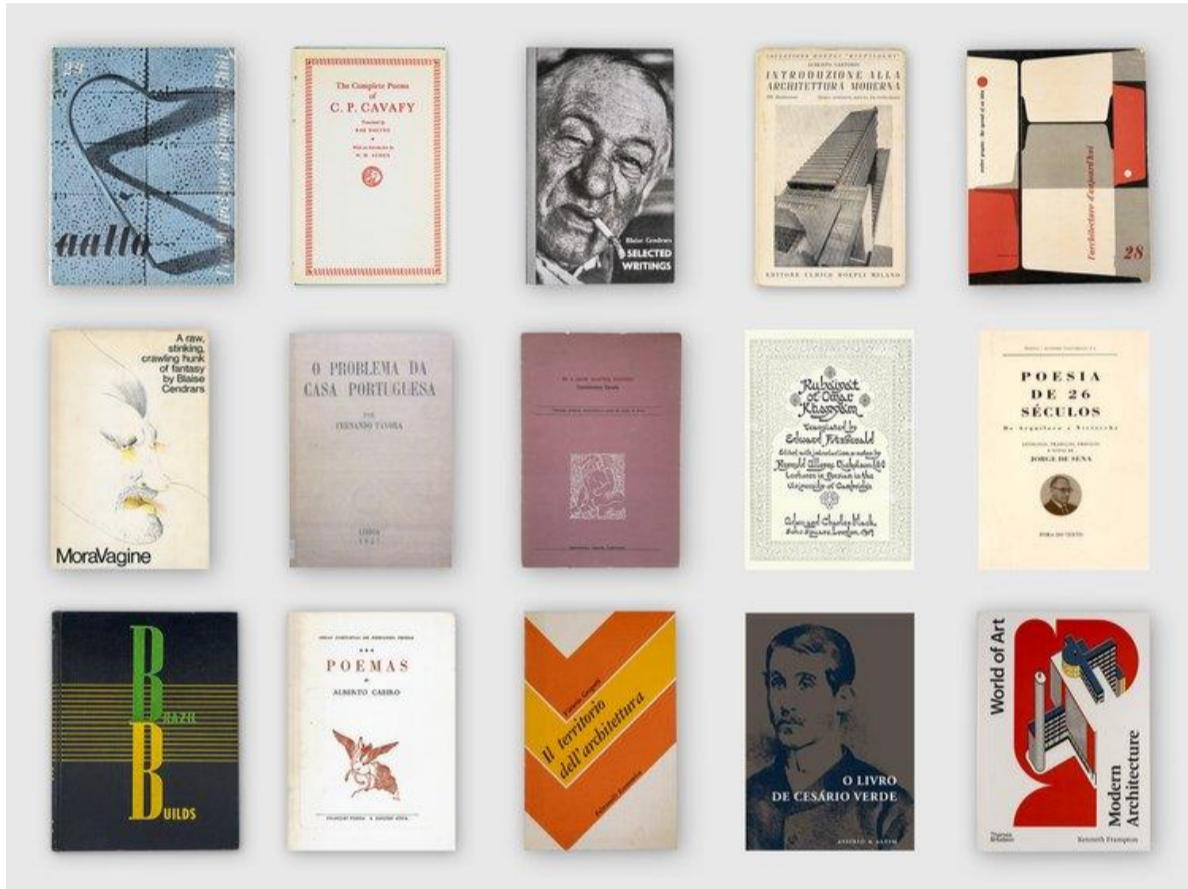


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new release

The List #1 / Alvaro Siza

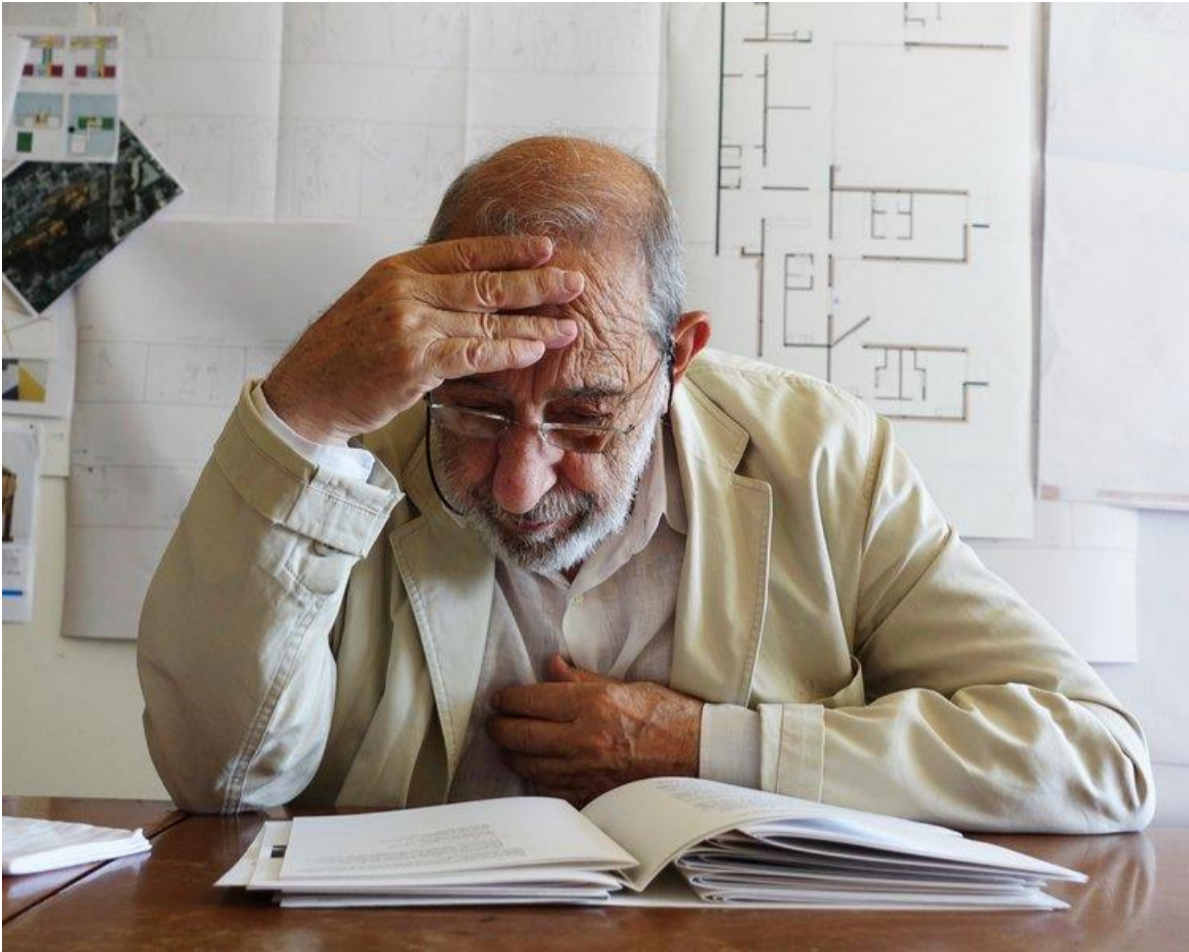


The List is a project to share and make available to order a rigorous selection of books chosen by some of the most decisive minds in Architecture. From Architecture to Poetry, History, Philosophy, Literature, Science, Photography.

Curated and Presented by **Daniela Sá**

Founder and Publisher of monade

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One of the most consistent and yet fully surprising architects working today, Álvaro Siza is the author of a rigorous and obsessive work, deeply rooted in a deference towards local material, craftwork, topography, local light, ever without falling into the sentimentality of excluding rational form and modern techniques. His buildings are many times described as being unphotogenic, even mute. His approach is patently tactile and tectonic, rather than visual and graphic.

Always smoking, one suspects that that is only a pretext for lengthy observations without apology, exercises of sharp attention in which his work seems to arise from.

