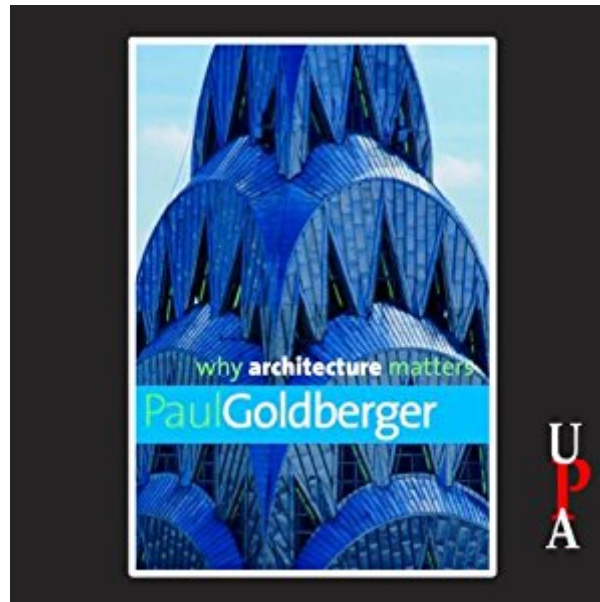




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Why Architecture Matters



Synopsis

Why Architecture Matters is not a work of architectural history or a guide to styles or an architectural dictionary, though it contains elements of all three. The purpose of Why Architecture Matters is to "come to grips with how things feel to us when we stand before them, with how architecture affects us emotionally as well as intellectually" - with its impact on our lives. "Architecture begins to matter," writes Paul Goldberger, "when it brings delight and sadness and perplexity and awe along with a roof over our heads." He shows us how that works in examples ranging from a small Cape Cod cottage to the "vast, flowing" Prairie houses of Frank Lloyd Wright, from the Lincoln Memorial to the highly sculptural Guggenheim Bilbao and the Church of Sant'Ivo in Rome, where "simple geometries... create a work of architecture that embraces the deepest complexities of human imagination." Based on decades of looking at buildings and thinking about how we experience them, the distinguished critic raises our awareness of fundamental things like proportion, scale, space, texture, materials, shapes, light, and memory. Upon completing this remarkable architectural journey, listeners will enjoy a wonderfully rewarding new way of seeing and experiencing every aspect of the built world. The book is published by Yale University Press.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours 5 minutes

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#365 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Criticism #576 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Architecture > Urban & Land Use Planning

Customer Reviews

bought it for an Architecture class, we all lost interest and stopped reading it, even the professor. Its not written by an architect, simply an architectural journalist. This doesn't mean his opinions are invalid but he was asked by Why X Matters to write this book, and it seems like he's just looking for

things to say. Each chapter repeats itself for about 40 pages, when he probably could have made his point in 10 pages.

Sensing a possible connection with some of my recent thoughts on the subject, I ordered a copy of *Why Architecture Matters* by Paul Goldberger. My radar was working perfectly. What I found was a gem of a book, written for those not necessarily possessing a degree in architecture yet somehow drawn to the world of buildings, that sharply brings into focus our relationship to those buildings - and, of course, why those buildings matter. Written with a passion for the things we build to give us shelter, deeply insightful, this important book gives coherent shape to previously scattered thoughts I've had regarding the value architecture has for us all. I highly recommend it to any of you who want to penetrate the veil of mystery surrounding the subject and reality of architecture and its vital relevance in our lives. Taken from my post at [...]

This discussion of the built world around us is thought-provoking but I felt it could have been better focused. In some sections I wondered just what the author was trying to say. Paul Goldberger left me with greater appreciation for the mundane: a reflection of changing times and outlooks as well as expressions of design. I enjoyed it.

The first half of the book is full of valuable critics, but the last part is too much about New York, not about the rest of US.

Awesome book!

excellent book, finds a balance between being intellectual and accessible, I recommend it for students of spatial/architectural design as it will help them frame their own critiques

I had worked with Architects for years on projects and wish I had been schooled on their impact much earlier. Very unbiased and easily understood for the layman.

This is a book for everybody, a book for citizens and politicians. A book for the architects clients , for patrons. I strongly suggest the editor to publish it in spanish and other global languages. Eugenio Aguinaga Architect (Madrid)

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