

Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office

Antoinette J. Lee

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Antoinette J. Lee : Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Rich and Engaging Story By A Customer "For all of its output, the Supervising Architect's office is seldom given even a marginal place in historical assessments. Antoinette Lee's meticulously researched book may alter this situation. The contents bring to the fore a rich and engaging story of public works about which only a handful of specialists have known more than a few basic attributes. Drawing from federal archives, agency and congressional records, and architectural journals, she develops a detailed and definitive history....Lee has created an unusual and important volume that both adds a new perspective to the practice of architecture and underscores the vagarious dimensions that practice can acquire in service to the state." ---Richard Longstreth in the "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians," Volume 60, No. 2/June 2001, pp. 231-233.

This unique book traces the evolution and accomplishments of the office that from 1852 until 1939 held a virtual monopoly over federal building design. Among its more memorable buildings are the Italianate U.S. Mint in Carson City, the huge granite pile of the State, War, and Navy Building in Washington, D.C., the towering U.S. Post Office in Nashville, New York City's neo-Renaissance customhouse, and such "restorations" as the ancient adobe Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. In tracing the evolution of the Office and its creative output, Antoinette J. Lee evokes the nation's considerable efforts to achieve an appropriate civic architecture.

"A definitive, detailed, and thorough examination....an invaluable reference guide and resource on federal buildings in America."--*The Public Historian*
About the Author Pamela Scott is an architectural historian. She teaches History of Washington Architecture for Cornell University in Washington, D.C. Antoinette J. Lee is a Historian at the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.