

Architecture Books Every Library Should Have

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This selection of architecture books attempts to represent the best Western buildings and architects in proportion to their merit. These books emphasize design methods, sources of design, types of materials, and methods of construction. They generally treat individual buildings as primary sources in their own right and include design drawings, record drawings, and building accounts. Most have illustrations that show proportions and details well enough to be useful for study. They have permanent value for research, and they deserve to be emulated as models of research and presentation.

Books that are more about history than architecture have been omitted as belonging more to the category of history than to architectural history. I have studied and written about social history, indigenous peoples, and vernacular architecture, and I am well aware of the importance of these subjects for studying the development of architecture. I regret being unable to include books on indigenous and vernacular architecture, but these types of buildings relate more to anthropology and should be in other lists rather than this one. For example, American Indians produced numerous great monuments, but their buildings were mostly of perishable materials and simple construction with no spaces comparable the best buildings in the history of architecture. I am not among those who consider every igloo better than the Pantheon.

I know of many books better researched, written, illustrated, and produced than some that I have included, but they are about less significant buildings or architects. Such excellent books deserve to be represented in large libraries, but not in all libraries. Vanity press books about living architects deserve the lowest priority for acquisition funds. I hope someone who knows more about Asian architecture than I do will prepare a list similar to this one.

Many titles that are included have been reprinted less well than they were originally printed. It would be ideal to have first editions of every title, but more useful to have editions that can be circulated. Research libraries should, of course, make available copies of key titles in their original language when it is other than English, but my list was prepared for the general reader with a serious interest in design and construction rather than for specialists.

This list is intended partly to help create a demand for standard works that are in many cases out-of-print, that have never been made available in English translation, or that have never been made available at a moderate price. All of these titles deserve to be as widely available as possible and to be kept in print indefinitely.

Many great buildings have not had great books written about them. Many deserve to be represented by better books, but in my opinion, all of the books listed have permanent value.

Greek

Audiat, Jean. 1933 *Trésor des Athéniens. Fouilles de Delphes*. Paris: De Boccard.

Balanos, Nikolaos. 1938 *Monuments de l'Acropole; Relèvement et Conservation*. Paris: C. Massin.

Berve, Helmut; Gottfried Gruben; and Max Hirmer. n. d. *Greek Temples, Theatres, and Shrines*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Cooper, Frederick A., ed. 1996 *Temple of Apollo Bassitas*. 4 vols. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Coulton, J. J. 1977 *Ancient Greek Architects at Work: Problems of Structure and Design*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.

Dinsmoor, William Bell. 1950 [1975] *Architecture of Ancient Greece: an Account of Its Historic Development*. New York: Norton.

Dörpfeld, Wilhelm. 1881 *Ausgrabungen zu Olympia*. Ed. by Ernst Curtius and Friedrich Adler; vol. 5 on the Temple of Zeus. Berlin: E. Wasmuth.

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Mertens, Dieter. 1984 *Temple von Segesta und die Dorische Tempelbaukunst des Grieschischen Westens in Klassischerzeit*. Manz am Rein: P. von Zabern. 1993 *Alte Heratempel in Paestum und die Archaische Baukunst in Unteritalien*. Mainz am Rhein: P. von Zabern.

Orlandos, Anastasios K. 1976-1978 *I architektoniki tou Parthenonos*. 3 vols. Athens: Archaiologike Hetaireia.

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Stuart, James; and Nicholas Revett. 1762, 1787, 1794 [1980] *Antiquities of Athens*. New York: Arno Press.

Traulos, Ioannes N. 1971 *Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens*. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut. Publication. New York: Praeger.

Roman

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Choisy, Auguste. 1873 *L'Art de Batir chez les Romains*. Paris: Ducher et Cie, Éditeurs.

Clérisseau, Charles Louis, and J. G. LeGrand. 1778 *Antiquités de la France, [part] I: Monuments de Nismes*. Paris: P. D. Pierres.

De Fine Licht, Kjeld. 1966 *Rotunda in Rome: a Study of Hadrian's Pantheon*. Jutland Archaeological Society Publications VIII. Copenhagen.

DeLaine, Janet. 1997 *Baths of Caracalla: a Study in the Design, Construction, and Economics of Large-scale Building Projects in Imperial Rome*. Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series Number 25. Portsmouth, RI: Journal of Roman Archaeology L. L. C.

