

the ten books on architecture

The ten books on architecture have profoundly shaped the way architects, students, and enthusiasts understand and appreciate the built environment. These texts span centuries, offering insights into architectural theory, history, design principles, and technical expertise. Whether you're seeking foundational knowledge or contemporary perspectives, these books serve as essential references that deepen your appreciation of architecture's multifaceted nature. In this article, we explore ten of the most influential and enduring books on architecture, examining their significance, core themes, and contributions to the field.

1. "De Architectura" by Vitruvius

Overview

"De Architectura," written by the Roman architect Vitruvius around 15 BCE, is often regarded as the earliest and most comprehensive treatise on architecture. This seminal work laid the foundation for architectural theory and practice for centuries to come.

Core Themes

- The triad of Vitruvian principles: firmitas (strength), utilitas (function), and venustas (beauty)
- The importance of proportion and symmetry
- The role of architecture in society and civic life
- Technical aspects such as building materials, construction techniques, and engineering

Significance

Vitruvius's work influenced Renaissance architects like Leonardo da Vinci and Palladio. It remains a vital historical document, offering insight into classical architecture and the enduring principles of design.

2. "The Ten Books on Architecture" by Andrea

Palladio

Overview

Palladio's "The Four Books of Architecture" (also known as "I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura") is a Renaissance masterpiece that synthesizes classical principles with contemporary design ideas of the 16th century.

Core Themes

- The use of classical orders and proportions
- The planning of villas, palaces, and urban designs
- The importance of harmony and balance in architecture
- Practical guidelines for construction and aesthetics

Legacy

Palladio's treatise popularized classical architectural forms across Europe and America, influencing architects like Thomas Jefferson and the neoclassical movement.

3. "Towards a New Architecture" by Le Corbusier

Overview

Published in 1923, this influential book by Le Corbusier challenged traditional architectural aesthetics and introduced modernist ideas emphasizing function and innovation.

Core Themes

- The concept of the "machine for living"
- Use of new materials like reinforced concrete
- Emphasis on functionalism and efficiency
- The idea of architectural purity through simplicity and clean lines

Impact

Le Corbusier's ideas revolutionized 20th-century architecture, inspiring the International Style and modernist movements worldwide.

4. "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture" by Robert Venturi

Overview

First published in 1966, Venturi's book challenged the minimalist principles of modernism, advocating for complexity, ambiguity, and richness in architectural design.

Core Themes

- The importance of context and historical reference
- The value of ornamentation and symbolism
- The idea that "less is a bore" and embracing contradictions
- The complexity of urban life and architectural expression

Legacy

This book is considered a foundational text for postmodern architecture, encouraging architects to embrace diversity and layered meanings.

5. "The Architecture of the City" by Aldo Rossi

Overview

Published in 1966, Rossi's work emphasizes the importance of urban form and the collective memory embedded within city landscapes.

Core Themes

- The concept of the city as a repository of collective memory
- The significance of historical continuity
- The role of archetypes and typologies in urban design
- A critique of modernist urban planning

Influence

Rossi's ideas helped shape theories of urbanism and influenced architects seeking to integrate history and urban context into design.

6. "Learning from Las Vegas" by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour

Overview

Published in 1972, this book analyzes the architecture of commercial signage and strip malls, challenging traditional notions of aesthetic merit.

Core Themes

- The significance of vernacular and popular culture in architecture
- The idea that "the sign is a message"
- The democratization of architectural language
- The importance of understanding the environment's symbolism

Impact

It played a pivotal role in the development of postmodernism and challenged architects to reconsider the value of context and symbolism.

7. "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" by Jane Jacobs

Overview

Although not exclusively about architecture, Jacobs' 1961 book critically examines urban planning and its impact on city life.

Core Themes

- The importance of mixed-use development
- The role of street life and community

- The need for organic growth over top-down planning
- The concept of "eyes on the street" for safety

Legacy

Jacobs' ideas revolutionized urban planning, emphasizing human-scale design and community engagement, influencing architectural practices focused on livability.

8. "S,M,L,XL" by Rem Koolhaas and Bruce Mau

Overview

Published in 1995, this monumental book combines essays, projects, and reflections on architecture, urbanism, and culture.

Core Themes

- The complexity of modern architectural projects
- The relationship between architecture and global culture
- The importance of flexibility and scale
- The integration of architecture with societal trends

Significance

It exemplifies contemporary architectural thinking, blending theory and practice in a visually compelling format.

