How to find information on architects

To find information (text and images) related to architects or architectural firms you can use both print and electronic resources.

**Dictionaries and encyclopedias** can be a good starting point. They contain brief authoritative information and often some bibliographic citations. They also can help to put a particular architect or group of architects into historical and cultural context.

All dictionaries and encyclopedia are located in the Reference section: (aisles 1 and 2 in the Architecture Library)

Arch Ref NA736 .K7
Arch Ref NA40 .W48
Arch Stacks NA736 .M37
Arch Ref NA31 .H56
Arch Ref NA40 .I45
Arch Ref Z5943 .A69 A93 1980

Bibliographies, bio-bibliographies, and guides present a valuable source of information on architects (the majority of them are located in the Reference section – aisles 1 and 2)

• American architects from the Civil War to the First World War: a guide to information sources./ by Lawrence Wodehouse Detroit : Gale Research Co., c1976.
Arch Ref Z5944 .USW63
• American architects from the First World War to the present: a guide to information sources. / by Lawrence Wodehouse. Detroit: Gale Research Co., c1977.
Arch Ref Z5944 .USW635
• Makers of 20th century modern architecture: a bio-critical sourcebook./ by D.L.Johnson and D.Langmead, 1997
Arch Ref NA680 .J628
Arch Ref Z5944 .G7 W66
Arch Ref Z5944 .USR6
Arch Ref NA712 .S63
Arch Ref NA1053 .J4

(For more titles search the [Library Online Catalog](#))

**General histories of art and architecture** (Sir Banister Fletcher’s *History of Architecture*; Marvin Trachtenberg’s *Architecture: From Prehistory to Post-Modernism*; Kenneth Frampton’s *Modern Architecture: a critical history, etc.*) provide information on architects and often some bibliographical sources.

**Monographs** offer the most complete information on an architect or group of architects. **How to find a book** tutorial can help you to conduct your research. If you are looking for a specific publication you can check its availability in the library by searching the [online catalog](#). If you do not know the exact title or author's name search by using the architect’s name (last name first) or architectural firm’s name as a **Subject**. Put the architect's name as an **Author** to find books written by him/her.

![New Jersey Institute of Technology library web catalog](#)

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It is really helpful if you know all possible spellings of an architect or a firm’s name. (Check the Union List of Artists Names to find different versions of name spelling).

Very often articles are the only source available, especially when you are looking for information on recent events and new names in the field of architecture.

To locate articles, search Periodical Databases.

NJIT has access to various indexes: Avery Index, Art-Full Text and Art Index Retrospective, Architectural Index, which provide you with information on where and when a specific article was published.

Databases Academic Search Premier, OmniFile, JStor, Project Muse, Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, give you citations and often full text articles (check each database for full-text coverage).
Learn more about searching databases by reading their "Help" sections and our online tutorials: **How to search Avery Index** and **How to find an article**.

Web resources, which are growing rapidly, can also be used for finding information on architects and architectural firms.

**ProFile** – the architects’ sourcebook.

**Online directories of practices** – RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects).

**Brief biographies of American architects** who died between 1897-1947.

**Biographical database of women in architecture** from the IAWA (International archive of women in architecture).

Many architectural firms have their own websites that include biographical and other data on their principal architects. To find these sites search the **YAHOO directory of architectural firms**.

Architectural Information Portals created in various countries can help to locate information on architecture worldwide.

**ArchiNed (Netherlands)**

**ArchINFORM (Germany)**

**Architects Online (Italy)**

**Architecture.com (UK)**

**CHIN (Canada)**

**Merimee (France)**

**web[architect].at (Austria)**

**PSA Publishers**

Many web resources provide access to digital images.

**Architecture Library Image Database** (password protected)

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Great Buildings

Vitruvio

For more information on images read our tutorial: How to find images.

There are many web sites available for your research, but not all are of equally good quality. Learn how to evaluate web resources.

Precedent research can be conducted by recalling the BArTLES acronym by searching each descriptor

(Credit: Jim Robertson, past Director of Barbara & Leonard Littman Architecture Library)

B Building

Ar Architect

T Building Type

L Location

E Era

S Style

Please do not hesitate to ask library staff for assistance!

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