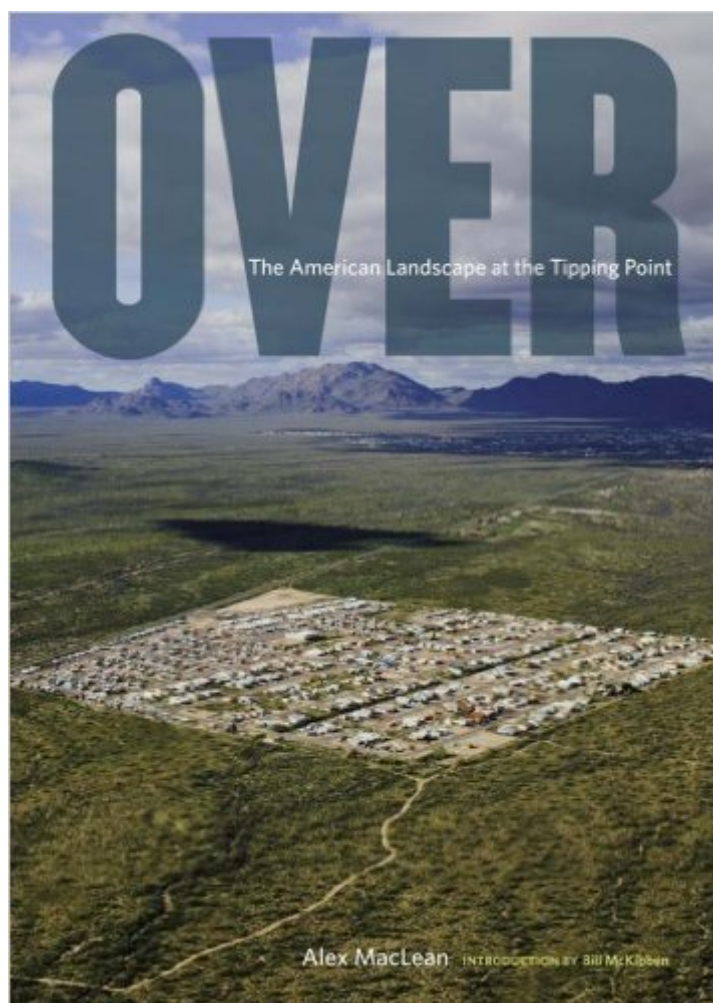


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Over: The American Landscape At The Tipping Point



Synopsis

For more than 30 years, Alex MacLean's aerial photographs have captured the evolution of the American landscape and the complex relationship between its natural and constructed environments that contribute to climate change. *Over: The American Landscape at the Tipping Point* is an ambitious and visually breathtaking catalogue of the extraordinary patterns and profound physical consequences brought about by natural processes and human intervention. The book allows readers to visualize climate change and our culture's excessive use of resources and energy, which account for our oversized carbon footprint. It demonstrates the extent to which the human ecosystem, and our economic and social well being, are dependant upon our wise use of land and its resources. *Over* is divided into sections covering such as Atmosphere; Way of Life; Automobile Dependency; Electricity Generation; Deserts; Water Use; Sea-Level Rise; Waste and Recycling; and Urbanism. MacLean's powerful photographs and insightful text make it clear that maintenance of the current American lifestyle is incompatible with a planet of diminishing natural resources and a finite atmosphere. *Over* compels us all to reconsider our basic assumptions about how we live, work, and play, and reveals that, while the challenges we face today are not insurmountable, the future depends on our collective vision, passion, and commitment.

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (October 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810971453

ISBN-13: 978-0810971455

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 1.4 x 13.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

While some may struggle to verbally explain abstractions like "auto-dependency," "resource depletion" or "density," aerial photographer MacLean heeds the ancient wisdom about the

power of a picture. Transcending usual limits of geography and scale, he rises above and captures in rich detail those scenes we only catch brief unsatisfying glimpses of during our own infrequent takeoffs and landings from commercial airspace. With nothing more than a "click," he makes all of those abstractions and subjective arguments fade away into beautifully composed, sometimes frightening, always arresting images of our American landscape. When architect Alex MacLean started photographing the American landscape with a plane's yoke in one hand and a telephoto lens in the other more than 20 years ago, it kicked off an aerial exploration that would carry him across the country. Through the years, he's flown over much of the United States, from coast to coast, freezing the American landscape in time. Early on in his work, the tone of his commentary was cautious at times, leaving the reader or viewer to draw their own conclusions about the wisdom of things like subdivided tract homes and swimming pools far from town in a vast western desert. In retrospect, this was perhaps a fitting tone for an explorer currently on the journey, before he's seen enough to render his own verdict. Now, after several decades of seeing and learning about all of the best and worst that America has to offer, MacLean seems confident in the conclusions he asserts about the wisdom and sustainability of the way we live with our land.

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