

**ESSENTIALS IN ARCHITECTURE;
AN ANALYSIS OF THE
PRINCIPLES & QUALITIES TO
BE LOOKED FOR IN BUILDINGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649262434

Essentials in architecture; an analysis of the principles & qualities to be looked for in buildings
by John Belcher

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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GROOMBRIDGE PLACE, KENT.

ESSENTIALS IN ARCHITECTURE

An Analysis of the
PRINCIPLES & QUALITIES
to be looked for in Buildings

By
JOHN BELCHER, *A.R.A.*

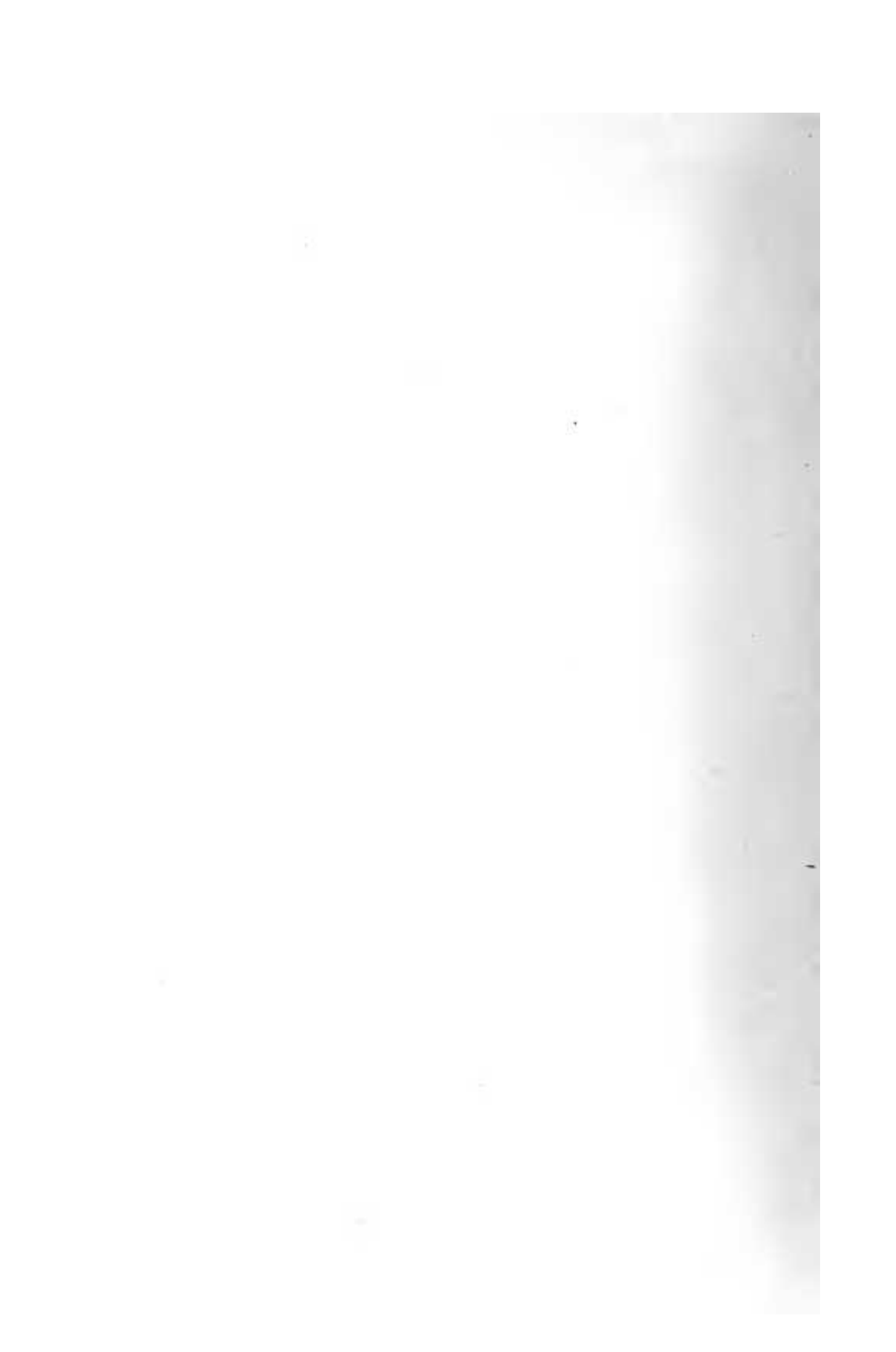
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DEDICATED TO
THE ROYAL INSTITUTE
OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS
IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR
DESIRE TO STIMULATE A POPULAR
INTEREST IN ARCHITECTURE



PREFACE.

THIS book, being intended for all who are interested in Art, is designed on popular rather than on scientific or technical lines.

It is believed that it will serve a useful end for the professional student by recalling to his mind those first principles and ultimate ideals which are so easily and so frequently lost sight of in the maze of practical details. But its appeal is mainly to that small but ever widening circle of the general public who have both the leisure and the desire to take an intelligent and critical interest in the architecture of the buildings in which, or in the midst of which, they pass their lives, or which they visit from time to time in their country excursions or their ordinary travels.

To be able to recognise and distinguish the varying elements of beauty in a mansion, a church, or a cottage—not to mention our public and municipal buildings; to know *why* this is admirable and

that detestable ; to separate the good from the bad when (as generally happens) both are found commingled in the same example ; to go further still and lay the finger upon the precise difficulty or difficulties which the architect has had to cope with, and to gauge the measure of success with which he has accomplished his task—such a mode of addressing oneself to the study of architecture gains in interest with every day's practice, and often lends an element of pleasure to circumstances and occasions which would otherwise be commonplace and tedious.

In the eighteenth century a discriminating taste in architecture, and a knowledge of its first principles were accounted an essential part of the equipment of a gentleman, but such knowledge and interest as exist among us to-day—outside of professional circles—are for the most part of the historical and antiquarian rather than the practical order.

We too often admire the noble examples of the past without attempting to discover the secret of their glory, to analyse their excellence, or to determine the constituent elements of their beauty and dignity.

Consequently, a new building calling for the exercise of an independent judgment takes the untrained faculties at a disadvantage. Whether favourably or unfavourably impressed, we are at a loss to assign a reason for the opinion that is in us.