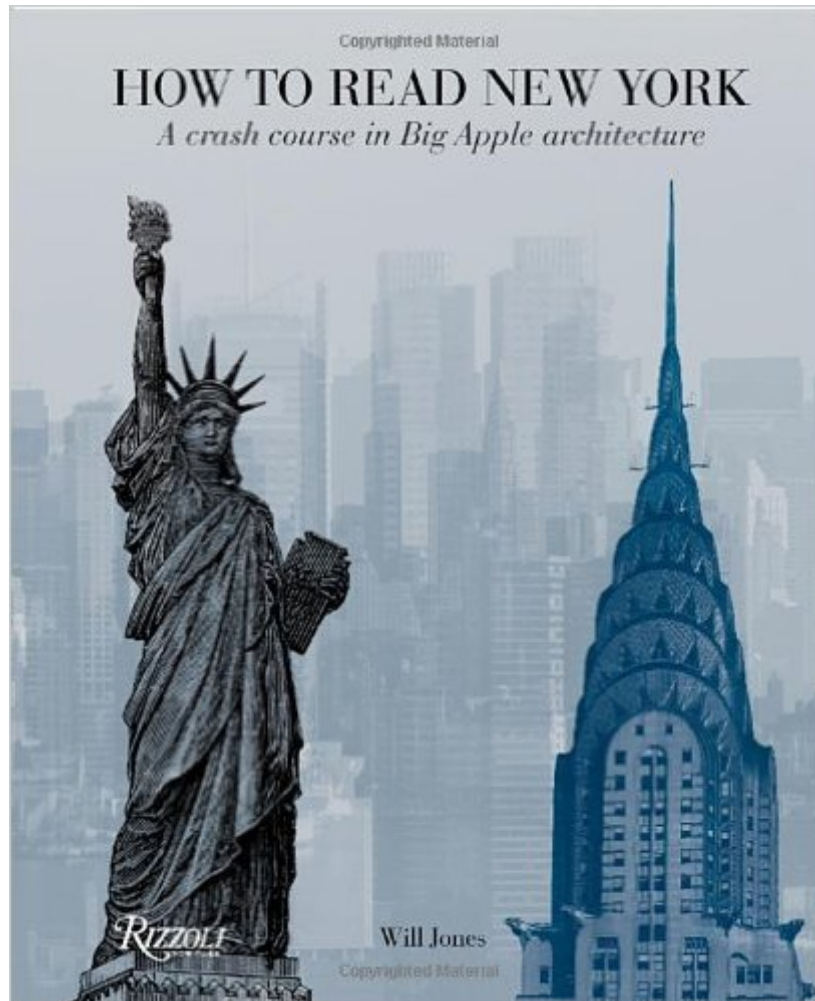


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# How To Read New York: A Crash Course In Big Apple Architecture



## Synopsis

Essential reading for both native New Yorkers and tourists alike, *How to Read New York* unveils the boundless diversity of Gotham's architectural wonders. Covering every era of New York architecture—from what remains of the colonial days to the latest postmodern skyscraper—this unique guidebook illuminates the fascinating architectural and urban history of New York.

Organized chronologically and by architectural style, the book covers key highlights of the built environment from the Battery to Inwood. Many of the skyline's most iconic buildings are included, along with many lesser-known buildings that are architecturally interesting. Charmingly illustrated with 430 line drawings and vintage engravings that bring old New York to life, the book concludes with a map section that suggests themed walking tours.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a beautifully laid out catalog of New York City's architecture. Arranged by style it has a photo (most of the main facade, some are aerials), location, date of construction and architect for each structure profiled. Most structures are buildings, but there are bridges, "The" statue, a parachute jump, a park, a monument, an 8 lane thoroughfare, an elevated railroad and a zoo. There is a paragraph about the structure describing function, significance, or place and line drawings of significant details. At the end of each topical chapter is a map with a pictorial legend clearly showing location. The selection worked for me. It includes all my favorites (Chrysler, the Flatiron, the Whitney, the NYPL, MoMA). There is info on some structures that had me curious like the Arthur Kill Bridge, the Edward Durrell Stone House and Co-op City. It has a beautiful layout. With the exception of each

chapter's introductory page on grey (hard to read), the layout and organization work for the reader. The book is meaty, but it is not a course. It works best as a catalog or survey, a guide or a reference book.

The How to Read series is a great little set of books. They are small but packed full of information and will quite happily sit in your pocket or bag. Great if you want to carry it whilst visiting New York and looking at the different types of architectural detail which surrounds you. They are set out in architectural style so for example colonial, greek, classical, modern. There are no color images inside but black and white/monochrome. You get examples of the style and then certain buildings are used to show how they fit within a certain architectural genre. You also get a little bit of background history to the building, they pick an iconic building and break it down to explain what the architect was trying to achieve, so in the modern chapter they use the Seagram Building which set the standard for modern skyscrapers. This is a great little book to dip into, however it is not a textbook on architecture more a beginners introduction.

Like the previous books in the 'How to Read' series, this short, easily portable work presents its topic in clear, well organized fashion. In fact, buildings grouped not by date of construction per se but rather by general style: Classical and Colonial, Renaissance, Decorative Styles, Modern, etc. Much emphasis is placed on illustrations, all monochrome. Contrary to other books in the collection, however, photos are included, often artistic, frequently vintage and always black and white. Though unpretentious in appearance, this book certainly results from very substantial research. It is rigorous and includes location maps, a glossary, a list of prominent architects and their works, additional resources both printed and on the web and of course an index. Those who know little of New York will gain much from it and those who do know the city will want to discuss why such a building was included or excluded.

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