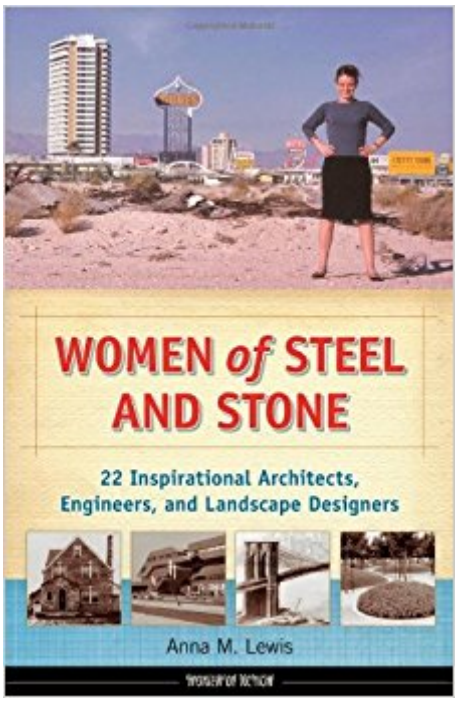
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Women Of Steel And Stone: 22 Inspirational Architects, Engineers, And Landscape Designers (Women Of Action)



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Synopsis

An inspiration for young people who love to design, build, and work with their hands, Women of Steel and Stone tells the stories of 22 female architects, engineers, and landscape designers from the 1800s to today. Engaging profiles based on historical research and firsthand interviews stress how childhood passions, perseverance, and creativity led these women to overcome challenges and break barriers to achieve great success in their professions. Subjects include Marion Mahony Griffin, who worked alongside Frank Lloyd Wright to establish his distinct architectural-drawing style; Emily Warren Roebling, who, after her husband fell ill, took over the duties of chief engineer on the Brooklyn Bridge project; Marian Cruger Coffin, a landscape architect who designed estates of Gilded Age mansions; Beverly L. Greene, the first African American woman in the country to get her architecture license; Zaha Hadid, one of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best-known architects and the first woman to receive the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize; and many others. Practical information such as lists of top schools in each field; descriptions of specific areas of study and required degrees; and lists of programs for kids and teens, places to visit, and professional organizations, make this an invaluable resource for students, parents, and teachers alike.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up
Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6Ã¢â ¬â œ8Ã¢â ¬â •These brief portraits provide basic information about the women's backgrounds and their successes. There are many shared features in their stories. Each individual had a passionate interest in building and designing that emerged at an early age, when she was willing to do things most ordinary girls didn't do. They all had strong family support to pursue their interests, but faced resistance in the workplace. Each woman had a firm belief that she could succeed on her own merits and a willingness to work hard to pursue her goals. While these shared features are briefly mentioned in the introduction, and readers can be challenged to find the many parallels among the stories, Lewis does not discuss the impact of race, poverty, and gender on the women's careers. Instead, there is an emphasis on "firsts"-for example, the first woman architect in America (Louise Bethune), the first woman to speak to the American Society of Civil Engineers (Emily Warren Roebling), and the first African American woman architect to be licensed in New York State (Norma Merrick Sklarek). Despite this focus on specifics, readers who are interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math will find a much-needed, clearly presented history of women in these fields.Ã¢â ¬â •Myra Zarnowski, City University of New York

The 22 women profiled here set their sights on becoming architects or engineersÃ¢â ¬â •and were not deterred from following their dreams. For those in the early part of the twentieth century, three formidable hurdles had to be jumped: (1) finding universities with an architecture/engineering program, (2) securing seats in male-dominated programs, and (3) making a place for themselves within the field. Indeed, each woman profiled here serves as a champion for womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rights. The book is divided into three sectionsÃ¢â ¬â •Ã¢â ¬Å“Architects,Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬Å“Engineers,Ã¢â ¬Â• and Ã¢â ¬Å“Landscape EngineersÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •and each biographical profile includes a photo of the subject and concludes with a list of further resources about her. Some text boxes provide further information about the subject or requirements for the occupation, while others supplying information about an entirely different person can be distracting. This, however, doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t take away from the bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s overall appeal. Following the same basic layout as others in the Women in Action series, this inspiring collection will certainly find a place in a middle- or high-school reference or career section. Grades 7-10. --J. B. Petty

Anna Lewis's book is a solidly researched, informative and well organized resource covering the history (from the very early days to more contemporary stories) of women entering the fields of architecture and engineering. Including photos (of the women profiled along with examples of their work), as well as citing additional suggested sources for further reading on each subject, the

chapters strike a perfect balance of not feeling daunting or overwhelming, while simultaneously being substantial enough to stand on their own. Particularly impressive is how Lewis so effectively crafted an intriguing compilation that is "meaty" enough for more mature readers while at the same time presenting everything in completely accessible manner for younger audiences as well. Indeed, "Women of Steel and Stone" is a fascinating read both for adults interested in the subject (or hey, even if they’re not!) and for kids alike (who may very well be inspired to travel down one of these career paths themselves after learning so much from this book). I figured just from reading the author’s bio saying she teaches classes on (among other things) monster making, that I would enjoy this book... and I’m sure you will too!

Great book for both girls and boys and anyone interested in Architecture, Engineering and Design.Full of roll models.

Bought this for my teenage niece. Love that the author is inspiring the next generation of women!

This well written and boy can benefit from these stiyiÃƒÆ’Ã Â®xdnlO h g. B

Bought this for my sister. She was inspired and excited about being a woman in STEM.

Women of Steel and Stone is one of the best non-fiction books for kids IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve ever read. One bonus of Chicago Review Press non-fiction titles is that they are so interesting, they appeal to parents too. This book delves into the lives of 22 women who have left their marks on the world of architecture, engineering and landscape design ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ all fields that have been historically male dominated. Each woman’s story is incredibly compelling and fascinating. My personal favorite is the story of Emily Warren Robeling, who was instrumental in the building of the Brooklyn Bridge in the 1800s. Since most people experience discrimination of one sort or another, reading about women who overcame extraordinary obstacles to accomplish greatness is incredibly motivating. When children read the biographies they will see that what all these women had in common were a good education, supportive parents and unfaltering perseverance no matter what came their way. This book will inspire all those who read it to pursue careers without limitation and aspire to use their skills to the fullest. I highly recommend this book!

How can we get more young women to look at engineering and architecture as careers? Spreading

the word about WOMEN OF STEEL AND STONE is a start. Each of these 22 terrific women's stories is different, but perhaps a young girl will identify with one of them and think This is what I want to do!To school guidance counselors: make this book available to all high school girls. Let them see what success and career satisfaction looks like!

I grew up just down the coast from Hearst Castle and made many visits to the "Enchanted Hill" over the years. I was always fascinated by the fact that a woman designed the castle in the early 1900's and even engineered a unique system to bring water to the castle from a well 7 miles away. What a delight it was for me to discover that the author included Julia Morgan in this collection of inspirational women in the fields of engineering, architecture, and landscape design. This is an inspirational book to any young woman considering her gifts and her future!

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