Seattle and Environs: An Introductory Bibliography

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This bibliography focuses primarily on scholarly publications concerning the history of the built environment in Seattle and environs. This bibliography is organized in three parts. The first section is a list of book-length sources that should be readily available in most academic libraries (most are by academic publishers, although a few popular photographic works are included as well). The second section is a detailed bibliography of publications in scholarly journals (primarily those that are accessible in online repositories such as jstor) and a few book chapters. The later sections include a few professional films that include architecture, online sites with architectural information, agencies and organizations involved in historic preservation, and other regional and local sources of information.

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1. BOOK-LENGTH SOURCES

This is a selected list of published books on Seattle that focuses primarily on scholarly works. It is organized by book type. In the interests of length and accessibility, many worthwhile books have necessarily been omitted. Brief explanatory annotations have been provided for each book listed.

1.1 Some General Histories

Klinge, Matthew, Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2009; considering geography, urban history and environmental studies, presents a history of the place of nature in Seattle’s development since the nineteenth century.

Morgan, Lane, and Murray Morgan, with Paul Dorpat, Seattle: A Pictorial History. Norfolk/Virginia Beach: Donning Company, 1982; strongest on pre-1945 history; lots of illustrations, but not particularly focused on architecture.


1.2 General Architectural Guides


1.3 Specific Area or Specific Topic


________, *Women's Place: A Guide to Seattle and King County History*. Seattle: Gemil Press, 1994; guide to more than 250 sites of significance reflecting the achievements of a diverse group of women.


Shorett, Alice, and Murray Morgan, *The Pike Place Market: People, Politics, and Produce*. Seattle: Pacific Search Press, 1982; history of Seattle’s public market including an account of the 1971 initiative that saved the Market and established the Pike Place Market Historic District.


1.4 Selected Monographic/Biographical Works (listed in roughly chronological order of period covered)


Matthews, Henry, Kirtland K. Cutter: Architect in the Land of Promise. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1998); Cutter’s career was primarily based in Spokane, but he did operate a Seattle office in the early twentieth century.


Ochsner, Jeffrey Karl, and Dennis Alan Andersen, Distant Corner: Seattle Architects and the Legacy of H. H. Richardson. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2003; history of Seattle architecture from 1880 to 1895, with an emphasis on years after the Great Fire of 1889.


1.5 Interpretive Studies


Sanders, Jeffrey Craig, *Seattle and the Roots of Urban Sustainability: Inventing Ecotopia*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010; discussion of origins of Seattle’s urban design, preservation, and environmental ethos, including Pike Place Market, Central District, Fort Lawton, Seattle Commons.


Stewart, Hilary, *Cedar: Tree of Life to the Northwest Coast Indians*. Madeira Park BC: Douglas & McIntyre, Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1984; account of how Native Peoples in this region used cedar in design and fabrication of dwellings, utensils, art works and other artifacts.

1.6 Current Firms and Individual Buildings

There are numerous books documenting the work current Seattle architectural practitioners such as Olson/Kundig, NBBJ, ZGF, Miller/Hull, James Cutler, and many others. There are a few books addressing individual buildings (for example, Smith Tower, Olympic Hotel).

1.7 Historic Preservation


Kreisman, Lawrence, Made to Last: Historic Preservation in Seattle and King County. Seattle: Seattle Foundation and Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority, 1999; distributed by University of Washington Press); overview of the history of historic preservation in Seattle and King County. (First edition appeared in 1985 as Historic Preservation in Seattle.)


2. ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS AND A FEW SCHOLARLY BOOK CHAPTERS

The following list includes primarily articles on Seattle architects, architecture, planning, preservation and similar topics that have been published in scholarly journals. Most of these can be found online. A few chapters in books published by academic/scholarly presses have also been included.

This list omits: (1) the extensive literature on Seattle buildings and sites that has appeared in professional journals (Architectural Record, Architect, Progressive Architecture, etc.); (2) historical essays in published scholarly conference proceedings; (3) articles in Seattle-based design journals (such as Arcade) that address architectural history or individual buildings in the region; and (4) historical articles that appeared in Column 5, the journal of the UW Department of Architecture.


__________, "Rainier Vista from the AYP to the University of Washington," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 100/2 (Spring 2009): 55–69.


__________, "Victor Steinbrueck Finds His Voice: From the *Argus* to *Seattle Cityscape,*" *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 99 (Summer 2008): 120–131.


Sprague, Tyler S., "Jack Christiansen's Cylindrical Concrete Shells," *Journal of the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures* 59/2 (June 2018): 131–140.

__________, "'Lighted Fair is Magic Landscape': The AYP at Night," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 100/2 (Spring 2009): 70–78.


3. SELECTED VIDEOS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE (listed in roughly chronological order of period covered)

These professionally-produced films offer accessible illustrated presentations.


"Structural Engineers of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair"; a documentary about the structural engineers who helped shape the 1962 World's Fair (2012); see Vimeo at: [https://vimeo.com/69351058](https://vimeo.com/69351058)

4. ONLINE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The following are easily accessible sources of information online. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and DOCOMOMO-WEWA (both listed under "Historic Preservation") also have useful information about Washington architects and architecture online.

HistoryLink:

An online encyclopedia of Washington State that is often a useful source of information; much of the material on HistoryLink is drawn from other sources, so the level of detail and the degree of reliability may vary.
PCAD - Pacific Coast Architecture Database:
http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/
The Pacific Coast Architecture Database is an online source of information about sites, buildings, architects, and related information for Washington, California and Oregon.

