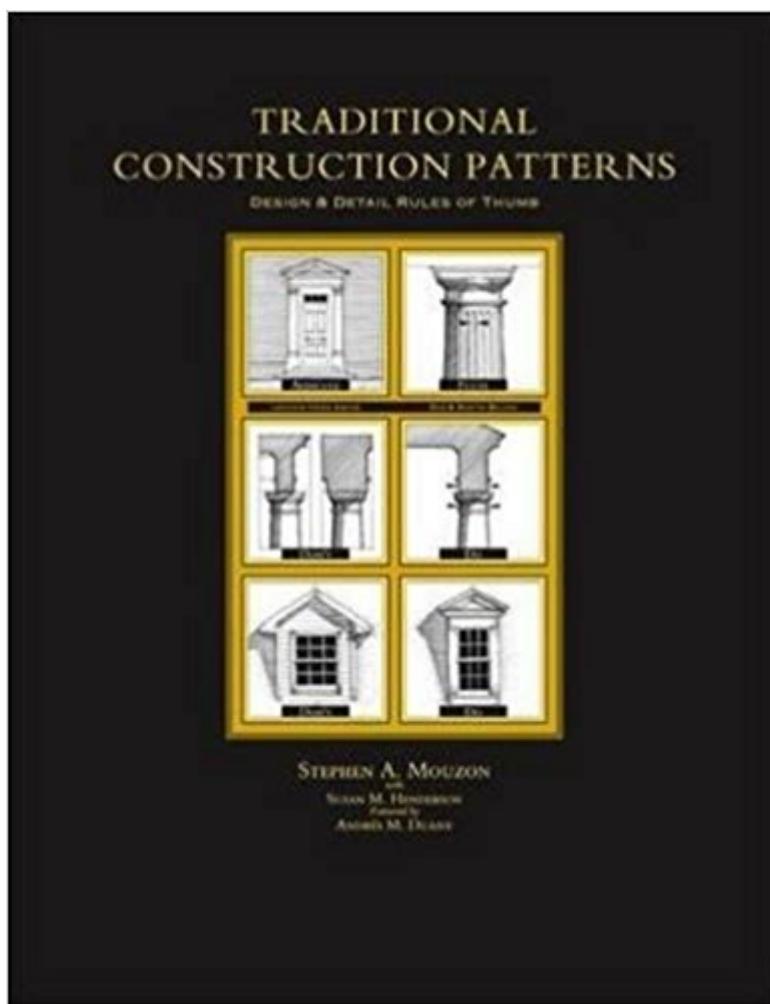


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# Traditional Construction Patterns: Design And Detail Rules-of-Thumb



## Synopsis

\* A hands-on, well-illustrated reference that helps architects and contractors avoid making common errors in traditional construction details \* Graphical approach allows users to quickly visualize design solutions \* Lists the rules-of-thumb for each detail, and correct and incorrect examples of how to design or construct each detail

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Putting the ideas of Modernism into the hands of average architects" and builders has resulted in "architecture done wrong for the past half-century." Architects Mouzon and Henderson explain their "sense of unease" and illustrate a range of do's and don'ts that "give people the tools for getting it right again." In 14 chapters they discuss architectural details ranging from the classical orders to roofs, site work, and signage. Powerful opening chapters set the stage by succinctly discussing architectural history, theory, themes and patterns. The Roman architect Vitruvius is cited, and his themes of commodity, firmness, and delight are expanded for application in reviving the lost language of architecture. The remaining eight chapters are clearly laid out with brief essays on architectural features; these are interspersed with excellent black-and-white photographs. All elements are examined using a technique incorporated into architecture: the transect, an organizing device for developing proper patterns. An illustrated lexicon is also included to educate laypersons in the language, but it is too detailed and selective to be as effective as desired. This is a great companion to Jonathan Hale's "The Old Way of Seeing" (1994) and the National Park Service's

"The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" (rev., 1990). Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers: upper-division undergraduates through professionals; two-year technical program students. -- "L.B. Sickels-Taves, Eastern Michigan University"

