

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Books for deeper exploration of architecture, design thinking, and the built environment.

CORE RECOMMENDATIONS

START HERE

101 Things I Learned in Architecture School

[Matthew Frederick](#)

Compact, illustrated lessons on design principles, spatial relationships, and the mindset of an architect. The single best reinforcement of this course.

The Timeless Way of Building

[Christopher Alexander](#)

Architecture as a living art connected to human life. Explores the quality of wholeness that meaningful buildings share.

Thinking Architecture

[Peter Zumthor](#)

Essays on atmosphere, memory, and the sensory qualities of materials. Deepens your appreciation for why architecture matters beyond function.

Sustainable Home

[Christine Liu](#)

Practical guide to energy efficiency, material choices, and everyday decisions that make homes healthier and more environmentally responsible.

ADDITIONAL READING

GO DEEPER

A Pattern Language

[Christopher Alexander et al.](#)

253 design patterns from town planning to window seats — a concrete vocabulary for describing what makes spaces feel right.

The Not So Big House

[Sarah Susanka](#)

Building smaller with greater craft and intention. Essential reading for anyone designing or renovating a home.

How Buildings Learn

[Stewart Brand](#)

How buildings change over time through the "shearing layers" framework — site, structure, skin, services, space plan, and stuff.

The Architecture of Happiness

[Alain de Botton](#)

How built environments affect mood, identity, and well-being. The cultural and emotional context that technical books often skip.

Measure and Construction of the Japanese House

[Heino Engel](#)

Traditional Japanese residential architecture covering proportion, modular coordination, and material honesty. A non-Western perspective on core course elements.

Architecture is a lifelong conversation — these books are an invitation to join it.