

C E L E B R A T I N G 1 0 Y E A R S

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## Building Technology Heritage Library



The Association for Preservation Technology International

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY HERITAGE LIBRARY



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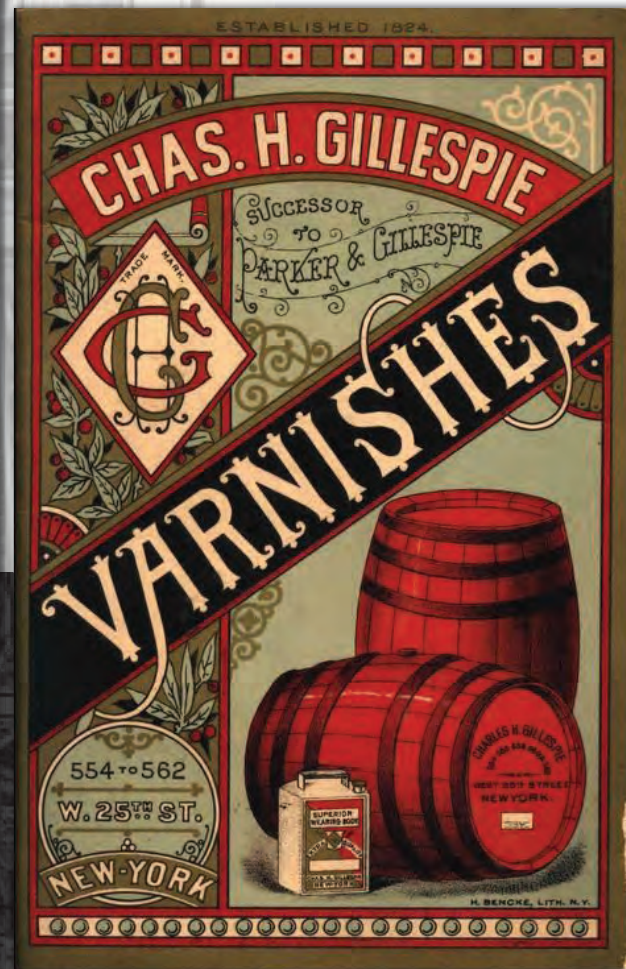
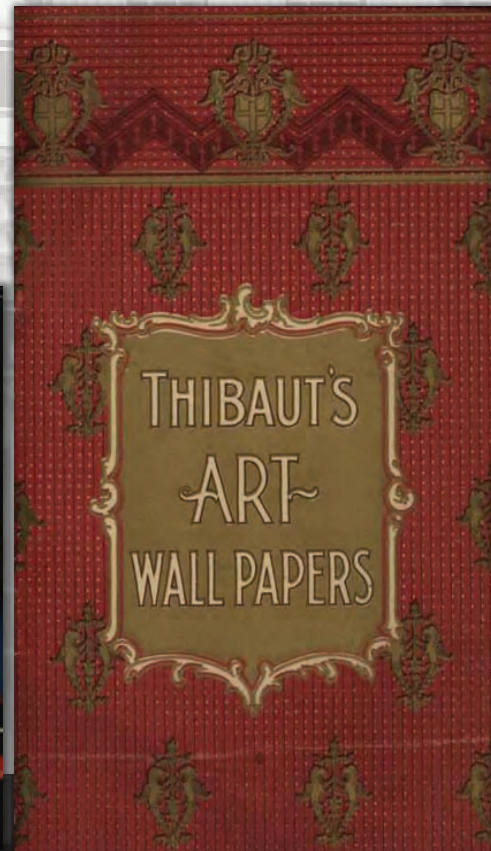
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

2010 - 2020



The Association for Preservation Technology International  
Association internationale pour la préservation et ses techniques

www.apti.org



### A Message from the APT President

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the Building Technology Heritage Library (BTHL), one of APT's great pursuits. BTHL chair Mike Jackson has led this effort since 2006, when then webmaster Dean Koga had the aspiration to add technical content to the APT website. Mike volunteered his personal trade catalog collection and thus the inception of the APT BTHL. The initial scanning of 30 documents uploaded to the APT website has grown to become a comprehensive and international collection of trade catalogs, magazines, and books in an online platform.

I encourage all of you to utilize these resources when researching building systems or to peruse the collection to further explore what APT offers our members. All of this work has been a result of the efforts of dedicated APT volunteers. I want to personally thank Mike Jackson for his efforts to keep this project going, and I wish Dean Koga were with us today to celebrate this huge milestone. Thank you, Mike and Dean, for your initial idea, which has preserved and digitized historical records that might otherwise have been lost but are now available to benefit the global community of preservation professionals. APT is truly proud of this significant achievement!

