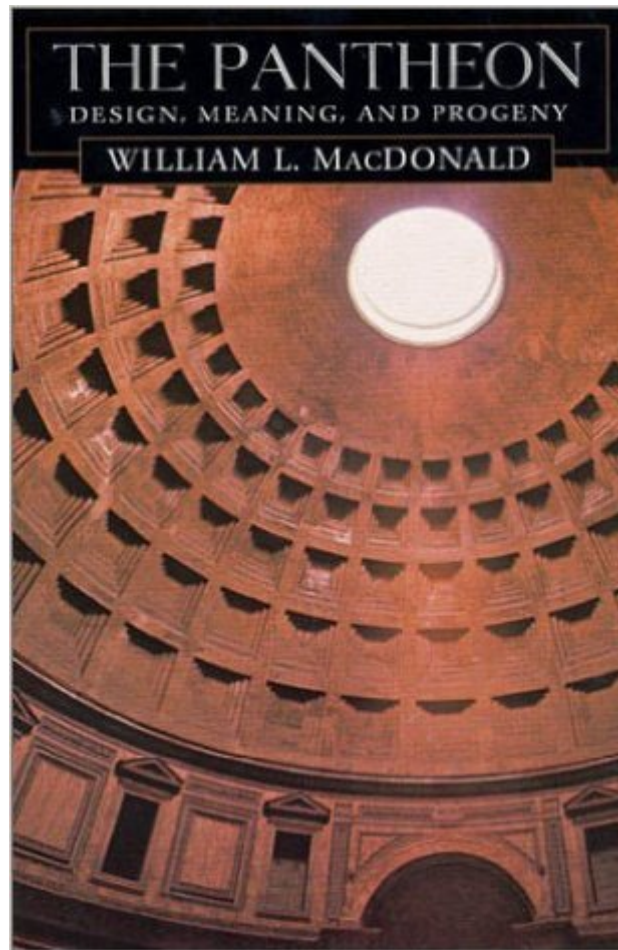


The book was found

The Pantheon: Design, Meaning, And Progeny, With A New Foreword By John Pinto, Second Edition



Synopsis

The Pantheon in Rome is one of the grand architectural statements of all ages. This richly illustrated book isolates the reasons for its extraordinary impact on Western architecture, discussing the Pantheon as a building in its time but also as a building for all time. Mr. MacDonald traces the history of the structure since its completion and examines its progeny--domed rotundas with temple-fronted porches built from the second century to the twentieth--relating them to the original. He analyzes the Pantheon's design and the details of its technology and construction, and explores the meaning of the building on the basis of ancient texts, formal symbolism, and architectural analogy. He sees the immense unobstructed interior, with its disk of light that marks the sun's passage through the day, as an architectural metaphor for the ecumenical pretensions of the Roman Empire. Past discussions of the Pantheon have tended to center on design and structure. These are but the starting point for Mr. MacDonald, who goes on to show why it ranks--along with Cheops's pyramid, the Parthenon, Wren's churches, Mansard's palaces--as an architectural archetype.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press; New edition edition (October 30, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674010191

ISBN-13: 978-0674010192

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 6.1 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #506,427 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Religious Buildings #952 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History #1010 in Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture

Customer Reviews

The Pantheon is brilliant in its simplicity, a combining of the circle and the square, with man as part of the equation. • The Pantheon: Design, Meaning, and Progeny • by William L. MacDonald, discusses this idea as well as the dome's place in the ancient and modern world, why and how it was built, and its influence on architecture down to our day. While short (132 pages) and well illustrated (b&w photos), it's not a book to breeze through. It's a book that rewards careful

