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

3085 Stevenson Drive, Ste. 200, Springfield IL 62703  
217 529-9039

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mike Jackson, FAIA  
Email: [digitization@apti.org](mailto:digitization@apti.org)

## **APT Building Technology Heritage Library:**

**“A modern portal to the material past”**

[www.archive.org/details/buildingtechnologyheritagelibrary](http://www.archive.org/details/buildingtechnologyheritagelibrary)

### **Introduction**

The Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) has launched the Building Technology Heritage Library (BTHL), a web-based digitized collection of archival architectural and construction trade catalogs, house plan books and related publications. This online collection will provide generations of design professionals, building owners, historians, preservationists and others with an in-depth look at early building construction material culture. The collection contains materials printed and published before 1964, which are now in the public domain.

### **What’s in the Building Technology Heritage Library?**

Trade literature aimed at both the commercial and residential markets proliferated during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The core of this collection consists of pre-1964 architectural and construction trade catalogs from North American and Europe. The BTHL contains catalogs that advertised most of the major building materials and assemblies used during this period for structures of all types, from high-rises to farm sheds. This newly available resource is a modern portal for anyone interested in material culture, with a focus on the built environment. “Kit house” catalogs are available from many companies such as Sears, Roebuck & Co. House plan catalogs from companies such as the Garlinghouse Company will be of great interest to those living in houses of the mid-twentieth century. A great number of kitchen cabinet, plan and furnishings catalogs have been digitized, evidence of the great popularity of kitchen renovation through many eras.

## **Who Is Doing This?**

The Building Technology Heritage Library (BTHL) is an initiative of the Association for Preservation Technology International ([www.apti.org](http://www.apti.org)). The Association (APT) is a multi-disciplinary, membership organization dedicated to promoting the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings. 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. The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) ([www.cca.qc.ca](http://www.cca.qc.ca)) is the first major collaborator to share its collection of trade catalogs with the BTHL. These partners all share a mutual interest in providing access to historical resources.

## **Why Is This Being Done?**

The Association for Preservation Technology recognizes the value of period architectural trade catalogs for the historic preservation community. Documents describing building products and assemblies facilitate the understanding, interpretation and preservation of historic places. APT also recognized that architectural trade catalogs have not historically been collected by many architectural libraries. Through this project, APT has located collections across North America, which will ultimately be assembled into an online archive to serve the broadest audience.

## **Where Do These Materials Come From?**

These BTHL materials come from various library, museum and private collections. The Canadian Centre for Architecture ([www.cca.qc.ca](http://www.cca.qc.ca)) is the first major collection contributor. The CCA collection contains more of than 4,000 architectural trade catalogs advertising Canadian, American and European materials. One quarter of this collection includes materials from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which are among the rarest surviving documents. The CCA has been a leader in conserving and making architectural trade catalogs accessible to its patrons. Through its collaboration with APT, the CCA collection can serve a broader, international audience.

## **How Will These Materials Be Used?**

The primary professional audience for the BTHL is made up of design and construction professionals, building owners and historic preservationists in North America. Owners of older homes are another potential interest group due to the significant number of early house plan catalogs. Historians, city planners, and environmental consultants are among the intended audience. Scholars of social and cultural history, graphic design, and civic history will also benefit from this new resource.

## **What Others Have to Say.**

“We can't wait for this project to become a reality. Our structural engineering office has participated in more than 7,000 building renovations during our 44-year history. On at least 25% of these projects we would have made use of the Building Technology Heritage Library....”

Robert Silman, Principal  
Robert Silman Associates, Structural Engineers, New York, NY

“For architecture, construction and the building arts, the trade catalog and all of its variants are unique in charting the trajectory of the building profession.”

Frank Matero, Director, Architecture Conservation Laboratory  
University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, PA

“The need for the BTHL is obvious to everyone working in the field of historic preservation/heritage conservation – and here I speak as both an educator and a practitioner. The catalogues represent a unique and valuable resource that will facilitate and enrich first-source research, both for understanding the history of building technology and for specific project applications.”

Julia Gersovitz, Architect OAAQ, OAA, FRAIC, FAPT  
Fournier, Gersovitz Moss Drolet Architects, Montreal, QC

## **Innovative Finding Aid**

The subject headings used on the Internet Archive follow the Library of Congress standards. In addition, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) Master Format 2004 Numbers and Titles have been added. The CSI system is widely utilized by contemporary practitioners in the design and construction industries. By utilizing a contemporary classification system as well as original and archaic terms the “keywords” will expedite the search process.