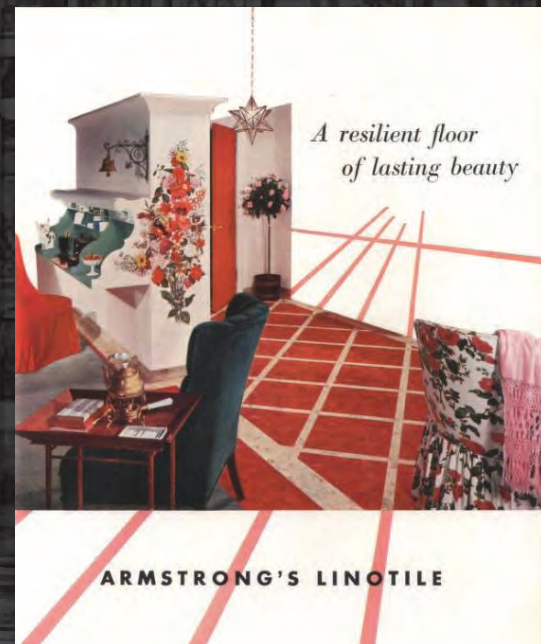
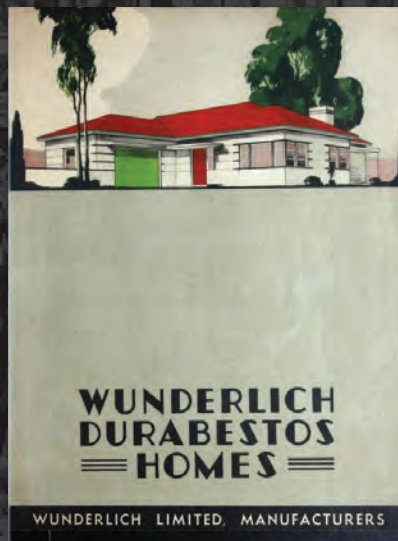
*Gina Crevello*

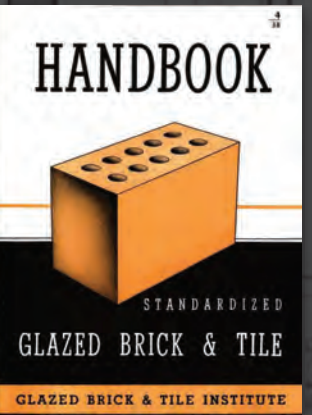
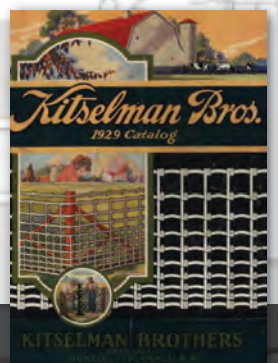
Gina Crevello  
APT President

During the development of the BTHL, APT partnered with international institutions and private collectors to enhance the collection. Over the last decade, more than 11,000 documents have been scanned and uploaded to create an online resource for materials and building systems up through 1963—all available free to a global audience of heritage professionals. Support for much of this work was made possible through the generous donations from various funding partners and volunteer efforts.

**July 22, 2019**  
Electrical Equipment,  
Cadillac Supply Co., 1957

*"Helped me learn a lot about history of electrical wiring/ I really enjoyed reading through this. Especially the section on wiring devices and panel boards."*



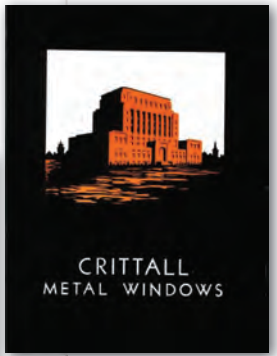
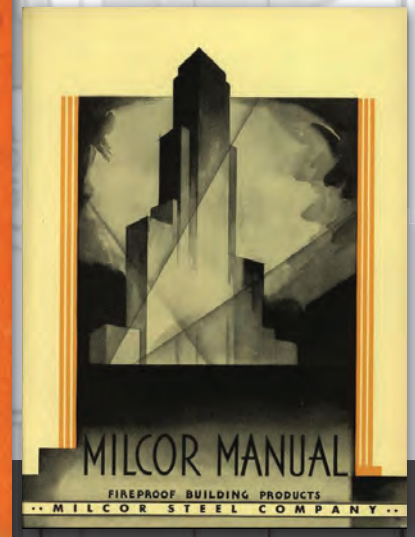


**LONGMAN AND MARTINEZ PURE PAINTS**

PREPARED FOR IMMEDIATE USE  
PURE PAINT

**BEST BY TEST**

**A. E. MERRITT, Marlboro, N. Y.**



Wasmuth-Endrey Company

**General Description**  
The following specifications form a convenient, ready guide for the architect when he plans kitchens.

**Materials**—All units built of carefully selected, thoroughly seasoned, kiln-dried wood.

**Front Frames**—The 2" front frames allow doors to swing fully open.

**Joining**—All joints either mortised, dowelled, or tenoned and carefully glued; shelves mortised in.

**Finish**—Consists of two sprayed coats of undercoat and one sprayed coat of heavy oil-base color enamel. Surface is carefully sanded and glazed after each coat.