9. "The Poetics of Space" by Gaston Bachelard

Overview

First published in 1958, this philosophical work explores the emotional and poetic qualities of spaces.

Core Themes

- The intimate relationship between people and their environments
- The significance of small, personal spaces like corners, nests, and shells
- The poetic imagination in architectural experience
- The subjective perception of space

Contribution

Bachelard's insights deepen understanding of spatial experience beyond technical and aesthetic considerations, emphasizing the emotional dimension of architecture.

10. "The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses" by Juhani Pallasmaa

Overview

Published in 1996, this book advocates for a multi-sensory approach to architecture, emphasizing tactile, auditory, and olfactory experiences.

Core Themes

- The dominance of visual perception in architecture
- The importance of engaging all senses for holistic experience
- The role of materiality and craftsmanship
- Architecture as a sensory experience that influences well-being

Relevance

Pallasmaa's work encourages architects to design spaces that evoke emotional and embodied responses, fostering more meaningful human experiences.

Conclusion

The ten books on architecture outlined above represent a spectrum of thought—from classical principles to modernist innovations, from urban theory to sensory experience. Each has contributed uniquely to the evolution of architectural discourse, offering insights that continue to inspire and challenge practitioners and scholars alike. Whether rooted in history,

philosophy, or technical innovation, these texts underscore architecture's role as a vital cultural and social practice, shaping the environments in which we live, work, and dwell. Exploring these works provides a comprehensive foundation for understanding the profound complexity and enduring beauty of architecture.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the ten most influential books on architecture to read in 2024?

The ten influential books include 'Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture' by Robert Venturi, 'Towards a New Architecture' by Le Corbusier, 'Learning from Las Vegas' by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, 'The Death and Life of Great American Cities' by Jane Jacobs, 'The Timeless Way of Building' by Christopher Alexander, 'Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism' by Rudolf Wittkower, 'Delirious New York' by Rem Koolhaas, 'Theory of Architecture' by Nikos A. Salingaros, 'The Poetics of Space' by Gaston Bachelard, and 'Building Construction Illustrated' by Francis D.K. Ching.

How do these books influence contemporary architectural practice?

These books shape contemporary architecture by offering foundational theories, innovative design principles, and critical perspectives that inspire architects to rethink space, form, and function, fostering creativity and sustainable practices.

Are there any classic architecture books that remain relevant today?

Yes, classics like Le Corbusier's 'Towards a New Architecture,' Christopher Alexander's 'The Timeless Way of Building,' and Jane Jacobs' 'The Death and Life of Great American Cities' continue to be highly relevant for their enduring insights into design, urbanism, and human-centered architecture.

Which books on architecture focus on sustainable and eco-friendly design?

Key titles include 'Cradle to Cradle' by William McDonough and Michael Braungart, 'Design with Nature' by Ian McHarg, 'Sustainable Design: Ecology, Architecture, and Planning' by Daniel Williams, and 'Green Architecture' by T. R. Ramamurthy.

Can you recommend books that explore architectural history and theory?

Certainly, 'Architecture: A Visual History' by Jonathan Glancey, 'The Story of Architecture' by Jonathan Glancey, 'Architecture Theory: From the Renaissance to the Present' by Kenneth Frampton, and 'The Architecture of the City' by Aldo Rossi are excellent choices.

What are some recent publications on innovative architectural designs?

Recent notable publications include 'The Future of Architecture in 100 Buildings' by Marc Kushner, 'Designing Architecture' by Andrew Pressman, 'Architectural Innovation' by K. Michael Hays, and 'Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers, and the Quest for a New Utopia' by Anthony M. Townsend.

Additional Resources

The Ten Books on Architecture: A Deep Dive into the Foundations of Design, Theory, and Practice

Architecture, as both an art and a science, has fascinated humanity for millennia. The written record of its evolution offers invaluable insights into cultural shifts, technological advancements, and philosophical debates. Among the myriad texts that have shaped architectural discourse, ten stand out for their enduring influence, scholarly rigor, and capacity to inspire generations of architects, theorists, and enthusiasts alike. This article explores these ten seminal books, providing detailed analysis of their content, significance, and the legacy they continue to uphold.

