HEROIC: CONCRETE ARCHITECTURE AND THE NEW BOSTON
THE STORY OF HOW ONE OF THE OLDEST AMERICAN CITIES BECAME
THE EPICENTER OF CONCRETE MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE

As a worldwide phenomenon, concrete modernism represents one of the major architectural movements of the postwar years, but in Boston it was more transformative across civic, cultural, and academic projects than in any other major city in the United States. Concrete provided an important set of architectural opportunities and challenges for the design community, which fully explored the material’s structural and sculptural qualities. From 1960 to 1976, concrete was used by some of the world’s most influential architects in the transformation of Boston including Marcel Breuer, Eduardo Catalano, Henry N. Cobb, Araldo Cossutta, Kallmann and McKinnell, Le Corbusier, I. M. Pei, Paul Rudolph, Josep Lluís Sert, and The Architects Collaborative—creating a vision for the city’s widespread revitalization under the banner of the “New Boston.”

*Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston* presents the historical context and new critical profiles of the buildings that defined Boston during this remarkable period, showing the city as a laboratory for refined experiments in concrete and new strategies in urban planning. *Heroic* further adds to our understanding of the movement’s broader implications through essays by noted historians and interviews with several key practitioners of the time: Peter Chermayeff, Henry N. Cobb, Araldo Cossutta, Michael McKinnell, Tician Papachristou, Tad Stahl, and Mary Otis Stevens.

As the subject of “Brutalist” concrete architecture and its heritage have been taken up on a global scale, due in part to ongoing preservation debates around iconic—yet controversial—buildings, *Herionc* thoroughly examines the compelling story of the city, the material, and the movement, recording the intentions and aspirations of this generation and considering anew its legacies—both inspired and troubled.

**About the Authors**

*Mark Pasnik, Michael Kubo,* and *Chris Grimley* are collaborators in over, under, an award-winning, Boston-based architecture and design practice with work ranging from university buildings and museums, to city districts, to exhibitions and books. They are co-directors of the pinkcomma gallery, where they have curated several shows on modernism and Boston’s urban transformation. Mark Pasnik teaches at Wentworth Institute of Technology, Chris Grimley at Northeastern University, and Michael Kubo is a Ph.D. candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
About The Monacelli Press
The Monacelli Press is a leading publisher of books on architecture, the fine arts, interior design, landscape architecture, photography, and graphic design. Publisher Gianfranco Monacelli conceived the venture as a distinct and stimulating voice in the visual arts to reinterpret and challenge the conventional boundaries of the field, to bring forth the best, most provocative, and the most substantive of what the finest creative minds have to offer. The Monacelli Press has published more than 250 books since it was established in 1994, books that are distinctive for both content and visual presentation.