

Oxford Brookes University Library

Architecture

A guide to finding information

1. Books

If you are looking for a **particular book** and know the author or title, you can use **Books & e-books** tab on the [Library web page](#) to see if that item is held. The catalogue entry will give the exact location (shelfmark) for that book.

You may also wish to browse the shelves – here are some key shelfmarks:

Building regulations	692.9
Landscape architecture	712
Architecture	720
Architectural theory	720.1
Sustainable architecture	720.47
Ancient architecture	722
Twentieth century architecture	724.6
Twenty-first century architecture	724.7
Building types	725
Bridge architecture	725.98
English church architecture	726.5
Vernacular architecture	728.6
Architects' working details	729.2

Shelfmarks are on the 3 floors as follows:

000 – 499	Level 2
500 – 719	Level 3
720 – 999	Level 4

We have a large collection of ebooks. These can be accessed via the library catalogue.

2. Journals

Both print and electronic/online journals are listed by title on the Library catalogue. (NB: look under the **journal title**, not the title of the **article** you need).

3. Indexes to journal articles

[Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals](#) -is one of the main databases for research in architecture and is an index of journal articles relating to urban design, historic conservation and urban planning history. The database surveys at least 2,500 international journals and has records going back to the mid 18th century. It is up-dated weekly. The interface is available in many languages including Japanese, Korean and Chinese. Please note that this is a US publication, so subject terminology and spelling may be different to British practice.

[British Architectural Library Catalogue](#) – is produced by the librarians at the Royal Institution of British Architects Library (RIBA) and covers all aspects of architecture. This includes the Architectural Publications Index (API) which is the biggest index of architecture articles in the world. There are podcasts on how to use this on the architecture subject help page <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/arch/archdatab.html>

[PADDI](#) – index to articles relating to Irish architecture and planning.

Once you have some useful information about specific articles (references), check the Brookes Library catalogue to see if the journal is held – and where it can be found. Remember to search under the title of the journal, not the title of the specific article you wish to find!

4. Online collections of journal articles, ebooks and reports

[Academic Search Complete](#) – covers many subject areas including those relating to architecture.

[Art full text](#) – full text coverage from 1997 onwards, indexing from 1984. Subjects covered include the visual arts, architecture, archaeology, art history, design, fashion, film, television and video.

[Business Source Complete](#) – contains journal articles relating to business and commercial buildings. It is also useful for information on green buildings.

[Construction Information Service \(CIS\)](#) – Provides full text architectural, construction and planning information which includes: BRE, CIBSE, CIRIA and JCT technical reports and papers, architects working details, journal articles such as Architects' Journal and New Civil Engineer, seminal books in the built environment subject area, the building regulations and specification material.

[Detail Inspiration](#) - Full text database of projects from Detail magazine in English (1987-) Each project has been individually indexed and the records provide a brief description, reference images, PDF and link to the relevant company website

5. Architectural Images

[ARTstor](#)- a database of more than a million images, covering a wide range of subjects, which is available via the Oxford Brookes Database page. Images from this may be used for coursework and classroom presentations.

Images of England – produced by English Heritage is a photographic library of England's listed buildings, recorded at the turn of the 21st century. You can view over 300,000 images of England's built heritage from lamp posts to lavatories, phone boxes to toll booths, mile stones to gravestones, as well as thousands of bridges, historic houses and churches. Available at <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/>

RIBApix - An online collection covers world architecture of all periods together with related subjects such as interior design, landscape, topography, planning, construction and the decorative arts. Available at <http://www.ribapix.com/>

6. Building Price Information

Building Cost and Information Service (BCIS) - provides online building and construction cost and price data. It is a collaborative venture for the exchange of information so that subscribers involved in design, construction and property can have ready access to the best available data.

7. Newspapers online

Factiva – full text database of newspaper articles for UK national and international newspapers. It houses a large number of full text journals, and is useful for researching international architecture.

LexisLibrary – full text database of national and regional newspapers.

8. Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Most of these are shelved at 720 – 729 and are good print resources. The following are some suggestions for general reference:

Elements of style: an encyclopedia of domestic architectural details – shelved at 728.03 ELE

Encyclopedia of the vernacular architecture of the world – shelved at 728.6 ENC

(2004) Phaidon atlas of contemporary world architecture – shelved at 724.7 PHA

(2008) Phaidon atlas of 21st century world architecture – shelved at 724.7 PHA

Glass, J (2002) Encyclopaedia of architectural technology – shelved at 690.03 GLA

Harris, CM (2000) Dictionary of architecture – shelved at 720.5 DIC

Thames and Hudson encyclopaedia of 20th century architecture – shelved at 724.903 THA

Wilkes, J A (1988/90) Encyclopedia of architecture, design, engineering and construction (4 vols) – shelved at 720.3 ENC

9. Local information

Information on Oxford, Oxfordshire and areas within an approximate 30-mile radius of Oxford is available in the Local Collection, Level 3 Zone C (in the mobile shelving) Headington Library

10. Special Collections

Oxford Society of Architects (OSA) – a special collection of rare architecture books can be found in the Special Collections reading room. More information is available the web page <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/special-collections/art-and-architecture/oxfordshire-society-of-architects-collection/>

Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Library (POVAL) is available for reference on level 2 of Headington library. For more information is available of the web page [https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/special-collections/art-and-architecture/the-paul-oliver-vernacular-architecture-library-\(poval\)/](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/special-collections/art-and-architecture/the-paul-oliver-vernacular-architecture-library-(poval)/)

11. Dissertations, research and conferences

Oxford Brookes undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations for architecture are held in the Built Environment Resource Centre (AB 215, Abercrombie Building). ALL Brookes's PHD theses are held in the library – ask to view these at the enquiry desk.

The following book may be useful when you are planning your dissertation:

[*Farrell, P \(2011\) Writing a built environment dissertation: practical guidance and examples*](#) 808.06669/FAR

[ProQuest dissertations & theses : UK & Ireland \(Abstracts / Index\)](#) provides a list of theses with abstracts accepted for higher degrees by universities in Great Britain and Ireland since 1716, and can be found by clicking on *Find a database*. The theses can then be obtained via inter library loan.

12. Other Sources

Buildings of England

Pevsner, N (ed) (1951-) This is a series of county guides to the architecture of England, each catalogued and classified individually. An index to the complete series is available on CD-ROM (at 720.942 PEV). This enables you to find building types etc. across county volumes. Similar series exist for **Scotland, Wales and Ireland**. The series also now includes individual city guides.

Maps and Atlases

These are housed in Level 3 Zone E Headington Library
Electronic maps of the UK are also available via **Digimap**.

Working Details

Working details from the Architects' Journal are available as books on the ordinary shelves (729.2 ARC). These can also be accessed from the Construction Information Service database.

Your Academic Liaison Librarian (Geoff Morgan) – is available to help you use the library's resources and find the information you need. Please contact him via email: g.morgan@brookes.ac.uk or phone: 01865 483137 and in person at his office on level 3 of the library (JHB 310). He also has a subject help page which you can access via the library's home page by clicking on *Subject Help* and then selecting *Architecture* from the list.

Geoff Morgan
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