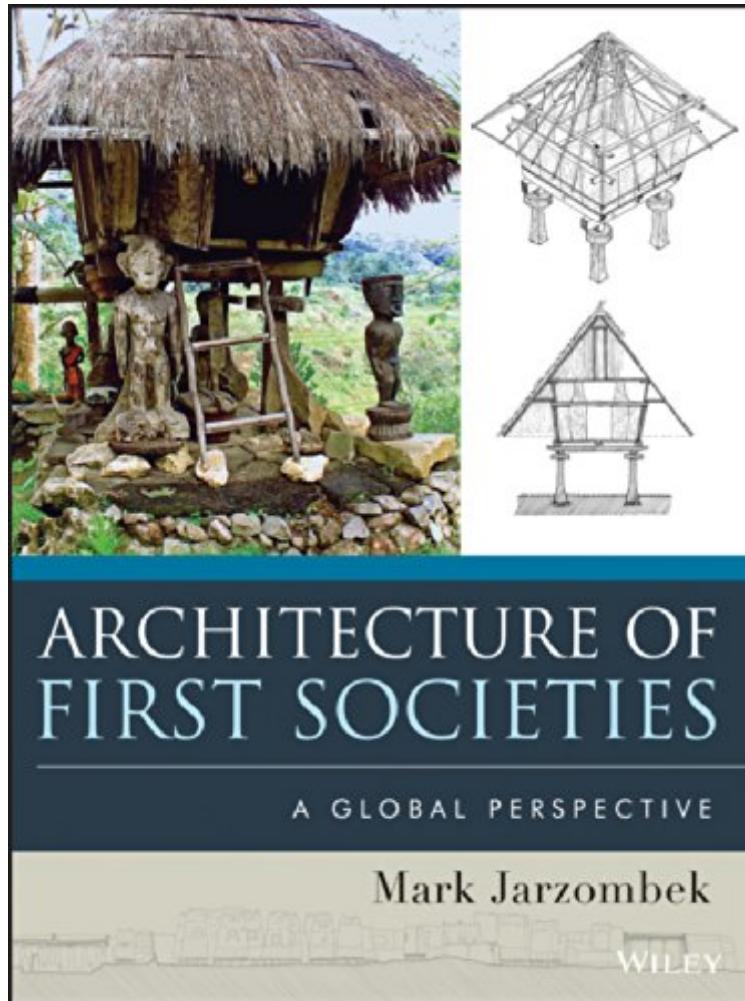


Architecture of First Societies: A Global Perspective

Mark M. Jarzombek
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Mark M. Jarzombek : Architecture of First Societies: A Global Perspective before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture of First Societies: A Global Perspective:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mind expanding view of culture!By megbThis may be a textbook, but it's a fascinating read all by itself. I'm so glad I spent the money because it's a great investment I will return to over and over. The author truly has an interactive world view that demonstrates the dynamic flow of populations as they spread and retreat and mingle through the geography of the continents. He thoroughly explains the ecology of each time period so the reader can get a snse of what the climate was like and how it influenced societal development. Rather than describing one group in isolation, he shows how populations interacted and how traditions and technology spread. There are wonderful drawings of architecture with accompanying photos and maps that really bring it all together. For example, one map shows how the salmon fishing cultures are really part of a widespread series of societies that extended fro China to the Pacific Northwest. Although I knew about the Haida, I never understood the

larger picture of cultures around the Pacific Rim who were engaged in a salmon based economy. This book has greatly expanded my view of the ways people have inhabited the continents and influenced one another of time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In a class by itselfBy Richard SuttonMark Jarzombek's amazing book is such a stand-alone volume of work, I was amazed and inspired with almost every single page I turned. I write fiction, and the cultures and societies of ancient peoples often figure into my characters. Research for me is almost non-stop, so if I can find a resource that will allow me to eliminate a few more empty alleys, I appreciate it. The book is a large, lavish work and it sets new ground in the very beginning, seeking to overturn to view of architecture and construction as somehow separate disciplines from a given culture's ongoing work. It connects the diverse threads of spiritual significance from within the cultural perspective, with the structures these various people choose to live in. It is surprising just how interconnected culturally, those of us who inhabit similar weather regions, worldwide, really are. It also establishes a critical perspective that is all-embracing; choosing to view more ancient, closer to the earth societies, with the same kind of respect we give our own. The result is a very readable reference work that connects the structures made by scores of societies through cultural and environmental similarities, all of which work very well for a writer doing research. I would especially enjoy seeing this great book picked up as classroom text as it can only encourage student discussions overflowing into cultural tolerance and understanding. If you have anyone in your family or among your friends who has a related interest, this book will make a lasting, most impressive gift. My only criticism is that the colored areas in many of the charts and maps could be a bit brighter or show more contrast, but that's probably just my old eyes. The book is lavishly illustrated with many unique photographs that for me were inspirations in themselves. I expect some new ideas to come directly from my time with this great book.. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great overview of how certain civilizations organize and construct their communities and buildingsBy Fry BoyOddly, at 672 pages, this book is too short. The author appears to be quite accomplished in his field of architectural history and planning, with several well-received texts to his credit. This particular volume covers the design and arrangement of--generally speaking--primitive societies, illustrating the "what, why, where and how" of those societies with regard to architecture and its cultural implementation. Civilization by civilization, he builds a case that each society put a lot of thought into architecture and its placement. There were some societies that intrigued me more because Jarzombek provided details on architectural structure, not just on arrangement. A good example is the Mongols. The illustrations provided show several steps in the construction of a Mongol tent or hut, with the critical component being a hoop (high up, in the middle of the tent) upon which structural ribs are hung (or festooned, if you will). Many of the societies discussed--particularly in the first half of the book--don't have explicit illustrations of an architectural construction, *per se*, just the layout of their hamlet, village, etc. In the author's defense, though, this is understandable since many first societies (e.g. Druids) haven't left much behind to pick through other than ruins (e.g. Stonehenge). Certainly a worthy read if you're interested in the architectural intents of the buildings and "city plans" of early cultures.

"This book is the most comprehensively global and critically sensitive synthesis of what we now know of the material and socio-cultural evolution of the so-called First Societies. Written by a distinguished architectural historian and theorist, this truly remarkable and indispensable study shows how the material culture of our forebears, from building to clothing, food, ritual and dance, was inextricably bound up with the mode of survival obtained in a particular place and time... It is a study that will surely become required reading for every student of material culture."—Kenneth Frampton Starting with the dawn of human society, through early civilizations, to the pre-Columbian American tribes, *Architecture of First Societies: A Global Perspective* traces the different cultural formations that developed in various places throughout the world to form the built environment. Looking through the lens of both time and geography, the history of early architecture is brought to life with full-color photographs, maps, and drawings. Drawing on the latest research in archaeological and anthropological knowledge, this landmark book also looks at how indigenous societies build today in order to help inform the past.