

Mute and cold, the works of Aldo Rossi echo the metaphysical gaze of Giorgio de Chirico, the cultural skepticism of Adolf Loos, the exalted rationalism of Étienne-Louis Boullée, and the visual enigmas of Albrecht Dürer. These references draw on a primordial sense of doubt concerning “our usual feeling of imperfection.” Several reasons can explain the presence of this factor, melancholy, in his work. Architecture was originally devised as an instrument of will and reason. Aldo Rossi was affected by its “lack of purpose,” expressing the idea in relation to what he saw as the architect’s subjectivity. This implied dissolution rather than unity.