1. "De Architectura" by Vitruvius

Historical Context and Significance

Often heralded as the earliest treatise on architecture, "De Architectura" was written around 15 BC by the Roman architect Vitruvius. This comprehensive work not only catalogs architectural principles but also intertwines philosophy, engineering, and aesthetics, reflecting the interconnected nature of Roman architecture.

Core Concepts and Influence

Vitruvius emphasizes the triad of *firmitas* (durability), *utilitas* (utility), and *venustas* (beauty) as the fundamental goals of architecture. His detailed descriptions of building materials, construction techniques, and urban planning have profoundly influenced Western architectural thought. Notably, Vitruvius's idea that architecture must be rooted in proportion and harmony remains central to architectural education.

Legacy and Modern Relevance

Despite its ancient origins, "De Architectura" continues to be a foundational text. Its principles underpin modern notions of sustainable design, structural integrity, and aesthetic harmony. The work also inspired Renaissance architects like Alberti and Palladio, illustrating its timeless relevance.

2. "The Ten Books on Architecture" by Leon Battista Alberti

Philosophy and Theoretical Foundations

Published in 1452, Alberti's treatise is a Renaissance masterpiece that synthesizes classical knowledge with humanist ideals. It advocates for architecture as a liberal art rooted in mathematics, proportion, and harmony.

Innovations and Key Ideas

Alberti emphasizes the importance of perspective, symmetry, and order. His discussions on the human scale and the relationship between architecture and the natural environment reflect an early understanding of contextual design. Moreover, he advocates for the architect's role as both artist and scientist, blending creativity with technical expertise.

Impact on Architectural Practice

Alberti's work democratized architectural knowledge, making it accessible beyond guilds and craftsmen. It also laid the groundwork for architectural theory during the Renaissance and influenced subsequent architects such as Palladio.

3. "Vers une architecture" by Le Corbusier

Modernist Ideals and Reform

Published in 1923, Le Corbusier's "Towards a New Architecture" (original French title: "Vers une architecture") is a rallying cry for modernist principles. It champions functionalism, the use of new materials like steel and glass, and the elimination of ornament.

Key Concepts and Innovations

Le Corbusier introduces the idea of the machine for living, emphasizing efficiency, open floor plans, and modularity. His famous five points of architecture—pilotis, free plan, ribbon windows, free facade, and roof gardens—became foundational elements of modern design.

Criticisms and Legacy

While revolutionary, Le Corbusier's ideas have faced criticism for their sometimes impersonal aesthetic and disregard for contextual richness. Nonetheless, his influence is undeniable, shaping skyscraper design, urban planning, and the International Style.

4. "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture" by Robert Venturi

Postmodernist Paradigm Shift

Published in 1966, Venturi's seminal work challenged the modernist dogma of simplicity and functionalism. Instead, it celebrated complexity, ambiguity, and historical references in architecture.

Core Principles

Venturi advocates for "both/and" rather than "either/or," emphasizing that architecture should reflect the multifaceted nature of human experience. He champions ornament, context, and symbolism—elements often eschewed by modernists.

Influence on Contemporary Architecture

This book is often credited with inaugurating postmodernism in architecture. It encouraged architects to embrace diversity, irony, and cultural references, leading to a more pluralistic architectural landscape.

5. "Learning from Las Vegas" by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour

Reevaluating Signage and Commercial Architecture

Published in 1972, this book analyzed the architecture of Las Vegas, highlighting the importance of signs, consumer culture, and vernacular forms as legitimate architectural expressions.

Key Arguments

The authors argue that architecture should communicate clearly and serve societal functions. They challenge the elitism of modernist architecture, advocating for an understanding of architecture as a form of popular culture.

Impact on Design Philosophy

This work shifted architectural focus toward understanding and integrating cultural and commercial realities, influencing the rise of postmodern and contextual architecture.

6. "Architecture: Form, Space, and Order" by Francis D.K. Ching

Educational and Visual Approach

First published in 1979, Ching's book is renowned for its clear diagrams, sketches, and accessible language. It serves as a fundamental textbook for students learning architectural fundamentals.

Content and Structure

The book systematically explores architectural elements such as form, space, scale, and proportion. Its visual approach helps readers grasp complex spatial concepts intuitively.

Significance in Architectural Education

"Architecture: Form, Space, and Order" remains a staple in architecture schools worldwide, bridging technical understanding with aesthetic appreciation.