**Colors**—Kitchen Maid Units are furnished in eight exclusive colors: Forest Green, Dawn Gray, Travertine Green, Shasta White, Seashore Tan, Canary Yellow, Spanish Onyx, Horizon Blue. Each with tasteful decorations of contrasting colors.

**Smooth Doors**—Eliminate dust-collecting panels; 1-ply, louver door construction. Doors guaranteed not to warp or get out of line.

**Round-Inside Corners**—All inside corners of Kitchen Maid Units are of rounded construction, having no square dust-collecting corners.

**Round-Inside Bases**—Always easy to clean and lustrous. Present a very attractive, finished appearance.

**Table Top**—Built-in Laminated Maple—practically indestructible.

**Porcelain Table Top**—Kitchen Maid table tops are of stain proof vitreous porcelain. Guaranteed not to chip, crack or become stained by common usage.

**Hardware**—All catches and hinges on Kitchen Maid units are chromium plated cast iron. Hinges of steel chromium plated. Hinges are concealed, a patent

Wasmuth-Endrey Company

**General Description, Continued**  
left lining for silverware. Drawer pulls are of black or white porcelain enamel over cast iron.

**Substructure**—All steel construction. Insulated with two inches of pressed Corkboard dipped in oil-soluble asphalt. Doors are styled with four enamel finish. Each unit equipped with Universal hinges for cooling and with lining for mechanical refrigeration.

**Packing**—Units carefully crated and crated at factory. No shipment leaves until given a final inspection and found in perfect condition.

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### About the Building Technology Heritage Library

The Building Technology Heritage Library (BTHL) is a collaborative online library of period architectural trade catalogs, technical builder's guides, and house plan catalogs. The documents primarily come from North America but there are some documents from Europe and Australia and the future growth of the collection is not limited geographically. The Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) recognized the value of period trade catalogs and other technical publications for our mission and saw the benefit of a comprehensive online digital archive to serve a broad audience of preservation professionals, advocates, and other researchers. Technical documents describing specific building materials and assemblies are an essential part of a practicing architect's or engineer's library.



Commercial trade catalogs make up the core of professional libraries, and contemporary preservation professionals frequently refer to period trade catalogs to augment contemporary publications in assessing structures for their historical evolution, environmental safety, or

any other architectural or engineering conditions. Trade catalogs, because of their relatively short lifespan and commercial nature, are not found in most architectural or engineering libraries. While the focus for APT was the technical value of these materials for preservation professionals, they will ultimately serve a much broader community.

The BTHL library is hosted by the Internet Archive ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)), which was founded to build an online library offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. These materials are available to the public at no charge. Materials placed on the BTHL are all in the public domain, but commercial ownership rights for reproductions still belong to the collection owners. The collection currently includes documents published up to 1963 as materials after this date are still under U.S. copyright protection by the original publishers.

**April 4, 2011**  
Concrete improvements around the home, Portland Cement Association, 1930

*"It is good to see these materials being posted. They are difficult to come by and of great historical interest."*

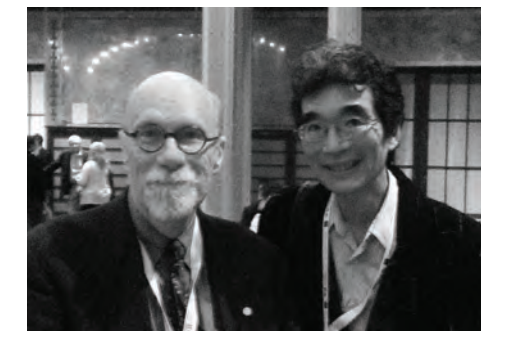
# HARRIS PORTABLE SYSTEM FIRE ESCAPES.



## A History of the BTHL

The BTHL originated in 2006 when the APT webmaster, Dean Koga, wanted an initiative to expand the technical content on the APT website. During a conversation with APT member Mike Jackson, the topic of adding trade catalogs was discussed. Mr. Jackson volunteered to digitize some documents from his personal collection. Thirty items from his collection were added to the website in 2006. At that time, the organization also made a call for additional contributors. The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) responded to this request and offered access to their collection of more than 4,000 architectural trade catalogs. Over the next couple of years, APT did the fundraising to take on a major digitization project. Equipment and staffing were needed for the scanning work and the documents needed to be placed on a website for public access. In 2010, APT received authorization to use the Internet Archive as the hosting platform for the BTHL, which was an ideal solution for these materials. Scanning of the CCA collection began in July 2010 and took a year. In 2011

