



The Encyclopedia of Ancient Egyptian Architecture

By Dieter Arnold

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The definitive reference on the diverse monuments built by the ancient Egyptians across three millennia, this generously illustrated volume surveys the ancient world's most remarkable architecture.

Dieter Arnold--a leading expert on Egyptian building and design--includes more than 300 illustrations and 600 alphabetically arranged entries spanning every type of building and every aspect of construction and design. He provides separate entries for each of the major Egyptian sites, from Abu Simbel in the south to Cleopatra's palaces in Alexandria. These document ordinary towns and houses as well as monuments as varied as the Step Pyramid of Djoser (the world's first significant stone building), the tombs of the Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut's mortuary temple at Deir el-Bahari, and the great temples that line the Upper Nile. Other entries cover materials (from reed and mud-brick to sandstone and granite) and construction techniques (including pyramid building and the erection of obelisks). The accessible text also addresses the symbolic meanings of various types of building, the importance of building orientation, and myriad architectural features, such as columns and false doors.

Destined to be the standard reference for years to come, this comprehensive encyclopedia offers a welcome overview of the magnificent structures that continue to lure pilgrims and tourists, impress architects, and inspire awe. It will be enjoyed by serious devotees of architecture and archaeology as well as by armchair travelers and all who have wondered how the great pyramids were built.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 10 Up-Translated and updated from the original 1994 German edition, Encyclopedia provides 600-plus concise alphabetical entries on the archaeology of ancient Egypt, from simple houses, monuments, palaces, temples, tombs, and towns to design styles and materials and methods of construction. Numerous black-and-white photographs and crisp diagrams, plans, sections, and perspectives add considerable insight and visual interest to an overall staid presentation. Cross-referencing is accomplished by means of bold type. The volume includes bare-bones maps, a spare glossary and chronology, and a bibliography of mostly foreign-language sources. The individual articles are like unassembled puzzle pieces, rich in detail but lacking a contextual framework. Students will need considerable background in the subject to make the most of this scholarly resource.

Mary Ann Carcich, Hampton Bays Public Library, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

First published in 1994 and revised and updated for this translation, this comprehensive encyclopedia by a leading expert on Egyptian architecture provides an outstanding overview of the magnificent structures of ancient Egypt. The work contains 600 alphabetical entries ranging from two sentences to several pages, with each including a bibliography to facilitate further study. More than 300 drawings (including plans and diagrams) and black-and-white photographs are provided. Cross-references appear in boldface throughout the text. Other special features include maps, a six-page chronological table, a very brief glossary, and a four-page select bibliography. Individual entries are provided for major Egyptian sites such as Djoser and monuments such as the tombs of the Valley of the Kings and the Ptolemaic temples of the Upper Nile. Building types, design, and construction are also examined in entries such as *Obelisk*, *Sandstone*, and *Ceiling construction*.

The Encyclopedia of Ancient Egyptian Architecture nicely complements the multivolume *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt* (Oxford, 2001), which covers the full range of ancient Egyptian topics. Given its reasonable price, the work is a valuable addition for academic and larger public libraries.*RBB*
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Review

"One of the foremost authorities in the field, Arnold uses a very broad definition of architecture in this critical new source. . . . [T]his work is currently the only English-language encyclopedia of Egyptian architecture. Egyptophiles will keep it handy at their desks."--*Library Journal*

"An excellent reference source for both individuals and librarians."--*Choice*

"A most useful volume. The editors are to be congratulated for bringing this work before the English-reading public."--*Aidan Dodson, Egyptian Archaeology*

"Numerous dictionaries of architecture are available, but there is no question that Dr. Arnold's is the premier in its field. . . . A splendidly produced and illustrated edition in English . . . [Arnold] distills that practical knowledge of a lifetime into an easily accessible and immensely well illustrated book."--*Peter A. Clayton, Minerva*

"An extremely valuable resource for anyone interested in Egyptology or the study of ancient architecture."--
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