Richard Welsh Library at the NewSchool of Architecture and Design

Library Research Guide

Architectural Resources

This guide provides students in the architecture programs as NewSchool of Architecture and Design information on both reference and circulating materials, as well as links to useful online resources. These resources should prove useful in beginning design and architectural coursework and for research on projects likely to be encountered within the studies of the first years.

Quick References

For quick descriptions and examinations of single topics or definitions of unfamiliar concepts, encyclopedias and dictionaries are excellent sources of information. These contain short entries on terminology, styles, movements, and significant buildings. For more detailed analysis, however, additional sources should be consulted.


This four-volume encyclopedia is an excellent initial resource for gaining a better grasp of concepts within architecture and architectural theory. It is also useful for locating projects by

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individual architects for further research, or for identifying the architect responsible for a project.

Located in Reference: REF 724.603 ENC


This 3-volume dictionary is one of the most exhaustive explorations of architectural terminology. Although published in 1902, it remains an excellent reference for descriptions of classical and well-founded terminology within the field from both a western and global perspective. It contains thousands of woodcut illustrations clearly exemplifying classic features and building types, as well as plans for significant structures and building types.

Located in Reference: REF 720.3 STU


Much of modern architectural discussion is laden with jargon and specialized usage of common words. Archispeak is particularly useful for clarifying newer terms emerging in modern architecture and includes drawings for better illustration of these concepts.

Located in Reference: REF 720.3 POR


Ching’s book provides exploration of many topics and terminology within the fields of architectural history, design, and construction. Each entry is arranged by gathering multiple related concepts and illustrating them with excellent line drawings that draw attention to particular architectural features. This topical arrangement is incredibly useful for students familiarizing themselves with basic architectural and historical details.

Located in Reference: REF 720.222 CHI

 Architectural History References

The history of art and architecture informs many of the design practices of architecture today. The books below represent general histories of art and architecture, as well as significant periods in the history of architectural design. Consultation of the indexes of each work can aid in locating detailed information on specific periods and movements in art and architecture.

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This book offers detailed description of over 10,000 years of architectural history. Excellent for overview material on specific structure types and architectural periods and modern movements. For vernacular and non-Western architecture, however, other sources will need to be consulted.

Located in the circulating shelves: **720.9 TRA 2002**


This book focuses on the individual architects and architectural movements of the 20th century. Heavily illustrated with photos and plans of major architectural projects, this book also contains excellent analysis of renowned works in architecture, discussing the qualities that give them architectural value.

Located in the circulating shelves: **724.6 CUR 1996**


Ching's history is one of the best examinations of significant historical buildings with a non-Western focus. It includes Asian, African, New World, and Islamic architectures organized on a time-line for a chronological presentation. Entries cover individual sites with analysis, drawings, and discussion which situate the building within its historical relationships.

Located in the circulating shelves: **720.9 CHI**


Much of architectural history has been influenced by movements in the other fine arts. Janson’s book presents a detailed history of art from the ancient world to postmodernism and contemporary theories of art. Connections are regularly drawn between movements in art and the related developments in architectural design.

Located in the circulating shelves: **709 JAN 1995**

Books with detailed coverage of specific periods in art and architectural history can also be searched in the ATHENA catalog using subject headings or keywords. Some useful subjects for searching might include: *Modernism, Postmodernism, Bauhaus, Neoclassical, Baroque, Rococo, Renaissance, Romanesque, Gothic, or Classical*. Searches can also be performed for architecture by country, e.g., *Architecture—Japan* or *Architecture—Russia*.

Architectural Theory

As with other works mentioned here, Ching's works present a very visual introduction at an elementary level. In this case, the basic theoretical concepts of architectural design are presented and illustrated in detailed line drawings to give students a more critical understanding of the basic visual elements and forms of architecture.

Located in Reference: 720.1 CHI 2007


Johnson's book is a very introductory text on the theory of architecture. It includes simple explanations of the basic themes and concepts of architectural theory, with coverage of social aspects, essences, aesthetics, and communication in architecture. Concepts are tied to key thinkers, although no original theoretical writings are included.

