Although both are central to architecture, siting and construction are often treated as separate domains. In *Uncommon Ground*, David Leatherbarrow illuminates their relationship, focusing on the years between 1930 and 1960, when utopian ideas about the role of technology in building gave way to an awareness of its disruptive impact on cities and culture. He examines the work of three architects: Richard Neutra, Antonin Raymond, and Aris Konstantinidis, who practiced in the United States, Japan, and Greece respectively.

Leatherbarrow rejects the assumption that buildings of the modern period, particularly those that used the latest technology, were designed without regard to their surroundings. Although the prefabricated elements used in the buildings were designed independent of siting considerations, architects used these elements to modulate the environment. Leatherbarrow shows how the role of walls, the traditional element of architectural definition and platform partition, became less significant than that of the platforms themselves—the floors, ceilings, and intermediate levels. Arguing that the boundary between inside and outside was radically redefined, Leatherbarrow challenges cherished notions about the autonomy of the architectural object and about regional coherence.

David Leatherbarrow is Professor of Architecture and Chairman of the Graduate Group in Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the coauthor of *Surface Architecture* (MIT Press, 2002) and *On Weathering* (MIT Press, 1993).

"The interwoven roles of site, technology, and topography in the art of architecture are examined in this fascinating look at the structures in which we live and work."
— *Forecast*

"[Uncommon Ground] corrects the distorted view that modern architects were insensitive to the physical context of their buildings."
— Herbert Muschamp, *New York Times*
UNCOMMON GROUND