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Chambers for a Memory Palace

Donlyn Lyndon, Charles W. Moore
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Donlyn Lyndon, Charles W. Moore : Chambers for a Memory Palace before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chambers for a Memory Palace:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I wanted to find this book again to remember the qualities of beautiful, memorableBy camThis was one of my textbooks for a studio class in a school of architecture. I have since graduated, but I recently worked on a site planning project that brought to memory some of the characteristics and qualities described in this book. I wanted to find this book again to remember the qualities of beautiful, memorable, well-designed places mentioned by the authors, so that I could implement them in my project.This book focuses on themes that the authors have observed to be present at the most memorable places. These themes include: Axes that Reach, Borders that Control, Openings that Frame, Order that Comes and Goes. The authors then discuss each of these qualities, citing examples, such as the Taj Mahal or Machu Picchu.This book is an amazing resource to use as inspiration in preliminary/schematic architectural or site design. I have found that I can use the index as a sort of checklist. Of course, I'm sure no space will contain every quality listed in the index. But I've found that the authors have made some inspired observations about qualities that make places memorable, and the more of these qualities I can include in my project, the better it becomes. For example, in the recent site project that I was working on, I went through the index, and tried to figure out which themes I could implement. Some were already present in my design, and some just wouldn't be good candidates for my particular project. I went through all of the qualities that were remaining and tried to implement as many as possible. I ended up implementing, in some small way at least, all of

these: Axes that Reach, Orchards that Measure, Openings that Frame, Platforms that Separate, Stairs that Climb and Pause, Pockets that Offer Choice and Change, Markers that Command, and Images that Motivate. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Manuel Lujan Worked out great!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Edwin L. Smith I'd buy any book authored by Charles Willard Moore

This collaboration between two distinguished architects and former colleagues is a celebration of admired places and a thoughtful consideration of the role that design has played in giving these places their memorable qualities. It is also an invitation to readers to inhabit the chambers of the book with their own imaginations, to join in the making of the "Memory Palace" proposed. The authors' informal and anecdotal style extends to the illustrations - the freehand travel sketches, line drawings, and water-colours of places they have remembered and enjoyed. The text consists of an exchange of letters in which one author recalls and the other responds to the elements considered essential to the art of successful place-making. Each of the book's chapters forms a chamber, and each chamber is inscribed with personal observations on the composition of places and the architectural elements central to each building, garden, court, monument, or open space described. The examples considered in these dialogues range from classic Western tradition to Asian temples and Islamic tombs, from ancient ruins to modern cities. In the chapter "Axes that Reach/Paths that Wander," Lyndon and Moore discuss the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Detroit, the Taj Mahal in Agra, Vaux le Vicomte in France, the Beverly Hills Civic Center, and the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth. In "Orchards that Measure/Pilasters that Temper," they consider the rhythmic spacing of elements in the Mosque at Cordoba, the Cathedral at Bourges, the thousand pillared mandapas of South Indian temples, the facades of Schauspielhaus in Berlin, and the Seagram building in New York City. They use these and many other to illustrate the ways in which architecture, experience, and memory intertwine to help us experience events and places.

From Publishers Weekly In a "conversation in letters," two distinguished architects informally discuss architectural forms and embellishments in famous buildings and recent constructions. Here, a determined novice can learn how the concept of an axis affects the visual and structural presence of a building, as well as the impact of diverse domes, pillars, arches, terraces, courtyards and gardens. Each chapter (or, as they call it, "chamber") focuses on one theme, jumping between past and present, between Italian hill towns and San Francisco, between Spanish mosques and Disneyland. They discuss the Taj Mahal; the Hagia Sophia; mad Ludwig's castle, Neuschwanstein in Bavaria; the great Mosque at Cordoba; the Salk Institute in California; and an enormous number of other interesting structures, both familiar and lesser known. Illustrated throughout with deft sketches of the subjects discussed, the book is a prize for anyone fascinated by architecture. Moore, who died in 1993, was professor of architecture at the University of Texas; Lyndon is professor of architecture at UC Berkeley. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Offers as good an introduction to the way architects look at, and think about, the world as any I have read.... There are treasures enough in this chamber to delight anyone interested in architecture." Richard Weston, *The Architects* Journal From the Back Cover An engaging and heartfelt dialog between the two authors, constructed as an exchange of letters in which the architects trade observations on the design of places they love and believe to be significant and instructive.