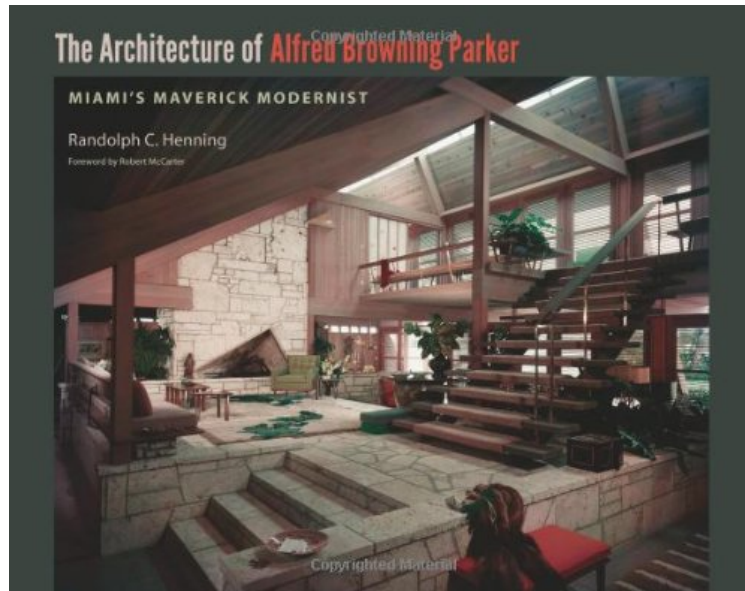


The Architecture of Alfred Browning Parker: Miami's Maverick Modernist

Randolph C. Henning
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Randolph C. Henning : The Architecture of Alfred Browning Parker: Miami's Maverick Modernist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Architecture of Alfred Browning Parker: Miami's Maverick Modernist:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Alfred Browning Parker... At Last! By Bruce A. Kaplan This career survey of the work of the esteemed South Florida architect Alfred Browning Parker is a volume for which I've waited decades. ABP, whose work received praise from Frank Lloyd Wright, was almost certainly the Miami area's most influential architect, at least during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. I am not an architect or architectural historian, but I grew up very much under the sway of the ABP "organic" aesthetic, recognizing in his residential designs an artistry in creating homes of beauty and comfort with paramount sensitivity to both the general environmental issues of South Florida and the specifics of the often idiosyncratic sites chosen for his designs. He designed homes and workplaces both for those who could afford luxury and for those who had to build within tight budgets, both with equal enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. His work stands in diametric opposition to the strip malls, the faceless homes and the McMansion proliferation which have come to blight South Florida over the past several decades. Much of APB's work has been demolished or altered without sensitivity, and there has been no collection of his work available to date. Randolph Henning's volume, being published just months after the nonagenarian subject's death, represents an extremely well-conceived survey of the architect's life work, focusing on a wide range of residential and commercial projects, both realized and unbuilt. The organization of the book is excellent, and the reproduction of photos and drawings is very good. The textual components are substantive and insightful. I would have liked to have seen the format larger, particularly as this is likely to remain the definitive representation of the extraordinary body of work Alfred Browning Parker created during his long, productive life. This is an essential volume for anyone with an interest

in the architecture and aesthetics of South Florida, though interest will doubtless be much wider amongst the architecture community. This is a book for those who envisioned the possibility of a Miami in which an Alfred Browning Parker could prevail. Thank you, Randolph Henning, and here's hoping this publication will inspire interest and perhaps even preservation of more of this iconic, sumptuous architecture.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This book is a must for any person interested in 20th-century architecture and modernismBy R. MacThis book does several things which should be standard in all architectural books but is, sadly, often not.Each house has its own clearly defined section. Too many architectural books scatter images and plans and descriptions throughout a book. Lord, is anything more irritating? Or confusing?The book has floors plans! And large enough to actually understand them! Again, too many architectural books do not. This should be a Federal crime!The current status of each house is articulated! While reading you are never left with that lingering, dreaded question: is this house extant and cherished? You know right up front if it is. Or is not.I also love that the books exists. I had never heard of Parker. It was a thrill to discover a talented architect who was largely overlooked by the national media.This book is a must for any person interested in 20th-century architecture and modernism.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best work to date on Alfred Browning ParkerBy Terry BirdTo start with I love the work of this architect, I was pleased to see that the author of this book feels the same way about the subject and decided to write an intelligent book on Parker and his work. This is not a coffee table book, rather it is a book full of color photos, drawings, plans and illustrations but also has thoughtful text telling the history of Parker's life and work. It is exhaustively researched. No I don't know the author or have any inside interest in this book, but I do have a big interest in the architect after reading the book cover to cover.

The first authorized examination of a twentieth-century architectural giant

About the AuthorRandolph C. Henning is the author of *At Taliesin: Newspaper Columns by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Taliesin Fellowship, 1934-1937* and *Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin: Illustrated by Vintage Postcards*. He is a practicing architect and lives in Lewisville, North Carolina.