Now the Pritzker Prize shares the books that have marked him the most through his life. Álvaro Siza's List spans from fundamental editions on Alvar Aalto or Walther Gropius, to lesser-known Italian modernism, Brazil, critical history and philosophy, a striking novel, and poetry – a lot of poetry – from Portuguese to Greek and Persian masters.

See [THE LIST](#)



1 L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui 29 / Alvar Aalto

When at architecture school, Álvaro Siza's teacher looked at his drawings and said: "It's clear how little you know about architecture. Why don't you go out and buy some magazines?" In a time when it was hard to find them in Portugal, Siza bought some issues of *Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* and this one on Aino and Alvar Aalto, was one of his first copies, of most decisive importance.

Order

2 L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui 28 / Walter Gropius

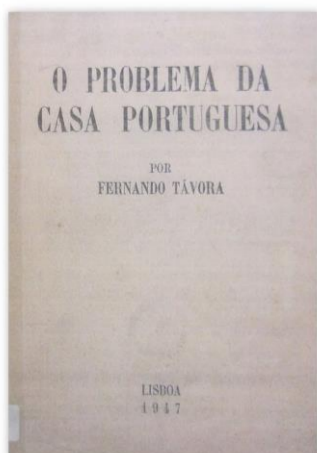
This one of Álvaro Siza's first magazines on architecture when student, curiously an issue edited by the "young American architect" Paul Rudolph, later one of the most decisive American architects in the 20th century. Entangled between a sterile historicism and the arrival of modern architects to America, this issue strives for depicting a clear vision of modern architecture.

