Finding building plans and drawings

HOW DO I FIND PLANS AND DRAWINGS IN BOOKS?

Many books about specific architects or buildings include reproductions of plans, sections, elevations and other architectural drawings.

To get started, search the Library catalogue (http://www.qub.ac.uk/is/TheLibrary/) for books on the relevant architect or building. The catalogue will give a brief indication of illustrations included in a book. Check the Description field for entries on plans, maps etc. (see below). Often the description of included illustrations can be vague, so you’ll need to look at the book itself to check, if the illustrations are suitable:

Book example from the Library catalogue:

The Hill House, Helensburgh
National Trust for Scotland.

Print Book | National Trust for Scotland | 1962
Available at McClay Floor 2 (p NA080.C6 HILL)

Items

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Shelfmark</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Loan Type</th>
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<td>p NA080.C6 HILL</td>
<td>Check Shelf</td>
<td>Standard loan</td>
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More Details


Description 20 p : ill (some col.), col. maps, plans, ports (some col.) : 21 cm.

Note Maps and plans on inside covers.

Subject Mackintosh, Charles Rennie, 1868-1928.
Hill House (Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire) -- Guide-books
Helensburgh (Dunbartonshire) -- Dwellings.

The Description field indicates that the book contains illustrations (ill.), including plans.

Please note: The library also holds a number of books which collect plans, sections, elevations and other architectural drawings for significant buildings. Check the Library catalogue or your School’s Subject Guide page (http://libguides.qub.ac.uk/space).
How do I find plans and drawings in journals?

Step 1. Identify articles which reproduce relevant drawings, by checking one or more of the following databases and catalogues: Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals and / or RIBA British Architectural Library Catalogue. Take a note of any relevant articles you find, including author name, article title, source title (i.e. the journal title), publication date, volume, issue number and page numbers.

Step 2. Once you have found details of relevant journal articles, you need to check if the journals are available from QUB library by searching the Library catalogue. Make sure you search for the title of the journal, which the article was published in, not for the title of the article. The catalogue will tell you if the journal part you need is held by the library and where you can find it.

Please note: Only a few architecture journals are available online. Most are shelved on Floor 2 in the McClay Library. For help finding journals, take a note of the shelfmark and ask at the Enquiry Desk.

Searching Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals:

- Find a link to the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals database from the Library catalogue or on your school’s Subject Guide. You may be asked to log in with your student card number.
- Select "Advanced Search" and enter the name of the building or architect you are interested in.
- Then limit your search by "Document feature" (this option is further down the page). Depending on the type of drawing you need, useful selections include elevations, plans, sections etc. Select as many as you like.
- Click "Search".
- The "Results" list will show you articles which have relevant illustrations.
- Print the results list or email it to yourself. Then check, if the articles are available in the library, by searching for the journal title on the Library catalogue.

Searching RIBA British Architectural Library Catalogue:

- Find a link to the RIBA British Architectural Library Catalogue from your school’s Subject Guide
- Select "Advanced Search" and enter the name of the building and / or architect you are interested in, in the relevant search box.
- Then enter the type of drawing you would like to find in the Keyword(s) search box, e.g. sections OR elevations OR plans etc.
- Check the results. You can see more information about articles by clicking “Details”.
- Select relevant results and print the list or email it to yourself. Then check, if the articles are available in the library, by searching for the journal title on the Library catalogue.

Need help? For help finding a book or journal in the library, ask at one of the Enquiry Desks.

If you struggle to find architectural drawings following the guidance outlined above, contact your subject librarian, Irene Bittles (email: i.bittles@qub.ac.uk)

For further details, check your School’s Subject Guide page: http://libguides.qub.ac.uk/space