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Joy Ride



Synopsis

In this book, architect David Martin reflects on and illustrates his visits to the ancient and colonial-era places of Mexico. In Baja and on the mainland, Martin immersed himself in a millennia-old culture that has transformed over the centuries yet maintained an outsized and magical exuberance. Martin is best known for designing iconic buildings that define the Los Angeles skyline, including the soaring and elegant Figueroa at Wilshire (formerly Sanwa Bank Plaza) and the tallest building west of the Mississippi, the witty and curvaceous Wilshire Grand Center. A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, he represents the third generation of architects to join his family's century-old business, AC Martin. Historian Kevin Starr has lauded the firm's "prophetic" work, as it built its own success and a new urban identity, as well as contributed to the sense of dynamic optimism suffusing the region. Today many of the firm's works have been designated historic-cultural monuments. These include some of Los Angeles's most significant civic and academic buildings, churches, corporate headquarters, museums, science laboratories, homes, and residential neighborhoods. Still towering over them all, visually and conceptually, is City Hall, which Martin's grandfather collaborated on, finishing it in 1928. It's a building that to this day symbolizes the identity and drama of the city, according to Starr. David Martin has produced most of his work in Southern California. No one can live in or visit Los Angeles without experiencing the myriad decisions he has made as AC Martin's design principal—choices about the forms of the buildings as well as their size, materials, public access, interior fittings, and much more. His structures, along with the influence he and his family's firm have had on Los Angeles's development as a pedestrian city, define friendly sequences of plazas so filled with bright flowers and art that the buildings themselves become a form of public art. The interaction of public and private space is a theme that runs through Martin's work, whether it is a glass-fronted police station that connects visually with its community, a church suffused with a numinous glow, or a skyscraper offering majestic views. With each project, he has sought to engage and delight those who use the building—for work, living, study, or prayer. His efforts are widely recognized, and he has received numerous major architecture awards over the years.

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Customer Reviews

David C. Martin, FAIA, A third-generation architect, continues his family's legacy of major involvement in the architectural planning and civic life of Southern California. Martin received his Bachelors of Architecture from the University of Southern California (USC) and his Masters of Architecture from Colombia University. Upon completing his formal studies, Martin spent four months on a Traveling Fellowship researching the great urban spaces of the world. David, along with his former business partner and cousin Christopher C. Martin, FAIA, have received the American Institute of Architecture (AIA), Los Angeles Chapter's Gold Medal of Honor, for their major contribution to the built environment in the City of Los Angeles. Stephanie Woodard writes on human rights and culture, with an emphasis on Native American issues. Her work has been published in Preservation, Saveur, and In These Times magazines, as well as on Indian Country Today Media Network, billmoyers.com, NBCnews.com, and the Huffington Post, where she has a blog. In hundreds of widely cited articles, she has covered voting rights, crime, sacred sites, food, gardening, health, child welfare, economic development, and additional subjects (many of these stories are archived at stephaniewoodard.blogspot.com) For this work, she has twice been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and has received awards and support from groups including the Fund for Investigative Journalism, the George Polk Center for Investigative Journalism, the Leonard C. Goodman Foundation, and the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Journalism.

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