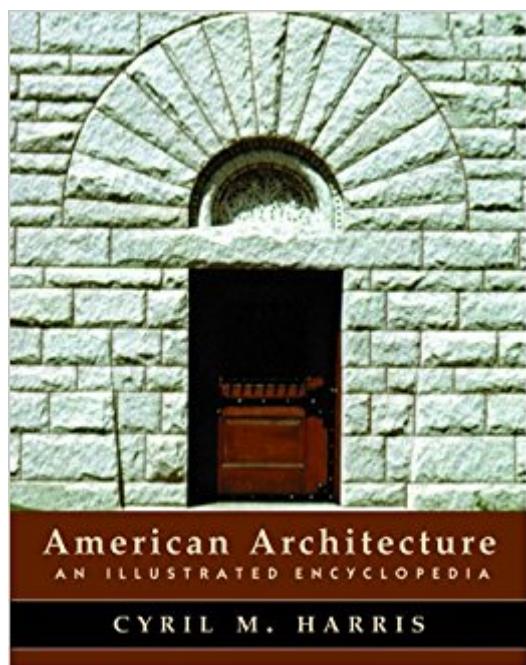


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# American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia (Norton Books For Architects & Designers)



## **Synopsis**

In this reference book on architecture in America, Cyril Harris covers everything to do with the built environment, from construction materials and techniques to decorative terms and practical devices, from dogtrot cabin to skyscraper. The entries - including over 2500 definitions and nearly 1000 illustrations - are complemented with historical or biographical nuggets.

## **Book Information**

Series: Norton Books for Architects & Designers

Hardcover: 370 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (July 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393730298

ISBN-13: 978-0393730296

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.3 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #367,693 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Regional #343 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > History #397 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Antiques & Collectibles

## **Customer Reviews**

A most authoritative encyclopedia of the specifically American aspects of architectural terminology and design. . . . With rich illustrations to back up the descriptions. A proud achievement! -- Adolf K. Placzek, Avery Librarian Emeritus, Columbia University

Cyril M. Harris, Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Columbia University and author of many books, lives in New York City.

Dr. Harris has given us another excellent dictionary (I would not call it an encyclopedia as its entries are written in dictionary format) of terminology used common in American architecture, both historic and contemporary. It is relatively comprehensive and includes native American terminology (English terminology used to describe native American construction) and Spanish colonial terminology. The book is well-illustrated with line drawings and is highly readable. This is a great reference book for

the library of anyone interested in American architecture.

Great book! It's a very useful visual dictionary for architecture terms. My only (small) complaint is that it wasn't exactly the edition that I was expecting, but it is still pretty close.

Very informative

I love this book. Great way to learn to identify architectural styles and elements. Part of my job is to describe old photographs and this will help me to be a lot more detailed.

Wonderful book on architecture, my son said mom this really is a great book!!!

The book is great, but lots of definitions don't have pictures; Some house types had pictures while others did not.

For numerous years, I have been collecting field guides to American Architecture. These guides do a great job of pointing out most of the important architectural features that make up a particular style. However, often times the smaller details of the buildings are not described. This is where Cyril Harris' "American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia" comes to fill this gap. Most people know what a gable is. But if you want to know the difference between a bell gable, clipped gable, corbie step gable or cross gable, this is the book for you. To further add value to the book, Harris uses numerous line drawn illustrations to add texture to his definitions. This is a highly recommended book for people who like to read buildings.

If you are looking for a quick, easy intro to architectural styles, this is a good guide.

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