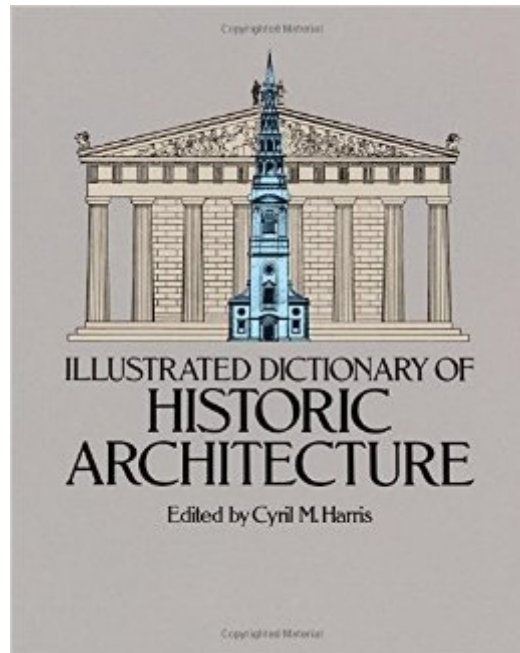


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# Illustrated Dictionary Of Historic Architecture (Dover Architecture)



## Synopsis

In this volume, noted Columbia University Professor of Architecture Cyril M. Harris offers a unique tour through the entire history of architecture: an extraordinary compendium of clear, concise definitions for over 5,000 important terms. This thoroughly accurate and comprehensive gathering of architectural knowledge is complemented by an unprecedented collection of over 2,000 line drawings that richly illustrate significant aspects of architectural styles. Unusual cutaway views, close-ups of intricate details, and precisely rendered plans show many of the greatest architectural achievements of all time. From ancient ruins to twentieth-century Modernism, the Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture covers the full spectrum of architecture's rise and development. Subject areas include the following periods: Ancient, Islamic, Greek and Hellenistic, Mesoamerican, Roman, Romanesque, Early Christian, Gothic, Renaissance, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and Modern. This volume is an important research tool that places particular emphasis on clarity and accuracy. For the architect, artist, historian, student, teacher, or architecture enthusiast, this valuable guide offers indispensable information and lucid illustrations covering the whole of architecture.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Architecture

Paperback: 592 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Revised ed. edition (March 1, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 048624444X

ISBN-13: 978-0486244440

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 1.6 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #52,535 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History](#) #61 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture](#) #82 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Architecture](#)

## Customer Reviews

There are so many facets of architectural history that building terms seem to have lost their meaning. Especially in the ancient buildings from ancient Greek to medieval Gothic periods, the terms are so numerous -- and necessarily so. The definitions are so clearly written in practical, easily

understandable language. The illustrations are so detailed and clean that minute discrepancies between one term and another are easily identifiable. When writing reviews or analyses of various architectural buildings and styles of buildings, this book should always be within reach of the pen or computer terminal.

Cyril Harris has produced two great architectural dictionaries. The first one published in 1977 is the one currently being reviewed. His second dictionary is entitled, "American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia" and it was published in 1998 by Norton. If your interest is primarily in American Architecture stick to "American Architecture". It is a newer book and it has beautiful line illustrations of which the majority come from the Historic American Building Survey (HABS). It has over 2,500 definitions and 1,000 illustrations. However, if your interest is in World Architecture, this is the book for you. In this volume, Harris provides concise definitions for over 5,000 architectural terms and there are over 2,000 illustrations. From ancient ruins to 20th Century Modern Architecture, this illustrated dictionary covers the full spectrum of architectural achievement. All the illustrations are black and white line illustrations and they appear to principally come from the illustrated magazines of the 19th and Early 20th Century. Highly recommended.

No long narratives, but a picture or dictionary description of everything you can think of architecturally. Very easy to use. This is my most used book for a class in the history of western architecture. The drawings are VERY well done.

This book is extremely helpful when taking any Architecture History course. Everything I have needed to know is in this book. The diagrams are more understandable than my textbook.

I ordered this dictionary for a History of Design class. The required textbook wasn't very useful so I got this dictionary to do my terminology assignments. It's easy to use and has great descriptions and pictures.

Good compendium of architectural detail throughout the ages. Good illustrations. Set up like an encyclopedia so you can find the item of interest so long as you know what it's called. Also goes into some extensive detail on certain fields, so that you get a good overview of, say, Gothic architecture. However, by its nature, don't expect it to be an answer book. It can guide you and remind you, but it's not a course in architecture.

I love this book! My textbook can be unclear on certain architectural elements and I can almost always count on this book to give me a definition and a drawing. If you are looking for colored pictures this isn't the right book for you but if you need some great reference material this is a great book.

I've only spent a little time with this book and it's already one of my favorite purchases, I originally expected it to just contain styles of entire buildings but no this book has so many details and hints on what I can imagine is almost every facet of architecture. True to its name it really is a pictorial encyclopedia of historic architecture going way into details.

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