The influence of Andrea Palladio reached colonial America through English translations of his own seminal publication *Four Books on Architecture* (Venice, 1570), but an even more influential conduit was a wave of more than 100 richly illustrated 'patternbooks' published in England in the 1700s and widely distributed in America.

James Gibbs, who wrote *A Book of Architecture* (London, 1728), one of the most influential of the patternbooks, explained his purpose in an introduction. The work, he said, 'would be of use to such Gentlemen as might be concerned in Building, especially in remote parts of the country, where little or no assistance for Designs can be procured. Such may be here furnished with Draughts of useful and convenient Buildings and proper Ornaments; which may be executed by any Workman who understands Lines, either as here Design'd, or with some Alteration, which may be easily done by a person of Judgment. . .'.

Other patternbooks focused on practical issues of carpentry and measurement or on the design of interior elements such as doorframes, mantels, stairs and plaster patterns for ceilings. Many noted examples of Palladian buildings in America can be traced to particular patternbook plates, including Drayton Hall in South Carolina, Redwood Library and the Brick Market in Rhode Island, and Battersea, Brandon and Mount Airy in Virginia. Examples of interior features copied or derived from the books abound as well.

Selected patternbooks before 1776 with some instances of their use in America

Here is a selection of pre-Revolutionary patternbooks. Some of the entries identify one or more specific buildings from the colonial period which were influenced by the particular book.

**Robert Adam and James Adam**

*The Works in Architecture of Robert and James Adam, esquires*
Other eds.: London: 1786; London: Priestley and Weale, 1822 [with new vol. 3].

**Colen Campbell**

Other eds.: London: 1731; London: [c1751].
Robert Castell
*The Villas of the Ancients Illustrated*
London: 1st ed. [1729, sic: 1728]

William Chambers
*A Treatise on Civil Architecture*
London: 1st ed. 1759

John Crunden
*Convenient and Ornamental Architecture, Consisting of Original Designs, for Plans, Elevations and Sections: beginning with the Farmhouse, and regularly ascending to the Most Grand and Magnificent Villa*
London: 1st ed. 1767

Roland Fréart, Sieur de Chambray
*A Parallel of the Antient Architecture with the Modern, in a collection of ten principal authors who have written upon the five orders, trans. by John Evelyn*
London: John Place, 1st ed. 1664

Daniel Garret
*Designs, and Estimates, of Farm Houses, &c, for the County of York, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Bishoprick of Durham*
London: J. Brindley, 1st ed. 1747

James Gibbs
*A Book of Architecture, Containing Designs of Buildings and Ornaments*
London: 1st ed. 1728
James Gibbs

*Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture, in a More Exact and Easy Manner Than Has Been Heretofore Practiced*

London: 1st ed. 1732

William Halfpenny

*The Art of Sound Building; demonstrated in Geometrical Problems*

London: 1st ed. 1725

William Halfpenny [pseud. Michael Hoare]

*The Builder’s Pocket Companion: Shewing an Easy and Practical Method for Laying down of Lines . . .*

London: T. Worrall, 1st ed. 1728

William Halfpenny and John Halfpenny

*The Country Gentleman’s Pocket Companion, and Builder’s Assistant for Rural Decorative Architecture*

London: Robert Sayer, 1st ed. 1753
William Halfpenny and John Halfpenny, Robert Morris and Thomas Lightoler

*The Modern Builder's Assistant, or, A Concise Epitome of the Whole System of Architecture*

London: Robert Sayer, 1st ed. 1757

Other eds.: London: James Rivington and J. Fletcher, [1757].

William Halfpenny

*A New and Complete System of Architecture Delineated, Delineated in a Variety of Plans and Elevations of Designs for Convenient and Decorated Houses*

London: John Brindley, 1st ed. 1749


William Halfpenny

*Practical Architecture, or a sure guide to the true working according to the rules of that science*

London: Thomas Bowles and John Bowles, 1st ed. c. 1724


William Halfpenny and John Halfpenny

*New Designs for Chinese Temples* [later eds. retitled: *Rural Architecture in the Gothick Taste*]

London: Robt. Sayer, 1st ed. 1750


William Halfpenny

*Six New Designs for Convenient Farm-Houses, with proper offices, &c.* [later eds. retitled *Useful Architecture in twenty-one New Designs for Erecting parsonage-houses, farmhouses, and Inns*]

London: Robert Sayer, 1st ed. 1752


William Halfpenny [pseud. John Miller in 2nd ed.]

