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Book Title: THE ARCHITECTURE OF HAPPINESS

Author's Name: Alain de Botton

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Alain de Botton is the author of the following seven books: *Essays in Love*, *The Romantic Movement*, *Kiss & Tell*, *How Proust can Change your Life*, *The Consolations of Philosophy*, *The Art of Travel*, and *Status Anxiety*. People who have read any of his books will know what a big pleasure it is to read Botton, because he knows how to take his readers into his books. This new book, "The Architecture of Happiness" is also a very well prepared book. Botton certainly is a very good thinker.

The objective of the book is defined on the outside back cover as to show how architecture affects people more profoundly than they might like to think. Knowing his other books, I would like to add that there could also be another objective behind this book and this could be the production of an intermediate text which will fill the gap between philosophical texts about architectural space and the discourse of architecture. Both of these objectives are realized strongly. Most philosophical texts only highlight pain caused by spatial objects, whilst architectural discourses are more about the pleasure caused by the same spatial objects. However, Botton's book explains both pain and pleasure, which are caused by architecture, simultaneously.

"In essence, what works of design and architecture talk to us about is the kind of life that would most appropriately unfold within and around them. They tell us of certain moods that they seek to encourage and sustain in their inhabitants. While keeping us warm and helping us in mechanical ways, they simultaneously hold out an invitation for us to be specific sorts of people. They speak of visions of happiness."

The book can be read by anybody who wishes to know more about architecture. However, it can also be suggested as essential reading for the academic architects who deal with architectural discourse.

Whilst the book is well illustrated the figures and the titles within the book could give a better impression or idea about the content and quality of the text. Many architects might think that this is similar to many other books of architecture. However, it is not and is very much worthwhile a serious read.

