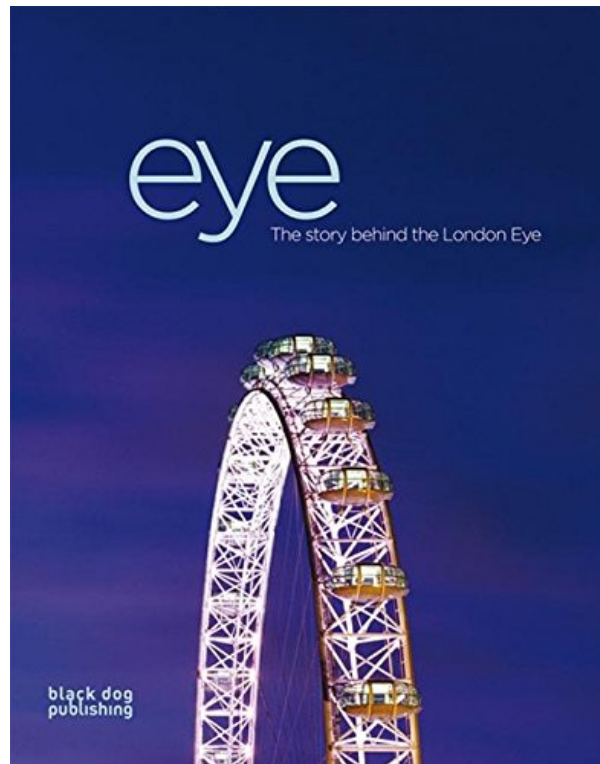
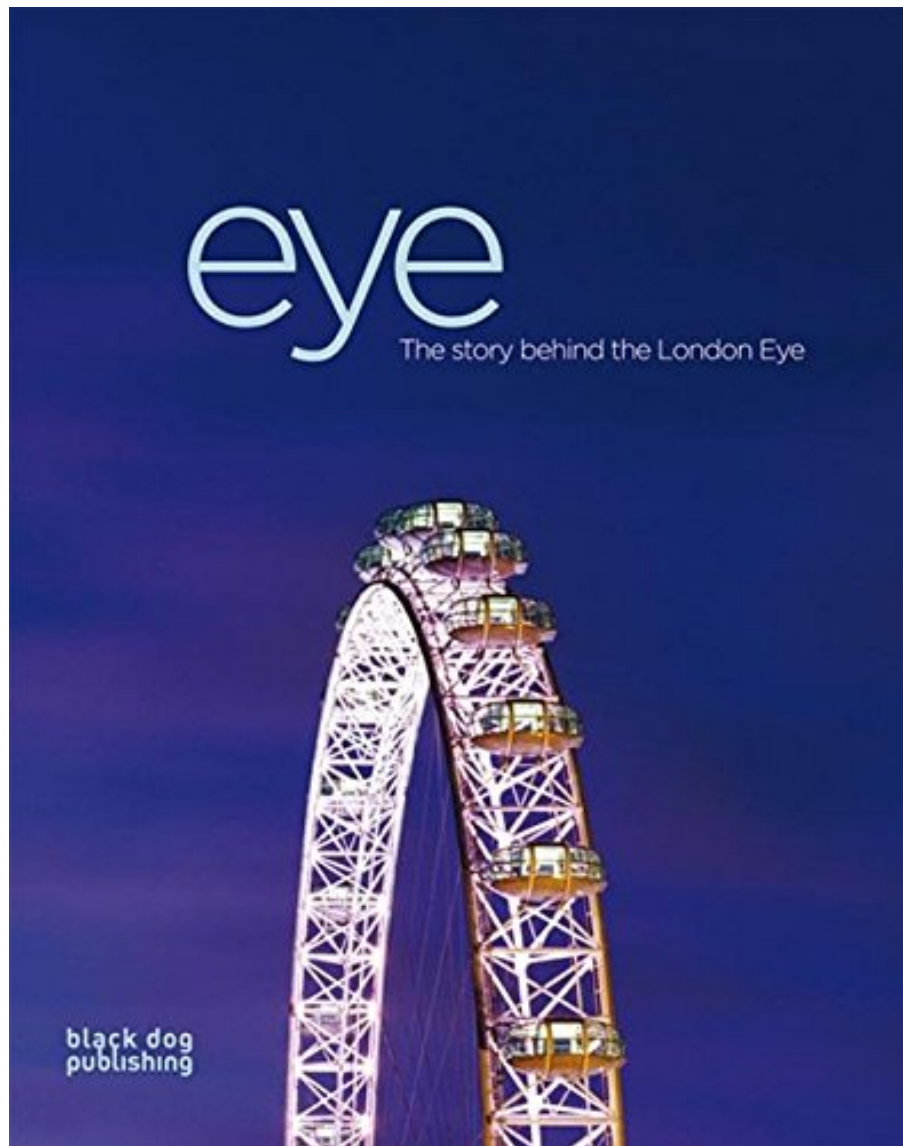


