

Cinematic Urbanism

Filming the City Urbanization and the Migrant in British Cinema Blockbuster Architecture and Urbanism Edward Montgomery Clift Gareth Millington Michael Herrman

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filming the city urban documents design practices social criticism through the lens brings together the work of filmmakers architects designers media specialists and video artists it offers three prisms through which to examine and use the medium of film in the context of the city it gives commentaries of particular films and their social and urban relevance it offers historical and contemporary criticisms of both film and urbanism from conflicting perspectives and it documents examples of how to actively use the medium of film in the design of our cities spaces and buildings giving a sense of the diversity of interactions between the medium of architectural urban design and the medium of film filming the city is ideal for readers from both fields for those coming from a spatial design background the tropes and possibilities of film as a tool and a documentary medium will be explored for those coming from a film media background the multiple possibilities of film as a visual backdrop narrative theme or conceptual tool will be examined

this book examines a cycle of films about migration made in the late 1990s and 2000s it argues that these films present a novel and radical aesthetic of planetary urbanization based upon the mobility of the migrant and the dissolution of the city a stimulating cinematic analysis of our expanding urban fabric it offers an alternative to the cultural cityism of many other films about migration the author demonstrates that this particular film cycle offers a rare sustained consideration of the travails and struggles for urban life by migrants beyond and without the city yet the city haunts these films like a spectre the city that has been lost the present city that excludes and the possible cities of refuge of the future offering new insights into the cinematic portrayal of the figure of the migrant and how this is constructed in relation to urbanization processes this book will appeal to students and scholars of sociology film and media studies human geography and urban studies

despite the often seamless depictions of urban spaces displayed on the silver screen the relationship between the cinematic city and the actual city is anything but direct and unbiased the connection between cinema and urban space is increasingly complex and marked by profound mutual influence film sets are modeled after cities which in turn are modeled after film sets paris as one of the cities most often portrayed in cinema presents an ideal case study for this phenomenon and was the focus of the architecture planning and preservation course of columbia university s new york paris program in blockbuster architecture urbanism students explored the complex relationship between media based representations of paris and the perception and form of the actual city as different forms of media become increasingly integrated into contemporary life an understanding of the perceptual and physical transformative power of cinema on cities is essential to the future of architecture and urbanism

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