



In Situ: George Ranalli Works & Projects

by **George Ranalli**

Shenzhen, China: Oscar Riera Ojeda Publishers, \$75

496 pages, 455 color illustrations

Mega-winner of design awards, George Ranalli has nevertheless received limited recognition, in book form, for the accomplishments of his firm, George Ranalli Architect, and the contributions he has made as dean of the school of architecture at the City College of New York. Here, at last, is a complete survey. It's divided into sections devoted to residential, commercial, institutional, exhibition, and industrial design. The latter, less well known than his build-ings, includes glassware made on the Venetian island of Murano, chairs for Promosedia and Formica, and various forms of door handles, some of them commercially produced by the Union Hardware Co.

Reprinted essays follow the other chapters. Herbert Muschamp's essay says that the restoration and renovation of a 1924 garment factory building "glows with the keen sensitivity to form, materials and detail that has made this New York 'architect's architect' an esteemed figure in his profession." Ada Louise Huxtable writes that Ranalli's community center in Brooklyn, New York, "deserves to have its presence shouted from the rooftops as a seriously fine demonstration of the art of architecture." Paul Goldberger adds, discussing the conversion of a Rhode Island school into condominiums: "For all its modernity, this project is an architectural experience worthy of Newport, and it connects us again to the architectural traditions of this unusual city." And Joseph Giovannini, who also contributes to *Interior Design*, calls Ranalli "a rock of modernism." Ranalli speaks for himself as well, explaining the title of this handsome and bountiful book: "If we are to have an architecture capable of buildings not only iconic but fitting—iconic partly because they are fitting—we must respond lovingly to the specificities of place."