reading. It was the Roman architect Vitruvius, who lived approximately 130 before the Pantheon was built, who first wrote about the relationship between man and architecture. MacDonald writes: "Vitruvius) speculated about proportions in both architecture and the human figure . . . in something like circle-and-square terms: Leonardo da Vinci's drawing of these Vitruvian suppositions is famous (and illustrates) reciprocities between the circle and the square, on the one hand, and the reach and theoretical spatial envelope of an idealized human figure, on the other. These concepts appear dramatically enlarged in the Pantheon, where sweep of the limbs of the Vitruvian figure are expanded to colossal dimensions. This sympathy between the forms of Roman vaulted architecture and the spatial potential of the human figure is perhaps one of the principle keys to understanding the long life and continuing influence of that architecture." Around 117 A.D. Roman emperor Hadrian commissioned the building of the Pantheon. While the architect's name is not known, he was the first Roman to break with Greek architectural influence and design something wholly original—a domed rotunda. It was built as a temple, possibly to honor the planetary deities—Mercury, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, the Moon, the Sun, and Saturn.

In March 2013, I visited the Pantheon in Rome. It was a short afternoon visit coming after a long morning tour of the Colosseum and Forum. My wife and I were tired; we spent just about a hour trying to take in one of the greatest architectural marvels in western civilization, a temple to all the gods. (Our more energetic son was interested in seeing other things.) But the image of that vast concrete vault rising over my head to the blank oculus above has stayed with me. That dome is almost two thousand years old, yet it looks as if the concrete had been poured just a few decades ago. The interior walls of that grand rotunda were of rich, shining, multicolored marble. Every aspect of that enclosed space testified to wealth, beauty, permanence, and power. How could this place be a remnant of the fallen glory of Rome? So I turned to this book to help satisfy my curiosity. Unfortunately, I was immediately attacked by the opening sentence: "Hadrian's Pantheon is one of the grand architectural creations of all time: original, utterly bold, many-layered in associations and meaning, the container of a kind of immanent universality." (p. 11) Such verbosity is used by a writer who feels a need to charge at his reader with trumpets blaring and cannon booming. His reader is someone who has to be overwhelmed and conquered---or maybe just someone whom he hopes to wake up. "All time"? What is that? Two thousand years is a long time, but it is not "all time." And what the heck is "immanent universality"? Sigh. I knew at once that reading this book was going to be a chore, that is, if I stuck with it. I did stay with it, right to the end. It is a mercifully short book---160 pages, counting notes and index.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Pantheon: Design, Meaning, and Progeny, With a New Foreword by John Pinto, Second Edition
How to Deliver a TED Talk: Secrets of the World's Most Inspiring Presentations, revised and expanded new edition, with a foreword by Richard St. John and an afterword by Simon Sinek
Monstrous Progeny: A History of the Frankenstein Narratives
Frida Kahlo: Pinto su Vida (Latinos Famosos) (Spanish Edition)
The Ford Pinto Case (Sunny Series, Case Studies in Applied Ethics, Technology, & Society)
The Meaning of Pentecost in Early Methodism: Rediscovering John Fletcher as John Wesley's Vindicator and Designated Successor (Pietist and Wesleyan Studies)
Security Analysis: Sixth Edition, Foreword by Warren Buffett (Security Analysis Prior Editions)
Philip A. Fisher Collected Works, Foreword by Ken Fisher: Common Stocks and Uncommon Profits, Paths to Wealth through Common Stocks, Conservative Investors ... and Developing an Investment Philosophy
The Breastfeeding Mother's Guide to Making More Milk: Foreword by Martha Sears, RN
Am I Really a Christian? (Foreword by Kirk Cameron) (9marks)
The Dalai Lama: Foreword by His Holiness The Dalai Lama
John Deere: Plow, Plant, Grow (John Deere (Parachute Press)) (John Deere (DK Hardcover))
A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge (Pantheon Graphic Novels)
Songs in Their Heads: Music and its Meaning in Children's Lives, Second Edition
Emperor Wu Zhao and Her Pantheon of Devis, Divinities, and Dynastic Mothers (The Sheng Yen Series in Chinese Buddhist Studies)
Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began (Pantheon Graphic Novels)
Favorite Folktales from Around the World (The Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library)
Russian Fairy Tales (The Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library)
The Norse Myths (The Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library)
Best Pictures of Paris: Top Tourist Attractions Including the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, Sacre-Coeur Basilica, Arc de Triomphe, the Pantheon, Orsay Museum, City Hall and More.

[Dmca](#)