

David Raizman

## HISTORY OF MODERN DESIGN: GRAPHICS AND PRODUCTS SINCE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Laurence King Publishing, \$75pb, 400pp, 1 85669 348 1

*History of Modern Design* has developed from a course of the same name at Drexel University in Philadelphia. In keeping with its didactic origin, the subject is presented in chronological order, illustrated with more than 500 images, 125 of which are reproduced in colour. The book is ambitiously broad in its coverage, commencing with the seventeenth century and ending in the twenty-first, focusing on design from Europe and North America, and ranging through furniture, interiors, metalwork, ceramics, graphic design, typography and product design. A good two-thirds of the book is devoted to the twentieth century, which is presented in context from the preceding historical surveys. While the focus is on design for mass production and industrial processes, the crafts are not entirely neglected. An extensive bibliography on design, coupled with helpful reading lists, will prove popular in this useful introduction to the complex and wide-ranging subject of design. **(CM)**

John Dowson

## OLD FREMANTLE: PHOTOGRAPHS 1850–1950

UWA Press, \$75hb, 223pp, 1 920694 12 9

Photography has been around for more than 150 years, with many developments, from daguerreotypes, which had a brief life in Australia, to the latest in digital technology. *Old Fremantle: Photographs 1850–1950* contains an impressive collection of 240 photographs taken in Fremantle from 1850 to 1950. The detail in each photograph is of such luminosity that one could pore over the book for hours, exploring a world that no longer exists. The author lists and describes the photographers of Fremantle, and then breaks the book into a number of categories: Port, City, Home, People and Pleasure, Trains and Trams, Business and War. Phillip Adams writes briefly about the lure of the monochrome, and George Seddon places Fremantle in its context. This book offers a fascinating record of Fremantle's past. **(AMT)**



Mulligan's ship providores in Leake Street, c.1919

Ian Morrison (ed.)

## A NEW CITY: PHOTOGRAPHS OF MELBOURNE'S LAND BOOM

Miegunyah Press, \$39.95hb, 117pp, 0 522 85073 1

Charles Bristow Walker was an obscure Melbourne photographer who worked for just over a decade as a photographer and left behind few clues about his life. He took many photographs of Melbourne during the land boom, of which 140 are reproduced in this book, along with commentaries from various historians, librarians and archivists. The photographs show a proud and energetic city developing from the wealth of the gold rush. There are images of recognisable Melbourne landmarks, such as the Melbourne Town Hall, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Caulfield Race Course and the State Library. Walker's photographs give a fascinating insight into the changing Melbourne of the 1880s and 1890s. A tram transports passengers to the 'Cyclorama of Old Melbourne', and we see St Patrick's Cathedral under construction. **(AMT)**

Jan Roberts (ed.)

## THE ASTOR

Ruskin Rowe Press, \$69.95pb, 127pp, 0 9587095 4 8

On 25 October 1923 the famous Astor in Macquarie Street, Sydney, was opened. One of Australia's grandest residential buildings, it has been home to many people such as artist Portia Geach, silent movie star Vera James, gynaecologist Derek Llewellyn-Jones and satirist Barry Humphreys. The Astor recently celebrated its eightieth birthday. This book draws on material from The Astor's archives. Contributors include Clive Lucas, Donald Ellsmore, Scott Robertson, Robert Kroening and Maisy Stapleton. The book includes a day in the life of the caretaker in 1928, portraits of some of its notable and eccentric residents, letters from the archives and an inside view of The Astor today. **(AMT)**

Colin Holden

## LIONEL LINDSAY IN SPAIN:

## AN ANTIPODEAN ABROAD

Miegunyah Press, \$49.95hb, 174pp, 0 522 85077 4

After spending six months in Spain during 1902, Lionel Lindsay developed a lifelong passion for the country. He went on to produce more than 100 works of art based on Spanish subjects. *Lionel Lindsay in Spain*, drawn from diaries, letters and other materials, is a beautifully produced book and contains more than eighty illustrations. The first part explores Lindsay's four visits to Spain and its influence on his art. The second looks at Lindsay's detailed record of the processes he used in his printmaking. Nearly a third of the book contains a gallery of Lindsay's prints, and a commentary on each one. There is also a detailed Appendix of the Spanish Intaglio Print Images Revised Catalogue. **(AMT)**

Jane Hylton

## WILLIAM DOBELL: PORTRAITS IN CONTEXT

Wakefield Press, \$39.95pb, 64pp, 1 86254 602 9

William Dobell won the Archibald Prize three times, most famously in 1944 for his controversial *Portrait of an artist (Joshua Smith)*, which challenged the favoured style of portraiture. Focusing on the controversial painting and Dobell's earlier works, this book is the third in a series featuring artists represented in the collection of Carrick Hill. The book, divided into four parts, opens with the story behind *Portrait of an artist*, discusses a selection of Dobell's early works, looks at the recovery of damaged paintings after the 1958 fire at Carrick Hill and includes a brief biography of Dobell. It also features twenty-nine plates, including two studies and a sketch for *Portrait of an artist*. **(AMT)**

Jo Holder, Robert Freestone and Joan Kerr

## HUMAN SCALE IN ARCHITECTURE:

## GEORGE MOLNAR'S SYDNEY

Craftsman House, \$66hb, 152pp, 1 877004 29 4

George Molnar was a trained architect and one of Australia's greatest cartoonists. In *Human Scale in Architecture*, the authors show Molnar's influence on Sydney's architecture through his satirical cartoons. Molnar, who never learnt to drive, was a great observer of the development of his city. The book opens with a brief biography of its subject and is then divided into sections that examine Molnar's work from the 1950s through to the 1980s, interspersed with essays by

the three authors. It also includes Molnar's amusing watercolours, book covers, extracts of writings that shaped Sydney, a detailed bibliography of Molnar's work and writing, and a list of his exhibitions and awards. **(AMT)**

Edmund de Waal

20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CERAMICS

Thames &amp; Hudson, \$30hb, 224pp, 0 500 20371 7

The history of twentieth-century ceramics is complex, varied and rich. The rise of the studio or artist potter, often at the conceptual vanguard of ceramics, emerges from developments in progressive and artistically inclined commercial potteries in France and Britain during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This book's chronologically arranged chapters chart some of the key points, movements and figures of twentieth-century ceramics. The focus is on Europe and North America, with a few references to Asia, mostly Japan. Given the importance of ceramics in Australian decorative arts and sculpture, it is disappointing that there is scant reference to Australian ceramics. Only one Australian potter's work is illustrated. Work by indigenous potters in Africa, both Americas and Australia is ignored completely. Irritatingly, the captions do not include the nationality of the maker of the illustrated works, or where the works were made. At this price, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Ceramics* is good value as an introduction to some aspects of the subject. **(CM)**

**(Christopher Menz and Anne-Marie Thomas)**