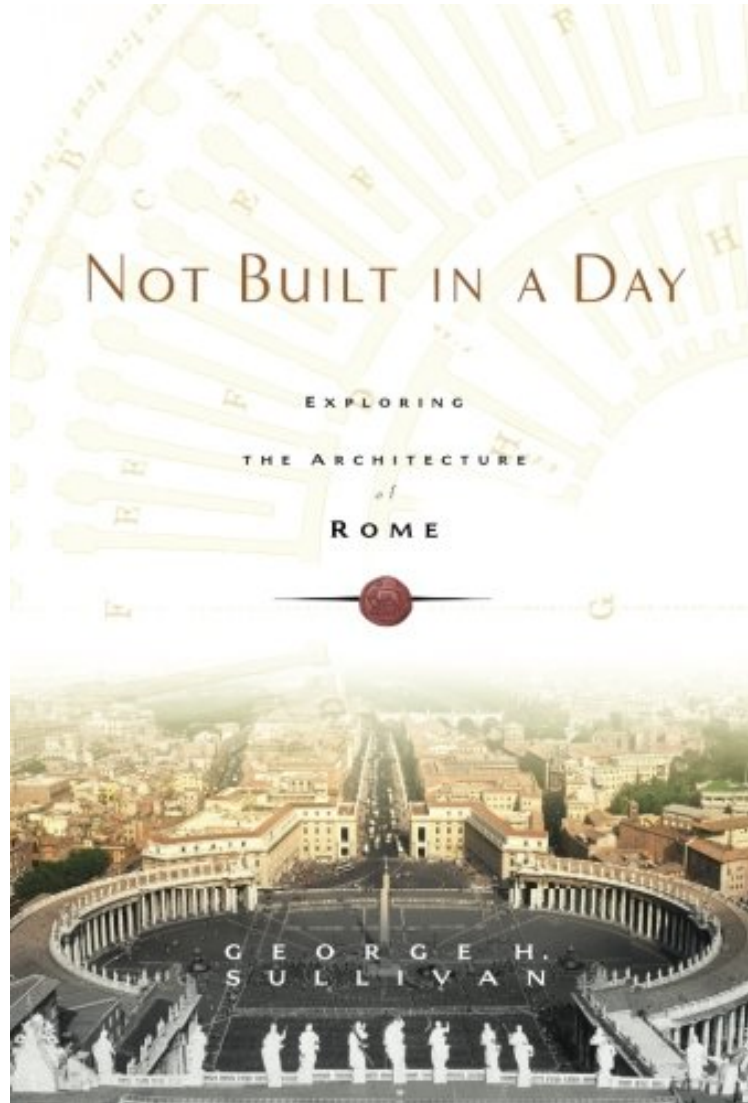


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Not Built in a Day: Exploring the Architecture of Rome

George H. Sullivan

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not by page.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and learned architectural history of Rome. By Autumn Sun First a word about what this book is not: although it is devised as a walking tour, it is not a detailed step-by-step in how to get from one place to another. So readers who plan to do the walking tours should buy themselves a good map. But plenty of readers will enjoy reading straight through the book regardless of whether they ever go to Rome, the "finest architectural jumble in Europe." The book is divided as much by theme as by the geography of Rome; there are chapters on Baroque Rome, Ancient Rome, and Catholic Rome, for example. The sites the author chooses go far beyond the main tourist sites without being strangely obscure. Every site is chosen for its architectural significance, which is clearly explained in great, fascinating detail. It is well illustrated with historical engravings, and the author clearly explains how and why some architectural sites are significant and successful while others aren't. By reading this book, you will come to understand, for example, which building signals the end of the Renaissance in Europe, how San Carlino can be read both horizontally and vertically, and the details of the rivalry between Borromini and Bernini. I learned a lot, about both the personalities that created these buildings and the buildings themselves, which form the character of one of the most interesting cities in the world. Indispensable; it really made the city come alive for me. As an added bonus, the book has wonderful chronological and alphabetical indexes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Rome guide for the intelligent traveler By dreader Finally, a guide that really enhances your knowledge and experience of Rome. All those wonderful (and at times not-so-wonderful) buildings that you see, wonder about and then walk by? This book not only tells you what they are and how they fit into the history of the city but also why they are a good (or not-so-good) example of architecture, all in a companionable style that is never pedantic, dry or academic. And there are lots of architectural guides to Rome that are only dry, academic and pedantic. (See almost any other book in this category on this site.) This one is highly readable, and the author shares his erudition and enthusiasm in a way that is infectious. He teaches by example, and in Rome the examples abound. What a great way to learn about a subject that can sound so intimidating at first. If one were to design a fantasy course in architectural history, this book would be the syllabus, and Sullivan would be the highest rated professor on the campus of your dreams. It's a "Greatest Courses" in architecture- a semester level course for the price of a book. Although the book is most enjoyable on site in Rome, it is also a great read in your armchair at home. "Not Built In A Day" has become my favorite gift to give to first-time visitors as well as cognoscenti; it gets rave reviews from everyone who has used it as a guide. I can't wait till Mr Sullivan publishes his next guide; let's hope it's soon!

Not Built in a Day: Exploring the Architecture of Rome is a unique, unconventional guide and a deeply felt homage to Rome and its extraordinary 2,500-year history. Moving beyond the names, dates, and statistics of ordinary guidebooks, George Sullivan's eye-opening essays celebrate the special character of Rome's buildings, fountains, piazzas, streets, and ruins. From the largest landmark down to the smallest hidden gem, Not Built in a Day explores the city in comprehensive detail, offering detailed visual and historical analyses that enable readers to see and understand exactly what makes the architecture of Rome so important, influential, and fascinating. Not Built in a Day is supported by a companion website (NotBuiltInADay.com) that offers, among other features, detailed illustrative photographs for readers who want to experience the book's walking tours at home and large printable maps for readers using small electronic devices on-site in Rome.

"Clean prose and profound knowledge--just the book for when the Eternal City beckons." -- Frances Mayes, bestselling author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* About the Author George H. Sullivan is a veteran travel writer whose work includes walking tours of both Florence and Vienna for Fodor's Travel Guides. He spent fifteen years researching and writing the essays that became *Not Built in a Day* and he lectures regularly on Roman architecture at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.