James Stirling: Revisionary Modernist
By Mark Lamster
April 4, 2013

James Stirling has been experiencing a bit of a renaissance over the past couple of years, and it's both overdue and unfortunate that he's no longer around to experience it. (He died in 1992, having been tagged with that most unfortunate of labels: "postmodernist.") Not quite a monograph, and not quite a history, but a bit of both, here Reeser Lawrence surveys the arc of Stirling's career by focusing in depth on a series of six projects, some built and others not. While academic studies of this type are typically jargon-ridden and dense to the point of obfuscation, this one is blessedly clear-eyed, written in straightforward and engaging prose that is no less incisive for its transparency. It is serious architectural history as it should be, devoted to a complex and challenging subject that warrants the attention.
Stirling and Gowan, University of Leicester (UK) Engineering Building, 1959–63. The lecture hall volumes suspended beneath the administrative and laboratory towers embody solidified space.

James Stirling (firm), Florey Building, The Queen’s College, University of Oxford, UK, 1971
Stirling and Partner, Roma Interrotta. Thirty of Stirling’s own projects are inserted into Sector IV of Noli’s 1748 map of Rome.


http://www.designersandbooks.com/blog/10-notable-design-books-2013-april-reviews#six