Kathryn E. O’Rourke’s *Modern Architecture in Mexico City: History, Representation, and the Shaping of a Capital* provides a compelling analytical framework for newly understanding a long arc of architectural development in this capital. Her study illuminates the rich relationship between Mexican architects’ interrogation of their country’s pre-colonial and colonial traditions and their efforts to define a distinctively national tradition of modern architecture that gained international recognition. It is impressively inclusive of issues of urban design, architecture, popular culture and political history, in a way that provides insights both into the specific circumstances of Mexico City and the global history of Modernism.