Located in the circulating shelves: 720.1 JOH


Kruft's survey of the history of architectural theory is much more in-depth and provides a very chronological arrangement, showing the historical development of theoretical ideas. Kruft's interpretations are closely tied to the ideas of significant theorists, and many drawings and photos illustrate the themes he discusses.

Located in the circulating shelves: 720.1 KRU


This book is a collection of original writings on architecture by major century philosophers and cultural theorists. The writings are arranged by topic and include discussion of modernism, phenomenology, structuralism, postmodernism, and post structuralism, ranging through the entire 20th century.

Located in the circulating shelves: 720.1 LEA

Theoretical writings on architecture may be located in several different areas depending on their focus, and will be arranged by Dewey Decimal number: 720.1 for general architectural theory, 720.92 for individual architects, or in the range from 722-724 for specific historical schools and styles.

**Architectural Drawing**

Many books are available instructing students in the techniques of architectural rendering and

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the graphical communication of structures and designs. The following books offer introductory presentations of the terminology, techniques, and types of architectural drawings as well as instruction in the perceptual aspects of drawing in architecture. Many other publications of more topic-specific focus may be found in the section at 720.284


Zell's book is a foundational textbook for architectural drawing. It explains the fundamentals of drawing with step-by-step descriptions, covering spatial visualization, sectional drawings, elevations, perspective drawings. This volume is very helpful in conceptualizing spaces for the rendering in drawings.

*Located on the Course Reserve shelf: RES 720.284 ZEL*


This book offers detailed discussion on the perceptual aspects of drawing forms, including contours, texture, and shadow instructing students in connecting perception, and rational principles to capture designs graphically. Cooper gives useful focus to the foundations of drawing and capturing the physical world, rather than the technical styles of architectural drawing.

*Located on the Course Reserve shelf: RES 720.284*


Ching introduces the foundational tools and techniques of drawing for the communication of architectural ideas. Beginning with basic explanations of the use of drawing tools, leads, scales and papers, discussion continues with exploration of the various types of drawings and their various purposes. Ching also includes drawing techniques for increasing the usefulness and visual appeal of these renderings.

*Located in Reference: REF 720.284 CHI 2003*


This book introduces architectural drawing from the standpoint of design thought. Discussion focuses on the methods for the graphic exploration of visual design to culminate in original architectural forms.

*Located in Reference: 720.284 YEE*

Wiley & Sons.

This book of standard details in architectural drawing includes 8,000 illustrations depicting common architectural details and standards of description in technical drawings. This will be very useful for students attempting to capture unfamiliar details in architectural renderings. Case studies also offer a unified perspective on the overall design and detailing process.

Located in Reference: REF 721.028 ARC 2007

Periodical Resources

Many instructors require students to investigate periodical resources for research papers and design projects. Periodicals are journals and magazines that are usually issued monthly or quarterly. Architectural periodicals often contain informational articles and discussions on very recent developments in the field or detailed discussions and analysis of new projects.

The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals

One of the most useful resources for locating articles on architectural topics is the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals. This database indexes articles in over 1,000 periodicals by author, title, and standardized subject topics in journals published 1860 to the present. Since the library pays an annual subscription for students to access the database, you will need to obtain a username and password from a librarian.

Strategies for searching The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals:
Penn State University offers a useful guide to searching this database at: http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/architecture/avery.html. The guide is also available as a downloadable pdf file.

The Art and Architecture Thesaurus
http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/aat/index.html

This is the standard vocabulary for searching The Avery Index. This searchable thesaurus can be explored to locate useful subject terms. The hierarchical displays of broader and narrower terms are also useful for finding search terms related to a topic of interest.

Magazines and Journal Highlights

Periodicals generally specialize in particular topics of material or in formats useful for particular purposes. The following journals are especially useful for the assignments in analyzing or rendering major architectural buildings that are likely to be encountered in first-year courses and studio projects.

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Articles can be located by searching the index databases described above.

If you would like assistance locating articles, please ASK A LIBRARIAN. We are here to help.

