



## A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals

By Spiro Kostof

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When the late Spiro Kostof's *A History of Architecture* appeared in 1985, it was universally hailed as a masterpiece--one of the finest books on architecture ever written. Now, updated and expanded, this classic reference continues to bring to readers the full array of civilization's architectural achievements.

Insightful, engagingly written and graced with close to a thousand superb illustrations, the Second Edition of this extraordinary volume offers a sweeping narrative that examines architecture as it reflects the social, economic, and technological aspects of human history. The scope of the book is astonishing. Kostof examines a surprisingly wide variety of man-made structures: prehistoric huts and the TVA, the pyramids of Giza and the Rome railway station, the ziggurat and the department store. Kostof considered every building worthy of attention, every structure a potential source of insight, whether it be prehistoric hunting camps at Terra Amata, or the caves at Lascaux with their magnificent paintings, or a twenty-story hotel on the Las Vegas Strip.

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## A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals By Spiro Kostof Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #464729 in Books
- Published on: 1995-08-31
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x 1.20" w x 11.40" l, 4.49 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 792 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

*Praise for the previous edition:*

"A magnificent guided tour through mankind's architecture....This splendid book is that *rara avis*, a treat for any reader and a first-rate textbook on the subject."--*The New York Times Book Review*

#### From the Back Cover

Pulls together the work of a multitude of scholars into a workable synthesis that will be of value to college students who are just becoming acquainted with the area of study...Kostof has achieved a synthesis of sound scholarship, up-to-date interpretation, and excellent analysis for which he and his publisher are to be congratulated.

#### About the Author

Spiro Kostof was Professor of Architectural History at the University of California at Berkeley, and was a former president of the Society of Architectural Historians. Greg Castillo was Kostof's research assistant and literary executor.

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