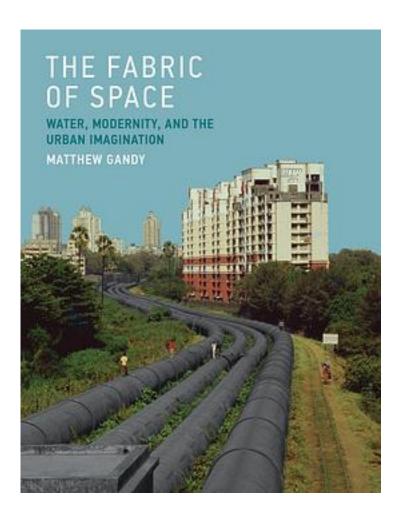
The Fabric of Space



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著者:Matthew Gandy

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Water lies at the intersection of landscape and infrastructure, crossing between visible and invisible domains of urban space, in the tanks and buckets of the global South and the vast subterranean technological networks of the global North. In this book,

Matthew Gandy considers the cultural and material significance of water through the experiences of six cities: Paris, Berlin, Lagos, Mumbai, Los Angeles, and London. Tracing the evolving relationships among modernity, nature, and the urban imagination, from different vantage points and through different periods, Gandy uses water as a lens through which to observe both the ambiguities and the limits of nature as conventionally understood.

Gandy begins with the Parisian sewers of the nineteenth century, captured in the photographs of Nadar, and the reconstruction of subterranean Paris. He moves on to Weimar-era Berlin and its protection of public access to lakes for swimming, the culmination of efforts to reconnect the city with nature. He considers the threat of malaria in Lagos, where changing geopolitical circumstances led to large-scale swamp drainage in the 1940s. He shows how the dysfunctional water infrastructure of Mumbai offers a vivid expression of persistent social inequality in a postcolonial city. He explores the incongruous concrete landscapes of the Los Angeles River. Finally, Gandy uses the fictional scenario of a partially submerged London as the starting point for an investigation of the actual hydrological threats facing that city.

作者介绍:

Matthew Gandy is Professor of Geography at University College London and was Director of the UCL Urban Laboratory from 2005 to 2011. He is the author of Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City (MIT Press), recipient of the 2003 Spiro Kostof Award from the Society of Architectural Historians, and has published widely on urban, cultural, and environmental themes.

目录: Endorsements

"This book appears in the thick of the water wave in urban studies and will be sure to remain a major reference. It places the solidities of water and the liquidities of modernity in a single comparative framework and shows how water eludes expert management as well as modernist norms of democracy and of rights to nature. —Arjun Appadurai, Goddard Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University; author of The Future as Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition

'Gandy takes us on a wonderfully illuminating global and historical journey, exploring the multiple layers of the relationship between water and urban modernity. Following the flow of water in both material and cultural realms, he shows us that its imprint is observable in our social, political, and economic institutions, in our infrastructures and imaginations, and constitutes a vital element of the relationship between the human and the nonhuman. Drawing on a dazzling range of disciplinary knowledge while presenting it with admirable economy, the book is a scholarly tour de force."

-Gyan Prakash, author of Mumbai Fables

"Water, says Matthew Gandy, resides at the meeting ground of landscape and infrastructure, cross-cutting the visible and invisible domains of urban space. It is an indispensable element of the material culture of modernity while at the same time it is powerfully inscribed in the realm of imagination. The Fabric of Space is a magisterial set of reflections on the political and cultural economies of the cities of the global North and South by tracing the flow of water through urban space. Gandy's brilliant theoretical observations and his keen eye for detail and nuance combine to produce a compelling and wholly original account of evolving relations between modernity, nature, and the urban imaginary.'

—Michael Watts, Class of 1963 Professor of Geography and Development Studies,

University of California, Berkeley

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