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# ***Shaping Technology/Building Society***

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### **Inside Technology**

edited by Wiebe E. Bijker, W. Bernard Carlson, and Trevor Pinch

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***Shaping Technology/Building  
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*edited by Wiebe E. Bijker and John Law*

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## *Preface*

Earlier versions of many of the papers in this volume were first presented at a workshop in The Netherlands in 1987. The object of that workshop was to explore the intriguing place where history meets sociology in the social analysis of technology. Specifically, the concern was to consider the extent to which case studies can be used to build or test theory about the way in which the “seamless web” of the social and the technical is structured and shaped. Most of the papers in this volume (like others presented at the workshop) wrestle with the interaction between theory and data by exemplifying ways in which the two might be brought together.

We are grateful for the help we received from colleagues who acted as referees to the individual papers. Robert Frost made extremely valuable comments on each paper and on the volume as a whole. We are most grateful to him.