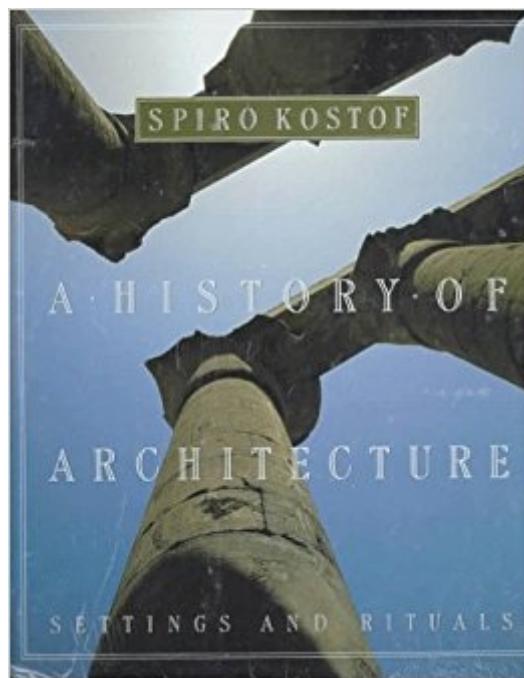


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A History Of Architecture: Settings And Rituals



Synopsis

When the late Spiro Kostof's *A History of Architecture* appeared in 1985, it was universally hailed as a masterpiece--one of the finest books on architecture ever written. The *New York Times Book Review*, in a front cover review, called it "a magnificent guided tour through mankind's architecture," and *The San Francisco Chronicle* wrote that "Kostof...has enthralled a generation of students.... Now he has done the same thing for the public at large, in an extraordinary book that is a new kind of architectural history." This magisterial work has now been revised and expanded by Greg Castillo, Kostof's colleague and literary executor. Insightful, engagingly written, and graced with almost a thousand superb illustrations, the Second Edition of this classic volume offers a sweeping narrative that examines architecture as it reflects the social, economic, and technological systems of human history. The scope of the book is astonishing. No mere survey of famous buildings, Kostof's History examines a surprisingly wide variety of manmade structures: prehistoric huts and the TVA, the pyramids at Giza and the Rome railway station, the ziggurat and the department store. Indeed, Kostof considered every building worthy of attention, every structure or shelter a potential source of insight, whether it be the prehistoric hunting camps at Terra Amata, or the caves at Lascaux with their magnificent paintings, or a twenty-story hotel on the Las Vegas strip. The Second Edition features a new concluding chapter, "Designing the Fin de SiÃƒÂ©cle," based on Kostof's last lecture notes and prepared by Castillo, as well as an all-new 16-page color section. Many of the original line drawings by Richard Tobias, as well as some 50 photographs, have also been updated or replaced, for improved clarity. Visually and intellectually stimulating, this book is at once a compelling history and an indispensable reference on all aspects of our built environment. It achieves for architecture what Janson's history accomplished for visual art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Very useful!"--Mosette G. Broderich, New York University "[Kostof's] challenging text is ultimately inspiring, richly rewarding, and at times brilliant."--School Library Journal

Pulls together the work of a multitude of scholars into a workable synthesis that will be of value to college students who are just becoming acquainted with the area of study...Kostof has achieved a synthesis of sound scholarship, up-to-date interpretation, and excellent analysis for which he and his publisher are to be congratulated. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

as someone who doesnt travel much i bought this to help me understand more about the world around me when it comes to world architecture. This book gives vivid pictures and explanations for influence style and location. Now i can read at home and feel like I am not missing out on what is going on a global scale

I was looking for an architecture history book which let me have the most complete sense of what an architecture history book must be. After searching which book was the proper to buy i ordered this one (also took the suggestion from my professor) When I got it and after having read half of it I can say I don't regret buying it. This book gives detailed information from a broad field like is architecture and urban planning in different places around the world and in specific periods of time that gives you a coherent idea of what history architecture is. As I said is such a broad field that you will need further reference so that you can be an expert in this matter, but it contributes a lot in achieving that.

I bought this book for my architectural history class and I was dreading having to read it, but after reading the first chapter I was absolutely amazed. The text is written in a very easy to read style and filled to the brim with interesting facts and pictures. The timelines are easy to follow but all in all this is a great book.

Used this book for an introductory architectural history class. Very enjoyable reading, as the author

associates form with cultural and even psychological factors. Buildings and structures discussed in the book range from the most famous to the most typical houses. Would recommend this book for not only those interested architecture, but also to those fascinated in learning more about other cultures and their ways of life. Great for travelers too.

I'm reading it. The quality looks great and it is cheaper than those in school's bookstore.

The book already had loose pages that would come out ,but other than that it's fine

It's great, I bought the book for around \$20 and it was in great condition!

A masterpiece by Richard Ingersoll.

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