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European Architecture 1750-1890 (Oxford History Of Art)



Synopsis

This comprehensive examination of eighteenth and nineteenth-century architecture explores its extreme diversity within the context of tremendous social, economic and political upheaval. Never before had the functional requirements and expressive capacities of architecture been tested so thoroughly and with such diversity of invention. Bergdoll traces this experimentation in a broad range of contexts, focusing in particular on the relation of architectural design to new theories of history, new categories of scientific inquiry, and the broadening audience for architecture in this period of transformation. Unlike traditional surveys with long lists of buildings and architects, the themes are elucidated by in-depth coverage of key buildings which in turn are situated in both their local and European context.

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Customer Reviews

A clear yet sophisticated introduction. Most undergraduate architectural surveys are organized around either time periods or themes. Chronological approaches tend to be linear and concentrate on form, thematic approaches on overlapping phenomena and the history of ideas. Professor Bergdoll's book ably does both. It combines a complex yet lucid historical narrative with excursions into the history of ideas, developing social and political forces, and the development of new aesthetic and formal problems. Greatest hits include Somerset House, The Crystal Palace, French and English train stations, The Red House, German Romantic Monuments and Rundbogenstil buildings, The Eiffel Tower. The range of topics and the depth of treatment makes this a valuable

undergraduate text and though challenging a good text for the architect and fans of architecture.

This superb book provides a great overview of the period it covers. It provides a springboard into a vast subject area. Like a well done modern textbook, it has wonderful images of the buildings, lots of margin space for notes, fine paper and durable high quality binding, an excellent index with over 1500 items, an index of all images with source and dates, a very useful bibliography that also makes recommendations for further reading on specific topics covered, a glossary of special terms not easily found online, and a comprehensive graphic timeline. The Oxford series has done a masterful job in all ways, coupled with eye-pleasing graphics. Each page also has (in addition to a page number) a label, identifying the chapter topic on the left and page subject on the right. A model of perfection for all physical books on art and architecture. Most importantly, the intelligent writing is clear, well organized, and concise yet deep. Every paragraph has insights, and invites the interested reader to delve into the topic in greater depth. The author provides the essential facts of places, dates, and persons but his real contribution is the presentation of the linkage between human ideas and architectural form. Architecture comes alive as an expression of competing ideals and aspirations at the forefront of social changes. So, with thought-invoking and insightful writing, and a perfect physical book, what else does a demanding architecture history student or enthusiast get? How about an online "Look Inside" feature that allows you to easily search for any word used in the book, to find each page it is used on, with the sentence it is located in. This is one marriage of books and technology that makes the grade. But perfection is never enough. I now crave large Ultra HD images I could display on my big screen TV screen to accompany the reading of the book. I know that too will eventually come.

this book must be read with *Modern Architecture* by Oxford in order to understand the history of architecture. This book covers the must needed areas of the field including, the hut to Palladio, and others up until the rise of modernism, where incidently the book *Modern Architecture* takes over. I recommend this book in concordance to that book and for the architecture student whether for class or not.

I got this for my art history class on architecture in London and Paris. It was a great help for my research paper and to get more information on the buildings that we were studying. It has great photos to go along with the text!

Solid resource

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