



# Sixteen Acres: Architecture and the Outrageous Struggle for the Future of Ground Zero

*Philip Nobel*

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**Sixteen Acres: Architecture and the Outrageous Struggle for the Future of Ground Zero** Philip Nobel  
"Quirky, discursive, and highly opinionated"--a frank and devastating assessment of architecture and the rebuilding at Ground Zero (Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*)

Maverick architecture critic Philip Nobel takes us deep into the inner workings of Ground Zero, tracing the redevelopment of this battleground construction site from smoke-shrouded ruin to controversial master plan. Nobel gathers the huge cast of players at war with one another: real estate developers; grieving families; ambitious politicians; and most of all the architects, in the national spotlight as never before, charged with satisfying impossible demands and reconciling a sacred zone with daily life.

By turns tragic and comic, *Sixteen Acres* is a riveting story of high culture and low dealings, confronting the essential questions: Can buildings provide meaning? Are modern architects up to the job? What are the limits of architecture?

"Estimable . . . Nobel steps in where [others] fear to tread--by making sense of the spectacle."  
--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Vastly preferable . . . Nobel, in refreshing contrast [to others on the subject], regards the circus-like chain of circumstances with skeptical detachment . . . and harrowing humor."  
--*The New York Review of Books*

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