*Andrea Palladio's First Book of Architecture, corrected from his original edition printed at Venice, 1581, . . .* [later ed. retitled *Andrea Palladio’s Elements of Architecture, Restored to its Original Perfection . . . with a Geometrical Explanation of its True Principles of Perspective*]

London: J. Brindley and R. Sayer, 1st ed. 1751


Edward Hoppus and Benjamin Cole [Andrea Palladio]

*Andrea Palladio’s Architecture in Four Books*

London: Benj. Cole, 1st ed. 1735


Redwood Library, Newport, Rhode Island.

Edward Hoppus  
*The Gentleman's and Builder's Repository, or Architecture Display'd*  
London: James Hodges and Benjamin Cole, 1st ed. 1737  

Inigo Jones (See William Kent; see Isaac Ware)

William Kent, editor  
*The Designs of Inigo Jones, consisting of plans and elevations for publick and private buildings . . . with some Additional Designs*  
London: William Kent, 1st ed. 1727  
Other ed.: London: Benjamin White, 1770.

Batty Langley  
*The Builder's Chest-book; or a Complete Key to the Five Orders of Columns in Architecture* [later eds. retitled *The Builder's Vade Mecum*]  
London: J. Wilcox, 1st ed. 1727  
Other eds.: London: S. Fuller and Scales, 1729; London: S. Fuller, 1735; London: John Wilcox and James Hodges, 2nd ed. [orig. title], 1739.

Batty Langley  
*The Builders Compleat Chest Book, or Library of Arts and Sciences* [later eds. retitled *The Builder's Compleat Assistant*]  
London: 1st ed. 1738  
Other eds.: London: Richard Ware, [c1738]; London: Richard Ware, 2nd ed. [c1750]; London: Catherine Ware, 3rd ed. [c1758]; London: C. and R. Ware, 4th ed. 1766; London: I. and J. Taylor, 4th ed. [sic], [c1790].

Batty Langley  
*The City and Country Builder's and Workman's Treasury of Designs, or, The Art of Drawing and Working the Ornamental Parts of Architecture*  
London: Thomas Langley 1st ed. 1740  

Batty Langley and Thomas Langley  
*The Builder's Jewel, or the Youth's Instructor, and Workman's Remembrancer*  
London: R. Ware, 1st ed. 1741

Doorframe, west parlor, Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia.

Batty Langley and Thomas Langley, *The Builder's Jewel* (Plate 23).

Rusticated wood siding, Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia.

Batty Langley and Thomas Langley, *The Builder's Jewel* (Plate 75).

**Batty Langley**

*Ancient Architecture, restored, and improved* [later eds. retitled *The Gothic Architecture Restored and Improved*]
London: 1st ed. [1742]

Giacomo Leoni; Nicholas Dubois, trans. [Andrea Palladio]
The Architecture of A. Palladio; in Four Books
London: trilingual 1st ed. [1716]-1720

John Miller (See William Halfpenny)

Robert Morris
An Essay in Defense of Ancient Architecture; or a Parallel of the Ancient Buildings with the Modern, Shewing the Beauty and Harmony of the Former, and the Irregularity of the Latter
London: D. Browne, et al., 1st ed. 1728

Robert Morris
Lectures on Architecture, Consisting of Rules Founded upon Harmonick and Arithmetical Proportions in Building
London: J. Brindley, 1st ed. 1734-1736
Other ed.: London: 2nd ed. 1759.

Robert Morris [anonymous]
An Essay upon Harmony as it relates chiefly to Situation and Building
London: T. Cooper, 1739

Robert Morris
London: 1st ed. 1751
Other eds.: London: 1755; London: 1757.

Robert Morris
Rural Architecture: Consisting of Regular Designs of Plans and Elevations for Buildings in the Country, in Which the Purity and Simplicity of the Art of Designing Are Variously Exemplified [later eds. retitled Select Architecture, Being Regular Designs of Plans, and Elevations, Well Suited to Both Town and Country]
London: 1750
West façade, Brandon (begun 1765), Prince George County, Virginia.

