Jeffrey Kipnis’s writing, thinking, and teaching casts architecture as both an intellectual discourse and a lived, affective experience. His essays on contemporary architects are less about making critical judgments than about explicating, exegesis, and provocation. In these eleven essays, written between 1990 and 2008, he considers projects, concepts, and buildings by some of the most recognized architects working today, with special attention to the productions of affect. He explores “intuition” in the work of Morphosis, “exhilaration” in Coop Himmelb(l)au, “freedom” in the work of Rem Koolhaas and OMA, “magic” in Steven Holl’s buildings, and “anxiety” in Rafael Moneo’s writing about contemporary architecture.

Kipnis’s deft integration of art, critical theory, philosophy, pop culture, classical music, and science – what the volume’s editor Alexander Maymind calls “ancillary material” – into a rigorous architectural theory and criticism makes A Question of Qualities an exemplar of a new way to write about architecture. It is also a distinct pleasure to read. Kipnis transcends the fractious intellectual climate in architecture, stepping outside the boundaries mandated by the vast specialized criteria that the discipline now claims to address. The essays in this volume demonstrate a style of writing that is not so much about architecture as it is an affect of architecture itself.
A radical shift is taking place in the way that society is thinking about cities, a change from the machine metaphors of the 20th century to mathematical models of the processes of biological and natural systems. From this new perspective, cities are regarded not simply as spatially extended material artefacts, but as complex systems that are analogous to living organisms, exhibiting many of the same characteristics. There is an emerging view that the design of the thousands of new cities needed for an expanding world population are to be founded on intelligent and inhabited infrastructural systems or ‘flow architectures’ of urban metabolisms.

In a reaction to the fast-paced, image intensive, and increasingly web-based world of design, CLOG seeks to bring together an array of ideas, projects and essays, relevant to current architectural discourse, in themed editions of their quarterly journal. The current edition broaches the topic of Sci-Fi, a genre which has long inspired, and over-lapped with the realms of architecture and design. Featuring a collection of succinct essays and interviews, this edition of CLOG critically examines the correlation between Sci-Fi and architecture, and what this influence may entail in the ever-developing terrain of both genres.

Throughout the past decade Monocle has been a staple magazine of the design world, with their perseverance to design journalism and an unmistakable aesthetic. The Monocle Guide to Better Living is the magazine’s first foray into book publishing, in an original volume focussing on the key theme “how to live well”. With the same style and attention to detail that Monocle is renowned for, this inspiring compendium of ideas on timeless design and modern living, contains a collection of entertaining and informative essays, recommendations and reports with succinct analysis on a range of topics, including cities, culture, food, work and travel.

This new monograph on the revered Italian architect, Carlo Scarpa, meticulously documents his oeuvre of work. The extensive volume features fifteen key projects catalogued through photographs, plans, sketches, and in-depth walkthroughs by author Robert McCarter. Featured projects include the Brion Cemetery, Olivetti Showroom, Castelvecchio Museum, Canova Museum and the Central Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Clever and sometimes even breathtaking, these new spaces promote new forms of work, creativity, and collaboration. The way we work is currently undergoing fundamental changes. Thanks to globalization and digitalization on the one hand and evolving corporate cultures, collaboration methods, working procedures, and hierarchical structures on the other, a range of new opportunities are opening up for both employers and employees. These promising possibilities, however, bring along significant challenges for the architecture of our workplaces --and those who would like to use them. Workscape reveals how the architecture of our working world is changing to keep up with these new developments.

Images, descriptions, reviews provided by publishers or distributors. The Architext Wire, April 2013. Edited by Architext.