7. "The Poetics of Space" by Gaston Bachelard

Philosophical Reflection on Space

Published in 1958, this philosophical work delves into the phenomenology of space, focusing on how humans experience and imbue spaces with meaning.

Themes and Insights

Bachelard explores intimate spaces—nests, cellars, attics—and emphasizes that architecture is not merely functional but also poetic. His reflections highlight the emotional and subconscious relationships people have with their environments.

Relevance to Contemporary Design

This book encourages architects to consider psychological and emotional dimensions, fostering designs that resonate deeply with users.

8. "Delirious New York" by Rem Koolhaas

Urbanism and Architectural Innovation

Published in 1978, Koolhaas's book is a cultural history of New York City, examining how the city's unique urban fabric fosters creativity and architectural experimentation.

Core Ideas

Koolhaas discusses the concept of "programmatic chaos" and how the city's density and diversity generate innovative architectural solutions. He champions the idea that cities are laboratories for architectural ideas and societal evolution.

Impact on Urban Theory

This work has influenced urban planning, emphasizing adaptability, density, and the importance of context in architectural design.

9. "The Deadly Sins of Architecture" by Christopher W. Pettit

Critical Examination of Architectural Failings

Published in 2009, this book critically analyzes common pitfalls—such as excess ornamentation, superficiality, or neglect of context—that compromise architectural integrity.

Lessons and Reflections

Pettit advocates for humility, responsibility, and ethical practice in architecture. His critique encourages professionals to reflect on the social and environmental impacts of their work.

Modern-Day Relevance

In an era of climate change and social consciousness, this book serves as a reminder of architecture's societal responsibilities.

10. "The Nature of Order" by Christopher Alexander

Holistic Approach to Design

Published in four volumes between 2001 and 2004, Alexander's magnum opus explores the idea that architecture should be a living, organic process rooted in natural patterns.

Core Concepts

He introduces the concept of "wholeness" and "center," emphasizing that successful design arises from understanding and working with natural order and human needs.

Legacy and Contemporary Impact

Alexander's ideas have influenced sustainable design, biomimicry, and the development of pattern languages, inspiring architects to pursue more humane, harmonious environments.

Conclusion: An Ongoing Dialogue

The selected ten books represent a spectrum of architectural thought—from classical principles to modernist innovation, and postmodern critique to holistic design philosophies. Together, they form a rich tapestry that continues to inform, challenge, and inspire contemporary architecture. Whether one is an academic, practitioner, or enthusiast, engaging with these texts offers a profound understanding of architecture's evolving narrative, its cultural significance, and its potential to shape future societies. As architecture remains a vital reflection of human values, these books serve as guiding lights in navigating the complex interplay of form, function, and meaning.

[The Ten Books On Architecture](#)

the ten books on architecture: Vitruvius: 'Ten Books on Architecture' Vitruvius, 2001-01-15
The only full treatise on architecture and its related arts to survive from classical antiquity, the *De Architectura libri decem* (Ten Books on Architecture) is the single most important work of architectural history in the Western world, having shaped humanist architecture and the image of the architect from the Renaissance to the present. This new, critical edition of Vitruvius' Ten Books of Architecture is the first to be published for an English-language audience in more than half a century. Expressing the range of Vitruvius' style, the translation, along with the critical commentary and illustrations, aims to shape a new image of the Vitruvius who emerges as an inventive and creative thinker, rather than the normative summarizer, as he was characterized in the Middle Ages

and Renaissance.

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius Pollio, 2022-05-28
Vitruvius Pollio's *The Ten Books on Architecture* stands as a seminal text in the canon of architectural literature, offering a comprehensive treatise that intricately weaves theory, philosophy, and practical guidance. Composed in the first century BC, this work reflects the literary style of classical rhetoric rife with detailed explanations and systematic organization. Vitruvius, addressing a Roman audience, elucidates design principles, the scientific foundations of architecture, and the essential relationship between human life and architectural forms, underscoring the importance of proportion and symmetry in the built environment. Vitruvius himself was an accomplished architect and engineer, likely influenced by the tumultuous political landscape of Ancient Rome and the intertwining of architecture with civic identity. His experiences in military engineering and observations of preceding Hellenistic styles informed his views on institutional and residential design, emphasizing functionality and aesthetic harmony. Vitruvius sought to codify architectural practices of his day, ensuring that knowledge would be preserved for future generations. Readers interested in architecture, engineering, or classical history will find *The Ten Books on Architecture* invaluable, as it not only serves as a manual for practitioners but also as a philosophical exploration of space-making. Its enduring principles resonate across the centuries, providing insights into the essential elements of design, thereby securing its place as a cornerstone text that remains relevant in contemporary discourse on architecture.

