



PROJECT MUSE®

---

## On the Ruins of Babel

Purdy, Daniel

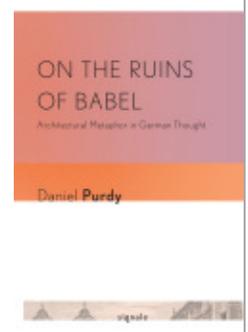
Published by Cornell University Press

Purdy, Daniel.

On the Ruins of Babel: Architectural Metaphor in German Thought.

Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011.

Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/26174>

# Acknowledgments

My apprenticeship in architecture has taken a decade. Many have helped me along the way. Professor Ulrich Schütte at the University of Marburg was a generous guide. I would like to thank Professor Fritz Neumeyer at the Technical University, Berlin for agreeing to sponsor my research. Generous funding came through a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, as well as through summer research grants from the Pennsylvania State University Institute for Arts and Humanities, the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik, and a Maria Sibylla Merian fellowship from the University of Erfurt. The Staatsbibliothek Berlin, the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek Weimar, the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, the Universitätsbibliothek TU Berlin, and the Universitätsbibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin were invaluable.

My architecture colleagues aided me immensely. Many thanks to Ute Poerschke and Nick Deinhardt for showing me around Berlin, and to Bret Peters, Donald Kunze, Michael Mussotter, and Sandra Staub for conversations in Pennsylvania. Chris Rzomp intrepidly majored in German and architecture, making it seem perfectly natural to write in both fields. Simon Richter, Ken Calhoon, Ed Dimendberg, and Caroline van Eck offered insightful recommendations to further the book along. I am most grateful to Peter Hohendahl, for mentoring the manuscript. Kizer Walker at Cornell University Library was very helpful at the crucial stages. Many thanks to Marian Rogers for her judicious expertise editing the manuscript.

This book originated with my parents: my mother, Doris Purdy, taught me German, and my father, Gregory Purdy, taught me the lessons of New York City architecture. My years working for his construction company led me to wonder in college, just how much architecture is there in Kant's architectonic of pure reason? Gregory Pritchard and Jim Barefield at Wake Forest University instilled in me that happy liberal arts belief in the unity of knowledge. Germaine Bree was the first person to speak the phrase "we intellectuals" in my direction.

Bettina Brandt has been a wonder throughout it all. Without her kind intelligence and love, I could never have finished this book. Noah and Vera have danced in, around, and through the book.

# On the Ruins of Babel

