

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film

By Merrill Schleier

Download Read Online

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier

Whether tall office buildings, high-rise apartments, or lofty hotels, skyscrapers have been stars in American cinema since the silent era. Cinema's tall buildings have been variously represented as unbridled aspiration, dens of iniquity and eroticism, beacons of democracy, and well-oiled corporate machines. Considering their intriguing diversity, Merrill Schleier establishes and explains the impact of actual skyscrapers on America's ideologies about work, leisure, romance, sexual identity, and politics as seen in Hollywood movies.

Schleier analyzes cinematic works in which skyscrapers are an integral component, interpreting the iconography and spatial practices in these often fictional modern buildings, especially on concepts of gender. Organized chronologically and thematically, she offers close readings of films including *Safety Last*, *Skyscraper Souls*, *Wife vs. Secretary*, *Baby Face*, *The Fountainhead*, and *Desk Set*. Opening with the humorous antics of Harold Lloyd, the premier skyscraper actor of the silent era, the book moves through the disillusionment of the Depression era, in which skyscrapers are employed as players in moralistic, class-conscious stories, to post–World War II and its reimagining of American political and economic values and ends with the complicated prosperity of the 1950s and the lives of white-collar workers and their spouses.

Taking inspiration from Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Project*, among works of other critical theorists, Schleier creates in this book a model for understanding architecture as a purveyor of desire and class values and, ultimately, contributes broadly to thinking on the rich intersection of the built environment, cinema, and gender.

Download Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in Amer ...pdf

Read Online Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in Am ...pdf

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film

By Merrill Schleier

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier

Whether tall office buildings, high-rise apartments, or lofty hotels, skyscrapers have been stars in American cinema since the silent era. Cinema's tall buildings have been variously represented as unbridled aspiration, dens of iniquity and eroticism, beacons of democracy, and well-oiled corporate machines. Considering their intriguing diversity, Merrill Schleier establishes and explains the impact of actual skyscrapers on America's ideologies about work, leisure, romance, sexual identity, and politics as seen in Hollywood movies.

Schleier analyzes cinematic works in which skyscrapers are an integral component, interpreting the iconography and spatial practices in these often fictional modern buildings, especially on concepts of gender. Organized chronologically and thematically, she offers close readings of films including *Safety Last, Skyscraper Souls, Wife vs. Secretary, Baby Face, The Fountainhead*, and *Desk Set*. Opening with the humorous antics of Harold Lloyd, the premier skyscraper actor of the silent era, the book moves through the disillusionment of the Depression era, in which skyscrapers are employed as players in moralistic, class-conscious stories, to post–World War II and its reimagining of American political and economic values and ends with the complicated prosperity of the 1950s and the lives of white-collar workers and their spouses.

Taking inspiration from Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Project*, among works of other critical theorists, Schleier creates in this book a model for understanding architecture as a purveyor of desire and class values and, ultimately, contributes broadly to thinking on the rich intersection of the built environment, cinema, and gender.

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier Bibliography

- Rank: #2117397 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Univ Of Minnesota Press
- Published on: 2009-02-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x 1.00" w x 7.00" l, 1.55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

Download Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in Amer ...pdf

Read Online Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in Am ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier

Editorial Review

Review

"In-depth and rigorous, Schleier‘s historical framework is more than simply a convenient temporal grid. Furnishing the reader with diegetic as well as external reference points, Schleier makes a strong case for these films as producers of culture at the same time as they can be seen to emerge from within a certain cultural context. Her research extends well beyond the screen." —*Scope*

About the Author

Merrill Schleier is professor of art, architectural history, and film studies at the University of the Pacific. She is author of *The Skyscraper in American Art*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ryan Mendoza:

The book Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a very important thing like a book Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film? Wide variety you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim in which book can give many information for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you are able to give for each other; you can share all of these. Book Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film has simple shape however you know: it has great and large function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by available and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Kristine Toomey:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what one you should start with. This Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Richard Broderick:

The guide with title Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film has a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This kind of book exist new information

the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you throughout new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Laura Lee:

It is possible to spend your free time to read this book this reserve. This Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film is simple to bring you can read it in the park your car, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not have much space to bring the particular printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you quicker to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Download and Read Online Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier #0WODI8RS9BQ

Read Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier for online ebook

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier books to read online.

Online Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier ebook PDF download

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier Doc

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier Mobipocket

Skyscraper Cinema: Architecture and Gender in American Film By Merrill Schleier EPub