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BOOK

Aaron Siskind and Louis Sullivan

AUTHOR

Jeffrey Plank

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NEW TITLE

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Aaron Siskind and Louis Sullivan

The Institute of Design Photo Section Project

This book publishes for the first time an exhibit of photographs, from 1954, of Louis Sullivan buildings directed by Aaron Siskind at the Institute of Design in Chicago. In 1952 Siskind and his advanced photography students undertook a comprehensive photographic survey of Sullivan's architecture and by early 1954 they had photographed over 60 Sullivan buildings. From hundreds of photographs Siskind composed an exhibit of 126 images of 35 Sullivan buildings. This exhibit was noteworthy for its startling juxtaposition of ornamental details and carefully composed building portraits. This was a documentation of Sullivan's architecture unlike any other—and one that could never be repeated, as many of Sullivan's buildings were demolished shortly thereafter.

Publication of the exhibited photographs and the reconstruction of Siskind's distinctive perspective on architectural photography will greatly contribute to architectural history and to the history of photography. The Sullivan exhibit is the missing piece in our understanding of Siskind's career regarding his use of architectural photography. Siskind's innovative photographs and equally innovative exhibit installation challenged prevailing treatments of Sullivan and modern architecture by architectural historians.

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