

# The Modern Functional Building (1926) (Texts and Documents Series)

By Adolf Behne



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Adolf Behne (1885-1948) was one of the most incisive and eloquent theorists of modernism. His critique of the Bauhaus aided in changing the direction of that institution, and his assault on expressionist tendencies helped turn German architectural theory in a more sachlich, or practical, direction. *The Modern Functional Building*, written in 1923, clarifies the ideals of German modernism at their very inception, especially the crucial distinction between functionalism, rationalism, and utilitarianism. This seminal text conveys the grit and complexity of early modernist aspirations and will be essential reading for anyone interested in this phase of the modern discourse.



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#### **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

In 1923 German architect Behne wrote this perceptive account of modern architecture, precisely in its birthplace at the time it was born. Behne was an enthusiastic critic and no blind advocate of the new style. Consequently, his account conveys all the richness and complexity of the movement at the very moment it precipitated into what became known, rather blandly, as The International Style. Robinson has produced a skillful translation, making this work readily available in English for the first time; Rosemarie Haag Bletter's (art history and modern German studies, CUNY) introduction contextualizes the text. This scholarly work is part of the Getty Institute's publication program devoted to original texts and documents in the field of architecture, and it belongs in all academic architecture collections.?Peter Kaufman, Boston Architectural Ctr.

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Original Language: German

About the Author

**Michael F. Robinson** is associate professor of history at the University of Hartford.

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