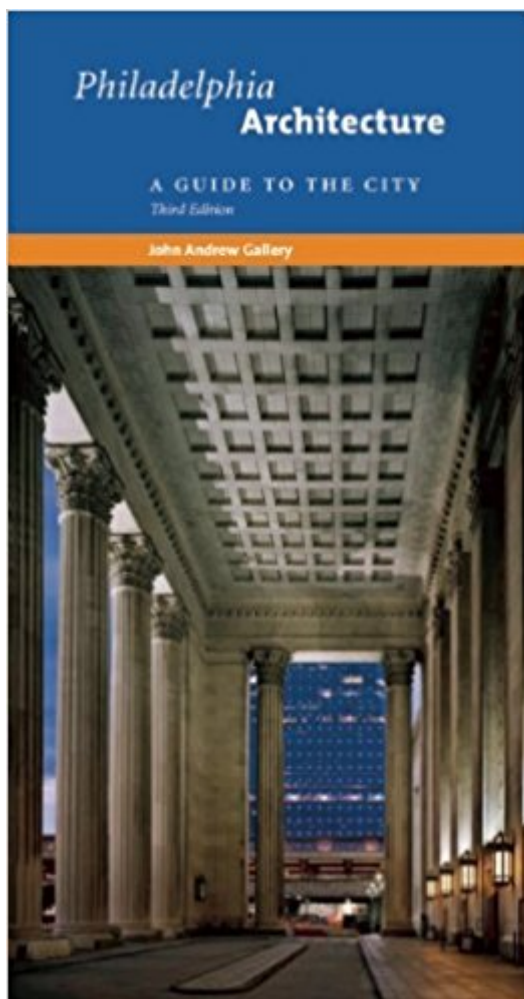


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# Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide To The City, Third Edition



## Synopsis

"The architectural heritage of over 300 years is visible on every street in every section of the city: Philadelphia is quite literally a museum of American architecture. Its 'collection' includes virtually every important style found throughout the United States." "From the Introduction Philadelphia Architecture" provides descriptions and photographs of over 400 of the city's important buildings. With seven walking tours, historical timelines, and short biographies of Philadelphia architects (including Frank Furness and Louis Kahn), the book will appeal to visitors, residents, and architecture enthusiasts. The core of the guide is a catalog of 250 buildings representing a broad range of building types and architectural styles. The building entries are divided into three chronological sections: 1682-1820; 1821-1900; 1900-1983. Each entry gives the name, date, location, and architect as well as information about the client, events related to the building, its use and major architectural features. The descriptions show how the buildings fit into the social and economic history of the city as well as how they relate to the evolution of architectural styles. Each chronological section is introduced by an essay which describes the physical, social, and economic growth of the city, thereby placing the buildings in a broader context. These essays are illustrated by maps and decorative arts representative of the period. There is an illustrated glossary of architectural terms and biographies of the most important Philadelphia architects. The guide also contains nine walking and driving tours with four-color maps of areas with significant concentrations of important buildings, and cross-referenced to the building entries. Places of interest in the city and region such as the Italian Market, Longwood Gardens, and The Philadelphia Zoo are highlighted. A reference section (places to get information about architecture, tours and the like) and an index conclude this handy, informative book. Philadelphia Architecture" is copublished with The Foundation for Architecture, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute for Architects. John Andrew Gallery has been a member of Philadelphia's community development and historic preservation community for close to fifty years. From 2002 to 2013, he was Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, where he advocated for the city's historic built environment. He is the author of The Planning of Center City Philadelphia: From William Penn to the Present and editor of Sacred Sites of Center City, both available from Paul Dry Books.

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## Customer Reviews

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in great condition

Bought this book as a Christmas present for my son, he really has enjoyed the book. He said that it deserved 5 stars. I was disappointed for the money that it wasn't a hard back

Great book for those who are tourist or non tourist and will like to learn about the history of Philadelphia.

I had this item pre-ordered for almost a year, and I'm glad I stuck it out and waited for its publication. Some things a prospective reader should know immediately: The product description information shown above is for the SECOND edition, while this lovely third edition is completely new and more chunky at 230 pages. Anyone familiar with the Sydney or Melbourne (Australia) architecture guides published by Watermark Press will instantly recognize this book's format, for it is essentially identical in layout. The book is arranged in chronological chapters, and features significant landmarks from the respective time periods. This is NOT a comprehensive survey of

Philadelphia architecture, but a selective survey of important historic and modern sites. There are about 250 entries, so only the most significant examples from each period are included. The most important sites (Independence Hall, Christ Church, Eastern State Penitentiary, City Hall) get more extensive treatment, with lovely color photographs and more detailed analytical essays. Otherwise the entries are short but exceptionally well done. The catalog of sites is neatly framed by both historical context and a section of recommended driving tours in the back. Also included is a chapter of architect biographies. It's beautifully done, and a fine exhibition of Philadelphia - a city with more important architectural sites than any other city in the United States except New York. So close in format is this book to the Guide to Sydney Architecture (Watermark Press) that it seems the publisher must have used that book as a model.

This is a very interesting and comprehensive guide to the architecture of Philadelphia. It provides good photos. Of special interest are the suggested routes one can take in the City to provide a well organized tour of multiple buildings of interest. We enjoyed the book so much that we purchased several copies and gave them as gifts. Everyone who received a book thus far has remarked on how much they have enjoyed it.

I'm glad that Philadelphia has a comprehensive guide to architecture that includes some walking tours, however I wish it was an AIA guide. The format just doesn't work for me as a guide to actually bring around the city. The way that AIA guides I own are organized works much better. This book goes through a chronological guide, then introduces walking tours at the end. The problem with this is that you then have to reference back far into the book to review information on buildings in the tour. The layout that works much better is to organize the book geographically with one or more walking tours for each geographical area at the beginning of each of those sections. It makes it much easier not only to use the book on the street, but to understand the geography of the city while doing so. While periods are important to architecture, that belongs more in a strict history tome than a guide. A guide needs to be easy to use on the street and this one just isn't. That said, I still like the information and tours included, however it would greatly benefit from a revised format that takes more after the AIA guides it mimics at least in shape and size.

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