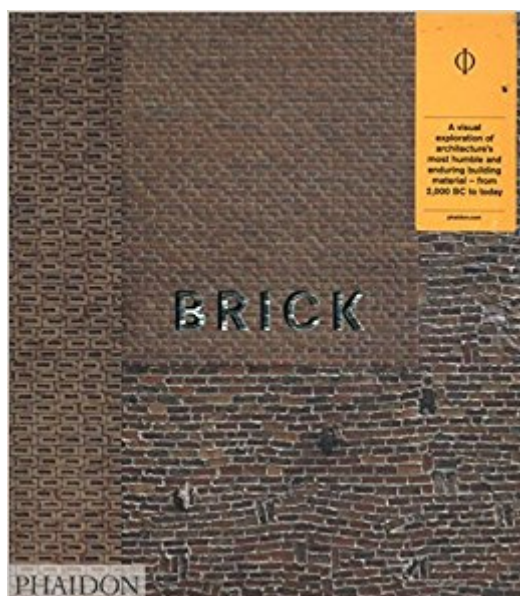


The book was found

# Brick



## Synopsis

Brick is a fresh, insightful and surprising look at one of the world's most familiar and popular building materials. From the strange remains of the Ziggurat of Ur dating from 2100 BC, to formidable mills of the industrial revolution, the humble brick has been an architectural staple for centuries. The world's best architects have explored the qualities of brickwork. Alvar Aalto, Antoni Gaudí, Jørn Utzon, Frank Gehry, and Mies van der Rohe all built with the material, and bricks were integral to Frank Lloyd Wright's vision for an American vernacular in his Prairie Houses. Lesser-known newcomers have created some equally striking and memorable structures, from the stunning Winery Gantenbein – built by robotic arm – to the audacious Kantana Institute, an unprecedented vision in a Thai rainforest. Brick is a beautiful and informative visual exploration of a material that is often overlooked, and sometimes considered limiting, but is actually full of spectacular potential.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Brick is a glorious, surprising and moving account of this, the first building material. It is a record of the depth of imagination that has been invested in clay over millennia and I loved it." – Edmund de Waal  
Phaidon's recently released book Brick sees the oldest man-made building material with fresh eyes. Brilliant photography is accompanied by concise captions noting the design direction, date of construction and architect or designer involved, allowing the reader to closely study each image.  
"Selectism"  
In striking photographs and lucid text, Brick convincingly demonstrates the material's amazing range and possibility.  
"Elle Decor"  
In Brick, a handsome new volume by

William Hall, the seemingly endless possibilities for the material's formal expression are given a thorough and visually stunning survey."â "Pin Up Magazine"Sumptuous and intelligent."â "Metropolis Magazine

William Hall trained at Central Saint Martins and began his career in the office of the minimalist architect John Pawson. Hall now runs his own design practice in London, working with clients such as Calvin Klein, Henry Moore Institute and Tate. William is the author of *Concrete*, also published by Phaidon.

Brick is beautiful. I also bought and recommend concrete, and tend to seek anything about the architecture of cabins, but brick is beautifully photographed in all its diversity; some of it exquisitely soft and organic looking. It has this look of returning to the earth, and the choices Mr. Hall puts on display celebrate it. Nice binding and layout as well. Easily worth the bucks.

Beautiful book. Amazing how something as simple as a brick has such an interesting story.

Magnificent book superbly designed with graceful, succinct project descriptions. Hard to find such insightful treatment of a generally ignored but honest building material.

Beautiful pictures!

nice book, with a lot of big scenes. Perhaps I would had like to se more details and back corners of buildings

Without a Mario Botta's project...

As I was driving today I looked especially for brick buildings. There are lots of them, of course, houses and commercial buildings, mostly boxes with roofs, showing little about brick except its utility (which, of course, is no small thing). The reason I was paying attention to brick is that over the weekend I was looking through *\_Brick\_* (Phaidon Press), a big, handsome book mostly of photographs of brick buildings. It is edited by designer William Hall (who did the similar book *Concrete*), with an introductory essay by art historian Dan Cruickshank. There are plenty of utilitarian buildings in the big photographs here, of course; none of these structures are mere

ornaments. But the 200 photos here show useful buildings distinguished by colors, curves, and textures to show that the ancient building blocks have for centuries found new, beautiful, and even subtle applications. Among the oldest structures here are the Ziggurat of Ur in Iraq, dating from around 2100 BC, an enormous pyramidal structure with flat terraces that looks worn on only some of its surfaces. It illustrates that brick lasts. Bricks are the oldest of man-made building materials, and they are made merely of humble earth. Making ornamental patterns with brick that is used primarily for construction is one of the themes here. It is done by using brick of different colors or shapes, but can be done also with simple block bricks, too. Rectangular bricks can be laid in spiral patterns, as in the complex screen for a building in New Delhi, India. There is an external spiral column in the Colegio Teresiano by Gaudi. Light and delicate diagonal hatchwork is on the Centre Michelet in Paris. Bricks can make large-scale or small-scale pixels; a cluster of room-sized cubes in a bank headquarters in Oslo has inspired a gamer to make a \_Minecraft\_ version of the building. Different sizes of rectangular bricks were used in the club and restaurant Lanxi Curtilage in China and laid in patterns that extend in a beautiful sinuous design, for all the orthogonality of the components. There is even a picture here of the Pixel House in South Korea, a family home that looks like a gigantic loaf, but none of the bricks is curved or set at an angle, so that the play of light on the surface looks like a digitized photo. The pictures in this large-format book are gorgeous. The one difficulty is that they are allotted one picture per building, so it was very handy to use the photos here as starters for an internet image search. In his remarks at the beginning, Hall writes, "It wasn't difficult to find remarkable brick architecture around the world, yet no illustrated books have been published on the subject for over a decade. This suggests that despite its ubiquity, brick is woefully underappreciated. I think it is time to reappraise - or perhaps repoint - our view of brick. This is the place to start." Indeed.

excellent book!!

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