

The University of Maryland

School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

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Great Resources for Architecture Books

Books can be an architect's best friend. We use them to spark design ideas, to learn about different cultures, styles and architects and to explore different aspects of this diverse field. However, good architecture books can be difficult to find and can be quite expensive. Below are several sources for books - new, used, as well as hard-to-find.

1. Franz Bader Books:

1191 I Street, NW, Washington, DC
(202) 337-5440

Washington's only architecture book store is a locally owned and operated independent establishment. They have an excellent selection of monographs, style books, and periodicals. Titles cover architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and art.

2. Second Story Books Warehouse:

12160 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD
(301) 770-0477

Located off of Randolph Road near Rockville Pike, they have a large and eclectic selection of discounted architecture, urban design, and landscape books. All books are at least 20% less than they would be at other Second Story locations and substantially less than purchasing them new. Well worth a monthly visit.

3. Second Story Books:

4836 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda, MD
(301) 656-0170
2000 P Street Northwest, Washington, DC
(202) 659-8884

With locations in both Bethesda and Dupont Circle, this local "chain" of used book stores usually has a wide selection. History and theory books can usually be found at discounted prices.

4. AIA Bookstore:

1735 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC
(202) 626-7475

Located in the national offices of the American Institute of Architects, the AIA bookstore is a great resource for books or history, styles, architects and learning tools. A 10% discount is offered to AIA members on regularly priced items.

5. National Building Museum Store:

401 F Street, NW, Washington, DC
(202) 272-7706

Not only is the Building Museum a great resource for lectures and exhibits, they also have a very comprehensive selection of books in their Museum Store.

6. Idle Time Books:

2467 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC
(202) 232-4774

This used bookstore is located in the heart of Adams Morgan and is a great resource for "rare and medium rare" books in all genres.

7. National Main Street Center Bookstore:

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
(202) 588-6219

The National Main Street Center Bookstore, as well as the National Trust Online Bookstore (www.preservationbooks.org) offer a wide selection of literature on historic preservation and current issues and challenges in commercial district revitalization.

8. Prairie Avenue Bookstore:

www.pabook.com
(800) 474-2724

Prairie Avenue Bookshop is an independent bookstore in downtown Chicago serving those interested in architecture and design. Their website contains the majority of their collection.

9. www.bookfinder.com. This service references a wide variety of on-line book services for both new and used books. Almost everything you might ever want is here from new and used booksellers across the globe.

Be sure to check out these resources when you are having trouble finding the books you need or just to add to your personal architecture library. If you find any additional stores that are helpful please email us at lwaldrep@umd.edu so we can add to the list for next year.

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