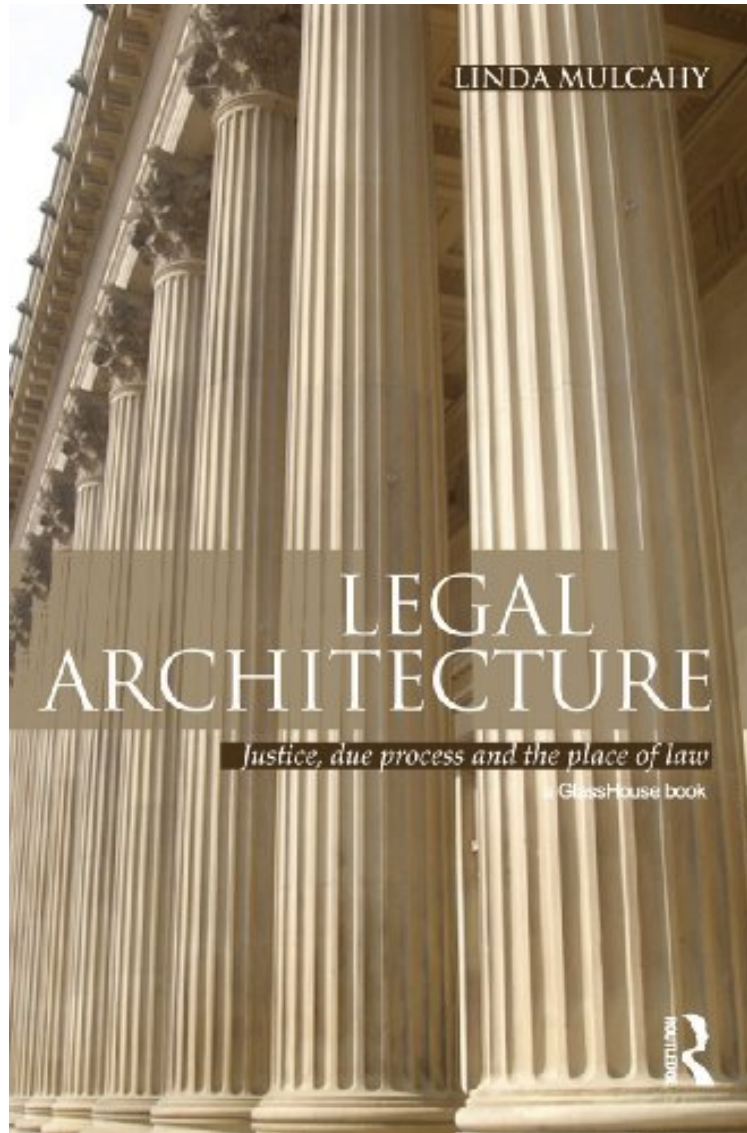


(Free pdf) Legal Architecture: Justice, Due Process and the Place of Law

# Legal Architecture: Justice, Due Process and the Place of Law

Von Linda Mulcahy

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**Von Linda Mulcahy : Legal Architecture: Justice, Due Process and the Place of Law** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Legal Architecture: Justice, Due Process and the Place of Law:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Not Mere Buildings".... Von Phillip Taylor MBE[[VIDEOID:mo1LLS3GYUEL7SS]]SOME TRENCHANT COMMENTARY ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF JUSTICEAn appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green ChambersDoes the architecture of a court building necessarily affect the outcome of the

trials that take place within its walls? You might say it shouldn't. But Linda Mulcahy, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, argues convincingly that it might' and presents a body of overwhelming evidence that it does! Mulcahy asserts that the legitimacy of the trial derives from the setting in which its rituals take place ' in other words: prescribed procedures'codes of conduct'the law itself'and the resulting documentation.'Public buildings,' she states, 'can both inspire and degrade those within them; they can calm or oppress.'We are tempted to digress here by saying that this utterance should be carved into the stonework on the front of the RIBA's London HQ in Portland Place ' just to remind those guys to have a care in designing public edifices such as court buildings, in which decisions are made that affect the lives of others, often for generations.Ms Mulcahy also quotes the American Chief Justice Hennessey, who, in 1984, pointed out that 'our courthouses'are not merely buildings, rooms and furniture, but are rather monuments that evoke several centuries of human effort and progress'.Describing her book quite modestly as a monograph, Mulcahy reveals her extensive and detailed knowledge of this surprisingly vast subject in closely argued yet graceful prose. We've used the word 'surprisingly' because, as is pointed out, there is rather a dearth of comment, or research or informed observation on this subject' so far.Published by the Routledge Law, this important book indeed deserves urgent and critical attention. If barristers and commentators like us find ourselves dismayed by the often forbidding exteriors of so many courts, as well as by the almost complete lack of basic amenities for those who use them ' we can only imagine how much and how ordinary people ' including innocent witnesses ' are thoroughly -- and unnecessarily -- cowed and intimidated.Legal dinosaurs (and there are plenty still about) who think that courts should strike terror into the souls of all who venture therein will not like this book. Most practitioners, though, will heartily welcome this clear-eyed examination by an incisive mind, of the very real issues of 'legal geography' raised in this very readable work ' especially in the light of new technologies which now assist the processes justice.To facilitate further research and inquiry, the book lists sources, cases and legislation' plus, there's an amazing sixteen page bibliography, and useful index at the back to dispel the myth that they are just 'mere buildings'!

KurzbeschreibungLegal Architecture addresses how the environment of the trial can be seen as a physical expression of our relationship with ideals of justice. It provides an alternative account of the trial, which charts the troubled history of notions of due process and participation. In contrast to visions of judicial space as neutral, Linda Mulcahy argues that understanding the factors that determine the internal design of the courthouse and courtroom are crucial to a broader and more nuanced understanding of the trial. Partitioning of the courtroom into zones and the restriction of movement within it are the result of turf wars about who can legitimately participate in the legal arena and call the judiciary to account. The gradual containment of the public, the increasing amount of space allocated to advocates, and the creation of dedicated space for journalists and the jury, all have complex histories that deserve attention. But these issues are not only of historical significance. Across jurisdictions, questions are now being asked about the internal configurations of the courthouse and courtroom, and whether standard designs meet the needs of modern participatory democracies: including questions about the presence and design of the modern dock; the ways in which new technologies threaten to change the dynamics of the trial and lead to the dematerialization of our primary site of adversarial practice; and the extent to which courthouses are designed in ways which realise their professed status as public spaces. This fascinating and original reflection on legal architecture will be of interest to socio-legal or critical scholars working in the field of legal geography, legal history, criminology, legal systems, legal method, evidence, human rights and architecture.

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ber den Autor und weitere MitwirkendeLinda Mulcahy is a Professor in Law at the London School of Economics.