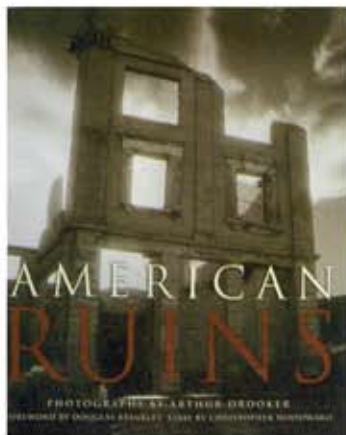


ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

Books



American Ruins, by Arthur Drooker. London and New York: Merrell Publishers, 2007, 144 pages, \$45.

Arthur Drooker in *American Ruins* photographs like someone as much in love with ruins as with functioning buildings. Better yet, he is as engaged with capturing nuanced light flowing across finely textured building surfaces as with astutely writing about ideas evoked by ruins. Shot with high-contrast black-and-white infrared film, ruins ranging from ancient Anasazi sites to an abandoned Bethlehem Steel mill assume unnerving luminescence. It's as if we're seeing x-rayed phantom limbs of once-whole architectural bodies. This is architectural photography in all of its aesthetic and multidimensional glory. *Norman Weinstein*

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