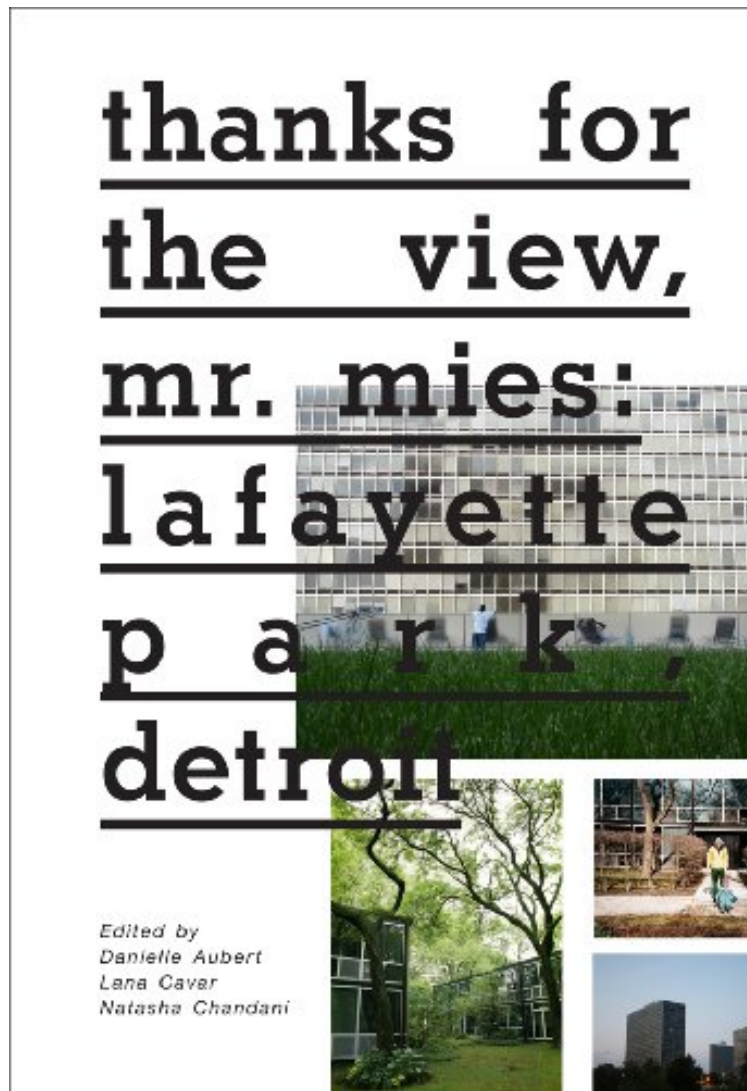


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Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies: Lafayette Park, Detroit

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From Metropolis Books : Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies: Lafayette Park, Detroit before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies: Lafayette Park, Detroit:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of my Favorite Books By Alaina Personally, I live in the Pavilion (of or Mr. Mies designs) so it was fascinating to read about the history of the Black Bottom/Lafayette Park area. This book is very eclectic in its style. There are personal essays, letters, and history lessons scattered throughout the book. If you are interested in reading about the rise and fall of Detroit in a different light than the other post-apocalyptic books

that people make Detroit out to be, check this book out. Also, this book is definitely hip. It's also sold in the painfully expensive "Shinola" store in Detroit, so it's totally legit. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Book and Creatively Conceived By tyrI was barely aware of Mies' work on Lafayette Park and this book was a pure joy to read. Hats off to the authors for a creative way of telling the story; or, rather, letting others tell their stories. I'm glad it wasn't just a book about the architecture, landscape, and site. There's a lot of that here, but the human stories of the occupants are what really sets this apart. More architecture books need that kind of perspective. Well done. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book By GEORGIA LOZIERI bought this for my nephew but he was thrilled with it and said the book is a keeper and he just love it so I am happy I ordered it for him. :)

