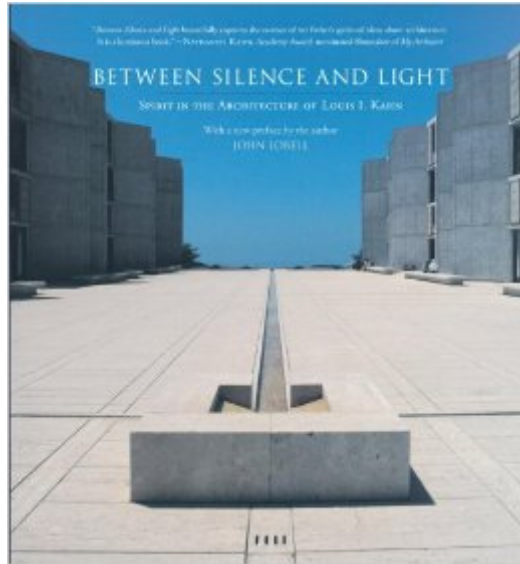


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# Between Silence And Light: Spirit In The Architecture Of Louis I. Kahn



## Synopsis

In the development of contemporary architecture, no one has had a greater influence than Louis I. Kahn, whose many buildings include the Salk Institute, the Yale Study Center, and the Exeter Library. He is remembered, however, not only as a master builder, but also as one of the most important and creative thinkers of the twentieth century. For Kahn, the study of architecture was the study of human beings, their highest aspirations and most profound truths. He searched for forms and materials to express the subtlety and grandeur of life. In his buildings we see the realization of his vision: luminous surfaces that evoke a fundamental awe, silent courtyards that speak of the expansiveness and the sanctity of the spirit, monumental columns and graceful arches that embody dignity and strength. Updated with a new preface, this classic work is a major statement on human creativity, showing us Louis Kahn as architect, visionary, and poet.

## Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Shambhala; 2nd edition (September 9, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159030604X

ISBN-13: 978-1590306048

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #207,258 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #147 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Individual Architects & Firms #299 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History #344 in Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture

## Customer Reviews

Kahn's words in this book are very wise. For just one example: The reason a city might deserve to exist is not due to packing a lot of warm squirming bodies into a small cubic footage, but rather to be a place where persons can explore things that interest them beyond the requirements of reproduction of individual and species life which determines peasant (and other non-urban) life. A city is a place where a young person, as they walk through it, observing various master craftspersons at work, may find something they \*want\* to do for their whole life (not just something they \*have\* to do to earn a "living"). This is remarkable stuff, especially when we compare it with the

ethical vapidness of postmodernism. Read this book and then see how the "world" you live in and the architects who designed it shapes up. Do you live in spaces which nurture creative human association? Or do you live and work in "decorated sheds" that put sugar coating on places that make you and your loved ones be banal?

This book is wonderful if you're a fan of Kahn's work. The book is unique in that the text is Kahn's original words. However, this book is not really a textbook - it functions more like a coffee table book. It has lots of photos and few words.

If you're someone who's interested in architecture, but don't seem to get the hang of it, the work of Louis I. Kahn might help. I was a sophomore when I read the book, classes were a bit blurry to me, it was like seeing an image but not sure of what you were looking at. But this book put things in a way that encouraged me as a student, to see the many concepts from life that concerned an architect, and how an architect was more of an artist of living, a thinker than just a construction manager.

This was for my husband, to replace his battered old copy. It was a watershed book for him many years ago, and he still values it highly.

This is an amazing book. Worth the read!

Great Overview of Kahn's work.

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