



HOW TO RESEARCH A BUILDING

Looking for information on a particular building? Try these five simple steps below to find a good quality precedent study. Ideally, you'll have at least one of the following details: name of building, name of architect, rough date of construction and/or the location of the building.

STEP 1

Know the name of the architect? Go to the library shelves at 720.92 XXX, where XXX is the first three letters of the architect's surname. We may have a book about the architect which features your building and provides images and plans.

STEP 2

For example, books about Peter Zumthor would be under this shelf mark:

720.
92
ZUM

Search the library catalogue. This may turn up books, dissertations or online journal articles on your building. Is your building in a major city? Check to see whether we have an architectural guidebook; these will be on the library shelves at numbers between 720.94 and 720.99.

STEP 3

Look at specialist online architecture databases which will help you to locate magazine and journal articles, some of which will be available to you to download as pdfs. Both databases can be found via the library catalogue:

Art and Architecture Source

Art and Architecture Archive (Good for historic buildings)

STEP 4

Go to www.architecture.com and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find the 'RIBA Library' link. Click and scroll down again for the RIBA Library catalogue search page. Note that there is a useful 'advanced search' option. Searching this catalogue will show you whether information about your building has appeared in magazine articles or books. In both cases, you need to then track down the magazine or book in GSA library. If we don't have it, it may be possible for us to obtain it from another library.

STEP 5

Still having problems finding your building?

Contact a librarian - library@gsa.ac.uk