

(Read now) Kem Weber, Designer and Architect

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Christopher Long

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DESIGNER AND ARCHITECT



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Christopher Long : Kem Weber, Designer and Architect before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kem Weber, Designer and Architect:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A very good book about an interesting man and designer By Clay Hartl A very good book about an interesting man and designer. I've always been curious about Kem Weber and bought this as I realized it was the only full book on him. His life was as interesting as some of his famous designs like the Airline Chair for the Disney Studios (As an architect, he also designed the studio itself). The circumstances around his start in America are fascinating - he was essentially stranded here as a German at the start of World War I and had to make a living or starve in a foreign country. A few years later here are the problems of an industrial designer and architect trying to survive the depression, then the onset of WWII. Fame and riches always seemed to elude him in the midst of these world-changing events, but he not only survived and raised a family, he became a man who we still know of today. The book itself is beautiful - very well printed and designed. It's well recommended.

The first major look at the renowned industrial designer and architect, who helped to shape the look of American modernism from the 1920s through the early 1950s. For German-born Kem Weber (1889-1963), design was not about finding a new expression; it was about responding to structural, economic, and social requirements . . . characteristic of our daily routine of living. He sought to ensure that each design he produced—whether a piece of furniture or a building or an interior—was an improvement that responded to modern needs and modern life. Weber was a leading figure of modernism on the West Coast from the 1920s through the early 1950s, and his work greatly influenced the California style of the time. His most iconic designs were his Bentlock line, the Air Line chair, the interiors for the Bixby House, and his tubular-steel furniture for Lloyd. This book, a result of significant new primary research in the Weber family's archives, represents the first major study of the life and career of this important designer. Christopher Long details the full range of Weber's contributions, focusing particularly on the part he played in the advancement of American modernism, and his role in heralding a new way of making and living.

"Kem Weber is a huge leap forward that sheds light on an important but understudied designer." John Stuart Gordon, Yale University Art Gallery