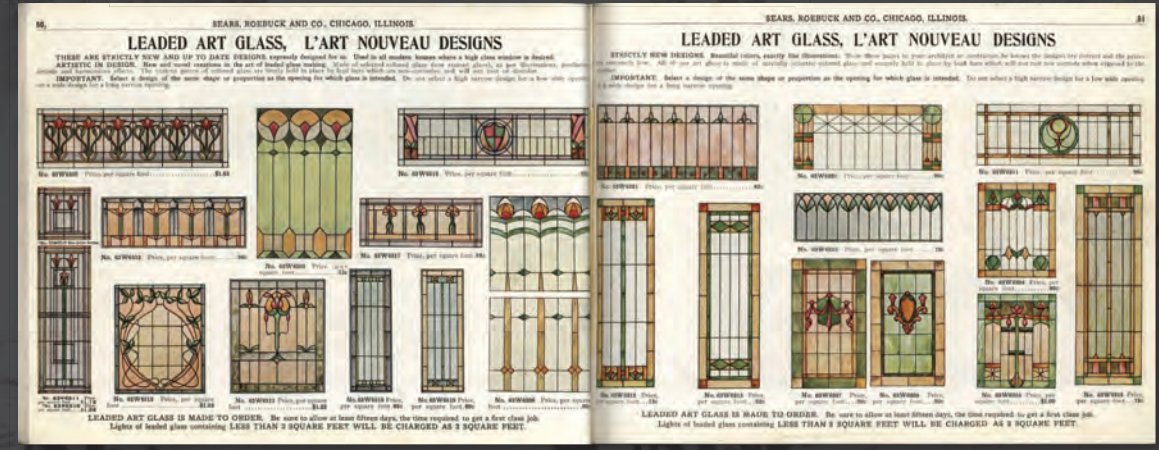
and 2012 preservation students at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, under the supervision of Anne Sullivan, processed and uploaded more than 3,400 documents from the CCA collection to the Internet Archive. Since that time, the collection has grown to more than 11,000 documents and currently attracts more than 70,000 document views each month.



Mike Jackson and Dean Koga

**April 9, 2018**  
Pyrobar gypsum tile, United States Gypsum Corporation, 1919

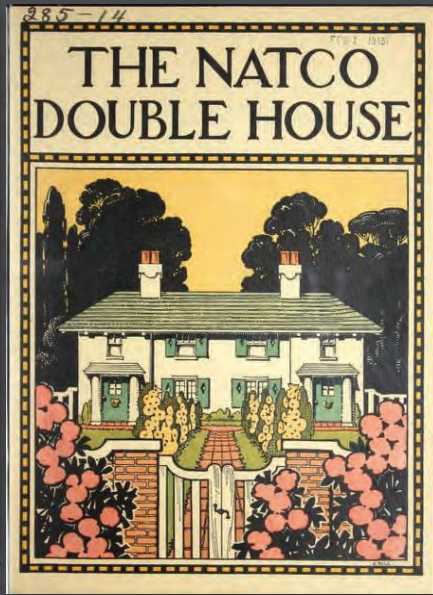
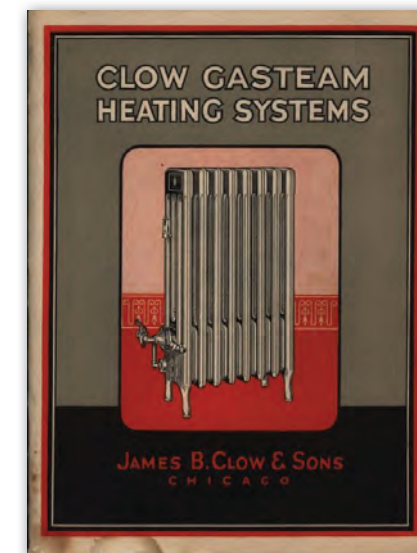
*"This library is an invaluable resource. Working on a seven story 1923 building in West Virginia I was asked by the architect what this material was surrounding the elevator shaft. I told him it was Pyrobar and provided the US Gypsum Catalog scan showing that it had a two-hour rating. He used this as documentation for the fire marshal. It saved the project the cost of removal of the material and constructing a modern two-hour fire rated drywall wall. They were appreciative to say the least."*





## About the Association for Preservation Technology International

APT is a professional membership organization with more than 1,500 members in 30 countries. APT has been at the forefront of recognizing the value of period technical and trade literature for preservation professionals and even reprinted a few catalogs in early issues of the *APT Bulletin*. These materials make it easier to understand, interpret, and preserve the historic places that are the focus of the APT mission. There are only a few major collections of these materials in contemporary architectural and engineering libraries, where they get limited use. Through this initiative, APT created a larger and more collaborative online archive of materials with previously limited availability. These historic technical documents can now serve a much wider audience. APT is also able to coordinate the effort so that materials from various libraries are not duplicated, and this single source makes BTHL the essential go-to resource for these invaluable materials.



