



*A Richly Illustrated
Compendium of Filipino
Architecture*

*Un compendio
espléndidamente ilustrado
de la arquitectura filipina*

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ilustrado da arquitetura
filipina*

Gerard Rey Lico

How to go about introducing Filipino architecture, with all its complexities, within the confines of a single volume? Rino D.A. Fernandez's book achieves this by surveying the major architecture of the Philippines spanning the breadth of the country's territory and history, with freehand drawings, the cornerstone of any work on architecture, as its medium of visual expression.

The choice of mainly preferring illustrations to photography also allows Fernandez to offer a very particular perspective. Each drawing appears well researched, finely showcasing these historic structures, highlighting architectural details and also imparting a sense of timelessness, bridging past and present.

The contents are thoughtfully arranged according to the eras of Filipino history and subdivided by the main factors influencing architecture. From tribal societies' relationship to the landscape through to the edifices of faith erected by religious communities, the advent of foreign styles, and the works of notable Filipino creators of the last century, the book paints a comprehensive picture of an architectural evolution.

This approach of categorizing Filipino architecture gives the work a dictionary-like feel. Its listing of buildings by categories of heritage structure shows how innovation is reflected on from one building to the next.

Accompanying the works of architecture are comprehensive details of their significance and context. Fernandez explores the associated history and circumstances, the personalities involved, and each structure's journey through time. This division of his narrative allows the reader to absorb a wealth of information without feeling overwhelmed.

From cave dwellings to growing metropolises, Fernandez's book weaves a tapestry of architectural evolution in the Philippines, with illustrations expressing the transformation of buildings over time and narratives reflecting the underlying cultural, social, and political changes, showing how a nation's identity and development is mirrored in its architecture.

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An Illustrated Introduction to Filipino Architecture

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