SAH Archipedia Washington
https://sah-archipedia.org/essays/WA-01
The SAH Archipedia Washington list of resources in Seattle and King County includes 51 entries.

5. NOTABLE COLLECTIONS

This section lists publicly accessible collections and archives where significant resources for architectural history research addressing Seattle and the region may be found. Many of these provide online access to a portion of their collections.

5.1 Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries:

http://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcollections

UW Special Collections is located in the basement of Allen Library South, on the UW Seattle campus.

5.1.1 UW Libraries, Special Collections, Architectural Drawings Collection:

UW Libraries Special Collections maintains the largest collection of architectural drawings in the region, spanning from the late 1880s to the present day. Drawings are typically arranged by architect or firm and may be requested in advance by contacting Special Collections with the original project name or client name. Appointments are required to view architectural drawings and are typically scheduled a few weeks in advance.

5.1.2 UW Libraries, Special Collections, Photograph Collections:

UW Libraries Special Collections holds a large number of historical and recent photographic collections of all kinds. The holdings include many collections by architectural photographers, which serve as important documentation of the history of modern architecture in Seattle and the region. Many photography collections are described in online collection guides (finding aids) and may also be available in digital form through the UW Libraries Digital Collections website. For materials that cannot be viewed online, it is recommended to pre-arrange a visit as not all photography collections are available on a walk-in basis.

5.2 Sophie Frye Bass Library, Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI):

https://mohai.org/collections-and-research/

The MOHAI research library holds a variety of historical photographs of architectural and non-architectural subjects. One of the most important collections for architectural research is the PEMCO Webster & Stevens Collection. A large number of photographs may be viewed online. The research library is located at MOHAI's space in the Georgetown neighborhood, south of downtown (not at the main museum). Persons wishing to access the library must schedule their visits as space is limited.
5.3 Seattle Room, Seattle Public Library (SPL):

https://www.spl.org/hours-and-locations/central-library/central-library-highlights/seattle-room

The Seattle Room on the tenth floor of the Central Branch of the Seattle Public Library holds special collections that address all aspects of the history of the city including an extensive collection of historical photographs. Collections accessible online include historical photographs, postcards, manuscripts, and ephemera. Also online is the guide, "Researching the History of Seattle and King County Buildings."

5.4 Seattle Municipal Archives:

http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/about-the-sma

The Municipal Archives hold the records of City of Seattle governmental activities. These records include a large collection of photographs that document city conditions and city projects through most of Seattle’s history. Photographs have been digitized and many are accessible online. A visit to the Archives (located on the third floor of the Seattle City Hall) should be pre-arranged as workspace is limited.

5.5 Washington State Archives:

https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/

The Washington State Archives holds records of state government as well as an extensive collection of records of Washington State history.

5.5.1 Washington State Digital Archives:

https://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/

A large portion of the Washington State Collections are accessible online at the Washington State Digital Archives, including a large collection of photographs.

5.5.2 Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Regional Branch:


Housed at Bellevue College, the Puget Sound Regional Branch (also called Puget Sound Regional Archives), holds collections of records from county governments, many municipalities, school districts and other public governmental units and agencies. Of particular interest for architectural historians are the King County Property Records which include historical photographs of buildings; none of the property records are accessible online; a visit to the Archives in Bellevue is required. Space is limited, so all visits must be pre-scheduled.
6. HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN WASHINGTON AND SEATTLE

The infrastructure of historic preservation in the city, county and state includes governmental agencies and non-profit advocacy groups. DOCOMOMO-WEWA, listed above, also

6.1 Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP):
http://www.dahp.wa.gov/
State Historic Preservation Office, State of Washington
Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106
Olympia WA 98501
Phone: 360-586-3065

6.2 Washington Trust for Historic Preservation:
https://www.preservewa.org/
Statewide non-profit advocacy organization addressing historic preservation (office located in Seattle).

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
1204 Minor Avenue [historic Stimson-Green Mansion]
Seattle, Washington 98101
Phone (206) 624-9449

6.3 Historic Preservation Program, Department of Neighborhoods, City of Seattle:
https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/historic-preservation
City of office addressing preservation including Seattle's historic districts and landmarks.

Historic Preservation Program
c/o Department of Neighborhoods
700 5th Avenue, Suite 1700
Seattle, WA 98104

6.4 Historic Seattle PDA (Preservation and Development Authority):
https://historicseattle.org
City-chartered non-profit corporation that engages directly in cultural resource preservation and serves as a center of preservation advocacy and education.

Historic Seattle
1117 Minor Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: (206) 622-6952

6.5 King County Historic Preservation Program:
https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/home-property/historic-preservation.aspx
County department addressing preservation outside Seattle.

King County Historic Preservation Program
201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: 206 296-8689
6.6 DOCOMOMO-WEWA:
https://www.docomomo-wewa.org/
The western Washington branch of the international non-profit organization that advocates for preservation of modern architecture.

7. REGIONAL CHAPTER, SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

Marion Dean Ross/Pacific Northwest Chapter SAH:
http://www.sahmdr.org/
SAHMDR is the regional chapter of SAH for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia.

Contact: info@sahmdr.org

8. ARCHITECTURAL BOOKSTORE

Peter Miller Books
https://www.petermiller.com/
Now located in Pioneer Square, Peter Miller Books is an architectural bookstore that has been in operation for more than four decades. Although the present time has not been favorable for bookstores, Peter Miller Books has remained central to the city’s architectural culture. Books may be ordered online, but the ambiance of Peter Miller can only be experienced by visiting the store.

Peter Miller Books
304 Alaskan Way South
Post Alley
Seattle WA 98104
peter@petermiller.com