# BERNARD RUDOFSKY (1905–1988)

1905  Born April 19 in Zauchtl (Suchdol nad Odrou), Moravia (now the Czech Republic)

1906  Moves to Vienna

1918–22  Attends secondary school on Henriettenplatz, Vienna

1922  Enrolls in the Technische Hochschule, Vienna

1923  Visits the Bauhaus exhibition in Weimar

1925  Travels in Bulgaria and Turkey

1926  Travels in Switzerland, France, and Italy

1927 Travels in Italy

1928  Graduates from the Technische Hochschule with a degree in construction engineering and architecture

1928–30  Works at the office of Otto Rudolf Salvisberg in Berlin

1929  Travels in Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece (Santorini)

1930–32  Works at the office of Theiss & Jaksch in Vienna

1931  Receives Ph.D. from the Technische Hochschule; dissertation (under Siegfried Theiss and Franz Krauss) on construction and dating of an early concrete structure on the Cyclades

1932  Moves to Capri; begins collaborating with Luigi Cosenza

1934  Meets his future wife, Berta Doctor, on Ischia

1935  Moves to Procida and begins planning a house there; plans (with Luigi Cosenza) Casa Oro in Naples

1935–36 Makes first trip to the United States; marries Berta Doctor in November 1935 in New York City

1936  Birth of son Peter, who died in 1938

1937–38  Moves to Milan; editor at Domus magazine (issues 122, 123, 124)

1938  After Hitler invades Austria, Rudofsky leaves Italy for South America, living in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and, from December onward, São Paulo

1938–40  Designs furniture and fabrics for Casa & Jardim, São Paulo

1939–40  Completes Houses Hollenstein (Itapetirica), Frontini, and Arnstein (São Paulo)

1941  At the invitation of the Museum of Modern Art, New York (MoMA), travels to the United States as one of the Latin American prize-winners (for garden furniture designs) of the Organic Design Competition; moves to New York City

1942–43  Associate editor and art director of the journal Pencil Points

1944  Exhibition Are Clothes Modern? opens at MoMA

1946–49  Editor and manager (from 1947) of the journal Interiors

1946–64  Bernardo Sandals are mass produced (by Aldo Bruzzichelli)

1947  Are Clothes Modern? is published

1948  Granted U.S. citizenship; makes first postwar trip to Europe

1949–50  Designs (with Costantino Nivola) the Nivola House-Garden in Amagansett, New York
1951  Drives to Mexico
1955  Behind the Picture Window is published; makes first trip to Japan
1956  Exhibition Textiles, U.S.A. opens at MoMA; Bemis Visiting Lecturer at MIT
1957–58  Designs (with Peter Harnden) the U.S. pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair
1958–60  Travels to Japan as a Fulbright Scholar; research professor at Waseda University, Tokyo
1960–65  Consultant to Department of Architecture, MoMA; conceives the following touring exhibitions:
Japanese Vernacular Graphics; Roads; Stairs; Antoni Gaudí; Architecture Without Architects (the latter
toured for eleven years and was shown in more than eighty venues around the world)
1961and1965  Visiting professor at Yale University.
1962–64  Builds a garden for James Carmel in Grosse Pointe, Michigan
1962–76  Writes for the periodical Horizon
1963, 1964, 1971  Receives Guggenheim Memorial Award
1965  The Kimono Mind, written during a nine-month stay on Hawaii in 1959, is published
1969  Streets for People is published
1969–71  Designs and builds La Casa his home, in Frigiliana, Spain
1971  The Unfashionable Human Body is published
1973–81  Lectures and acts as visiting professor at universities and institutions in the United States and
abroad (in Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Copenhagen, Tokyo, and other cities)
1977  The Prodigious Builders is published; Rudofsky visits Vienna for the first time since 1932, to
receive the Joseph Johann Ritter von Prechtl Medal from his alma mater, the Technische Hochschule
1979–81  Smithsonian Scholar in Residence at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York; awarded Medal of
the American Institute of Architects for his writings
1980  Exhibition Now I Lay Me Down to Eat opens at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York; exhibition
catalogue is published
1982,1983,1984  Research grant from and Senior Fellowship at the National Endowment for the Arts
1984–86  Travels to India as a member of a development program to promote handcrafts. The results are
shown in the exhibition Golden Eye at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York
1986  Awarded City of Vienna Prize for Architecture
1987  Exhibition Sparta/Sybaris opens at the Austrian Museum of Applied Art, Vienna; Sparta/Sybaris
exhibition catalogue is published
1988  Dies March 12 in New York City

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**BERTA RUDOFSKY (1910–2006)**

Berta Doctor was born on May 9, 1910, in Vienna, where she grew up in the 13th District. Her father was an electrical engineer at Siemens-Schucker and an excellent pianist; her mother, Therese, was a soprano. Influenced by her parents, after matriculating from the local secondary school on Wenzgasse she went on to study musicology at Vienna University. Due to her father's early death and her mother's poor health, she was forced to take care of herself at a young age. After her mother died, in the early 1930s, Berta led a life that was unusually independent and free for a young woman of that time. In 1934, Berta met Bernard Rudofsky on Ischia during a trip to Italy, and in 1935 they moved into an apartment together on the island of Procida. They married in November of the same year at New York City Hall, with the ceramicist Vally Wieselthier as their witness. The couple's only child, Peter, was born in 1936 and died at Como two years later. Berta Rudofsky was not just a wife and eyewitness; in her capacity as a co-worker, traveling companion, manager, driver, translator, sandal-producer, teacher, editor, model, muse, and, after Bernard's death, administrator of his estate, she participated anonymously in the work of her husband in a wide variety of ways. After Bernard died, in 1988, Berta Rudofsky lived alternately in Vienna, New York, and Frigiliana (Spain). Berta Rudofsky died on June 22, 2006, in Vienna.