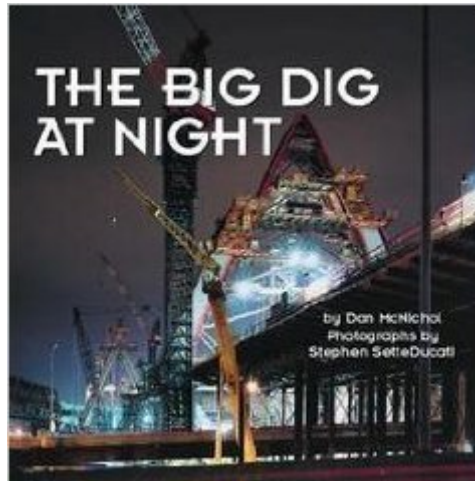




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The Big Dig At Night



Synopsis

A follow-up to The Big Dig--a huge regional success!--the Big Dig that is transforming Boston's downtown is the largest construction project in history. Through a gallery of nighttime photos you can stand at vantage points not even the construction workers have ever viewed. See how state-of-the-art underground and underwater tunnels are relieving traffic congestion as they replace the brutally ugly elevated highway, and how the city's urban center is being re-connected to its glorious waterfront with beautiful open spaces and quiet urban parks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great book that documents the most intense portion of the Big Dig. Being a night photographer myself, I appreciate the photography, also knowing that it was done with film, which had many less options than today's digi cams. The book also made me appreciate just how large that hole construction was, I moved here in 2003 when it mostly over, but the book shows that most of downtown Boston was dug up for years. It's too bad that the author didn't continue through the entire project and to document the demise of the above ground highway, but it's a nice piece of history captured at a time when most people were indoors.

What a wonderful book to enjoy again and again. The pictures are remarkable. I just love every page. What a wonderful account of such a gigantic milestone in history.

Fifteen billion dollars and many years of twisted roads, snarled traffic, angry drivers, and frustration. That's the crushing reality of Boston's Big Dig. Ironically, one of the main purposes of the project is to speed traffic to Logan Airport at a time when many will choose to avoid that airport due to its connection to the recent terrorist attacks. Stephen SetteDucati has seen potential and beauty in the quiet of the evening, night, and early morning hum of the project. His photographs will make you think you have landed on another planet, because the scenes are full of objects rather than people. Time-lapse methods in many cases switch cars into lines of headlights that stream jet-like across the page. To me, the high point of the volume are the many stunning images of the new Leonard P. Zakin, Bunker Hill Memorial bridge rising like the Phoenix above the northern edge of the city. This bridge is the widest cable-stayed bridge in the world and looks like something that should be on Star Trek. The bright whiteness of the lights transform it into a piece of sculpture, rising almost organically from the water and debris . . . almost like an exotic sea creature. The most fascinating part of the book is the view of the old elevated eyesore that is being eliminated. Ah, how well I remember the pigeon-stained undersides! After some Celtics games, I would have to take the car through the car wash three times to clean it all off. Overall, the book will fascinate you with its stillness. You will feel like you are present at all the various times, enjoying the quiet chill and turning within yourself. The captions are interestingly tied to the date and time when the photographs were taken. For most people, this book will only be appealing if they live in Boston, visit the city frequently, or enjoyed The Big Dig (Mr. McNichol's recent book on the project). The Big Dig at Night has several drawbacks. First, it lacks the fascinating detail of the overall project's engineering challenges and unique solutions that made The Big Dig so special. Second, it shows you the night version of what you already saw many times if you were in Boston. So, only those scenes that capture the contrasts between old and new in the most powerful ways actually stimulate your imagination and interest. Third, the book's design is wrong for these images. Most are forced to sprawl awkwardly across a center fold that truncates them in inappropriate places. The book's pages needed to be much wider! But . . . for those who want to see the beautiful beginnings of the end of the Boston Big Dig misery, this is a fine book. Think of it as mental relief for the traffic frustrated. After you finish enjoying construction as urban sculpture, I suggest that you also consider the night for its other forms of beauty that emanate from nature. Look at the reflections of light on ponds, rivers, ice, and snow. Enjoy the outlines of trees shifting under the wind. Smell the aromas of the season. Hear the gentle night sounds whisper to you. Touch the dew on the grass. Enjoy the meditative beauty of the world around you, whenever you can take a moment to just enjoy!

This book illustrates the urban beauty of the gigantic transformation project of Boston's highway system. SetteDucati captures the essence of hard work by everyone and every machine involved. The photography and images captured at night is stunning. If you have driven or lived in Boston during this time, this book is a must have!

Great book!!! We have seen many pictures of the Big Dig during the day. In fact, most of us can see for ourselves most of the images in the Big Dig during the day books. Go to the Big Dig scout out a great image... Wait 12 hours. See the difference. It's clear the images in The Big Dig At Night are the work of a craftsman. The skill to draw from the available light (no flash, just the light that's around) during the night is not as simple as pushing a button. When my friends flip through the book, they tell me how "cool" the pictures are, but when I tell them how the artist draws on the existing light to produce these image, they return to the book in awe. In all a great book of photography, and a great book on the Big Dig. The quality and variety of the of images is a testament to the artist's dedication and skill. The Big Dig At Night has done a wonderful job documenting this historic project during its busiest time of day, AT NIGHT.

The spectacular cover of this book really caught my eye, and the pages inside continued a feeling of wonder as I saw the Big Dig as I'd never seen it. Only a very talented, slightly obsessed photographer could have gotten the shots that Sette Ducate did. They are unbelievable. If you've been caught in endless traffic delays and swear at the Big Dig daily, this book might give you a few positive feelings about it. The incredible pictures of the new bridge make me realize that there really is an end in sight, and that Boston is going to be a great place once it's all done. I also have to say that the price of this book is reasonable, considering all the color photos. The first book by this author explained what was going on. This one shows the drama and even beauty of the project, and also helps understand its scope. I don't recommend much, but I really recommend this - for kids too (especially boys, I guess.)

To any curious person or to anyone involved in any way in the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project, this publication will serve as a permanently valuable record of work in progress, of construction drama, of special effects, all chronicled thru vivid and exceptional natural light photography by Mr. SetteDucati. He and Mr. McNichol have produced more than a pictorial unique to Boston's Big Dig. They have captured moments in time forever lost otherwise in the progress of the work. Whether you appreciate astoundingly visual photography, the intensity of building massive

underground structures, or historic events captured with accuracy, "The Big Dig at Night" is a must have publication. It can not be and will not be done like this again.

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