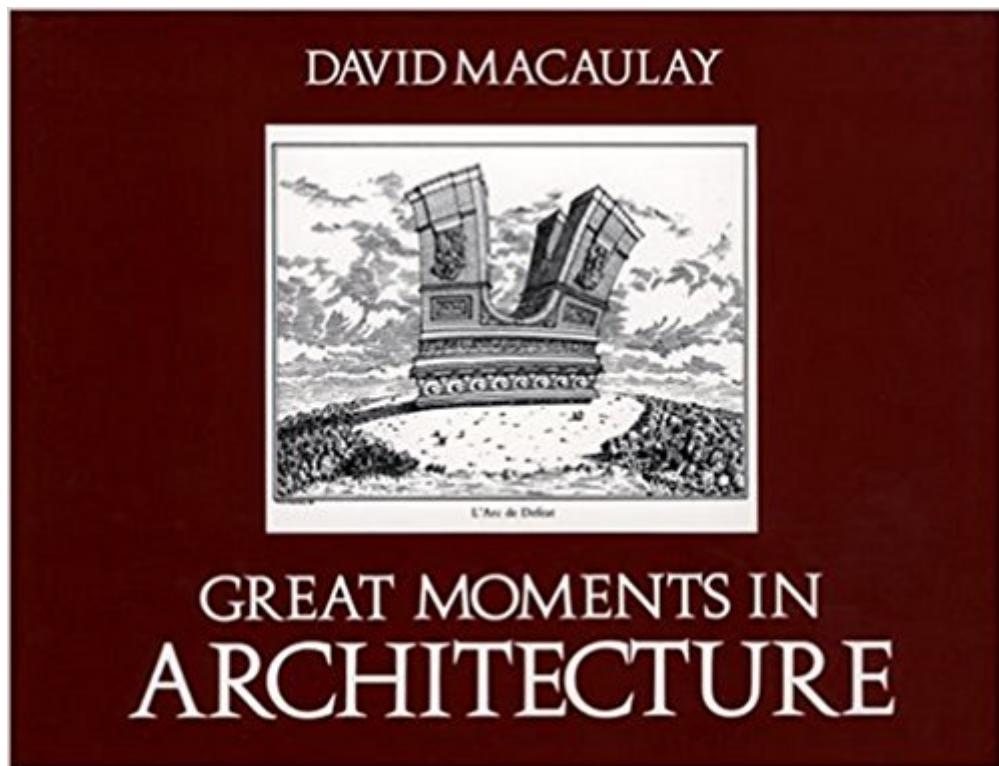


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# Great Moments In Architecture



## **Synopsis**

A wonderous portfolio that has to be seen to be savored—or even believed for that matter. Here are the plans for the Tower of Pisa—on a skewed drafting table, the Eiffel Tower tipped over across from the Seine, the ruins of a McDonald's stand following some future Vesuvius, the disastrous meeting of the Great and Lesser Walls of China, and many other gems.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 112 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,061,837 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Art & Architecture #159 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism #755 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Historical & Biographical Fiction

## **Customer Reviews**

"Macaulay surveys architectural follies erected by his own imagination. Macaulay obviously possesses a sense of humor to equal his knowledge and appreciation of the architectural profession." Booklist, ALA

David Macaulay is an award-winning author and illustrator whose books have sold millions of copies in the United States alone, and his work has been translated into a dozen languages. Macaulay has garnered numerous awards including the Caldecott Medal and Honor Awards, the Boston Globe—Horn Book Award, the Christopher Award, an American Institute of Architects Medal, and the Washington Post—Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award. In 2006, he was the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, given "to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations." Superb design, magnificent illustrations, and clearly presented information distinguish all of his books. David Macaulay lives with his family in Vermont.

I already owned this book when I lost my business and my home. Working now at an architecture firm as one of the grunts, I was amazed to find that none of my co-workers had heard of this book. Of course, I am the oldest person in the firm where I work, and just became a grandfather. So I guess I am just "dated". However, the "kids" where I work have been glorious in their generosity in escorting me into the 21st Century, and I was pleased to introduce them to Mr. MacCaulay. Upon receipt of the book, I brought it into work and placed it in the break room, where it has been enjoyed by all. Lots of fun, which, of course, is the whole point.

I love David Macaulay drawings and diagrams.

The more you know about architectural drafting, the funnier this is. Funny even if you know nothing about it.

funny

I came upon this book in my search for history of architecture in general. Though I expected something entirely different, I was immediately caught in the book's charm. The illustrations are clever and their sarcasm unbeatable. A book to look at, time and time again.

This is an excellent book for lazy afternoons devoted to daydreaming. Every illustration is a wonderful "what if...?" scenario depicting an architectural achievement gone awry. Macaulay also has a particular love for dreaming up very peculiar applications of vinyl siding- that part does get a little tedious, but this book is definitely worth a look. When I first looked at this book several years ago, I was too young to get many of the jokes, but I just pulled it out again today- what a great surprise!

I waited with great expectation for "Great Moments in Architecture" to arrive, hoping it would be in the style of the other highly successful books by David MacCaulay on Pyramids, ships, etc. These other books provide something for all ages: detailed drawings on how things work for children and sophisticated studies of engineering and architecture for adults. Unfortunately, Great Moments is a satirical look at great objects of architecture. The cover shows L'Arc de Triumph upside down and called Arc de Defeat. The remainder of the book only gets worse. The problem is the work is totally confusing for children who are trying to learn the true nature of the world while being boringly crude

for adults. However, I suppose if you would like an expensive and not funny Architectural Far Side, maybe this would provide some brief enjoyment

I always find the author's work entertaining and informative. True, while Great Moments in Architecture is not as factual as some of his works, the sketches are beguiling, and the humor strikes a particularly concordant note with individuals involved in architectural careers. Buy it and get a good chuckle out of it!

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