

RESEARCHING BUILDINGS

KAPPE LIBRARY GUIDE no. 23

The *Kappe Library Guides* identify general resources on broad topics to help researchers begin their work. Individual projects and practitioners are avoided; guides, indexes and general introductions are preferred to specialized works.

Book citations that include a call number can be found at the Kappe Library; other books are identified by author, title and date. Magazine articles are selected from the *Avery Index* and the *Art Index* databases; to identify which are available at the Kappe Library, see the *Periodicals In the Collection* reference.

Web versions of this and all other Guides are available at <http://www.sciarc.edu/v5/aboutarch/lrg.php> and <http://sciportal.sciarc.edu> Submit questions and suggestions to the library manager directly at kevin@sciarc.edu

IF YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING (A TYPICAL BEGINNING)

Starting with fragmentary data—a description, a location, a name—you want drawings (plans, sections, details), photographs, and critical analyses of your building.

What you want, in general, you will not find online; you need to locate them in books and magazines.

Your fragmentary data first needs to be confirmed and amplified; you need to determine basic building information:

THE PERSON	<i>Who designed it?</i>
THE PERIOD	<i>When? If it was built, when was it completed?</i>
THE PLACE	<i>If it was built, where is it?</i>

SEARCH THE AVERY DATABASE

Besides locating relevant magazine articles, the *Avery Index* citations provide basic building information such as designer name and location. Use multiple keywords to focus your search.

LOOK IN A COMPREHENSIVE ARCHITECTURAL REFERENCE

Banister-Fletcher's A History of Architecture, 19th ed., Reference-NA200.F63 1987
The Dictionary of Art, Reference-N31.D5 1996

IF YOU KNOW THE PERSON

LOOK FOR A MONOGRAPH

I.e. a comprehensive survey of one person's work. Use the library database to see if one exists. If you find one, don't just flip through it—use the index to find all the references to your building. If it has notes or bibliographies, use them to find further books and articles about your building.

SEARCH THE AVERY DATABASE

If there's no monograph on the designer, look for articles in magazines. Search using the designer's name plus another keyword descriptive of your building.

TYPICAL PROBLEM: DOCUMENTS WITHOUT A BUILDING

Many designs are significant in the history of architecture despite the fact that no building was ever built after them. And similarly, many historically significant structures that were built are no longer extant. For us, today, these buildings exist exclusively in the form of documents and present special problems in research. Be aware that the total body of documentation on such a building might consist of a single drawing, or a verbal description. This makes the task of interpretation and evaluation difficult. Search the indexes for the most recent critical discussions of the structure.

Similarly, it is necessary to maintain critical vigilance when ruins or other physical evidence for a built structure exists. Compare reconstructions critically. Don't rely on a single source, but consult a range of disciplines: anthropology, architectural history, archaeology, history.

IF YOU KNOW THE PERIOD

LOOK FOR A PERIOD SURVEY

I.e. a comprehensive discussion of the building's historical context. Use the library database to locate one. Use its index to find all the references to your building, and its notes or bibliographies to find additional books and articles.

RECOMMENDED PERIOD SURVEYS:

ALL PERIODS

Banister-Fletcher's a history of architecture, 20th ed., Reference-NA200.F63 1988

Spiro image database, http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/query_forms/browse_spiro_form.html

Trachtenberg, *Architecture from prehistory to postmodernism*, Reference-200.T7 1985

PREHISTORY

Bahn, *The Cambridge illustrated history of prehistoric art*, N5310.B34 1998

Cunliffe, *The Oxford illustrated prehistory of Europe*, GN-803 .O94 1994

THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

Lloyd, *Ancient architecture: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Crete, Greece*, NA-210 .M85 1986

Meyers, *The Oxford encyclopedia of archaeology in the Near East*, DS--56.O9 1996 vol.s 1-5

Frankfort, *The Art and architecture of the ancient Orient*, N5345.F7 1995

ANCIENT GREECE

Boardman, *The Oxford history of classical art*, N5610 .O84 1993

Boardman, *The Oxford history of the classical world*, DE--59.O94 1986

Lawrence, *Greek architecture*, NA-270.L36 1996

THE ROMAN WORLD

Boethius, *Etruscan and early Roman architecture*, NA-300.B63 1978

Strong, *Roman art*, N5760.S68

Ward-Perkins, *Roman imperial architecture*, NA-310.W34

EARLY CHRISTIAN & BYZANTINE EUROPE 200-600

Lowden, *Early Christian & Byzantine art*, N7832 .L563 1997

Mango, *Byzantine architecture*, NA-370.M36 1976

Stewart, *Early Christian and Romanesque architecture*, NA-200.S52

THE ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE 600-1400

Blair, *The Art and architecture of Islam 1250-1800*, N6260 .B56 1994

Robinson, *The Cambridge illustrated history of the Islamic world*, DS--35.63 .C35 1998

Eittinghausen, *The Art and architecture of Islam 650-1250*, N6260.E79 2001

EARLY MEDIEVAL & GOTHIC EUROPE 600-1400

Homes, *Oxford illustrated history of Medieval Europe*, D-102.O94 1988

Salman, *Medieval Architecture*, NA-350.S2

Toman, *Romanesque*, N6280.R64 1997

THE RENAISSANCE IN THE WEST 1400-1600

Heydenreich, *Architecture in Italy 1400-1500*, NA1115.H49 1996

Lotz, *Architecture in Italy 1500-1600*, NA1115.L666 1995

Murray, *Architecture of the Renaissance*, NA-510 .M87

THE BAROQUE & ROCOCO IN THE WEST

Harrison, *Art in theory 1648-1815*, Reference-N6490 .A78 2001

Norberg-Schultz, *Late Baroque and Rococo architecture*, NA-590.N63

Wittkower, *Art and architecture in Italy 1600-1750*, N6916.W5 1999 vol.s 1-3

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE WEST 1700-1800

Kalnen *Architecture in France in the 18th century*, NA1046.K35 1994

Middleton, *Neoclassical and 19th century architecture*, NA-600 .M513 1987

THE 19TH CENTURY

Drexler, *The Architecture of the Ecole des beaux-arts*, NA1047.5.E34 A69
Harrison, *Art In theory 1815-1900*, Reference- N6450.A779 1998
Hitchcock, *Architecture: nineteenth and twentieth centuries*, NA-642.H56 1977

