

Cityscapes: San Francisco and its Buildings

John King



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Buildings in cities are remarkable things: they provide not only shelter but touchstones of reference and recall, a language that shapes our sense of place as well as the skyline. In sparkling prose and with full-color photography, *Cityscapes* looks at fifty buildings that convey a distinct slice of San Francisco. These are the buildings that are defined by bold visual moves and the ones that offer tactile delight. These are the structures you notice every time you pass by, and the ones that escape notice until the light hits them a certain way. Included are some of San Francisco's most familiar buildings and works by some of architecture's biggest names but also plenty of buildings that are often ignored yet add a unique texture to this fabled place. An outgrowth of Cityscape, a weekly column that debuted in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 2009, *Cityscapes* is part history, part guidebook, and part architectural primer. And the points it makes about specific buildings convey something true to all great cities that every building shines in its own way as a distinctive piece in a much larger puzzle, one still being assembled before our eyes.

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