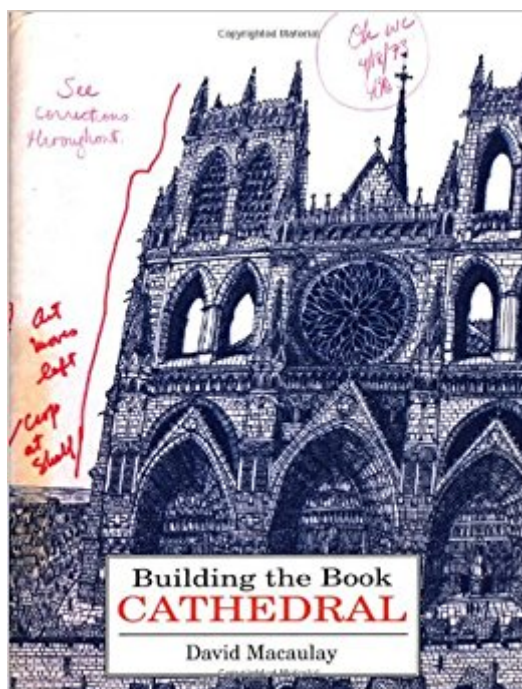


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Building The Book Cathedral



Synopsis

It has been twenty-six years since the publication of CATHEDRAL. David Macaulay's first book, CATHEDRAL, introduced readers around the world to his unique gift for presenting architecture and technology in simple terms, and for demystifying even the most complex of concepts. CATHEDRAL received a Caldecott Honor Medal and is now considered a classic. BUILDING THE BOOK CATHEDRAL includes the content of CATHEDRAL in its entirety. Here Macaulay traces the evolution of his creative process in "building" that first book, from the initial concept to the finished drawings. He introduces the basic elements of structure and sequence and explains why one angle of a drawing may be better for conveying an idea than another. He describes how perspective, scale, and contrast can be used to connect a reader with concepts, and how placement of a picture on a page can make a difference in the way information is communicated. Building the Book Cathedral provides an opportunity to examine Macaulay's unique problem-solving skills as he looks back over two and a half decades at the book that launched his distinguished career.

Book Information

Hardcover: 112 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

On its twenty-fifth anniversary, the author recounts the origins of his first book and suggests revisions he'd make in light of what he's learned ("the drawings for Cathedral were among my first serious attempts at working with pen and ink. They are understandably timid," he confides). Indeed, seeing how this Caldecott winner would alter a perennial favorite is as fascinating as becoming privy to its origins. Most of the original Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction is reproduced in this

oversize celebratory volume, along with lots of preliminary sketches, new commentary, and revised, or newly deployed, art. Page design is improved with different cropping; drama and coherence are enhanced by new placement on the spread; size is changed for emphasis and variety; a bird's-eye view of the choir is rotated for a more vertiginous effect. There are also minor revisions of text and art for clarity, plus some rueful admissions (handsome as the shafts of light on page 109 may be, the sun could never shine into the nave from the north; the rope would go around the axle of the huge weight-lifting wheel, not circle its circumference—a gaffe duly corrected after the first edition, but "the scale of the bucket is still wrong. It looks like a medieval hot tub"). Such touches of informal humor further enliven a book that's already mesmerizing for both its original content and its insights into this author-illustrator's incisive, ebulliently creative mind. Everyone who enjoys learning about the mysterious inner workings of anything, and particularly everyone interested in the creative process, will find this semi-confessional and somewhat instructional volume engrossing.

The New York Times

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.

Awesome book. Like the product description says it has all the content of the original, plus more that illustrates the book making and editing process. Very interesting, whether you're interested in architecture and construction or illustration and bookmaking. Highly recommended.

David Macaulay's ability to visually place you on a scaffold, building a 400 foot tower on a Medieval church might cause you vertigo, but the sheer skill he has of placing you there as one of the builders is truly astonishing. Admiring his beautiful pen drawings is part of the excursion, and like the cathedral, you ask yourself, How did he/they do that? However, this is a savagely truncated collection of drawings from his much more complete original publication. Too much is left out.

Going through it is like being on a cheap tour of Europe - 45 minutes to gape, then the bus leaves.

When David Macaulay published "Cathedral" in 1973 it was an instant classic of children's literature. It has sold thousands of copies, never been out of print and has been translated into numerous languages. Macaulay followed the success of "Cathedral" with a number of highly successful books that followed the life cycles of buildings. Macaulay's pen and ink books have developed quite a dedicated following over the years. "Building the Book Cathedral" was published on the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the release of "Cathedral". The purpose of this book was to explain the creative process that went into creating "Cathedral". Not only does the book have his initial sketches, more importantly it delves into his method of writing books. This book is a must for all fans of Macaulay's craft. Highly recommended

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