

*Maps the contours of an American architecture*

## Renegades

### *Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture*

Edited by Luca Guido, Stephanie Pilat and Angela Person

Foreword by Aaron Betsky

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PUBLICITY INQUIRIES CONTACT:

**KATIE BAKER, PUBLICITY MANAGER**

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Like America itself, the architecture of the United States is an amalgam, an imitation or an importation of foreign forms adapted to the natural or engineered landscape of the New World. So can there be an "American School" of architecture? The most legitimate claim to the title emerged in the 1950s and 1960s at the Gibbs College of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma where, under the leadership of Bruce Goff, Herb Greene, Mendel Glickman, and others, an authentically American approach to design found its purest expression, teachable in its coherence and logic. Followers of this first truly American School eschewed the forms most in fashion in American architectural education at the time—those such as the French Beaux Arts or German Bauhaus schools—in favor of the vernacular and the organic. The result was a style distinctly experimental, resourceful, and contextual—challenging not only established architectural norms in form and function but also traditional approaches to instructing and inspiring young architects.

Edited by Luca Guido, Stephanie Pilat, and Angela Person, this volume explores the fraught history of this distinctively American movement born on the Oklahoma prairie. *Renegades* features essays by leading scholars and includes a wide range of images, including rare, never-before-published sketches and models. Together these essays and illustrations map the contours of an American architecture that combines this country's landscape and technology through experimentation and invention, assembling the diversity of the United States into structures of true beauty. *Renegades* for the first time fully captures the essence and conveys the importance of the American School of architecture.

**Luca Guido**, Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma, is a licensed architect, critic, and historian of contemporary architecture. **Stephanie Pilat**, Associate Professor and Director of the Division of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma, is the author of *Reconstructing Italy: The Ina-Casa Neighborhoods of the Postwar Era*. **Angela Person** is Director of Research Initiatives and Strategic Planning for the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma.