



Designed-to-Engage...Made-to-Last



While You're Away or On Your Way



Sure, we all recognize famous buildings or the seven wonders of the world. It's a big reason we travel. And today, more than ever, we are drawn to places designed by recognized architects. Travel provides a means to make connections to the world around and the distinctive architecture of each place. Cultural tourism allows us to have authentic experiences. Timeless associations between cultures reverberate throughout an ancient place into the present. Through a mindful plan, Architectural Tourism can expand one's perspective beyond simply creating valuable memories. Putting oneself intentionally inside the mind-set of past place makers helps reveal their initial dreams. Was the edifice designed to attract tourists, was it designed to house a collection and did it successfully produce the intended result? Who contributed to the architect's vision? Artists? Craftsmen? A government? Historic buildings tell stories. They're mature and adaptable. Many have withstood wars, famine, and occasionally, thousands of years of climate change. Contextual architecture responds, for instance, to climactic variations influenced by economic and social norms.

Preserving historic properties are not devoid of controversy like the annual replastering of Mali's Great Mosque of Djenné. When we look beyond the filigree and ornamentation and stand in the shoes of those who sacrificed or fought to preserve a world heritage site, we gain a different perspective when we travel. Empathy seeps into our relationship with place. To wander through the streets of Berlin stop and imagine what it was like in 1945. The total devastation and leveling of the entire city. What was lost, who was lost. It's called historic preservation because architecture is intertwined with history and we literally preserve a sense of *time*. When an ancient structure gets destroyed, we *feel* a real sense of loss. For us, preserving a building is a bridge, a way to develop empathy and pay homage to those who came before us and provide a window on history for those who are yet to appear. Multiple scientific studies have shown how historic buildings contribute to our well-being. Yes, little can compare to a day spent in the woods, but as we travel this year, take a moment to realize how good you feel inside a historic building or in an urban cluster of old buildings.

As we emerge from the pandemic and travel once again, we offer some suggestions to help make your travels a little easier and more interesting. If you need a few suggestions, there are numerous companies that provide tours of famous buildings and multiple sources report on the best places to take in the various styles of architecture.

We'd like to hear back from you: Do you collect famous buildings you've seen? Do you seek buildings over place and if so, why or which ones? Do you read books about the buildings before you go? We hope you enjoy the two we have suggested. And we do hope you'll share your travels with us.
Stay safe and well.

Cheers,

T. David Bell, FAIA, LEED AP
Principal

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Traveling this Summer?

Please share a photo of a building that catches your eye.

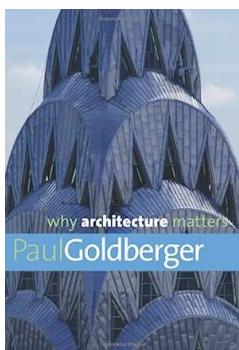




AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C.

by G. Martin Moeller, Jr.

This lively and informative guide offers tourists, residents, and architecture aficionados alike insights into more than 400 of Washington, D.C.'s, most important landmarks. Organized into 19 discrete tours, this thoroughly redesigned and updated edition includes 45 new entries, encompassing the House of Sweden and the U.S. Institute of Peace, classic buildings that epitomize the city—the White House, the Capitol, Union Station—and a number of private buildings off the beaten path.



Why Architecture Matters

by Paul Goldberger

Why Architecture Matters is not a work of architectural history or a guide to the styles or an architectural dictionary, though it contains elements of all three. The purpose of *Why Architecture Matters* is to “come to grips with how things feel to us when we stand before them, with how architecture affects us emotionally as well as intellectually”—with its impact on our lives. “Architecture begins to matter,” writes Paul Goldberger, “when it brings delight and sadness and perplexity and awe along with a roof over our heads.”

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Apple Air Tags were recently given the highest score in *The New York Times* and we agree. Using these trackers can save you many headaches/heartaches. We also advise that you tape them inside your luggage and backpacks where they won't be easily found. If you buy the four pack, stick one in your car with your insurance information and another on your keychain.

attention to your points and where you can get the best deals for travel is an essential for cost minded/savvy travelers. [More details...](#)

A few of BELL's nationally significant historic preservation projects that have public access span three centuries - the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.



US Naval Academy Chapel Dome Rehabilitation

Annapolis, MD

The BELL team took a comprehensive approach to address chronic moisture issues at the historic US Naval Academy Chapel. Using laser scans and thermal imaging to guide the design, the work included replacement of the entire copper cladding at the dome and lantern, flashing replacement across the roofs, introduction of through-wall flashing and masonry sock anchor reinforcement at the parapets along the perimeter of the dome and nave, replication of the gold-leafed ornamentation, lightning protection system and installation of the custom-copper clad skylights and structural reinforcement.

[Visit The Naval Chapel...](#)



Gadsby's Tavern Ice Well

Old Town Alexandria, VA

An architecturally significant site, Gadsby's Tavern Ice Well (c. 1793 NHL) is one of the few remaining urban ice wells in the country and an important part of Alexandria's commercial and social history. The BELL team focused on preservation of the ice well and tavern building by creating an integrated outdoor exhibit, at the same time addressing the structural, storm water, deterioration and public safety concerns of prior alterations completed in the 1970s.

[Visit Gadsby's Tavern...](#)

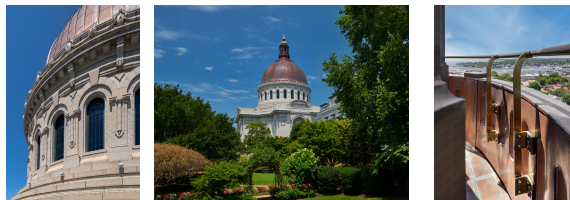


The Hill Center at Old Naval Hospital

Washington, DC

BELL worked to transform the Old Naval Hospital (c. 1865) National Register listed property from a vacant and neglected property into a vibrant and welcoming community center in the heart of the Capitol Hill Historic District. Implemented in three phases by two separate clients, the property owner and the long-term leaseholder, the design addressed the historic main building, its carriage house, the entire site, as well as the ornamental iron fence surrounding the property.

[Visit Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital...](#)



North American
Copper in Architecture Awards[®]

Copper Development
Association Inc.
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2023 Winner of Copper in Architecture Award for the US Naval Academy Chapel Dome Rehabilitation

Thanks to the great team at **BELL Architects**, to our partners and to the Copper Development Association for recognizing the US Naval Academy Chapel Dome Rehabilitation with a Copper in Architecture Award. [List of winners...](#)

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