**The Act of Creation and the Spirit of a Place**

Offering a holistic approach to architecture, Nili Portugali argues that in order to create places and buildings where we feel really at home we need a transformation of the mechanistic worldview underlying much current thought.

Portugali's holistic approach is followed by studies of 23 different Portugali projects (all in Israel), combining architectural data with her explanation of the intangibles (spirituality, hope, essence) lying behind buildings as diverse as private housing, student dormitories, war memorials and libraries. There is no other book quite like this one, it really is singular and worthy of your close attention.

Axel Menges  July 2006