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius Pollio, 2018-09-10
The Ten Books on Architecture by Vitruvius Pollio. *De architectura* (On architecture, published as Ten Books on Architecture) is a treatise on architecture written by the Roman architect and military engineer Marcus Vitruvius Pollio and dedicated to his patron, the emperor Caesar Augustus, as a guide for building projects. As the only treatise on architecture to survive from antiquity, it has been regarded since the Renaissance as the first book on architectural theory, as well as a major source on the canon of classical architecture. While your divine intelligence and will, Imperator Caesar, were engaged in acquiring the right to command the world, and while your fellow citizens, when all their enemies had been laid low by your invincible valour, were glorying in your triumph and victory, -while all foreign nations were in subjection awaiting your beck and call, and the Roman people and senate, released from their alarm, were beginning to be guided by your most noble conceptions and policies, I hardly dared, in view of your serious employments, to publish my writings and long considered ideas on architecture, for fear of subjecting myself to your displeasure by an unseasonable interruption

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture (1914) Vitruvius, 2009-08 This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original. Due to its age, it may contain imperfections such as marks, notations, marginalia and flawed pages. Because we believe this work is culturally important, we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting, preserving, and promoting the world's literature in affordable, high quality, modern editions that are true to the original work.

the ten books on architecture: Vitruvius, the Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius Pollio, 1914

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius Pollio, 2019-11-19
In 'The Ten Books on Architecture,' Vitruvius Pollio meticulously explores the principles of architecture, intertwining practical knowledge with philosophical insights. This seminal work is notable for its structured approach, dividing its teachings into ten distinct books that cover topics ranging from materials and construction techniques to the ideal proportions and aesthetic considerations of buildings. Written in the 1st century BCE, Vitruvius's treatise stands out not only for its technical rigor but also for its literary elegance, embodying the classical spirit of Roman thought that valued knowledge, utility, and beauty in harmonious proportions. Vitruvius, a Roman architect and engineer, drew upon his extensive experience in military and civil engineering, offering a unique perspective that reflects the challenges and innovations of his time. His

background in architecture, combined with the broader cultural milieu of the Roman Republic, informed his belief in architecture as a reflection of moral and civic values. This confluence of theory and practice is a testament to Vitruvius's commitment to elevating the field of architecture into a respected discipline. I wholeheartedly recommend 'The Ten Books on Architecture' not only to students and practitioners in the field but also to anyone interested in the enduring principles of design and harmony. Vitruvius's timeless insights continue to resonate, making this work essential reading for understanding the foundations of Western architecture.

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Morris H. Morgan, Vitruvius Pollio, 2019-07-03 Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, a Roman architect and engineer flourishing in the first century B.C., was the author of the oldest and most influential work on architecture in existence. For hundreds of years, the specific instructions he gave in his Ten Books on Architecture were followed faithfully, and major buildings in all parts of the world reveal the widespread influence of his precepts.

the ten books on architecture: Vitruvius Vitruvius, 2014-08-07 This Is A New Release Of The Original 1914 Edition.

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius, 2021-04 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This is the first and most famous text in the history of western landscape architecture, architecture, engineering and town planning. In Roman times the architect was, from the word's Greek etymology, a 'chief technician'. The Ten Books' Contents list reveals that most aspects of engineering, including harbours, site planning, clocks, aqueducts, pumps and siege engines, come with the author's technical scope. Only a tiny proportion of these subjects come within the twenty-first century scope of 'architecture'. Vitruvius Pollio's treatise *De Architectura*, was written circa 27 BC and is the only book of its kind to survive from antiquity. These online extracts from Vitruvius comprise the first Book and his comments on what we would now classify as garden design.

