FOREWORD

Just when an idea or a movement seems to have run its course, or merely run out of steam, a new mind and set of eyes come along and make it fresh again. Such is the case with *Sanctioning Modernism*, where three young scholars have brought together a new perspective on the Modern Movement. This triad—Vladimir Kulić, Timothy Parker, and Monica Penick—has enlisted an interdisciplinary band of other emerging and more seasoned academics as allies in this effort.

In doing so, the young and seasoned scholars go far beyond what modernism looks like and deeply probe its political, religious, and domestic consequences. These scholars help illustrate the observation by Kurt Lewin (1890–1947) that “there is nothing so practical as a good theory” (from *Field Theory in Social Science: Selected Theoretical Papers* [New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1951]). The theory of modernism had far-reaching implications for the built environment.

These implications span the globe, and as the pages that follow illustrate, range in scale from our homes to state institutions. While the architectural story flows throughout, the contributors show how built form is related to our political, worship, and home lives. In other words, they address topics at our very essence as human beings.

The trio of sparkplugs behind this book deserves special recognition. As graduate students, they envisioned a collaborative endeavor. When most doctoral students look within, Penick, Parker, and Kulić reached out to each other and beyond. As they were completing their doctoral studies (and now, as they have gone on to academic posts—Vladimir at Florida Atlantic University, Timothy at Norwich University, and Monica at the University of Wisconsin–Madison), these three took on a demanding editorial endeavor. In the end, they have produced a wide-ranging work, and they also have contributed focused chapters themselves.

In many ways, modernism began as a positive movement. There was a belief that humans could envision and create a better world. In several ways, we have. In others, we have fallen short, and making the world a better place remains a

work in progress. This book also began as a positive movement by its editors and contributors. That effort has produced the fine book, with its fresh perspective on modernism, that you now hold in your hands.

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