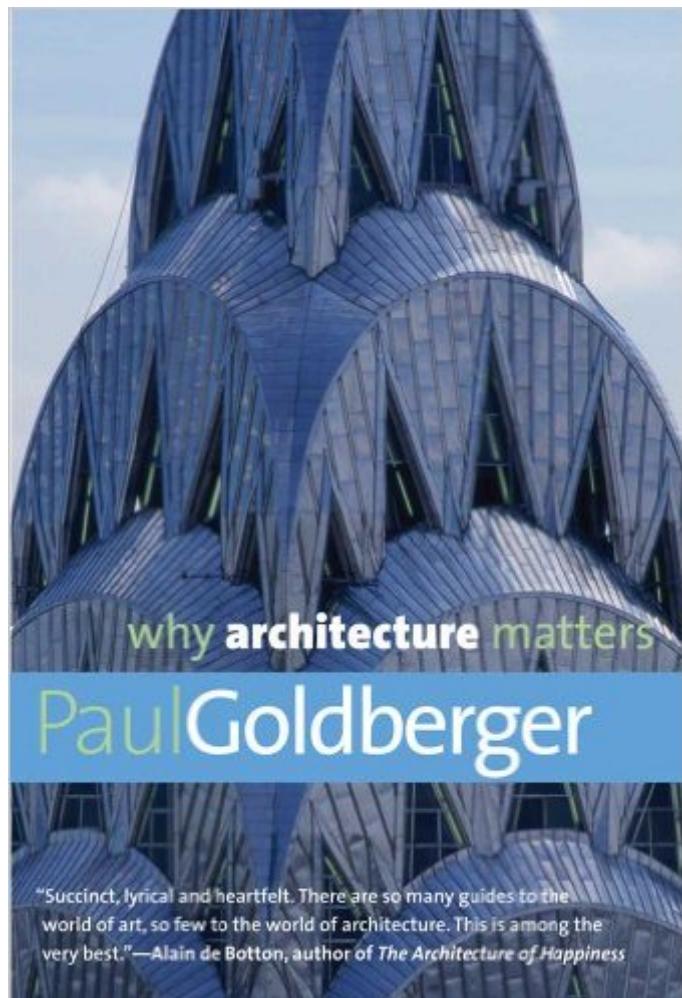


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# Why Architecture Matters (Why X Matters Series)



## Synopsis

Why Architecture Matters is not a work of architectural history or a guide to the styles or an architectural dictionary, though it contains elements of all three. The purpose of Why Architecture Matters is to *“become to grips with how things feel to us when we stand before them, with how architecture affects us emotionally as well as intellectually”* “with its impact on our lives.”

“Architecture begins to matter,” writes Paul Goldberger, “when it brings delight and sadness and perplexity and awe along with a roof over our heads.” He shows us how that works in examples ranging from a small Cape Cod cottage to the *“vast, flowing”* Prairie houses of Frank Lloyd Wright, from the Lincoln Memorial to the highly sculptural Guggenheim Bilbao and the Church of Sant’Ivo in Rome, where *“simple geometries . . . create a work of architecture that embraces the deepest complexities of human imagination.”* Based on decades of looking at buildings and thinking about how we experience them, the distinguished critic raises our awareness of fundamental things like proportion, scale, space, texture, materials, shapes, light, and memory. Upon completing this remarkable architectural journey, readers will enjoy a wonderfully rewarding new way of seeing and experiencing every aspect of the built world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To our joy, 3 books are recently released by first-rate architectural critics. One is the posthumous work of Herbert Muschamp and the rest two are works of Paul Goldberger. Critic of *New Yorker*, his writings flow with delicious flavor. Born in NJ, studied at Yale, and practiced in NY, Goldberger’s

writings grasp what is best of Architecture with examples mostly from the US. Books like this typically pays particular attention to examples of great masters of Europe or cities like Paris, Rome, or London. Goldberger's writings are valuable, at least to foreign audience, because subject matter is mostly American. The book is divided into thematic sections. Each section provides ample illustrations. What makes the reading enjoyable is the fact that Goldberger's writing does not only stick to examples of now, but rather, navigates also through past, kindly explaining to the readers why certain building in the past is as much valuable as, if not more, excellent buildings of now. For example, he compares National Gallery West to East, outlining why John Pope's design (though style-wise it was criticized severely by Modernists at the time of erection) is better than IM Pei's. Claims like this could be mind-bothering, depending on which school of thought an audience is in. As a museum, Paul thinks west wing was much more exhibition-friendly than Pei's. He explains why good buildings outlive criticism of the day and outlast regardless of their style application. Explanation on Lincoln Memorial is another example. Stylistically speaking it's a Greek building, but Goldberger's reading of it turns it not so pseudo historical replica.

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