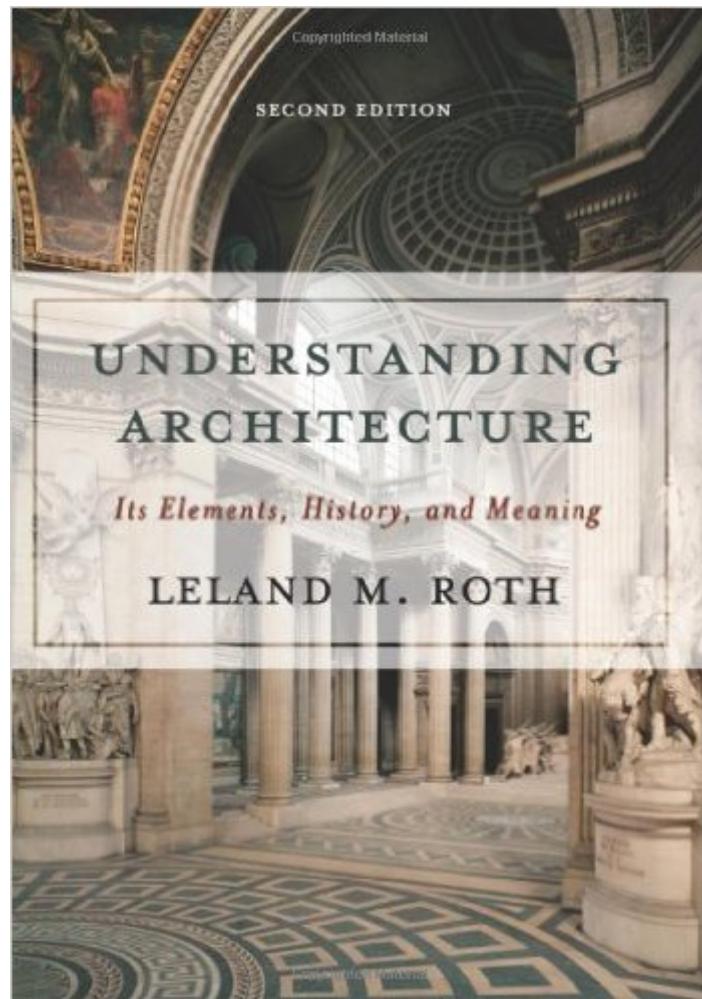


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# Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, And Meaning (Icon Editions)



## **Synopsis**

This best-selling, illustrated survey of Western architecture is now fully revised throughout, explaining the structure, function, history, and meaning of architecture in a way that is both accessible and engaging. The long-awaited second edition includes: new coverage on Postmodernism and its relationship to the Modernist era; a reorganization of Mesopotamian and Prehistoric architecture based on thematic lines of development; an expanded chapter on Medieval architecture, including developments from the end of the Roman Empire to the Renaissance; and an expanded art program that includes over 500 images in black and white and color. Understanding Architecture continues to be the only text in the field to examine architecture as a cultural phenomenon as well as an artistic and technological achievement with its straightforward, two-part structure: (1) The Elements of Architecture and (2) The History and Meaning of Architecture. Comprehensive, clearly written, affordable, and accessible, Understanding Architecture is a classic survey of Western architecture.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I'm a college instructor for beginning level Architecture Appreciation, and the Leland Roth book is an excellent choice to use for such a class. It is concise, informative and for the students, easy to read. Also, for their purposes, because the book is mostly black and white, it is rather cost efficient in an age of over-priced rip-off textbooks. The only problem with the book is that it can really stand to be

updated. There is no chapter about Deconstructivism or anything that followed, and the book ends with Mario Botta in 1993, which these days is antiquity already. Roth must know that his book is a gold standard for such a class. Knowing this, it is imperative that he revise it soon. It's too good of a product to stop 12 years ago.

This book is one of the seminal readings for architectural history, and the reason is that the contents are well-thought-out, well-researched, and interestingly written. That said, shouldn't such a book, one you'll keep a good long time as a reference, come with a binding that doesn't fall apart on the first open? Sumeria and Mesopotamia are ready to leap out of the spine. It's a real travesty and the publisher should be embarrassed. I'd have returned it if I didn't need it for a class. As for the contents, I'd say that Roth is a great scholar and writer. He's also done or reworked many of the very solid illustrations in the book, and the book is a good read as well as a good reference. You can pick up the thread anywhere and don't necessarily have to read in chronological order. Worth buying a copy (that doesn't fall apart in your hands.)

This is a very well written approach to the understanding of Architecture and Urbanism. In the first half of the book, Roth analyzes the basic concepts or "elements" that conform today's Architecture. The second half of this clear and readable text is dedicated to the investigation of the history and significance of Architecture. These enjoyable and didactic thirteen chapters are an excellent starting point for a journey into past and present Architecture

This is a fascinating look at the history of architecture and how to understand it, as the title says. A brilliant introduction to the field for those of us with knowledge only of what a cinder block is! I only wish that I lived in a bigger city so I could spot some of the architectural devices the author illustrates.

It was pretty much what I was expecting. The pages were written on (which isn't necessarily a bad thing) and the pages were worn, but, overall, exactly what I expected. It's a lot cheaper than the ones in the campus store. It works, it's not missing any pages, two thumbs up.

Excellent text of architectural history, with good information and explanations of each style in chronological order and lots of sections on examples and masters of each epoch. Lots of pictures of plans and sections! I only wish I had had it for the assignments I had to do last semester! I do wish it

had more color fotos instead of black and white. Like all architecture books, it's a little too expensive, but reasonable for the comparatives I found locally. Excellent book, Highly recommended for architecture students and enthusiasts alike.

Interesting but would be better with color pictures and if it included Asian architecture. I feel it could have included more architecture from around the world not just Western perspective.

This is an okay book. Lots of information and pictures. Good for intro to architecture.

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