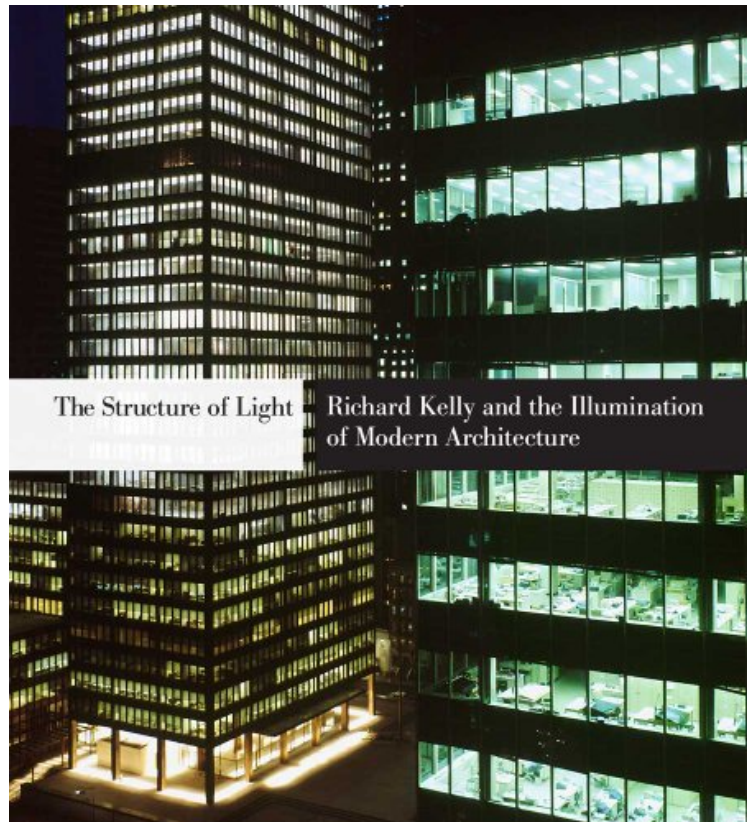


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# The Structure of Light: Richard Kelly and the Illumination of Modern Architecture

*From Yale University Press*  
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**From Yale University Press : The Structure of Light: Richard Kelly and the Illumination of Modern Architecture** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Structure of Light: Richard Kelly and the Illumination of Modern Architecture:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By mhalattas Very good, thank you 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Frustrating and fascinating. By George Lewinne I found this book both frustrating and fascinating. It describes the life and work of Richard Kelly, architectural lighting designer, Yale faculty member, and collaborator with Mies van der Rohe, Philip Johnson, and Louis Kahn at mid twentieth century. Kelly either developed or was an early adopter of so much that is now standard practice that it was difficult for me to appreciate his creativity. He sought focal glow, ambient luminescence, and play of brilliants or sparkle in his installations. Today this is taught as task lighting, ambient lighting, and accent lighting--terms that do not have the poetry of Kelly's words, and that too often lead to inferior results. My frustration came from a lack of technical details, such as foot-candles or color temperatures, that would lead to a greater understanding of how Kelly achieved his effects. Also, I would have appreciated more guidance to understand how the terms focal glow, ambient luminescence, and sparkle applied to the illustrated designs. Still, I recommend this book. Even if you, too, are frustrated as I was by wanting more, you will

have a deeper understanding of illumination after this study of Richard Kelly's fascinating work.

The potential of electric light as a new building material was recognized in the 1920s and became a useful design tool by the mid-century. Skillful lighting allowed for theatricality, narrative, and a new emphasis on structure and space. *The Structure of Light* tells the story of the career of Richard Kelly, the field's most influential figure. Six historians, architects, and practitioners explore Kelly's unparalleled influence on modern architecture and his lighting designs for some of the 20th century's most iconic buildings: Philip Johnson's Glass House; Louis Kahn's Kimbell Art Museum; Eero Saarinen's GM Technical Center; and Mies van der Rohe's Seagram Building, among many others. This beautifully illustrated history demonstrates the range of applications, building types, and artistic solutions he employed to achieve a nocturnal modernity that would render buildings evocatively different at night. The survival of Kelly's rich correspondence and extensive diaries allows an in-depth look at the triumphs and uncertainties of a young profession in the making. The first book to focus on the contributions of a master in the field of architectural lighting, this fascinating volume celebrates the practice's significance in modern design.

"This book will delight historians of modern architecture and design before the advent of postmodernism." *Library Journal*