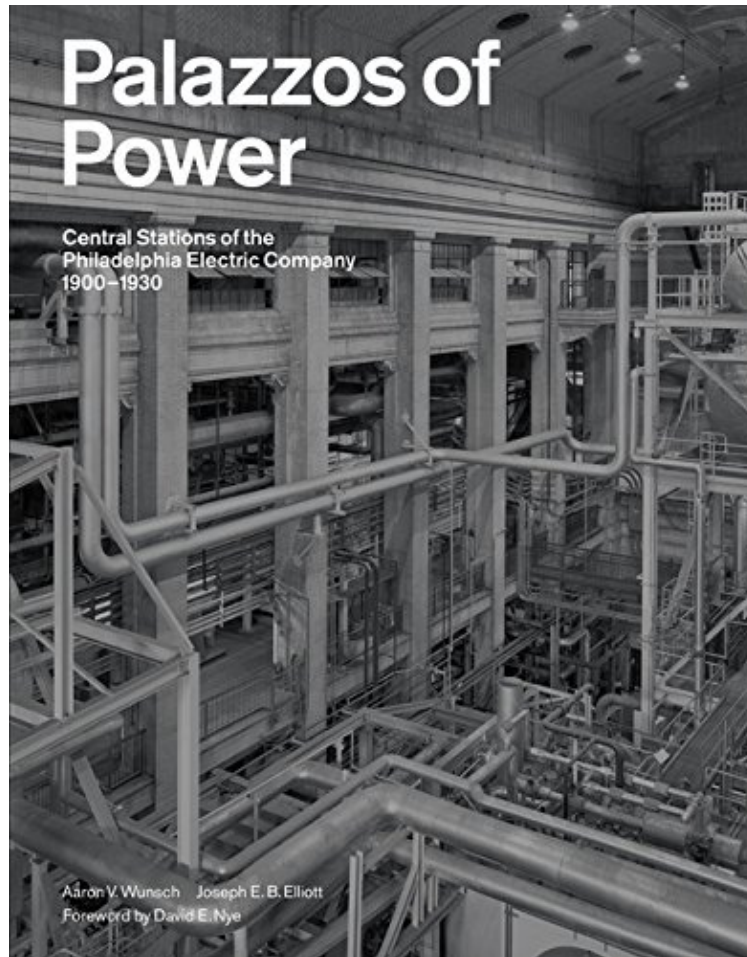



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## Palazzos of Power: Central Stations of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 1900-1930

*Aaron V. Wunsch, Joseph E. B. Elliott*  
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**Aaron V. Wunsch, Joseph E. B. Elliott : Palazzos of Power: Central Stations of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 1900-1930** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Palazzos of Power: Central Stations of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 1900-1930:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mouseprint hurts a nice effort. By Stephen M. Sheehy Fascinating story about early power plants and their design. Great photos. Book is marred by a curious style, where the text occupies one side of the page, with the other side blank. The typeface is so small, it's barely readable 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Can t believe that someone made a book about this By perry purse I work for peco elect co and have spent a lot of hours in all of these stations. They re all gone now, just a memory. Or so I thought. I never thought of them as artworks before, but now I see something new. Makes me feel proud to have been a part of

them. Really interesting to see a different viewpoint. Great photography, they didn't seem so impressive when there was dirty work to be done, but now they are. These are a proud part of our American history that I thought was forgotten..but now I see I was wrong..great job0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. where you expect to find great pictures, was really text-heavy and the pictures included ...By decorator1 I Purchased as a gift and one edge was dented. I remember when used to shrink-wrap books so they didn't slide around so much, but I've received others that have had bent corners and edges. At any rate, this particular book was a fail all around. The layout for an architectural book, where you expect to find great pictures, was really text-heavy and the pictures included were too small. Just not visually appealing. So between that and the damage, the recipient said "no thanks" and I returned it. Don't recommend.

"If it isn't Electric, it isn't Modern." Such was the slogan of the Philadelphia Electric Company, developer of an unprecedented network of massive metropolitan power stations servicing greater Philadelphia at the turn of the twentieth century. These once-brilliant sentinels of civic utility and activity were designed to convey 'solidity and immensity' in an age of deep public skepticism. They now stand vacant and decaying, a blight in the eyes of city planners and a beacon to urban explorers. The first book on the buildings and machines that made possible the electrification of the United States, *Palazzos of Power* offers a visual and analytical exploration of architecture, technology, place, loss, and reuse. With a foreword by David Nye, this collection of Joseph Elliott's beautiful large-format photographs reveals the urban landscape, monumental spaces, giant machinery, and intricate controls that made up the central station. Aaron Wunsch's essay provides historical context on the social and political climate.

About the Author Aaron V. Wunsch is assistant professor in the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. He helped document Philadelphia Electric's architecture and a diverse array of buildings and landscapes in the Greater Philadelphia area during his employment at the Historic American Buildings Survey. Joseph E. B. Elliott is Professor of Art at Muhlenberg College, and his photographs have appeared in *Smithsonian*, *Wired*, and *Metropolis* magazines. His book, *The Steel: Images of the Bethlehem Steel Plant 1989-1995*, was published by Columbia College Chicago Press in 2013.