A PHILOSOPHER LOOKS AT ARCHITECTURE

What should our buildings look like? Or is their usability more important than their appearance? Paul Guyer argues that the fundamental goals of architecture first identified by the Roman architect Marcus Vitruvius Pollio – good construction, functionality, and aesthetic appeal – have remained valid despite constant changes in human activities, building materials, and technologies, as well as in artistic styles and cultures. Guyer discusses philosophers and architects throughout history, including Alberti, Kant, Ruskin, Wright, and Loos, and surveys the ways in which their ideas are brought to life in buildings across the world. He also considers the works and words of contemporary architects including Annabelle Selldorf, Herzog and de Meuron, and Steven Holl, and shows that – despite changing times and fashions – good architecture continues to be something worth striving for. This new series offers short and personal perspectives by expert thinkers on topics that we all encounter in our everyday lives.

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A PHILOSOPHER LOOKS AT
ARCHITECTURE

PAUL GUYER
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