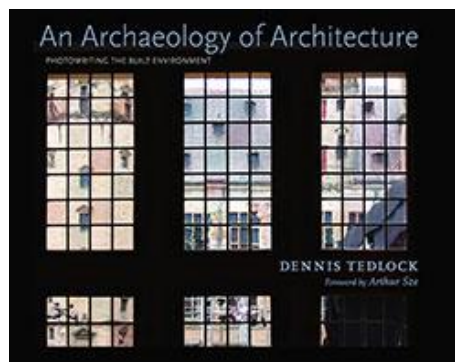


An Archaeology of Architecture: Photowriting the Built Environment, by Dennis Tedlock. University of New Mexico Press, June 2013. 160 p. ill. ISBN 9780826353054 (cl.), \$50.00.



In *An Archaeology of Architecture*, Dennis Tedlock has executed a travelogue of sorts comprising of a series of sixty-seven double page spreads of text with photographs. The framework of each photograph is filled with architectural elements which serve to reveal the archaeology of towns, cities, and semi-habitable and liminal spaces. Each image is paired with text providing observations and memories on the facing page. The author intends for the photograph and text to have a relationship with each other without prioritization.

In the foreword, Arthur Sze succinctly encapsulates Tedlock's project: "Text and image coexist in fertile tension, in charged conversation. Although the text unfolds from the image, you can read the words, form an expectation, and then be startled by what you see in the image; or you can look at the image, form an expectation, and then be startled by what you read."

The viewer will look at these photographs and bring one's own memories and associations to places like New Mexico and New York City. There are pictures of graffiti on disused buildings, the clutter of lunch counters, and antiseptic waiting rooms, many of which suggest liminal slow time. A common thread is that these are in-between places, waiting and in the midst of change.

Coupling text with image is a powerful artistic technique: the viewer looks at one side of the page or the other first or simultaneously and brings one's own expectations to the text and the image, as well as looking at one to validate the other. The strength of this book is in the images, and they have more strength than the words, as they succinctly capture both gritty urban moments and the quietly domestic. In these still moments, these monuments, buildings, and spaces are arrested in time. Some text and photographs work in concert while others seem to start a conversation. Tedlock paid attention to the silences, the baited pauses where something is about to happen, or where things have the potential to change at any instant. Indeed, these places are subject to change and are different now from the time when he photographed them.

This is a beautiful book, and is highly recommended for museum and library collections.

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