquired what makes some buildings come to be loved he found that all buildings are forced to adapt but only some adapt gracefully how buildings learn is a masterful new synthesis which proposes that buildings adapt best when constantly refined and reshaped by their occupants and that architects can mature from being artists of space to becoming artists of time a rich resource and point of departure as stimulating for the general reader and home improvement hobbyist as for the building professional the book is

sure to generate ideas provoke debate and shake up habitual thinking from the connected farmhouses of new england to i m pei s media lab from satisficing to form follows funding from the evolution of bungalows to the invention of santa fe style from low road military surplus buildings to a high road english classic like chatsworth this is a far ranging survey of unexplored essential territory more than any other human artifact buildings improve with time if they re allowed how buildings learn shows how to work with time rather than against it book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

a captivating exploration of the ever evolving world of architecture and the untold stories buildings tell when a building is finished being built that isn t the end of its story more than any other human artifacts buildings improve with time if they re allowed to buildings adapt by being constantly refined and reshaped by their occupants and in that way architects can become artists of time rather than simply artists of space from the connected farmhouses of new england to i m pei s media lab from the evolution of bungalows to the invention of santa fe style from low road military surplus buildings to a high road english classic like chatsworth this is a far ranging survey of unexplored essential territory discover how structures become living organisms shaped by the people who inhabit them and learn how architects can harness the power of time to create enduring works of art through the interconnected worlds of design function and human ingenuity

like people buildings change with age forced to adapt to the needs of current occupations this provocative examination of buildings that have adapted well and some that haven t calls for a dramatic rethinking in the way new buildings are designed one that allows structures to grow and change easily with the environment photos

for many it was more than a publication it was a way of life the whole earth catalog billed itself as access to tools and it grew from a bay area blip to a national phenomenon catering to hippies do it yourselfers and anyone interested in self sufficiency independent of mainstream america now known as living off the grid in recovering the history of the catalog s unique brand of environmentalism historian kirk recounts how stewart brand and the point foundation promoted a philosophy of pragmatic environmentalism that celebrated technological achievement human ingenuity and sustainable living kirk shows us that whole earth was more than a mere counterculture fad at a time when many of these ideas were seen as heretical to a predominantly wilderness based movement it became a critical forum for environmental alternatives and a model for how complicated ecological ideas could be presented in a hopeful and even humorous way from publisher description

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