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Pressures and Distortions: City Dwellers as Builders and Critics: Four Views

Rafael Viñoly Architects

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Pressures and Distortions: City Dwellers as Builders and Critics: Four Views Rafael Viñoly Architects Pressures and Distortions provides a close-up look at how residents of cities in the developing world are reshaping their environments in response to social, economic, and environmental changes. The cities chronicled range from China through Indonesia to Latin America. In each of the book's four sections, a team of researchers explores how an urban phenomenon of global importance is playing out in a specific city. The studies analyze the impacts of housing shortages on the residents of Shenzhen's vanishing urban villages and Shanghai's deteriorating lanes; the production of self-built housing and neighborhoods in Mexico City (as well as Lima, Rio de Janeiro, and Bogotá); the performance of disaster relief housing constructed in Banda Aceh after the disastrous earthquake and tsunami of 2004; and the reception of Bogota's award-winning new public buildings and spaces by urban residents.

Throughout, the authors take a resident-centered view of urbanism and architecture. They interview city dwellers and painstakingly document their living environments as well as their self-built home improvements, using photography and measured drawings. They follow city dwellers with video cameras, recording their day-to-day interactions with urban spaces and with other inhabitants. They carefully chart the stages through which self-built communities are established and consolidated. In each case, the authors use critical examination of policy frameworks and statistical evidence to situate fine-grained observation within a larger context of urban production. Their findings avoid simplistic prescriptions while prompting constructive proposals for governments, NGOs, designers, and communities.

Pressures and Distortions is a publication of the Research Program of Rafael Viñoly Architects, a global practice with headquarters in New York. The authors, based in Mexico, Colombia, China, Australia, France, and the US, were selected through a competitive process to receive grants that enabled them to pursue their independent research. The Research Program is proud to present their findings in this handsomely produce volume, containing more than 500 original full-color photographs, plans, and drawings, as well as a DVD with over 100 video and audio recordings.Authors include: Jay Bargmann (Foreword), Ned Kaufman (Editor), Hai Zhang, Marcel Baumler, Richard De Pirro, Ana Rota Garcia Lascuráin, Mayra Gamboa, Juan Carlos Zavala, David O'Brien, Ahmed Iftekhar, Nicolas Tixier, Ida Assefa, Camilo Cifuentes, Sandra Fiori, juL mcOisans, and Céline Rouchy.

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