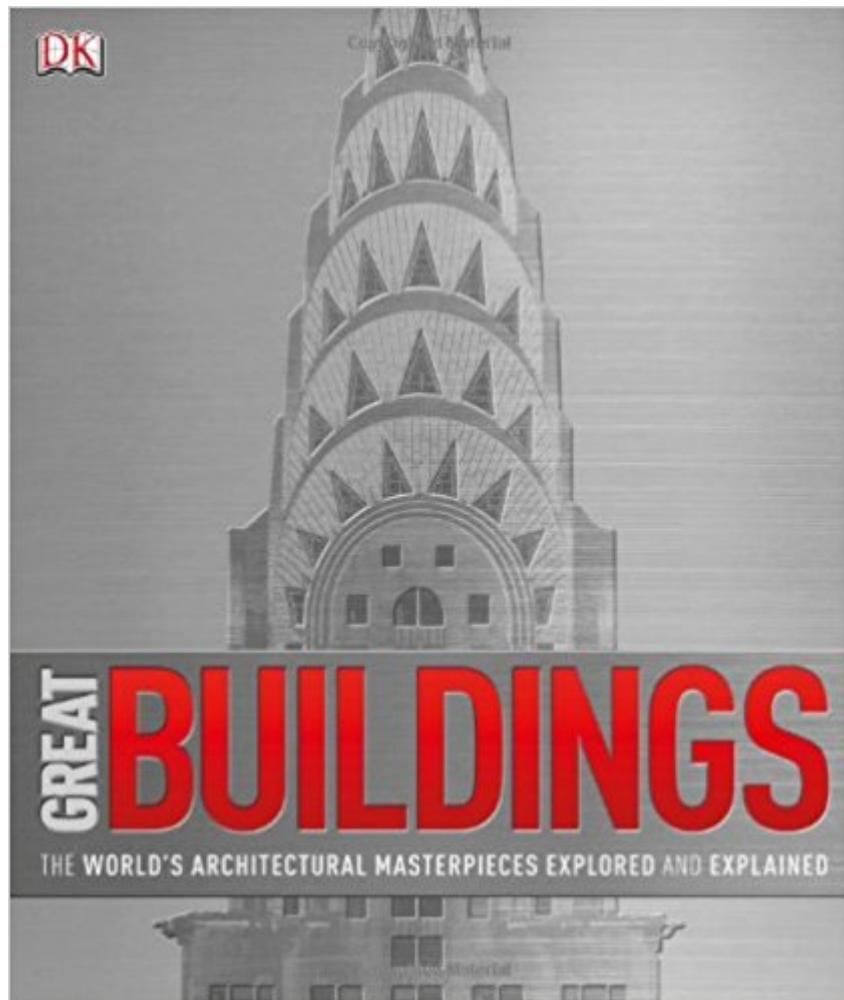


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# Great Buildings



## **Synopsis**

From the mysterious Great Pyramid of Egypt and Turkey's exquisite Hagia Sofia, to the splendid palace at Versailles and Frank Lloyd Wright's graceful Fallingwater in Pennsylvania, Great Buildings explores the world's most stunning buildings and other iconic architectural creations in fabulous visual tours. The history of each building is explained, from the commissioning to how they were built, and is supplemented with 3-D cutaway artworks and pullouts of the exterior, as well as key details of the interior. With features on prominent architects, construction and style, Great Buildings is a comprehensive and excellent introduction to architecture's greatest achievements.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ambitiously, this abundantly illustrated book sets out to describe great buildings from all times that survive today and that may be found throughout the world. The approach to each is systematic and includes an introduction, a map or a 3-D rendering locating the elements shown in the photographs provided and captions to each of these. For some buildings, the coverage is extended to six pages; for others, it is reduced to two. The overall organization is chronological from 2500 BCE to the present. The result is impressive in many ways:<sup>\*</sup> The buildings discussed include not only the most famous (the Great Pyramid, the Cathedral in Chartres, the Sydney Opera, etc.) but also many that are less known or unexpected: Borobudur, the Borgund Stave Church, Himeji Castle, etc.<sup>\*</sup>

Photographs often include interiors that are usually omitted from such works but that are certainly interesting both for large buildings such as the Brasilia Cathedral and for small ones such as Fallingwater or the Villa Savoye;<sup>\*</sup> The lay-out is systematic and well structured but includes enough variety to avoid monotony. Unfortunately, the editors have not succeeded in avoiding numerous

mistakes and misstatements that include the following:<sup>\*</sup> It is not true that 'Many later rulers also lived at Versailles' (page 147); in fact, the Palace was so closely associated with pre-Revolutionary times that none ever did.<sup>\*</sup> The caption to the photograph of the 'Cabinet de la pendule' describes it as the King's bedchamber (page 150).<sup>\*</sup> The gardens in Versailles may not 'be appreciated best from the royal bedchamber' as they lie to the West of the palace and the windows in the king's bedroom all face the rising sun to the East (page 149).

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