Architecture + Urbanism (A+U) (1985-present)

This is a very useful periodical resource for ideas for building design. This journal presents topical coverage of many newly completed or ongoing projects. The presentation typically includes architectural analysis, a large number of photographs—of both building interiors and exteriors, and useful plans and sections for understanding the layout and design of each building. Issues are typically devoted to a single topic in architectural design.

Located in Periodicals under Architecture + Urbanism

Detail (2007-present)

Detail also provides topical issues with highlights in architectural analysis, but this publication is slightly more focused on the engineering, materials, and constructional aspects of the designs. Each issue includes analysis, photos, and plans describing significant building projects.

Located in Periodicals under Detail

Architectural Review (1982-present)

This magazine is an excellent review of the cutting-edge trends in architecture with a global perspective. It also analyzes news events for their relation to architecture. Students should consider perusing this magazine regularly to stay abreast of new developments in the field. It also contains excellent photo illustrations and detailed plans and drawings.

Located in Periodicals under Architectural Review

El Croquis (volumes 44-current)

Probably the most detailed analyses of architectural design projects are available in this publication. Each issue is devoted to a single significant architect or architectural firm and discusses major designs throughout their career. Excellent photography and detailed drawings make this an excellent source for building analysis in architectural history and theory.

Located in Reference: REF 720.946 CRO


This reference work offers a well-arranged array of technical information for architectural design.
Specifications and criterion data on many aspects of design and construction are arranged for easy consultation. Checklists for design criteria assure technical completeness of major design projects.

Located in Reference: **REF 721 TIM 2005**


Need to know what rooms are included in a firehouse or how what units are included in a hospital? This reference is a comprehensive collection of specifications, programming requirements, and facilities needs for a wide variety of building and location types. It is incredibly useful for identifying what needs to be included in a given building project and drawings exemplifying building layouts by type.

Located in Reference: **REF 729.02 CHI 2001**

Useful Web Resources

There are many useful websites available through the Internet. However, since anyone can post information to the Web, one must be careful to pay attention to the authority of information presented there. The following websites have been vetted for the accuracy and authoritative nature of their coverage.

*The Great Buildings Project*

This is an excellent online resource for photographic images, architectural drawings, 3D models, and commentaries on 1,000 different significant buildings. Photos include many up-close images of architectural details, and entries often include bibliographic suggestions for further reading on buildings and their architects.

*ArchINFORM*

This database contains detailed information on over 21,000 built and unbuilt architectural projects with a strong focus on the 20th century. It is searchable by architect, building name, location and includes timelines of design and construction and lists of written references of discussions of each architectural work. While less visual than *The Great Buildings Project* above, it does include occasional external links to photos and models. It greatest utility is in locating written analysis of building projects.

*The Pritzker Architecture Prize*

The Pritzker Prize is the most prestigious award granted to a living architect.
architect for significant contributions to the built environment. This website offers details on the work of prize-winning architects of the past. Essays by architects, interviews and biographical information provide access to the thought of the most influential modern architects.

ArchNewsNow

ArchNewsNow is a daily newsletter available for free, and deliverable via email or RSS. Feature articles cover emerging designers, breaking news on international projects, and opinion and analysis by leaders in the field. It also covers conferences, competitions, and exhibitions pertinent to professional architects, designers, and students of these fields.

Exploring the Library Collection

Browsing books in the library shelves by call number can be a good way to locate other useful information. The call numbers listed below for general subjects areas can help to find the best locations for browsing topics in the Dewey Decimal System.

307-307.776 Community planning and urban design

709-709.99 Art history and art by country

712-719 Landscape Architecture

720.1-720.108 Architectural Theory

720.2-720.284 Architectural drawing and modeling

720.47-720.473 Architecture and the environment (sustainable or green architecture)

720.92 Individual architects grouped by architect's last name (e.g., Antoni Gaudi would be located under 720.92 GAU)

722-724 Architectural schools and styles

725-728 Architecture by building types: e.g., Museums, Hospitals, Airports

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