

November 25, 2025

John's top ten books, not in any order.

1. Gaston Bachelard  
The Poetics of Space, 1958  
(philosophical musings on the nature of architecture and how it occupies our dreams)
2. J J Coulton,  
Ancient Greek Architects at Work, Problems of Structure and Design, 1977  
(how architects in antiquity solved design problems)
3. William L. MacDonald,  
The Architecture of the Roman Empire, 1965  
(Simple description of the power of Roman architecture)
4. ANW Pugin  
Contrasts, 1846,  
(polemical work, one of the first writings on architecture to link morality and design)
5. David Watkin,  
Morality and Architecture: The Development of a Theme in Architectural History and Theory from the Gothic Revival to the Modern Movement.  
University of Chicago Press, Chicago, (1984/original 1977).  
(history of an idea, how concepts shift and flow through time )
6. Vincent Scully,  
American Architecture and Urbanism  
(fundamental history of why American architecture looks the way it does)
7. Kevin Lynch,  
The Image of the City, 1960  
(how we read cities)
8. Leon Krier,  
The Architecture of Community, 2009  
(brilliant illustrations of urbanism)
9. Architects Emergency Committee,  
Great Georgian Houses of America, 1933  
(beautiful drawings done under the WPA, recording American houses)
10. A.S. G. Butler,  
The Architecture of Sir Edwin Lutyens; Vols 1, 2,3; 1950  
(monograph of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> c's great architects)