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This volume accompanies a 2005 exhibition of the same name at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. Curator McQuaid presents an intriguing look at technical textiles and their applications. Touted as the lightest, safest, strongest, smartest, and fastest materials, these "extreme" textiles are used in a myriad of different ways, ranging from airplanes to boats & bicycles, to prosthetic limbs and medical devices implanted in humans, as a structural element in architecture, in spacecraft & spacesuits, and much more. The unusual textured cover, close-up photographs of the textiles themselves, as well as numerous illustrations and photographs of their many applications serve to make the book visually compelling.