



Archetypes

Trained as an architect in Canada, **David K. Ross** is a self-taught photographer and filmmaker. *Archetypes* reflects his long-standing interest in documenting the undervalued and often overlooked aspects of the built world. Captivated not so much by architecture per se as by what becomes architectural, he has considered how cultural and civic infrastructure are conceived and realized in projects spanning the last twenty years.

Ross's works are in the collections of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, and the National Gallery of Canada. He lives and works in Montréal.

Mock-ups are a form of interrogative architecture.

They ask: Is this ok? Will this work? Do you like me?

They are part thesis, part tool, and they're investigatory but not entirely speculative.

One of the interesting things about erasing much of the context and background is that the mock-up slides back into the territory of the architectural model.

But mock-ups are not models. They are not buildings either. They are in fact small buildings or large models and we are simultaneously overwhelmed by their verisimilitude and veracity and underwhelmed by their lack of functionality.

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Archetypes is also a book edited by Reto Geiser and published by Standpunkte in collaboration with Park Books. The photographs were exhibited in 2021 at BALTS Projects, Zurich; the Swiss Architecture Museum (SAM), Basel; and Das Gelbe Haus, Flims.

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