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# **A World History Of Architecture**



## Synopsis

Updated with expanded coverage of twenty-first century architecture, this new edition uniquely comprises a detailed survey of Western architecture as well as architecture from the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America, India, Russia, China and Japan. Significant revision also includes photographs and textual discussion of around 50 new buildings. Written in a clear and engaging style, the text encourages readers to examine the pragmatic, innovative and aesthetic attributes of buildings. Artistic, economic, environmental, political, social and technological contexts are discussed. The global reach of the text is matched by a rich assortment of photographs from around the world and a greater array of detailed line drawings than in any architectural survey. The authors have created a formidable body of work that ranges over much of the world's architectural heritage and testifies to some of the greatest achievements of the human spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael Fazio is Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Mississippi State University. His most recent book is titled *The Domestic Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe* (2006). The late Marian Moffett taught architectural history at the University of Tennessee and was co-author of *A History of Western Architecture* (1989) with Lawrence Wodehouse. Lawrence Wodehouse, also deceased, taught architectural history at the University of Dundee and various American universities. His many books included *British Architects 1840 to 1976* (1978) and *White of McKim, Mead, and White* (1988).

For its type & audience, this is the most comprehensive of the academic histories of World

architecture (with a Western emphasis). It has the same limitations as nearly all academic texts in this field, focusing unquestioningly upon traditional periods of style and almost no background regarding the political & technical changes that produce new paradigms in building technique & architectural form. To the authors' credit, with so much to cover in one volume, their selections were superb. Here are a few critical comments (intended constructively) regarding a text that is overall superbly concise. I feel they over-represent medieval architecture at the expense of Islamic architecture (Arab, Persian, & Mongol). Also, the 1st & 2nd Industrial Revolutions should be emphasized after 1850.1) 12th-13th century is all Western / European medieval. Probably state-of-the art architecture of this era was Islamic -- we know that Islamic empires and Monguls were conquering much of Asia during these centuries.2) Any history of architecture over 2000 years should include at least 3 factors which foment innovations in building techs: catastrophe (Great Fire of London, Great Chicago Fire, etc.), environmental challenges (Venice on a lagoon, St Petersburg on a swamp), War & conquest (Hellenism & Alexander, Islamic empires after 800 ad, post-WWII rebuilding of Europe)3) How can you discuss medieval manors & castles but not discuss the 17th / 18th century mercantile plantations of the Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and British empires?4) The effects of the first and second Industrial Revolutions upon architecture should be the FOCUS of 19th century and early 20th century architectural history.5) In terms of 20th century architecture, you cannot evaluate skyscrapers without first understanding the infrastructure that made vertical building possible: elevators, fire protection, steel frames, electrical power, cheap floated glass, etc.

The 'A World History of Architecture' and 'Buildings across Time: An Introduction to World Architecture' titles are the same book, which is arguably the best (one volume) worldwide survey, easy to read and study. All three (3) editions are very similar, each having 608 (XVI+392) pages, approx. 570 photos (300 in color), and 350 line drawings. They differ only in a very small number of (building) examples. All were published and are listed under ISBN: 1780671113, ISBN: 1856695492, ISBN: 1856693716, ISBN: 0071417516, ISBN: 1856693538, ISBN: 0071544798, as well as ISBN: 007305304X, ISBN: 0077573048. They are an update on 1989 'A History of Western Architecture' (ISBN: 0874847842) only by Lawrence Wodehouse & Marian Moffett to include the non-western world and works from women. This guide to the global history of architecture was first published in 2003, and is beautifully formatted. A series of maps precedes the informative and well-written text. The book gives a deep knowledge and wide perspective of traditions in architecture throughout the world--from prehistoric through modern structures. It includes photos, plans, scales for important monuments, residences, government buildings, and religious structures, complete with

photos, plans, and scales, including: The Parthenon, Cheops Pyramid, Pantheon, Hadrian's Wall, Versailles, Monticello, The Brooklyn Bridge, Boston Public Library, Rockefeller Center, Fallingwater, The High Museum. AUTHORS: LAWRENCE WODEHOUSE, a native of Norwich, England, received a Ph.D. from the University of St. Andrews (1980), taught history of architecture at the University of Tennessee and others, and was the author of many books and numerous scholarly articles, a registered architect in the UK, and a founding member of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. MARIAN MOFFETT earned a Ph.D. at the M.I.T. (1975) and taught history of architecture at the University of Tennessee, where she had collaborated and co-authored with Lawrence Wodehouse including *A History of Western Architecture* (1989). MICHAEL FAZIO is emeritus professor of architecture at Mississippi State University, an architect, and architectural historian. He holds a Ph.D. in the History of Architecture and Urban Development from Cornell University. CONTENTS (1st ed.): Preface Maps Introduction 1 Ch. 1 The Beginnings of Architecture 9 Ch. 2 The Greek World 39 Ch. 3 The Architecture of Ancient India and Southeast Asia 67 Ch. 4 Traditional Architecture of China and Japan 87 Ch. 5 The Roman World 111 Ch. 6 Early Christian and Byzantine Architecture 141 Ch. 7 Islamic Architecture 165 Ch. 8 Early Medieval and Romanesque Architecture 191 Ch. 9 Gothic Architecture 229 Ch. 10 Indigenous Architecture in the Pre-Columbian Americas 275 Ch. 11 Renaissance Architecture 295 Ch. 12 Baroque Architecture 353 Ch. 13 The Eighteenth Century 397 Ch. 14 Nineteenth-Century Developments 419 Ch. 15 The Twentieth Century and Modernism 475 Ch. 16 Modernisms in the Mid- and Late Twentieth Century 533 Glossary 568 Bibliography 572 Picture Credits 576 Index 577

I needed it for school, arrived in good condition

Nice Product.

This was a gift for my husband who wanted a good architecture book. He's travelled a lot, so has been to a lot of the places, and says the book (text + pictures) are very well done. It does read like a manual, so he'll read a few chapters then goes back to his novel for the night, but he is very happy with it.

A very interesting book.

It is an enjoyable read for anyone really interested in architectural history. However, I have caught

some grammatical errors and awkward sentence structuring throughout the book. Also do not be surprised to find a few biased opinions in most, if not all the chapters of the book.

As the semester begins, this book has been a key element to my studies. Great book when you take a walk back in history understanding the rich, rich history of the beginning of Architecture.

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