### **Master Format 2004 Number and Titles**

- Division 00 – Procurement and Contracting Requirements
- Division 01 – General Requirements
- Division 02 – Existing Conditions
- Division 03 – Concrete
- Division 04 – Masonry
- Division 05 – Metals
- Division 06 – Wood, Plastics, and Composites
- Division 07 – Thermal and Moisture Protection
- Division 08 – Openings
- Division 09 – Finishes
- Division 10 – Specialties
- Division 11 – Equipment

Division 12 – Furnishings  
Division 13 – Special Construction

**Facility Services Subgroup**

Division 21 – Fire Suppression  
Division 22 – Plumbing  
Division 23 – Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning  
Division 25 – Integrated Automation  
Division 26 – Electrical  
Division 27 – Communications  
Division 28 – Electronic Safety and Security

**Site and Infrastructure Subgroup**

Division 31 – Earthwork  
Division 32 – Exterior Improvements  
Division 33 – Utilities  
Division 34 – Transportation  
Division 35 – Waterway and Marine Construction

**History and Duration of the Project**

This is a multi-year project that began in 2006 and continues indefinitely. During 2010-2011 APT scanning technicians completed the field operation at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in Montreal. During 2011-2012, graduate students from program in Historic Preservation at Columbia University and the School of the Art Institute will manage the image processing, classification and upload of documents to the Internet Archive. Various private collections materials will be added as they become available.

**About APT**

The Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) is a cross-disciplinary, membership organization dedicated to promoting the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings. APT members, who hail from more than 30 countries, include preservationists, architects, engineers, conservators, consultants, contractors, craftspersons, curators, developers, educators, historians, landscape architects, students, technicians, and other persons directly involved in the application of methods and materials to maintain, conserve, and protect historic structures and sites for future use and appreciation. The international, interdisciplinary character of APT - with its outstanding publications, conferences, training courses, awards, student scholarships, regional chapters, and technical committees - makes it the premier worldwide network for anyone involved in the field of historic preservation.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Building Technology Heritage Library has been supported by grants from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Historic Preservation Education Foundation (HPEF), the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology (NCPTT), the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and APT International. In-kind contributions have been provided by the Internet Archive, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Columbia University Historic Preservation Program, the School of the Art Institute and APT members.

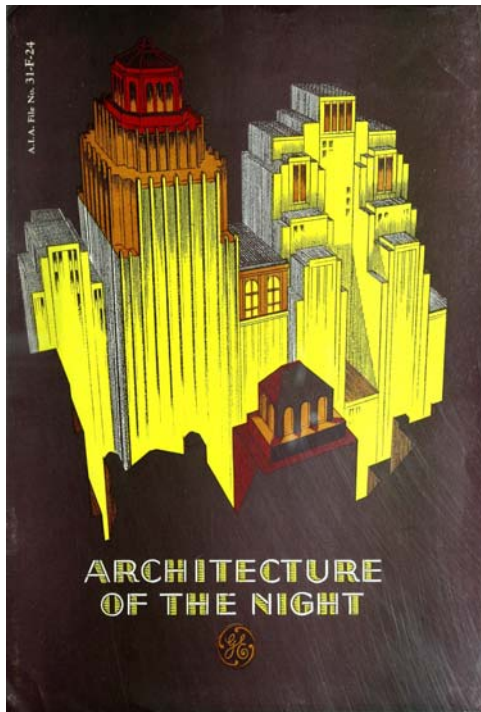
## Images from the Building Technology Heritage Library (BTHL):

A sample collection of catalog covers that represent the varied content of the collection as well as graphic appeal:

### Architecture of the Night General Electric, 1930

Credit: Canadian Centre for Architecture

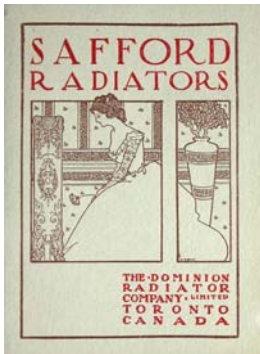
[www.archive.org/details/ArchitectureOfTheNightASeriesOfArticlesPublishedByTheGeneral](http://www.archive.org/details/ArchitectureOfTheNightASeriesOfArticlesPublishedByTheGeneral)



**Safford Radiators**  
**Dominion Radiator Co., 1905**

Credit: Canadian Centre for Architecture

[www.archive.org/details/SaffordRadiatorsManufacturedByTheDominionRadiatorCompanyLimited](http://www.archive.org/details/SaffordRadiatorsManufacturedByTheDominionRadiatorCompanyLimited)



**For Home Lovers** Credit: MBJ Collection  
**National Lumber Manufacturer's Assoc., 1929**

[www.archive.org/details/ForHomeLovers](http://www.archive.org/details/ForHomeLovers)



