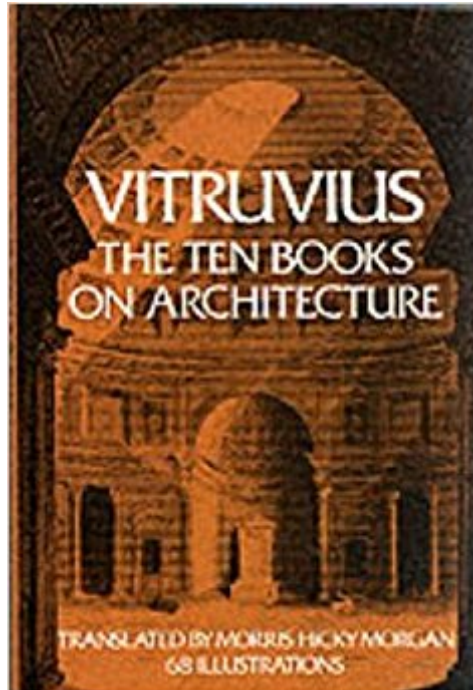


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Vitruvius: The Ten Books On Architecture (Bks. I-X)



Synopsis

The oldest and most influential book ever written on architecture, this volume served as a guide to Bramante, Michelangelo, Palladio, Vignola, and countless others. It describes the classic principles of symmetry, harmony, and proportion as well as the ancients' methods, materials, and aesthetics. Authoritative translation by a distinguished Harvard professor.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (45 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I like Homer, Herodotus, Thucydides, Plutarch, Tacitus, Gibbon, Mommsen and many other ancients and their (relatively) modern interpreters. But my latest read, recommended by Moses Finlay in "Ancient Economy", is Vitruvius. And I like Vitruvius a lot. The only reason I gave him 4 stars rather than 5, is that he is not the greatest, in the sense of the above-mentioned. Nevertheless, as far as knowledge and insight into ancient life go, at a level one removed from the "greats", Vitruvius is the greatest I've so far encountered. Not only does one gain a feeling for life among the educated and capable strivers of the time immediately following the Caesarian revolution, but also for the immense impact which Greek brilliance had upon the Romans. One also learns much about aesthetic theory and is given interesting and practical lessons in building and architecture, from the beginning and development of dwellings, the general learning required of architects, the particular characteristics of different types of stone and wood, the design of cities, the three orders of temple architecture (Doric, Ionic and Corinthian), dwelling houses, the sounding vessels in theatres (dolby surround as already implemented long before Christ) and ingenious machines, including such inventions as the screw-pump of Archimedes (the Syracusan Greek inventor). Vitruvius gives us the

general principles of ancient aesthetic theory, the exact proportions of traditional architectural conventions and the geometric rules for determining the directions of the eight known winds.

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