"Steve Mouzon ... has produced a manual that is clear, easy to use, and targeted to the most common errors ... Traditional architects can now sweep their own house clean." -- Andres Duany, Architect & Planner Looking at a building and seeing a building are two very different things. To truly understand traditional architecture you must train your eye to see the difference between the Dos and Don'ts. Steve Mouzon's beautifully illustrated book provides an essential resource for anyone seeking this knowledge." -- Marianne Cusato, Author "... to see a town or a building through the eyes of a gifted architect like Steve Mouzon is to truly experience it ... this book is an inspiration to building our world better again ..." -- Kristen Payne, Southern Living ...absolutely essential ... a new town or new neighborhood is simply more profitable when the architecture is correct ..." -- Nathan Norris, Developer "... the first book in my library and the only book I take into the field ..." -- James B. Wagnon, Jr., Historical Home Crafters, Inc. This book explains, in layman's terms, the vague sense of unease we've all had with traditional architecture done incorrectly for the past half-century, and provides the tools for doing it right again. The first tool is a fully illustrated Lexicon of nearly 240 terms we should all know, but probably don't. It's hard to ask for something if you don't know what to call it. It's also hard to say it if you don't know how to pronounce it, so the Lexicon provides pronunciation of all of the words that are not obvious. The primary tool, however, is a collection of 108 patterns illustrated as Dos and Don'ts with diagrams and photographs. These patterns represent the most common errors of traditional construction, and are the things we really need to start getting right if we hope to build more of the most-loved places again.

While this book is not a textbook on classical architecture, it is the most useful book I've found for "jumping" into the middle of design projects and getting some clarity on why certain designs "make sense" and others are just ignorant ideas. Regular referencing of the book will give any novice a conversant understanding of classical architecture. Most of the book is based in principle, but on occasion the author slips into personal preference in dogmatic assertions about various designs.

I only wish I had known about this book six months earlier! We're attempting to build a period-inspired colonial house. I was so dissatisfied with the house plans I saw that I decided to just design the house myself using library books and determination. I wanted to build something

beautiful and the "anti-McMansion". If only I had had this book earlier we would've done so many things differently: my second floor windows would've been shorter to accommodate all the stuff that's supposed to be under the eaves but now won't fit. I would've put the little stoop in a different spot. My dormers would have different proportions. The only problem with reading this book is that now when I look at our house I see all the things I did wrong.

Good service. The book is a great resource for anybody who wants to build a traditional house the right way.

Modernism has been the dominant language of architectural schools since the late 1930's. Modernism has never caught on with most of the people who commission architects to design buildings. They want more traditional buildings that are grounded in America's architectural history. Unfortunately, most architects were not taught to design traditional buildings. As a consequence, America's suburbs are brimming with grotesque Tudors, misshaped bungalows and awkward colonial revival homes. In this volume, Stephen Mouzon assembles a thousand photographs of architectural details. By concentrating on specific building details, he gives examples of designs that are done correctly and others that are completely fouled up. At times, it is humorous and even a bit tragic to see just how illiterate an architect can be. I am not an architect. My hobby is to look at architecture. When I come across real train wrecks, it is easy for me to understand why they do not work. However, I often come across buildings that don't work and I have problems putting my finger on what is wrong. This volume is a field guide to all that can go wrong. Stephen Mouzon's target audience is architects. I would hope that any architect contemplating designing a traditional building will purchase this book. A little bit of study can help spare this country further examples of embarrassing architecture. I only wish this book had been written sixty years ago.

Mouzon revives traditional building in America. This is the first book that constructively describes how to transform the mistakes of contemporary architects and builders. Mouzon shares the history of and tradition of building, and uses text and diagrams on how to get it right. I encourage this book to be part of any course on building.

Clear, concise explanations of architectural details and the good, bad, and ugly interpretations of same. Text is supported by fine illustrations and decent photos.

Great reference for an architect or draftsman interested in keeping with traditional details.

The stuff explained in this book are so elementary that nobody should need to be told about them. And yet, there are plenty of examples of lousy design out there that proves that this sort of book is painfully needed for at least some people. For example, the book tells you, don't use plastic window shutters and don't tack them in place with unsightly studs that dent them. Don't put a pillar in the middle of a window. Don't place bricks above a window in a manner that defies gravity. Is anyone so blind as to actually do the "don'ts"? Obviously some people are because this book provides photographs to prove that such ugly examples exist. The problem is that although this book will help some people avoid the most hideous and outrageous mistakes, it will not help you build a beautiful house. I might have given this book three stars because it is necessary reading for some people. I give it two because the title is misleading.

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