



Notes on Book Design

By Derek Birdsall

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Notes on Book Design By Derek Birdsall

In a career spanning more than forty years, Derek Birdsall has achieved renown as a leading book designer in Britain. This practical and inspirational book distils a lifetime's professional experience. It presents and discusses nearly fifty books he has designed, showing 360 spreads and covers, all in full color and to scale.

The designs range from Penguin paperback covers in the 1960s to a recent complete redesign of The Church of England's book of Common Worship. Among Birdsall's projects are award-winning art catalogues, catalogues raisonn  on such major artists as Mark Rothko and Georgia O'Keeffe, and books on wine, chess, astronomy, architecture, and fine paper. Birdsall discusses and illustrates the process of book design, from brief to deadline (which he calls the designer's muse). He includes specimen settings of his favorite text faces as well as an innovative metric grid system for designing books. In addition, he lists books he himself has found useful or inspiring. For every reader curious about the design or production of books, this is a uniquely informative and instructive book.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Inspirational and revealing. . . . Birdsall comes across not only as a brilliant craftsman but also a gifted teacher. . . . A vital book for students of book design and typography and an extremely readable journey through Birdsall’s career.”—Mark Sinclair, Creative Review

“Stunning. . . . It is rare to find a useful design manual or such an essential designers monograph, but to find both things under the same cover makes this book a must.”—Robert Fawcett-Tang, Grafik

About the Author

Derek Birdsall was consultant art director of the first *Independent Magazine* and has been a consultant designer to Pirelli, Mobil Corporation, HRH The Prince of Wales School of Architecture, and The Church of England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Martinez:

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