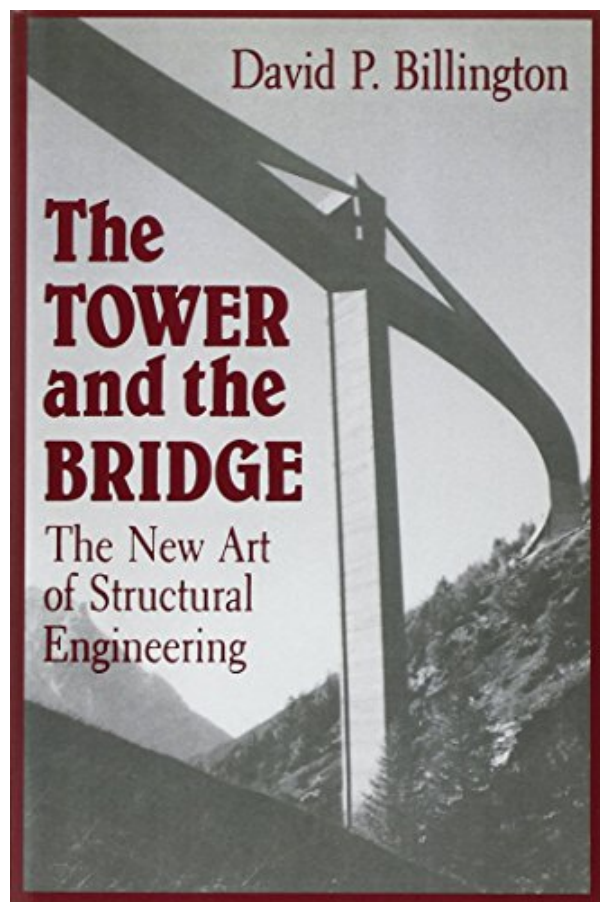
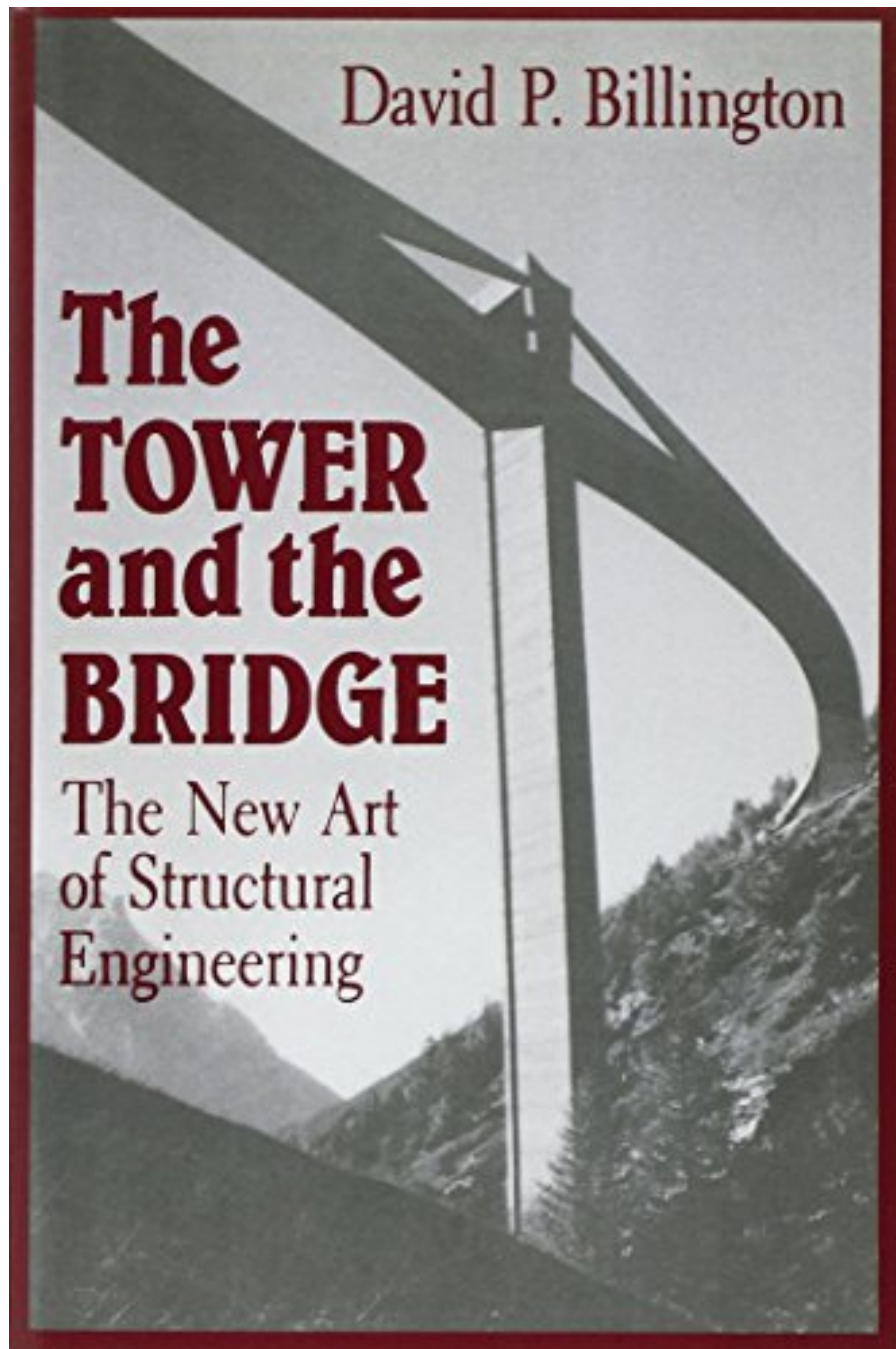


