Super Potato Design: The Complete Works of Takashi Sugimoto: Japan's Leading Interior Designer by Yoshio Shiratori

Super Potato Design is the first full-length book to present the built work and conceptual ideas of the internationally renowned Japanese design firm Super Potato, founded by Takashi Sugimoto. Super Potato's powerful designs for the interiors of restaurants, shops and hotels, as well as Takashi Sugimoto's designs for tea ceremony spaces and utensils, are richly complex compositions of materials which create simple, strong spaces. By finding contemporary expression for important concepts present in traditional Japan and combining materials in unexpected ways to create exciting spaces, Super Potato's work has had a significant impact on interior design in Japan and around the world.

My Personal Review:
I purchased this book, not knowing that I had already experienced first-hand the work of Takashi Sugimoto (founder and principal of Super Potato Design). While visiting Seoul, Korea, I stayed at the Park Hyatt and was very inspired by the interior design. The choice of large stones in their rough state juxtaposed to the delicate wood louvres were elements I haven't seen at that time. I knew the design was Asian inspired in the way that natural materials were incorporated to create an interior that blurred the boundaries of outside/inside, but I had no idea it was by a renowned designer from Japan.
Takashi Sugimoto's usage of raw natural materials in his interior makes us rethink what is acceptable in terms of interior scale and form. Furthermore, it shows that when a material such as stone is exaggerated and placed into an interior space, the size of the material takes center stage over form.
This monograph provides an insight into this phenomenal designer's ouvre from the early 70's to the present.

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