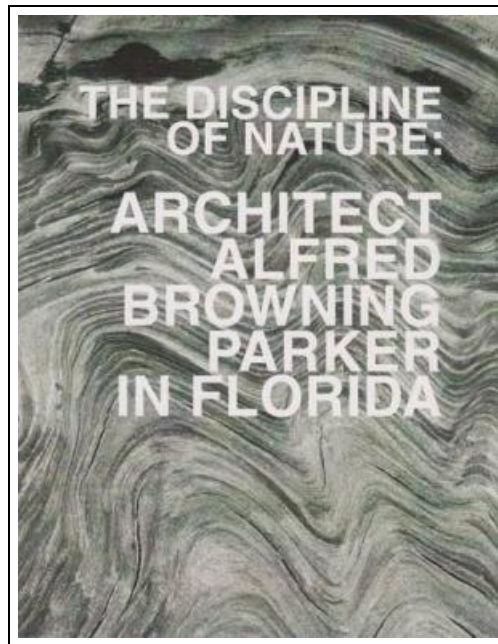


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## THE DISCIPLINE OF NATURE: ARCHITECT ALFRED BROWNING PARKER IN FLORIDA (PAPERBACK)



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Historymiami Museum, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Among the modernist architects who transformed postwar Florida into a laboratory of regionalist architecture, Alfred Browning Parker was an iconoclast. He shared the conviction, common among young architects in Miami, that an authentic regional architecture had not yet been invented. Inspired by the power of place and eager to innovate, Parker became a disciple of American traditions and the region's foremost organic architect. Extrapolating from Frank Lloyd Wright's position on the architect's role in society, Parker believed that architecture could be a harbinger of an authentic regional culture in Miami. He developed an architectural syntax that emphasized the centrality of human endeavor, in which design integrity was transcendent. Parker's position derived from a deep respect for the earth and its resources, as well as a moral and aesthetic interest in the power of nature as a vital and rational force. He saw ecology as a guide understanding resources and their interaction, and also as a discipline for ethical thinking capable of shaping an architectural response. Yet he also held a romantic view of the natural world, at once inspiring architectural ornament and offering a metaphor for design integrity. Parker promoted such values as beauty, craftsmanship, fitness, appropriateness, utility, unity, and balance. He subscribed to what theologian and philosopher Albert Schweitzer called reverence for life, finding purpose in a spiritual relationship with the universe generally, and the ecology of the planet specifically. He noted, We should judge architecture by how well it serves the growth of the human spirit. Throughout a career that stretched from 1942 until his death in 2011, Parker translated his ideals into tropicalist buildings that shaped the suburban and urban landscapes of Florida. A builder, businessman, artist, sculptor, furniture-maker,...



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