Lafayette Park, an affordable middle-class residential area in downtown Detroit, is home to the largest collection of buildings designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in the world. Today, it is one of Detroit's most racially integrated and economically stable neighborhoods, although it is surrounded by evidence of a city in financial distress. Through interviews with and essays by residents; reproductions of archival material; and new photographs by Karin Jobst, Vasco Roma, and Corine Vermeulen, and previously unpublished photographs by documentary filmmaker Janine Debann, *Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies* examines the way that Lafayette Park residents confront and interact with this unique modernist environment. Lafayette Park has not received the level of international attention that other similar projects by Mies have. This may be due in part to its location in Detroit, a city whose most positive qualities are often overlooked in the media. This book is a reaction against the way that iconic modernist architecture is often represented. Whereas other writers may focus on the design intentions of the architect, authors Aubert, Cavar and Chandani seek to show the organic and idiosyncratic ways that the people who live in Lafayette Park actually use the architecture and how this experience, in turn, affects their everyday lives. While there are many publications about abandoned buildings in Detroit and about the city's prosperous past, this book is about a remarkable part of the city as it exists today, in the twenty-first century. *Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies* is a superb field guide to the diverse cross-section of inhabitants, the variety of habitats they have constructed within their brilliant biome, the lush and abundant flora and the ground fauna of Lafayette Park. The variety of environments created by each particular species in their words, actions and images is a joy to behold. And like the best field guides, wonderfully instructive. Phyllis Lambert, founder, Canadian Centre for Architecture This beautiful and wonderfully ambitious book tells the comprehensive story of a unique place Ludwig Mies van der Rohes magnificent modernist vision built in the midst of a city undergoing the worst of the urban crisis. The story is told through a collage of archival records, insightful essays and, above all, interviews with the residents and photographs of what they have made of Mies. The collision between Mies's purer-than-pure modernism and the realities of Detroit is both comic and tragic surprising, disturbing and, finally, inspiring. Robert Fishman, Taubman College of Architecture and Planning, University of Michigan *Thanks for the View* is a surprising paean to human passion and idiosyncrasy, terms not usually associated with the International Style or the architecture of Mies van der Rohe which in large part is what makes this book all the more welcome. As charming as it is well researched, *Thanks for the View* celebrates the mutual effect that Mies's Lafayette Park and its longtime residents have had on each other and, by extension, on the city of Detroit. Joe Scanlan, Visual Arts Program, Princeton University

...a fine-grained publication that celebrates Lafayette Park's residents and daily life there. That book conveys a sense of a complex, diverse ecology: from college students and retirees to herons, pheasants, and possums. (Mariana Mogilevich Public Books) This inspiring 288-page volume from Metropolis Books captures the convivial atmosphere the authors found at Detroit's Lafayette Park, a housing development designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe that encompasses 32 hectares of towers, townhouses and parks. I visited the area 15 years ago, the book took me right back to its quiet streets, green spaces and distinctive glass and steel design. The three editors (also the book's graphic designers) bring Lafayette to life, primarily through interviews with residents and photographs of them in their apartments. The images provide an intriguing glimpse of how personal style rarely conforms to strict Modernism. (Helena Grdadolnik Azure) Thanks to a master plan by architect Mies van der Rohe, urban planner Ludwig Hilbersheimer, landscape architect Alfred Caldwell and the spirit of its residents, the neighborhood turned out to be one of the most successful communities in Detroit. Or, as essayist Marsha Music, who lives in one of the 183 townhouses of Lafayette Park, puts it: "The peace here may be a reward, bequeathed through the ages, for having the commitment and audacity to maintain an integrated community in one of the most segregated cities in the United States. God is certainly in these details, as Mies might say." It's the prime achievement of "*Thanks for the view, Mr. Mies*" to show those details in all their significance, and to show them in a very clever and never all too earnest way. See glossy photos of bathroom doorknobs and mail slots, learn more about early community newsletters, whistle with the neighborhood bagpiper. In two words: Be amazed. (Sebastian Hofer *The Detroit News*) In their new book, *Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies*, which is due out at the end of the month (Metropolis Books, \$29.95), the editors Danielle Aubert, Lana Cavar and Natasha Chandani, graphic designers all, offer a portrait of Lafayette Park very different from the classic Mies monograph. Contents include interviews with residents of Lafayette Park's towers and town houses;

archival materials from the complex history; an account of nine days spent trying to climate-control a corner apartment; and essays on Mies in Detroit, the Lafayette Park landscape, bird-watching and a record of bird-strike deaths (birds and plate glass don't mix). At-home portraits of residents by Corine Vermeulen show Mies's architecture as a strong frame for personal expression. Some homes look like shrines to 1958, while others reflect the lived-in decor of decades. Jacqueline Neal, an interior designer and 12-year resident of the Pavilion, the smallest of the complex's three towers, spoke last month about living and accessorizing with Mies. (Alexandra Lange *The New York Times*, Home Section) "Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies" explores how Modernist architecture improves lives in the Lafayette Park section of Detroit, which has the world's largest concentration of Mies van der Rohe buildings. (It's also one of the most racially integrated neighborhoods in what might well be America's most segregated city.) (T: *The New York Times Style Magazine*)