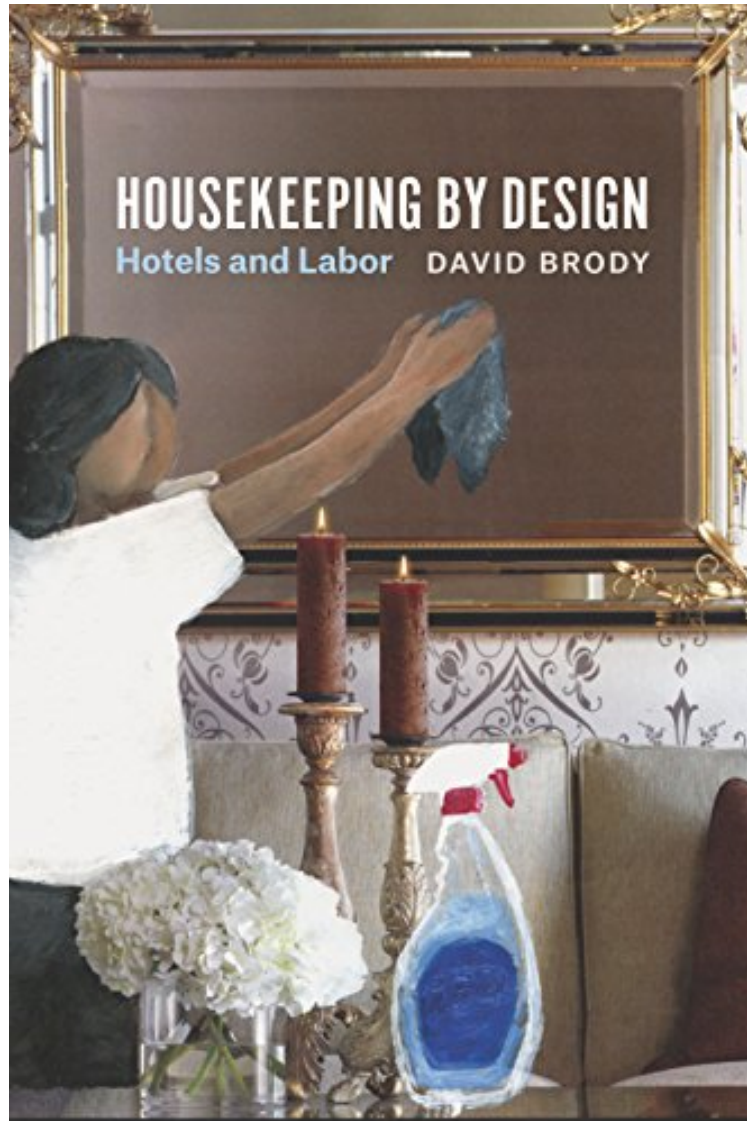


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## Housekeeping by Design: Hotels and Labor

*David Brody*

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**David Brody : Housekeeping by Design: Hotels and Labor** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Housekeeping by Design: Hotels and Labor:

One of the great pleasures of staying in a hotel is spending time in a spotless, neat, and organized space that you don't have to clean. That doesn't, however, mean the work disappears—when we're not looking, someone else is doing it. With Housekeeping by Design, David Brody introduces us to those people—the

housekeepers whose labor keeps the rooms clean and the guests happy. Through unprecedented access to staff at several hotels, Brody shows us just how much work goes on behind the scenes—and how much management goes out of its way to make sure that labor stays hidden. We see the incredible amount of hard physical work that is involved in cleaning and preparing a room, how spaces, furniture, and other objects are designed to facilitate a smooth flow of hidden labor, and, crucially, how that design could be improved for workers and management alike if front-line staff were involved in the design process. After reading this fascinating expose of the ways hotels work—or don't—for housekeepers—one thing is certain: checking in will never be the same again.

Design scholar and unabashed hotel fan Brody serves up a wonderfully readable mix of personal anecdote, historical overview, theoretical analysis, and ethnography in a perceptive study of the "invisible work" of housekeeping.