



Spacesuit: Fashioning Apollo (MIT Press)

By Nicholas de Monchaux

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How the twenty-one-layer Apollo spacesuit, made by Playtex, was a triumph of intimacy over engineering.

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Editorial Review

Review

The most delightful and memorable new book I read last year...

– Adam Gopnik, *THE NEW YORKER.COM*

The density of ideas and connections is intoxicating. De Monchaux swings masterfully between subjects, teasing out unexpected connections and spotting the seeds of contemporary life that were planted by the space race.

– *ICON (UK)*

[a] wonderful material history...

– *LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS*

... a broad and creative appraisal of [the] suit's many contexts, encouraging readers to consider technology as design, shaped by the circumstances of its time, unflinching and elegantly layered and crafted to serve a purpose.

– *NATURE*

... now the definitive investigation of this terrain.

– *THE ATLANTIC.COM*

"Berkeley architecture professor de Monchaux's thorough and artful history of the American spacesuit takes readers at a leisurely pace through the past...a wholly absorbing capsule of our history. "

- *PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY*, Starred Review

Woven, as befits its topic, with multiple and colored threads borrowed from an astounding variety of fields and domains--technology, politics, media, and fashion design, to name only a few--this path-breaking book provides an innovative reading of the space race. Above all, it illuminates the relevance of this race for designers from yesterday and today.

– *ANTOINE PICON*, Travelstead Professor of the History of Architecture and Technology, Harvard Graduate School of Design

... This surely is one of the most deeply researched books on design ever written.

– *RALPH CAPLAN*, author of *_By Design: Why There Are No Locks on the Bathroom Doors in the Hotel Louis XIV and Other Object Lessons*

de Monchaux offers in this remarkable book a far-reaching and broad-based analysis of the spacesuit, interpreting it as far more than a functional garment protecting astronauts but also as an artifact at the nexus of society, science, and spacefaring...

– *ROGER LAUNIUS*, Senior Curator, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

About the Author

Nicholas de Monchaux is Assistant Professor of Architecture at the College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley. His work has appeared in the architectural journal *Log*, the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Architectural Design*, and other publications.

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