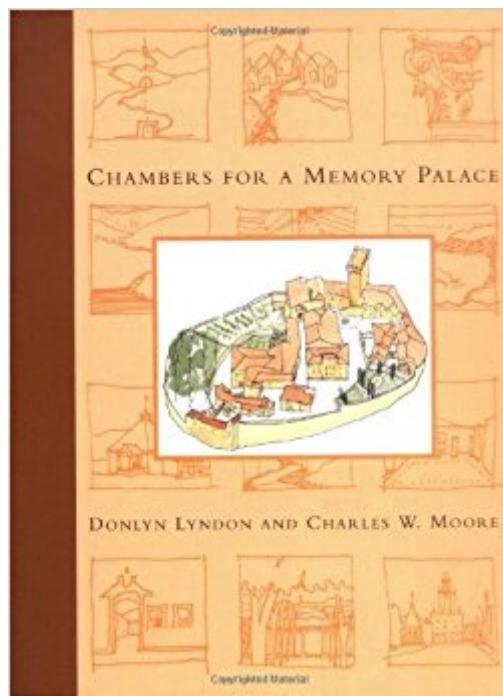


The book was found

# Chambers For A Memory Palace (MIT Press)



## Synopsis

This collaboration between two distinguished architects and former colleagues is a joyous celebration of admired places and a thoughtful consideration of the role that design has played in giving these places their memorable qualities. It is also an invitation to readers to inhabit the chambers of the book with their own imaginations to join in the making of the Memory Palace proposed. The authors' informal, witty, and anecdotal style extends to the illustrations -- the freehand travel sketches, line drawings, and watercolors of places they have remembered and enjoyed. *Chambers for a Memory Palace* consists of an exchange of letters in which one author recalls and the other responds to the elements considered essential to the art of successful place-making. Each of the book's chapters forms a chamber, and each chamber is inscribed with personal observations on the composition of places and the architectural elements central to each building, garden, court, monument, or open space described. The examples considered in these dialogues range from classic Western tradition to Asian temples and Islamic tombs, from ancient ruins to modern cities. In "Axes that Reach/Paths that Wander," Lyndon and Moore discuss the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, the Taj Mahal in Agra, Vaux le Vicomte in France, the Beverly Hills Civic Center, and the Kimbell Museum in Forth Worth. In "Orchards that Measure/Pilasters that Temper," they consider the rhythmic spacing of elements in the Mosque at Cordoba, the Cathedral at Bourges, the thousand-pillared mandapas of South Indian temples, the facades of Schauspielhaus in Berlin, and the Seagram building in New York City. They use these and many other examples to illustrate the ways in which architecture, experience, and memory intertwine to help us experience events and places.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In a "conversation in letters," two distinguished architects informally discuss architectural forms and embellishments in famous buildings and recent constructions. Here, a determined novice can learn how the concept of an axis affects the visual and structural presence of a building, as well as the impact of diverse domes, pillars, arches, terraces, courtyards and gardens. Each chapter (or, as they call it, "chamber") focuses on one theme, jumping between past and present, between Italian hill towns and San Francisco, between Spanish mosques and Disneyland. They discuss the Taj Mahal; the Hagia Sophia; mad Ludwig's castle, Neuschwanstein in Bavaria; the great Mosque at Cordoba; the Salk Institute in California; and an enormous number of other interesting structures, both familiar and lesser known. Illustrated throughout with deft sketches of the subjects discussed, the book is a prize for anyone fascinated by architecture. Moore, who died in 1993, was professor of architecture at the University of Texas; Lyndon is professor of architecture at UC Berkeley.

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Offers as good an introduction to the way architects look at, and think about, the world as any I have read...There are treasures enough in this chamber to delight anyone interested in architecture.

(Richard Weston The Architects' Journal )

This was one of my textbooks for a studio class in a school of architecture. I have since graduated, but I recently worked on a site planning project that brought to memory some of the characteristics and qualities described in this book. I wanted to find this book again to remember the qualities of beautiful, memorable, well-designed places mentioned by the authors, so that I could implement them in my project. This book focuses on themes that the authors have observed to be present at the most memorable places. These themes include: Axes that Reach, Borders that Control, Openings that Frame, Order that Comes and Goes. The authors then discuss each of these qualities, citing examples, such as the Taj Mahal or Machu Picchu. This book is an amazing resource to use as inspiration in preliminary/schematic architectural or site design. I have found that I can use the index as a sort of checklist. Of course, I'm sure no space will contain every quality listed in the index. But I've found that the authors have made some inspired observations about

qualities that make places memorable, and the more of these qualities I can include in my project, the better it becomes. For example, in the recent site project that I was working on, I went through the index, and tried to figure out which themes I could implement. Some were already present in my design, and some just wouldn't be good candidates for my particular project. I went through all of the qualities that were remaining and tried to implement as many as possible. I ended up implementing, in some small way at least, all of these: Axes that Reach, Orchards that Measure, Openings that Frame, Platforms that Separate, Stairs that Climb and Pause, Pockets that Offer Choice and Change, Markers that Command, and Images that Motivate.

Worked out great!!

I'd buy any book authored by Charles Willard Moore

The book is good to start with, it was the first book that was required in my first class of arts (architect) 11A at UCB, it helped a lot in showing different types of drawing styles. It is a good book to start with, it's just like an intro for art students.

I thought it had to do with mnemonics/memory techniques. Instead it is a book on architecture which is not what I wanted.

This book came in great time, and satisfactory condition. The top right corner of the cover was bent, but I am happy with the order. Thank you so much for being prompt and legit, and conducting business in a desirable manner.-Matt

An interesting format for a discussion of design principles with beautiful pen and ink sketches. Imaginary letters written between two architects discussing well known and not so well known buildings that illustrate proportion, paths, angles and why they appeal to our eyes and hearts. Recommended by a designer whose course I took. A very pleasing book.

Interesting book, text for a class on "Placemaking" for architecture. Great Pictures! The authors write letters to each other about many different great places. It's also, notably, not all on western architecture, there are some awesome eastern places too.

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