

An Engineer Imagines

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the long awaited reissue of the autobiography of peter rice one of the main structural engineers behind the sydney opera house the pompidou centre the menil collection and lloyd s of london i am an engineer often people will call me an architect engineer as a compliment it is meant to signify a quality of engineer who is more imaginative and design orientated than a normal engineer to call an engineer an architect engineer because he comes up with unusual or original solutions is essentially to misunderstand the role of the engineer in society an engineer imagines is a rare look into the professional creativity and philosophy of peter rice who was widely acclaimed as the greatest structural engineer of his generation he was a man who in renzo piano s words could design structures like a pianist who can play with his eyes shut working with many of the world s greatest architects on buildings that became icons of contemporary architecture he brought a uniquely poetic feeling to his work joining ove arup partners in 1956 rice had heard that it was a place where an oddball could fit in taking on arup s theory of total design to heart rice writes about the role of the engineer in society and how he himself applied his creativity to various projects he admits he became an engineer by accident tentatively feeling his way through a career without a natural

instinct but as he takes you through each of his projects one by one you can trace his development from graduate to veteran written in clear and poetic language rice s autobiography is perfect for those who want to better understand postwar buildings our concrete environment or are budding students of engineering and architecture

this comprehensive monograph presents fifty projects from throughout the four decades of fehn s career featured are such important works as the archbishopric museum of hamar the glacier museum in fjaerland and the aukrust museum in alvdal all in norway also included are a number of houses and several competition projects both built and unbuilt each of the works in this volume is illustrated with extensive photography presentation drawings and fehn s signature sketches complementing the architectural projects are essays by francesco dal co christian norberg schulz and gennaro postiglione which present an analytic portrait of the architect s career and an anthology of writings by fehn and critics

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this work is a gathering of essays in tribute to the life and achievements of a remarkable irish born structural engineer peter rice 1935 1992 perhaps the most influential of the 20th century his work and inventions underpinned the great buildings of his day from the sydney opera house to the beaubourg centre pompidou the mecca conference centre the lord s mound stand in london stanstead airport the menil museum in houston la defense in paris the lille tgv station the seville pavilion of the future the gourgoubes full moon theatre working in tandem with architects richard rogers norman foster renzo piano and zaha hadid and the artist frank stella he consciously placed himself in the tradition of the great 19th century engineers telford stephenson brunel father and son and eiffel a director of ove arup in london and a partner in paris based rfr he was awarded the riba

gold medal for architecture in 1992 he summarized his vision and legacy in a keynote posthumously published book *An Engineer Imagines* written in the knowledge of an inoperable brain tumor from which he died aged 58 this monograph will be the focus of upcoming exhibitions in dublin farmleigh paris london and milan in 2012 and 2013

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