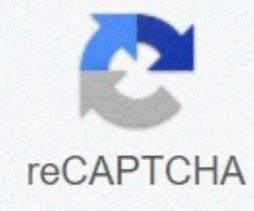




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Architectural research methods summary

Best Reviews Latest Reviews Translate All Reviews into English by Linda Groat and David Wang, Architectural Research Methods (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2002). To order from Amazon.com, click here. Reviewed by Kerry London and Michael Ostwald In 2002, Linda Groat and David Wang published a text on research methods specifically aimed at scholars and practitioners of architecture. With increasing pressure on academics in architectural schools around the world to improve research results, this text is timely. Furthermore, the growing importance of postgraduate research qualifications in the profession of architect and in related specialised fields (heritage protection, architectural sciences, architectural informatics, etc.) means that more and more people with architectural training are looking for research skills. For these reasons, text such as Groat and Wang's Architectural Research Methods is useful not only for people who are learning research skills, but also for people who have already developed research skills and are interested in developing a broader understanding of the hermeneutic and epistemological dimension of architecture. The text of Groat and Wang is divided into two parts: part 1 Domain of architectural research; and Part 2: Seven research strategies. In Part 1 there are 5 chapters that aim to introduce the reader to architectural research and the methods used to undertake these studies. This background is then developed in the following section, which claims that the methodology of the research study develops on the basis of the basic ontological and epistemological assumptions found in the study. This symbiotic relationship between methodology and the epistemology of the study is woven through the rest of the text and is the main message of the work. Part 1 describes the different approaches to literature review and develops schemes to help explain the relationship between all elements of the study; that is, the subject of research, thematic literature and methodological literature, strategy and tactics, the researcher and the intended audience. Importantly, in a chapter entitled Design in Relation to Research, the debate about whether a project is researching or not is approached and Groat and Wang, to their credit, clearly make a distinction without discrediting both worldviews. Chapter 4, The theory in relation to the method, outlines seven research strategies, which are then explained in detail in Part 2. In this section, readers are asked to seek more information about each strategy if their interest is touched and if their current research question requires a specific approach. Ultimately, Part 1 provides new scientists with a broad understanding of the different methods of investigation that are appropriate for different research topics. The second part describes seven studies methodologies that are widely used in architectural research. These include interpretive-historical, qualitative, correlating, experimental and quasi-experimental, simulation and modelling, logical arguments and case study, and combined strategies. This classification system cannot be accepted, but this does not seriously detract from the text. The defined methodologies differ from Ruedi and Bordon's The Dissertation: Architectural Student's Handbook, which, though not as comprehensive as Groat and Wang, still offers valuable insights. The logical arguments are explained particularly well by Groat and Wang and undergraduate students will be able to understand these concepts within a few readings and an early postgraduate or talented undergraduate student may try to develop their own basic logical systems. At the end of this section, readers should also understand enough to understand and criticize the assumptions they make as scientists. The text Groat and Wang has a lot to offer the researcher of architecture, and in particular it is written in relatively simple English, where key concepts are described in such a way that they can be captured even by novice readers. The claim that this text would be useful to practitioners is more debatable, but it can provide the basis for the research skills that could be useful for the practitioners concerned. Research in post-occupancy assessment methods of the 1960s until the late 1980s probably had much more to offer a doctor than many research methods today. However, this does not detract from the usefulness of this text as a valuable reference document for students and researchers working from an architectural perspective. One of the main criticisms of this text is the US-oriented worldview of architectural research. For example, in qualitative research methodologies, there is a lot of research in the UK, Europe and Australia that could be used to clarify the notch. Architectural practice has progressed significantly since Dana Cuff wrote Architecture: The Story of A Practice, but is used by Groat and Wang as a kind of reference point. Since the publication of the work, various researchers have studied the relationship between clients and architects. There are many newer studies in various areas of outlined research, including: Project management, project management, construction management and project management, which explore a wide range of topics, methodologies and research questions that can be drawn. It can also be useful for the average reader to describe ethnographic research in some detail, as strictly speaking Cuff research can be classified in this species. However, Denzin, Lincoln and Strauss are authorities in qualitative research in the social sciences and are well-referred to as Groat and Wang, while social science methods and soft humanities methods are well supported by Groat and Wang architectural sciences and harder-edged humanities are less detailed in their reach. In fact, texts on such topics divide methods into one of two categories - qualitative and quantitative - and divide the focus evenly, but