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EYE: THE STORY BEHIND THE LONDON EYE BY MARKS BARFIELD ARCHITECTS PDF

Sweeping one of the world's most famous skylines at 135 metres in height, the London Eye is the largest observational wheel in the world, and provides a spectacular 30 minute 'flight' over the capital. But if it had not been for the vision, commitment and sheer persistence of David Marks and Julia Barfield, the husband and wife team of architects behind the project, the London Eye might never have been built. Eye tells the various stories behind the conception, development, realisation and construction of the capital's newest landmark, including personal and political dramas, corporate conflicts, doubts, risks, obstacles and accidents. Against the backdrop of New Labour's pre-millennium Britain, prominent public figures attacked and defended the project, there were unprecedented design and construction problems to overcome, and Marks and Barfield had to fight every inch of the way to maintain the integrity of their vision.

This seminal moment in British architecture is celebrated through the dazzling photography of Marcus Robinson, insightful writing by The Guardian journalist Steve Rose, with an introduction by Richard Rogers and the clean and modern design of Neville Brody's Research Studios.

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- 192 pages

Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Wheel: Triumphant

By Andy Orrock

This nice compilation stands as testament to architectural elegance, engineering ingenuity, perseverance and the triumph of two good people filled with passion and creativity. The London Eye started from the brilliant minds of architects (and husband and wife) David Marks and Julia Barfield. In time, "more than 2,000 other people were involved in the Eye's creation." This book takes you from two to 2,000. Like the Eye itself, it's a heck of a ride.

It's standard now to be a great fan of the Eye. But the book skillfully catalogs a different time: that of the beginnings when skepticism and, in some cases, outright hostility threatened to kill the idea in its infancy. It took a couple of well-placed supporters in the press (writer Mira Bar-Hillel and editor Stewart Steven of the

Evening Standard) and business (CEO Bob Ayling of British Airways) to make the idea fly.

Still, there was a time when all the smart money and the bandwagon was lined up behind the lamentable Millennium Dome. The difference between the two: behind the Eye was, according to Bob Ayling, "a team that was committed to achieving something...and if something needed to be done we got it done. We took decisions very quickly and we put the financial structure in place to make it succeed. The Dome, on the other hand, was a political project that become a politicised project." In short, doomed for failure.

By the time of the Eye's assembling in the Thames and its hoisting - a technical feat of majesty and a signature event in itself - the world had top-sided. It was Wheel: triumphant. Its outline has become "shorthand for London." The Dome has met a much different history.

Beyond the story the book tells, it's a wonderful picture book. It mixes high-quality color and black & white plates with original sketches and reprints of significant London front pages capturing key events,

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A great book for anyone with a serious interest in the Eye

By pelicanlake71

This is not a book for the casual reader, or as just a souvenir of a visit to the London Eye. This is an in-depth book (TRULY in-depth) that takes you right through all the history, planning, engineering, construction, roadblocks, and eventual realization of this London icon. Photos are just fantastic. You'd have to be a true fan of the Eye (or an engineer or someone in construction) to really read this book from cover to cover. For the rest of us, the book is worth the price for the pictures alone.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

comprehensive

By bigfeatherpen

this book is an excellent one to share with professionals from architects to financial experts. It tells the whole story of the eye from the spark that created the idea, through the benchmarks and tribulations, to the surreal reflection on how it could have gone differently. This amazing story along with the moving visuals make this a must-share, must-own, and must read.

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