Order



3 O Problema da Casa Portuguesa / Fernando Távora

Fernando Távora (1923-2005) is a decisive figure to Portuguese contemporary architecture. This book is in fact a small article, he published when he was 24 years old and in amidst of Portuguese dictatorship. In a time when Europe was already maturing the bases of Modern Architecture, in Portugal architecture was stuck in an impossible quest of an isolated, unique character of a so-called *Portuguese style*.

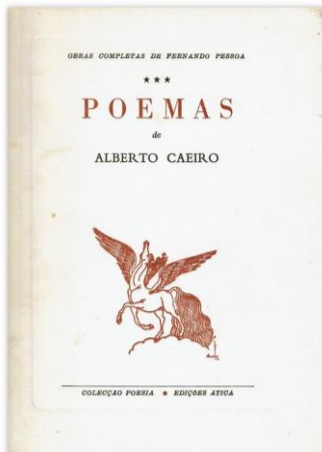


See book

4 The Complete Works of Alberto Caeiro

Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935), Portuguese poet, is perhaps one of the most significant voices in western modern culture. Siza often states that Poetry has a lot to do with Architecture. In Caeiro, Siza underlines the apparent simplicity of his work – the difficult simplicity – he adds. Perhaps besides form, sensations or symbols, the true difficulty in Architecture would be to not be a representation, a metaphor, but rather simply *be*.

Order



5 Obra Completa de Cesário Verde

Cesário Verde (1855-1886) was a 19th century Portuguese poet known by his vibrant descriptions of life in cities, of the dawn of modernity captured in its daily aspects. Architecture's affinity with Poetry is repeatedly remarked by Álvaro Siza.

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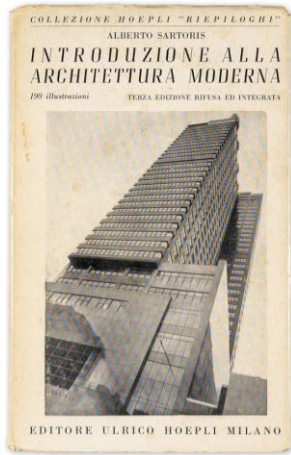


6 Il Territorio dell'Architettura / Vittorio Gregotti

This is, perhaps, the most influential book by Vittorio Gregotti (1927-2020), Italian architect, decisive to the coming paths of contemporary architecture, originally published in 1966. Unusually clear and aware of philosophical depth of thought in Architecture, this small book dares to start with the question: "*What kind of thing is Architecture made of?*".

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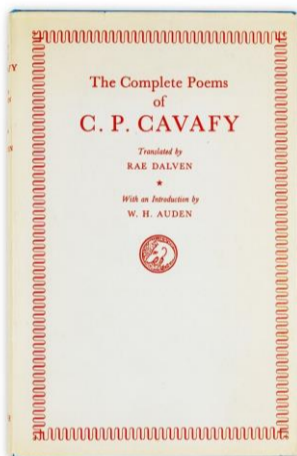




7 Introduzione all'Architettura Moderna / Alberto Sartoris

This book is stated by Álvaro Siza as being one of the first he bought on Architecture. A pocket-size, refined, strongly illustrated edition, seemingly made as a “manual”. Published in 1949, this book presents a most vast and solid collection on unknown and outstanding modern architecture, that we can only wonder what else are we missing.

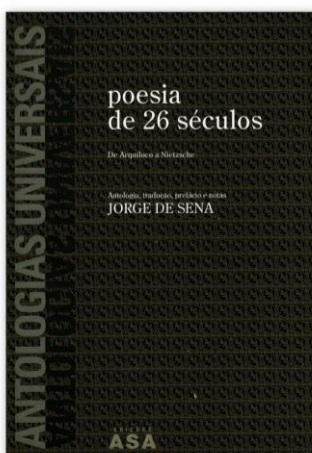
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7 The Complete Poems of Cavafy

Constantinos Cavafy (1863-1933), Greek poet, one of the key figures in western Poetry. Commonly known as the author of “Ithaca” (1911), a poem inspired by the return of Homero to his home island, as depicted in “Odyssey”. Cavafy drew themes from personal experience as from Helleno-romaic antiquity and the Byzantine era in poems of celebrated modernity. Perhaps a reminder that classic tradition is not a thing from the past, nor a ruin.

