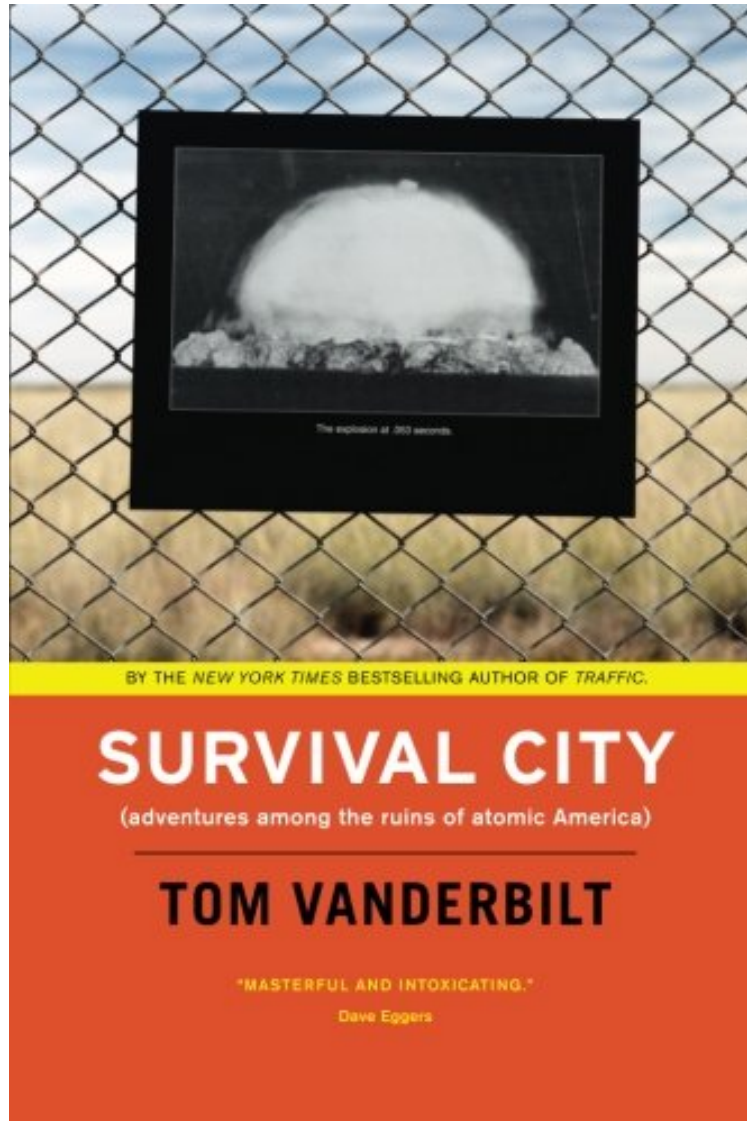


(Get free) Survival City: Adventures Among the Ruins of Atomic America

# Survival City: Adventures Among the Ruins of Atomic America

Tom Vanderbilt

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#588172 in Books Tom Vanderbilt 2010-04-15 2010-04-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.00l, .70 #File Name: 0226846946240 pages Survival City Adventures among the Ruins of Atomic America | File size: 38.Mb

**Tom Vanderbilt : Survival City: Adventures Among the Ruins of Atomic America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Survival City: Adventures Among the Ruins of Atomic America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cold War Architecture Book By William H. If you are looking for a Lonely Planet Guide to atomic and cold war sites, this is not it. This book is about the cold wars influence upon architecture. The writer frequently quotes individuals that few outside of the small world of urban planning and

architecture will know. If you are interested in urban planning and architecture, go for it. You will enjoy it. Others will find themselves googling names that are not identified. The writer does visit a few sites and blows up a discontinued missile silo, but the books interesting sections are buried and scattered. Also, the first page of the book is numbered page 6. Odd2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Book For The Cold War History BuffBy JCThe "Ruins" of the Cold War are fading fast. Time, weather, and man's inattention to preserving history are everyday factors leading to the eventual disappearance of the relics of the cold war infrastructure. Survival City is a facinating look at some of these relics and how and why they were developed. It is a very interesting journey and I really enjoyed reading this book because like the author, I too enjoy looking for, and finding these cold war artifacts. Thank you for a facinating and interesting journey into Atomic America.30 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Heady stuff, very smartly writtenBy Martian BachelorI'm usually a rather tough grader, but this is the best book I've read in quite some time. Vanderbilt takes us on a lively and diverse tour of cold war America's remaining architectural artifacts (the interstate highway system, bomb shelters, missile silos, misc. military installations - some still in use, nuclear waste sites, etc.) and weaves an analysis of same into an interesting and often surprising commentary on the historical period and the society which gave rise to these structures. For me, the novel perspective of looking at things from an architectural standpoint worked quite well at making the history and those times come alive.The style is part documentary, part story-telling, part travelogue, part cultural anthropology, and part essay on topics in architecture (generally) which I previously would not have thought about, or thought I had any reason to think about. The approach was successful enough that I found myself frequently being simply and skillfully led to surprising and profound insights, which were a delight. I came away from the book thinking Vanderbilt was an excellent writer with many new and important ideas on the fascinating subject of nuclear weapons, the cold war, and national security generally -- subjects which can easily be made dreary, heavy, boring and/or tedious. For many, the so-called atomic era seems long gone and forgotten (and slightly silly in many aspects), but Vanderbilt makes the issues faced then seem relevant to many similar problems facing us today by placing them in a context of continuity. Highly recommended to a broad audience.