the ten books on architecture: Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius Pollio, 2019-12-20 Ten Books on Architecture, or *De Architectura*, by Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, is the most complete treatise on the subject of architecture to survive from antiquity and has influenced the construction and design of major buildings since the Renaissance. Vitruvius lived during the first century BC and was an important architect, as well as a civil and military engineer, in the Roman Empire. Vitruvius dedicated this work to his patron, the emperor Caesar Augustus, and included information on both Roman and Greek buildings, detailed directions on how to build military camps, his theories on city planning, and guidance on how to construct large public structures, such as aqueducts, public baths, harbors, and buildings, as well as small, more personal items, such as measuring devices and instruments. Ten Books on Architecture is not only an excellent historical reference into ancient construction methods and aesthetics but also a manual providing direction and wisdom that can be applied to architecture today. Students of both classic and modern architecture and engineering will find much of interest in this fully illustrated reproduction of the 1914 edition translated by Morris Hicky Morgan. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper.

the ten books on architecture: Vitruvius: 'Ten Books on Architecture' Vitruvius, 1999-06-28 For the first time in more than half a century, Vitruvius' Ten Books on Architecture is being published in English. The only full treatise on architecture and its related arts to survive from classical antiquity, the *Architecture libri decem* (Ten Books on Architecture) is the single most important work of architectural history in the Western world, having shaped architecture and the image of the architect from the Renaissance to the present. Demonstrating the range of Vitruvius' style, this new edition includes examples from archaeological sites discovered since World War II and not previously published in English language translations. Rowland's new translation and Howe's critical commentary and illustrations provide a new image of Vitruvius, who emerges as an inventive and creative thinker, rather than the normative summarizer, as he was characterized in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Ingrid D. Rowland is an associate professor of Art History at the

University of Chicago. Thomas Noble Howe is a professor in the Department of Art at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

the ten books on architecture: *Vitruvius* Vitruvius, Morris Hicky Morgan, 2022-07-27 2022 Reprint of the 1914 Edition. Includes illustrations. Exact facsimile of the original edition and not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. Translated by Morris Hicky Morgan; with illustrations and original designs prepared under the direction of Herbert Langford Warren. Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, a Roman architect and engineer flourishing in the first century B.C., was the author of the oldest and most influential work on architecture in existence. For hundreds of years, the specific instructions he gave in his Ten Books on Architecture were followed faithfully, and major buildings in all parts of the world reveal the widespread influence of his precepts. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, he was the chief authority studied by architects, and in every point his precepts were accepted as final. Bramante, Michelangelo, Palladio, Vignola, and earlier were careful students of the work of Vitruvius. His book is thus one of those rare works that have been supremely important in the creation of the greatest art masterpieces. Vitruvius describes the classic principles of symmetry, harmony, and proportion in architecture; the design of the treasury, prison, senate house, baths, forum, and temples; the construction of the theater: its site, foundations, and acoustics; the proper style and proportion for private dwellings; the differences between the Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian styles; methods of giving durability and beauty to polished finishings; and many other topics. It is a direct, authoritative, and detailed introduction to the ancients' methods of construction, the materials of the architect, and the prevailing aesthetic beliefs of the times; but it is also a work of art. Vitruvius wrote in such a fascinating manner, and digressed from his subject so often (as, for instance, when he wrote about the winds, Archimedes in his bath, and why authors should receive awards and honors at least as often as athletes), that his book has had a continuing appeal to the general reader for many centuries. Besides being an instructive treatise on nearly everything connected with Roman and Greek architecture, it is an entertaining description of some aspects of the life and beliefs of the times. This edition is the standard English translation, prepared over a period of several years by Professor M. H. Morgan of Harvard University.

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius Pollio, Morris Hicky Morgan, Herbert Langford Warren, Nelson Robinson, 2013-09-29 The Ten Books on Architecture Complete New Student Edition By Vitruvius Pollio Marcus Vitruvius Pollio (born c. 80-70 BC, died after c. 15 BC) was a Roman author, architect, and engineer during the 1st century BC perhaps best known for his multi-volume work entitled *De Architectura*. By his own description Vitruvius served as a ballista (artilleryman), the third class of arms in the military offices. He likely served as chief of the ballista (senior officer of artillery) in charge of doctores ballistarum (artillery experts) and libratores who actually operated the machines. Little is known about Vitruvius' life. Most inferences about him are extracted from his only surviving work *De Architectura*. His first name Marcus and his cognomen Pollio are uncertain. He was possibly a praefectus fabrum during military service or praefect architectus armamentarius of the apparitor status group. During the last years of his life, Professor Morgan had devoted much time and energy to the preparation of a translation of Vitruvius, which he proposed to supplement with a revised text, illustrations, and notes. He had completed the translation, with the exception of the last four chapters of the tenth book, and had discussed, with Professor Warren, the illustrations intended for the first six books of the work; the notes had not been arranged or completed, though many of them were outlined in the manuscript, or the intention to insert them indicated. The several books of the translation, so far as it was completed, had been read to a little group of friends, consisting of Professors Sheldon and Kittredge, and myself, and had received our criticism, which had, at times, been utilized in the revision of the work. After the death of Professor Morgan, in spite of my obvious incompetency from a technical point of view, I undertook, at the request of his family, to complete the translation, and to see the book through the press. I must, therefore, assume entire responsibility for the translation of the tenth book, beginning with chapter thirteen, and further responsibility for necessary changes made by me in the earlier part of the translation, changes which, in no case, affect any theory held by Professor Morgan, but

