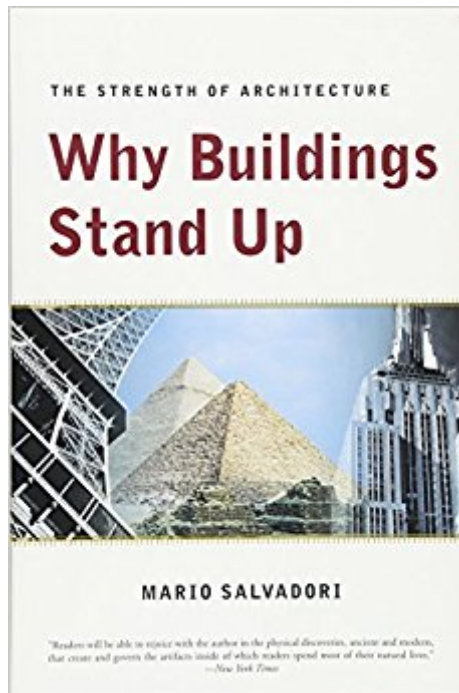




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Why Buildings Stand Up: The Strength Of Architecture



Synopsis

"Readers will rejoice... in the physical discoveries, ancient and modern, that create and govern the artifacts inside of which readers spend most of their natural lives." —[New York Times](#)

Between a nomad's tent and the Sears Tower lies a revolution in technology, materials, and structures. Here is a clear and enthusiastic introduction to buildings methods from ancient times to the present day, including recent advances in science and technology that have had important effects on the planning and construction of buildings: improved materials (steel, concrete, plastics), progress in antiseismic designs, and the revolutionary changes in both architectural and structural design made possible by the computer. B/W line drawings

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[A] delightful book.... Descriptions of structural milestones, such as the Pyramids, Hagia Sophia, Brunelleschi's Duomo, and the Eiffel Tower, as well as the more familiar examples of Gothic cathedrals, suspension bridges, and skyscrapers, are interspersed with information on basic structural theory.... The author sheds light on some of the problems of contemporary aesthetics. With its photos, drawings, and a readable style, this book will serve both the general reader and the specialist. "

Mario G. Salvadori was a structural engineer and professor of both civil engineering and architecture at Columbia University.

This book was very helpful to me when I was studying for the architecture registration exams some years ago. Along with its companion book "Why Buildings Fall Down" it covered a great swath of the multiple choice material that I encountered on the exams, with an appropriate level of specificity, or lack thereof. I've also recommended this book often to architecture students, because it is full of real-world examples of the principles that are studied in statics courses, and it is more engaging reading than the formula-filled textbooks that are required reading in those courses. That said, this book will not appeal to or be useful for some. I think it would annoy some engineers I know, with its fairly basic principles and lack of specificity, and because it contains some over-simplifications that would matter if one were trying to use it as an instruction book to build another Pantheon. I do think this book would be appropriate for some non-architects, as the buildings discussed are mostly widely recognizable icons, and the stories behind them are lively and engaging. But it is also possible the book could be a little intimidating for someone who doesn't yet have an architectural vocabulary. Perhaps if I was giving this book to someone like a high school student interested in architecture, or someone without much past reading on the subject, then I might also give them something like Ching's "A Visual Dictionary of Architecture", so that the reader could look up any unfamiliar terms.

This is a fascinating book. I read it years ago and had to track it down once again. Salvadori's writing style is unique for me in that it helps bring to life so many things around us that we take for granted or don't bother to ponder. For instance, why do some architectural designs look beautiful or "correct" while some may seem out of place or wrong. I especially enjoyed reading about the once despised, now universally loved Eiffel Tower. You won't be disappointed with this book.

awesome

This book was a textbook for one of my classes in architecture school in the 80s. My old, dog-eared copy is still on my bookshelf. I bought this copy for an 11-year-old friend who is super smart, and who wants to be an architect and build skyscrapers someday. I don't know if most 11-year-olds could comprehend the concepts, but my friend's mom assures me that he will have no problem understanding the book.

Recommended as additional reading for the ARE exam by Thaddeus. This is a great book, I wish I

had read it while still in architecture school. This would be a great read between your first and second year of structures or just for the exam. "Why Buildings Fall Down" is also great, they will not only help you understand structures, but it's really helpful for architecture history. Definitely worth having in your library.

As a structures primer, there is no better read. Why Buildings Stand Up covers the breadth of historical presidents intermingled with well presented, clearly written structural techniques. Certainly not an exhaustive textbook, it does however generate momentum for further study and will definitely lay a solid foundation of structural understanding. An absolute essential for young architects and a great read for anyone interested in some construction fundamentals. If you're more interested in the "what went wrong" kind of structural failure documentary as opposed to this more technical piece, see Why Buildings Fall Down also by Salvadori.

If you're interested in architecture, this is a good place to start. Architecture hath three qualities, firmness, commodity and delight, so it covers at least 1/3 of what's important about architecture in a delightful way. It is written by a real teacher who can explain complicated subjects simply. It is a wonderful base understanding of structures that should not be missed.

Tis book, along with his earlier book, "Why Buildings Fall Down" should be required reading for anyone interested in construction or demolition.

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