On the road to Survival City, Tom Vanderbilt maps the visible and invisible legacies of the cold war, exhuming the blueprints for the apocalypse we once envisioned and chronicling a time when we all lived at ground zero. In this road trip among ruined missile silos, atomic storage bunkers, and secret test sites, a lost battleground emerges amid the architecture of the 1950s, accompanied by Walter Cottens stunning photographs. Survival City looks deep into the national soul, unearthing the dreams and fears that drove us during the latter half of the twentieth century.A crucial and dazzling book, masterful, and for me at least, intoxicating.Dave EggersA genuinely engaging book, perhaps because [Vanderbilt] is skillful at conveying his own sense of engagement to the reader.Los Angeles TimesA retracing of Dr. Strangelove as ordinary life.Greil Marcus, Bookforum

From Publishers WeeklyHighlighting the Cold War era's obsession with what Vanderbilt (The Sneaker Book) calls "constant protection from an invisible threat," this is a fascinating political and cultural analysis of "cold war architecture": a vast array of structures from missile silos to small towns built to test the effectiveness of an atomic blast, presidential fallout shelters, nuclear waste dumps, monoliths like the windowless PacBell building in Los Angeles, and countless motels and diners named "Atomic." The physical structures that resulted from Cold War ideology and politics also had far deeper and extensive psychological and emotional implications and ramifications: "the domestication of doomsday." Mixing first-person narrative of his travels around the U.S. in search of Cold War sites and objects with an extensive accumulation of provocative historical facts ("the U.S. Air Force bombing raids on Tokyo exacted a higher cost in lives and property" than the later atomic bombings), Vanderbilt takes great pains to reveal the Cold War policies behind the scattered remnants he encounters. Once-ubiquitous fallout shelter signs were a result of the Kennedy administration's National Fallout Shelter Survey, undertaken by "a mobile army of atomic surveyors (many of them architecture students)." As far as blastworthiness is concerned, "the toughest job is myth control," a NORAD civil engineer tells Vanderbilt during his trip 4,400 feet underground to the North American Aerospace Defense Command Center. This book certainly does its part in debunking the "Duck, and Cover" mindset. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "A genuinely engaging book, perhaps because Vanderbilt is skillful at conveying his own sense of engagement to the reader." - Los Angeles Times "A retracing of Dr. Strangelove as ordinary life." - Greil Marcus, Bookforum "A fascinating political and cultural analysis of 'cold war architecture': a vast array of structures from missile silos to small towns built to test the effectiveness of an atomic blast, presidential fallout shelters, nuclear waste dumps, monoliths like the windowless PacBell building in Los Angeles, and countless motels and diners named 'Atomic.'" - Publishers Weekly "Exploring buried traces of the cold war in America... Vanderbilt finds a vast, secret, and now largely abandoned landscape." - Architecture "Survival City, by taking us on a tour of important places we've probably never seen, is both a call to preserve cold war history and a valuable reminder of the continual impact of nuclear weapons on the American cultural and physical landscape." - Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists "This is a crucial and dazzling book. Masterful, and for me at least, intoxicating. It reminds us of the absurd

and sinister ways humans have attempted to ensure their survival, and, without ever oversimplifying, it manages to be a ridiculously entertaining read." - Dave Eggers. From the Back Cover This is a crucial and dazzling book. Masterful, and for me at least, intoxicating. It reminds us of the absurd and sinister ways humans have attempted to ensure their survival, and, without ever oversimplifying, it manages to be a ridiculously entertaining read. Amid the ruins of a different era in postwar national defense, its stepchild of abject paranoia, Vanderbilt--the perfect guide--finds levity and humanity. Survival City recalls the buoyant spirit of Michael Paterniti's *Driving Einstein's Brain* and the exacting but soulful reading of misplaced architectural aspirations of D.J. Waldie's *Holy Land*. - Dave Eggers, Author, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*