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# Invitation To Vernacular Architecture: A Guide To The Study Of Ordinary Buildings And Landscapes (Perspect Vernacular Architectu)



## Synopsis

Invitation to Vernacular Architecture: A Guide to the Study of Ordinary Buildings and Landscapes, is a manual for exploring and interpreting vernacular architecture, the common buildings of particular regions and time periods. Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Collins Cromley provide a comprehensive introduction to the field. Proposing a methodology, Invitation to Vernacular Architecture provides a systematic approach to vernacular architecture fieldwork. The authors walk readers through the process of examining and documenting a building, explaining in detail how to define a research area and create a research plan. They guide students step-by-step in how to take accurate measurements of sites and of building exteriors and interiors and explain what to look for at each level. They show how to find patterns and how to organize information to yield sound interpretations of buildings' meanings. As a complement to this practical approach, Carter and Cromley present current scholarship on vernacular architecture and explain the need for a broad theoretical perspective. They show how analysis of facts related to a building can reveal important insights into the behavior and culture of people who lived in a certain area at a certain time. The authors then present a single ordinary house as a case study to explore the different points of view that scholars have brought to the study of vernacular architecture. Rich with illustrations and written in a clear and jargon-free style, Invitation to Vernacular Architecture is an ideal text for courses in architecture, material culture studies, historic preservation, American studies, and history, and a useful guide for anyone interested in the built environment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas Carter is associate professor of architecture at the University of Utah. He is the editor of *Images of an American Land: Studies in the Vernacular Architecture of the Western United States*, a past president of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and co-editor of two volumes in the *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* series. Elizabeth Collins Cromley is professor of architectural history at Northeastern University. She is a past president of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, author of *Alone Together: A History of New York's Early Apartments*, and the co-editor of *Gender, Class, and Shelter* and *Shaping Communities*, both in the *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* series.

"Invitation to vernacular architecture" a beau être un livre académique, indiqué dans plusieurs cours, la contrainte qu'il représente parfois vaut les apprentissages qu'il apporte. C'est un changement d'attitude face au patrimoine bâti en particulier et aux bâtiments de tous les jours en général. Son écriture accessible m'a permis de me familiariser à la notion de patrimoine bâti et à son lien avec la culture matérielle et le patrimoine en général. Il apporte un nouveau regard, au sens propre comme au figuré, aux néophytes, et nous fait prendre conscience de l'importance du patrimoine bâti dans nos vies. \_\_\_\_\_ Although "Invitation to vernacular architecture" is a compulsory book for some courses in built heritage, the knowledge and attitude shift it can bring is worth the obligation. It has brought to me a completely new outlook onto built heritage in particular, and everyday buildings in general. Its accessible writing allowed me to familiarize with the notion of built heritage and, moreover, with the relation it has with the notion of heritage and material culture. It brings neophytes to the importance of material culture and built heritage in our lives.

I ordered this book on the recommendation of a friend. I waited for it, and when it arrived, I was a little concerned at the size of the book (less than 100 pages). Do not be fooled; size is deceiving! The content of this book blooms into a beautiful explanation of how Vernacular Architecture is found everywhere in the United States. Both Carter and Cromley explain how to decipher this often hard to look at and clearly understand "style" per-say. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to easily understand the architecture of the common culture and will be researching buildings now, in the future, or is just interested in expanding their architectural knowledge. Illustrated for your

reading pleasure and will lead to plenty of further reading!

great, as promised, on time

Thank you!

Big on the practical aspects of documenting resource areas. Not much discussion of theory. Not really very interesting. Too dry. Have to wash my hair, can't attend.

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