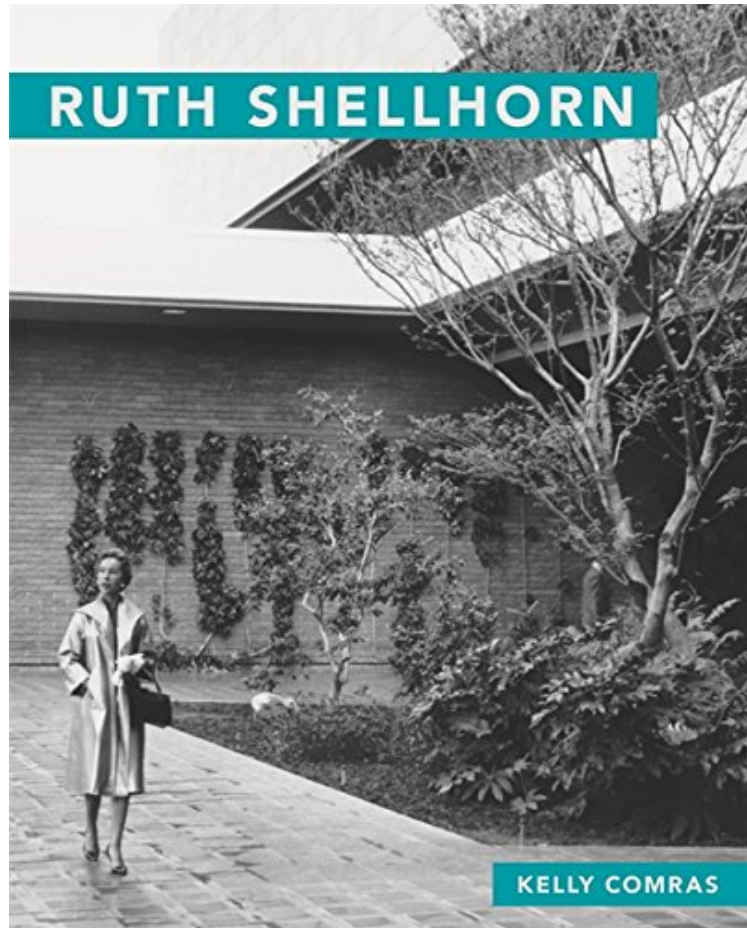


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#1167115 in Books Kelly Comras 2016-04-01 2016-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .80 x 7.30 x 8.90l, .0 #File Name: 0820349631240 pagesRuth Shellhorn Masters of Modern Landscape Design | File size: 55.Mb

Kelly Comras : Ruth Shellhorn (Masters of Modern Landscape Design Ser.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ruth Shellhorn (Masters of Modern Landscape Design Ser.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. About time this great landscape architect got some recognitionBy Levin Pollitt MessickRuth Shellhorn was my wife's second cousin. About time this great landscape architect got some recognition!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MUST READ IF YOU ARE INTO LANDSCAPEBy dickstuart RICHARD S. COMRASGREAT VERY GOOD BEST YET ON LANDSCAPE6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Disneyland Fans and SoCal Landscape Enthusiasts!By George H. Taylor Jr.I received a press release about a book on Ruth Shellhorn from the University of Georgia Press. I thought it was an odd solicitation, until I read the blurb:Kelly Comras tells the story of Shellhorns life and career before focusing on twelve projects that explore her approach to design and aesthetic philosophy in greater detail. The books project studies

include designs for Bullocks department stores and Fashion Square shopping centers; school campuses, including a multiyear master plan for the University of California at Riverside; a major Los Angeles County coastal planning project; the western headquarters for Prudential Insurance; residential estates and gardens; and her collaboration on the original plan for Disneyland. So, the reference about Ruth Shellhorn working on Disneyland certainly caught my attention and I requested a review copy. After reading the exhaustive book on Kem Weber (episode 219 of *Communicore Weekly* remember, he was the architect responsible for designing the Disney Studios in Burbank), I wasn't sure what to expect with another academic work. Especially with a person that only had one project associated with Disney, like Weber. With the Ruth Shellhorn book, I was hooked from the first chapter. Comras's style is very easy and flows very well. She never goes overboard with technical terms and never gets too jargon-y. There were a lot of black and white photos and landscape drawings representing each project. Although, I wish the plans were reprinted slightly larger. It's a fascinating look at a woman who blazed a trail in landscape architecture at a time when it was a male dominated field and the country was in the midst of the great depression. Shellhorn received a lot of accolades from her peers and from professional associations. Comras does spend some time interpreting the designs and placing them into their historical and cultural perspectives. The section on Disneyland is fascinating. It's reason enough to purchase the Ruth Shellhorn book, especially for Disney fans and researchers. The chapter is about 20 pages and includes landscape drawings for most of the park. You get to read how Shellhorn really helped Walt humanize the landscaping. She procured the types of flowers and plants that Walt wanted. He said he always wanted a warm and welcoming feel, so she found plants that would offer that year-round. Also, anyone enamored with Southern California landscaping, or has been in one of the Bullock's department stores will love this book. There are so many projects that she worked on that are still around today. I think it would be really fun to explore her landscapes, especially 30-50 years later. Comras should be commended for creating a work that is not only accessible but will offer students much inspiration. Did you know about Ruth Shellhorn's connection to Disneyland?

In a career spanning nearly sixty years, Ruth Shellhorn (1909-2006) helped shape Southern California's iconic modernist aesthetic. This is the first full-length treatment of Shellhorn, who created close to four hundred landscape designs, collaborated with some of the region's most celebrated architects, and left her mark on a wide array of places, including college campuses and Disneyland's Main Street. Kelly Comras tells the story of Shellhorn's life and career before focusing on twelve projects that explore her approach to design and aesthetic philosophy in greater detail. The book's project studies include designs for Bullocks department stores and Fashion Square shopping centers; school campuses, including a multiyear master plan for the University of California at Riverside; a major Los Angeles County coastal planning project; the western headquarters for Prudential Insurance; residential estates and gardens; and her collaboration on the original plan for Disneyland. Shellhorn received formal training at Oregon State and Cornell Universities and was influenced by such contemporaries as Florence Yoch, Beatrix Farrand, Welton Becket, and Ralph Dalton Cornell. As president of the Southern California chapter of ASLA, she became a champion of her profession, working tirelessly to achieve state licensure for landscape architects. In her own practice, she collaborated closely with architects to address landscape concerns at the earliest stages of building design, retained long-term control over the maintenance of completed projects, and considered the importance of the region's natural environment at a time of intense development throughout Southern California. Shellhorn set a standard of creativity, productivity, and respect for the native landscape that defused gender stereotypes and earned her the admiration of landscape designers then and now.

Kelly Comras's book on Ruth Shellhorn will, at long last, put her in proper perspective as an important pioneer in landscape design and planning in California. The book is engaging, with clear, direct writing, based on impeccable research and documentation. (Darrel Morrison, FASLA Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia) About the Author: Kelly Comras, ASLA, principal landscape architect of the firm KCLA in Pacific Palisades, California, is involved in residential design, historical research, local planning projects, and community project development. A former National Park Service landscape architect for the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, Comras specializes in Southern California land use planning and restoration. She has taught at UCLA and lectured at Harvard.