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Elizabeth Roberts Architects Collected Stories

By Elizabeth Roberts with Alanna Stang, short fiction by Christine Coulson,
foreword by Wendy Goodman

The first book by the New York-based AD100 Architect compiles photographs, sketches, and even vignettes of fiction, to showcase her award-winning work.

‘Reveling in this, Elizabeth Roberts’s first book, which illustrates the breadth of her architecture and design practice, I felt that delicious pang of design envy, envy because I’m sure I’d discover my better self if I lived in one of her glorious homes!’—WENDY GOODMAN, FROM THE FOREWORD

Over the past decades, Elizabeth Roberts has built a practice of specificity. Whether breathing new life into a historic townhouse or imparting a sense of place into a ground-up contemporary home, Roberts dissolves the boundaries between architecture, interior design, and objects. She and her team at Elizabeth Roberts Architects (ERA), an AD100 firm multiple years running, have developed a cultlike following for their inimitable ability to fuse history and contemporaneity into warm, welcoming spaces.

In *Elizabeth Roberts Architects: Collected Stories*, Roberts shares eighteen projects that embody her exceptional vision for living. These residences range from a graciously renovated Italianate townhouse in Brooklyn Heights, to a restored ca. 1783 Connecticut farmhouse, to a newly built Catskills mountaintop retreat. Varied in their typologies, all are remarkable for being refined and inviting, composed and informal, contemporary and enduring. Lavishly illustrated with exterior and interiors images, each project chapter opens with a delicate hand-drawn sketch of the home and is interspersed with historical ephemera such as archival photographs and antique maps related to the sites. In addition to residential work, there are chapters dedicated to ERA’s wallpaper collaboration with Calico, the firm’s beloved Rachel Comey flagship store in New York, their reimagining of the Brooklyn Museum’s garden, and their designs for furniture.

Elizabeth Roberts Architects: Collected Stories opens with an admiring foreword from design editor Wendy Goodman, along with a thoughtful introduction by Roberts herself that provides context for the pages to follow. Divided into four organizing principles—Foundations, Improvisations, Intuition, and Inspiration—Roberts’s text touches on her practice, her background in classical music, her overall philosophy, and her dedication to storytelling. The layers of storytelling in the book include ten works of short fiction by novelist Christine Coulson. Inspired by images of Roberts’s designs and sewn into the book like stray pages from a novel, these surprising stories add new dimension to Roberts’s achievement. As Roberts writes simply and beautifully in her introduction, ‘creative work begets more creative work,’ and *Elizabeth Roberts Architects: Collected Stories* is a testament to that sentiment, providing immense inspiration to its readers.

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About the Authors

Elizabeth Roberts, AIA began her solo practice shortly after completing her graduate studies in historic preservation at Columbia University and undergraduate studies in architecture at UC Berkeley. A native of Northern California, the award-winning Roberts is now an ardent New Yorker.

Christine Coulson worked at The Metropolitan Museum of Art for 25 years and left as Senior Writer in 2019. Coulson is the author of the national bestseller *Metropolitan Stories* (Other Press, 2019) and the acclaimed *One Woman Show* (Avid Reader/ Simon & Schuster, 2023).

Wendy Goodman is the design editor of *New York* magazine and the author of *May I Come In?* (Abrams, 2018).

Alanna Stang is cofounder of Well Said, a narrative strategy consultancy, and coauthor of *The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2005).

About Monacelli

As a leading publisher of illustrated books for more than twenty-five years, **Monacelli** has challenged the conventions of publishing to produce provocative, inspiring, and essential titles. Founded in 1994 by Gianfranco Monacelli, the organization has released nearly 600 books on architecture, art, interior design, landscape and gardens, photography, and the applied arts. Monacelli's books have been made in collaboration with prominent practitioners and scholars ever since its inaugural title, the groundbreaking *S,M,L,XL* by Rem Koolhaas and Bruce Mau. In 2015, the applied arts imprint Monacelli Studio was launched, adding elevated books on art instruction, photography technique, and crafts to the publisher's roster. In 2020, Monacelli joined the Phaidon family of companies.

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