HOWARD DAVIS

Howard Davis is professor emeritus at the University of Oregon's School of Architecture & Environment. After training as a physicist at The Cooper Union and Northwestern University, he completed a master's degree in architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. His work examines the relationships between architecture and the contemporary city, focusing on how the form of the city and the architecture of its buildings help enable diversity, social and cultural sustainability, and resilience. Davis is the author of the influential book The Culture of Building (Oxford University Press, 1999), which describes how buildings and cities are not only the work of architects, but also of a coordinated system involving builders, clients, material suppliers, bankers, developers, and many others. Other works include Living Over the Store: Architecture and Local Urban Life (Routledge, 2012), Working Cities: Architecture, Place and Production (Routledge, 2020), and Encounters with Architecture: Insights from a Hundred Places (Routledge, 2026). Together with Christopher Alexander, Julio Martínez, and Don Corner, he published the book The Production of Houses (Oxford University Press, 1985), a detailed account of the experiences behind The Mexicali Experimental Project. In 2023 he coordinated the volume Early and Unpublished Writings of Christopher Alexander: Thinking, Building, Writing.