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## Book of the week:

### The Act of Creation and the Spirit of a Place

Offering a holistic approach to architecture, Nili Portugali argues that in order to create places and buildings where we feel really at home we need a transformation of the mechanistic world view underlying much current thought.

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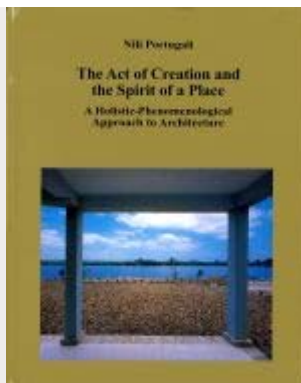
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## The Act of Creation and the Spirit of a Place

**A Holistic-Phenomenological Approach to Architecture**

Nili Portugali


In this book Portugali presents her particular interpretation of the holistic-phenomenological world view in theory and in practice, a view which is closely related to Buddhist philosophy.

The purpose of architecture is first and foremost to create a human environment for human beings. The real challenge of current architectural practice is to make the best use of the potential inherent in our modern technological age. Portugali argues that in order to change the feeling of the environment and to create places and buildings where we really feel at home, what is needed is not a new fashion but a transformation of the mechanistic worldview underlying much current thought.

The explication of her holistic approach is followed by studies of 23 different Portugali projects (all in Israel), combining architectural data with her explanation of the intangibles (spirituality, hope, essence) lying behind buildings as diverse as private housing, student dormitories, war memorials and libraries. There is no other book quite like this one, it really is singular and worthy of your close attention.

Axel Menges July 2006

Code: 58216 | 246pp | Hb | **£39.90**

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