Groat and Wang focus primarily on the latter. Once an exception to this observation is a strategy known as Correlational Research, which seems to partially involve some numerical methods (including statistical analysis). The usual approach to statistical methods is to introduce descriptive and outlier statistics and then place the techniques in these categories. The approach adopted by Groat and Wang may not be particularly distracting for an experienced scientist who knows this background, but it can confuse people who are new to the field. This lack of quantitative research is particularly noticeable for architectural historians and geometers who are interested in measuring modern and historical structures, materials and documents. Although it can be argued that such methods are well described in standard books on quantitative studies, there are specific features in architectural research that should be included in such work. How should I measure a historic building? Does the technique (or just the degree of accuracy) differ when considering a modern structure? Are there faulty steps for such methods and how do they take into account the construction methods used? While this area of research is not covered by Groat and Wang, they are investigating some cases where experimental techniques have been used to replicate historical building forms. These cases are helpful for scientists with a particular interest in architecture and mathematics. Ultimately, Groat and Wang's Architectural Research Methods will provide novice scientists with useful text for their shelves that will find increased use throughout their academic careers. This text is certainly recommended for anyone who is responsible for teaching research skills in undergraduate or postgraduate courses. It was put to the test by one of the reviewers and proved to be an extremely useful guide to teaching new architecture researchers who had little prior formal training in scientific and academic research. RELATED LITERATURE Dana Cuff. Architecture: History of practice. MIT Press, 1992. To order this book from Amazon.com, click here katerina ruedi and iain bordon. Disserting: A student's guide to architecture. Architectural press, 2000. To order this book from Amazon.com, click here about Reviewer Kerry London's senior lecturer at the School of Architecture and Built Environment at the University of Newcastle in Australia. Michael Ostwald is headteff of the School newcastle and i Editor of Nexus Network Journal. The correct quote for this article is: Kerry London and Michael Ostwald, Book Review: Architectural Research Methods, Nexus Network Journal, vol. 6 No. 1 (Spring 2004), top page copyright ©2004 Kim Williams Books Practical Research Guide for Architects and Designers- now updated and expanded! From searching for the best glass to prevent glare to determining how customers can react to choosing the color of restaurant walls, research is a key tool that architects need to master to effectively solve the technical, aesthetic and behavioral problems that arise in their work. This unique book's range of research methods is specifically targeted to help professional designers and researchers better conduct and understand research. Part I explores basic research issues and concepts and contains chapters on relative theory to method and design for research. Part II provides comprehensive treatment of specific strategies for the study of building forms. In total, the book covers seven types of research, including historical, qualitative, correlational, experimental, simulation, logical arguments and case studies, and mixed methods. New features in this edition are: Strategies for research, practical examples and resources for additional information A look at current trends and innovations in research The scope of research based on a design studio that shows how the strategies described in the book can be applied in real life Discussion of digital media and online research New and updated examples of scientific research A new chapter on the relationship between design and research Architectural research methods is an important point of reference for architecture students and scientists, as well as architects, interior designers, landscape architects and manufacturers of construction products. The purpose of this book is to provide an introductory manual for anyone who wants to conduct research - or more informally, inquiry - on the built-up environment aspect, from the scale of the building component, the room, the building, the district, to the city center. By this we want to suggest that this book is to be both comprehensive and starting point. Our intention is to provide a comprehensive single text, which refers to the full range of research methods available and applicable to various germane topics for architectural research. Our intention is also to offer an entry point by introducing readers to the main features and applications of each research method, while providing references to more detailed books and articles on methods of interest. This overarching goal, expressed in the introduction to the first edition of this book, remains unchanged. both the nature and role of architectural, architectural, in academies and practice, have gradually changed over the decade since the first edition was published in 2002. Some areas of inquiry — for example, multiple dimensions and applications of sustainable design — have become relatively more visible. Other research outbreaks (e.g. the use of significant schools of thought, such as critical theory or post-structuralism to design theory) have weakened in some contexts, while the practical study of digital technologies and the production of prototypes have become a significant focus in many environments. In an academic context in particular, the number of doctoral programs in architecture has increased and now data on nearly 30 programs in North America . . . SIGN UP TODAY! Full access to this book and over 83,000 more Over 14 million articles of magazines, magazines and newspapers Access powerful writing and research tools

