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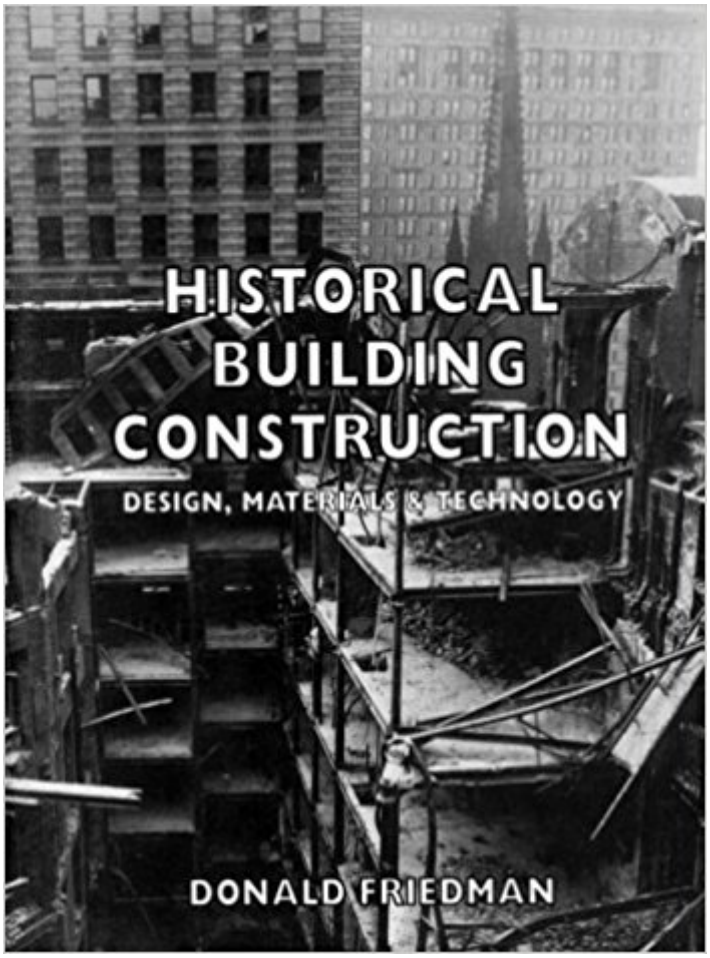
Historical Building Construction: Design, Materials, And Technology



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Synopsis

If you practice building renovation, rehabilitation, or preservation, you need to understand the specifics of obsolete construction in order to work in a nondestructive and unobtrusive manner.Historical Building Construction encourages the design of "elegant" and safe solutions to the structural problems caused by changes in use, changes in architectural design, or changes in the mechanical plant. It enables modern engineers to understand what assumptions their predecessors made, what materials they used, how they designed structures, and how their designs were built. Architects renovating older buildings, while not usually responsible for structural design, need to understand the design restrictions forced on them by the original structures. A guide to the physical construction of buildings from the 1840s to the present, Historical Building Construction uses narrative, drawings, and photographs to describe the development of masonry, wood, and steel construction, modern curtain walls and concrete slabs, and the use of cast iron and patented floor construction. It provides case histories to show how this information is applied to actual projects, ranging from brownstones to skyscrapers. In order to show a consistent and well-documented set of examples evolving in chronological order, New York City is used as model, since many examples of obsolete forms are still available for examination. The general information given applies, with few exceptions, to buildings of the same types built all over the United States during the same period, and these are referenced as needed. Every designer who works on old structures or studies them will find in Historical Building Construction help in the process of analyzing existing conditions in a building and suggestions for dealing with what lies hidden behind floor, wall, and ceiling finishes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

â œ[A] classic in the fieldâ |.A modern engineer attempting to renovate or rehabilitate buildings needs to understand the mundane as well as the exceptional in order to design the most effective and least intrusive solution. Historical Building Construction offers an engaging way to develop that understanding.â • - Civil Engineering --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Donald Friedman, author of Historical Building Construction, is the president of Old Structures Engineering and lives in New York City.

Very good reference manual for anyone working on historic buildings. Better yet if you are working on projects in NYC you will find this extremely useful.

A detailed reference guide with lots of useful references that will be a good place to start if you are getting into this field, or need some background on existing building structural systems and technology

Wonderful book, well written.

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