



The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond

Patrick Dillon , Stephen Biesty (Illustrations)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond

Patrick Dillon , Stephen Biesty (Illustrations)

The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond Patrick Dillon , Stephen Biesty (Illustrations)

Aspiring architects will be in their element! Explore this illustrated narrative history of buildings for young readers, an amazing construction in itself.

We spend most of our lives in buildings. We make our homes in them. We go to school in them. We work in them. But why and how did people start making buildings? How did they learn to make them stronger, bigger, and more comfortable? Why did they start to decorate them in different ways? From the pyramid erected so that an Egyptian pharaoh would last forever to the dramatic, machine-like Pompidou Center designed by two young architects, Patrick Dillon's stories of remarkable buildings — and the remarkable people who made them — celebrates the ingenuity of human creation. Stephen Biesty's extraordinarily detailed illustrations take us inside famous buildings throughout history and demonstrate just how these marvelous structures fit together.

The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond Details

Date : Published March 11th 2014 by Candlewick Press

ISBN : 9780763669904

Author : Patrick Dillon , Stephen Biesty (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 96 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Architecture, History, Art, Science, Childrens, Picture Books

 [Download The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydn ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond Patrick Dillon , Stephen Biesty (Illustrations)

From Reader Review The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond for online ebook

Chainzz Gregson says

Beautiful illustrations and a brilliant book about architecture. It's not very detailed but it takes you through the history of arcuate. Is defiantly a must if your interested in architecture or wish to get someone young in your life to appreciate buildings

Josiphine/Tessa says

I loved this. It had beautiful, detailed pictures and was very well-written. I read the whole thing in a day.

Gretchen says

The contents of this book live up exactly to the title and provided an excellent start to my year's exploration on cool stuff people built. Dillon thoroughly but accessibly tells the story of humanity through the buildings they have created in history. It is fascinating how mankind seems to innovate the technology needed to create the type of building they envision. The styles and achievements of different ages each contribute to the history, values, and functions of the buildings created and the people who built them.

Buildings from the pyramids to skyscrapers are addressed, described, and illustrated beautifully to see how they came together. The stories, the people, the materials, the goals--they all combine to create a unique perspective on history.

If you enjoy history (told broadly, so that you can see how eras connect), architecture, or art, you will find this book interesting. It looks like this book is targeted toward a junior high/high school level, but it is not juvenile, just accessible.

Mary Xin says

great !It's a good book for architects.

Peg says

Dillon delves into the history of architecture and buildings through a chronological look at the story behind significant buildings through the ages, starting with the pyramids through the Straw Bale House of the 21st Century. As soon as humans invented tools, they left their cave dwellings and built houses, developing features depending upon their habitat, wealth and eventually technological advances such as sewers, electricity, and elevators. The Industrial Revolution led to a need for new types of buildings like factories or

transportation terminals. Dillon's "story" includes homes, public buildings, and even a planned city. Biesty's signature softly colored pencil cross-sections bring these to life for the reader, through intriguingly detailed and labeled drawings of sixteen buildings, showing not only construction elements but also interior design and decoration. Dillon's emphasis is on European buildings of the past, leaving buildings by Wright and Pei and other more contemporary architects, mostly unmentioned. He concludes with a look to the future and the need to build buildings that will harm the earth less, in particular by using more renewable materials. There is no glossary, so readers may well struggle with some of the terms, such as apse, ambo, buttress, or plinth. There are also no source notes or suggestions for further reading. This is more a browsing than research book; Dillon and Biesty give the reader much to pore over and compare, thus opening the study of buildings to a new generation. Who knows what may result?

Pam says

What started as a preview for a student became one of my favorite finds this year. The book is now being foisted on the immediate family, as it is a feast for the eyes and mind. It is so much more than *The Story Of Buildings* - it is the story of us as creators and how we have shaped our world through buildings and progress. The illustrations are amazing and the story is phenomenal. The best broad brush of history ever; it could and should be the arc for all world history classes. LOVED IT! All libraries should own!

Akemi G. says

Beautiful well-detailed illustrations accompanied with good stories. However, it suffers from the same weakness many English-written history books have: it's Europe-centered and, even worse, the part about Asia has some errors, some quite serious.

For instance, on page 38-39, it discusses Angkor Wat, Cambodia, Palengue, Mexico, Islamic mosques, Kinkaku-ji, Japan, and the Forbidden City, China, all thrown in together, and regarding the Forbidden City, it says, "He built a whole city." Well, it was not a *city*--there was a whole lot of larger city outside of it. The Chinese character 城 can mean both castle/palace and city, and apparently, this has caused some confusion. (It also does acknowledge it is built in Beijing.)

It's also inappropriate to describe Kinkaku-ji (might be better known as the Golden Pavilion by Mishima's novel *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*), lined with gold panels, plain.

Still a great read that would open up the mind to history and/or architecture.

