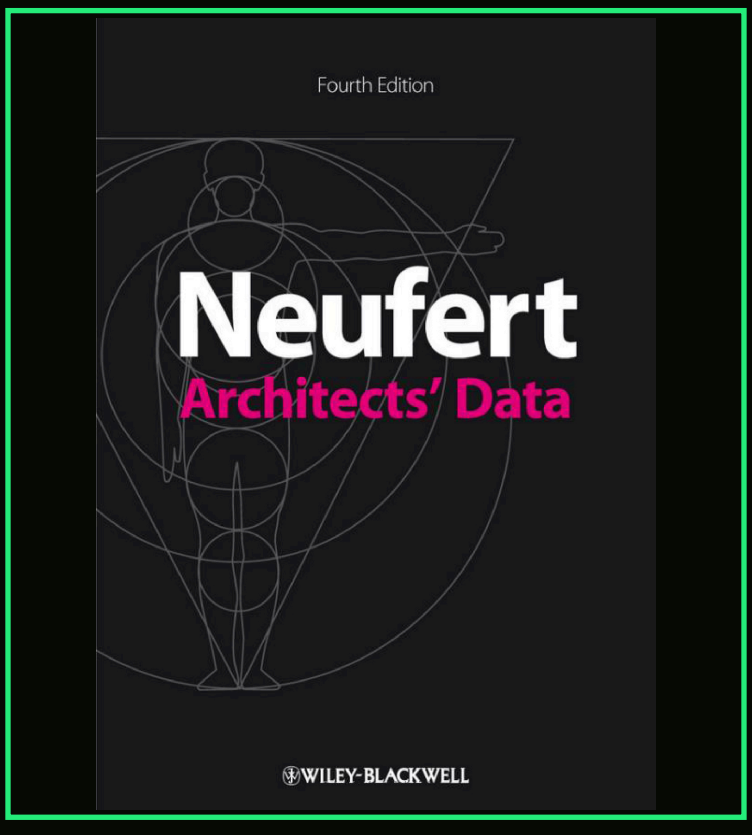
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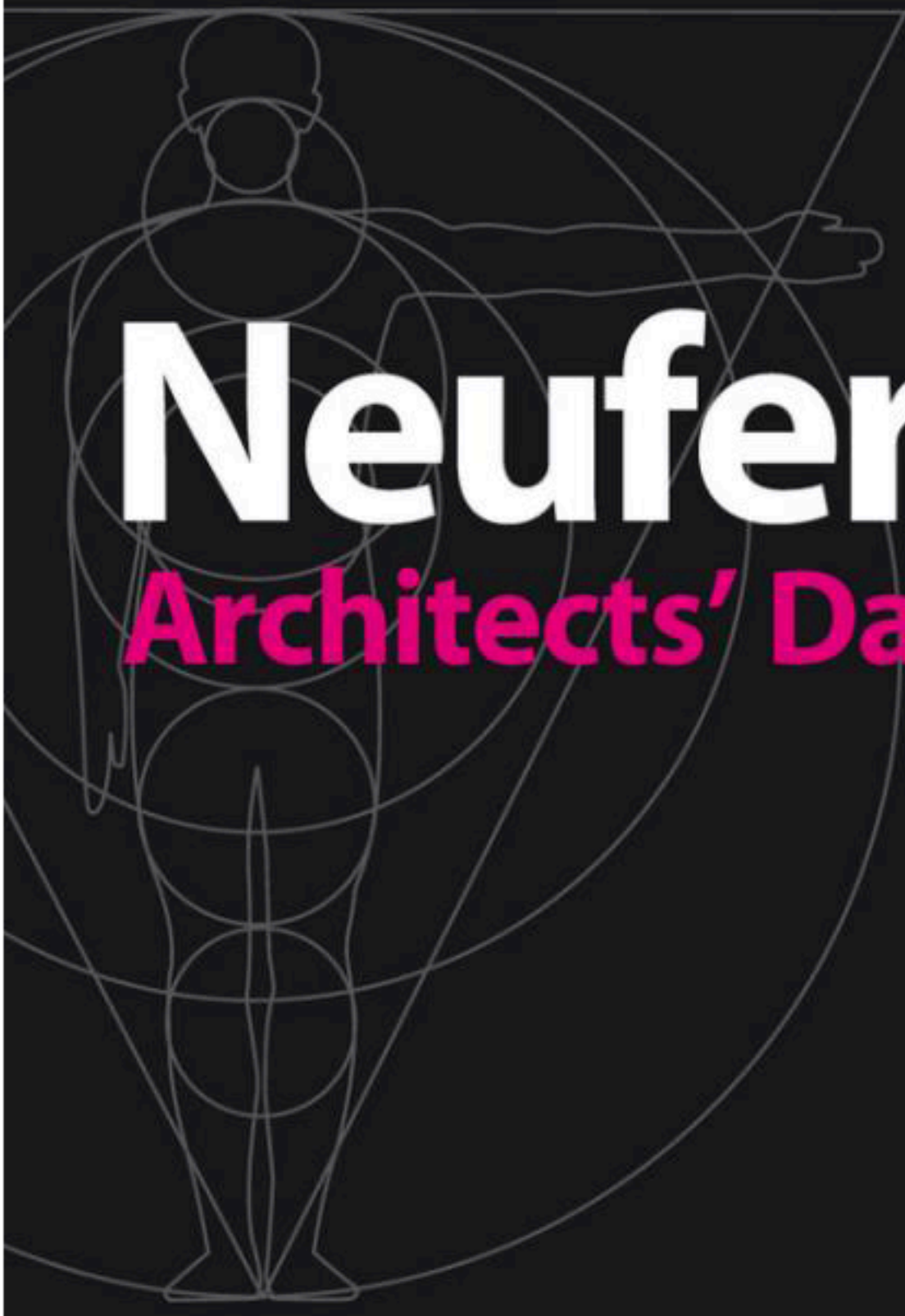


