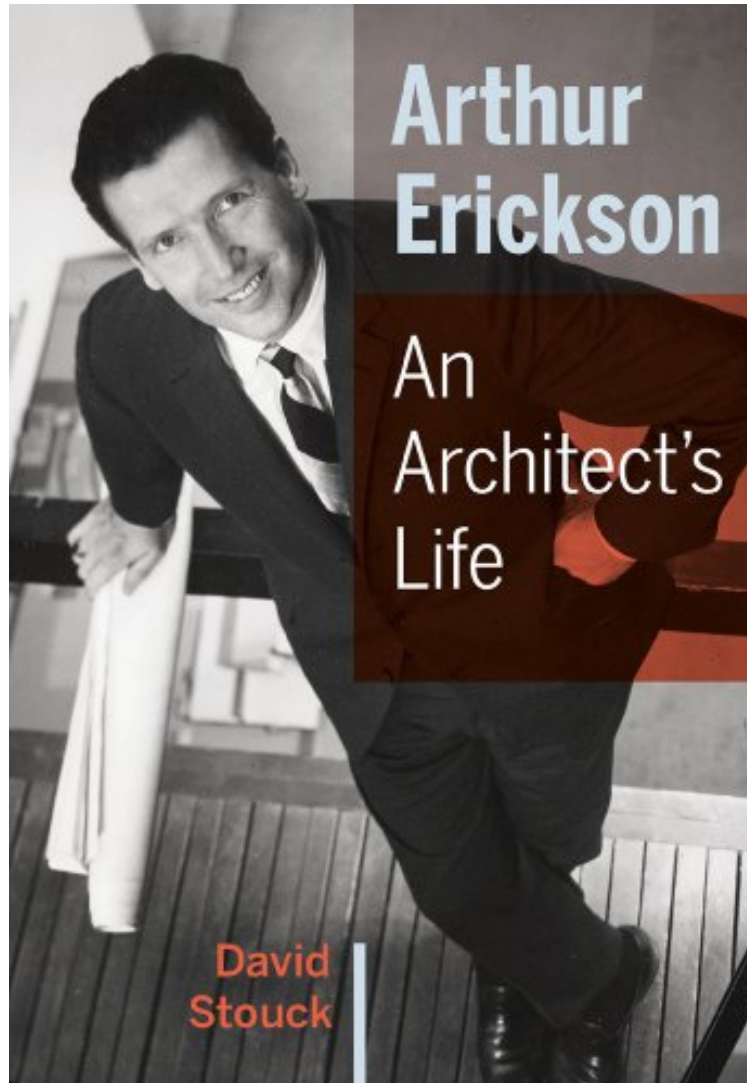


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## Arthur Erickson: An Architect's Life

*David Stouck*

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**David Stouck : Arthur Erickson: An Architect's Life** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arthur Erickson: An Architect's Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Book on the Great Canadian Architect Arthur Erickson By Deerpath "Arthur Erickson: An Architect's Life" (year 2013) by David Stouck is an excellent and outstanding book. The great Canadian architect's life from the year 1924 to the year 2009 is brilliantly presented in much detail. David Stouck, a professor emeritus of English at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, knew Arthur Erickson personally and based his book on interviews with Arthur Erickson before his death. The result is a splendid account of Arthur Erickson's architecture along with the context of its development and a totally sympathetic portrait of Arthur Erickson as a man. Arthur Erickson designed Simon Fraser University, so David

Stouck was fully familiar with what it was like to work in one of Arthur Erickson's buildings. Arthur Erickson's other famous buildings are discussed in detail, such as the Filberg House in Comox, British Columbia, Canada; the Eppich House One in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; the University of Lethbridge in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada; the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; the Bagley Wright House in The Highlands of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.; Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; the Canadian Chancery in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.; the Eppich House Two in the British Properties of West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A. I am currently finishing The Architectural Imagination online Internet course of Harvard University offered through HarvardX and edX, and David Stouck's book on Arthur Erickson provides an excellent addition to my studies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read about a brilliant man. Sadly the love of his life ruined him! By Frederick Booth His architecture was forward thinking and he was admired as the greatest architect in modern day Canada. I appreciated that the book told of his involvement with someone who ultimately ruined him financially. A sad tale in the end, but that's life. He should have left the boyfriend early on. The lavish lifestyle he brought ultimately destroyed the architect. Nice that he was acknowledged at his death for his brilliance. A bitter-sweet story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Biography By Ethyl Very interesting bio of the Canadian architect especially if you are familiar with his work.

Arthur Erickson, Canada's pre-eminent philosopher architect, was renowned internationally for his innovative approach to landscape, his genius for spatial composition, and his epic vision of architecture for people. Among his most celebrated large-scale works are three that helped to define Vancouver's urban landscape: Simon Fraser University, on Burnaby Mountain; the Robson Square complex at the heart of the city; and the exquisite Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Travel was key to Erickson's creative process; floating high above the clouds on extended airline flights, he made preliminary drawings on vellum with his fine-point black felt-tip pen, designing influential works not only for other parts of Canada-including Toronto's widely admired Roy Thomson Hall--but for sites in the U.S., Britain, and the Middle and Far East. Erickson worked chiefly in concrete, which he called "the marble of our times," and wherever they appear, his buildings move the spirit with their poetic freshness and their mission to inspire. But he was also a controversial figure, more than once attracting the ire of his fellow architects, and his professional achievements were tarnished by the excesses of a complicated personal life that resulted in a series of tawdry bankruptcies. In a fall from grace that recalls a Greek tragedy, Canada's great architect--a handsome, elegant man who lived like a millionaire and counted among his close friends Pierre Trudeau and Elizabeth Taylor--eventually became homeless and penniless. This first full biography of Erickson, who died in 2009 at the age of eighty-four, traces the architect's life from its modest origins to his emergence on the world stage. Author David Stouck, acclaimed for his earlier biographies of Ethel Wilson and Sinclair Ross, demonstrates here once again why his work has been praised as imaginative, incisive and compelling. Grounded in interviews with Erickson and his family, friends and clients, as well as the resources of extensive public archives, *TITLE* is both an intimate portrait of the man and a stirring account of how Erickson made his buildings work. Beautifully written and superbly researched, it is also a provocative look at the phenomenon of cultural heroes and the nature of what we call "genius."

"David Stouck offers an intimate and truly fascinating portrait of the complex and contradictory 'starchitect' who was at the heart of Canadian art and design for more than half a century." (Ross King, author of "Defiant Spirits" 2012-07-23) "David Stouck's book is admirably candid about Erickson's architectural excesses, his bankruptcy, his sexuality, and the celebrity craving of his later years. Yet the reader recognizes Erickson's genius not only in his greatest works, such as Simon Fraser University and the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, but in his extraordinary perceptions of what humans could and should do. The pages come alive with a young Leonard Bernstein playing the piano in a forties Vancouver salon, Frank Lloyd Wright presiding at Taliesin, Duke Ellington joining Erickson's graduation party, and Erickson and Pierre Trudeau swimming au naturel in a Laurentian lake. A remarkable biography of an exceptional artist." (John English, author of "Citizen of the World" and "Just Watch Me" 2012-07-23) About the Author David Stouck is professor emeritus of English at Simon Fraser University. With Myler Wilkinson, he edited two first-of-kind anthologies of British Columbia literature. His biographies of Ethel Wilson and Sinclair Ross, and his editions of their unpublished writings, attracted critical acclaim and have been shortlisted for awards in both Canada and the United States. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.