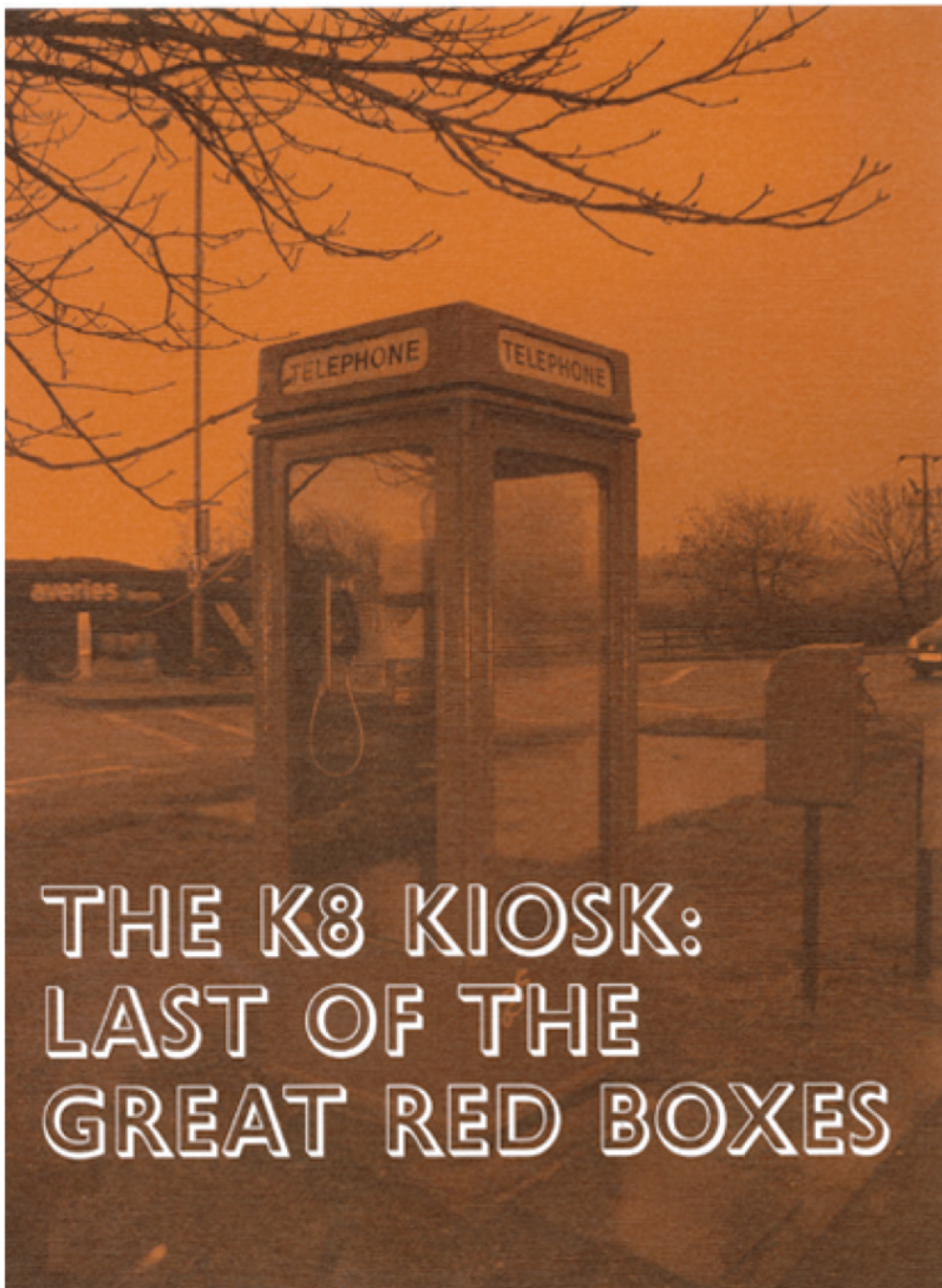


Spring 2007

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
TWENTIETH CENTURY SOCIETY

C20



## THE K8 KIOSK: LAST OF THE GREAT RED BOXES

### **Bombay Art Deco**

**Architecture: A Visual Journey**  
Navin Ramani, Roli & Janssen,  
ISBN 8174364471, \$34.95

**Reviewed by Gavin Stamp**

Bombay is known as one of the great Gothic Revival cities of the world; it is less well known that it is also an Art Deco city, able to boast stylish buildings of the 1930s and 1940s comparable to those in Miami or Los Angeles. This is not surprising as Bombay was the most vigorous and commercial city in India in the twentieth century, and also a place in love with modernity, with the image of America, with the cinema—as the modern Bollywood industry in the city testifies. What is surprising, perhaps—given that, until 1947, Bombay was the most prosperous and progressive city under the British Raj—is that the dominant architectural influences were not so much British as American, French and German (and German architects were responsible for a number of distinguished Deco buildings elsewhere in India). Thanks to Navin Ramani we can now appreciate just how rich and extraordinary the Art Deco buildings of Bombay are. This well illustrated book is as exciting as it is welcome.