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9 Poesia de 26 Séculos / De Arquíloco a Nietzsche

A most precious anthology of poetry from the Greek archaic period of 600 BC to the beginning of 20th century, gathered, translated and annotated by the Portuguese poet and intellectual, Jorge de Sena (1919-1978). Written in an exile that lasted all his life, this book seems to have the mark of it, of an idea of extended territory, a poetic geography.

See book



10 90 e mais Quatro Poemas / Constantino Cavafy

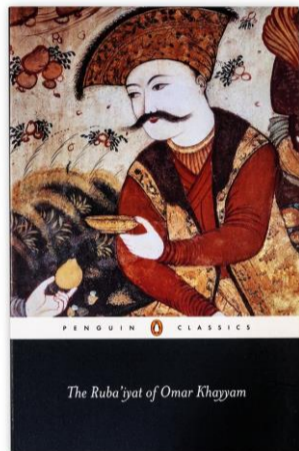
This book gathers the fundamental poetry of Constantinos Cavafy (1863-1933). The reader thus comes into contact with 90 of the 154 poems that establish the poet's canon, and four more among his first writings in his youth, which Cavafy then chose not to publish.

See book

11 Ruba'iyat / Omar Khayyan

Although Omar Khayyam is best known in the West as a poet and author of *The Ruba'iyat*, in the East he was famous as an astronomer and mathematician. He was born in Persia and is thought to have died in approximately 1122. Intensively fun, vivid and daring, this work was possible thanks to the invention of the *Ruba'i* – a clever formal simplification of poetry, allowing the expression of daily experiences, thoughts in a way direct and simple.

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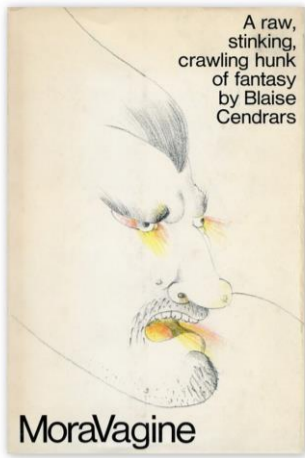


12 Modern Architecture: A Critical History / Kenneth Frampton

This highly acclaimed survey of modern architecture and its origins has become a classic since it first appeared in 1980, and has helped to shape architectural practice and discourse worldwide. Kenneth Frampton was invited to create an overview of the complexity of modern times architecture, from the disruption of French Revolution to present days, to provide some deeper understanding of the developments of our own practice.

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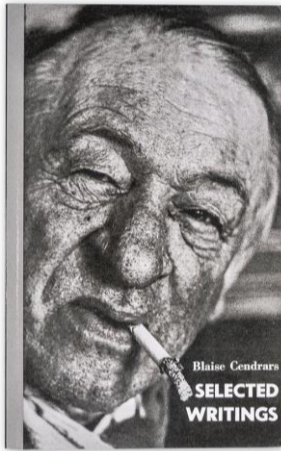




13 Moravagine / Blaise Cendrars

Written in 1926, Moravagine is the most well-known novel by Blaise Cendrars. A complex work, Moravagine is an “epic of destruction in which one senses Goya, Bosch, Dante”. The book was written during World War I at a time when as the narrator describes, “the whole world was doing a Moravagine”.

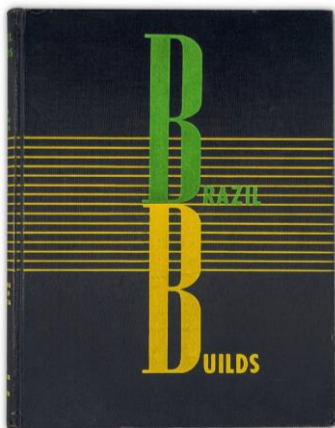
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14 Selected Writings of Blaise Cendrars

Blaise Cendrars (1887-1961), novelist and poet. His name is not as much familiar as one might suppose of someone being painted by Leger, Modigliani, and Chagall, who helped to “discover” Jazz, Negro art, Surrealism, Anarchism, and Henry Miller, who writes the preface of this book. This book recollects most of his main writings where “*Everything is written in blood, but a blood that is saturated with starlight.*”

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15 Brazil Builds

The most seminal book on presenting Brazilian architecture to the world. Not only the works featured there are surprisingly brilliant, but also the scope of this edition, beginning with baroque and popular architecture intermingled with latest achievement at the time, is a statement. Modern architecture was now, and by right, also tropical, popular, historical, daring.

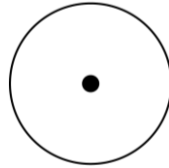
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