The University of Iowa Guide to Campus Architecture

Loren N. Horton
in the twenty-first century. Finally, Zontek compares Indian buffalo preservation efforts in the United States and Canada, concluding that there have been some important similarities and differences north and south of the 49th Parallel.


Reviewer Loren N. Horton is retired Senior Historian, State Historical Society of Iowa. He has done extensive research and writing about Iowa’s architectural history.

This guide to the University of Iowa’s campus architecture is thorough, including both past and current uses of buildings. The guide is organized by geographical zones, with each section accompanied by helpful maps. A section of colored photographs is especially attractive. Appendixes at the end of the book include an alphabetical list of buildings, an alphabetical list of architects, and a chronology of completion dates of buildings. There is also a glossary of architectural terms and a list of works of art housed within the buildings.

The book required diligent research to determine completion dates for buildings and attributed architects. The appendixes are particularly useful. Architectural historians describe given buildings in different ways. In this book, buildings are described clearly, if not always the way others might have done it. For instance, some might doubt that the Boyd Law Building is convincingly reminiscent of grain silos (144). And the description of the Newton Road Parking Ramp is laudatory, but punctuated with jargon and therefore difficult for average readers. The authors have suggested useful parallels between the Classical, Renaissance, Gothic, and Romanesque influences on campus structures, comparing the east and west campuses.

Anyone interested in the University of Iowa, or in architecture, will find this a fine contribution. It should be made available to all prospective students and faculty.