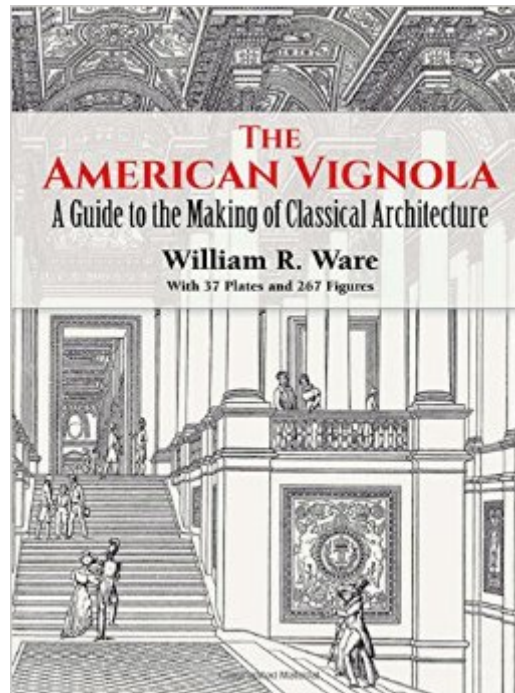


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# The American Vignola: A Guide To The Making Of Classical Architecture (Dover Architecture)



## Synopsis

"Vignola codified the rules of classical architecture for the Italian Renaissance . . . Ware codified Vignola for the American Renaissance."âJohn Barrington Bayley, from the Introductory Notes to The American Vignola

From 1890 to 1940, Americans designed and built classical architecture on an extraordinary scale. During this American Renaissance were built countless libraries, museums, universities, courthouses, capitol buildings and other structures, both public and private, rich with domes, pediments, colonnades, and other classical features. "We built with unparalleled grandeur," architect and scholar John Barrington Bayley observes, "and our architecture led the world." More than any other document of the period, The American Vignola laid the groundwork for this grand resurgence in American architecture. Its author, William R. Ware, founded America's first school of architecture at M.I.T. in 1865, and sixteen years later, the School of Architecture at Columbia University. He became America's leading teacher of the art of designing classical architecture. The American Vignola is his textbook on that art.

As the Renaissance architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola helped to recover the lost laws of classical architecture that made possible the architectural wonders of the Italian Renaissance, Ware helped lay the groundwork for the wonders of the American Renaissance. The American Vignola contains tables of the Tuscan, Ionic, Doric, Corinthian, and Composite Orders; measured drawings of the great monuments of the ancient, Renaissance, and baroque periods; and guides for drawing and establishing geometrical relations. Especially important are its detailed practical instructions for designing classical arches and vaults, roofs and domes, doors and windows, walls and ceilings, steps and staircases, and more. Over 300 illustrations illuminate the text, including 37 full-page plates and 267 smaller figures. Introductory notes by Mr. Bayley and architectural expert Henry Hope Reed set Mr. Ware's great achievement in perspective.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Want to learn why the modern McMansions have no style? This 19th century guidebook details the proportions of classicalism for designers to reproduce. This is a must have book for anyone looking to replicate old details on new homes. Its heavily illustrated with all sorts of details. If you are just interested in architecture, this book is also a great addition to your collection. Another great Dover book!

I ordered this book to replace a worn-out copy (I am an architect) and the new edition is a disappointment. The printing resolution is poor, almost like a second-generation photocopy. The engraved plates are the foundation of this book, but the lack of fine lines and crisp edges detract from the plates' beauty and in some cases from their legibility. To help others identify the new, lower quality edition, look for a section at the very bottom of the copyright page that reads, "Manufactured in the United States by RR Donnelley, 28310008, 2015, [...]" The cover of the new, low quality edition has the same illustration as the previous edition, with a light green background, but on the new edition the title is inside a white-ish band whereas on the older edition the title was in in a black oval.

This book is a must have for any serious student of classical architecture in America! Beautifully detailed illustration throughout.

A good book for an architect to gain an understanding of the technical aspects of classical architecture. It is not exactly what I thought it would be, but nevertheless a general reader can learn the forms of classical architecture.

An excellent and essential handbook for the fundamentals of classical architecture, clearly written and illustrated for a comprehensive understanding of the orders

An exhaustive resource on a Classical Architecture. Sometimes too wordy but well-illustrated. Skim the overly-detailed parts and return to them as a reference.

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