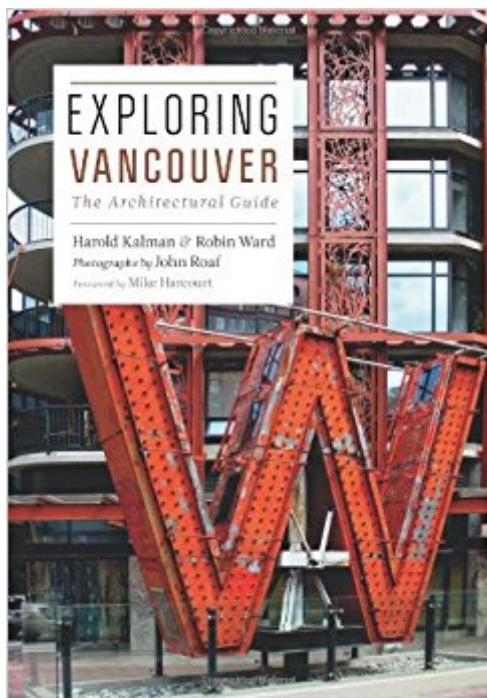


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# Exploring Vancouver: The Architectural Guide



## **Synopsis**

Vancouver's streetscapes and neighbourhoods have changed drastically in recent years. New buildings representing current architectural trends are mixing with and often replacing those of earlier eras and tastes, and a maturing architectural melange is emerging. This book invites the reader to explore the city's continually evolving urban landscape in a highly readable, yet authoritative, guide to its architecture. In this completely updated edition of Exploring Vancouver, with brand-new entries and accompanying photographs, Harold Kalman and Robin Ward have divided the city (including the North Shore, Richmond, Burnaby and New Westminster) into fourteen areas, selecting buildings and structures in these neighbourhoods that represent the best examples of the new and old architecture. Each area is preceded by an informative introduction that provides historical context for the entries that follow. There are over 400 entries, each featuring a short description that combines architectural, historical and social commentary. The prose is lively as the authors consider the new and the old, the modest and the grand, the attractive and the not-so-attractive in a wide-ranging work that encompasses everything from heritage to "monster" homes. This book is designed as a walking tour guide, with a map of each area showing the location of every entry.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Easily the most substantial, witty and fearless companion for touring the buildings/streets of Vancouver -- all other guides are fly-bys." (Trevor Boddy, curator of "Vancouverism: Architecture Builds the City" 2011-11-10) "The reading is astounding. Harold Kalman and Robin Ward's text is as

straightforward as John Roaf's images. It also has enough wit to please the armchair reader and enough facts to make walks of Exploring Vancouver's fourteen architectural districts time well spent." (Malcolm Parry 2011-11-10)"An indespensible guide to anyone who is curious about Vancouver's architecture of yesterday and today." (Bing Thom 2012-02-07)"Exploring Vancouver: The Architectural Guide is exactly what its title says. Original authors Harold Kalman and Robin Ward have added considerable detail to their original appraisals, and also report on two decades' worth of structures added since...John Roaf's colour photographs of each building, many familiar but some less so, merit double-page treatment. Still, they make the not-quite-pocketable book a valuable companion on walks for which the authors provide useful maps." (Malcolm Parry Vancouver Sun 2012-03-14)"Exploring Vancouver is organized into 14 chapters -- or tours...How some of the heritage buildings have been altered, adapted or reused by subsequent generations of architects is of particular interest. And of course, new buildings are featured alongside older ones, which only emphasizes how the collective architectural inventory of Vancouver and its surrounding municipalities is both idiosyncratic in stylistic approach and rich in cultural history." (Canadian Architect 2012-03-21)

Harold Kalman is a specialist in architectural history and heritage conservation. Born in Montreal, he received his education at Princeton University with additional training in conservation at Cornell University and York in the UK. He is currently the BC representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. He is the author of many standard texts on architecture and conservation and teaches these subjects at the University of Hong Kong (where he is Honorary Professor of Architecture) and the University of Victoria.Robin Ward is an architectural critic and writer, artist, graphic designer, and historian. Born in Glasgow, he studied at the Glasgow School of Art, a building that inspired his fascination with architecture, and worked a design manager for the BBC and a freelance writer and book-designer in London. He moved to Vancouver in 1988, a city which he had first visited in 1972. He is a Canadian citizen resident in Edinburgh.John Roaf has specialized in architectural photography for 40 years. He was born and educated in Vancouver, and studied architecture at the University of British Columbia. John is a Canadian citizen resident in Chichester, UK.

Vancouver is a stunning city. Here is a place that has grown up entirely in the 20th and 21st centuries that rivals the beauty of many other more ancient places. Undoubtedly, much of that has to do with the natural setting but, as this books shows, it has to do with Vancouver's beautiful built

environment as well. Here's a book written in standard architecture guide fashion made great by superb content. The book is arranged into walking (or driving) tours by neighborhood, and features most of the exceptional structures within each. There are about 500 entries, each with a small color photograph and a descriptive essay. The essays make reference to other notable structures nearby, so the effective coverage of the entire book is quite comprehensive. The descriptions for each building are surprisingly insightful for their brevity. The author has done an outstanding job of distilling the city's buildings down into a manageable presentation. Vancouver is a very young city, and the vast majority of the architecture we see today was built within the last 50 years. While important classical buildings are included, there is a sizable chunk of the book dedicated to modernism and postmodernism. Being a classicist, there's more modernism here than I prefer, but that's a matter of my personal interest and not a criticism of the book. Modernists will love its attention to specific examples of many styles within the genre. If you're visiting Vancouver and you have an interest in buildings, this book is a must. Not a travel guide or coffee table book, it is a solid reference work, and would be of real use to architectural historians and local historians.

I bought this because I live in Vancouver and was pleasantly surprised to even find my building highlighted in it. I bought the eBook version so I could follow some of the routes on my iPhone and see the buildings in person as I read about them. The eBook satisfies that. However, the presentation of pictures and typesetting as is the case with so many books when they move from physical to digital leaves something to be desired. I think this would probably be a pretty cool coffee table book but in the eBook version it is just about the content.

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