

BEST NEW WRITING

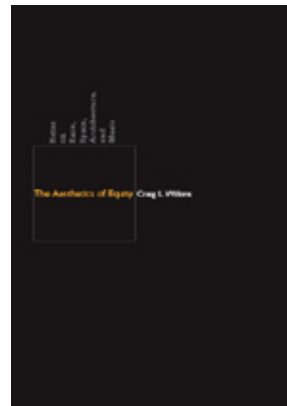
## THE MONTAIGNE MEDAL

Each year, the Eric Hoffer Award for books presents the Montaigne Medal to the most thought-provoking titles. These are books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. The medal is given in honor of the great French philosopher Michel de Montaigne, who influenced people such as Shakespeare, Descartes, Emerson, Nietzsche, Rousseau, and Eric Hoffer.

### 2008 WINNER

***The Aesthetics of Equity:  
Notes on Race, Space, Architecture  
and Music***

by Craig L. Wilkins  
University of Minnesota  
ISBN 9780816646616, 275 pgs



Besides being art, architecture reflects who we are but not who we are in its entirety. Wilkins makes the case that architecture, like the writing of history, mostly reflects the ideals of the victors. In America, very few minorities enter the architectural arena, and at times, space planning has become a kind of battlefield where the rich, white infrastructure dominates and minority thought chews at the periphery. The inequity is real, and this imbalance is not just between in races but also in how we perceive ourselves in space. Wilkins, an architect and teacher, suggests “motion” as a solution. That motion is already blueprinted in the form of sound—the inner city music that is fighting to invade the issue with rhythm, style, and adaptability. It is the demand of a disenfranchised black client in a white space.

ERIC HOFFER BOOK AWARDS