P.S. Rather than Kinkaku-ji, I would pick a tea house to showcase the Japanese way of harmony with nature. It's hard to decide which tea house would be the best example, but this wiki entry has a typical floor plan. You can see how small it is--it only sits a few people. It also has a photo of the guest entrance, which is so small that you have to humbly crawl in, and if you were a samurai, you'd have to take off your sword. (Yes, tea ceremony was a no-weapon occasion, and even though it was possible to hide weapon in your clothes, everyone honored the rule.) The thatched roof and plain plaster walls also show the appreciation of humility. It's the perfect antithesis to the western history of buildings that aimed to be bigger and taller.

A few other buildings that I think would have been great to be included:

* The Great Wall of China, the only man-made architecture visible from space

* The pagoda of Horyu-ji, the world's oldest wooden architecture, built in early 600s. Considering that the land is one of the most active epicenters around the Pacific Ocean, it's a wonder that the 122 feet tower still stands tall. I'm no architect, but I heard the central column is actually set in a way that allows shaking. So the tower shakes when an earthquake hits, but because it shakes with the ground, it doesn't collapse. An antithesis to the idea that stronger means more fixed.

Emily Andrus says

A seriously fantastic factual book for kids. On one hand, I think the (extremely!) detailed illustrations, fold out pages, informational tidbits, and timeline layout were really nice. Plus, I already seriously enjoy architecture. On the other hand--in a critical, adult sort of way--I wonder why they chose to focus on the buildings they did. And why they put in such a blatant, random plug at the end for energy efficient building. Overall, the first hand wins and I think this is a fantastic book.

Marie says

Incredible illustrations for building-enthusiasts of any age!

Christina Pilkington says

*4.5 stars

A gorgeously-illustrated hardcover book about the history of architecture from the beginning of history through present day. I was amazed at how much I learned while reading this book! Dillon does an excellent job of showing just how the ideas of architecture progressed throughout the ages, how ideas expanded and built on each other, and highlighted some of the most important architects of the ages.

Highly recommended.

Stuart says

The Story of Buildings is a gorgeous hardcover book that measures approximately 12" x 10". Picking it up for the first time, it looked a bit like a coffee table book for kids, which I guess it could be used as such. The book begins with a chapter on building a house. The author, Patrick Dillon, describes how people used to live in caves because it was the most logical shelter choice available, but eventually developed tools and learned how to make homes. According to him, this is the story of buildings. He then goes on to show how dwelling places have changed both over the years and depending on where one lived. After this other types of structures came into being, like barns, factories, places of worship, etc. He stresses that "Every building has a story to tell." We then dive into the heart of the book.

The remaining chapters focus on a particular building, starting with the Pyramid of Djoser and ending with the Straw Bale House in London, England. Each chapter tells background information on the place the building is located, the culture/people, and the building itself. A large foldout 2 page illustration is then provided to show finer details of the building itself. The book has a nice flow to it, because it's like reading a linear evolution of buildings. He starts with Egypt, moves to Greece, then Rome, etc. and manages to paint a beautiful picture with words to accompany the many beautiful illustrations by Stephen Biesty. This is a great book for children and adults alike and reminds me of David Macaulay's books. This is a great book for getting kids interested in architecture and engineering.

Shelby Lehman says

I checked this out of the library because I dig architecture. My kids loved it and we ended up reading it as a bedtime story. Wonderful overview with amazing illustrations. A great way to cover history through architecture.

Kaethe says

library copy

Margie says

Though meant for children this beautifully illustrated book appeals to all ages. Architectural styles reflect history and culture as well as art; all are touched on in this concise and elegant book. It is a feast for the eyes as well as the mind and cannot be rushed through and is best read and savored slowly. The illustrations are very detailed and masterful.

Dolly says

This book offers a look into the architectural designs, innovations, and inspiration for various edifices around the world. The narrative is long, and I would recommend reading this book slowly, taking enough time to appreciate both the amazing constructions and the illustrations that depict them.

The large size of the book along with the pull out pages are wonderful for allowing the reader to really see some of the more intricate details. The illustrations are primarily in sepia tones, but additional colors are used for contrasts and to highlight some details.

Overall, this is a fantastic book and would likely appeal to middle grade readers and older, especially those who are fascinated by design and architecture. An index and timeline of architecture throughout the ages rounds out this very detailed book.

I was a bit frustrated at how long it took me to finish this book. I had to return it to the library and checked it out again. I had been reading about one building at any given time, but pushed through to finish the book.

Not a problem with the book, but with my prioritizing other books over this one.

interesting quotes:

"He was the most powerful man in the world, but one day he would die just like the poorest beggar. He had defeated all his enemies, but he could never conquer time." (p. 16)

"That was what made Athens special, he thought, Athenians had used their wealth not to build tombs or palaces for kings but on better things: on thinking, talking, wondering. It wasn't for nothing that the city was named after the goddess of wisdom." (p. 23)