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"David P. Billington is clearly moved by great structures--he means it when he says that major works of structural engineering are like the art of poetry, while architecture is the art of prose. . . . This is a book on structural engineering that sees its subject as part of the larger drama of history and culture, and for the breadth of this stance alone, it is impressive."--New York Times Book Review

From the Back Cover

What do structures such as the Eiffel Tower, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the concrete roofs of Pier Luigi Nervi have in common? According to this book all are striking examples of structural art, an exciting form distinct from either architecture or machine design.

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What do structures such as the Eiffel Tower, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the concrete roofs of Pier Luigi Nervi have in common? According to this book, now in its first paperback edition, all are striking examples of structural art, an exciting form distinct from either architecture or machine design. Aided by a number of stunning illustrations, David Billington discusses leading structural engineer-artists, such as John A. Roebling, Gustave Eiffel, Fazlur Khan, and Robert Maillart.

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Five Stars

By Jonathan

Great book for any student of architecture. Also, simple enough for anyone who is not.

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Refreshing and still a classic

By Amazon Customer

From my own experience, I've always been frustrated with the tendency of the architecture community to either completely overlook the aesthetic works of the great structural engineers or shamelessly claim them as their own. This book is beyond a simple consensus of great engineering works; it is Billington's clear and rational case for the distinction of the discipline of Structural Art - the engineer's means of expression - from that of Architecture.

This book is just the thing any student or young professional in structural engineering should have along with their library of technical books. Instead of explaining the aesthetics and beauty of structures in vague architectural terms, Billington looks at them in terms of the technical (formwork, stress diagrams, material economy, etc.). When has an architectural critic discussed the elegance behind a moment diagram?

I think anyone who loves architecture and great works of engineering will appreciate this book. If you like this, I would also recommend Billington's 'Robert Maillart and the Art of Reinforced Concrete' and Salvadori's 'Why Buildings Stand Up'.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Detailed exploration of Structural Art

By SV

Billington goes through the evolution of structural art/expressionism in great detail. It is helpful to have a preexisting knowledge about the various engineers/artist discussed in this text, however, it is not necessary. This book is very interesting and encourages the engineer to consider the aesthetic consequences of structures.

It is an inspiring book to read (and re-read) and is packed full of historical bridges and other structures (like thin concrete shells). I highly recommend it to engineering students with an interest in structures.

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