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VARIATIONS: THE ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JENNY OKUN

Preface by Thom Mayne Essays by Henry T. Hopkins and Michael Webb

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Five Ties books are available to the trade through Consortium Book Sales and Distribution (1-800-283-3572, www.cbsd.com), from online retailers, and in bookstores nationwide.



The first book on photographer Jenny Okun, *Variations* gathers 93 images that span more than twenty-five years of the artist's work. Independently and through prestigious commissions, Okun has traveled the world to create dazzling, multilayered interpretations of buildings by Frank Gehry, Richard Meier, Richard Rogers, and many other renowned architects. In the words of author Craig Krull, "Okun's artwork consists of large-scale color photographic abstractions of architectural works. Rather than produce literal representations of buildings, Okun distills their essential qualities of form, texture, color, and detail, developing a Cubist interpretation."

"Looking at architecture," Okun has written, "is like listening to music. Both are dramatic forms that reveal multiple, repeating themes. Above all, both require time. Just as a symphony cannot be experienced in a few seconds, it is impossible to see a whole building all at once. When I photograph a building, I feel as if I am conducting with my camera as I explore the architect's themes in time and space. The layering of harmonious overlapping shapes creates new and playful variations on the theme of the original architecture."

Jenny Okun is a graduate of the Slade and Chelsea Schools of Art, London. Her work has been shown in more than sixty international exhibitions, and is represented in numerous private and public collections. Commissions have included the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Tate Modern, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. She has studios in London and Los Angeles.

Thom Mayne founded the firm Morphosis in 1972, and is recognized as one of the world's leading architects. His past projects include the Caltrans District 7 Headquarters in Los Angeles. Currently in development are the "Phare" Tower in Paris, and a new academic building for Cooper Union in New York. Mayne was awarded the prestigious Pritzker Prize in Architecture in 2005.

Henry T. Hopkins is Professor Emeritus, UCLA Department of Art. Hopkins was formerly Director of the UCLA Armand Hammer Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Among his books are *Fifty West Coast Artists*; *Clyfford Still*; and *California Painting and Sculpture: The Modern Era*. He has published in numerous magazines, including *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*.

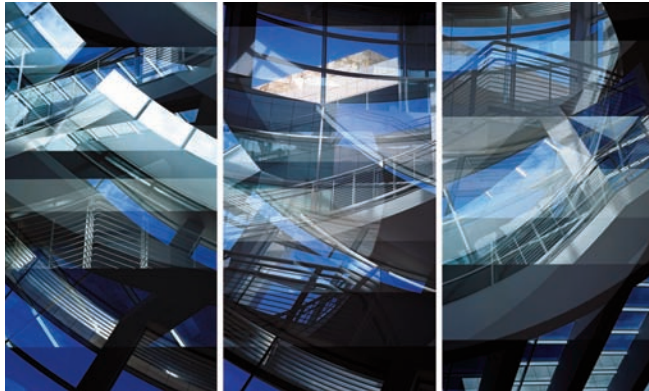
Michael Webb grew up in London and now lives in Los Angeles in the Richard Neutra apartment that Charles and Ray Eames once called home. His twenty-six books on architecture and design include *Modernist Paradise: Niemeyer House, Boyd Collection*; *Venice, CA: Art and Architecture in a Maverick Community*; *Brave New Houses: Adventures in Southern California Living*; and *Modernism Reborn: Mid-Century American Houses*. Webb is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*, the *Architectural Review*, *Frame*, *Mark*, and *Culture + Travel*.

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From the essay by Henry T. Hopkins:

“Okun is an artist who uses the camera as a compositional and scanning device to capture the poetic essence of a structure without regard for its function. Her interest is not in the architecture itself but rather in the innovative and formal elements from which it is composed. It is this quality that makes her images unique and memorable. Instead of looking at the whole she becomes absorbed in the details: the planes, the angles, the transparencies that serve the building as overhanging eaves, windows, or entryways. The process of invention is to interpret how these elements interact with one another to create a multifaceted organism.”



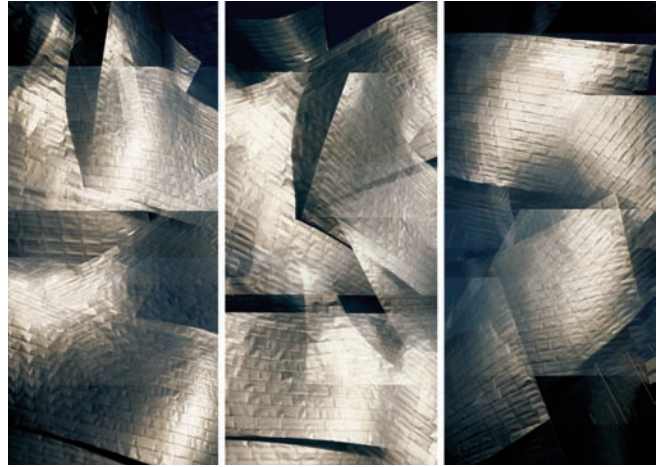
Getty Entrance Triptych, Los Angeles, 1987. Architect: Richard Meier

“The museum today is not only a collection of cultural artifacts but also a public destination . . . With the photography commissioned for the opening of the Getty Center in Los Angeles, Okun created a meditative labyrinth where architecture and pleasure intersect.”

RICHARD MEIER



UCLA Library Triptych, Los Angeles, 1996. Architect: Hodgetts and Fung



Bilbao Guggenheim Silver, 2000. Architect: Frank O. Gehry & Associates

“My work has always been an intuitive process—playing with shapes, translating movement. Jenny Okun and I work in a similar way by intuitively animating forms and capturing movement. Okun’s photographs go right to the soul of architecture, allowing us to share her vision of the creativity of the architect.”

FRANK O. GEHRY



Guggenheim Skylight, New York, 2005. Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright



“Jenny Okun uses the camera to compose and capture the art of architecture, the details and overlapping layers, freezing them in time and capturing the essence of movement through time.”

RICHARD ROGERS

Lloyds at Night, London, 1986. Architect: Richard Rogers Partnership