**Modern Heating Systems**  
**Sears, Roebuck & Co., 1917**

Credit: MBJ Collection

[www.archive.org/details/ModernHeatingSystems](http://www.archive.org/details/ModernHeatingSystems)



**Kitchen planning with Curtis  
Curtis Companies, 1939**

Credit: MBJ Collection

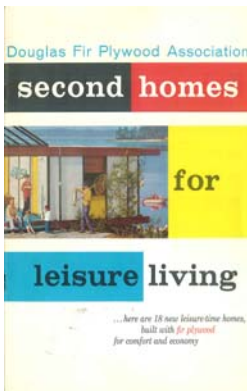
[www.archive.org/details/LetUsTellYouAboutKitchenPlanningWithCurtis](http://www.archive.org/details/LetUsTellYouAboutKitchenPlanningWithCurtis)



**Second Homes for Leisure Living  
Douglas Fir Plywood Assoc., 1960**

Credit: MBJ Collection

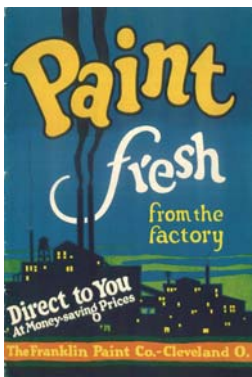
[www.archive.org/details/SecondHomesForLeisureLiving](http://www.archive.org/details/SecondHomesForLeisureLiving)



**Paint fresh from the factory  
Franklin Paint Co., 1930**

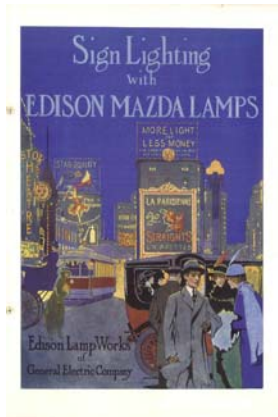
Credit: MBJ Collection

[www.archive.org/details/PaintFreshFromTheFactory](http://www.archive.org/details/PaintFreshFromTheFactory)



**Sign Lighting with Edison Mazda Lamps** Credit: MBJ Collection  
**General Electric, 1915**

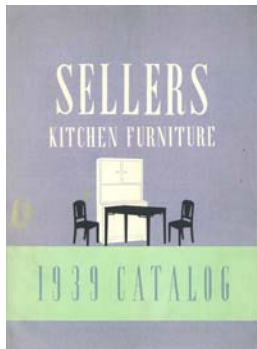
[www.archive.org/details/SignLightingWithEdisonMazdaLamps](http://www.archive.org/details/SignLightingWithEdisonMazdaLamps)



**Sellers Kitchen Cabinets**  
**G. I. Sellers & Sons, 1939**

Credit: MBJ Collection

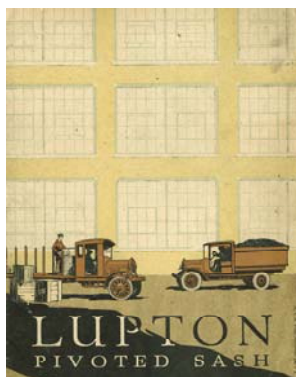
[www.archive.org/details/SellersKitchenFurniture](http://www.archive.org/details/SellersKitchenFurniture)



**Lupton Steel Pivoted Windows**  
**David Lupton & Sons, 1927**

Credit: MBJ Collection

[www.archive.org/details/LuptonSteelPivotedWindows](http://www.archive.org/details/LuptonSteelPivotedWindows)



**American Fence**

Credit: MBJ Collection

**American Steel and Wire co., 1915**

[www.archive.org/details/AmericanFenceCatalogNo.27](http://www.archive.org/details/AmericanFenceCatalogNo.27)

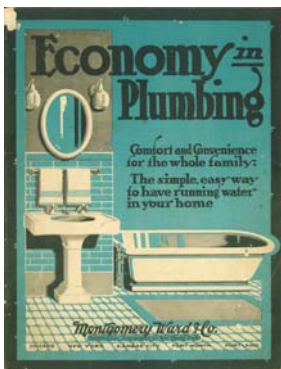


**Economy in Plumbing**

Credit: MBJ Collection

**Montgomery Ward Co., 1930**

[www.archive.org/details/EconomyInPlumbing](http://www.archive.org/details/EconomyInPlumbing)



**Storefronts**

Credit: Canadian Centre for Architecture

**Detroit Show Case Company, 1922**

[www.archive.org/details/StoreFrontsRemodelingStoreFrontsIsOneOfTheMostProfitableBranches](http://www.archive.org/details/StoreFrontsRemodelingStoreFrontsIsOneOfTheMostProfitableBranches)

