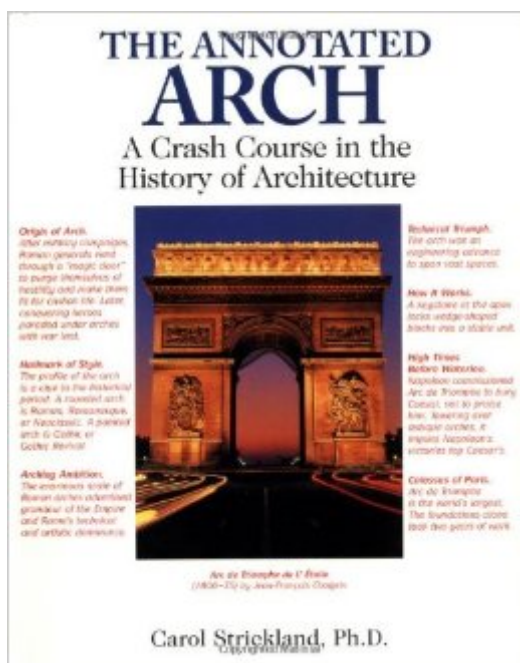


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The Annotated Arch: A Crash Course In The History Of Architecture



Synopsis

The Annotated Arch takes architectural history out of the realm of dreary textbooks into a world of dynamic design, succinct page-length essays and instructive sidebars. These graphic devices heighten the reader's ability to retain an impressive amount of information, even through a cursory reading. Incorporating more than 250 illustrations, The Annotated Arch draws on the very elements of architecture to craft a visual and textual approach to the subject that no ordinary textbook could match. A brief run-through of the book's captions and sidebars provides a mini crash course in the history of architecture. From Stonehenge to the Eiffel Tower, from Filippo Brunelleschi to Frank Lloyd Wright, the language of architecture is clarified in five sections. Everything you always wanted to know about architecture is all right here in The Annotated Arch, which covers architectural wonders from the Stone Age to the Space Age. Presented in a reader-friendly format, this new book enlightens, entertains, and informs with its lively look at architecture. What's the difference between Doric, Corinthian, and Ionic? Within the 192 illustrated pages of The Annotated Arch, readers will learn all about these distinctive styles--and more. From engineering breakthroughs to cultural history, from biographical anecdotes to analyses of corresponding and clashing styles The Annotated Arch covers all the architectural bases. The book breaks new ground with excerpts from interviews conducted by the author with leading contemporary architects. This new Annotated book follows Carol Strickland's first volume on art history, The Annotated Mona Lisa. Peppared with sidebars, The Annotated Arch will appeal to anyone who loves architecture or who simply wants to learn more about it in a painless, enjoyable way. It's a great, educational read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is jam-packed with information, presented in a fascinating, readable manner. The introductory chapter explains the elements of architecture which helps the reader appreciate the extraordinary buildings humans have created through the ages. The chronological progression of the rest of the book's chapters highlights major trends and developments in building styles and materials, demystifying the origins of many of today's structures. The book is just as easy to read straight through, as it zooms along through the history of architecture "from the Stone Age to the Space Age," as it is to locate a topic of particular interest and to start there. The glossary and extensive index make it easy to quickly learn about any one subject, building, or architect, and the numerous sidebars and timelines help the reader understand the context in which a building was created. The beautiful pictures and interesting stories bring you right to the doorstep of humanity's greatest achievements. I highly recommend this book for anyone who has ever wondered why a building is considered special, and think it would be a terrific present as well. Enjoy!

As an Art History major, and a former Architectural student, I was skeptical when I found this book required for my study abroad course on French Art and Architecture. Generally, I've found that books attempting to cover basic knowledge on such a broad topic are somewhat lacking. However, after the first chapter or two, I was pleasantly surprised with how much information was packed into this entry level architecture manual and how few instances occurred in which I wanted to edit or add to the content. I would certainly suggest this book for entry level courses or course which only require general knowledge of Architecture.

The author's name on the cover of this book is followed by "PhD" as though that credential ensured the book's quality; it is an off-putting, abnormal bit of hubris to add "PhD" on the cover. In fact, the book is about as complete a survey of all architecture as can be accommodated in the allotted space. The overall history of architecture is well presented and illustrated, although the book suffers from the current popular trend in formatting -- text fragmented and distributed into little boxes rather than a coherent single-thread exposition. But the reason for my low rating is a lack of confidence in any particular fact, because of scattered statements that are just plain wrong. For instance, the Roman vomitorium, was NOT, as the author claims, a place to vomit after gorging. Rather it was an exit hall, particularly in a public building. We still might say in English that a crowd vomits forth from

a football game. The coincidence of spelling between vomit and vomitorium apparently misled the author. The emphasis on keystones is also misleading, at best. A keystone is no more 'key' than any other stone in an arch: none of the stones comprising an arch can be removed without bringing it down. It became traditional to decorate a keystone with carving, and the keystone is usually the last stone emplaced, but it has no more significance than that. And many arches have no highest central stone at all, instead having a vertical mortar joint at their exact center. So, if you hope to glean facts with which to regale fellow guests at cocktail parties, beware: the various factoids in this book may not be factual at all.

I am teaching Art History and AP Art History this year and this book is invaluable to my students and myself. The students do a seminar type class and this book has provided such a quick reference tool for them when they have one of the artworks to research and teach. The large oversized pages are excellent. This book, along with the Annotated Mona Lisa, are wonderful reviews before the AP test. I am so glad that I found this excellent quick reference tome.

Very good price and very prompt delivery. Needed this (and other books) for test prep. Came earlier than anticipated and gave me a little more lead time. Very pleased. Could have been packaged better. Box was sad but books (fortunately) were okay.

This book has a well explanation of the architecture periods thought time. I like the images, and the details give that helped me tell each style apart. The only thing I wish would had more details is the rococo period.

Bought this for an architecture class I took. It was the textbook and much cheaper here. Really a good introduction to a broad sweep of historical European based architecture. It was fun reading. Glad I have it for my library.

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