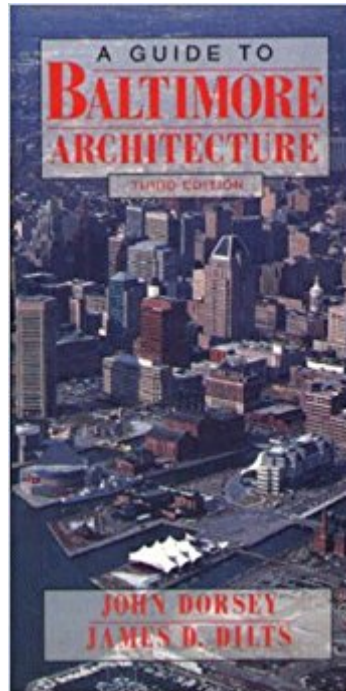




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# Guide To Baltimore Architecture



## Synopsis

From eighteenth-century mansions to urban high-rise buildings, *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture* chronicles two hundred years of architectural history through an exploration of the city's most beautiful and significant structures. Grouped by neighborhood in fifteen walking and driving tours, more than two hundred notable Baltimore buildings are pictured and described with commentary on their history and style. Thoroughly rewritten, the guide incorporates new photographs, maps, and tours as well as updated biographies of Baltimore architects. This edition also features a fresh examination of twentieth-century design in Baltimore by architectural historian Phoebe B. Stanton.

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## Customer Reviews

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Midwest Book Review

A surprisingly detailed and comprehensive survey of architecture in and around Baltimore City (including Baltimore County). The coverage of interesting / unusual buildings, along with a description of styles unique to specific neighborhoods, is extensive. The photography is clean (black and white only) and the accompanying maps are helpful.

Baltimore is a hard city to get your hands around. It's the quintessential image of urban decay; poor, crime-ridden, but also surprisingly hospitable and absolutely crammed with exceptional historical architecture. Poverty, in this case, has proved to be the best preserver, and most of Baltimore's lovely old churches and public buildings are still with us in their somewhat decrepit state. Despite the public image, any enthusiast of American urban architectural history has to love Baltimore. The building stock from 1790 to 1860 is PARTICULARLY good, as Baltimore absolutely exploded during those years. The guide presents remaining structures from this period very well. This book summarizes the provenance and artistic significance of about 200 [mostly historical] sites. It largely, though not entirely, ignores Baltimore's modern structures (Myerhoff, Harborplace, Eisenhower Library, etc...), and there are even some conspicuous gaps in the presentation of the historic fabric. The Lyric Opera House, for example, is completely absent. So is the Old Post Office. Pimlico, ditto. Memorial Stadium? Also, this book was published in 1997, which makes it rather dated in the world of architectural surveys. Time for a new edition. And fill in those holes! Those issues aside, this book is better than the vast majority of the urban architectural surveys out there. It includes a photograph of every structure, along with a concise essay describing its history and distinguishing features. It includes biographies of important Baltimore architects and well-written, substantive introductory chapters to set the historical context. It's well done. The book is organized into tours by geographic area, featuring the most important landmark structures. There are also excursions beyond the city limits, into the shallow suburbs. Recommended for architectural historians and cultural tourists alike.

Have lived in the area all my life and was delighted to find more areas to explore that I was unaware of.

This book has some significant gaps in its coverage of modern buildings in Baltimore. A partner in our firm (an FAIA) was going to visit the city, and had me call up the local AIA for some recommendations, particularly good recent projects and arts-related buildings. It didn't seem like that much had been going on recently in Baltimore, so they suggested I get this book. Imagine my

surprise when I couldn't find any mention of the Lyric Theater or the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall anywhere! From what the AIA and some research on the web told me, these are major public buildings, worth seeing based on their architectural merit. One is older with some new work, the other 20 years old, so it's not as though they're too new to be included. Is it simply that the various authors of this book didn't like those buildings? If so, why couldn't they have included them, but with a critique so that others could make up their own minds? What other notable buildings were left out? The truly flabbergasting part was locating, on the maps provided, where the Lyric and Meyerhoff are, in blank areas among all kinds of churches and old houses. History is great, but it keeps going. Aside from that, the information for those buildings included in this guide seemed thorough, and the designer bios at the back were a nice touch.

Excellent, accessible book filled with quality information

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