October 1, 2010  
 Builder's Hardware and Tools,  
 Fort Pitt Hardware Co., 1926  
*"Great resource. This is a good file for people who restore old houses. The sections on doors and knobs would help someone who wants to see what the things looked like to restore old homes."*

**Angelo State University**  
 West Texas Collection  
 San Angelo, Texas  
 (2015)

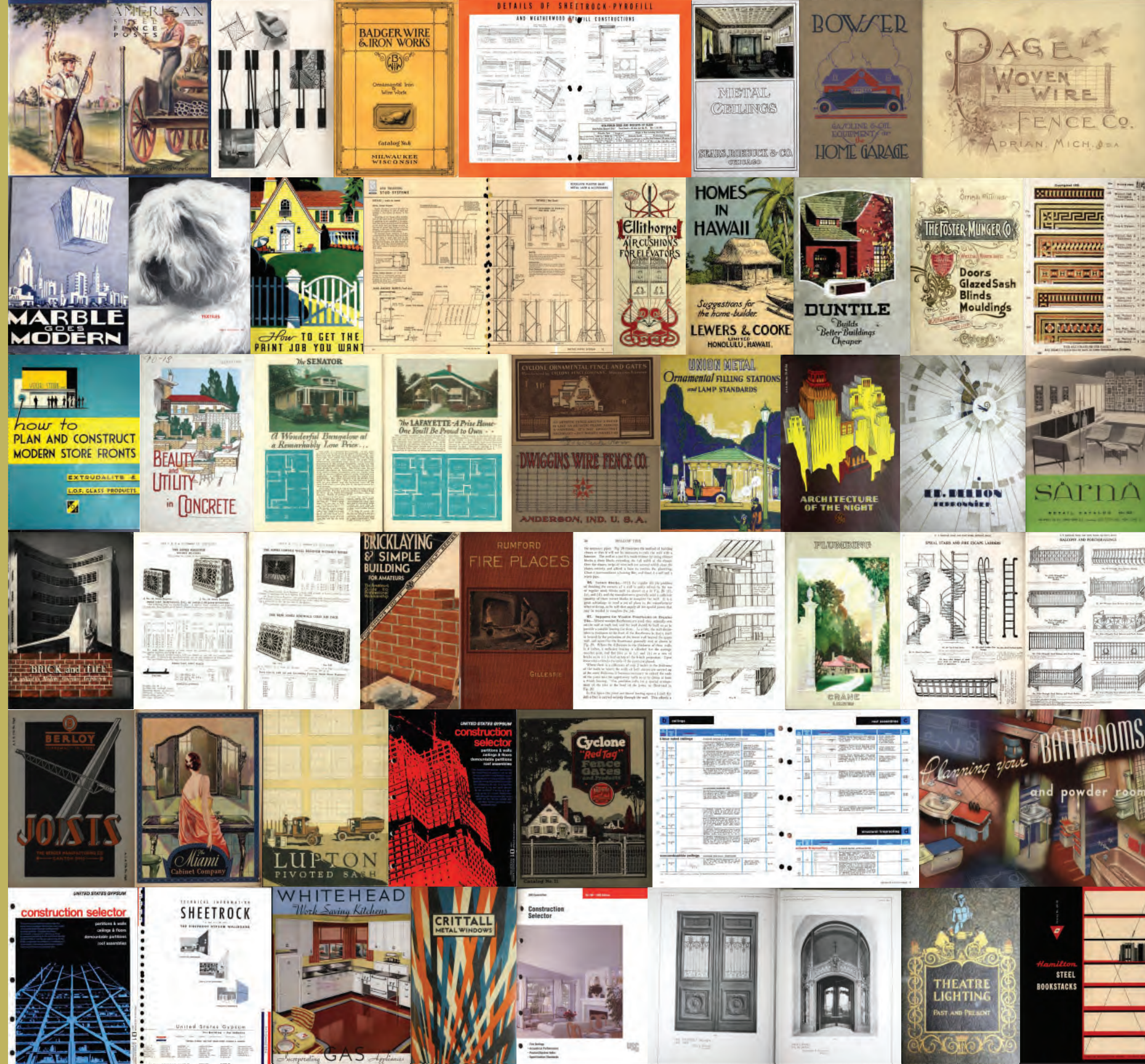
**Canadian Centre for Architecture**  
 Montréal, Québec, Canada  
 (2010–2013)

**Columbia University**  
 Avery Architectural and Fine  
 Arts Library  
 New York, New York  
 (2017)

**International Masonry Institute**  
 Bowie, Maryland  
 (2016)

**Tulane University**  
 Southeast Architectural Archive  
 New Orleans, Louisiana  
 (2014)

**United States Gypsum  
 Corporation**  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 (2018)



**BTHL Collection Partners**

**Institutional Collections**

Documents in the BTHL come from various library, museum, and private collections. The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) ([www.cca.qc.ca](http://www.cca.qc.ca)) was the first major collection contributor. As the first partner to the BTHL, the CCA has shown noteworthy leadership in architectural and preservation education. Two other major institutional libraries that have partnered with APT are the Southeast Architectural Archive at Tulane University and the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University. APT funds the costs to digitize the materials through grants. This protocol benefits the collection partners who would not typically make the digitizing of these materials a high priority. Once their documents are entered in the BTHL, the libraries can link to the online version from their master library catalogs. This project also aids in conservation of the original documents by minimizing wear and tear, as the digital version can serve most research needs.