EARLY TO MIDCENTURY MODERNISM 1939-1958

Arnason, *History of modern art: painting, sculpture, architecture, photography*, Reference-N6490 .A713 1998
Curtis, *Modern Architecture Since 1900*, 3rd ed., 1996
Frampton, *Modern Architecture: a critical history*, Reference-NA500.F75 1992

LATE MODERNISM TO THE PRESENT

Ghirardo, *Architecture after modernism*, NA-682.P67G49 1996
Hays, *Architecture theory since 1968*, Reference-NA680.A728 1998
Jencks, *The language of post-modern architecture*, NA-682.P67 J38 1991

IF YOU KNOW THE PLACE

LOOK FOR A GUIDEBOOK

If you know the location of a building use an architectural guidebook to determine who designed it and when it was built. If there is no architectural guidebook for the region, a try a good tourist guidebook. In the library stacks, architectural guidebooks for countries are shelved within the appropriate regional sections (NA730 to NA1900).

RECOMMENDED REGIONAL GUIDES & SURVEYS:

ALL PLACES

The Dictionary of Art, Reference-N--31.D5 1996 vol.s 1-34 (Especially good for non-Western cultures)
Oliver, *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World*, Reference-NA208.E53 1997 vol.s 1-3 (Superb)

AFRICA

Bourdier, *African spaces: designs for living in Upper Volta*, GT-377.U66 B68 1985

THE AMERICAS (CENTRAL & SOUTH, NORTH)

U.S. national, regional, state and municipal architectural guidebooks are shelved in the NA700 through NA735 section. Look for the *Buildings of the United States* series, which is systematically issuing especially comprehensive volumes on buildings of each state.
Bayon, *History of South American colonial art and architecture*, N6620 .B3913 1992
Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/>
Nabokov, *Native American architecture*, E--98.D9 N33 1989
National Historic Landmarks Database, <http://165.83.212.246/>
Smith, *The architecture of the United States*, NA-705 .S578

CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA

Bussagnati, *Oriental architecture 2*, NA1460.B8713 1989 v. 2
Payne, *The art and architecture of Japan*, N7350 .P3 1975
Watson, *The arts of China to a.d. 900*, N7343 .W38 1995

EUROPE

Pevsner, *An outline of European architecture*, NA-950.P4
Sachar, *An atlas of European architecture*, Reference-NA-950 .S2 1984

INDIA & SOUTHEAST ASIA

Bussagnati, *Oriental architecture 1*, NA1460.B8713 1989 v. 1
Harle, *Art and architecture of the Indian subcontinent*, N7301.H23 1994
Rawson, *The art of Southeast Asia*, N5877.A8 R3 1990

MIDEAST

Holod, *Architecture and community: building in the Islamic world today*, NA-380 .A71 1983

PACIFIC ISLAND

Caruana, *Aboriginal art*, N7401.C37 1993

Meyer, *Oceanic art*, N7410.M4 1995

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A.I.A. Los Angeles Chapter Directories, NA—55.L7A64 1981-4, 1999

Gebhard, *A guide to architecture in southern California*, Office-NA730.C2G4 1965

Los Angeles Times Historical Archive (Available at public libraries, currently covers 1881-1962)

Los Angeles Times online Archive (from 1985), <http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/latimes/search.html>

Moore, *City Observed: Los Angeles*, Reference-NA-735.L55 M66 1998

Winter & Gebhard, *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*, Office-NA-735.L55 G44 2003

Also see *Kappe Library Guide* #5, "Los Angeles" for regional histories

TYPICAL PROBLEM: A BUILDING WITHOUT DOCUMENTS

It is sad but true that most of the structures in this world are built, used, grow old and vanish without a single document remaining to note they ever were. Even famous landmarks can have surprisingly thin literatures. But if the architectural press is negligent, the forces of government and commerce are not.

For under-documented structures explore city government departments connected with building permits, planning, engineering and safety. Often they have copies of construction documents on file and other records that reveal a structure's history.

Sanborn Maps, <http://search3.webfeat.org/la.html> . The Sanborn corporation has documented buildings for insurance purposes for decades; they are the standard source of building footprint maps. You can download gif-format files of California Sanborns via this LA Public Library website. You need your library card i.d. number to access. For non-California Sanborns, , <http://www.edrnet.com/>

For under-documented structures explore city government departments connected with building permits, planning, engineering and safety. Often they have copies of construction documents on file and other records that reveal a structure's history. You'll need to know the street name and number, and perhaps the assessor's parcel number.

Los Angeles Building & Safety Records, http://www.lacity.org/LADBS/permits/bldg_permit_records.htm

Santa Monica Building & Safety, <http://pen.ci.santa-monica.ca.us/planning/buildingsafety/buildingcomm.html>

FINAL WARNING

PEOPLE & PLACES HAVE NAMES, BUT DO BUILDINGS?

Beware of building names. You may encounter a building referred to by the name of the designer, the name of the client, the name of the current owner, the name of a past owner, a nickname, etc. When researching your building, stick to more certainly-fixed names like those of the designer and the building's location.

[10/13/04]