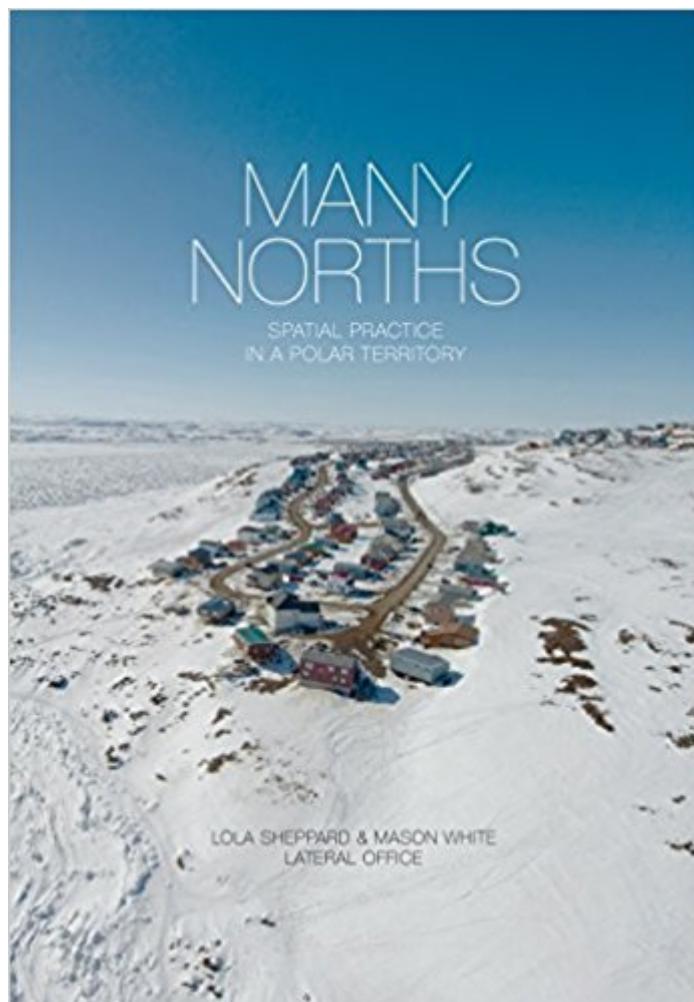


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Many Norths: Spacial Practice In A Polar Territory



Synopsis

“There are many norths in this North.” Louis-Edmond Hamelin, 1975

Many Norths: Spatial Practice in a Polar Territory charts the unique spatial realities of Canada’s Arctic region, an immense territory populated with small, dispersed communities. The region has undergone dramatic transformations in the name of sovereignty, aboriginal affairs management, resources, and trade, among others. For most of the Arctic’s modern history, architecture, infrastructure, and settlements have been the tools of colonialism. Today, tradition and modernity are intertwined. Northerners have demonstrated remarkable adaptation and resilience as powerful climatic, social, and economic pressures collide. This unprecedented book documents through the themes of urbanism, architecture, mobility, monitoring, and resources the multiplicity of norths that appear and the spatial practices employed to negotiate it. Using innovative drawings, maps, timelines, as well as essays and interviews, Many Norths reveals a distinct northern vernacular.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This volume documents spatial practices and typologies in Canada’s Arctic region, focusing on the Inuit transformations that have occurred over the past century, when modernity impacted the cultures, climates, and ecologies of the region. It discusses spatial practices as responses to the conditions of the region, emphasizing the themes of urbanism; architecture, including key building types and factors; mobility; monitoring in terms of observing, surveying, and reading the landscape in response to geopolitics and survival; and resources for survival, trade, and

extraction. It illustrates the importance of these themes in transforming the region and how they have served as catalysts for development or tools for enacting spatial and cultural transformations. Each theme chapter includes a timeline; an essay on the theme's significance, historical trajectory, and current influential factors; interviews with practitioners or observers describing phenomena, tactics, and adaptations; and case studies of specific practices for places and geographies, such as Inuit architecture, government housing, sealifting, Inuit navigation and trails, search and rescue, icebergs, and the fur trade." --Eithne O'Leyne, Editor, ProtoView "The new book [Many Norths] by architects Lola Sheppard and Mason White of Toronto-based firm Lateral Office is a compendium of useful information about Canada's high Arctic regions. Structured like a research manual for architects considering future opportunities in this context, the visually immersive tome is organized into five sections: urbanism, architecture, mobility, monitoring, and resources." --Blaine Brownell, Architect Magazine "Writing on the Arctic is no small feat, and assembling the wealth of information present in the latest book by the principals of Toronto's Lateral Office is a remarkable undertaking. The appearance of Many Norths: Spatial Practice in a Polar Territory is also timely, arriving at a moment when Arctic communities are facing many challenges and opportunities. This deftly crafted book should be mandatory reading for students in architecture and architects interested in developing a practice above the Canadian tree line." --Marie-Josée Therrien, Canadian Architect Magazine "[Many Norths] is something of a magnum opus for the office, compiling many years' worth of research--architectural, infrastructural, geopolitical--including original interviews, maps, diagrams, and historical analyses of the Canadian North. Or the Canadian Norths, as Sheppard and White make clear. The book is cleanly designed, but its strength is not in its visual impact; it's in how it combines rigorous primary research with architectural documentation. The interviews are a particular highlight. While the focus of Many Norths is, of course, specifically Canadian, its topics are relevant not only to other Arctic nations but to other extreme environments and remote territories." --Geoff Manaugh, BLDGBLOG

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