

Architecture in J. G. Ballard's *High-Rise*

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Preface

The purpose of the present book is to explore the relation between Modern Architectural Space, social practice, violence, and human salvation in J. G. Ballard's *High-Rise*. It uses Henri Lefebvre's (1991) spatial theories and argues how the principles used in designing and developing urban spaces and societies are in conflict with lived spaces and results in confusion, violence, animosity, and division. This book elaborates on the concepts of spatial practice, lived space, and central space in order to argue that space and spatial interactions are both necessary to develop a space whether stable or not. It is taken for granted that social relations are substantial parts of any given space and their role in establishing and developing a spatial structure is apparent. It explores Lefebvre's ideas on the relation of spatial design, spatial practice, and spatial development in Ballard's *High-Rise* as an instance of a planned space. It examines how a space is rebuilt by its inhabitants, while at the same time it has authority over them. The physical space selected for this purpose is that of Brutalist architecture as a common construction style during the mid-twentieth century which resulted in conflicting issues. The book concludes that the relationship between social and spatial elements formulates the development or decadence of a spatial construction. The eyewitnesses of the case are the occupants who are living in Ballard's tower block constructed in the tradition of Brutalist architecture. It also traces the proof for the alterations in the mutual interaction that exists between the space and the occupants, and concludes that violence and anarchy are the inevitable outcome of such new born spaces.