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"We live in a world of reinforced concrete, but rarely think about the origins of this industrial innovation. Michael G. Smith's definitive history of this technology and the life of its principal inventor, Julius Kahn, who fostered a twentieth-century construction revolution, is superbly documented and well-written. It is an important addition to the historiography of America."

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## **CONCRETE CENTURY**

## Julius Kahn and the Construction Revolution By Michael G. Smith

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Drawing upon Kahn's personal correspondence, architectural drawings, company records, and contemporary news and journal articles, Michael G. Smith reveals how this man—whose family had immigrated to the US to escape antisemitism in Germany—played an important role in the rise of concrete. Concrete not only turned the tide against widespread destruction of buildings by fire, it also paved the way for our modern economy. *Concrete Century* will delight readers intrigued by architecture and construction technology alike with the true origin story of modern concrete buildings.

**Michael G. Smith** is an architectural historian and the author of *Designing Detroit: Wirt Rowland and the Rise of Modern American Architecture* (Wayne State University Press, 2017).

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