Anonymous

Robert Vail Cole, AIA

David Dickson Collection  
(2012)

James Draeger  
Madison, Wisconsin  
(2014)

Carol J. Dyson, AIA  
Springfield IL  
(2018-2020)

Mary Jablonski  
Jablonski Building Conservation  
New York, New York  
(2014)

Mike Jackson, FAIA  
MBJ Collection  
Springfield, Illinois  
(2010-2020)

Klise Manufacturing Company

Greg Koos  
Bloomington, Illinois

Miles Lewis  
Melbourne, Australia  
(2019)

Floyd Mansberger  
FM Collection  
Fever River Research  
Springfield, Illinois  
(2014)

Alan O'Bright  
St. Louis, Missouri  
(2017)

Heather Plaza-Manning  
Chicago, Illinois

Restoric  
Chicago, Illinois  
(2018)



## BTHL Collection Partners

### Private Collections

The BTHL has benefited from numerous private collections, which currently make up more than half of the documents. Two examples include paint catalogs from the collection of conservator Mary Jablonski and house plan catalogs from the collection of Wisconsin Deputy SHPO James Draeger. Although APT is not trying to maintain its own library of original publications, we have received donations of small collections, typically under 100 documents each. In some cases, the collection donors have also contributed funding to cover the cost of digitization. The estate of architect Robert Vail Cole donated many of his materials to APT and provided the funding for their digitization.

The private collection of Miles Lewis of Melbourne, Australia, was added to the BTHL in 2019. His collection and the overall project are particularly noteworthy. First, his collection was international in scope, with materials from Australia, Europe, and the U.S. Second, his collection included many rare early publications from Europe, with a few from the eighteenth century, the oldest documents in the BTHL. Third, the collection included many large and comprehensive documents on



building construction, which required special handling. The digitization of the Lewis collection was managed by Meher Bahl, who rose to the challenge of handling these rare materials and putting the metadata together for the Internet Archive submissions. Some of these documents were truly unique and not found in any search through WorldCat.org, which required her to create original library catalog entries. Other documents were particularly fragile and presented physical conservation challenges. The large documents also required special handling and, in the case of compilations, there was the need to create comprehensive subject headings. At the completion of the project, she created a comprehensive report about the scope of the project and recommendations for any similar projects in the future. The Building Technology Heritage Library Scanning Project Report is now on the APT website. Funding for this project was provided by the Vera Moore Foundation of Australia through the APT Australasia Chapter.



Prof. Miles Lewis and Meher Bahl at the beginning of their digitization project.

## Thank You to Our Funders

The success of the BTHL has been due to funding support from the following:

