

Inside | Outside: Trading Between Art and Architecture

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Abstract:

Breuer Revisited: Photography of the Museum, in the Museum

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The exhibition, *Breuer Revisited: New Photographs* by Luisa Lambri and Bas Princen, currently on display in New York is described as a reflection on the work of the architect Marcel Breuer. It showcases new photographs of four public buildings completed in the sixties—including the very museum where the exhibition is held, the Met Breuer. Formerly known as the Whitney Museum, Breuer's only building in Manhattan was leased to the Met in 2013 and underwent a significant transformation, including its restoration and controversial branding campaign, to be reconceptualised as an object within the Met's collection. Exhibitions at the Met Breuer depart from the more conventional approach to curating architecture visible at the Met on 5th Avenue, tending toward a preference for architectural representation in works of art and more broadly, an emphasis on the interrelationship of art and architecture since the sixties. Both of these approaches are at work in the exhibition *Breuer Revisited* and point to a more complex engagement with the concept of architecture. Through a close reading of *Breuer Revisited*, this paper will explore the layering of architectural value from the photograph to the building, and develop a better understanding of the shifting status of architecture in and outside of the museum.