

## The Gray Cloth: A Novel on Glass Architecture (Paperback)



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### **Reviews**

*This book is really gripping and fascinating. Of course, it is actually play, nonetheless an interesting and amazing literature. You will not feel monotony at anytime of the time (that's what catalogs are for about if you request me).*

**(Delbert Gleason)**

## THE GRAY CLOTH: A NOVEL ON GLASS ARCHITECTURE (PAPERBACK)

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MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2003. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. A cult novel, with a critical introduction, by the German expressionist visionary Paul Scheerbar. The German expressionist, architectural visionary, author, inventor, and artist Paul Scheerbar (1863-1915) wrote several fictional utopian narratives related to glass architecture. In *The Gray Cloth*, the first of his novels to be translated into English, Scheerbar uses subtle irony and the structural simplicity of a fairy tale to present the theories of colored glass outlined in his well-known treatise *Glass Architecture*. The novel is set forward in time to the mid-twentieth century. The protagonist, a Swiss architect named Edgar Krug, circumnavigates the globe by airship with his wife, constructing wildly varied, colored-glass buildings. His projects include a high-rise and exhibition/concert hall in Chicago, a retirement complex for air pilots on the Fiji Islands, the structure for an elevated train across a zoological park in northern India, and a suspended residential villa on the Kuria Muria Islands off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea. Fearing that his architecture is challenged by the colorfulness of women's clothing, Krug insists that his wife wear all gray clothing with the addition of ten percent white. This odd demand brings him notoriety and sensationalizes his international building campaign. For the reader, it underlines the confluence of architecture with fashion, gender, and global media. In his introduction, John Stuart surveys Scheerbar's career and role in German avant-garde circles, as well as his architectural and social ideas. He shows how Scheerbar strove to integrate his spiritual and romantic leanings with the modern world, often relying on glass architecture to do so. In addition to discussing the novel's reception and its rediscovery by contemporary architects and critics, Stuart shows fiction to be a resource for the study...

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