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Using this book

This book provides architects and designers with a concise source of the core information needed to form a framework for the detailed planning of any building project. The objective is to save the designers of buildings time during their basic investigations. The information includes: principles of the design process, basic information on siting, constructing and servicing buildings, as well as illustrations and descriptions of a wide range of building types. Architects need to be well informed about the requirements for all the constituent parts of new projects, to ensure that their designs satisfy their clients and the buildings conform to accepted standards and regulations.

The contents list shows how the book is organised and the order of the subjects discussed.

To avoid repetition and keep the book to a manageable length, the different subjects are covered only once in full. Readers should therefore refer to several sections to glean all the information they require. For instance, an architect wanting to prepare a scheme for a college will need to refer to sections other than that on universities and colleges, such as: drafting guidelines; multi-storey buildings; various sections on services and environmental control; catering; residential buildings, hotels and flats (for student accommodation); office buildings (for working environments); libraries; car parks; accessible building; indoor and outdoor sports facilities; gardens; details on doors, windows, stairs and other building components; the section on construction, and more.

Readers should note that most of the material is from European (substantially German) contributors. This means, for example, that information on climate and daylight is from the perspective of a temperate climate in the northern hemisphere. The actual conditions at the site of a proposed building will always have to be ascertained. Similarly, in the section on roads, illustrations show traffic driving on the right-hand side.

References to standards, regulations and guidelines reflect the book's origins. For this translation, the publishers took the decision to leave the specific text references to German standards, regulations and guidelines in place, to indicate where similar standards, regulations and guidelines might exist in other jurisdictions. Users elsewhere must familiarise themselves separately with such national and local legislation and guidance. Again, local conditions must be taken into consideration for each individual case.

The terminology and style of the text is UK English, which will need to be taken into account by readers accustomed to American English. These readers will need to be aware that, for example, 'lift' has been used instead of 'elevator' and 'ground floor/first floor' instead of 'first floor/second floor'.

The data and examples included in the text are drawn from a wide range of sources; as a result a variety of conventions for dimensions is used throughout. The measurements shown are all metric but a mixture of metres, centimetres and millimetres is used (and sometimes not identified).

Readers will also find some superscript numbers associated with measurements. When these appear by dimensions in metres with centimetres, for instance, they represent the additional millimetre component of the measure (e.g. 1.26^{5} denotes 1 m, 26 cm, 5 mm). Anyone familiar with the metric system will not find this troublesome. Those people less comfortable with metric units can use the conversion tables (to imperial measures) at the end of the book.

The plans and diagrams of buildings do not have scales as the purpose here is to show the general layout and express relationships between different spaces, making exact scaling unnecessary. However, all relevant dimensions are given on the detailed drawings and diagrams of installations, to assist in the design of specific spaces and constructions.

To help readers identify relevant background information, details of British Standards Institute (BSI) and German Institute of Standardisation (DIN) building-related standards are provided in two types of location. At the end of the book is a selected list of BS and DIN standards, arranged broadly by topic. Additionally, the margin of many pages of the main text contains relevant BS and DIN codes. Please note that, if a British or German code includes EN or ISO (signifying European or international), there is automatically a German or British counterpart with the same code and title.

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