**Association for Preservation Technology International**  
\$22,000 to date

**Richard H. Driehaus Foundation**  
\$30,000  
(2009 and 2011)

**Historic Preservation Education Foundation**  
\$18,000  
(2010, 2013, and 2017)

**Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**  
\$9,000  
(2011)

**National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**  
\$23,000  
(multiple years)

**Estate of Robert Vail Cole, AIA**  
\$2,600

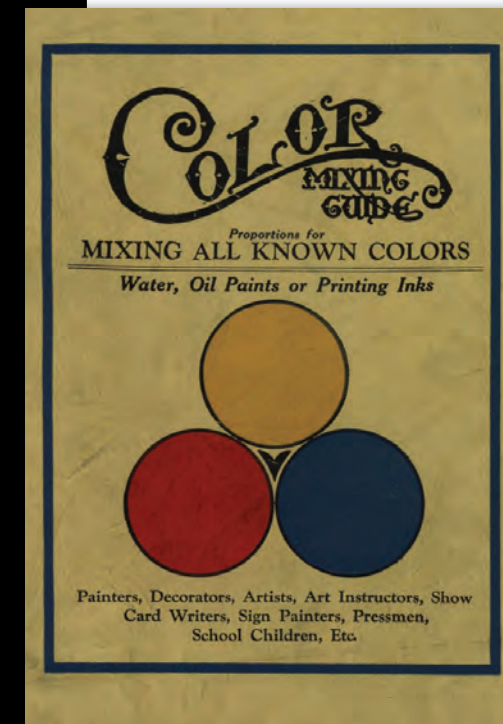


## BTHL Statistics

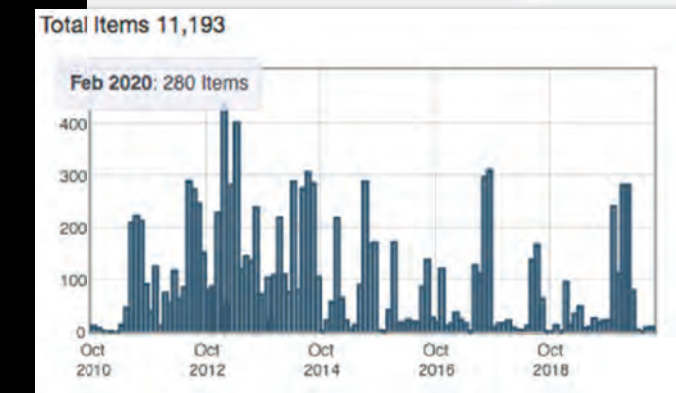
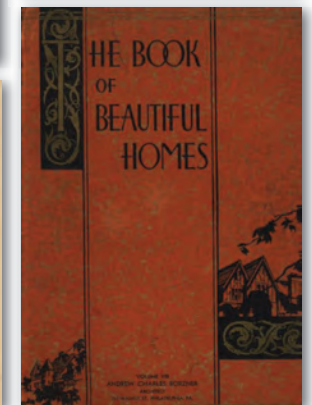
The BTHL has grown steadily over the last ten years. The initial push of documents from the CCA happened in 2011 and 2012. Starting in 2015, the BTHL has benefited from a summer digitization intern, which shows in the spike of new additions each summer.

### BTHL Document Views Now More Than 6,000,000

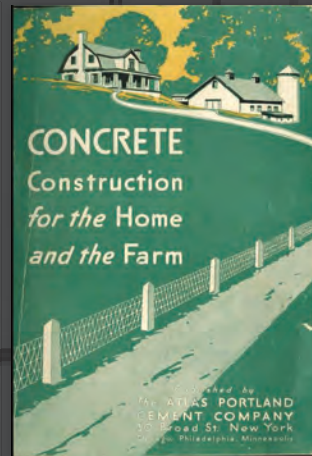
The BTHL gets a steady rate of 70,000 or more document views per month, which is close to 1,000,000 views per year. The Internet Archive tracks the total views for each document. The most popular item has more than 100,000 views and there are a dozen documents with more than 10,000 views. The Internet Archive also provides us with a monthly snapshot of viewers' locations by region (U.S. states, Canadian provinces, or other countries). In a typical month, the greatest number of viewers typically mirrors the most populous U.S. states: New York, California, and Texas. On a fairly regular basis, other countries will make the Top Regions list, including Russia, Korea, and Argentina.



Some of the most popular items from the BTHL



This graph illustrates additions to the BTHL since its inception.



### First Items

The first items to be digitized and added to the BTHL were from the extensive collection of Mike Jackson, FAIA (MBJ Collection) at APT's Springfield, Illinois, facility.

## Making It Happen

The work of digitizing and uploading documents to the Internet Archive has been done by various professionals and student interns. Since 2013, APT has been able to fund an annual summer internship to digitize materials in either a single institutional collection or using materials from private collections.

*"I started my first summer internship working on the APT Building Technology Heritage Library project upon graduation from the University of Illinois in 2013. Uploading the catalogs online introduced me to the CSI Master Format Divisions, which has given me working knowledge for writing and navigating specifications in the office and in preparing for the Architectural Registration Exam. Currently, studying and understanding construction details such as fireplaces, masonry, tile, carpentry, roofing, and other building materials from the catalogs is beneficial to my architecture work. I am thankful to be a part of the BTHL project and confident I will continue to consult its materials throughout my career."*

**John Edwards, Assoc. AIA**  
RWA Architects, Cincinnati, Ohio  
BTHL Intern 2013-2014

**Association for Preservation Technology**  
Dean Koga, Co-Chair, Building Technology Heritage Library  
Mike Jackson, FAIA, FAPT, Co-Chair, Building Technology Heritage Library

**Canadian Centre for Architecture**  
2010-2011  
Judy Silverman, Library staff coordinator  
Jesse Boretsky  
Micheline LeClerc  
Blessy Zachariah  
Natale Hercun

**Columbia University**  
2011  
Kenisha Thomas

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago**  
2011-2012  
Anne Sullivan, Director, Historic Preservation Program  
Kelsey Shipton  
Fleming Garner  
Alissa Hahn  
Megan Lydon  
Erica Ruggiero  
Natalia Kwiatkowska  
Aishwaria Das

**APT Facilities at Springfield, Illinois**  
Gabriel Lowe, 2010  
Timothy Simidahl, 2012  
John Edwards, 2013-2014\*  
David Littlefield, 2014  
Cory Hurless, 2015\*  
John Asher, 2016\*  
Cameron Moore, 2017\*  
Rachel Sloan, 2018\*  
Will Asher, 2019-2020