Desgodetz, Antoine. 1682 [1972] *Édifices Antiques de Rome*. Portland, Oregon: Collegium Graphicum.

D'Espouy, H. 1896; 1905 *Fragments d'Architecture Antique d'Après les Relevés & Restaurations des Anciens Pensionnaires*. 2 vols. Paris: Charles Schmid, Éditeur. 1906 *Monuments Antiques Relevés et Restaurés par les Architectes Pensionnaires de l'Académie de France à Rome*. 3 vols. Publication de l'Institut de France. Paris: Ch. Massin.

École Française de Rome; École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Parigi; & Comune di Roma Assessorato alla Cultura. 1985 *Roma Antiqua*. Paris: L'Académie de France à Rome; l'École Française de Rome; l'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris. 1992 *Roma Antiqua: "Envois" degli Architetti Francesi (1786-1901): Grandi Edifici Pubblici*. Roma: Edizioni Carte Segrete.

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Piranesi, Francesco. 1790 *Raccolta de' Tempj Antichi [Pantheon]*. Vol. 2. Rome: Presso l'autore.

Piranesi, Giovanni Battista. 2000 *Giovanni Battista Piranesi: the Complete Etchings/ Gesamtkatalog der Kupferstiche/ Catalogue Raisonné des Eaux-fortes / Giovanni Battista Piranesi*. Köln: Taschen.

Rivoira, G. T. 1925 *Roman Architecture and Its Principles of Construction Under the Empire with an Appendix on the Evolution of the Dome Up to the XVIIIth Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Vitruvius. 1999 *Ten Books of Architecture*. Trans. by Ingrid D. Rowland; commentary and illustrations by Thomas Noble Howe; with additional material by Ingrid D. Rowland and Michael J. Dewar. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Wilson Jones, Mark. 2000 *Principles of Roman Architecture*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Medieval

Baines, F. 1914 *Westminster Hall: Report to the First Commissioner of H.M. Works, &c., on the Condition of the Roof Timbers of Westminster Hall, with Suggestions for Maintaining the Stability of the Roof*. London: H.M.S.O.

Branner, Robert, and Shirley Prager Branner. 1989 *The Cathedral of Bourges and Its Place in Gothic Architecture*. New York, N.Y.: Architectural History Foundation; Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Crosby, Sumner McK., and Pamela Z. Blum. 1987 *Royal Abbey of Saint-Denis: from Its Beginnings to the Death of Suger, 475-1151 (with a separate roll of drawings)*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Fitchen, John. 1961 *Construction of Gothic Cathedrals; a Study of Medieval Vault Erection*. Oxford, Clarendon Press.

Harvey, John. 1950 *Gothic World: 1100-1600; a Survey of Architecture and Art*. London: B. T. Batsford Ltd. 1972 *Medieval Architect*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

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Renaissance and Baroque

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Alberti, Leon Battista. 1988 *On the Art of Building in Ten Books*. Trans. by Joseph Rykwert, Neil Leach, and Robert Tavernor. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

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Gibbs, James. 1728 *Book of Architecture Containing Designs of Buildings and Ornaments*. London.

Kimball, Fiske. 1916 [1968] *Thomas Jefferson, Architect; Original Designs in the Coolidge Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society, with an Essay and Notes*. Cambridge: New York: Da Capo Press. 1922 [1966] *Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic*. New York: Dover Publications.

Krafft, J. Ch. 1801, 1812 [1992] *Plans, Coupes, Élévations de Plus Belles Maisons et des Hôtels Construits à Paris et dans les Environs (tome premier); Recueil d'Architecture Civile Contenant les Plans, Coupes et Élévations des Chateaux, Maisons de Campagne et Habitations Rurales, Jardins Anglais, Temples, Chaumieres Situés aux Environs de Paris et dans les Départments (tome second)*. Paris: Auteur, Treutell et Wurtz (reprinted Nordlingen: Alfons Uhl).

Laugier, Marc Antoine. 1777 *Essay on Architecture*. Trans. by Wolfgang Hermann. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls.

Ledoux, Claude Nicolas. 1847 [1983] *Architecture de C.N. Ledoux: Premier Volume, Contenant des Plans, Élévations, Coupes, Vues Perspectives ... : Collection qui Rassemble Tous les Genres de Bâtiments Employés dans l'Ordresocial*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton Architectural Press.

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General


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