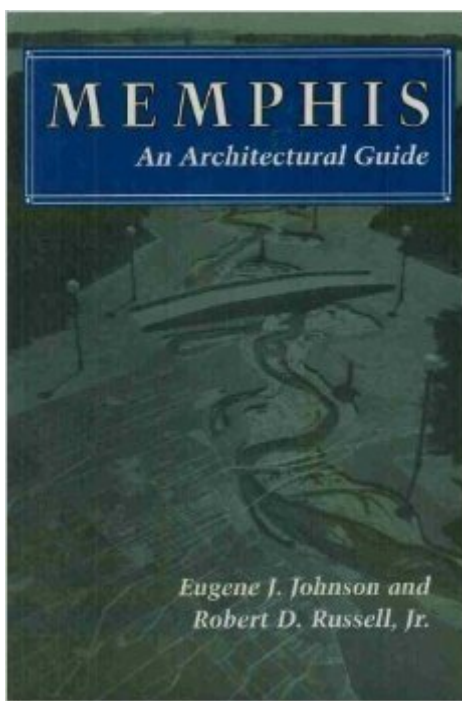


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Memphis: An Architectural Guide



Book Information

Paperback: 394 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

First, the city: Memphis is a city that probably doesn't rank high on your list of architectural destinations, but it should. While Nashville has always been the seat of Tennessee's government and its immense country music community, Memphis is Tennessee's commercial center, and the hub of blues, rock-and-roll and barbecue. Memphis has always been considered the more pragmatic, less snooty of Tennessee's major cities, but it has always given Nashville a challenge for supremacy from the very beginning. Had it not been for the enormously destructive yellow fever and cholera epidemics of the late 19th century, Memphis would be THE city in Tennessee, hands down. Memphis is a city that LOOKS bigger than it is. For example, Charlotte (NC) may have a larger population, but Memphis has bigger bones. Memphis, as you can imagine from its geographic location, is part St. Louis, and part New Orleans. The architectural fabric of the city supports this notion. As an important river port and transportation hub, Memphis includes an impressive civic and commercial architecture that is still with us today. As a center of music, food, religion, and other staples of popular culture, it supports a lovely blend of residential, ecclesiastical and cultural architecture. Memphis, sincerely, has it all. Now, the book: It's dated, published by the University of Tennessee in 1990, but WOW is it comprehensive! Written in the somewhat standard AIA format (though not an AIA publication), the catalog includes 550 sites organized by geographical area. Each site includes a short descriptive paragraph, while some important sites include longer descriptive essays.

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