

Guidelines for the reading on Latrobe's Architectural Library

In this essay, the author, Jeffrey Cohen, provides a very clear account of the reliance 18th century architects and builders had on architectural books. Remember, in the 18th and early 19th century, there were no "schools" to attend in America to learn architecture. Therefore, books served an extremely important role.

Read the pages of the essay up to p. 114 and consider the following:

According to Latrobe, who were the three sorts or kinds of designers that used books and what differentiated them? (That is, what type of information did each sort gain from books)

Did Latrobe rely on books? Consider how he used them and what kind he preferred. Note in particular his comments on William Thornton and the US Capitol (which we discussed in class).

What is the distinction Latrobe and his pupils (Strickland and Mills) make between learning from books and professional practice?

Your paper should combine your thoughts on the essay above with material presented in class on Washington, Jefferson, and the development of Washington DC.