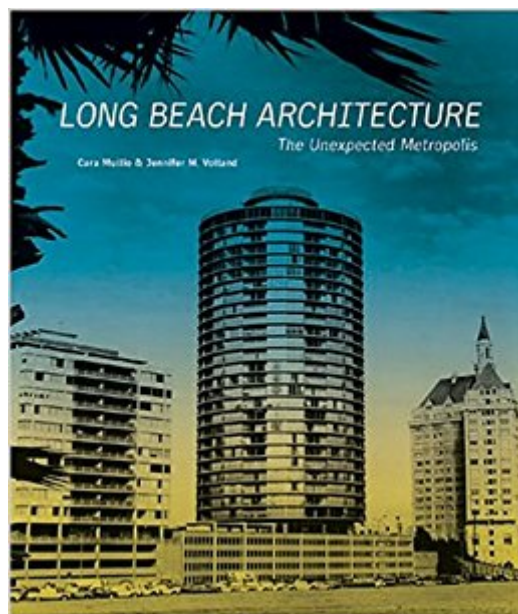




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Long Beach Architecture: The Unexpected Metropolis (California Architecture And Architects)



Synopsis

A fascinating first-time look at one of California's most interesting cities. Beginning with an illustrated essay on the history of the built development of Long Beach, this big and beautifully produced volume also documents one hundred of the city's most important architectural projects, built, unrealized, and demolished, by architects as varied as Julia Morgan, Edward Killingsworth, Greene and Greene, and Raphael Soriano. New and archival photographs, many by masters such as Julius Shulman and Marvin Rand, combine with the fresh and original prose to present a city both familiar and undiscovered. A must for architects, local residents, indeed anyone with curiosity about the urban growth of Southern California.

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Customer Reviews

There's a ton of useful information about many of the important structures around Long Beach. You'll see many you've often driven by and wondered about. Plenty of info to get you oriented about the history of so many striking buildings. I don't agree with the review that describes the layout as "ugly". You only get one photo per building, but it's generally nicely composed. (The color choices for the maps in the back are indeed garish, though.) A few odd things about this book, or things I'd do differently:-There are a few surprising omissions, and such as Rancho Los Cerritos or Rancho Los Alamitos. I can't imagine why anyone would neglect the oldest buildings in Long Beach from a book like this!-I'm not sure why there are so many entries for "never built" buildings. I think one or two might be ok, but they don't really say anything about the architectural fabric of Long Beach,

other than to point out that we are a city full of "go-nowhere" ideas.-Not much info on efforts to preserve Long Beach's architectural heritage.-Not much emphasis on the architectural styles that characterize the city (e.g., craftsmans, spanish style bungalows), focusing more on showpiece buildings that stand apart.So, if you care about Long Beach history or architecture, (or about Southern California in general), this book is a must-have, as there is nothing else like it. The flaws are pretty minor, and it's a great resource to browse through. Highly recommended.

This book is well-researched and well-written.The photos are beautiful. We purchased one after we ran into the author's parents (whom we know)at a restaurant, and they told us about it. This second purchase was for our son-in-law who requested the book for a Christmas gift. He is very pleased with it.

And the way it's shown and told by the authors keeps all senses open and curious. The only thing I can't decide is if it's a coffee table book, a book to read and shelve or a book to explore with. Whichever way, it's full of history, current and future information regarding the LBC and its strong stance as Los Angeles' right hand wo(man).Visually, the homes, businesses, halls, bridges, centers, theaters, lofts, apartments and high rises chosen are the book's draw. Stunning architechture from all sorts of times. Each place chosen gets a spread.Textually, probably one of the strongest points made in the book (from my slant, at least) is the city's ability to survive and prosper. Without this, forward motion seems like it would have been limited to that of a typical metroville. The book points to all sorts of drama the city went through and is still playing with. From it's hay-day to its current hardcore stance, I learned about its cash and about why its diversity is. I'm not a writer but it seems written very well and flows nicely. They even got some props from some big architect heads in the beginning pages.And talk about drama, the authors even school the city (and give it love, too!) regarding a number of directions that it has taken architecturally in recent years. "All-deco" got heckled. Good, because I live (t)here and we need more chaos. More modernity. More of everything. Not just one style. The authors will have had a hand on this steering wheel if we see change in the city's direction over the coming years.Aside from its well placed critical stance is a written attitude of optimisim and growth. A book supporting a city whose ability will soon shine. A little peek into the past allowing us as readers a glimps of the obvious future. A new west coast giant.There are tons of photos and the text on each page per photo is a quick read. Lots of historical imagery in the beginning that keep a person turning pages. There's this one shot of a loft in the Walker Building that's amazing!!! bah ha!! suppose the two women who wrote this thick book are

vacationing somewhere in Europe sipping chi tea, cause they must have sold a grip. At least in Strong Beach. But I have one question: Where is Snoop's crib?

This has been on my coffee table for years, and is one of my favorite things to give as gifts. A really artistic view of Long Beach, along with incredible information about the history of the city itself. It is obvious that lots of time and effort went into this book! I read it over and over again...

This work provides a thorough look at the architecture of Long Beach's past, including many sites that no longer exist. It's an historical yet fresh perspective on a city I've visited several times and on a city I now see in a completely different way. Although I don't live in Long Beach I would think that this would be especially facinating for anybody who does.

A very long over due look at Long Beach. My only complaint is that the address is not listed for buildings no longer there- just "demolished". For those of us who were not around when some of the buildings were, it would be nice to have the former address to to see what has taken the former buildings place. Other than that a great book.

This book has a ton of buildings in Long Beach. Some of them aren't very pretty buldings to begin with, but the prose explains their significance well, making up for it. However, the layout, photography, and design of the bok are seriously lacking. While, I think whoever published this book did themselves a huge disservice by not putting some effort into making the work presentable, it is a great collection of information about interesting places in Long Beach.

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