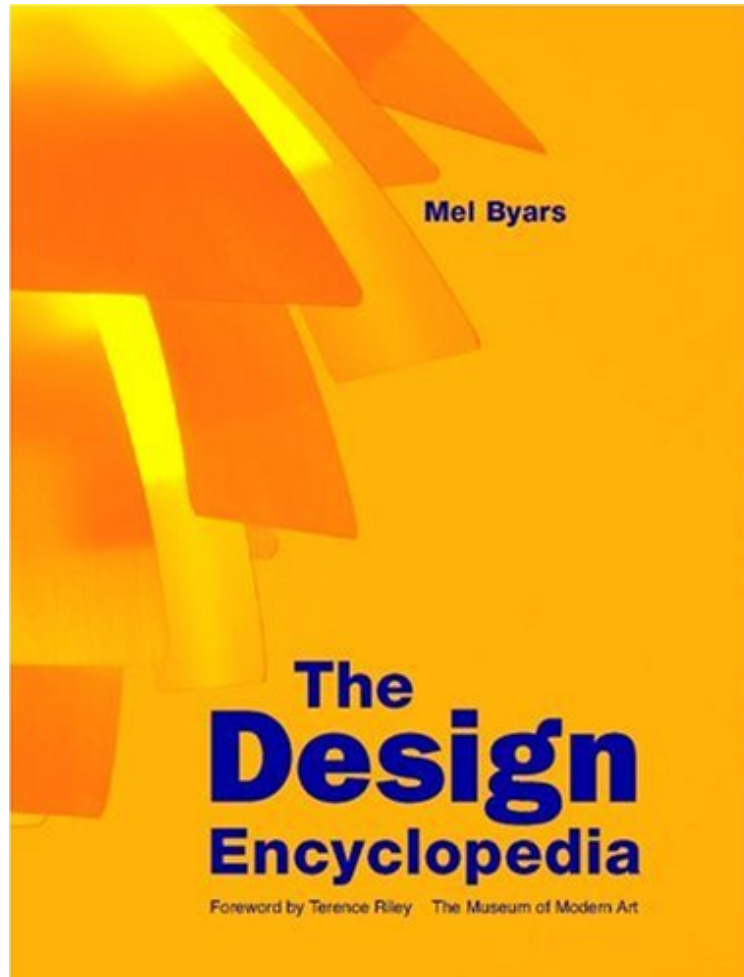


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The Design Encyclopedia

Mel Byars

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Mel Byars : The Design Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Design Encyclopedia:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kang ZhangFast shipping and good protection.0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. had to return it before I got itBy Ms. MillerHad to return it. Recipient had one already and I couldn't give it to another since the book has been updated since the copyright of this edition15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. At second glanceBy Valerie J.When I first received this, I fanned through it and was disappointed. I was expecting to see huge glossy photographs of fantastic works of art and all I could see was a whole lot of text. I set it aside. Later, I opened it again and this time I went through it more slowly. I was wrong. The images are smaller than I had anticipated but the book is filled with them and the text is informative. It's a great, good quality, well presented reference book. I'm glad to have it on my bookshelf.

The Museum of Modern Art Design Encyclopedia is the most comprehensive design reference guide to date. Compiled over the last 15 years by Mel Byars, in consultation with an international team of design experts, The Encyclopedia sets out to provide the factual framework of a discipline whose own historical accounting of itself is still relatively young. (By way of contrast, art history has existed as a scholarly discipline for over two centuries, and has produced a fairly comprehensive record of itself in that time period.) Only once before has a similarly comprehensive overview of the history of design been attempted--in 1994, also by Mel Byars. The Encyclopedia is about design, of course, but these days design seems to encompass almost everything, from magazine layouts and sweatshirts to animatronic flower gardens and heart pumps, not to mention the more abstract information design. Here, however, design is considered only in its concrete application to functional objects, thus crossing with craft, decorative arts, and industrial design, but distinguishing itself from fine art and theory. The result is 832 pages covering the last 130 years in the history of the design of furniture, lighting, fabrics, ceramics, glassware, metalware, objects in a range of other materials, and mechanical, electrical and electronic appliances, as well as automobiles and some inventions. There are separate entries for designers and craftspeople, design studios, consortiums and partnerships, noteworthy manufacturers, significant historical periods and styles, and materials. Entries, 3,600 in all, are self-contained and organized alphabetically, and include cross-references. Information is an amalgamation of data gathered from a vast number of primary and secondary sources. With over 700 full-color illustrations, most of which are drawn from the MoMA collection, the remainder from Quittenbaum Kunstauktionen in Munich and Hamburg or directly from designers or manufacturers, this publication is an invaluable, definitive compendium of the world of design over the last century and a half.

the invaluable reference resource for any design library. -- Interior Design September 2004