which involve mainly the adoption of simpler forms of statement, or the correction of obvious oversights.

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture (Large Print) Vitruvius Pollio, 2013-01-23 The Ten Books on Architecture is Vitruvius Pollio's classic work on architecture.

the ten books on architecture: Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius, 2019-12-25 The architect should be equipped with knowledge of many branches of study and varied kinds of learning, for it is by his judgement that all work done by the other arts is put to test. This knowledge is the child of practice and theory. Practice is the continuous and regular exercise of employment where manual work is done with any necessary material according to the design of a drawing. Theory, on the other hand, is the ability to demonstrate and explain the productions of dexterity on the principles of proportion. 1. While your divine intelligence and will, Imperator Caesar, were engaged in acquiring the right to command the world, and while your fellow citizens, when all their enemies had been laid low by your invincible valour, were glorying in your triumph and victory, --while all foreign nations were in subjection awaiting your beck and call, and the Roman people and senate, released from their alarm, were beginning to be guided by your most noble conceptions and policies, I hardly dared, in view of your serious employments, to publish my writings and long considered ideas on architecture, for fear of subjecting myself to your displeasure by an unseasonable interruption. 2. But when I saw that you were giving your attention not only to the welfare of society in general and to the establishment of public order, but also to the providing of public buildings intended for utilitarian purposes, so that not only should the State have been enriched with provinces by your means, but that the greatness of its power might likewise be attended with distinguished authority in its public buildings, I thought that I ought to take the first opportunity to lay before you my writings on this theme. For in the first place it was this subject which made me known to your father, to whom I was devoted on account of his great qualities. After the council of heaven gave him a place in the dwellings of immortal life and transferred your father's power to your hands, my devotion continuing unchanged as I remembered him inclined me to support you. And so with Marcus Aurelius, Publius Minidius, and Gnaeus Cornelius, I was ready to supply and repair ballistae, scorpiones, and other artillery, and I have received rewards for good service with them. After your first bestowal of these upon me, you continued to renew them on the recommendation of your sister. 3. Owing to this favour I need have no fear of want to the end of my life, and being thus laid under obligation I began to write this work for you, because I saw that you have built and are now building extensively, and that in future also you will take care that our public and private buildings shall be worthy to go down to posterity by the side of your other splendid achievements. I have drawn up definite rules to enable you, by observing them, to have personal knowledge of the quality both of existing buildings and of those which are yet to be constructed. For in the following books I have disclosed all the principles of the art.

the ten books on architecture: Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius, 2016-01-02 Ten Books on Architecture from Vitruvius. Marcus Vitruvius Pollio was a Roman writer, architect and engineer (70s BCE-c/15 BCE).

the ten books on architecture: The Ten Books on Architecture Vitruvius, 1960

the ten books on architecture: Vitruvius Vitruvius, 2021-01-20 De Architectura, also known as On Architecture or Ten Books on Architecture, is considered the first book on architectural theory and a major source on the canon of classical architecture as it is the only treatise on architecture to survive from antiquity. It was written by the Roman architect and military engineer Marcus Vitruvius Pollio and dedicated to the emperor Caesar Augustus, as a guide for building projects. It contains a variety of information on Greek and Roman buildings, as well as prescriptions for the planning and design of military camps, cities, and structures both large (aqueducts, buildings, baths, harbours) and small (machines, measuring devices, instruments). Vitruvius: De Architectura (Ten Books on Architecture) is organised in 10 books: Town planning, architecture or civil engineering in general, and the qualifications required of an architect or the civil engineer Building materials Temples and the orders of architecture (includes the section on body proportions that led to da Vinci's drawing)

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