**Tulane University**  
Keli Rylance, Library staff coordinator\*  
Breanna White, 2014\*

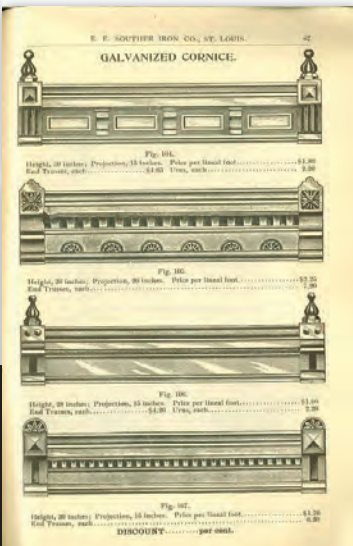
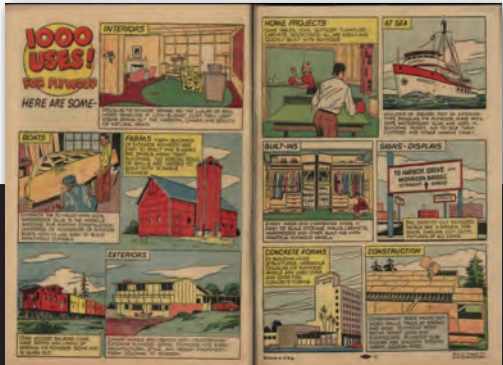
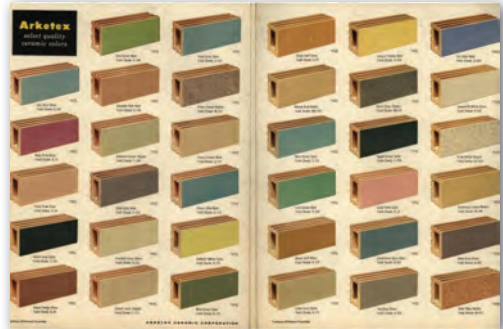
\* Denotes interns and staff photographed on the right in order listed above.



Images from the BTHL media presence



**2017 ANNUAL GUIDEBOOK**  
PLUS: The Year in Review | Building Technology Heritage Library



BTHL in the Media

Traditional Building Magazine February 2017

Building Technology Heritage Library  
An online free digital library offers more than 8,000 brochures printed before 1964.

By Gordon H. Bock  
Updated: July 23, 2019  
Original: February 16, 2017

“Strangers to preservation are ever amazed at how historic building devotees, who they assume to be lost in the past, are in fact among the earliest adopters of cutting-edge, 21st-century technologies. The internet, of course, is everyone’s digital darling, and a prime example of how it’s being turned to traditional use is the Building Technology Heritage Library where period trade catalogs—throw-away paper brochures decades and even centuries old—are collected and digitized for limitless global access and a new life.”

ARCHITECTURE Magazine Throwback Thursday Blog Posts

ARCHITECTURE Magazine, a publication of the American Institute of Architects, has a “Throwback Thursday” blog feature the first Thursday of each month. Each post features a selection of documents from BTHL on a given topic. Examples from 2020 include telephones, Montgomery Ward, “green” products of the past, floor tile, furniture, and railings. The blog allows viewers to scan through the complete BTHL catalog while they remain in the AIA blog.

The BTHL Video on YouTube

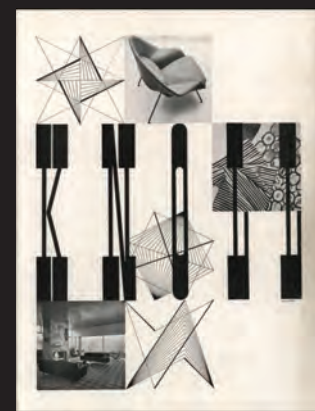
A video about the history and content of BTHL was added to APT’s YouTube channel in 2018. The video was produced by APT with videographer John Asher, the BTHL summer intern in 2016. Comments from various collection users were featured as well as sample documents on a range of architectural topics.

March 21, 2015  
Book of Homes,  
Montgomery Ward & Co., 1917

“This Montgomery Ward catalog is very rare. The Wardway Homes catalog from 1917 is very hard to find!”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxlPr9cn7U>



## The Future of the BTHL

The BTHL can continue to grow with additional collection partners and funding for digitization work. APT has identified several future institutional collection partners in North America and is still looking for international partners. Private collections currently make up a high percentage of the materials on the BTHL and we continue to find new private collectors willing to share their documents. We have the long-term goal of digitizing all the Sweet's Catalogs from 1940 to 1963, which would add materials on mid-century commercial architecture. Additional partnerships with private companies will allow the BTHL to add content published after 1963. The USG Corporation was the first private company to provide a collection of documents to be added to the BTHL, facilitating public access while retaining copyright protection. There is a huge amount of pre-Internet trade literature from 1964 to 1993 remaining under copyright protection and only available in print form

The BTHL can be measured in funding and statistics but the most important measure of success is the service to its users. We know that these documents are being viewed across the world. The user reviews tell us some of the ways our documents met our original intent to aid in building conservation but there are many other users. We have a fairly active group of users who help us in dating materials that were often undated. As the BTHL grows, we hope that future generations of users will find, use, and enjoy the documents that we have assembled into a specialized library of building technology history.

**July 12, 2020**

Comparative Architectural Details, Reinhold Publishing, 1939

*"Excellent selection of details! To everyone behind The Building Technology Heritage Library, thank you! I enjoy and have learnt much from the books that are uploaded."*



**The Association for Preservation Technology International**  
*Association internationale pour la préservation et ses techniques*



[www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org)

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