

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910459944603321
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Titolo	Boundaries of the city : the architecture of western urbanism // Alan Waterhouse
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1993 ©1993
ISBN	1-4426-2358-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (367 p.)
Collana	Heritage
Disciplina	720.94
Soggetti	City planning - Europe - History Architecture - Europe - History Urbanization - Europe - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes indexes.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- 1. Expressive Meanings, Ancient and Modern -- 2. The Narrative of Boundary Architecture -- 3. Self-Interest and Reciprocity -- 4. Cities in a God-billed Landscape -- 5. Dividing the Urban Realm -- 6. Intensity, Insularity, and Communitas -- 7. The Subversion of Everyday Life -- 8. Urban Boundaries in Turmoil -- 9. The Dissolving Boundaries of Modernism -- 10. Retreat from a Magic Landscape -- NOTES -- ILLUSTRATION CREDITS -- GENERAL INDEX -- INDEX OF ILLUSTRATIONS
Sommario/riassunto	In this study Alan Waterhouse draws on anthropological, social and cultural history, literature, and philosophy to reach an understanding of the roots of Western architecture and city building. He explores the illusion that cities are constructed to impose rational order, an order articulated through urban boundaries. These boundaries, he finds, are shaped around our instinctive fears and insecurities about crime, insurrection, and the violent disruption of everyday life. At the same time, contrary instincts aspire to create a unified domain, to proclaim the interdependence of things through constructed work. Cities are

shaped less by rational design than by a recurring dialectic of boundary formation. These impulses underlie the formal vocabulary of architecture and urbanism. Waterhouse follows them through the theories, ideologies, and styles that seem to govern city buildings; he finds their presence in the creation of territorial divisions, and also wherever the cityscape has been shaped by a poetic imagination. Tracing his narrative of urban boundaries from antiquity to the birth of modernism, Waterhouse discovers some stubborn legacies that bind contemporary urban design to the past. Part One explores the boundary dialectic in our regard for deities, for nature, and for one another, and then as a powerful influence on architectural invention and our ways of life. Part Two traces these themes through city building history, to show how architecture and human relatedness are subordinated by boundary formation in the cycles of urbanization.

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