East façade, Battersea (begun 1768), Petersburg, Virginia.


Joseph Moxon
Vignola; or the Compleat Architect [eds. from 1703 retitled The Theory and Practice of Architecture; or Vitruvius and Vignola Abridg'd]
London: Moxon, 1st ed. 1655

Charles Over
Ornamental Architecture in the Gothic, Chinese and Modern Taste
London: Robert Sayer, 1st ed. 1758
Other ed.: London: Robert Sayer, [c1765].

William Pain
The Practical Builder, or Workman’s General Assistant; shewing the most approved and easy methods for drawing and working the whole or separate part of any building
London: I. Taylor, 1st ed. 1774

William Pain
The Builder’s Companion and Workman’s General Assistant
London: 1st ed. 1758

William Pain
The Builder's Pocket-Treasure; or, Palladio Delineated and Explained
London: W. Owen, 1st ed. 1763

Andrea Palladio; Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington
Fabbriche Antiche
London: c1735.

Francis Price
A Treatise on Carpentry [later eds. retitled The British Carpenter, or a Treatise on Carpentry]
London: 1st ed. 1733

Godfrey Richard, trans. [Andrea Palladio]
The First Book of Architecture by Andrea Palladio . . . with an Appendix Touching Doors and Windows, by Pr. Le Muet, Architect to the French King
London: 1st ed. 1663

William Salmon
Palladio Londinensis: or, The London Art of Building
London: Ward and Wicksteed, et al., 1st ed. 1734
**Salmon, Palladio Londinensis**  
(Plate 27 detail).

**Paneled room, east wing, Randolph-Peachy House, Williamsburg, Virginia.**

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**James Stuart and Nicholas Revett**  
*The Antiquities of Athens, Measured and Delineated*, 5 vols.  
London: 1762-1816

**Abraham Swan**  
*The British Architect; or, The Builder's Treasury of Stair-cases*  
London: 1st ed. 1745  
Swan, The British Architect (Plate 50). With Plate 51, the basis for
(i) the fireplace and overmantel, west parlor, Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia,
and (ii) for the fireplace and overmantel, James Brice House, Annapolis, Maryland.

Abraham Swan
A Collection of Designs in Architecture, containing New Plans and Elevations of
Houses, for General Use
London: 1st ed. 1757

Abraham Swan
Designs in Carpentry [later eds. retitled The Carpenter’s Complete Instructor in
Several Hundred Designs]
London: 1st ed. 1759

Isaac Ware, editor
The Designs of Inigo Jones and Others
London: 1st ed. [1731]

Isaac Ware [Andrea Palladio]
The Four Books of Andrea Palladio’s Architecture, 2 vols.
London: Isaac Ware, 1738
Other ed.: London: 1755.

Isaac Ware
A Complete Body of Architecture. Adorned with Plans and Elevations, from Original
Designs . . . . In which are interspersed some Designs of Inigo Jones, never before
Published
London: T. Osbourne, et al., 1st ed. 1756

Robert Wood
The Ruins of Palmyra
London: 1st ed. 1753.

CPSA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES.

Notes
This annotated bibliography, a work in progress, was assembled from a variety of sources, including: Charles E.
Brownell, Calder Loth, William M. S. Rasmussen and Richard Guy Wilson, The Making of Virginia Architecture
(Charlottesville: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1992); Kenneth Hafertepe and James F. O’Gorman, American
Architects and their Books to 1848 (University of Massachusetts Press, 2001); Eileen Harris, British Architectural
Books and Writers 1556-1785 (Cambridge University Press, 1990); Helen Park, List of Architectural Books
Available in America Before the Revolution (Hennessey & Ingalls, 1973); William H. Pierson, Jr., American
Summerson, Architecture in Britain, 1530-1830 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993); Janice G.
Schimmelman, Architectural Books in America: Architectural Treasures and Building Handbooks Available in
American Libraries and Bookstores through 1800 (Oak Knoll Press, 1999); Thomas TILEston Waterman, The

Additional information comes from publications of the Center for Palladian Studies in America, Inc., including the
3-volume Building by the Book series, edited by Mario di Valmarana, and Palladiana, the Journal of CPSA.