THE PANOPTICON WRITINGS

A definitive collection of Bentham's work on the model prison, key to Foucault's theory of power.The Panopticon project for a model prison obsessed the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham for almost 20 years. In the end, the project came to nothing; the Panopticon was never built. But it is precisely this that makes the Panopticon project the best exemplification of Bentham's own theory of fictions, according to which non-existent fictitious entities can have all too real effects. There is probably no building that...

Peek Inside the Book

Happiness is a very pretty thing to feel, but very dry to talk about. Jeremy Bentham, The Panopticon Writings //

Reader's Opinions

Shockingly different from what I thought this would be. The first time I heard about the Panopticon, it was portrayed as a glass prison but Benthams letters shows it to be much, much more. A circular building with a god-like inspector placed in the middle, present in the minds, if not in actuality, of every single prisoner incarcerated...

The central ideas are worth contemplating but reading the whole collection will, for most readers, be a waste of time. In short get a good summary of the work, I found the introduction by Miran Bozovic in the present edition quite comprehensive (although too positively biased toward Bentham, i.e. I suggest a more critical discussion...