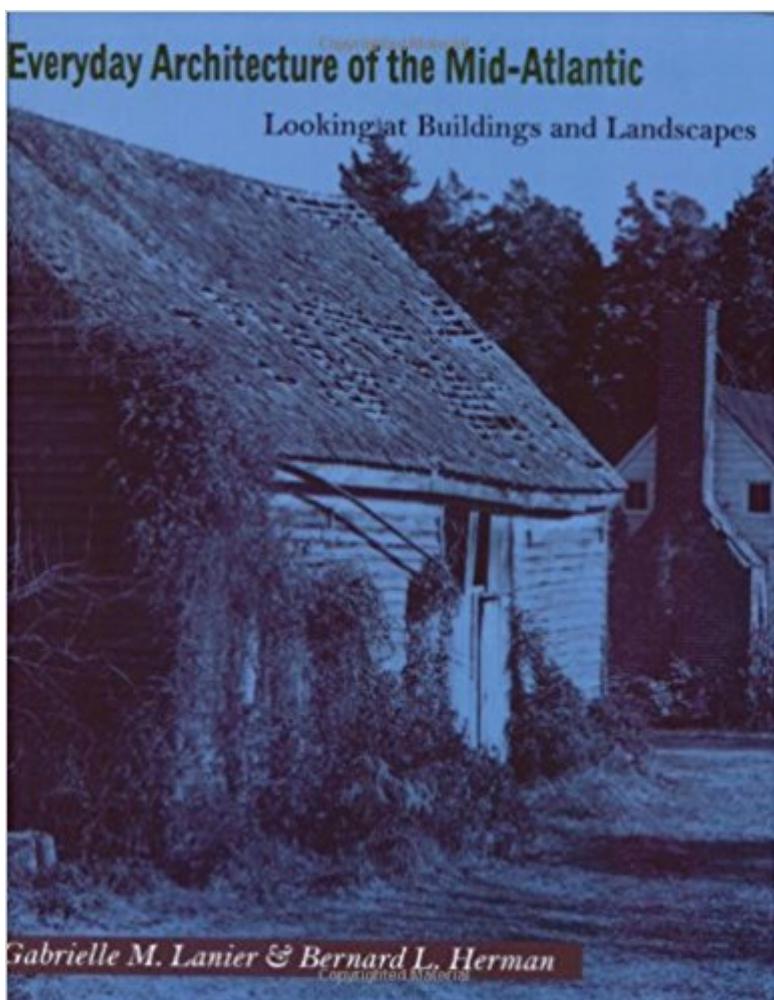


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# Everyday Architecture Of The Mid-Atlantic: Looking At Buildings And Landscapes (Creating The North American Landscape)



## Synopsis

From the eighteenth-century single-room "mansions" of Delaware's Cypress Swamp district to the early twentieth-century suburban housing around Philadelphia and Wilmington, the architectural landscape of the mid-Atlantic region is both rich and varied. In this pioneering field guide to the region's historic vernacular architecture, Gabrielle Lanier and Bernard Herman describe the remarkably diverse building traditions that have overlapped and influenced one another for generations. With more than 300 illustrations and photographs, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic* explores the character of pre-1940 domestic and agricultural buildings in the towns and rural landscapes of southern New Jersey, Delaware, and coastal Maryland and Virginia.

Approaching their subject "archaeologically," the authors examine the "layers" of a structure's past to show how it has changed over time and to reveal telling details about its occupants and the community in which they lived. The book provides architectural information as well as a working methodology for anyone wanting to explore and learn from traditional architecture and landscapes. The authors conclude that, as a vital cultural artifact, the distinctive architecture of the mid-Atlantic needs to be identified, recorded, and preserved. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic* gives proof to the insights architecture offers into who we are culturally as a community, a region, and a nation.

## Book Information

Series: Creating the North American Landscape

Paperback: 424 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press (June 19, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801853257

ISBN-13: 978-0801853258

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #146,175 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Regional #58 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Landscape #77 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Criticism

## Customer Reviews

"It won't fit in your glove compartment, but *Everyday Architecture in the Mid-Atlantic* is a book you

ought to have along as you drive... It's a serious book but it is aimed at nonprofessionals who enjoy historic buildings and landscapes." (Potomac Review)"A first-rate book... Profusely illustrated with an excellent selection of drawings and photographs... It will be of great use to everyone interested in our built environment." (Maryland Historical Magazine)" Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic departs from well-traveled roads to explore the less-celebrated architecture of New Jersey, Delaware, and coastal Maryland and Virginia. The authors use more than 300 illustrations to show readers how to date buildings such as suburban houses that have been through many redesigns and expansions." (Richmond Times-Dispatch)"Finally, a guidebook of historic architecture that treats whole country, not a particular state, but a natural geographical division—â ª a region." (M. Ruth Little Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians)"This book is important new scholarship for those interested in material culture and vernacular architecture." (Judith K. Major American Historical Review)

This richly illustrated volume explores the character of pre-1940 domestic and agricultural buildings in the towns and rural landscapes of southern New Jersey, Delaware, and coastal Maryland and Virginia. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the perfect book for those interested in the art and science of examining and interpreting the built landscape. Providing the same instruction as an intro-level Historic Preservation course, it teaches the reader the process for building documentation , as well as some of the other basics of the Historic Preservation profession. The beautiful photographs, drawings, and illustrations clarify the more-difficult ideas. Not for the casual building-enthusiast, but it will greatly add to the enjoyment of the more serious vernacular architecture fan.

Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes. Authors: Gabrielle M. Lanier, Bernard L. Herman. 424 pages. 1997I picked up this book at the library as part of my self guided education for being a guide at Waynesborough. The book is hefty and has the look and feel of a textbook. While the text claims to focus on the Mid-Atlantic, most of the focus is in Delaware and Delmarva.The text reads easily for the first 65%. After this initial phase it starts to bog down in academic technical prose as it probes deeply into a few structures. It does this probe as a way to teach the reader how to apply archaeological techniques to building and site evaluation. The evaluation is a bit more rambling because it attempts to be as holistic as possible. This can cause the untrained to readily throw up their hands or to get bogged down in pet areas of interest. A more

simplified checklist type of approach followed by a more in depth methodology for those points on the checklist would be helpful. The initial section is interesting and does provide quite a bit of information due to its approach. This book does more than try to identify a house and its era and show how this was done. The approach starts with function and location. It tries to show how the landscape or lot influences the function and design as well. To this end it does an adequate job of providing the reader with context for a building rather than looking at a structure in isolation. Once the reader has gotten a grasp of the context of the building the text moves on to various varieties and evolutions of construction material and technique and how they influenced the structure itself. The book does not limit itself to houses. In the process of providing context through lot surveys the book deals with the various varieties of both urban and rural outbuildings. The study of outbuildings covers the evolution and typical location of the buildings. This aspect of the text proved most interesting because so much of the history of these common outbuildings has been lost due to technological innovations such as indoor plumbing, electric refrigeration and other advances. Besides houses and their attendant outbuildings the text address barns, sheds, factories, and commercial buildings as well. This type of architecture is often reserved to serious students as most casual readers are enamored of houses. The eras portrayed begin in the earliest days of settlement and proceed forward to near the mid-20th Century. The book is well provided with photographs to illustrate ideas and structures as well as line drawings. The latter proved especially useful in describing and providing understanding to how structures are built and where they are located.

Wonderful book with very detailed information regarding architectural styles and construction techniques. This information is very useful for both the layman and scholar. It is written in easy to understand language with numerous illustrations and photographs.

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