



**Practice of Architecture: Containing the Five Orders of Architecture and an Additional Column and Entablature, With All Their Elements and Details ... Men; With Sixty Plates (Classic Reprint)**

*Asher Benjamin*

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Excerpt from Practice of Architecture: Containing the Five Orders of Architecture and an Additional Column and Entablature, With All Their Elements and Details Explained and Illustrated, for the Use of Carpenters and Practical Men; With Sixty Plates

I have endeavoured, in this Treatise, to avoid a defect which is very generally complained of in books of this kind; that is, a want of particularity in the details, and of a clear, simple explanation of them. In cities, where Architects are always at hand, this deficiency is not so much felt; since the Carpenters there stand in need of no further knowledge upon the subject, than such as may enable them to put into practice the drawings furnished by the Architect. But in villages, the case is different. Those Carpenters in country villages who aspire to eminence in their business, having no Architect to consult, are under the necessity of studying the science thoroughly and without a master. To them, therefore, is this book peculiarly adapted; for it contains the principles of many expensive folios, condensed into a narrow space and applied to modern practice.

The time has been, within my own recollection, when New England did not contain a single professed Architect. The first individual who laid claim to that character, was Charles Bulfinch, Esq. of this city; to whose classical taste we are indebted for many fine buildings. The construction of the Franklin Street houses, of which that gentleman was the Architect, gave the first impulse to good taste; and Architecture, in this part of the country, has advanced with an accelerated progress ever since.

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